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Impacts of Herbicide Oxadiargyl on the Lifespan, Fecundity and Development of a Detritivore Springtail, *Cyphoderus javanus*

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Abstract: Collembolans are tiny ubiquitous apterygote soil arthropods which plays a pivotal role in soil genesis, organic residues disintegration and soil fertility. The present study was focussed to investigate the deleterious effects of commonly used herbicide oxadiargyl on the lifespan, fecundity and development of an ecologically significant detritivore collembolan *Cyphoderus javanus*. Extensive application of herbicides had a significant effect on survival rates, fecundity, longevity and growth of *Cyphoderus javnaus*. The results revealed that rise in the concentration of herbicide negatively affects the survival rates and life history traits of this collembolan. In addition to killing non-target insects, indiscriminate utilization of herbicides in agricultural fields can cause unfavourable changes in the biological balance as well as results in environmental degradation.

Keywords: Detritivore, Biomarker, Fecundity, Herbicide, Ecotoxicity, Collembolans, *Cyphoderus javanus*

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Introduction

Soil is one of the most important resources of land which provides a favourable habitat for huge numbers of soil organisms ranging from microscopic creatures to macroscopic forms (Franke, 2003). Among soil fauna, arthropods play a major role in agriculture as they are essential components of the biodiversity of cultivated ecosystems (Fuller *et al.*, 1995; Fraj *et al.*, 2019). Soil microarthropods are well suited as indicator organisms for monitoring the sustainability of natural and agricultural systems

because of their high density, species richness and ecological significance (Minor *et al.*, 2000; El Gayer *et al.*, 2009).

According to Rahardjo *et al.* (2019), collembola is the most commonly found organism in various ecosystems, making it easier to assess the soil health status. These detritivore organisms play a key role in soil ecosystem, believed to accelerate aeration and porosity of soil, degradation of organic residues, organic matter mineralization and paedogenesis thereby

sustaining the nutrient pool and stability of soil structure (Winter *et al.*, 1990). Pfiffner and Luka (2000) and Fraj *et al.* (2019) reported that there is a general trend in agricultural landscape towards a reduction in diversity and abundance of native flora and fauna because of increased landscape uniformity and greater disturbance due to agrochemicals and tillage. Different environment conditions and chemical stressors may interact and can have negative impacts of soil biota (Morgado *et al.*, 2016).

Numerous works have been carried out to determine the impact of widely used different pesticides in agriculture on various soil arthropods including collembolans in India and abroad. Several studies have been conducted regarding effect of selected pesticidal formulations on various collembolans (Amorim *et al.*, 2005; Crouau and Moia, 2006; Eijsackers, 2009; Haque *et al.*, 2011; Saha and Joy, 2014; Chakravorty *et al.* 2015; Thomas and Kumar, 2020) and on isopods (Drobne *et al.*, 2008; Kolar *et al.*, 2010; Souty-Grosset and Faberi, 2018) and acari (Bhattacharya and Joy, 1980; Ahn *et al.*, 2001; Ghosal and Hati, 2019).

Cyphoderus javanus is considered as a potential bioassay model for toxicity studies because it is very sensitive to the edaphic changes, occurs abundantly in moist and fertile topsoil, and can be reared in the laboratory throughout year (Saha and Joy, 2014). Detailed study on herbicidal effects on life-history, growth, survival, food consumption and reproduction on soil organism especially *Cyphoderus javanus* is still lacking. The present investigation attempted to evaluate the effects of herbicide oxadiargyl on the lifespan, development and fecundity of *C. javanus*, pointing its significant role in environmental degradation.

Materials and Methods

Live organism *Cyphoderus javanus* were randomly collected from different sites of Thiruvananthapuram district (Neyyar, Vithura and Agastyavanam Biological Park) and cultivated in special plastic chambers containing a mixture of

plaster of paris and activated charcoal in the ratio 5:2 and distilled water, fed weekly with Baker's yeast pellets. The culture vessels were maintained in a controlled environment with a temperature of $28.7 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ with photoperiod of 12:12 h (light: dark). For bioassay investigations, 1000 ppm stock solution of oxadiargyl was prepared by dissolving adequate amount of chemical in 1000 ml of distilled water (APHA, 2012). From this stock solution different concentrations of 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 ppm were used for toxicity study. Three replicates of *Cyphoderus javanus* and a control were taken for each concentration of this herbicide formulations. The mortality was recorded at every 12, 24, 48, 72 and 96 h. Probit Analysis (Finney, 1971) was used for the calculation of lethal concentration LC_{50} , LC_{100} , sub lethal and safe concentration of oxadiargyl. The total fecundity, hatching success and lifespan were also recorded. To find out significance between number of eggs and oviposition for normal and oxadiargyl treated individual, two-way ANOVA was used.

Results and Discussion

As shown in Table 1, collembolan's mortality rate was increased with rise in the concentration of herbicide oxadiargyl. The mortality rate of *Cyphoderus javanus* on exposure with various concentrations of oxadiargyl (2 ppm, 5 ppm, 7 ppm, 9 ppm, 11 ppm and 13 ppm) were studied for various groups of 100 organisms during different time intervals. The mortality at 96 h after exposure to 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 ppm of oxadiargyl was 39.7, 43.7, 57.2, 78.1, 91.9 and 100%, respectively. No mortality was recorded in control groups. This is in accordance with the results of Vinod *et al.* (2017) who observed that the agrochemicals (Glyphosate and Indofil) have a profound effect in reducing the fecundity of *Cryptopygus thermophilus*.

LC_{100} value for herbicide oxadiargyl was computed as 25.1 ppm at 12 h, 22.48 ppm at 24 h, 19.04 ppm at 48 h, 14.06 at 72h and 12.71 at 96 h (Table 2). The LC_{50} value was calculated as 13.66

Table 1: Mortality rate (%) of Oxadiargyl on *Cyphoderus javanus*

Concentration	12 h	24 h	48 h	72 h	96 h
2 ppm	9.1	16.8	25.2	29.8	39.7
5 ppm	15.4	19.3	27.8	39.5	43.7
7 ppm	16.2	22.8	33.6	43.8	57.2
9 ppm	17.4	36.6	42.8	57.8	78.1
11 ppm	41.0	51.2	61.8	80.1	91.9
13 ppm	47.5	57.3	71.9	97.3	100

Table 2: LC₁₀₀, LC₅₀, safe and sublethal concentrations of Oxadiargyl on *C. javanus*

LC ₁₀₀	12 h	25.1
	24 h	22.48
	48 h	19.04
	72 h	14.06
	96 h	12.71
LC ₅₀	12 h	13.66
	24 h	11.38
	48 h	9.05
	72 h	6.63
	96 h	4.9
Safe Concentration (ppm)		0.79
Sub-lethal Concentration (ppm)		0.19

ppm at 12 h, 11.38 ppm at 24h, 9.05 ppm at 48 h, 6.63 ppm at 72 h and 4.9 ppm at 96 h (Table 2). The safe level and sublethal concentration of oxadiargyl was calculated as 0.79 ppm and 0.19 ppm, respectively (Table 2). Haque *et al.* (2011) determined LC₅₀ and LT₅₀ values of two herbicide formulations (pendimethalin and pretilachlor) for *Xenylla welchi* and found that at sublethal concentrations both the herbicides adversely affected the life cycle of this organism indicating their potential role in damaging the soil ecosystem.

The results of adverse effects of herbicide oxadiargyl on life history stages of *Cyphoderus javanus* are shown in Table 3. When compared to

the control groups, the experimental group showed a sharp decrease in the number of eggs laid. In control group, mean number of eggs laid was found to be 71.7 and in experimental group it was 42.4. The average number of juveniles hatched was 65.2 in control groups and 31.83 in experimental groups. The hatching success was obtained to be 90.93 in control groups and 75.07% in experimental groups. The mean number of exuvia was noticed as 5.27 in control and 1.33 in herbicide treated groups. The average life span showed a drastic reduction from 105 days in control to 25 days in test groups. The results of two-way ANOVA showed that there is no significant difference in the number of eggs laid

Table 3: Toxic effects of Oxadiargyl on life history stages of *Cyphoderus javanus*

Treatment	Mean number of eggs laid	Mean number of juveniles	Hatching success (%)	Mean number of exuvia	Average lifespan (in days)
Control	71.7	65.2	90.93	5.27	105
Oxadiargyl	42.4	31.83	75.07	1.33	25

in each replicate during different oviposition ($P < 0.05$) and having significant difference between number of eggs laid during different ovipositions ($P < 0.05$).

Insect growth regulator pesticides produced significant ill effects like chitin synthesis inhibition, mortality of adults and juveniles, decreased fecundity, etc. on *Folosomia candida* at environmentally relevant concentrations (Campiche *et al.*, 2006), which is in conformity with results of present study. Significant reduction in hatching success due to exposure to these herbicides on *Cyphoderus javanus* was also reported previously by Chakravorty *et al.* (2015); which strengthens the observations of the present investigation. According to Odendaal and Reinecke (1998) the mortality rates are increased which may be due to the fact that toxin accumulation in the hepatopancreas become saturated after a certain period, which may cause the excess toxins to pass into the blood and interfere with biochemical reactions in other tissues (Jones and Hopkin, 1996). Pesticides interfere with enzymes either by inhibition of a cholinesterase which usually breaks down the neurotransmitter acetylcholine at synapses or inhibition of sulphydryl group enzymes and uncoupling of oxidative phosphorylation as in herbicides and fungicides (Brown, 1978). Liu *et al.* (2018) reported that adult survival, growth and reproduction of *Folosomia candida* differed significantly among Cu concentrations in soils and were negatively correlated with the copper concentrations, suggesting that the species was sensitive to contaminated soils, which is consistent with the results of the present investigation. Adult organism's survival rate,

growth and fecundity were found to be negatively proportionate with oxadiargyl concentrations.

Conclusion

From the results of the present investigation, it can be concluded that the herbicide oxadiargyl treated *Cyphoderus javanus* showed a sharp reduction in longevity, fecundity, incubation, hatching and exuvium deposition. Negligible mortality of *Cyphoderus javanus* were recorded in control groups and higher mortality rate in test organisms due to continuous exposure of oxadiargyl could seriously influences the health of soil collembolans and hence, ecosystem stability. This in turn, can negatively affect the processes of soil aggregation, porosity, infiltration and paedogenesis. For better knowledge, further studies are recommended to know the ill effects of this herbicide on the physiological and histological aspects of *Cyphoderus javanus*.

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