

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium
"Agrosym 2023"
Jahorina, October 05-08, 2023*



Impressum

XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium „AGROSYM 2023“

Book of Abstracts Published by

University of East Sarajevo, Faculty of Agriculture, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM - IAMB) Italy

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Website:

<http://agrosym.ues.rs.ba>

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна и универзитетска библиотека
Републике Српске, Бања Лука

631(048.3)(0.034.4)

INTERNATIONAL Scientific Agricultural Symposium "Agrosym
2023" (14 ; Jahorina)

Book of Abstracts [Електронски извор] / XIV International
Scientific Agriculture Symposium "Agrosym 2023", Jahorina,
October 05 - 08, 2023 ; [editor in chief Dušan Kovačević]. - East
Sarajevo =Istočno Sarajevo : Faculty of Agriculture =Poljoprivredni
fakultet, 2023. - 1 електронски оптички диск (CD-ROM) : текст,
слика ; 12 cm

Системски захтеви: Нису наведени. - Насл. са насл. екрана. -
Регистар.

ISBN 978-99976-987-7-3

COBISS.RS-ID 139166465

ANTIFEEDANT ACTIVITY OF THE PLANT PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM THE NEEM AND LINALOOL ON THE SPONGY MOTH LARVAE

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Abstract

With the significant loss of biodiversity in the 20th and 21st century, pollution of air, soil, and water, alternatives to chemical pesticides are needed to preserve nature. One of the alternatives is the usage of plant components as pest insect control. They are an appropriate alternative to chemical pesticides as they are cost-effective, easy, and safe to use, do not affect the environment or beneficial insects negatively, and are still an effective measure against pest insects. The biggest challenge with plant components is that they are biologically unstable. That is why further insight into the effectiveness of different extracts and oils against different pest insects is needed. We tested the antifeedant activity of plant products derived from neem (*Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.), and linalool on the Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar* L., 1758) larvae. To test the efficiency of these compounds, we conducted choice tests in laboratory conditions. Two disks (treatment and control) cut from red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.) leaves were presented to the second instar spongy moth larvae in Petri dishes for the testing. Twenty-five Petri dishes were used for each of the tested compounds at four concentrations (200 in total). The tested compounds showed the most significant effect at higher concentrations.

Keywords: *Biological control, Azadirachta indica, Lymantria dispar.*

Acknowledgments: This research was supported by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia, #6693, PestFreeTree.