

Effectiveness of the fungus *Metarhizium* spp. Against Army Caterpillars (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) on Corn Plants (*Zea mays* L.)

Supervised by Iqbal Erdiansyah, S.P., M.P

Dinda Cahyarani Agustina Putri

*Food Crop Production Technology Study Program
Departement of Agriculture Production*

ABSTRACT

*Spodoptera frugiperda is a pest that is detrimental to corn plants. These larvae damage shoot leaves, young leaves or growing points, and can damage corn cobs. This research aims to determine the effectiveness of the fungus *Metarhizium* spp. in controlling *Spodoptera frugiperda* attacks on corn plants. This research was carried out from August to December 2023 in the plant protection laboratory and on corn cultivation land in Antirogo Village, Summersari District, Jember Regency. This research consisted of 2 stages, namely multiplying isolates of the fungus *Metharizium* spp using multiplication media such as corn rice and coarse rice bran. The second stage of the research was a field test by comparing two treatments, namely the treatment of the fungus *Metharizium* spp. Concentration 25 grams/100ml and deltamethrin treatment 2.5 ml/l. *Spodoptera frugiperda* pest population in the *Metharizium* spp. and deltamethrin were not significantly different when observed 24-38 HST. *Spodoptera frugiperda* pest intensity in the *Metharizium* spp. and deltamethrin were not significantly different when observed 24-38 HST. The results of corn cob weight were not significantly different between the *Metharizium* spp. and deltamethrin.*

*Keywords : *S.furiperda*, *Metarhizium* spp., corn*