

Biological and Histological Studies in the Progeny of Gamma Irradiated Cotton Leafworm, (Spodoptera

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The present work is a biological and histological study on the effects of substerilizing doses of gamma radiation (10, 15 and 20 krad) on the cotton leaf worm, *Spodoptera littoralis* (Boisduval), to induce inherited sterility. Special attention was given to the effects of reproductive biology and inherited sterility throughout three generations and the histological changes in the gonads of the adults. The obtained results can be summarized in the following: 1- Effect of GSWD8 Irradiation on Reproduction of P1, P2 and F1: 1- The greatest reduction in the number of eggs laid per female occurred in the 1st generation among the three tested doses applied to P1 males. Also, the reduction in fecundity increased as the dose applied to P1 males was increased. 2- There was a direct adverse relationship between the dose applied to P1 males and the percent egg hatch among the parental adults and their following three generations. Also, the greatest reduction in egg hatch occurred in the 1st generation. However, the 2nd generation demonstrated a high degree of recovery from the reduction treatment. 3- The average number of spermatozoa per mated female was not affected at any dose level tested among P1, F1 and F2 generations. 4- The inheritance of deleterious effects had their greatest expression in P1 and F2 generation, the higher the dose applied to P1 males, the lower was the larval survival to adult stage. 5- The increase in developmental time for both males and female among the three successive generations was positively correlated with the dose given to P1 males. 6- The average pupal weight for both males and females of F1 and F2 generation was significantly reduced at any dose level tested compared with the untreated control. The sex ratio was directly related to the dose given to P1 male. 7- The sex ratio among the progeny of irradiated males seemed about normal. It was nearly 1:1 which was normally obtained in the control treatment. Effect of Substerilizing Doses on the Competitive Ability of Parent Males and their F1, F2 and F3 Progeny: 1- Males irradiated by low doses of 10, 15 and 20 krad were fully competitive. 2- The F2 and F3 males were also fully competitive against untreated males in mating tests. Effect of GED11a Radiation on the Internal Structure of the Reproductive System: 1- The structure of the testes of the first, second and third generations were significantly affected. 2- The radiation induced degeneration in the testes of males. 3- The lengths of the ovaries were greatly reduced at the first and second generation especially at 15 and 20 krad. The third generation was not greatly affected. 4- Damage in the testis and ovaries was the highest among F1 and was demonstrated in the two other generations.