

Bioassays for *Beauveria Bassiana* infection on Tarnished Plant Bug

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This is my second year at USDA, but my first year at Southern Insect Management Research Unit as a STEP employee. This year I am working in the *Beauveria bassiana* project under supervision of Maribel Portilla. I am helping with several experiments under laboratory and field conditions. All the investigation is related to the infection of *B. bassiana* on *Lygus lineolaris* in laboratory and field populations. Working in this project has been different for me. I had to learn about all the techniques and methods for evaluation. Everything was easy for me to learn because my supervisor and co-workers explained everything to me.

Some of my activities in this project were preparing diet, planting and keeping cotton in the environmental chambers, evaluating *Lygus* and recording the data I received, participating in some process of the *B. bassiana* production, and spraying *B. bassiana* on plants and insects using the spray tower and field application.

The laboratory activities and safety procedures carried out in this research have helped me to get a better understanding about quality control procedures for pathogenic agents like fungi and bacteria. I believe that all this knowledge I will apply in my career as a Certified Nurse Practitioner.

I have enjoyed studying *Beauveria Bassiana* and the effects that this fungus can causes to insects.