

# A review of natural insecticides based on diatomaceous earths

---

**Korunić, Zlatko Korunić; Rozman, Vlatka; Liška, Anita; Lucić, Pavo**

Source / Izvornik: **Poljoprivreda, 2016, 22, 10 - 18**

**Journal article, Published version**

**Rad u časopisu, Objavljena verzija rada (izdavačev PDF)**

<https://doi.org/10.18047/poljo.22.1.2>

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:151:467151>

Rights / Prava: [In copyright](#) / [Zaštićeno autorskim pravom.](#)

Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2024-07-12**



Sveučilište Josipa Jurja  
Strossmayera u Osijeku

**Fakultet  
agrobiotehničkih  
znanosti Osijek**

Repository / Repozitorij:

[Repository of the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical  
Sciences Osijek - Repository of the Faculty of  
Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek](#)



# A review of natural insecticides based on diatomaceous earths

Osvrt na prirodne insekticide na bazi dijatomejske zemlje

**Korunić, Z., Rozman, V., Liška, A., Lucić, P.**

**Poljoprivreda/Agriculture**

ISSN: 1848-8080 (Online)

ISSN: 1330-7142 (Print)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18047/poljo.22.1.2>



**Poljoprivredni fakultet u Osijeku, Poljoprivredni institut Osijek**  
Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek, Agricultural Institute Osijek

# A REVIEW OF NATURAL INSECTICIDES BASED ON DIATOMACEOUS EARTHS

Korunić, Z.<sup>(1)</sup>, Rozman, V.<sup>(2)</sup>, Liška, A.<sup>(2)</sup>, Lucić, P.<sup>(2)</sup>

Scientific review  
Pregledni znanstveni članak

## SUMMARY

*The efficacy of diatomaceous earth (DE) formulations against insect pests is greatly influenced by environmental conditions. It is effective only under dry conditions and becomes wholly ineffective if it is wet. High air relative humidity and especially rain greatly reduce or completely destroy the efficacy of DE when used outdoors. Furthermore, depending on the insect species and commodity treated, DE takes from one to several days to kill insects, even in a dry environment. Because of these factors, DE is in limited use outdoors, especially in regions with a high precipitation. The main uses of DE are for the protection of stored agricultural products against insect infestation, in food industry for structural treatment and for indoor use against some household insects living in a dry environment. The mode of DEs action against insects, the effect of humidity and moisture on DE efficacy, brief overview of the research of DE use in stored grain protection and attempts to overcome DE limitations with combined use of DE and other reduced-risk methods with the insecticide activity for direct mixing with grains are discussed in this article.*

**Key-words:** diatomaceous earth, insect pests, effectiveness, advantages, disadvantages

## INTRODUCTION

Diatomaceous earth (DE) is a dust composed of unicellular algae fossilized bodies called diatoms. DE exists in a natural state as soft chalky rock deposits. The majority of these deposits were formed in Eocene/Miocene Epochs about 30 to 80 million years ago (Round et al. 1990).

DE is prepared for commercial use by quarrying, drying and milling. The only changes to DE during this process are the reduction in moisture content and the reduction in mean aggregate particle size. The result of this process is a fine, talc-like dust with mean particle size distribution of 0.5 microns to more than 100 microns (the majority are between 10 and 50 microns) (Quarles, 1992; Subramanyam and Roesli, 2000).

DE usually contains between 80 and 95 percent amorphous silicon dioxide which is a generic term for various silicas (WHO, International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC 1986).

## THE MODE OF DE ACTION

For centuries, grain was protected from insect infestation by adding some form of powder or dust directly to the grain whereas, very often DE was applied. People live, raise animals and farm on DE deposits, and many species of wildlife live on DE deposits, all without detrimental effects (GRAS, 2006).

DE is probably one of the safest and most effective naturally occurring insecticides (Ebeling, 1971; Fields and Muir, 1996). It has a physical mode of action since it kills insects by desiccation. The theory of the DE the insecticidal action mechanism was developed as early as 1931 when Zacher and Kunike described the "Zacher effect". They discovered that the DE action mode is mainly by dehydration or desiccation.

(1) Ph.D. Zlatko Korunić - Diatom Research and Consulting Inc., 14 Tedefal Dr. Toronto, ON, M4W 1J2, Canada, (2) Prof. Dr. Vlatka Rozman (vrozman@pfos.hr), Assist. Prof. Anita Liška, Pavo Lucić, M. Eng. - Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek, Kralja Petra Svačića 1d, 31000 Osijek, Croatia

An insect's body is covered with a layer of wax made up of cuticular lipids. These lipids are present on the outermost layer of an insect's exoskeleton, called its epicuticle, and serve the critical function of restricting water loss from the body and preventing desiccation. DE particles stick (adsorb) to the lipids on insect's epicuticle and prevent the lipids from restricting water loss (Ebeling, 1971; Golob, 1997). As a result, insect loses body moisture through the damaged spots on its epicuticle and dies, after a period of time, of desiccation.

The outdoors efficacy of DE depends on the environmental conditions present when it is applied, especially the air relative humidity and the water presence. It is well known that DE is not normally fast acting. Depending on the ambient conditions and the pest species, it will take several days to control most insect species.

DE's adsorptive capacity for lipids, and its insecticidal efficacy, is also affected by the size, shape and a surface topography of diatom species, uniformity of particles and the purity of the formulation (Korunić, 1998, 2013). Depending on the species, size and shape of the diatoms, there are numerous pores and holes in the surface of the diatom particles that make up its active surface. Particles that have a larger available active surface have a higher sorption capacity for the lipids and are more effective desiccants. Particles of high purity with empty holes being as dry as possible (natural DE after processing usually contain about 4-8% of free water, although 5% is preferable) have the highest sorption capacity and the highest efficacy against insects (Quarles, 1992; Subramanyam and Roesli, 2000; Korunić, 2013).

In addition to the adsorptive ability, DE also has abrasive property. The abrasive effects of DE may include abrasion or laceration of the digestive tract, resulting in internal desiccation (Jackson and Webley, 1994). Further, DE may also plug the insect's spiracle (or breathing organ), which results in suffocation (Jackson and Webley 1994). These two effects often work in combination. It is known that insect removes dust material from its legs and antennae by passing them between its mouth parts (Flanders, 1941). It is probably that this cleaning activity plays a significant role in increasing the DE efficacy through internal desiccation.

If insects are attracted to the presence of DE, they will stay longer and pick up more particles on their legs and antennae. As a result, they will bring more DE particles to their mouths. We believe that the food grade bait in some DE formulations (yeast and honey) attracts insects to the DE and keeps them in contact with DE for longer period of time. As a result, the insects will pick up more DE particles on their body, legs and antennae. This will lead to the faster desiccation (both internal and external) and faster and higher insect mortality.

## THE EFFECT OF HUMIDITY AND MOISTURE ON DE EFFICACY

The presence of moisture significantly reduces the efficacy of DE in three ways: a) by reducing its sorption capacity for lipids on insect's epicuticle; b) by reducing the dispersion properties (as further explained) of DE that are characteristics of its talc-like form; and c) since an insect loses water from the body more slowly, it is able to replace the lost water more easily, under wet conditions.

With respect to DE's sorption capacity, it is well known that diatom particles absorb both surface water and, depending on the relative humidity, water that is present in the air. As relative humidity increases, the quantity of water absorbed by DE increases. The efficacy of DE is significantly reduced by increasing the moisture content of DE to above 8-10%. When particles are filled with a film of water and the holes and pores are completely saturated with water, DE loses its sorption ability for wax and its insecticidal efficacy is lost entirely (Ebeling, 1971; Le Patourel, 1986; Le Patourel and Zhou, 1990; Aldryhim, 1990, 1993; Quarles, 1992; Golob, 1997; Korunić, 1997; Fields and Korunić, 2000).

The presence of water also adversely affects DE's dispersion properties. As DE dries on various surfaces (after it becomes wet), it tends to agglomerate and stick to the surfaces on which it dries rather than stick to the insects that crawl over the surface. Once DE dries, the particles of DE stick together forming cohesive deposits making it difficult for separate particles to be picked up by passing insects. Although DE particles are again effective after drying, the reduced dispersion of individual particles reduces the extent to which they adhere to passing insects. As a result, the insect does not pick up the necessary quantity of particles to facilitate desiccation.

It will be recalled that separate, dry DE particles must adhere to the insect's body in order to be effective. DE will control insects as long as it is dry and in sufficient concentrations to ensure that the insects come in contact with enough particles. It follows that, DE is effective in controlling insects on primary under dry conditions.

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH OF DE USE IN STORED GRAIN PROTECTION

First publications about the DE use in stored grain protection had been published in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Calvert, 1930; Zacher and Kunike, 1931; Germar, 1936; Zacher, 1937a,b; Chiu, 1939a,b; Flanders, 1941; Alexander et al., 1944a,b,c). Since then hundreds of research papers have been published in many international journals.

Research has also been done on the effect of DE on numerous pests such as ants, bedbugs, textile pests, various caterpillars in agriculture, crickets, termites, earwigs, June beetles, potato beetles, silverfish, fleas,

centipedes, pillbugs, bed bugs, poultry mites, ticks, snails etc. (Wilbur et al., 1971a,b; De Crosta, 1979; Snetsinger, 1982, 1988; Rambo, 1992).

The use of DE for structural treatment in stored product facilities was studied by Desmarchelier et al. (1987, 1993), Wright (1990), McLaughlin (1994), Bridgeman (1994), Korunić and Fields (1995), Korunić et al. (1996).

During the last 20 years DE has been the subject of several review papers (Quarles, 1992; Golob, 1997; Korunić, 1998; Subramanyam and Roesli, 2000; Fields and Korunić, 2002; Quarles and Winn, 1996; Nikpay, 2006; Quarles, 2007; Korunić, 2013; Shah and Khan, 2014) with the numerous references cited within each of review. Mostly, the advantages of DE were described as natural inert material, safe and effective insecticide, with the physical mode of action and long persistence not leaving hazardous residues and very often with conclusions that DE is a promising insecticide.

However, still today DE is not commercially in wider use for direct mixing with grains to be placed on the market because of the great obstacles and disadvantages described by Korunić (2016 in press *Pesticides & Phytomedicine*). The main limitations in wider use of DEs when directly mixed with grains are the effect of grain moisture and temperature on the effectiveness reduction (Table 1); the various effectiveness of different diatomaceous earths on wheat against the same insect species (Table 2); significant difference in the effectiveness of the same formulation of DE against different insect species on the same commodity (Table 3); significant effect of different type of commodity on the effectiveness of the same formulation of DE against the same insect species (Table 4); significant effects on grain bulk density (test weight) (Table 5) and grain flowability reduction. The dusty appearance of treated grain, safety reasons due to very small DEs particles present in the air for hours after the treatment and smaller than 5 microns that may enter into the lung causing inflammation are also limitations.

**Table 1. The mortality of *C. ferrugineus* (Stephens) held at various temperature and moisture conditions on wheat treated with DE, (Protect-It®) (Korunić and Fields, 1998)**

Tablica 1. Mortalitet *C. ferrugineus* (Stephens) na pšenici tretiranoj s DZ (Protect-It®) pri različitoj temperaturi i vlazi zrna (Korunić i Fields, 1998.)

Exposure (days) Izloženost(dana)	Dosage (ppm) Doza (ppm)	15 °C			20 °C		
		Moisture content/Sadržaj vlage zrna*					
		12%	15%	17%	12%	15%	17%
3	0	0±0 a	0±0 a	3±3 a	0±0 a	0±0 a	0±0 a
	100	15±3 b	5±1 b	1±1 a	41±4 b	29±3 b	3±3 a
	200	89±1 c	43±1 c	47±3 b	95±1 c	80±5 c	89±1 b
	300	99±1 d	87±1 d	57±1 c	100±0 c	95±1 d	100±0 c

\*For a given duration, moisture and temperature combination, means followed by different letters are significantly different, >0.05 Student-Newman-Keuls test

**Table 2. The efficacy of different diatomaceous earths applied on Canadian Western hard red spring wheat against the rice weevil *Sitophilus oryzae* L. (RW) and red flour beetle *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst (RFB) (Korunić, 1998)**

Tablica 2. Učinkovitost različitih vrsta dijatomejske zemlje primijenjenih na kanadsku tvrdu jaru pšenicu u suzbijanju rižinoga žiška *Sitophilus oryzae* L. (RŽ) i kestenjastoga brašnara *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst (KB) (Korunić, 1998.)

Diatomaceous earth Dijatomejska zemlja	LC <sub>50</sub> (95% CI) – ppm	
	RW after 5 days RŽ nakon 5 dana	RFB after 14 days KB nakon 14 dana
Celite 209	270 (213-340)	417 (328 - 529)
DE Australia	438 (346 - 553)	494 (383 - 637)
Perma Guard	680 (555 - 832)	1211 (728 - 2014)
DiaFil 610	829 (561 - 1223)	1477 (447 - 4883)
Melocide DE 100	1137 (546 - 3734)	2047 (1178 - 3556)

Probit analysis. CI = confidence intervals. Concentrations from 100 ppm to 1700 ppm;

25 adults of the rice weevil and 20 adults of the red flour beetle, unknown ages, mixed sex in each replicate of 5. Temperature: 25°C; RH: 55%; moisture content of wheat: 14%

**Table 3. The mortality of four insect species held at 25°C at various moisture content on wheat treated with DE (Protect-It®) at 300 ppm (Korunić et al., 1997)**

Tablica 3. Mortalitet četiri vrste kukaca pri temperaturi 25°C i pri različitoj vlazi zrna pšenice tretiranoj s 300 ppm DZ (Protect-It®) (Korunić et al., 1997.)

Insects Kukci	Exposure (days) Izloženost (dana)	Mortality (%)* Mortalitet (%)		
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i>	1	92 ± 3 b	100 ± 0 a	75 ± 5 a
	2	100 ± 0 a	100 ± 0 a	100 ± 0 b
<i>Oryzaephilus surinamensis</i>	5	100 ± 0 a	92 ± 2 a	71 ± 3 a
	9	98 ± 2 a	99 ± 1 b	95 ± 3 b
<i>Sitophilus Oryzae</i>	5	95 ± 3 a	74 ± 3 b	53 ± 2 a
	9	97 ± 2 a	99 ± 1 a	99 ± 2 b
<i>Rhyzopertha Dominica</i>	5	72 ± 3 a	39 ± 7 a	17 ± 2 a
	14	90 ± 3 b	68 ± 5 b	58 ± 5 b

\*For a given species, moisture and application combination, means followed by different letters are significantly different  $P > 0.05$  Student-Newman-Keuls test; Insects held on untreated wheat had less than 2% mortality

**Table 4. The influence of various commodities on the efficacy of DE (Protect-It®) against *Sitophilus oryzae* L. (RW) and *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst (RFB), at dose of 300 and 500 ppm, respectively (Korunić, 2007b)**

Tablica 4. Utjecaj različite vrste robe na učinkovitost DZ (Protect-It®) u suzbijanju *Sitophilus oryzae* L. (RŽ) i *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst (KB), pri dozama 300 i 500 ppm (Korunić, 2007.b)

Grains Žitarice	Class Sorta	Grade Klasa	MC (%) Vlaga zrna (%)	Mean ± Std. dev./ Prosjek ± Std. dev. *	
				Mortality (%)/Mortalitet (%)	
				Adult RW after 21 days RŽ nakon 21 dan	Adult RFB after 6 days KB nakon 6 dana
Wheat Pšenica	Ontario soft feed	Feed	14.3	46 ± 13 b,c,d	23 ± 20 a,b
	Canada Prairie Spring Red	1	14.3	51 ± 30 c,d,e	95 ± 4 d
	Hard Red Spring	1	14.6	N/A	91 ± 4 d
	Hard Red Spring	2	14.0	85 ± 17 g,h,i	82 ± 8 c,d
	Hard Red Spring	3	13.8	84 ± 10 g,h,i	91 ± 14 d
	Extra Strong Red Spring	1	14.5	86 ± 14 g,h,i	84 ± 21 c,d
	Extra Strong Red Spring	2	14.5	71 ± 15 e,f,g,i	84 ± 10 c,d
	White Prairie Spring	1	14.6	70 ± 5 d,e,f,g	58 ± 31 c
	Amber Durum	1	14.2	54 ± 8 c,d,e,f	91 ± 4 d
	Amber Durum	2	13.6	53 ± 8 c,d,e,f	53 ± 18 b,c
Rye Raž	N/A	N/A	14.3	78 ± 12 f,g,h,i	84 ± 21 c,d
Maize Kukuruz	With 7.8% oil	1	13.3	23 ± 22 a,b	N/A
	With 4.4% oil	1	13.3	10 ± 5 a	N/A
Rice Riža	Milled	N/A	13.0	2 ± 3 a	N/A
	Paddy	N/A	13.0	100 ± 0 i	N/A
Sorghum Sirak	N/A	N/A	13.0	N/A	4 ± 8 a

\*ANOVA (Tukey).  $P > 0.05$ . Means in each column followed by the same letter are not significantly different. Control mortality RW (%): paddy rice 10 ± 2; Ontario soft feed wheat 5 ± 2; all other commodities 0.0 ± 0.0. Control mortality RFB (%): all grains 0.0 ± 0.0

**Table 5. The reduction of bulk density by DE (Protect-It®) on various grains as compared to untreated grain, measured by the Canadian Grain Commission**

Tablica 5. Utjecaj DZ (Protect-It®) na smanjenje hektolitarske mase različitih vrsta žitarica uspoređujući s netretiranim žitaricama, prema "Canadian Grain Commission"

Grains Žitarice	Application method Metoda aplikacije		Bulk density (kg/hl, ±SEM) Hektolitarska masa (kg/hl, ±SEM)					
			Dosage (ppm) * Doza (ppm)					
			0	100	200	300	400	500
Oats Zob	dry suho	lab laboratorij	62.7±0.4	1.0	1.5	1.6	2.3	3.2
Barley Ječam	dry suho	lab laboratorij	64.7±0.3	2.3	4.3	4.3	4.6	4.7
Rye Raž	dry suho	lab laboratorij	75.4±0.5	2.3	3.0	3.2	3.4	4.3
Maize Kukuruz	dry suho	lab laboratorij	64.3±0.2	1.4	2.0	2.4	2.5	2.0
Durum wheat Durum pšenica	dry suho	lab laboratorij	78.5±0.5	4.2	-	5.5	-	5.8
HRS** Tvrda crvena jara pšenica	dry suho	lab laboratorij	81.0±0.3	4.0	5.6	5.8	6.2	6.8

\* All concentrations were significantly different from 0 ppm within a given grain, Dunnett's test  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*HRS - hard red spring wheat

Due to all these significant and unacceptable disadvantages in direct mixing with the grains, it is quite clear that nowadays use of DE as a grain protectant has minimal or small chances to be accepted by a grain industry. However, DEs may have a wider application on farms to protect grains for own use, for feed protection, in veterinary field and for structural treatment in grain and the food industry.

### ATTEMPTS TO OVERCOME DE LIMITATIONS FOR DIRECT MIXING WITH GRAINS

In order to overcome the limitations of DEs use several studies are conducted to discover new ways of DE use and thus to continue the use of this safe dust. In order to reduce DE dosages, it is often mixed with other compounds such as silica gel, dry honey, not activated yeast and sugar to increase the efficacy. However, these mixtures still have a significant negative effect on grain bulk density and flowability (Jackson and Webley, 1994; Korunić and Fields, 1995; Quarles and Winn, 1996; Korunić et al., 1997; Subramanyam and Roesli, 2000; Korunić et al., 2015).

One of the possible solutions to the implications that are caused by high doses of DEs is a combined use of DE with other reduced-risk methods with the insecticide activity, such as extreme temperatures (Fields et al., 1997; Dowdy, 1999), grain cooling with surface treatment with DE (Nickson et al., 1994) or in a mixture with entomopathogenic fungi (Lord, 2001; Akbar et al., 2004; Kavallieratos et al., 2006; Vasilakos et al., 2006; Michalaki et al., 2007), in a mixture with reduced concentrations of synthetic insecticides

(Korunić, 2001; Stathers, 2003; Arthur 2004a,b; Athanassiou, 2006; Chanbang et al., 2007; Korunić and Rozman, 2010) or in a mixture with plant extracts (Korunić, 2007a; Athanassiou and Korunić, 2007) or in a mixture with bacterial metabolite (Vayias et al., 2009). Experimentation with other components often revealed enhanced and sometimes synergistic effectiveness (Korunić, 2001; Lord, 2001; Stathers, 2003; Korunić, 2007a; Athanassiou and Korunić, 2007; Athanassiou et al., 2009; Korunić and Rozman, 2010). However, these mixtures still contained quite high concentrations of DE with significant effects on the reduction of bulk density and flowability.

Another possibility to overcome the obstacles in DEs use for grain protection is combining the nowadays discovered most effective DEs with another natural insecticides having different mode of action against insects; desiccation of insects caused with DE with toxicity against insects caused with another substances (Korunić, 2001; Korunić, 2007a, Athanassiou and Korunić, 2007). In many cases the existing synergy between DE and another substance(s) greatly enhanced the effectiveness of a mixture and therefore, the needed effective dosages of DE had been greatly reduced for approximately 4 to 10 times in the comparison with dosages of DE when used alone (Korunić, 2007; Athanassiou and Korunić, 2007; Almaši et al., 2013; Rozman et al., 2015).

If this newer enhanced formulation can respond to the limitations of DE use for direct mixing with grains, there will be a wider adoption of DE to control stored-product insect pests.

## CONCLUSION

There has been an interest in using diatomaceous earth on stored grain as an alternative to synthetic residual insecticides because of concerns with insecticide residues in grain, worker safety and resistant insect populations. DE is now registered as a grain protectant or for structural treatment in several countries (Australia, Canada, China, Croatia, Germany, USA and other Asian countries). The mode of action of DE is different from the synthetic insecticides used in grain. DE absorbs the insect's cuticular waxes, and insects die from desiccation. The main advantages of using DE are its low mammalian toxicity and its stability. The main limitations are: reduction of the bulk density and flowability of grain, dusty to apply, low efficacy against some insects and reduction in efficacy at high moisture contents. There can be a 20-fold difference in insecticidal activity among DEs of different geological sources. The commodity treated can also be a factor in determining the concentrations of DE required to obtain control. DE has been combined with other treatments: heat, cold and phosphine fumigation to control stored product insect infestations in bulk grain and in food processing facilities. Attempts are made to overcome DE limitations for direct mixing with grains. Several studies are conducted to discover new ways of DE use in grain protection. DE is mixed with other safe, natural substances in order to continue the use of this safe dust.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Financial support for this manuscript was provided by the Croatian Science Foundation (Scientific research project IP-11-2013-5570: "Development of new natural insecticide formulations based on inert dusts and botanicals to replace synthetic, conventional insecticides").

## REFERENCES

- Akbar, W., Lord, J.C., Nechols, J.R., Howard, J.R. (2004): Diatomaceous earth increases the efficacy of *Beauveria bassiana* against *Tribolium castaneum* larvae and increases conidia attachment. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 97: 273-280.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1603/0022-0493-97.2.273>
- Aldryhim, Y.N. (1990): Efficacy of the amorphous silica dust, Dryacide, against *Tribolium confusum* Duv. and *Sitophilus granarius* (L.) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae and Curculionidae). *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 26(4): 207-210.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X\(90\)90023-L](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X(90)90023-L)
- Aldryhim, Y.N. (1993): Combination of classes of wheat and factors affecting the efficacy of amorphous silica dust, Dryacide, against *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F). *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 29(3): 271-275.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X\(93\)90010-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X(93)90010-2)
- Alexander, P., Kitchner, J.A., Briscoe, H.V.A. (1944a): Inert dust insecticides. Part I. Mechanism of action. *Annals Applied Biology*, 31:143-9.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7348.1944.tb06225.x>
- Alexander, P., Kitchner, J.A., Briscoe, H.V.A. (1944b): Inert dust insecticides. Part II. The nature of effective dusts. *Annals Applied Biology*, 31: 150-156.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7348.1944.tb06226.x>
- Alexander, P., Kitchner, J.A., Briscoe, H.V.A. (1944c): Part III. The effect of dust on stored products pests other than *Calandra granaria*. *Annals Applied Biology*, 31: 156-159.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7348.1944.tb06227.x>
- Almaši, R., Poslončec, D., Korunić, Z. (2013): Possible New Insecticides in the Protection of Stored Wheat. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences, Bulg. J. Agric. Sci.*, 19: 1076-1084.
- Arthur, F.H. (2004a): Evaluation of a new insecticide formulation (F2) as a protectant of stored wheat, maize and rice. *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 40(5): 317-330.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(03\)00023-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(03)00023-7)
- Arthur, F.H. (2004b): Evaluation of methoprene alone and in combination with diatomaceous earth to control *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) on stored wheat. *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 40(5): 485-498.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(03\)00060-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(03)00060-2)
- Athanassiou, C.G. (2006): Toxicity of beta cyfluthrin applied alone or in combination with diatomaceous earth against adults of *Sitophilus oryzae* (L.) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) and *Tribolium confusum* DuVal (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) on stored wheat. *Crop Protection*, 8: 788-794.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2005.10.015>
- Athanassiou, C.G., Korunić, Z. (2007): Evaluation of two new diatomaceous earth formulations enhanced with abamectin and bitterbarkomycin, against four stored-grain beetle species. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 43(4): 468-473.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jspr.2006.12.008>
- Athanassiou, C.G., Korunić, Z., Vayias, B.J. (2009): Diatomaceous earths enhance the insecticidal effect of bitterbarkomycin against stored-grain insects. *Crop Protection*, 28(2): 123-127.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2008.09.012>
- Bridgeman, B.W. (1994): Structural treatment with amorphous silica slurry: an integral component of GRAINCO's IPM strategy. In *Proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Stored-Product Protection*, Canberra, Australia, 650. Ed. E. Highley, E. J. Wright, H. J. Banks and B.R. Champ. Vol. 2, pp 628-630. University Press, Cambridge. U.K.
- Calvert, R. (1930): Diatomaceous Earth. *American Chemical Society Monograph*. Reprint 1976, University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI. pp. 251.



- doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0016-0032\(30\)90067-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0016-0032(30)90067-1)
15. Chanbang, Y., Arthur, F.H., Wilde, G.E., Thorne, J.E. (2007): Efficacy of diatomaceous earth and methoprene, alone and in combination, against *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.) (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) in rough rice. *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 43: 396-401.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jspr.2006.12.003>
  16. Chiu, S.F. (1939a): Toxicity of so-called "inert" materials with the bean weevil *Acanthoscelides obtectus*. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 32(2): 240-248.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/jee/32.2.240>
  17. Chiu, S.F. (1939b): Toxicity of so-called "inert" materials with the rice weevil and the granary weevil. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 32(6): 810-821.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/jee/32.6.810>
  18. De Crosta, A. (1979): Mother Nature's bug killer. *Organic Gardening*, 26(6): 38-44.
  19. Desmarchelier, J.M., Dines, J.C. (1987): Dryacide treatment of stored wheat: its efficacy against insects, and after processing. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture*, 27: 309-312.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/EA9870309>
  20. Desmarchelier, J.M., Wright, E.J., Allen, S.E. (1993): Dryacide®: a structural treatment for stored product insects. In: *Proceedings of 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Applied Entomological Research Conference 1992*.
  21. Dowdy, A.K. (1999): Mortality of red flour beetle (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) exposed to high temperature and diatomaceous earth combinations. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 35(2): 175-182.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(98\)00043-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(98)00043-5)
  22. Ebeling, W. (1971): Sorptive dust for pest control. *Annals Review Entomology*, 16: 123-158.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.en.16.010171.001011>
  23. Fields, P., Dowdy, A., Marcotte, M. (1997): Structural Pest Control: The use of an enhanced diatomaceous earth product combined with heat treatment for the control of insect pests in food processing facilities. Report prepared for Environment Bureau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the United States Department of Agriculture, pp. 25.
  24. Fields, P., Korunić, Z. (2000): The effect of grain moisture content and temperature on the efficacy of diatomaceous earths from different geographical locations against stored-product beetles. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 36(1): 1-13.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(99\)00021-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(99)00021-1)
  25. Fields, P.G., Korunić, Z. (2002): Post-harvest insect control with inert dusts. In *Dekker Encyclopedia of Pest Management* (ed. D. Pimentel) Marcel Dekker, New York, pp. 650-653.
  26. Fields, P.G., Muir, W.E. (1996): Physical Control. In *Integrated Management of Insect in Stored Products*. Ed. by B. Subramanyam and D.W. Hagstrum. pp 195-221. Marcel-Dekker Inc., New York.
  27. Flanders, S.F. (1941): Dust as an inhibiting factor in the reproduction of insects. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 34(3): 470-472.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/jee/34.3.470>
  28. Germar, B. (1936): Versuche zur Bekämpfung des Kornkäfer mit Staubmitteln. *Zeitsch. F. ang. Ent.* XXII, 603-630.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1439-0418.1938.tb00457.x>
  29. Golob, P. (1997): Current status and future perspectives for inert dust for control of stored product insects. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 33(1): 69-81.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(96\)00031-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(96)00031-8)
  30. GRAS Substances Database *Generally Recognized As Safe* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U. S. Food and Drug Administration: Silver Spring, MD, 2006
  31. Jackson, K., Webley, D. (1994): Effects of Dryacide on the physical properties of grains, pulses and oilseeds. *Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Stored-Product Protection*, Canberra, Australia, 2, pp. 635-637.
  32. Kavallieratos, N.G., Athanassiou, C.G., Michalaki, M.P., Batta, Y.A., Rigatos, H.A., Pashalidou, F.G., Balotis, G.N., Tomanović, Z., Vayias, B.J. (2006): Effect of the combined use of *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Metchnikoff) Sorokin and diatomaceous earth for the control of three stored-product beetle species. *Crop Protection*, 25(10):1087-1094.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2006.02.009>
  33. Korunić, Z. (1997): Rapid assessment of the insecticidal value of diatomaceous earths without conducting bioassays. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 33(3): 219-229.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(97\)00004-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(97)00004-0)
  34. Korunić, Z. (1998): Diatomaceous earth, a group of natural insecticide. *Journal of Stored Product Research*, 34(2/3): 87-97.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X\(97\)00039-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0022-474X(97)00039-8)
  35. Korunić, Z. (2001): A new type of grain protectant. *Proceedings of the 13<sup>th</sup> Seminar DDD and ZUPP 2001 Disinfection, Disinfestation, Deratization and Protection of Stored Agricultural Products*, Zagreb, Croatia: 173-208.
  36. Korunić, Z. (2007a): Joint action of ready to use insecticide mixture of plant extract bitterbarkomycin and diatomaceous earth to control stored grain insects. *Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Seminar DDD and ZUPP 2007 Disinfection, Disinfestation, Deratization and Protection of Stored Agricultural Products*, Zagreb, Croatia: 375-387.
  37. Korunić, Z. (2007b): The Effect of Different Types of Grain and Wheat Classes on the Effectiveness of Diatomaceous Earth against Grain Insects. *Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Seminar DDD and ZUPP 2007 Disinfection, Disinfestation, Deratization and Protection of Stored Agricultural Products*, Zagreb, Croatia: 361-373.
  38. Korunić, Z. (2013): Diatomaceous earths – Natural Insecticides. *Pesticides & Phytomedicine* (Belgrade), 28(2):77-95.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2298/PIF1302077K>
  39. Korunić, Z., Almaši, R., Andrić, G., Kljajić, P., Fields, P.G., Wakil, W., Ziaee, M. (2015): Variation in the

- susceptibility of stored-product insects from five locations to two diatomaceous earth based formulations. Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection, Chiang Mai, Thailand: 808-818.
40. Korunić, Z., Cenkowski, S., Fields, P.G. (1997): Grain bulk density as affected by diatomaceous earths. *Postharvest Biology and Technology*, 13(1): 81-89.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0925-5214\(97\)00076-8](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0925-5214(97)00076-8)
  41. Korunić, Z., Fields, P. (1998): The effect of grain moisture content and temperature on the efficacy of six diatomaceous earths against three stored-products beetles. In the Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> IWCSPP Beijing, P.R. China, Vol.1: 790-795.
  42. Korunić, Z., Fields, P. (1995): Diatomaceous Earth Insecticidal Composition. Canadian and U.S.A. Patent, 5,773,017. 1995.
  43. Korunić, Z., Fields, P.G., Kovacs, M.I.P., Noll, J.S., Lukow, O.M., Demianyk, C.J., Shibley K.J. (1996): The Effect of Diatomaceous Earth on Grain Quality. *Postharvest Biology and Technology*, 9(3): 373-387.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0925-5214\(96\)00038-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0925-5214(96)00038-5)
  44. Korunić, Z., Fields, P., Timlick, B., Ormasher, P., van Natto, C. (1997): Enhanced Diatomaceous Earth Insecticide, Safe, Effective and Long Lasting Grain Protectant. Presented at FAO VIII Round Table on Prevention of Post-Harvest Food Losses 13-15 August, 1997, Cartagena, Columbia.
  45. Korunić, Z., Rozman, V. (2010): A synergistic mixture of diatomaceous earth and deltamethrin to control stored grain insects. Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection, Estoril, Portugal: 894-898.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5073/jka.2010.425.058>
  46. Le Patourel, G.N.J. (1986): The effect of grain moisture content on the toxicity of a sorptive silica dust to four species of grain beetle, *J Journal of Stored Product Research*, 22(2): 63-69.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X\(86\)90020-2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0022-474X(86)90020-2)
  47. Le Patourel, G.N.K., Zhou, J.J. (1990): Action of amorphous silica dusts on the German cockroach *Blattella germanica* (Linnaeus) (Orthoptera: Blattellidae), *Bulletin of Entomological Research*, 80(1): 11-17.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0007485300045855>
  48. Lord, J.C. (2001): Desiccant dusts synergize the effect of *Beauveria bassiana* (Hypomycetes: Moniliales) on stored grain beetles. *Journal of Economic Entomology*, 94(2): 367-372.
  49. McLaughlin, A. (1994): Laboratory trials on desiccant dust insecticides. Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Stored-Product Protection, Canberra, Australia, Vol. 2: 638-645.
  50. Michalaki, M.P., Athanassiou, C.G., Steenberg, N.G., Buchelos, C.Th. (2007): Effect of *Paecilomyces fumosorroseus* (Wise) Brown and Smith (Ascohyta: Hypocreales) alone and in combination with diatomaceous earth against *Tribolium castaneum* Jacquelin duVal (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) and *Ephesia kuehniella* Zeller (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). *Biological Control*, 2: 280-286.
  51. Nickson, P.J., Desmarchelier, J.M., Gibbs, P. (1994): Combination of cooling with a surface application of Dryacide to control insects. In Proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Stored-Product Protection, Canberra, Australia, Vol.2: 646-649.
  52. Nikpay, A. (2006): Diatomaceous earth as alternatives to chemical insecticides in stored grain. *Insect Science*, 13(6): 421-429.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-7917.2006.00111.x>
  53. Quarles, W. (1992): Diatomaceous earth for pest control. *IPM Practitioner*, 14(5/6): 1-11.
  54. Quarles, W. (2007): Diatomaceous earth. PCT [www.pctonline.com](http://www.pctonline.com); 32-34.
  55. Quarles, W., Winn P. (1996): Diatomaceous Earth and Stored Product Pests. *IPM Practitioner*, 18(5/6): 1-10.
  56. Rambo, G. (1992): Efficacy of diatomaceous earth from Harper Diatomite Deposit for control of German Cockroaches in living spaces. Appendix A to Volume 4, M Melosira DE-100 data submitted to US EPA.
  57. Round, F.E., Crawford, R.M., Mann D.G. (1990): *The Diatoms. Biology & Morphology of the genera*. Cambridge University Press, New York, USA.
  58. Rozman, V., Korunić, Z., Halamić, J., Liška, A., Baličević, R., Galović, I., Lucić, P. (2015): Development of new natural insecticide formulations based on inert dusts and botanicals to replace synthetic, conventional insecticides – presentation of the research project of Croatian Science Foundation (in Croatian). Proceedings of the 27<sup>th</sup> Scientific and Educational Seminar DDD and ZUPP 2015 Disinfection, Disinfestation and Deratization and Protection of Stored Agricultural Products, Zagreb, Croatia: 197-201.
  59. Shah, M.A., Khan, A.A. (2014): Use of diatomaceous earth for the management of stored-product pests. *International Journal of Pest Management*, 60(2): 100-113.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09670874.2014.918674>
  60. Snetsinger, R. (1982): Tests with Dead-End Roach Killer in Rental Apartments. Report of Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University.
  61. Snetsinger, R. (1988): Report on Shellshock Insecticide. Report of Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University.
  62. Stathers, T.E. (2003): Combinations to enhance the efficacy of diatomaceous earths against the larger grain borer, *Prostephanus truncates* (Horn). In Proceedings 8<sup>th</sup> International Working Conference of Stored Product Protection, York, U.K.: 925-929.
  63. Subramanyam, Bh., Roesli, R. (2000): Inert dusts. In: *Alternatives to Pesticides in Stored-Product IPM*. Subramanyam, Bh. and Hagstrum, D. W., eds., Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, pp. 321-380.  
doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4615-4353-4\\_12](http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4615-4353-4_12)
  64. Vasilakos, T.N., Athanassiou, C.G., Kavallieratos, N.G., Vayias, B.J. (2006): Influence of temperature on the insecticidal effect of *Beauveria bassiana* in combination with diatomaceous earth against *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Sitophilus oryzae* on stored wheat. *Biological Control*, 38: 270-281.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2006.03.009>

65. Vayias, B.J., Athanassiou, C.G., Buchelos, C.Th. (2009): Effectiveness of spinosad combined with diatomaceous earth against different European strains of *Tribolium confusum* duVal (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae): Influence of commodity and temperature. *Journal of Stored Products Research*, 45(3): 165-176.  
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jspr.2008.11.002>
66. Wilbur, D.A., Swoyer, G., Donahy, A. (1971): Effects of standardized diatomaceous earth on certain species on insects. Project report No.5203 of Kansas Agricultural Research Station, U.S.A.
67. WHO, International Agency for Research on Cancer. IARC Monograph on the Evaluation of the Carcinogenic Risk of Chemicals to Humans, Silica and Some Silicates, Volume 42, 1986.
68. Wright, E.J. (1990): A Trapping Method to Evaluate Efficacy of a Structural Treatment in Empty Silos. In *Proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Working Conference on Stored-Product Protection*, Bordeaux, France, Vol.3: 1455-1463.
69. Zacher, F., Kunike, G. (1931): Beitrage zur Kenntis der Vorratsschadlinge. Untersuchungen uber die Insektizide Wirkung von Oxyden und Karbonaten. *Arbeit Biologische Reichsanstalt*, 18: 201-231.
70. Zacher, F. (1937a): Eine neue gruppe von insektiziden. *C.R. du XII Cong. Int. De Zool. Lisbonne, 1935*: 2336-2340.
71. Zacher, F. (1937b): Neue untersuchungen uber die einwirkung oberflachenaktiver pulver auf insekten. *Zool. Anzeiger*, 10: 264-271.

## OSVRT NA PRIRODNE INSEKTICIDE NA BAZI DIJATOMEJSKE ZEMLJE

### SAŽETAK

*Klimatski uvjeti imaju značajan utjecaj na djelotvornost dijatomejske zemlje (DZ). DZ je djelotvorna u suhim uvjetima i postaje praktično nedjelotvorna na štetne kukce u vlažnoj okolini. Visoka relativna vlaga zraka i oborine na otvorenome, kao i visoka vlaga zrnate poljoprivredne robe, smanjuju ili u potpunosti eliminiraju djelotvornost DZ-a na štetne kukce. Također, ovisno o vrsti kukaca, kao i o vrsti tretirane zrnate robe, početna je djelotvornost spora i niska te, da bi se ostvarila zadovoljavajuća djelotvornost, izloženost štetnih kukaca na tretiranoj robi trebala bi biti tijekom više dana. Uporaba DZ-a u vanjskome prostoru, naročito u područjima s obilnim oborinama, ne daje zadovoljavajuće rezultate. Stoga, glavna je uporaba DZ-a u zaštiti uskladištenih poljoprivrednih proizvoda, u industriji hrane, za obradu raznih površina i za suzbijanje štetnika u zatvorenome prostoru. Način djelovanja DZ-a na štetne kukce, utjecaj relativne vlage zraka i vlage robe na djelotvornost, sažeti pregled istraživanja djelovanja DZ-a u zaštiti uskladištenih žitarica, kao i istraživanja o mogućnosti smanjenja negativnog utjecaja na tretiranu robu, s kombiniranom primjenom DZ-a i drugih insekticidnih metoda smanjenja rizika razmatraju se u ovome članku.*

**Ključne riječi:** dijatomejska zemlja, štetni kukci, učinkovitost, prednosti, nedostaci

(Received on 1 April 2016; accepted on 3 May 2016 – *Primljeno 1. travnja 2016.; prihvaćeno 03. svibnja 2016.*)