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Ficus is a major ornamental, exported from Sri Lanka. *Gynaikothrips uzeli* has become a common pest of *Ficus* species which is difficult to control at field level. To make export consignments pest free, it is advisable to fumigate *Ficus* cuttings with a suitable fumigant before shipment.

A mortality test and 2 phytotoxic tests were conducted to determine the optimum levels of methyl bromide against *G. uzeli* in *Ficus benjamina*. Infested *Ficus* cuttings were treated with methyl bromide at the levels of 15 g/m³ for 1 h, 15 g/m³ for 2 h, 10 g/m³ for 2 h and 20 g/m³ for 2 h in specially designed chambers. Mortality counts were recorded 48 h after treatment. Also rooted *Ficus* cuttings were treated with the same levels of methyl bromide 2 h and 24 h after uprooting in phytotoxic tests. Phytotoxic symptoms were monitored for one month.

100% mortality was recorded in cuttings treated with methyl bromide at the rates of 10, 15 and 20 g/m³ for 2 h. Live thrips were found in the cuttings treated with methyl bromide 15 g/m³ for 1 h. Cuttings treated with the highest level of methyl bromide (20 g/m³), 24 h after uprooting showed the highest phytotoxic damage.

It was concluded that methyl bromide at the rates of 10 - 15 g/m³ for 2 h could be used as a pre-shipment fumigant for *Ficus benjamina* to obtain 100% mortality in *G. uzeli*. Phytotoxic damage could be minimized by fumigating the uprooted *Ficus* cuttings within the shortest possible time.

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