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Study on the effective storage method of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) against storage pest

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A laboratory study was conducted to find out a suitable storage method for cowpea against the storage insect *Callosobruchus maculatus* by comparing the effect of four treatments such as neem leaf powder (5g/100g of cowpea seeds), citrus leaf powder (5g/100g of cowpea seeds), rice husk ash (5g/100g of cowpea seeds) and exposure to sunlight continuously for six hours in a weekly interval for one month and the number of cowpea seeds with eyehole and number of adult emergence were assessed for two month. These parameters were compared with untreated control. The number of cowpea seeds with eyehole in all treatments (neem, ash, citrus and sundry) other than the control was significantly ($p<0.05$) reduced. Number of adult emergence was significantly reduced when neem, ash and citrus were used. However, it was found out that the neem, ash and citrus had higher efficiency in reducing the number of seeds infested with *Callosobruchus maculatus* and the emergence of adults. Therefore, based on these results neem leaf, ash and citrus could be effectively used against *Callosobruchus maculatus* in cowpea than the seed exposed to sunlight.

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