



ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE ON THE USE OF COCCINELLIDS IN THE CONTROL OF AGRICULTURAL PESTS

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ABSTRACT

This article reviews and analyzes the literature on the use of coccinellids in the control of agricultural pests. More than 10 scientific sources have been examined. Scientific studies conducted in the world and in Uzbekistan are analyzed.

KEYWORDS: Pest, coccinellid, control, aphid.

INTRODUCTION

One of the main factors limiting crop productivity in agriculture is associated with insect pests, and in this regard the prospects for the use of natural entomophages are considered high [1, 7]. Coccinellids are beetles of significant economic importance, participating in the regulation of the population size of certain insect species, and also serving as food for a number of entomophagous species [5]. It is noted that predatory (entomophagous) coccinellid species play an important role in controlling the population dynamics of harmful biological species in natural ecosystems and agroecosystems [2].

It is known that in agriculture the species composition of insect pests of cereal crops exceeds 300 species, of which about 130 species occur on wheat. The coccinellids that form the object of our study (*Coccinella septempunctata* L., *Propylaea quatuordecimpunctata* L., *Hippodamia tredecimpunctata* L.) have been recorded as beneficial entomophages in wheat agroecosystems [2]. According to scientific sources, the number of cereal aphid species (*Sitobion avenae* F., *Rhopalosiphum padi* L.) may increase in agroecosystems to a maximum of 780–1930 individuals per m², and in such conditions coccinellids play an important role in their biological control.

Studies have shown that in cereal agroecosystems 17 coccinellid species are present, among which *Coccinella septempunctata* L., *Propylaea quatuordecimpunctata* L., and *Hippodamia tredecimpunctata* L. are dominant [57, p. 38; 209, pp. 4–26]. In the research of V.G. Kovalenkov, V.V. Kostyumov, and N.M. Tyurina it was noted that, under conditions where alfalfa aphid (*A. crassivora* Koch.) populations reach 105–185 individuals per plant, the presence of up to 7 coccinellid adults and larvae per plant ensures effective suppression of the pest, and as a result the need to use insecticides is eliminated.

At the same time, some coccinellid species can act as phytophages and cause damage in agriculture, and may also serve as carriers of certain fungi. Some coccinellid species are even included in the list of agricultural pests. In particular, studies have reported that the Asian lady

beetle (*Harmonia axyridis* Pallas) can cause significant damage to grape berries [3]. Likewise, the melon lady beetle (*Epilachna chrysomelina* F.), which is distributed in Southern Europe, Africa, Asia Minor, the Near East, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, causes considerable damage to cucurbit crops (melon, cucumber, pumpkin, etc.) at both larval and adult stages [5].

Studies conducted in California have shown that *Hippodamia convergens* is an effective entomophage against agricultural pests. In the USA, *Rodolia cardinalis* (Mulsant, 1850), introduced from Australia, has been tested for the biological control of agricultural pests [88, p. 25; 117, pp. 71–81]; in North and South America, *Coccinella septempunctata* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Adalia bipunctata* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Chilocorus bipustulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758), introduced from Europe, have been used [7]; in North Africa, *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas, 1773) (synonym: *Leis axyridis* Pallas), introduced from East Asia, has been tested [4]; in Abkhazia, *R. cardinalis* and *Cryptolaemus montrouzieri* (Mulsant, 1850), introduced from Australia, and *Chilocorus inornatus* (Weise, 1887), introduced from the Ussuri region, have been used for the biological control of agricultural pests. In all these cases, coccinellid species were tested for biological control purposes and positive results were recorded [2].

Coccinellid species possess a high degree of adaptability and are distributed in almost all ecosystems [6]. In addition, some researchers note that coccinellids are of importance as bioindicators in monitoring the condition of ecosystems [3].

CONCLUSION

The role of coccinellids in the control of insect pests has been examined in the literature. The works carried out worldwide and in Uzbekistan have been reviewed and analyzed; however, these scientific studies are not sufficient to fully evaluate their beneficial properties, and it can be seen that further research is needed. This, in turn, demonstrates the particular significance of our own scientific investigation.

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