CROSS INFECTION OF STRAINS OF <u>NOMURAEA RILEY</u> ISOLATED FROM <u>SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA</u> AND <u>ANTICARSIA GEMMATALIS</u>

J.M.G.Ferraz, P.M.Patel and M.E.M.Habib, EMBRAPA, P.O.Box 69, Jaguariuna-SP, 13820, Brazil

Many autors suggest the advantages of the intercropping of soybeans with maize or the cultivations of maize after the soybean crop, due to the increase of the inoculum potential that would be favoured by epizootics of N. rileyi, common in A. gemmatalis in soybean crops. Based on the informations this work was developed. N. rilevi was isolated from dead larvae of A. gemmatalis and S. frugiperda. Larvae of A. gemmatalis were infected with N. rileyi isolated from S. frugiperda and vice-versa. A suspension of 3 x 10^7 spores/ml of N. rileyi was used to infect the larvae at the 4th instar. It were used 20 larvae and 3 replicates for each treatment: 1. A. gemmatalis was inoculated with N. rileyi isolated from A. gemmatalis; 2. S. frugiperda inoculated with N. rilevi from A. gemmatalis; 3. S. frugiperda inoculated with N. rileyi from S. frugiperda; 4. A. gemmatalis inoculated with N. rileyi from S. frugiperda and 5. the control, inoculated with sterile water. Only treatments 1 and 3 showed significant mortality (93.33% and 100% respectively). From these results we can estimate that the strains of N. rilevi used are very specific for the species of noctuidae from which they were isolated; and so, there is no advantage on the cultural practices suggested for this case.