

Acceptance and preference of field rats to different types of bait stations

Abstract

Eight kinds and types of bait containers were evaluated under the field conditions in lower and middle Egypt. The dominant species of rats in the experimental area were *Arvicantis niloticus* and *Rattus rattus frugivorus*. The acceptance and preference of rats of these containers differed considerably according to the kind of the bait station and the species of the rats dominating in the experimental area. Generally the cement tubes and clay tubes (50 cm. in length, 15 cm. in diameter) gave satisfactory results in the case of the post-harvest winter crop area as they were accepted and preferred by *A. niloticus* in Kaluobia governorate, whereas round clay container showed the least preference. In middle Egypt (Beni Suef governorate) the cement tubes and clay tubes were accepted and preferred considerably by *A. niloticus* in the experimental fields of tomato, pepper and egg plant, whereas round clay container were least preferred. Tubes and wooden boxes were most suitable for *R. r. frugivorus* in grapes field, whereas plastic bottles and floating containers were least preferred. An experiment was also carried out to determine the effect of sunlight on the acceptance and preference of *A. niloticus* towards white and black plastic bottles. There is no considerable difference in the acceptance and preference of rats to the two types of bottles.