

Study of Integrated Pest Management Strategy on The Population of Fruit Flies (*Bactrocera* spp.) in Red Chili Cultivation (*Capsicum Annuum*)

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Abstract

The fruit fly *Bactrocera* spp. is the main pest other than Thrips in red chilies, which can reduce plant productivity by 30-60%, so that a specific method of handling this pest is needed. This study examines the application of conventional and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to fruit fly populations in red chili cultivation (*Capsicum annuum*). Observation of fruit fly population used the comparative method with methyl eugenol traps and incubation of infected fruit. Determination of the research sample based on purposive sampling method and analyzed using descriptive analysis. The test parameters were the fruit fly population indicated by the host's density and hosts' availability in the applied IPM and conventional treatments. The results showed that the fruit fly species encountered were dominated by *B. dorsalis* with a percentage of 98.18% and *B. carambola* 1.82%. The fruit fly population's fluctuation in IPM and conventional treatments were significantly different, as evidenced by a one-way variance test at a significance level of 99%. The population of fruit flies in the IPM concept was 547 flies, while the conventional concept was 1546 flies. The percentage of fruit fly population in red chili plants with IPM treatment was 48% smaller than conventional treatments.

Keywords: *Bactrocera* spp., IPM, Population, Red chilies.

INTRODUCTION

The fruit fly *Bactrocera* spp. is the main pest after thrips on red chili plants, which reduced plant productivity by 30-60% [1]. In the initial attack, the larvae of *Bactrocera* spp. shows no symptoms, looks healthy and intact from the outside. After a few days, the fruit will change color to yellowish-red, and when viewed from the inside, there is a larvae of *Bactrocera* spp. Red chilies were attacked by *Bactrocera* spp. result in the fruit not being harvested because it will be fall out before it can be harvested. *Bactrocera* spp. was also included in the quarantine pest to watch out for and become one of the obstacles in chilies production [2]. The technique for controlling *Bactrocera* spp. has been done by control using synthetic pesticides. Insecticides with various frequencies do not affect the level of fruit fly pests [3]. The application of insecticides in controlling fruit fly pests is not effective because the larval phase is in the fruit tissue.

One approach in managing pests in cultivated crops is to implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The IPM can be interpreted as a pest management strategy oriented towards prevention and control by integrating all compatible techniques based on ecological principles [4]. Pest control techniques widely developed in IPM strategies are habitat

manipulation by combining several companion plants and applying botanical pesticides.

Plantations managed with IPM and conventional strategies affect pest populations. It was reported that the intensity of Aphid attack on conventional treatments was higher than the IPM treatment on red chili plants [5]. Other studies have also shown that the thrips population is higher in conventional treatment than in IPM treatment [6]. However, the application of the IPM strategy on the population of fruit fly pests in red chili plants is not yet known. Therefore, it is necessary to research IPM strategies on fruit fly populations in red chili cultivation. This study aimed to determine the population of fruit flies in red chili cultivation managed by the IPM strategy.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The materials used in this research are large red chilies of the Imola variety, organic fertilizers, chemical fertilizers, botanical pesticides, synthetic pesticides, alcohol, *Turnera subulata*, Methyl Eugenol, fruit fly traps, and incubation boxes. This research was conducted in the area of the red chili cultivation center in Andongsari Village, Ambulu District, Jember Regency. The research was carried out on red chili cropping areas with integrated and conventional pest management (IPM) treatments. In IPM land, the management techniques applied are refugia planting and application of botanical pesticides. In conventional land, the management technique applied is the application of synthetic pesticides. The following is a table of the components of the management (Table 1).

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Table 1. Management technique components

Treatment Components	IPM	Conventional
Companion planting	<i>Turnera subulata</i>	---
Pesticide	Botanical pesticide (soursop, papaya, and neem leaf)	Abamectin, Dimethoate, Imidacloprid, Cypermethrin
Time of pesticide application	Once a week (start 21-67 days after planting)	Once a week or anytime

Population of Fruit Flies

This activity consists of two movements, namely taking samples using attractant traps and taking samples by incubating the affected fruit (Fig. 1). The attractant trapping was carried out by sampling using the Methyl Eugenol attractant trap, each trap was given 3-4 drops of ME on cotton and 1% formalin [7]. The trapping is installed in the morning at 06.00 - 09.00 West Indonesian Time. This sampling was carried out once a week during the generative phase with one-week intervals. The catch was collected, and the trapped fruit fly population was counted every week.



Figure 1. Attractant traps and Fruits incubation box

Incubation of infected fruit was carried out by taking red chili fruit samples by purposive sampling with criteria of approximately 15-17 cm long with a diameter of 1.4-1.6 cm, reddish-green to red in color. This sampling was carried out once a week during the generative phase (10-19 WAP). As many as 20 pieces of fruit were taken each week on different plants, which were then incubated. The fruit flies and parasitoids that came out of the incubator were then collected, and the population counted.

Identification of Fruit flies

Identification was carried out at the Agrotechnology Laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jember. Observations were made using the identification of fruit fly [8].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Population of *Bactrocera* spp.

Population of *Bactrocera* spp. obtained from traps and incubation of infected fruit every week of observation showed that the population of *Bactrocera* spp fluctuated and increased at each stage of plant age growth. The lowest population was found at 10 weeks after plantation (WAP) observations, while the highest population was found at 19 WAP observations. The chili plants aged 10 WAP entered the early harvest period of red chili plants so that the number of red chilies was still small and most of the fruit had not yet entered the physiological maturity phase, so the population of *Bactrocera* spp was still low. In the 19 weeks of observation, the availability of red chilies is in abundance. In addition, the data collection of infected fruit did not show any parasitoids that had appeared.

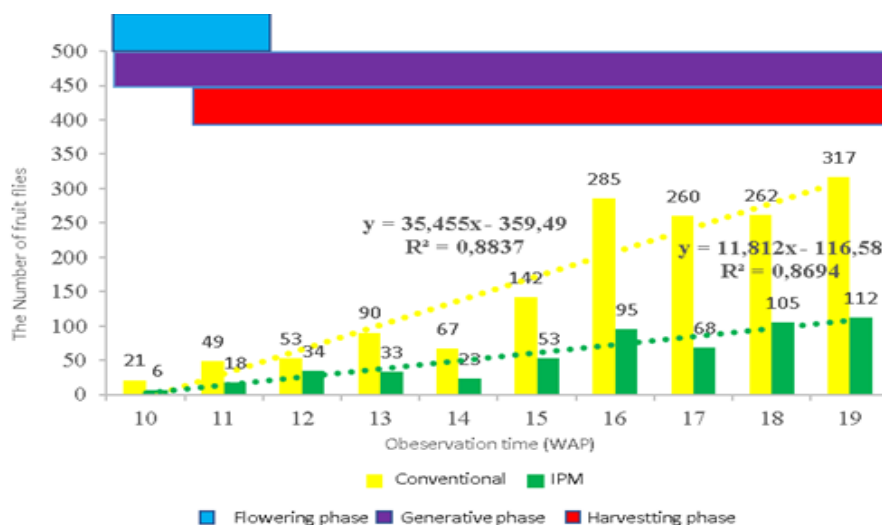


Figure 2. Fluctuations of fruit flies' population in IPM and conventional treatments at each plant age development

The results of observations of the fruit fly population at each plant phenology development showed that the high number of fruit fly populations in the field started from 10-19 WAP and continued to increase in each phase, especially in the 14th phase of the WAP, which entered the harvest phase. The population of *Bactrocera* spp. in these two treatments continued to increase with the plant's age (Fig. 2). The increase in plant age is related to the increase in the number of chilies. It is in line with the number of harvests per week, which continues to increase up to 20 WAP. The population of *C. capitata* is fundamentally influenced by the abundance and level of fruit maturity [9]. Besides, the presence of host plants and availability of hosts is one of the main factors for fruit fly populations [10].

Based on table 2, the total number of fruit flies in conventional treatment was higher and significantly different from the IPM treatment. One of the IPM strategy components is planting companion plants, namely *T. subulata* as a border. One form of the polyculture planting system is companion planting. Planting of *T. subulata* in oil palm plantations could reduce pest populations and attract natural enemies such as predators and parasitoids. *T. subulata* around oil palm plants can increase the number of parasitized pests so that the pest population density can be reduced [11,12].

Various research results indicate that the intercropping cropping pattern is effective in reducing pest attacks in the agroecosystem. Volatile compounds of cultivated and non-cultivated plants could inhibit pest behavior in finding host plants and reduce the rate of attack by these pests [13]. Companion plant planting can affect the pest population in an ecosystem. The intercropping of potatoes and celery could reduce Trips by 44% and *Myzus persicae* aphids by 55.6% on potato crops [14]. The factors that make cultivation vulnerable to pest attack include a decrease in landscape and plant diversity, pesticides, unbalanced fertilization, and climate change [15].

The population percentage of *Bactrocera* spp. in the red chili plantations that were treated with IPM is 26%, while in the conventional treatment, it was 74% (Fig. 3). Companion planting between the main crop and refugia can interfere with the discovery of host sites by pests, draw pests from protection targets, repel pests, cover the main crop, and camouflage the main crop or physically deter pests [13].

Table 2. The total population of fruit flies in each treatments

No	Treatments	number of fruit flies (head)
1	IPM	547 b
2	Conventional	1546 a
P – value		0.009

Note: Numbers followed by different letters in the same column show a significant difference in the t-test = 1%

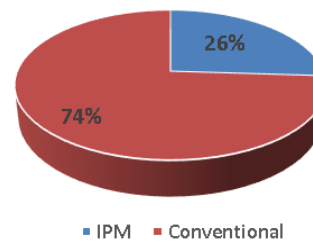


Figure 3. Percentage of total fruit flies' population in each IPM and conventional treatment

In addition to the influence of companion plants, the effect of botanical pesticide application is assumed to affect fruit fly populations on IPM treated land. It is because botanical pesticides can be used, among others, as a pest control agent, which kills pests quickly, acts as a substance that inhibits the development of insects or pests, and acts as an attractive agent, repellent substance, and food inhibitor. Botanical pesticides include plants matter (refined extraction), which can function as a killer, binding agent, and inhibitor of plant pests' growth [16]. Botanical ingredients were used soursop leaves and *gadung* tubers (*Dioscorea hispida*), which act as insecticides, larvacides, repellents, and antifeedants. Soursop leaves contain acetogenin compounds, including asimycin, roundacin, and squamosin, which function as pest repellents and anti-food items [17]. Soursop leaf extracts starting at a concentration of 2.5% have anti-eating activity and reduce the relative consumption rate and the relative growth rate of *S. litura* instar V [18].

Percentage of fruit fly species

The fruit fly species found in the red chili fields in Andongsari Village are *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *B. carambola*, 98.18% and 1.82%, respectively (Fig. 4). *B. dorsalis* dominated the dominant fruit flies in red chili cultivation in Bandung Regency at 93%. *B. dorsalis* is the main pest of red chilies and dominates other fruit fly species [19].

The dominant population of *B. dorsalis* is because this insect is invasive and competitive

with other fruit flies and its host range is quite broad so that it becomes the dominant fruit fly species in cultivated crops, especially horticultural crops [20,21]. *B. dorsalis* has high reproductive power, wide distribution, high roaming ability, and polyphages [22]. In Indonesia, the fruit fly *B. dorsalis* (sin. *Bactrocera papayae*) is reported to attack chili plants, either *Capsicum annuum* or *Capsicum frutescens* [23,24].

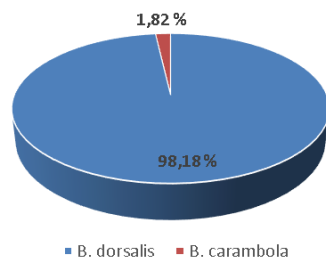


Figure 4. The percentage composition of the fruit fly species *B. dorsalis* and *B. Carambola*

CONCLUSION

The results showed that the fruit fly species encountered were dominated by *B. dorsalis* with a percentage of 98.18% and *B. carambola* 1.82%. Fruit fly populations in IPM and conventional treatments were significantly different as evidenced by a one-way variance test at a significance level of 99%. The population of fruit flies in the IPM concept was 547 flies, while the conventional concept was 1546 flies. The percentage of fruit fly population in red chili plants with IPM treatment was 48% smaller than conventional treatment.

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