EFFICACY OF GRANULAR FORMULATIONS OF INSECTICIDES FOR THE CONTROL OF BANANA PSEUDOSTEM WEEVIL, *Odoiporus longicollis* (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)

L.D.GALANIHE, K.V.A.I.K.VITHANA AND S.T.RAJAPAKSHA.

*Horticulture Crops Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

**ABSTRACT**

Banana pseudo-stem weevil (*Odoiporus longicollis*) is a major insect pest of banana. Unless the weevils are managed properly in banana cultivations, total crop failures can be expected. Generally, control of the banana weevils is mainly carried-out with insecticides in Sri Lanka. However, Carbofuran 3% Granules, the only recommended insecticide for banana weevil control was banned in 2012. Therefore, studies were conducted to identify effective and environmentally safer granular insecticides to replace Carbofuran for banana pseudo-stem weevil control. After a series of laboratory experiments, five insecticides were selected for testing their efficacy in controlling banana pseudo-stem weevils by soil application. The insecticides at different rates were tested in Randomized Complete Block Design with three replicates in pseudo-stem weevil infested farmer fields for three consecutive years from 2014 to 2016 at Pallekale, Kandy. Diazinon 5GR at 20g per clump, which reduced the percentage of banana weevil damaged trees by 93% in six months by two applications, was the highest effective among the treatments tested. Results confirmed that none of the test insecticides was as effective as the earlier recommended insecticide, Carbofuran. Therefore, Soil application of Diazinon at the rate of 20g per clump at three month intervals can be recommended in place of Carbofuran to control banana pseudo-stem weevils.

**Key words:** Banana pseudo-stem weevils, Carbofuran 3%, Diazinon