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Biology and mechanisms of resistance to brinjal shoot and fruit borer: A review

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Abstract

Brinjal, *Solanum melongena* Linnaeus belongs to family solanaceae also known Eggplant or Baingan and it is the most important widely grown vegetable both for raw and cooked purpose and attack by the major and serious pest known as brinjal shoot and fruit borer [*Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)] which is responsible for causing up to 37-100% damage as well as quality and quantity loss in brinjal due to its regular occurrence from the nursery to till harvesting. In order to manage this problem, farmers still depends on the pesticides, but excessive (140-180 time more) use of pesticides has resulted residues in the food chain, phytotoxicity, pesticide resistance, pest resurgence, bioaccumulation and secondary pest outbreak, in addition to causing harmful effect on the environment and non-targeted beneficial organisms. Here, we reviewed the host plant resistant approaches by use of resistant varieties to reduce the incidence of brinjal shoot and fruit borer to achieve sustainability in brinjal production technology. This review highlights examples of successful management approaches from the past studies that were implemented in experimental trials and farmers' fields and these practices can be explored as reproducible practices for management the pest in different locations.

Keywords: Brinjal, host plant resistance, resistant varieties, shoot and fruit borer

Introduction

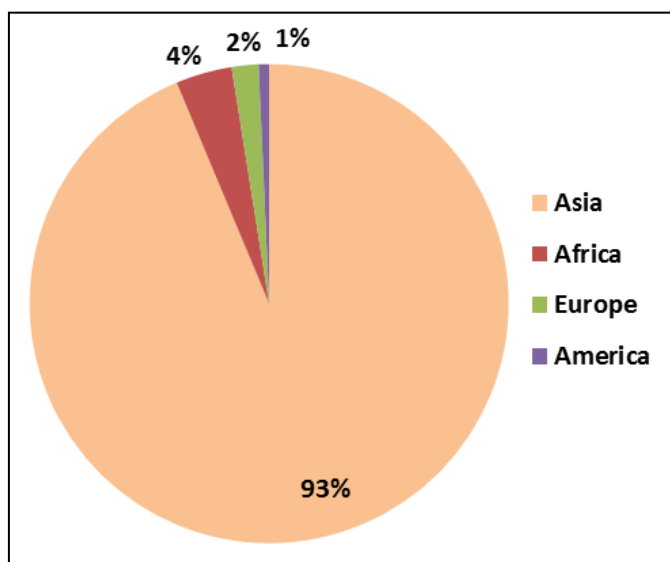
Brinjal (*S. melongena* L.) is most important vegetable crop and tender perennial plant grown worldwide for its edible fruit belongs to family Solanaceae/Nightshade, solanoideae subfamily. In South-East Asia and South Africa it is known as *brinjal*, *Eggplant* in USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, *Aubergine* or *Guinea squash*, *Melongene* and *Garden egg* in UK, Ireland and Quebec, respectively. Owing to its popularity and versatile nature, it is widely use in Indian cuisine not only in everyday but also in festival occasions, brinjal (baingan) leads to described as the "King of vegetables". Brinjal fruits are widely used in various culinary preparations viz., sliced bhaji, stuffed curry, bertha, chutney, vangnibath, and pickles etc. Commercially grown brinjal fruit can varies in tastes, colour (purple, green, white, yellow and striated shades), size (small to large) and shape (pendulous, cylindrical, egg-shaped and oblong to round) with smooth and glossy skin [30]. Brinjal is a major source of supplements, minerals, vitamins, proteins cancer prevention agents, dietary fiber and weight training variables and ranked among the top 10 vegetables in term of oxygen radical absorbance capacity [11]. Nutritionally, 100grams of cooked fruit contains; very low caloric value (25.0), moisture 92.7%, carbohydrates 8.29g (of which 3.04 are sugar), fat 0.2 gram, protein 1 gram, β carotene 21.1 μ g and fiber content of 3.4 grams [56]. Other element like 0.7mg iron, 13.0mg sodium, 10.6mg magnesium, 213.0mg potassium 12.0mg calcium, 26.0mg phosphorus, 8.93mg choline, 13.4g folate, 5.0mg ascorbic corrosive and 27 International Units of vitamin A, 0.89mg vitamin B, 2.2mg vitamin C, 0.30mg vitamin E and 3.5 μ g vitamin K [79] are also found in the 100g ripened fruit. The peel of deep blue or purple colored varieties of brinjal has significant amounts of phenolic flavonoid phytochemicals called as anthocyanins which help to fight against cancer, aging, and neurological diseases [73]. Brinjal has been reported as Ayurvedic medicine for curing diabetes; beside it also used as a good appetizer, aphrodisiac, cardiac tonic, laxative and reliever of inflammation [48] and found as an excellent remedy for those who suffering from liver complaints.

Brinjal has been cultivated in the country for the last 4,000 years, although it is often thought of as a Mediterranean or mid-Eastern vegetable. Brinjal is a warm weather crop grown in subtropical regions of the world. However, it is widely cultivated in temperate region (grown mainly during warm season) and tropical regions (widely cultivated) of the globe [63].

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Two other cultivated eggplant species, the Scarlet eggplant (*S. aethiopicum* L.) and Gboma eggplants (*S. macrocarpon* L.), are less known but have local importance in Sub-Saharan Africa [15]. Brinjal is grown in every country of the world in outdoor fields, polyhouses, net houses, kitchen and commercial gardens in both Rabi and Kharif season and it is the world's 5th most economically important solanaceous crop after potato, tomato, pepper and tobacco [25]. In Asia and the Mediterranean, eggplant ranks among the top five most important vegetable crops [26]. Brinjal is also exported in the fresh or frozen form. Globally, eggplant is grown over an area of 1864556 hectares with a production of 54077210 tons and productivity of 29 tons per hectare [24]. Region wise, production share of eggplants is highest in Asia accounting for over 93.6% of production followed by Africa (3.8%), Europe (1.8%), America (0.7%) and Oceania (0%). India rank second after China in area and production of brinjal at global level. In India, eggplant is cultivated over an area of 736000 hectare and production of 12826000 tons with productivity of 17.43 tons/hectare [24].



Source: http://www.eppo.int/QUARANTINE/Pest_Risk_Analysis/PRAdocs_insects/12-17840_PRM_Leucinodes_orbonalis.docx

Fig 1: Major brinjal- producing region in the world and in
Fig 2: Brinjal producing states in India

Eggplants are attacked by several insect pests and mites right from the nursery stage to till harvesting including *L. orbonalis*

(Guenee); whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius); Leafhopper, *Amrasca biguttula biguttula* (Ishida); Hadda beetle, *Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata* (Fab.); Blister beetle, *Mylabris pustulata*; Thrips, *Thrips palmi* (Karny); Leafroller, *Eublemma olivacea* (Walker) and non insect pest includes; red spider mite, *Tetranychus macfarlanei* (Baker and Pritchard) and *Tetranychus urticae* (Koch) [47].

In India, this notorious pest is considered a limiting factor in brinjal cultivation causing losses are 37–63% [18], up to 90% as high as 70-92% [54] and may cause 100% damage if no control measures are connected [62]. In Bangladesh losses has been recorded up to 67% [17], 31 to 90% [60] and in Pakistan, reported losses are 50-70% [68]. That's why many farmers hesitate to grow brinjal because of heavy infestation of this borer and lower returns. The losses in reduction of crop yield caused by pest vary from season to season and from location to location because of moderate temperature and high humidity favor the population build-up and cause heavy losses during hot and humid condition [28]. Unpredictable weather with extreme temperatures, drought or flooding can also reduce yield and fruit quality. Farmers are presently using countless insecticide nearly 140 times or more in one cropping season, during 6-7 months and 32% of total cost is contributed to crop production [2]. According to report of insecticide survey, 180 times insecticides were used within a year to protect the brinjal against BFB in Bangladesh [31]. Economic threshold level of brinjal for shoot and fruit borer is 0.5% shoot, 5% fruit damage and 8-10 moths/ day/ trap [16].

Dispersion of brinjal shoot and fruit borer

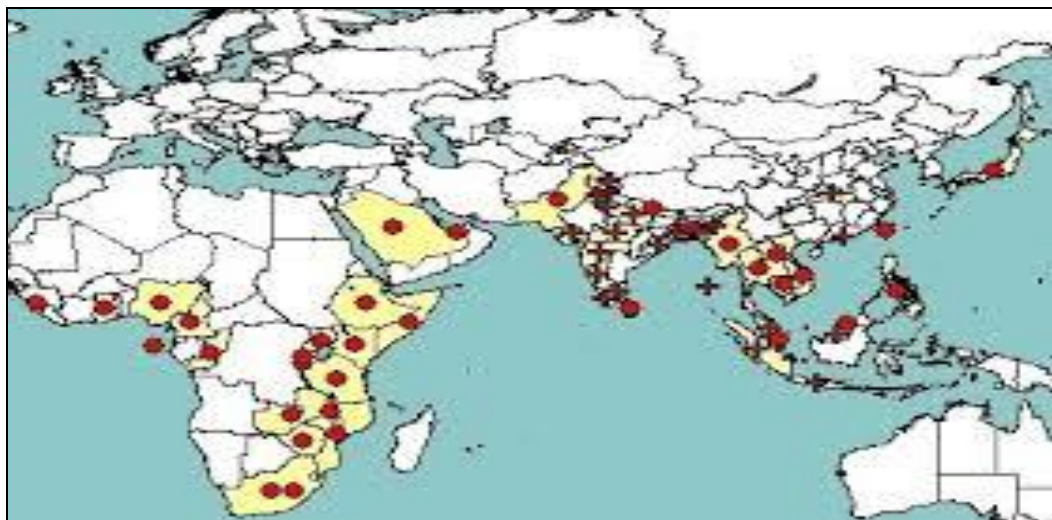
Dispersion of *Leucinodes orbonalis* have been reported in Africa, South of the Sahara and South-East Asia, including China and the Philippines [10]. In Asia, it is the most dangerous and found to be primary positioned insect of India, Pakistan, Srilanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Germany, Malaysia, East Africa Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam [6]. Its dispersion is accounts for the most part, but higher in those regions having hot and humid atmosphere.

3. Taxonomy

The favored logical name of eggplant fruit and shoot borer is the *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee was portrayed by Guenee in 1854 and Walker assigned it as the types species of the genus *Leucinodes* in 1859 [10]. The systematic position of brinjal [80] and *Leucinodes orbonalis* is indicated by CABI [10] is given below in the table 1:

Table 1: Systematic position of Brinjal and Brinjal shoot and fruit borer

	Brinjal (Plant)	Brinjal shoot and fruit borer (Pest)
Domain	Eukaryota	Eukaryota
Kingdom	Plantae (Angiosperms)	Animalia
Phylum	Spermatophyta: (Mangoliophyta)	Arthropoda
Class	Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledons)	Insecta
Order	Solaneles	Lepidoptera
Family	Solanaceae	Crambidae (Syn: Pyralidae)
Subfamily	Solanoideae	Spilomelinae
Tribe	Solaneae	Lineodini
Genus	<i>Solanum</i>	<i>Leucinodes</i>
Species	<i>Melongena</i>	<i>Orbonalis</i>
Scientific name	<i>Solanum melongena</i> Linnaeus	<i>Leucinodes orbonalis</i> Guenee



Source: Image courtesy of <http://www.cabi.org/cpc/?compid=1&dsid=26757&loadmodule=datasheet&page=868&site=161>

Fig 3: Distribution map of *Leucinodes orbonalis*

Biology of brinjal shoot and fruit borer

Like other members of the order Lepidoptera, life cycles of *L. orbonalis* includes four stages; eggs, larvae, pupa, and adult are given below in Fig. 4. Longest period of growth found for larval stage, followed by pupal stage and incubation period^[51]. Oviposition takes place during the night and lasts for 2-3 days. In the early morning hours, female lay 80- 253 eggs singly or in the batches on the lower/ventral surface of the young leaves, green stems, flower buds, and calyx of the fruits^[10]. Eggs are oval or somewhat elongated in shape and creamy white in colour^[29], turns to orange with prominent black spot before hatching^[64]. The pre-oviposition, oviposition and post-oviposition period ranging from 1.1 to 2.1 days, 1.4 to 4.0 days and 1.0 to 2.0 days^[33]^[64]. The egg incubation period depends on temperature and varies between 3 to 5 days in summer and 7-8 days in winter and hatch into dark white larvae. The larval period lasts 12 - 15 days during summer and 14 - 22 days during winter season^[61]. Larva passes through at least five instars before entering the pupal stage^[5] and there are reports of six larval instars existence also^[23].

Newly hatched larva is tiny, creamy or dirty white in colour with a prominent dark brown or light black head, three pairs of thoracic legs and five pairs of prolegs. Second instar larvae resembled the first instar larvae except larger in size and slightly darker colour. The third instar larvae were much longer and darker than the preceding instars, in which prothoracic shield had distinct markings, thoracic legs were dark brown in colour. Fourth instar was slightly pinkish in colour. Fifth instar was cylindrical in shape and pinkish brown in colour having three distinct segments of thorax and five pairs of well-developed prolegs. Jat *et al.* (2003)^[33] also reported that average larval period lasted for 12.3 to 14.0 days. Caterpillars hibernate in the winter and pupate early in the spring^[6].

Pupal period ranging from 7 to 10 days and 6-8 days^[64]. Pupae are of dark brown in colour with wider cephalic lobe and narrow anal end with eight hook shaped fine spines at the posterior end of abdomen. Pupation takes place on glass jars, soil, muslin cloth, on the fruits and sometimes on the leaves of plant^[33].

Life span of male (1-3 days) and female moths (2-5.8 days) are reported by many workers^[33]. Female moths are white in colour with blackish brown head and thorax having whitish

wings with pinkish brown markings which are bigger on the forewings. Females were bigger in size, more in wing expanse and broader abdomen with rounded posterior end while the males were smaller in size, lesser in wing- expanse and narrow/slender abdomen which tapered posteriorly^[33]. Adults of *L. orbonalis* generally mate during night or early morning hours and it lasted for 43 minutes^[64]. Brinjal shoot and fruit borer completes its life cycle in 19.0 to 43.0 days. *L. orbonalis* is active throughout the year at places having moderate climate but its activity is adversely affected by severe cold^[5]. There are five overlapping generations in a year^[6].

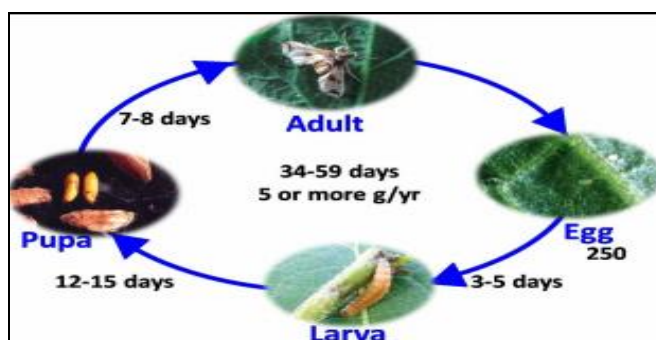


Fig 4: Life cycle of brinjal shoot and fruit borer

Nature of damage

Brinjal shoot and fruit borer is practically monophagous in nature and primarily feeds on eggplant *Solanum melongena* however, in many cases, different plants of solanaceae family are considered to be hosts of this pest. Major host are *S. melongena* (L.) and *S. tuberosum* (L.) and minor and alternate host includes, Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill), Sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* L.), Nightshades (*S. indicum* L. and *S. myriacanthum* Dunal)^[56], green pod of Austrian winter pea (*Pisum sativum* var. *arvense* L.), Dark nightshade (*S. nigrum* L.), Turkey berry (*S. torvum* Swartz)^[28] and Gilo (*S. gilo* Raddi)^[10]. Black nightshade (*S. anomalum* Thonn), African egg plant (*S. macrocarpon* L.), Tropical soda apple (*S. viarum* Dunal), Indian nightshade or Kantakari (*S. xanthocarpum* Schrad), Cape gooseberry (*Physalis peruviana* L.), Pygmy ground cherry (*Physalis minima* L.) and Forest bitter berry (*Solanum anguivi* Lam.)^[22] are account for wild

host of *L. orbonalis*.

Shoot and Fruit Borer (FSB) is the most noxious and internal feeder pest of brinjal. It not only cause reduction in yield (quantity and quality) by making holes in shoots as well as in fruits but also reduce the content of vitamin C in fruit up to 80% [70] and aesthetic value of the fruits. Initially, just after hatching larva immediately bore into the nearest tender shoot, petioles, developing bud, and flower while later, when the fruits are formed; larvae bore into the fruit and feed inside on mesocarp of fruit [52] by making tunnel results in destruction of fruit tissue. Boring into fruits resulted formation of dead heart by the larva and they often plug the entrance bore holes and feeding tunnel with their excreta or frass. The entry holes on the fruit are not visible as holes are either recovered or covered with frass but faded depressions of entry holes are

seen. The large one or more circular exit holes are also visible only on the damaged fruits. Affected fruits get rotten from inside, become out of shape and such fruits are unfit for consumption and marketing [65]. One fruit contains up to 20 larvae [35], a single larva may destroy 4-7 healthy fruits. Fruit feeding by the larva is the major cause of damage and bore into tender shoots of the plant as a result, the affected twigs, flower and fruits dries up, wither, becoming flaccid type and may drop off and ultimately cause of wilting of young shoot and dieback of the branch terminals which reduces the fruit-bearing capacity of plant [9]. This reduces plant growth, which in turn, reduces fruit number and size. New shoots can arise but this delays the crop maturity and the newly formed shoots are also subject to larval damage. Larval feeding in flowers results in failure to form fruit from damaged flowers.

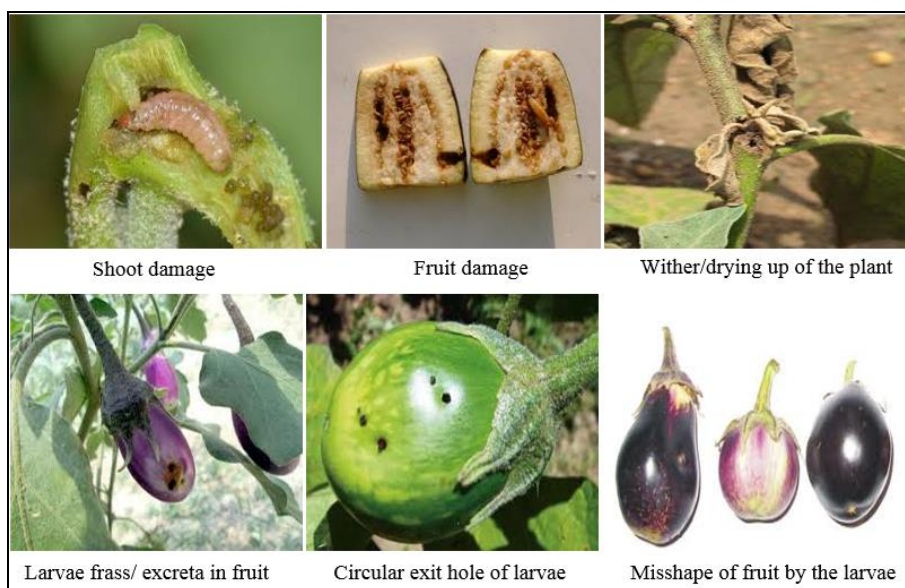


Fig 5.

Resistant varieties

The use of resistant varieties is one of the safest methods which are compatible with other pest control strategies considered as farmer's first line of defense against pests. Several attempts have been made to cultivate resistant

genotype South Asia but after 40 years of efforts, no commercial cultivars have been developed with appreciable level of resistance. Although the resistance in some varieties/cultivars and hybrids to some extent was also reported by number of worker indicated in the table 2.

Table 2: Sources of resistance to shoot and fruit borer *L. orbonalis* in brinjal

Location/ Country	Tolerant genotype(s)	Reference
	Katrain-4	Mishra <i>et al.</i> (1987) [45]
	Doli-5, Pusa Purple Cluster and Junagarh Long	Jyani <i>et al.</i> (1995) [36]
	Arka Kusumakar, Nischintapur, Brinjal Long Green, Altapati, Arka Shirish, Manjpur, Makra and Chikon Long	Gangopadhyay <i>et al.</i> (1996) [27]
	Pusa Kranti and Nurki	NARC (1998) [50]
	Pusa Purple Cluster, Bhagyamathi, Annamalai, Nurki and Singhnath	Behera <i>et al.</i> (1999) [8]
	Pusa Purple Long - 74 and Navkiran	Mathur <i>et al.</i> (2012) [44]
	IC136347	Ramesh <i>et al.</i> (2015) [67]
	IGB-92	Netam <i>et al.</i> (2018) [51]
	DS-407 and Ganesh	Sharma <i>et al.</i> (2017) [69]
	Pant Samrat	Chaudhry <i>et al.</i> (2018) [14]
	Green long-183, Swarna, shyamli, Navkiran and Utsav	Supriya and Singh (2019) [74]
	EG058	(AVRDC 1999) [7]
	VI047451	Ramasamy 2009 [66]
	Arka Keshva	Sharma <i>et al.</i> (2001) [71]
Nepal	Nurki, Neelam Long and Pusa Purple Long	Thapa <i>et al.</i> (2007) [78]
Bangladesh	Katabegun WS and Marich begun S	Ahmed <i>et al.</i> (2008) [1]
	EG075	Alam <i>et al.</i> (2003) [3]
	Jumki-1, Jumki-2, Islampuri-3, BL-34, Singhnath-4 and Singhnath long	Mannan <i>et al.</i> (2003) [43]

Pakistan	Shilpa, Nirala and Hybrid 3715	Thangamani <i>et al.</i> (2011) [76]
Thailand and Taiwan	Turbo (a commercial F1 hybrid), BL009 and ISD006	Alam <i>et al.</i> (2003) [3];

Host plant resistance

Several studies have been conducted by many scientists on screening of brinjal genotypes to shoot and fruit borer, *L. orbonalis* through host plant resistance includes antixenosis, antibiosis and tolerance mechanism. Many morphological and biochemical factors are known to be associated with insect resistance in brinjal plants. The mechanisms of host plant resistance to brinjal are given below in table 3. The susceptible varieties showed higher shoot infestation as compared to resistant varieties (Kale *et al.* 1986) [53]. Antixenosis character

includes, presence of thin stem, more branches, lower third leaf length and width, more spines, rough leaf surface area, heavily lignified thick cuticle, broad and thick hypodermis, closely packed vascular bundle and small pith area may be responsible for lower infestation and vice-versa in case of higher infestation. Antixenosis mechanism of different character of plant studied by many worker and studies indicated that the reductions in pest population of shoot and fruit borer due to biophysical characters are given in table 4.

Table 3: Characters with different resistance mechanisms in brinjal

Mechanism (s)	Character (s)
Antixenosis (non-preference)	Fruit colour, shape and diameter, size, Calyx size, pericarp thickness, surface wax, glandular and non glandular trichomes, leaf size
Antibiosis	Total phenol, sugar content, polyphenol oxidase and peroxidase enzyme, solasodine contents, flavonols and potassium,
Avoidance (escape)	Earliness with cold tolerance

Table 4: Antixenosis characters which shows the resistance/ reduction to brinjal shoot and fruit borer

S. No	Biophysical Varietal Characters	Reference
1	Long narrow fruited variety	Chandha (1993) [13]
2	Dense pubescent varieties with long tuft erect trichomes	Panda and Das (1974) [53]
3	Erect trichomes, dense pubescent, longer tuft, high silica and crude fiber contents and less ash and crude fat protein	Kale <i>et al.</i> (1986) [37]
4	Short and lower number of calyx with lower diameter and thin shoot	Malik <i>et al.</i> (1986) [42]
5	Leaf trichomes, stem thickness and stem hair density	Javed <i>et al.</i> (2011) [54]
6	Leaf thickness and trichome density	Naqvi <i>et al.</i> (2008) [49]
7	Number of shoots per plant, spines of leaves, branches, petioles, calyx of fruits, fruit skin thickness, shoot thickness and long fruited varieties	Shaukat <i>et al.</i> (2018) [72]

Pubescent varieties with dense and long tuft erect hairs on the surface cause interference to adult in oviposition and hatching of eggs [53]. Varieties (wild type and other resistant varieties) having high silica and crude fiber contents and comparatively less ash and crude fat protein in the shoot create hindrances to the larval feeding and digestion [37]. Genotypes bearing thin fruits with short calyx and lower number of calyx with lower diameter and thin shoot are being considered tolerant to *L. orbonalis* attack [42].

It is obvious that the biochemical factors are more important than morphological and physiological factors in conferring non-preference and antibiosis. Many biochemical factors are known to be associated with insect resistance in crop plants

[41]. Some biochemical constituents may act as feeding stimuli for insects. Occurrence at lower concentration or total absence of such biochemical leads to insect resistance. The biochemical constituents like glycoalkaloid (solasodine), phenols, phenolic oxidase enzymes namely polyphenol oxidase and peroxidase are available in brinjal and these biochemical constituents possess insect resistant properties [38] are given in table 5. Complete borer resistance would be difficult and thought of development of tolerant genotypes [59] that while selecting genotypes for shoot and fruit borer resistance, apart from their performance, consideration may also be given on the quantity of biochemical constituents and isozyme banding pattern.

Table 5: Antibiosis characters which shows the resistance/ reduction in brinjal to brinjal shoot and fruit borer population

S. No.	Biochemical Characters	Reference
1	Solanine content and total phenols	Asati <i>et al.</i> (2002) [4]; Preneetha (2002) [59]; Jat and Pareek (2003) [32]; Thangamani (2003) [75]; Prabhu <i>et al.</i> (2009) [57]
2	Higher glycoalkaloid (solasodine) content, total phenols and polyphenol oxidase activity	Doshi <i>et al.</i> (1998) [32]
3	Polyphenol oxidase activity, total phenol content and solasodine content	Prabhu <i>et al.</i> (2009) [57]
4	High silica and crude fiber contents and less ash and crude fat protein	Kale <i>et al.</i> (1986) [37]
5	Phenolics content	Elanchezhyan <i>et al.</i> (2009) [21]; Prasad <i>et al.</i> (2014) [58]
6	Polyphenol oxidase (PPO), Phenylalanine ammonium lyase (PAL) and Lignin	Khorsheduzzaman <i>et al.</i> (2010) [39]

Conclusion

Eco-friendly management of brinjal shoot and fruit borer can be done by integrated pest control measure tactics such as breeding resistant cultivars are optimal for getting high yields

beside with eco-friendly management of the pest. The present review concluded that the use of IPM options, along with growing resistant varieties reduce the unenthusiastic force of insecticides on the natural enemies, beneficial insect,

pollinators, animal and human being that are present in the appropriate ecological niche and will defend the flora and fauna and the atmosphere from toxicological hazards contents.

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