RESIDUAL BEHAVIOUR OF FLUSILAZOLE AND TRIFLUMIZOLE FUNGICIDES ON AND IN APPLE FRUITS UNDER FIELD CONDITIONS

Nevein S. Ahmed¹

ABSTRACT

Flusilazole and triflumizole residues in apple fruits were chemically determined at different periods after spraying of these fungicides under field conditions. The obtained results indicated that, seven days after flusilazole application, unwashed apple fruits were found contained higher residues (0.322 ppm) than the allowed tolerance level (0.2 ppm), while washed and peeled fruits were contained lower residues (0.149 and 0.087 ppm, respectively) after the same period from experiment. These residues were rapidly decreased by elapse of time, so unwashed, washed and peeled apple fruits were contained levels below the allowed MRL i.e. 0.092, 0.008 and <0 ppm, respectively after fourteen days of flusilazole application. Accordingly, unwashed apple fruits could be marketed safely 14 days after flusilazole application, while washed and peeled fruits could be used safely after seven days. In the case of triflumizole, unwashed apple fruits were contained 2.030 ppm after five days of application. Such residue is higher than the tolerance value (2.0 ppm), while washed and peeled fruits were contained residues below the tolerance permissive values i.e. 1.010 and 1.970 ppm after three and one days of application, respectively. These values were rapidly decreased by time prolongation, so, unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits were contained residues below the allowed tolerance of 1.280, 0.490 and 0.160 ppm at seven days after triflumizole application, respectively. Accordingly, unwashed apple fruits could be marketed safely seven days after triflumizole application, while washed and peeled fruits could used safely three and one days after application, respectively.

Key words: Fungicides, Flusilazole, Triflumizole, Residues, Apple fruits, Washed and peeled process

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INTRODUCTION

Apple plant (apple orchard) has been planted in large areas in Egypt; therefore, the consumption of these fruits is progressively increased. On the other hand, there is lack of information on the residues of pesticides used in protection apple fruits from pests invasion which caused serious damages. Flusilazole fungicide is effective and recommended against many plant pathogens belongs to ascomycetes, basidiomycetes and deuteromycetes that make damage to many crops such as apples peaches, cereals, grapes and sugar beet while triflumizole fungicide is used for controlling Gymnosporangium and Venturia spp. infesting pome fruit, against powdery Erysiphaceae in fruits and vegetables (Tomlin, 2000).

The performance behaviour of some common fungicides, which are used for controlling target fungi, has been studied by many researchers such as Dzhuvinov and Kutinkova (2003); Podgornaya (2003); Ahmed and Mir (2002); Masng and Bielenin (2002); Reuveni et al (2000); Feng et al (2000) and Mayer & Lunden (1986).

In Egypt, flusilazole and triflumizole which have protective and curative action were recommended under the trade names of punch 40% EC and trifmine 15% EC, respectively for controlling powdery mildew in apple fields (Pest Control Programme of Egypt 2001 and 2005).

Several attempts have been studied the determination of some fungicide residues in apple fruits and removal those residues from contaminated agricultural products i.e. Hwang et al (2002); Dantas et al (2000); Ong et al (1996) and Sato & Maki (1989).

The aim of this work was to determine flusilazole and triflumizole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits and calculated their half-life values.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1- Experimental design and treatments

The experiment was carried out at Kafr Shoker, Kalubia governorate, for determination the residues of flusilazole and triflumizole fungicides in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits under field conditions at different periods after the application upon apple plants. The experimental area was 168.62 square meters (1/24 fed.). The tested fungicides were applied on May 21st, 2004. These fungicides were used as water emulsion using a knapsack hand sprayer fitted with one nozzle boom. Complete coverage of the treated plants was attained. The untreated control plots were left unsprayed. Also, care was taken to avoid any drift among the treated plots. Three replicates were taken for each treatment. Thus, at the required time, three fruit samples of 1/2 kg. each were collected at random. The representative sample was divided into three sub samples, the first...
Flusilazole and triflumizole residues in apple fruit

was left unwashed, the second was washed for 3 minutes in running tap water followed by drying, and the third was washed in running tap water and dried then peeled.

Samples were taken; one hour after application (initial), 1, 3, 5, 7, 14, and 21 days. Punch 40% EC was used at the rate of 3cm³/100L water, while triflumizole 15% EC was used at the rate of 17.5 cm³/100L water.

2-Residue determination

A) Extraction and clean-up of tested fungicides

Flusilazole residues were extracted and cleaned-up from apple fruits according to the method of Dupont de Nemours Co. (1989) and Nasr et al (2003), while triflumizole residues were extracted and cleaned up from apple fruits according to the method of Nippon Soda Co., (1984) and Ueno et al (2002).

B) Determination of fungicide residues

Flusilazole and triflumizole residues were determined by Agilent 1100 serious HPLC fitted with quarterly pump, G1311A, UV detector, and stainless steel column (2.6/250mm.) packed with CI 8 under the following conditions:

Wave length 254 nm., flow rate 1ml/min., and mobile phase 80/20 methanol/acetonitrile for flusilazole while they were 230nm., 1.5ml/min., and 60/40, respectively for triflumizole. At these conditions the retention times of flusilazole and triflumizole were 3.03 and 3.50mm., respectively. Recovery studies were done by added known amounts of flusilazole and triflumizole to the untreated apple fruits samples.

Extraction, clean up and fungicides determination were carried out as mentioned above. The average rates of recovery were 92.58% and 93.75% for flusilazole and triflumizole, respectively.

C) Kinetic study

The rate of degradation (k) of the tested fungicides and their half-life period (t₀.₅) for the two fungicides on apple fruits were calculated according to the equation:

\[ t_{0.5} = \frac{ln2}{k} = 0.6932/k \]

(Moye et al 1987).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data summarized in Tables (1 and 2) represented the amount of flusilazole and triflumizole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits collected from the experiments at different intervals after fungicides spraying, respectively. The obtained results indicated that the initial total deposits of flusilazole found in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits as determined one hour after application were 1.39, 1.17 and 0.84 ppm while they were 5.32, 3.41, and 2.01 ppm, respectively for triflumizole. This indicates that the amount of the initial deposits of the two tested fungicides depends mostly upon the rates of their application. The amounts of flusilazole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled fruits as determined one hour after application were 1.39, 1.17 and 0.84 ppm while they were 5.32, 3.41, and 2.01 ppm, respectively for triflumizole.

This indicates that the amount of the initial deposits of the two tested fungicides depends mostly upon the rates of their application. The amounts of flusilazole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled fruits were progressively decreased with elapse of time from spraying to reach undetectable amounts, 21 days of application while they were 0.026 ppm in unwashed fruits and undetectable amounts for triflumizole in washed and peeled fruits.

Flusilazole rates of degradation (k) in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple...
fruits were 0.3795, 0.5832, and 0.4799 days, respectively. The corresponding $t_{0.5}$ values reached 1.8265, 1.1885, and 1.4443 days with the same treatments, respectively. For triflumizole, the respective (k) values were 0.5283, 0.7080, and 0.6079 days; the $t_{0.5}$ values reached 1.3120, 0.9790, and 1.142 days in unwashed, washed and peeled fruits.

Such finding indicates that triflumizole was degraded faster than flusilazole when applied on to apple plants.
Table 1. Flusilazole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits under field conditions (ppm) at different time intervals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time intervals in days</th>
<th>Unwashed</th>
<th>Washed</th>
<th>Peeled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residue (ppm)</td>
<td>% loss</td>
<td>Residue (ppm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial (1)</td>
<td>1.390</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.180</td>
<td>15.11</td>
<td>0.855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.921</td>
<td>33.74</td>
<td>0.712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.762</td>
<td>45.18</td>
<td>0.590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.322</td>
<td>76.83</td>
<td>0.149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.092</td>
<td>93.38</td>
<td>0.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>UND</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>UND</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Slope                     | 0.1648   | 0.2533 | 0.2084 |

\[ k \text{ math. (days)} = 0.3795, 0.5832, 0.4799 \]

\[ t_{0.5} \text{(days)} = 1.8265, 1.1885, 1.4443 \]

Initial (1) = one hour after application
\[ k \text{ value} = \text{rate of degradation} \]
UND = Undetectable
Each value is the mean of three samples.
Maximum Residue Level (MRL) = 0.2 ppm (CAC/PR (2003)).
Preharvest Interval (PHI) = 14 days

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Table 2. Triflumizole residues in unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits under field conditions (ppm) at different time intervals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time intervals in days</th>
<th>Unwashed</th>
<th>Washed</th>
<th>Peeled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residue (ppm)</td>
<td>% loss</td>
<td>Residue (ppm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial (^{(1)})</td>
<td>5.320</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>3.410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.690</td>
<td>30.64</td>
<td>2.480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.950</td>
<td>44.55</td>
<td>1.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.030</td>
<td>61.84</td>
<td>0.880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.280</td>
<td>7594</td>
<td>0.490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.530</td>
<td>90.04</td>
<td>0.083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>99.51</td>
<td>UND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slope</td>
<td>0.2295</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k math. (days)</td>
<td>0.5283</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.7080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(t_{0.5})(days)</td>
<td>1.3120</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.9790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{(1)}\) Initial = one hour after application
\(k\) value = rate of degradation
UND = Undetectable
Each value is the mean of three samples.
Maximum Residue Level (MRL) = 2ppm (Nippon Soda Co. Ltd, 2004).
Preharvest Interval (PHI) = 7 days
It is also noticed that, the residue of flusilazole was declined to 0.322 ppm in unwashed fruits, 7 days after application recording 76.83% of loss. The residues were lowered to 0.590 and 0.415 ppm in washed and peeled fruits 5 days after spraying, showing 22.57 and 45.54% loss, respectively.

These values were higher than the MRL i.e. 0.2 ppm adopted by CAC/PR (2003). Moreover, flusilazole residues were 0.092 ppm in unwashed fruits, 14 days after application recording 93.38% of loss compared with 0.149 and 0.087 ppm (< the tolerance level) in washed and peeled fruits 7 days after application, respectively. As a result, unwashed fruits could be marketed with apparently safety for human consumption after 14 days of flusilazole application while washed and peeled fruits could used safely after 7 days of application.

On the other hand, data also indicated that washing process with running tap water and peeling process of the treated fruits proved very efficient in removal of flusilazole residues by 15.83 to 91.30% and 39.57 to 100% through the zero time to 14 days, respectively. These results are in agreement with the findings of Hwang et al (2002); Dantas et al (2000); Ong et al (1996) and Sato & Maki (1989).

In the case of triflumizole, unwashed, washed, and peeled apple fruits contained 5.320, 3.410, 2.010 ppm, respectively, one hour after application. Such deposits were degraded by time and reached 2.030 ppm in unwashed fruits 5 days after application recording 61.84% loss and 2.480 ppm in washed fruits one day after application. These values were higher than the allowable tolerance level (2 ppm) adopted by Nippon Soda Co. Ltd (2004). While in peeled fruits residue reached 1.970 ppm one day after application (< allowable tolerance level). Moreover, triflumizole residues were declined to 1.280 ppm in unwashed fruits 7 days after treatment recording 75.94% dissipation and 1.010 ppm in washed fruits 3 days after application, (< allowable tolerance level). As a result, unwashed fruits could be marketed with apparent safety for human consumption after 7 days of triflumizole application. Washed and peeled fruits could used safely after 3 and one days of spraying, respectively.

On the other hand, Data also indicated that washing process with running tap water and peeling process of the contaminated fruits proved very efficient in removal of triflumizole residues by 35.90 to 100% and 62.22 to 100% from zero to 21 days, respectively. These results are in agreement with those obtained with Hwang et al (2002); Dantas et al (2000); Ong et al (1996) and Sato & Maki (1989).

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