

## IS THE MAGNETIZED SEA-WATER COULD ACT AS A NEW ALTERNATIVE ACARICIDE?

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Received: Mar. 11, 2017

Accepted: Apr. 11, 2017

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**ABSTRACT:** *In lab-experiment lasted from March 2015 to January 2016 to declare the effect of static magnetism on the biology and potentiality to compact the phytophagous mites *Tetranychus urticae* (Tetranychidae), a total numbers of 2410 mite individuals (with 3 replicates), were reared on plant discs (caster bean) under laboratory temperature. Discs were dipped on 6 treatments of solutions as the following: 1-Distilled water, (control or check), (W). 2-magnetized distilled water (W+mag). 3- Sea water(s), 4- magnetized sea water (S+mag). 5- Vertimec solution (the recommended acaricide), (V) and 6- magnetized vertimec solution (V+ mag).*

*Investigation and recording results was carried out 1,3 and 5 days after treatments. Results reported that there was a clear and significant effect for the magnetism to kill and minimize mite populations. Reduction percentages show that magnetized distilled water led to reduction 42.29%, while the normal sea water (S) recorded 46.66% and the magnetized sea water (S+mag) raised to 68.13%. This means it was nearby value to the vertimec acaricide, which recorded 84.59%, and increased to 86.63% with the magnetic field.*

*Results indicated that magnetic treatments with sea water significantly minimized the laid eggs as the distilled water (W) recorded 59.68 eggs/disc, which was decreased to 20, 7.91 eggs/disc for the treatments of sea water (S) and magnetized sea water (S+ mag) respectively, that makes this treatments (S+ mag) is promising in the control programs of mites and being a safe acaricide alternative.*

**Key words:** *Magnetism, Pest control, *Tetranychus urticae*, mites.*

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### INTRODUCTION

No doubt in presence a whole natural magnetic field for the earth, and it influences everywhere, whether macro and / or micro-environments affecting all living organisms even in lab-under experimental conditions.

The different negative side effects for the recent technologies of 21 century e.g. forests of various kinds of waves represents the main challenges to plants, animals and human being.

Balmori. A. (2015) reported that the rate of scientific activity regarding the effects of anthropogenic electromagnetic radiation in the radiofrequency (RF) range on animals and plants has been small despite the fact that this topic is relevant to the fields of experimental biology, ecology and

conservation due to its remarkable expansion over the past 20 years. Current evidence indicates that exposure at levels that are found in the environment (in urban areas and near base stations) may particularly alter the receptor organs to orient in the magnetic field of the earth. These results could have important implications for some insects, especially in urban areas, but could also apply to some insects in natural and protected areas where there are powerful base station emitters of radiofrequencies. Therefore, more research on the effects of electromagnetic radiation in nature is needed to investigate this emerging threat.

In China, Li Jian Quan *et al.* (2005) studied the potential of electromagnetism technology as a physical control method

against some pests e.g. ants and cockroaches. They reported: this method is better because it does not cause pollution and residues and it is also economic and safe.

Omoya and Kelly (2014) in their studies exposed 2 species of entomopathogenic bacteria isolated from termites to varying intensities of magnetic field for different periods of time. The two species of bacteria *Bacillus subtilis* and *Serratia marcescens* were able to induce morbid effects on termites. It was recorded that no reduction in the entomopathogenic potency of the bacteria after re-infection results. It was recommended to use these bacteria in certain formulation either powdery forms or suspensions to apply the infested wood or wood products.

Idriss *et al.* (2013) in their research for controlling the cotton white fly *Bemisia tabaci* under green house condition in Egypt tested combination of 3 factors: (1) colour of traps. (2) plant traps and (3) geomagnetic field.

Relationship of each factor with the horizontal flight behavior of *B. tabaci* was recorded. In respect of geomagnetic factor they found that 53.1% of *B. tabaci* adults were significantly attracted to the south-east direction. In addition that, the combined effect of the 3 factors, it was reported that when yellow sticky sheets and *Sonchus oleraceus* L, as a wild trap plant (Sow thistle) were directed towards the south-east direction, the numbers of *B. tabaci* infested tomato were dramatically reduced from  $8.1 \pm 0.13$  to  $0.57 \pm 0.05$  adults/cm within a week.

This current research aims to increase the ability of magnetized sea water to kill the two-spotted spider mite *Tetranychus urticae* Koch through safe physical method e.g. magnetic technology to achieve new acaricide alternative.

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Three similar glasses bottles (1 liter

volume) were filled with: 1- distilled water 2- sea Saline salt water and 3- vertimec solution (40 cm<sup>3</sup>/ 100 L water) respectively. Fifty-four 54 of similar size, small (1.5 cm) static magnetic were fixed around the external glass wall of each bottle.

Another 3 bottles with the same volume were filled with the same pre-mentioned solutions without any magnetic pieces and kept in the laboratory with enough far distance (2 meter). These three bottles were used as a comparison (control) for the main 3 bottles with the magnetic field.

The magnetic flux in the middle center of the main three bottles was measured with the tesla-meter apparatus in faculty of Engineering - Menoufia University. The magnetic field recorded 14-18 milli-tesla (ml.t).

As the vertimec (Abamectin 1.8%) is a recommended acaricide to control the two - spotted - spider mite *Tetranychus-urticae* Koch. with (40 ml/100 L water), it was chosen in the experiments against the mites individuals which used for bio-assay the effect of the 3 pre-mentioned magnetized solutions, with a comparison with their effect without exposure to the magnetic field.

Dipping technique was used as discs were dipped in the 3 investigated solutions (1- distilled water, 2- sea saline salt water and 3 - vertimec solution) and fixed on wetted cotton in Petri-dishes. Ten adult individuals of mites (6 males and 4 females) were kept on each botanical disc.

A completely randomized experiment with 3 replicates was conducted in laboratory to follow the number of dead individuals 1, 3 and 5 days after treatment.

Also, the number of total deposited eggs after 5 days was recorded.

Results were arranged in 3 tables and 1 figure.

Death corrected ratio was computed 1, 3 and 5 days after treatment according to Abbott's formula :

***Is the magnetized sea-water could act as a new alternative acaricide?***

$$\text{Death corrected ratio}\% = \left( 1 - \frac{n \text{ in } T. \text{ after treatment}}{n \text{ in } Co. \text{ after treatment}} \times 100 \right)$$

Where :n in T. : Number of living individuals after dipping in the magnetized sea water

n in Co. : Number of living individuals after dipping in the normal sea water

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Results in Table (1) and figure (1) show the effect of distilled water (w) on the survivability of the mites. This treatment was considered as (the control) of the whole experiment. A total of 730 mite individuals (on 73 discs) were divided into 608 living and 122 dead individuals, with an average ratio (8.23 and 1.77), survival and dead individuals respectively for the disc.

Also , results in Table (1) show that , the use of magnetized distilled water led to increasing the dead mite individuals. Taking in consideration the 2 pre-mentioned figures of living and dead ratio for the control (distilled water), (w), (8.23 and 1.77) / 1 disc. Abbott’s formula (1925) indicated that the

effect of magnetized distilled water (W+ mag) decreased the mite population with 42.29%.

In respect of oviposition availability, the same Table (1), indicated that, the magnetized distilled water (W+ mag) minimized numbers of oviposited eggs/disc from 59.68 eggs/disc in control (w) to only 37.61 eggs/disc for the magnetized water treatment. That seems to be beneficial in the field of plant protection. Fatma (2014) Egg hatchability percentage, incubation period, life cycle, longevity, life span, survivability, mean number of eggs/ female and sex ratio of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation. Results showed that there was a linear negative relationship between the force of magnetic field and the percentage of egg hatchability. Hatching eggs were deceased from 100% in he check to 90.3% in 6 magnet unit’s treatment. Also mean number of eggs and longevity decreased from 4.0 eggs &16.9 days to 2.3 eggs & 1.4 days; while incubation period and life cycle were prolonged depending on the number of magnetic pieces from 7.0 & 15.7 days to 8.4 12.0 days, respectively.

**Table (1): Number of eggs and rate of reduction (RR%) in distilled magnetized and distilled water**

Period of investigation	treatment	No. of discs	Total mites		Mites/disc		No. of eggs/disc	RR% Abbott formula
			live	dead	live	dead		
Mar.-May 2015	D.water (W)	9	72	18	8	2	-	-
	W+ mag	9	49	41	5.44	4.56	25.11	33.90%
Jun.-Aug. 2015	D.water (W)	27	221	49	8.14	1.81	66.3	-
	W+ mag	18	73	107	4.06	5.94	50.11	50.67%
Sep. Jan. 2016	D.water (W)	37	315	55	8.51	1.49	53.06	-
	W+ mag	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	D.water (W)	73	608	122	-	-	-	-
	W+ mag	27	122	148	-	-	-	-
Mean	D.water (W)	-	-	-	8.23	1.77	59.68	-
	W+ mag	-	-	-	4.75	5.25	37.61	42.29%

Results of Table (2) and figure (1) show the effect of sea water (S), on the survivability of mites. A total of 530 individuals, when reared on 53 disc plants and dipped in the normal sea water were divided into 323 dead and 227 survival individuals. Abbott's formula (1925) declared that the average reduction value for the mite population by the normal sea water was 46.66%

To study the effect of magnetized sea water (S+magnetic) on survivability of mites, a total of 640 mite individuals (on 64 discs) were investigated. Results (Table 2) show that suppression of mites reached to 68.13% as the total dead numbers of mites were 472 in comparison with only 168 living individual numbers.

Results, also indicated that average oviposited eggs per disc was clearly and significantly affected by the magnetized sea water (S + mg). Figures showed that the normal sea water treatment(s) recorded 20 eggs/disc, while it was only 7.91 eggs/disc for the magnetized sea water (S+ mag).

That seas to be beneficial and promising to compact mites in different crops.

Hussein *et. al.* (2014) Showed that there was a linear negative relationship between the force of the magnetic field and the hatchability percentage in *Sitotroga ceriallella* s hatching eggs decreased from 90% in the control to 22% with the magnetic field. Also it was reported that hatchability of eggs of *Trichogramma evanescens* decreased from 8231% to 47.06% . This ratio recorded decrease in eggs of *Spodoptera littoralis* from 95.20% to 56.80% and for *Spodoptera exiuga* from 90% to 50.86%.

Results of Table (3) and figure (1) indicated the effect of (abamectin 3.6) or (vertimec) pesticide, the main recommended pesticide against mites. This treatment, (v) was considered a certain concept for the (control) or (check) in the experiments.

Results showed that vertimec acaricide (v), suppressed the mite population with 84.59%.

**Table (2): Number of eggs and rate of reduction (RR%) in sea water and magnetized sea water**

Period of investigation	Treatment	No. discs	Total mites		Mites/disc		No. of eggs/disc	RR% Abbott' formula
			live	dead	live	dead		
Mar.-May 2015	Sea water(S)	9	52	38	5.78	4.22	19.33	29.77
	S+ mag	18	37	143	2.06	7.94	8.94	74.97
Jun.-Aug. 2015	Sea water	9	29	61	3.22	6.78	28	60.87
	S+ mag	9	27	63	3.0	7	6.67	63.55
Sep2015 Jan2016	Sea water	35	146	224	4.17	5.83	12.69	49.33
	S+ mag	37	104	266	2.18	7.19	8.13	65.86
Total	Sea water	53	227	323	-	-	-	-
	S+ mag	46	168	472	-	-	-	-
Mean	Sea water	-	-	-	4.39	5.61	20	46.66
	S+ mag	-	-	-	2.62	7.38	7.91	68.13

***Is the magnetized sea-water could act as a new alternative acaricide?***

**Table (3): Number of eggs and rate of reduction (RR%) in vertimec solution or magnetized vertimec solution**

investigation dates	treatment	No. of discs	Total mites		Mites/disc		No. eggs/disc	RR% Abbott formula
			live	dead	live	dead		
1 Nov.2015	Vertimec (V)	2	6	14	3	7	6	63.55
	V+ mag	2	5	15	2.5	7.5	4.5	69.62
10 Nov.2015	Vertimec	2	0	20	0	10	0	100.0
	V+ mag	2	0	20	0	10	0	100.0
16 Nov.2015	Vertimec	2	0	20	0	10	0	100.0
	V+ mag	2	0	20	0	10	0	100.0
23 Nov.2015	Vertimec	3	2	28	0.67	9.33	0	91.86
	V+ mag	3	6	24	2	8	0	75.70
12 Dec. 2015	Vertimec	3	8	22	2.67	7.33	3	67.56
	V+ mag	3	3	27	1	9	0.67	87.85
Total	Vertimec	12	16	104	-	-	-	-
	V+ mag	12	14	106	-	-	-	-
Mean	Vertimec	-	-	-	1.27	8.73	1.8	84.59
	V+ mag	-	-	-	1.1	8.9	1.03	86.63

The same Table (3), showed that magnetized vertimec pesticide solution (V+mag) was stimulated and its effect on the mites was increased as suppression reached to 86.63%

Also, numbers of eggs under the both treatments (V) and (V+mag) were tabulated recording 1.80 and 1.03 eggs/desk respectively. That means magnetism led to minimizing to some extent eggs oviposition in addition to increasing the effect of pesticide.

Basalova *et al.* (2016) reported that the response to magnetic fields (MFs) in some insects e.g. cockroaches is depending on

photosensitive Cryptochromes (cry) and directly affect the visual system through the gene function.

Gegear *et al.* (2010) reported that understanding biophysical basis of animal magneto-reception has been one of the greatest challenges in sensory biology. They also, emphasized that magneto-reception system in some insects e.g. *Drosophila melanogaster* works through very fine mechanism depending on some factors e.g. light photoreceptors and certain wave length e.g. ultraviolet (uv) and blue light with below 420 nm wave length.

Hussein *et al* (2015) investigated the effect of magnetic field on the physiological aspects of some insects, larvae of three insects were reared in laboratory in a suitable rearing boxes. The three insects were: cotton leaf worm, *Spodoptera littoralis*, red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* and the greater wax moth, *Galleria mellonella*. Rearing insects started with a suitable larval instar. Numbers of larvae (from each insect) divided into 2 similar and equal groups, the first reared as a control (without magnetic field), while the second group was exposed to the magnetic field, (MF) along rearing periods. An appropriate numbers of larvae from the control and the treated ones were taken for Bio-chemical analysis. The measured physiological parameters were: total protein, total carbohydrates, total lipids, invertase enzyme and alkaline phosphatase. Results showed

that each of body weight and growth rate as well as the physiological aspects were affected with the magnetic field. Rate of growth was negatively affected as it decreased in cotton leaf worm and red palm weevil. Results also demonstrated that invertase enzyme decreased in the treated larvae of *S. littoralis* and *G. mellonella* with 40.15% and 28.33% respectively lower than the control. In the same time, magnetic field led to increase the invertase enzyme in *R. ferrugineus* with 71.6% higher than the control samples.

Results illustrated in Figure (1) show a linear negative relationship between the number of eggs and the magnetic field power. Also It indicates the positive relationship between suppression of mites populations and the power of magnetism.

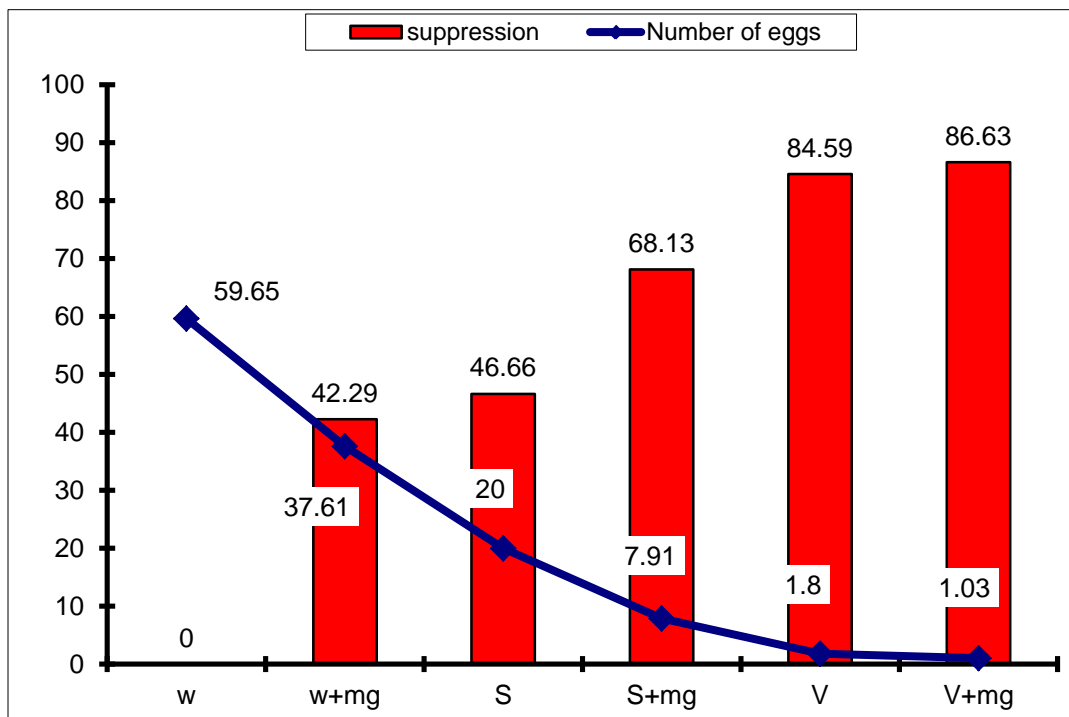


Figure (1): Number of eggs and ability to kill mites (Abbott's 1925) in different investigated treatments

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## ماذا عن إمكانية استخدام ماء البحر الممغنط كأحد بدائل المبيدات الأكاروسية؟

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### الملخص العربي

في تجربة معملية موسعة استمرت من مارس 2015م حتى يناير 2016م بهدف استيضاح تأثير المغناطيسية الاستاتيكية على بيولوجي ومكافحة الأكاروس النباتي من نوع *Tetranychus urticae* (Tetranychidae) تم استخدام 241 قرص نباتي (2410 فرد اكاروس) لعمل تجربة ذات تصميم كامل العشوائية في 3 مكررات من الأقرص النباتية (خروج) و على درجة حرارة الغرفة و بعد غمرها في محاليل المعاملات الستة (إحداها المقارنة أو الكنترول) على النحو التالي:

- 1- الماء المقطر (W) كنترول
  - 2- الماء المقطر الممغنط (W+ mag)
  - 3- ماء البحر العادي (S)
  - 4- ماء البحر الممغنط (S+ mag) .
  - 5- محلول مبيد الفيرتيميك الموصى به ضد الاكاروس (V).
  - 6- محلول مبيد الفيرتيميك الممغنط (V+ mag) .
- وبمتابعة الفحص و تسجيل النتائج بعد 1، 3، 5 يوم من المعاملة اتضح التأثير الواضح للمغناطيسية فى موت وتقليل كثافة الاكاروس حيث بتطبيق معادلة ابوت (Abbott's (1925) اتضح أن الماء المقطر الممغنط أدى لنسبة خفض 42,29% و اعطى المعاملة بماء البحر العادي (S) 46,66% ، بينما أدى ماء البحر الممغنط (S+ mag) إلى نسبة خفض قدرها 68.13% وقد اقترب ذلك من تأثير مبيد الفيرتيميك الذي حقق 84,59%.
- وأظهرت النتائج قدرة المغناطيسية على تقليل إمكانية وضع البيض حيث إن معاملة المقارنة (الماء المقطر) (W) كان متوسط عدد البيض/ بيضة/ قرص و قل ذلك في كل من ماء البحر (S) وماء البحر الممغنط (S + mag) إلى 20، 7,91 بيضة/ قرص على الترتيب.
- وهذه النتائج تجعل ماء البحر الممغنط (S + mag) معاملة واعدة لتقليل كثافة الأكاروس النباتي على المحاصيل الزراعية لتكون أحد بدائل المبيدات الأكاروسية الآمنة.