

NO-CHOICE ASSAY FOR SCREENING OF WILD PIGEONPEA DERIVATIVES AGAINST *Helicoverpa armigera* HUBNER

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Pigeonpea, *Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp. is an orphan grain legume cultivated in tropical and sub-tropical countries such as India, Kenya, Myanmar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. Pigeonpea is cultivated in 4.74 million hectares globally with an annual production of 3.79 million tons. India contributes to the 90% of world production followed by Myanmar. Insect pests are the key biotic constraint in increasing pigeonpea production worldwide. Among them Pod borer, *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner) is a devastating pest due to its polyphagous nature, high fecundity, multivoltine and strong migrating ability. Farmers rely on heavy usage of chemical insecticides to manage this pest. This has led to the development of insecticide resistant *H. armigera* populations which in turn hampered the control measures. Host plant resistance can play an important role in the management of this pest at present scenario. Host plant resistance is an ecofriendly component for managing *H. armigera*. Some wild relatives of pigeonpea such as *C. scarabaeoides*, *C. platycarpus* and *C. acutifolius* were known to harbor traits for *H. armigera* resistance. Hence in present study no-choice assay was conducted on eighty nine wild pigeonpea derivatives in three replications against *H. armigera* larva. Out of 89 few derivatives such as WD5-3-3 WD5-6-3 WD9-1-2 WD22-1-1 WD24-1-1, WD 24-1-6 WD 22-2-4 WDBCE 2-3-4, WDBCE 3-2-4, WDBCE 3-3-4, WDBCE3-3-5, WDBCE 3-3-6, WDBCE 3-3-7, WD 24-2-4 and WDBCE 3-2-1 and WD 5-3-2 were found to be moderately resistant while WD22-3-3 was found to be highly resistant to pod borer. These genotypes can be used in breeding program for developing *H. armigera* resistant pigeonpea.