

# The Relation Between Vertimec Resistance in The Two-Spotted Spider Mite, *Tetranychus urticae* and Climate Changes in Egypt

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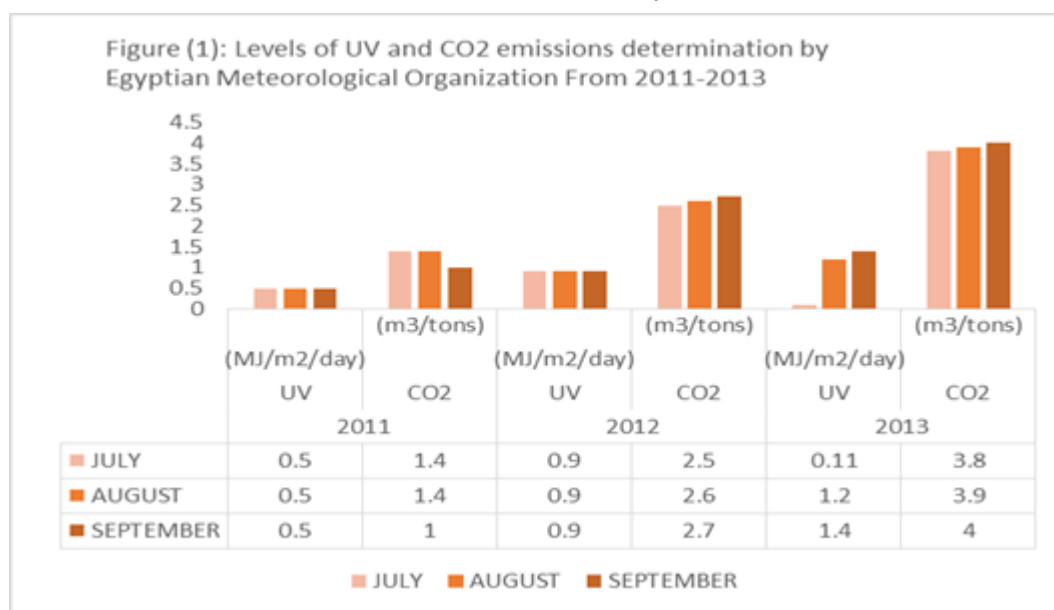
**ABSTRACT:** Pesticides resistance in *Tetranychus urticae* is a phenomenon which caused by many reasons. One of their causes is the exposure of highly levels of UV and CO<sub>2</sub>, which could play an important role to get a resistant field strain. The Vertimec, a pronounced miticide, LC<sub>50</sub> of the laboratory resistant strain which maintained under selection pressure till F40 and the resistant field strain in comparable with susceptible strain were 2099.38, 200.01 and 50.822  $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ , resp. Field studies through 2011, 2012 and 2013 showed that initial kill percentages of *T.urticae* infested cotton were 86.08, 62.74 and 40.32 % for the same arrangement, and the residual effect percentages were 94.62, 67.11 and 52.90 %, resp. Moreover, the elevated esterases and mixed function oxidases (MFO) in both the laboratory and the 2013 field resistant strains mainly proved the effect of increased radiation of UV on the highly resistance levels recorded for both strains.

**Keywords:** Pesticide resistance, Cotton, UV, CO<sub>2</sub>, *Tetranychus*, *Vertimec*, Esterases, Mixed function oxidases (MFO)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pesticide resistance is a vital topic especially in general pest as the two spotted spider mite, *Tetranychus urticae*. So it's important to take most effective element of climate changes in

mind when the resistance is the problem which farmers should give a hand to it. Figure (1) showed the levels of both UV and CO<sub>2</sub> in Egypt during cotton cultivation of this study through three years 2011, 2012 and 2013.



Hence, global warming with increased CO<sub>2</sub> can be expected to certainly affect the chemical-defense-signaling system in plants and that will render them more susceptible insect pest attack. The increased number of generations per year and frequent population outbreaks of potential insect pests necessitate continual applications of high amount of insecticides and that will make the insects to develop resistance against these chemicals (**Petzoldt and Seaman, 2007**).

Further, the increased voltinism with prolongation of lifespan in insects under high CO<sub>2</sub> and temperature will stabilize such insecticide resistant insect varieties in the population, which will cause greater damage to plants even under extensive insecticide control measures. Additionally, some classes of pesticides have been shown to be less effective in controlling insects at higher temperatures (**Musser & Shelton 2005**).

Entomologists predict additional generations of important pest insects in temperate climates as a result of increased temperatures, probably necessitating more insecticide applications to maintain populations below economic damage thresholds. A basic rule of thumb for avoiding the development of insecticide resistance is to apply insecticides with a particular mode of action less frequently (**Shelton et al 2001**). With more insecticide applications required, the probability of applying a given mode of action insecticide more times in a season will increase, thus increasing the probability of insects developing resistance to insecticides.

In addition, elevated CO<sub>2</sub> increases the carbon to nitrogen (C:N) ratio and reduces the N content in the tissue of most plant species, elevated CO<sub>2</sub> is expected to alter plant synthesis of phenolics, terpenes, and other secondary metabolites (**Bezemer et al.2002, Sun et al.2010**). Such changes in C:N and in the content of secondary metabolites will alter the nutritional quality and palatability of host plants for herbivores and could therefore affect the performance of herbivorous insects (**Couture et al.2010**).

The elevated resistance in *Tetranychus urticae* of acaricides such as Vertimec could be defined

and explained depending on many causes. Some of them related to the internal mode of action of the pesticide. Others are directed by environmental factors and mainly climate changes under Egyptian circumstances. So this study will take place to explain resistance depending on both directions on the same time.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Tested pesticide:** VERTIMEC

**Trade names:** Abba, Affirm, Agri-Mek, Avid, Dynamec, Vertimec and Zephyr.

**Common names:** Avermectin B1 and MK-936.

**Tested mite:** Two Spotted Spider Mite, *Tetranychus urticae*

Maintenance of the mite and the Assessment of acaricidal activity were done according to Dittrich (1962). Mortality percentages were determined and corrected by using **Abott's formula (1925)** and they were statistically analyzed according to **Finney (1971)** to estimate LC<sub>50</sub>, LC<sub>90</sub> and slope values. All were done for susceptible, resistant and field strains. Rearing of pest colonies under pesticides selection pressure were done for laboratory resistant strain according to **Abd El-Wahab (2010)**, by using leaf-dip technique (**Dittrich 1962**).

Field study: was done at Aga district in 2011, 2012 and 2013 in the area about 4200 m<sup>2</sup>. All data concerning IK, Residual effect and general effect were compared depending on the values of UV and CO<sub>2</sub> which affected on the strength of Vertimec to do its action.

- **Biochemical Studies**
- **Estimation of esterases activity**

EST activity was measured using  $\alpha$ -Naphthyl Acetate ( $\alpha$ -NA) by the method of **Van Asperen (1962)** with slight modifications. The reaction mixture contained 450  $\mu$ l of potassium phosphate buffer (4mM, PH 6.8) and 50  $\mu$ l of enzyme solution (from 0.01 gm of each stored sample) was incubated at 37° C for 15 min after addition of 0.5ml of  $\alpha$ -NA in ethanol (from 2 mg of  $\alpha$ -NA dissolved in 10 ml). The reaction was

stopped and colour developed by adding 0.5ml of dye solution (10g litre<sup>-1</sup> diazobluie B salt+50g litre<sup>-1</sup> sodium lauryl sulfate) 2:5 by volume for 20 min. The absorbance was read at 600nm for  $\alpha$ -NA by a Gilford 260PS spectrophotometer.

#### Estimation of oxidases assay

MFO activity was measured using p-nitroanisole-O-demethyl (PNA) by the method of Kim *et al.* (2004). The reaction mixture contained 50  $\mu$ l of microsomal preparation (5-50 protein equivalents) 50 of NADPH - generating system (Magnesium chloride 12 mM, NADPH 2.7m M, NADP 8.1mM, glucose -6-phosphate 240Mm, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase 25 units ml<sup>-1</sup>), 390  $\mu$ l of potassium buffer (0.1M, PH7.4) and 10  $\mu$ l of PNA in ethanol (0.05mM). The reaction was run at 37° C for 3min. Absorbance was measured at 400nm by a Gilford 260PS spectrophotometer. The concentration of P-nitrophenol generated was determined from a standard curve.

.Statistical Analysis: A split-split plot design was used to analyze the univariate responses of the measured variables. Effects were considered significant if  $P < 0.05$ . The effect of block and the interactive effects of block and other factors were not significant ( $P > 0.45$ ), and the effect of block and its interaction with other factors are

not presented so as to simplify the presentation. Least significant difference (LSD) tests were used to separate means when ANOVAs were significant.

#### RESULTS

Effect of Vertimec selection pressure on the susceptibility of *T.urticae* adult females. The data of laboratory tests in Table (1) presented building up of Vertimec resistance in the laboratory strain of mite during 40 generations. The results indicated that LC<sub>50</sub> values gradually increased from 50.822  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup> in parents' generation to 218.763  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup> of F4, while in F10, that value was suddenly increased to 825.794  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup>, then the susceptibility to Vertimec decreased with continuous selection, thus increasing LC<sub>50</sub> of F40 to 2099.38  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup>. Hence, in the case of LC<sub>90</sub>'s, (Table 1), which gradually increased from 144.38  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup> for parents' generation to 523.894  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup> in F2, while in F6, that value was increased to 2014.333  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup>, then the susceptibility to Vertimec sharply decreased with continuous selection, thus increasing the LC<sub>90</sub> for F40 to 7192.297  $\mu$ LL<sup>-1</sup>. Depending on toxicity index, the F40 was affected as parents as 02.42 % and 02.00 % at LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub>, resp. Concerning slope values for Vertimec resistant generations, it varied from 04.20, 03.14 and 02.79 to 05.86 to parents' generation, F2, F4 and F40, resp.

**Table (1) Effect of Vertimec selection pressure on the susceptibility of *T.urticae* adult females under laboratory conditions.**

G.	LC <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu$ LL <sup>-1</sup> )			LC <sub>90</sub> ( $\mu$ LL <sup>-1</sup> )			Slope	Toxicity index	
	Main	U.L.	L.L.	Main	U.L.	L.L.		LC <sub>50</sub>	LC <sub>90</sub>
S.	50.822	111.30	23.206	144.38	316.192	65.613	4.20	100	100
F2	70.416	147.874	33.531	523.894	1100.178	249.473	3.14	70.17	27.56
F4	218.763	437.526	109.382	998.145	1996.29	499.073	2.79	23.23	14.46
F6	599.431	1192.868	301.222	2014.333	4008.523	1012.228	3.01	8.48	7.17
F8	714.379	1500.196	324.718	3520.141	7392.296	1676.258	3.24	7.11	4.10
F10	825.794	2064.485	330.318	4199.375	10498.438	1679.75	3.57	6.15	3.44
F20	1032.119	2745.437	384.631	5210.413	13859.699	1958.802	4.23	4.92	2.77
F30	1571.245	4415.199	559.162	6031.157	16947.551	2146.319	5.09	3.23	2.39
F40	2099.38	5941.245	741.830	7192.297	20354.201	2541.448	5.86	2.42	2.00

Related to the susceptible strain (S), the resistant ratios (RR) to Vertimec for *T.urticae* resistant generations, showed at Table (2). RR's at Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub>'s were ranged from 1.386- folds to 41.308- folds, of 2nd. and 40th. generations,

resp. According to Hayashi scale (1983), RR of 40<sup>th</sup> resistant generation to Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub> can be ranked as moderate resistance.

RR's at Vertimec LC<sub>90</sub>'s were generally higher than those to LC<sub>50</sub>'s, they were ranged from

03.629- folds to 49.815- folds, of 2nd. and 40th. generations,resp. According to Hayashi scale (1983), RR of 40th resistant generation to Vertimec LC<sub>90</sub> can be ranked as moderate

resistance. (Table 2). RR's of Vertimec slopes also were estimated and ranged from 00.748- folds to 01.395-folds, for 2nd. and 40th. generations,resp.

**Table (2) Resistance ratios of Vertimec resistant adult females of *T.urticae* till 40<sup>th</sup> generation.**

G.	LC <sub>50</sub> μLL <sup>-1</sup>			LC <sub>90</sub> μLL <sup>-1</sup>			RR Slope
	RR50	RR50 U.L.	RR50 L.L	RR90	RR90 U.L	RR90 L.L	
S.	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
F2	1.386	1.329	1.44	3.629	3.479	3.802	0.748
F4	4.304	3.931	4.714	6.913	6.314	7.606	0.664
F6	11.795	10.718	12.98	13.952	12.677	15.427	0.717
F8	14.056	13.479	13.993	24.381	23.379	25.548	0.771
F10	16.249	18.549	14.234	29.086	33.203	25.601	0.85
F20	20.309	24.67	16.575	36.088	43.833	29.854	1.007
F30	30.917	39.67	24.956	41.773	53.599	32.712	1.212
F40	41.308	53.38	31.967	49.815	64.373	38.734	1.395

Moreover, the toxicity of Vertimec was compared field and resistant strains with the susceptible strain. As shown in Table (3), LC<sub>50</sub> values were 2000.01, 2099.38 and 50.822 μLL<sup>-1</sup>, resp., which showed that LC<sub>50</sub> of cotton field strain exposed to highly levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and UV recorded so close value to that of 40<sup>th</sup> generation of the laboratory resistant strain. The same situation was in the case of LC<sub>90</sub>'s

which recorded 7142.433,7192.297 and 144.38 μLL<sup>-1</sup>,resp. Relative to the laboratory strain (S),the resistant ratios (RR) to Vertimec for *T.urticae* laboratory resistant strain and field strain,showed at Table (3). RR's at Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub>'s were 41.38- folds and 39.353- folds, resp. According to Hayashi scale (1983), RR of both strains were showed resistance to Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub> and it could be ranked as moderate resistance.

**Table (3) Vertimec toxicity against adult females of *T.urticae* (Field, Resistant strain and susceptible strains)**

<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Strains	Vertimec				Slope Values		LC <sub>90</sub> /LC <sub>50</sub> Ratio
	LC <sub>50</sub> (μLL <sup>-1</sup> )		LC <sub>90</sub> (μLL <sup>-1</sup> )		Main	RR Slope	
	Main	RR50	Main	RR90			
Field	2000.01 b	39.353	7142.433 b	49.47	3.27 a	0.78	3.571
Resistant	2099.38 b	41.308	7192.297 b	49.815	5.086 a	1.211	3.426
Susceptible	50.822 a	-----	144.38 a	-----	4.20 a	-----	2.841

**Cotton Field treatments**

Results of cotton field treatments with Vertimec (40 ml/100 L) were showed at Table (4). Initial kill (IK) results were 86.8, 62.74 and 4.32 % for treatments in 2011,2012 and 2013, resp.

Percentages of residual effect of Vertimec treatments decreased from 2011 to 2013 which showed that the biocide decomposed rapidly by UV while the percent of CO<sub>2</sub> increased in the same time. In the same trend % general reduction educed from 90.35 to 46.61%.

**Table (4) Effect of Vertimec on the reduction percentage of *T. urticae* infesting cotton under field conditions with UV and CO<sub>2</sub> changes**

Year of Treatment	Rate of Application	I.K. After 3 Days	% Reduction After Days				% Residual Effect	General Reduction
			7	10	14	21		
2011	40 ml/100L	86.08 a	95.23	96.98	98.75	87.51	94.62	90.35a
2012		62.74b	70.43	79.95	63.92	54.14	67.11	64.93b
2013		40.32c	53.95	60.75	50.05	46.83	52.90	46.61c

### Biochemical Studies

Resistance to pesticides was conferred by genes controlling penetration, detoxification and sensitivity of the target protein (Brown, 1990), however, linkage relationships among these genes was not defined in most agriculture pests, especially mites. Concerning metabolic resistance, this was the potential of pests to expel poisonous pesticides from their body through chemically driven deterioration especially in conjugation with UV increase and CO<sub>2</sub>. The main enzymes related to resistance mechanism: Nonspecific esterases and mixed function oxidase MFO, (Brogdon & McAllister, 1998).

### *T. urticae* Esterases Activity

Data in Table (5) referred to the changes of the rate of  $\alpha$ -NA hydrolysis by LC<sub>50</sub>'s of Vertimec laboratory resistant strain, beside two field strains tested in 2011 and 2013 and the susceptible strain. The data generally revealed that Vertimec (abamectin) caused increasing in  $\alpha$ -NA hydrolysis in the tested strains in comparable with the susceptible strain. From these data seems that the highest level of  $\alpha$ -NA hydrolysis (2.08)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute of the laboratory resistant strain, followed by field strain 2013 (2.01)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute, then field

strain 2011 (0.81)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute and finally the susceptible strain (0.77)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute. Esterases activity of tested populations of Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub>'s towards  $\alpha$ -NA was much higher than that of (S) in nearly 2.70, 2.61 and 1.05 folds, in the same previous order with comparison with susceptible strain.

### *T. urticae* Mixed function Oxidases Activity

Data in Table (5) referred to the changes of the rate of PNA hydrolysis by LC<sub>50</sub>'s of Vertimec laboratory resistant strain, beside two field strains tested in 2011 and 2013 and the susceptible strain. The data generally revealed that Vertimec (abamectin) caused increasing in PNA hydrolysis in the tested strains in comparable with the susceptible strain. From these data seems that the highest level of PNA hydrolysis (47.95)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute of the laboratory resistant strain, followed by field strain 2013 (45.98)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute, then field strain 2011 (11.28)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute and finally the susceptible strain (11.26)  $\mu$ g/mite/minute. Mixed function oxidases activity of tested populations of Vertimec LC<sub>50</sub>'s towards PNA was much higher than that of (S) in nearly 4.26, 4.08 and 1.00 folds, in the same previous order with comparison with susceptible strain.

**Table (5) Rate of  $\alpha$ -NA & PNA hydrolysis ( $2.5 \times 10^{-4} M$ ) by esterases and oxidases, resp., of (F), (s) and (r) strains homogenates of *T.urticae*.**

Tested pesticides	Substrate hydrolysis	Strains			
		F		S	R
		2011	2013		
Vertimec	$\alpha$ -NA	0.81	2.01b	0.77a	2.08 b
	<sup>1</sup> EST. A	1.05 a	2.61 b	-----	2.70 b
	PNA	11.28a	45.98b	11.26 a	47.95b
	<sup>2</sup> Oxidases A.	1.00 a	4.08 b	-----	4.26b

Values are expressed as the means  $\pm$ SE. Mean

<sup>1</sup>\* EST.A = Esterases Activity = Hydrolysis of  $\alpha$ -NA in R Strain  
Hydrolysis of  $\alpha$ -NA in S Strain

<sup>2</sup>\* Oxidases. A = Oxidases Activity = Hydrolysis of PNA in R Strain  
Hydrolysis of PNA in S Strain

## DISCUSSION

It could be detected that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide affects plant photosynthesis and chemistry (Cure and Aycok 1986, Kimball 1986), thereby influencing plant tissue nutritive quantity and quality for arthropods. CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment effect studies showed different results winged between suppression of whiteflies on tomato (Tripp *et al.*1992) and a noticeable increase of *Tetranychus urticae* populations on white clover (Heagle *et al.*1994 and 2002).

Whereas there were none significantly effects combined with the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> also noticed with thrips on milkweed (Hughes and Bazzaz 1997) and both thrips (Butler 1985), and whiteflies (Butler *et al.*1986) on cotton host. On the other hand, many studies have evaluated the relationship between plant resistance and tolerance to herbivores (Bailey and Schweitzer 2010, Muola *et al.*2010), but little information is available regarding how the relationship between tolerance and resistance is affected by an abiotic stress such as global CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment. Some studies suggested that elevated CO<sub>2</sub> decreased tomato plant resistance against *H. armigera* by suppressing the critical defensive signal molecule jasmonic acid (JA) and JA-

Pathway-related defensive enzymes as the most important defense hormone involved in resistance against chewing insects. Tomato plants grown under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> are less tolerant to *H. armigera* than plants grown under ambient CO<sub>2</sub> (Guo *et al.*2012). Phenotypic plasticity is a principal means by which plants cope with biotic or abiotic stress (Valladares *et al.*2007), and the decreased resistance and tolerance to herbivores under elevated CO<sub>2</sub> suggests that elevated CO<sub>2</sub> reduces the phenotypic plasticity of plant response to herbivorous insect attack.

Concerning UV radiations, the most point which all studies agree with that is related to the inhibition of *T. urticae* on the undersides of leaves which possibly used as a filter to avoid the deleterious effects of UV-B. (Barcelo 2008, Ohtsuka K. and Osakabe 2009, Suzuki *et al.* 2009, 2014). Chosen sheltered areas because of low UV transmission through leaves as the accumulation of compounds that act as selective sunscreens (e.g., phenolics). Through presented study, there was a noticeable adults females with orange body color in case of exposed to highly UV and CO<sub>2</sub>. That could be explained by the accumulation of carotenoids, a scavenger for



UV-induced reactive oxygen species. It was the same occurred in case of diapausing females which may overcome the deleterious effects of UV-B during winter in the absence of leaves by emigrating to UV-free environments and by accumulating carotenoids. (Suzuki *et al.* 2009). Mentioned diapausing females, low mortality was observed even at high doses of UV radiation, but more than half escaped even at low doses. Moreover, the lethal effects of solar UV radiation may also affect the population dynamics of spider mites, and habitat (resource) limitation may increase the probability of interspecific interactions, such as competition and predation. In turn, the occurrence of these interactions in sheltered areas may be associated with observed increases in herbivory under conditions of solar UV-B-attenuation. (Ohtsuka and Osakabe, 2009). In the same line, photoreactivation in *T. urticae* eggs and larvae efficacy was determined by the cumulative irradiance of visible light (VIS) after exposure to UVB radiation. (Murata and Oosakabe, 2014). The possibility that the timing of photoreactivation occurs related mainly with phase-specific UVB vulnerability and outbreak symptoms due to UVB-induced DNA damage.

In the same trend UV radiations could be used to control the eggs of stored grain pests, *Tribolium castaneum* (Herbst), *T. confusum* (Duval) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) and *Cadra cautella* (Walker) (Lepidoptera; Pyralidae). Exposure time increase to UV-rays caused a gradual decrease in eggs hatchability. No hatching occurred after 24 minutes of exposure in 2 and 3 day-old eggs of *T. confusum*. *C. cautella* eggs were less sensitive to UV-rays than were *T. castaneum* and *T. confusum* eggs. All the exposure periods significantly reduced the eclosion of adults in all the experimental insects. No adults emerged when 3 day-old eggs of *T. castaneum* were irradiated for 16 or 24 minutes, or from 2 and 3 day-old eggs *T. confusum* irradiated for 16 or 24 minutes. The explanation of that phenomenon was admitted by Seidel *et al.* 1940. They detected that the higher sensitivity of the older eggs to UV-rays than the younger eggs, depending on insect physiology, that during early embryonic organization injury to the peripheral parts of the eggs by UV-

exposure did not impede the viability of the activation centre. As development proceeds the embryonic regions became more specialized, and different organ fields can no longer replace each other. Thus, damaging of the surface tissue of the eggs can be fatal at the advanced stages of development by non-penetrating radiations like UV-rays. (Faruki *et al.* 2007).

Similar reduction in adult eclosion was reported by Hasan *et al.* 1998 working with UV-irradiated pupae of *E. sorbillans*. The present findings are also similar to the findings of Beard (1972), who reported that adult emergence was progressively decreased by higher doses when late stage larvae of *P. interpunctella* were irradiated with UV-rays.

Then if both UV and CO<sub>2</sub> interacted with pesticide resistance, it could be said that both played an important role in pesticide formation especially in tiny pests with little number of chromosomes which are capable to be multiple resistant effectively. Even with use with synergists to neutralize resistance in case of metabolic resistance, synergists loss their activity and being unstable under UV light (Savinelli 2014).

So the resistance elevation occurred in the case of exposed *T. urticae* to UV and CO<sub>2</sub> could be explained by two ways, firstly depending on escaping to remaining sheltering with low amount of UV transmission on the lower leaf surfaces, then the oviposition and other physiological indexes would be affected slightly. Secondly, explained by the elevation of reactive oxygen scavengers (ROS) production as a stress of Ultraviolet (UV) radiation which is able to eliminate reactive oxygen species. Most known elements of ROS in *Tetranychus urticae* are melatonin and arylalkylamine N-acetyltransferase (NAT). (Suzuki *et al.* 2008). Moreover, both environmental factors play an important role to decrease the concentration of sprayed pesticide under field conditions which lead to exposure of under lethal concentrations and contribute in resistance formation gradually.

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