



Ocurrencia natural de *Metarhizium rileyi* en larvas de *Spodoptera frugiperda* en el estado de Chihuahua

Natural occurrence of *Metarhizium rileyi* on *Spodoptera frugiperda* larvae in the state of Chihuahua

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ABSTRACT

The fall armyworm (FAW), *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith), is the main pest of maize (corn). Its control depends mainly on the use of chemical insecticides, which cause adverse effects on the environment and the health of agricultural workers. A viable alternative to these products is the use of biological control agents, such as entomopathogenic microorganisms, highlighting fungi among others. The fungus *Metarhizium rileyi* (Farlow) Kepler (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae), plays an important role in the population regulation of lepidopteran pests, causing natural epizootics when the conditions for its growth are optimal. The aim of the study was to determine the

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RESUMEN

El gusano cogollero (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith), es considerado la principal plaga del maíz; su control depende principalmente del uso de insecticidas químicos, los cuales causan efectos adversos al ambiente y a la salud de los trabajadores agrícolas. Una alternativa viable a estos productos químicos, es el uso de agentes de control biológico, tales como microorganismos entomopatógenos, entre los cuales destacan los hongos. El hongo *Metarhizium rileyi* (Farlow) Kepler (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae), juega un papel importante en la regulación poblacional de lepidópteros, causando epizootias naturales cuando las condiciones para su crecimiento son óptimas. El objetivo de este estudio fue determinar la ocurrencia natural de *M. rileyi* sobre larvas de *S. frugiperda* en maíz. Se recolectaron 452 larvas de *S. frugiperda* de diferentes estadios en una parcela de maíz en el municipio de Cusihuirachi, Chihuahua, México, en agosto y septiembre de 2017, donde se registró

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natural occurrence of *M. rileyi* fungus on *S. frugiperda* larvae in a corn plot. Four hundred fifty-two FAW larvae from all instars were collected from an infested maize (corn) plot from Cusiuhiriachi municipality, Chihuahua in August and September 2017, where the number of larvae with mycosis was recorded. The fungi *M. rileyi* and *Beauveria bassiana* (Balsamo) Vuillemin (Hypocreales: Cordycipitaceae) were identified according to their macroscopic and microscopic morphological characters. Temperature, relative humidity (RH) and accumulated precipitation were obtained from the weather stations of Unifrut and INIFAP. The highest percentage (48 %) of mycosed larvae by *M. rileyi* was obtained during the sample performed in August, where temperature and RH average were 16.76 °C and 80.1 %, respectively, and an accumulated precipitation of 218 mm. These results suggest that the climatic conditions were optimal for the development of the fungal epizootic on field.

KEY WORDS

Corn, fall armyworm, biological control, entomopathogenic fungi.

Introduction

The fall armyworm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) is the most important pest of maize in America (Portillo *et al.*, 1991). Its conventional control involves the application of chemical insecticides. However, the incorrect use of these pesticides has caused multiple problems of intoxication towards farmers and generated resistance by the pest (Tinoco & Halperin, 1998; Ahmad *et al.*, 2007). Given to above, alternatives to the use of chemical insecticides have been searched for, fostering the use of *S. frugiperda* biological control agents, such as parasitoids, predators, nematodes, fungi, bacteria and viruses among others (Molina-Ochoa *et al.*, 2003; Negrisoli *et al.*, 2010; Rios-Velasco *et al.*, 2011). Entomopathogenic fungi play an important role in decreasing pest populations, causing epizootics when agroclimatic conditions are optimal for fungus growth, as well as pest population densities (Thorvilson, 1984; Sujeetha & Sahayaraj, 2014). *Metarhizium* genus has been reported as a entomopathogenic genus causing natural epizootics in various pest insects (Vázquez-Moreno & Elósegui-Claro, 2011). The biological activity of this genus has been widely studied due to its agricultural

el número de larvas micosadas. Los hongos *M. rileyi* y *Beauveria bassiana* (Balsamo) Vuillemin (Hypocreales: Cordycipitaceae), se identificaron de acuerdo con sus caracteres morfológicos macro y microscópicos. La temperatura, humedad relativa (RH) y precipitación acumulada, se obtuvieron de estaciones meteorológicas de Unifrut e INIFAP. El mayor porcentaje (48 %) de larvas micosadas por *M. rileyi*, se obtuvo durante el muestreo de agosto, donde se registraron promedios de temperatura y RH de 16.76 °C y 80.1 %, respectivamente, así como una precipitación acumulada de 218 mm. Estos resultados sugieren que las condiciones climatológicas fueron las óptimas para el desarrollo de la epizootia en campo.

PALABRAS CLAVE

Maíz, gusano cogollero, control biológico, hongos entomopatógenos.

Introducción

El gusano cogollero *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J. E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), es la principal plaga del maíz en América (Portillo *et al.*, 1991). Su control convencional involucra la aplicación de insecticidas químicos. Sin embargo, el uso incorrecto de estos, ha generado múltiples problemas de intoxicación hacia los agricultores y resistencia por parte de la plaga (Tinoco & Halperin, 1998; Ahmad *et al.*, 2007). Dado lo anterior, se han buscado alternativas a la utilización de insecticidas químicos, propiciando el uso de agentes de control biológico de *S. frugiperda*, dentro de los cuales se encuentran parasitoides, depredadores, nematodos, hongos, bacterias y virus (Molina-Ochoa *et al.*, 2003; Negrisoli *et al.*, 2010; Rios-Velasco *et al.*, 2011). Los hongos entomopatógenos juegan un papel importante en la reducción de poblacional de la plaga, causando epizootias cuando las condiciones agroclimáticas son óptimas para el crecimiento de los hongos, así como las densidades poblacionales de la plaga (Thorvilson, 1984; Sujeetha & Sahayaraj, 2014). El género *Metarhizium* ha sido reportado como entomopatógeno causante de epizootias en diversos insectos plaga (Vázquez-Moreno & Elósegui-Claro, 2011). La actividad biológica de este género, ha sido ampliamente evaluada por ser de gran importancia agrícola (Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Mochi *et al.*, 2017). Aunque el género *Metarhizium* está bien definido, la delimitación de las especies es difícil, debido a la gran variación en el rango de hospederos y el tamaño de

importance (Zhang *et al.*, 2016; Mochi *et al.*, 2017). Although the *Metarhizium* genus is well defined, the delimitation of the species is difficult due to the great variation in the host range and in conidia size (White *et al.*, 2003). In 2014 a phylogenetic analysis indicated that fungal isolates identified as *Nomuraea rileyi* (Farlow) Samson (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) belonged to the *Metarhizium* genus (Kepler *et al.*, 2014; Baral, 2017). *Metarhizium rileyi* (Farlow) Kepler frequently causes natural epizootics in lepidopteran populations, especially from the Noctuidae family, in different subtropical and temperate agroecosystems, reducing larval populations, which makes it an excellent biocontroller for its high virulence (Boucias *et al.*, 2000; Inglis *et al.*, 2001; Devi *et al.*, 2003; Suwannakut *et al.*, 2005). The aim of the study was to determine the natural occurrence of *M. rileyi* on *S. frugiperda* larvae in corn plots from Chihuahua, Mexico.

Material and Methods

Sampling area

Samplings were carried out in a corn (*Zea mays*, L.) plot, free from the use of chemical insecticides in the locality of Ojo de Agua (28°12'57"N; 107°1'48"W, 2,129 masl) belonging to Municipality of Cusihuirachi, Chihuahua, Mexico. Plants were randomly chosen at 70 and 100 days after sowing (physiological stages 2-4), respectively.

Larvae collection

FAW larvae from all instars of *S. frugiperda* were collected on two sampling dates (August 26th and September 22nd, 2017) (Table 1). Larvae were transferred to the Laboratory of Postharvest Physiology, Plant Pathology and Biological Control of the Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo, A.C. (CIAD), Cuauhtémoc Unit, Chihuahua, Mexico and were individually maintained under controlled conditions (26 ± 2 °C, with a RH > 70 % and a 12:12 L:D photoperiod) in 1 oz plastic cups (Solo, Dart Containers) containing an artificial diet (Southland Products Incorporated). Larvae were systematically checked every 24 hours until they showed mycosis, parasitism or until they reached adulthood.

Obtaining parasitoids

Emerged parasitoids were collected and maintained in 70 % ethanol and then they were classified according to the taxonomic keys of Wharton *et al.* (1997),

las conidias (White *et al.*, 2003). En el año 2014, un análisis filogenético indicó que los aislados fúngicos identificados como *Nomuraea rileyi* (Farlow) Samson (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae), pertenecían al género *Metarhizium* (Kepler *et al.*, 2014; Baral, 2017). *Metarhizium rileyi* (Farlow) Kepler, frecuentemente causa epizootias naturales en poblaciones de lepidópteros de la familia Noctuidae, en diferentes agroecosistemas subtropicales y templados, reduciendo las poblaciones de larvas, lo que lo hace un excelente agente biocontrolador, dada su alta virulencia (Boucias *et al.*, 2000; Inglis *et al.*, 2001; Devi *et al.*, 2003; Suwannakut *et al.*, 2005). El objetivo del estudio, fue determinar la ocurrencia natural de *M. rileyi* sobre larvas de *S. frugiperda* en maíces de Chihuahua, México.

Material y Métodos

Zona de muestreo

Los muestreos se realizaron en una parcela de maíz *Zea mays* (L.) con historial libre de uso de insecticidas químicos, en la localidad de Ojo de Agua (28°12'57" N; 107°1'48" O, 2,129 msnm), municipio de Cusihuirachi, Chihuahua, México. Las plantas se eligieron al azar a los 70 y 100 días después de la siembra (etapas fisiológicas 2-4), respectivamente.

Recolección de larvas

Se recolectaron larvas de todos los instares de *S. frugiperda* en dos fechas de muestreo (26 de agosto y 22 de septiembre de 2017) (Tabla 1). Las larvas se trasladaron al Laboratorio de Fisiología de Poscosecha, Patología Vegetal y Control Biológico del Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo A.C. (CIAD), Unidad Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, México, y fueron mantenidas individualmente bajo condiciones controladas (26 ± 2 °C, con una RH > 70 % y un fotoperiodo 12:12 L:D), en vasos de plástico de 1 oz (Solo, Dart Containers), conteniendo dieta artificial (Southland Products Incorporated). Las larvas se revisaron sistemáticamente cada 24 horas, hasta observar micosis, parasitismo o hasta que llegaran a la etapa adulta.

Obtención de parasitoides

Los parasitoides emergidos, se recolectaron y se conservaron en etanol al 70 %, para después ser clasificadas de acuerdo con las claves taxonómicas de Wharton *et al.* (1997), con la ayuda de un estereoscopio (Leica G26). El porcentaje de parasitismo, se calculó con

under a stereoscope (Leica G26). The percentage of parasitism was calculated based on the number of parasitized larvae divided by the total of collected larvae \times 100 (Pair *et al.*, 1996).

Isolation of entomopathogenic fungi

FAW larvae that showed mycosis were placed in humid chambers to induce mycelial growth and sporulation. Subsequently, larval mycelium was taken and inoculated in Petri dishes that contained potato dextrose agar (PDA-Bioxon®) culture medium and were incubated at 28 ± 2 °C (Precision Scientific) until its growth, colonies with typical characteristics of the fungi *Metarhizium* and *Beauveria* were purified by means of the hypha point technique.

Morphological identification of entomopathogenic fungi

Fungi mycelia were mounted, stained with lactophenol blue, observed under an optical microscope (AxioScope, Carl Zeiss) at 1,000x magnifications and were identified according to their macro- and microscopic characters, using the taxonomic keys of Barnett & Hunter (2006).

Record of climatic conditions

Temperatures and RH recorded during the sampling period were taken from the weather station "La Capilla Cusiuhiriachi" Unifrut (Unión Agrícola Regional de Fruticultores del Estado de Chihuahua). The accumulated precipitation of August and September 2017 was obtained from a weather station of the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) near the experimental area (INIFAP, 2017; UNIFRUT, 2017).

Results and Discussion

Four hundred fifty-two *S. frugiperda* larvae were collected, 198 (43.8 %) of these larvae showed mycosis caused by *M. rileyi* and *B. bassiana*, 25 larvae were parasitized by *Meteorus* sp. (5.5 %) and 65 (14.38 %) died from unknown causes. *Meteorus* has been reported as a parasitoid of some pest lepidopterans of the Noctuidae family such as *S. frugiperda*, *S. litoralis*, *S. exigua*, *Agrotis ipsilon*, among others, with different parasitism rates (Caballero *et al.*, 1990; Caballero *et al.*, 1992; Estrada-

base en el número de larvas parasitadas, dividida entre el total de larvas recolectadas por 100 (Pair *et al.*, 1996).

Aislamiento de hongos entomopatógenos

Las larvas FAW que mostraron micosis, se colocaron en cámaras húmedas, para inducir el crecimiento micelial y la esporulación. Posteriormente se tomó parte del micelio de las larvas y se sembró en cajas de Petri con medio de cultivo papa dextrosa agar (PDA-Bioxon®), y se incubaron a 28 ± 2 °C (Precision Scientific) hasta su crecimiento, las colonias con características típicas del hongo se purificaron mediante la técnica de punta de hifa (Agrios, 2005).

Identificación morfológica de los hongos entomopatógenos

A partir del crecimiento micelial de los hongos, se realizaron montajes, se tiñeron con azul de lactofenol y se observaron bajo un microscopio óptico (AxioScope, Carl Zeiss) a 1,000x magnificaciones y se identificaron de acuerdo con sus caracteres macro y microscópicos, empleando las claves taxonómicas de Barnett & Hunter (2006).

Registro de condiciones climáticas

Las temperaturas y RH durante el periodo de muestreo, se tomaron de la estación meteorológica más próxima al sitio experimental que fue "La Capilla Cusiuhiriachi", Unifrut (Unión Agrícola Regional de Fruticultores del Estado de Chihuahua). La precipitación acumulada de los meses de agosto y septiembre de 2017, se obtuvo de una estación meteorológica del Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP), cercana al sitio experimental (INIFAP, 2017; UNIFRUT, 2017).

Resultados y Discusión

Se recolectaron 452 larvas de *S. frugiperda*, de las cuales, 198 (43.8 %), mostraron micosis causada por *M. rileyi* y *B. bassiana*, 25 larvas fueron parasitadas por *Meteorus* sp. (5.5 %), y 65 (14.38 %) murieron por causas desconocidas. *Meteorus*, ha sido reportado como parasitoides de algunos lepidópteros, plaga de la familia Noctuidae como *S. frugiperda*, *S. litoralis*, *S. exigua*, *Agrotis ipsilon*, entre otros, con niveles de parasitismo variables (Caballero *et al.*, 1990; Caballero *et al.*, 1992; Estrada-Virgen *et al.*, 2013). En larvas de *S. frugiperda*, los niveles de parasitismo también han

Virgen et al., 2013). In *S. frugiperda* larvae, parasitism rates recorded in Mexico have also been variable. In this regard, Cortez-Mondaca et al. (2010) recorded 11 % in Sonora, a higher percentage (4.4 times) than 2.5 % found by García-Gutiérrez et al. (2013) in the valleys of Durango, Mexico.

In the August sampling, the number of larvae infected by *M. rileyi* and *B. bassiana* (Balsamo) Vuillemin (Hypocreales: Cordycipitaceae) was of 120 (48.0 %) and 9 (3.6 %), respectively, while, in September, 59 (29.2 %) larvae infected by *M. rileyi* were found and another 10 (5.0 %) by *B. bassiana* (Table 1). *Metarhizium rileyi*, has been reported infecting larvae of nocturnal lepidopteran species, such as *Anticarsia gemmatilis* Hübner, *Helicoverpa zea* (Boddie), *Spodoptera eridania* (Cramer), *Spodoptera sunia* (Guenee), *Trichoplusia brassicae* (Hübner) and *S. frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), in various agroecosystems (Vázquez-Moreno & Elósegui-Claro, 2011; Namasivayam et al., 2013).

In August, an average temperature of 16.76 °C, 80.1 % RH, and an accumulated rainfall of 218 mm were recorded. While, in September there was an average temperature (16.7 °C) equal to the one of August; however, the RH and the accumulated rainfall were lower, with 68.1 % and 55 mm, respectively. The percentage of specimens of *S. frugiperda* mycosed by *M. rileyi* was higher in the first sampling, attributed to the high RH and rainfall that may have triggered the occurrence of epizootics. In addition, the high incidence of *M. rileyi* on *S. frugiperda* larvae was possibly due to its pathogenicity and virulence and/or to the lower hydrophobicity of their conidia, which allow them to remain adherent to plants foliage, an area in which *S. frugiperda* spends most of its larval stage, which increases the probability of being infected. On the contrary, *B. bassiana* conidia are more hydrophobic, so they are more easily dragged towards the ground by the action of rain or wind and, therefore, the probability of making contact with the larvae decreases (Boucias & Pendland, 1998).

In this regard Ignoffo & García (1985) and Kish & Allen (1978) mentioned that some of the factors that favor *M. rileyi* growth and that cause the occurrence of epizootics are periods of high RH (≥ 70 %) and the presence of wind inducing the dispersion of infective conidia. Another determining factor is rain, which allows conidia

to be variables in Mexico. In this regard Cortez-Mondaca et al. (2010), registered a 11 % in Sonora, Mexico; percentage superior (4.4 times) to 2.5 % reported by García-Gutiérrez et al. (2013) in the valleys of Durango, Mexico.

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Tabla 1.
Incidencia de enemigos naturales en larvas de *Spodoptera frugiperda*, énfasis en hongos entomopatógenos.

Table 1.
Incidence of natural enemies of *Spodoptera frugiperda*, emphasis on entomopathogenic fungi.

Plot	Date (Day and month)	Total number of larvae	Parasitized larvae (<i>Meteorus</i> sp.)	Entomopathogenic fungi		Adults	Unknown causes of death
				<i>M. rileyi</i>	<i>B. bassiana</i>		
Ojo de agua	26-Ago	250	12	120	9	74	35
	22-Sep	202	13	59	10	90	30
Total		452	25	179	19	164	65

to be dragged through the soil and the plant, promoting infection, together with the characteristics of the host, the pathogenicity and virulence of entomopathogens, and the impact of anthropogenic activities, particularly in agroecosystems (Kish & Allen, 1978; Kubicek & Druzhinina, 2007). Inglis *et al.* (2001) emphasized that physiological and morphological factors also influence the susceptibility of insect pests to entomopathogenic fungi, among them, their population density, developmental stage, nutrition and exposure to injuries caused by mechanical, chemical or non-microbial (predators and parasitoids) agents. Naturally, *M. rileyi* has been found causing epizootics in various lepidopterans species. Rios-Velasco *et al.* (2010) found *M. rileyi* causing epizootics in *S. frugiperda* larvae in corn in the state of Coahuila, Mexico. Duarte-da Costa *et al.* (2015) reported the natural occurrence of this fungus in *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) larvae in Brazil, causing 33.1 % of mortality. Ruiz-Nájera *et al.* (2013) and Ordoñez-García *et al.* (2015) reported *M. rileyi* causing mycosis in *S. frugiperda* larvae in Chiapas and Chihuahua, Mexico, however incidence rates were 3.05 % and 8.6 %, respectively. At the beginning of the infection, *S. frugiperda* larvae infected by *M. rileyi* were stiff previously to the whitish initial mycosis, which finally became green due to spores production (Figure 1). It should be noted that entomopathogenic fungi that cause natural epizootics persist in the soil as mycelium or conidia inside insect cadavers (Charnley & Collins, 2007). According to Nicholls (2008), after 5 to 6 days post-infection, hyphal bodies were developed in the hemocele, blood and adipose cells, causing the death of the

(Kish & Allen, 1978; Kubicek & Druzhinina, 2007). Inglis *et al.* (2001), enfatizan que los factores fisiológicos y morfológicos, también influyen en la susceptibilidad de las plagas insectiles a los hongos entomopatógenos, entre ellos, su densidad poblacional, estado de desarrollo, nutrición y exposición a lesiones causadas por agentes mecánicos, químicos o no microbianos (depredadores y parasitoides). De manera natural, se ha encontrado a *M. rileyi* causando epizootias en diversas especies de lepidópteros. Rios-Velasco *et al.* (2010) encontraron a *M. rileyi* causando epizootias en larvas de *S. frugiperda*, en maíz en el estado de Coahuila, México. Duarte-da Costa *et al.* (2015), reportaron la ocurrencia natural de este hongo en larvas de *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) en Brasil, causando un 33.1 % de mortalidad. Ruiz-Nájera *et al.* (2013) y Ordoñez-García *et al.* (2015), reportaron a *M. rileyi* causando micosis en larvas de *S. frugiperda* en Chiapas y Chihuahua, México, sin embargo, los porcentajes de incidencia fueron de 3.05 % y 8.6 %, respectivamente. Al inicio de la infección, las larvas de *S. frugiperda* infectadas por *M. rileyi*, presentaron rigidez, previo a la micosis inicial de color blanquecino, que finalmente se tornó verde debido a la producción de esporas (Figura 1). Cabe señalar, que los hongos entomopatógenos que causan epizootias naturales persisten en el suelo como micelio o conidias dentro de cadáveres de insectos (Charnley & Collins, 2007). De acuerdo con Nicholls (2008), después de 5 a 6 días post-infección, se desarrollan cuerpos hifales en el hemocele, en las células sanguíneas y adiposas, causando la muerte del insecto, finalmente los cuerpos hifales invaden el cadáver y dan origen a los conidióforos, filídes y conidias (Figura 1 y 2).

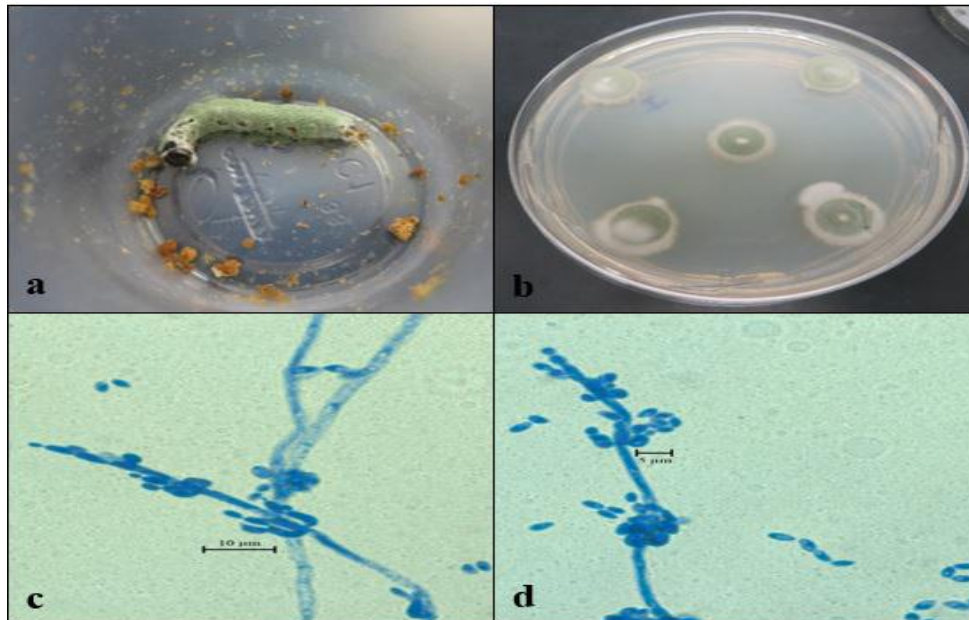


Figure 1. Infective development of the entomopathogenic fungus *Metarhizium rileyi* on *Spodoptera frugiperda* larvae. a) rigid dead larva; b) appearance of mycelium; c) complete mycosis; d) initial sporulation; e) production of spores.

Figura 1. Desarrollo infeccioso del hongo *Metarhizium rileyi* sobre larvas de *Spodoptera frugiperda*. a) larva rígida; b) inicio de la micosis; c) micosis abundante; d) inicio de esporulación; e) esporulación completa.

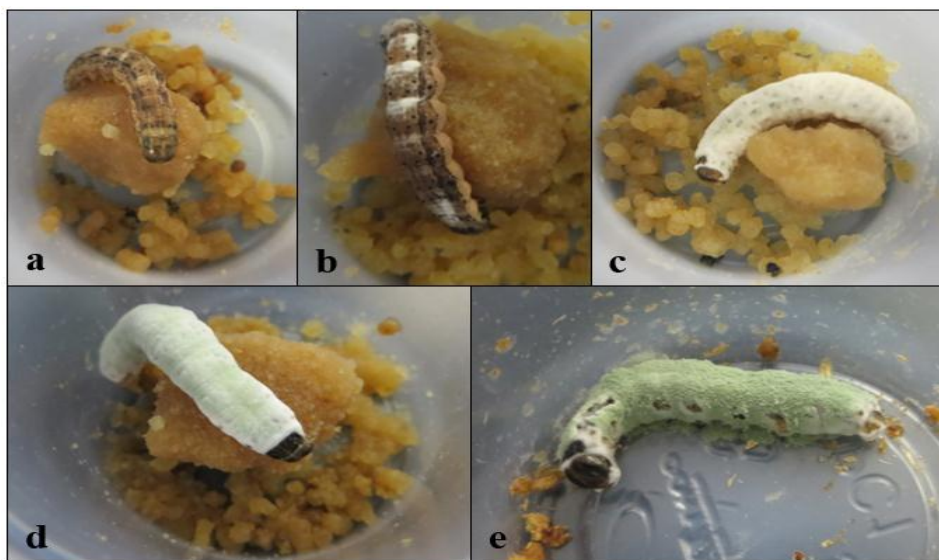


Figura 2. Infección de *Spodoptera frugiperda* por *Metarhizium rileyi*, a) larva micosada; b) morfología macroscópica del crecimiento del hongo en medio PDA; c) y d) morfología microscópica del hongo donde se observan las fialídes y conidias tomado en 1,000x magnificaciones.

Figure 2. Infection of *Spodoptera frugiperda* by *Metarhizium rileyi*, a) mycosed larva; b) macroscopic morphology of the fungus grown in PDA medium; c) and d) microscopic morphology of the fungus showing phialides and conidia at 1,000x magnifications.

insect, finally, these hyphal bodies invade the cadaver and give rise to the production of conidiophores, phialides and conidia (Figure 1, 2).

The macroscopic characteristics of the growth of *M. rileyi* on infected larvae and in the culture medium were similar, showing a whitish coloration at the beginning and olive green at the end due to the formation of spores (Figure 1). The isolates produced grayish-green, short-chain phialides and ovoid conidia (Figure 2) (Humber, 1997; Bosa *et al.*, 2004).

Conclusion

The highest incidence of the *M. rileyi* fungus occurred in the sampling performed in August 2017, which could be favored by the climatic conditions, especially the high rainfall and an RH greater than 80 %, contributing to dispersion and favoring the growth of the fungus. These conditions could cause new epizootics during the rainy season with high populations of the pest.

Las características macroscópicas del crecimiento de *M. rileyi* sobre larvas infectadas y en el medio de cultivo, fueron similares, mostrando una coloración blanquecina al inicio y verde oliváceo al final por la formación de esporas (Figura 1). Los aislados produjeron fíalides y conidias ovoides (Figura 2) de color verde grisáceo y en cadenas cortas (Humber, 1997; Bosa *et al.*, 2004).

Conclusión

Sé encontró una alta incidencia del hongo *M. rileyi* durante el muestreo realizado en agosto de 2017, lo cual pudo ser favorecido por las condiciones climatológicas que se presentaron, principalmente la alta precipitación y una RH superior al 80 %, contribuyendo con la dispersión y favoreciendo el crecimiento del hongo. Estas condiciones podrían ocasionar nuevas epizootias en temporada de lluvias con altas poblacionales de la plaga.

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