

Short Communication

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EFFECT OF DETIA FUMIGANT ON SOME OF THE STORED GRAIN PESTS

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The lesser grain borer, *Rhizopertha dominica* Fab., and Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae* L., are among the serious stored grain pests that affect our commodities. Laboratory experiments were run on June 7, 1974 in order to assess the effectiveness of *Detia fumigant* (aluminium phosphide) against these pests. Empty tins (ghee canisters) measuring 22.5 x 22.5 x 35 cm were used as fumigant chamber in two sets of experiments. In one set wheat grains were put in 4 glass test tubes and 20 test insects were released in each tube. These were covered with muslin

cloth from the open end using rubber band and tied with jute fibre and kept suspended in the chambers separately. In two chambers the fumigant was used at 74 tablets/100 cu.m space and sealed with mud immediately; the 3rd was left untreated but kept air-tight and the 4th was left untreated but kept air-free (not sealed). In the 2nd set *S. oryzae* was treated in a similar fashion, using rice grains, as explained above. On the 4th day of treatment these insects were examined. The treated ones showed a complete kill while the untreated ones showed live insects.