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### SOME NEW APPROACHES FOR REDUCING THE INFESTATION OF COTTON BOLLWORMS

#### BY

### Adel Abdel-Salam Mabrouk Saad

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements governing the award of the degree of

### MASTER OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES (PESTICIDES)

**Department of Plant Protection** 

From

Alexandria University



## SOME NEW APPROACHES FOR REDUCING THE INFESTATION OF COTTON BOLLWORMS IN COTTON

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### **CONTENTS**

	Page No.
Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE	3
a. Pheromone disrupting technique as a tool for suppressing the	
infestation of the pink bollworms (Pectinophora gossypiella	
(Saund.)	3
b. Fatal attraction of (Gossyplure/insecticides) for controlling	
pink bollworm, Pectinophora gossypiella, Saund	14
c. Chemical control of Pectinophora gossypiella in relation of its	
influence on yield characteristics	17
d. The influence of sex pheromones and/or insecticides on	·
predatory insect populations	23
e. The effect of different pesticidal groups on yield components	
and fiber quality	30
f. Cotton yield loss in relation to cotton bollworms infestation	33
Chapter 3. MATERIALS AND METHODS	36
1. Field Trials	36
2. Mating disrupting technique (Treatments)	36
3. Determination of cotton bollworms infestation	38
4. Performance of trial treatments on the biological predatory	
insects	40
5. Estimation of loss in cotton yield due to bollworms infestation.	40
6. Determination of cotton fiber quality	41
7. The estimation of number of bolls and buds per plant	42
8. Chemicals used	42
Q Cultivers of cotton planted	13

· ·	
Chapter 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	44
1. Suppressing pink bollworms infestation by pheromone	
disrupting/insecticides technique and insecticide alone	44
a. Number of green bolls infested by pink bollworm P.	
gossypiella larvae	44
b. Number of green bolls infested by pink bollworm E. insulana	
(Boisd.) larvae	52
c. Influence of consequent spray of sex pheromone formulations	
and/or insecticide on pink bollworm infestation	60
2. Cotton yield properties determination after using Gossyplure/	
insecticide and insecticide alone	65
a. Number of bolls, buds/plant and loss percent of cotton yield	65
b. Fiber quality (due to different treatments)	71
1. Cotton fiber length	71
2. Fiber strength (Tenacity)	72
3. Fiber uniformity	72
4. Fiber elongation	75
5. Micronaire reading	76
3. Effect of sex pheromones and/or insecticides on the population	
of predatory insects	77
a. Orius spp	78
b. Scymnus spp	82
c. Coccinella spp	86
d. <i>Chrysopa</i> spp	86
e. Paedrus alfireii	91
f True spiders	92

Chapter 5. SUMMARY	100
Chapter 6. LITERATURE CITED	107
ARABAIC SUMMARY	

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# Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

### Chapter 1

#### INTRODUCTION

Cotton, the world's most important fiber crop, stands foremost among Egyptian crops. It is heavily attacked by the cotton bollworms, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Saund.) (PBW) and *Earias insulana* (Boisd.) (SPW), causing significant yield reduction. During the last few decades the use of chemical insecticides has become the predominant tools for controlling cotton pests in Egypt. The periodical spray round program of the pink bollworm infestation involve 4-5 pesticide applications. During 1970s, there has been a rising concern over the accumulation of chemical insecticides in the environment with resulting adverse effect on beneficial insects, wild life populations, developing insects' resistance and human health.

The losses in cotton yield caused by insects to the world wide cotton crop have been estimated to an average of 16% (Ridgway, 1984) of the potential crop. The cost of control should also be included in the estimates of losses caused by insects. In addition to losses in yield and the costs of insect control, substantial indirect losses occur as a result of insecticide resistance.

The pink bollworm (PBW), Pectinophora gossypiella (Saund.) is a key pest of cotton in many areas of the world. It is capable of causing tremendous economic losses in cotton. P. gossypiella could cause up to 50% loss of crop (Agrawal et al., 1976). The losses caused by the pink