

B-58 Use of botanicals in storage pest control in bean seeds

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Bruchids cause severe losses to bean seeds under storage.

The recommended control practice is use of a dust formulation such as pirimiphos methyl. However, these products are not available and farmers tend to use non-recommended pesticides. Studies were undertaken to see the possibility of using different botanicals against bruchids. The experiment was conducted at the Entomology Laboratory, Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Bandarawela in 1995 and 1996. Bean seeds (var, Wade) were treated and kept in polyethylene bags.

Damage and % germination were recorded at monthly intervals. Treatments were: untreated check, coating of seeds with either mustard oils, castor oil, gingelly oil or coconut oil (5 ml/kg) and mixing with bean pod ash (100 g/kg). Carbosulphan was used in the treated check. Coconut oil and bean pod ash were very effective in controlling the bruchids. However, coconut oil affected germination 6 months after the treatment. Bean pod ash and seed coating with coconut oil could be recommended to control bruchids in storage.