

## SPORES PREPARATIONS OF BACTERIAL INACTIVATION WITH Co<sup>60</sup> AND PRESERVATION OF ENDOTOXINS ENTOMOPATHOGENIC ACTIVITY

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### **Abstract:**

Some *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bti*) serotypes and *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* strains (*Ls*) are used in insecticides larvicides preparations active against Culicidae and Simuliidae. In most of these traditional commercial liquid insecticides (presented under different formulations containing organic acids, thickeners, preservatives, emulsifiers, disintegrants and water) bacterial spores are present, along with the toxins, since they are thought to be harmless to men and most animals. However, some users prefer bacterial larvicides commercial products free of viable spores, for environmental applications in large scale. However, the inactivation of spores in these preparations creates new expectations in users regard it improved security for living beings. Studies show that Co<sup>60</sup> (4.86 n-1; factor 1:13) inactivate spores leaving the active protoxins. In a previous work developed at the Bacterial Physiology Laboratory (2014) it was found that 20 kGy promoted inactivation of the spores present in formulated *Bti* IPS-82 (initial average spore counting in the order of 3,50x10<sup>6</sup> CFU / mg, equivalent to Log N = 0). In this study, we used the sporulated *Ls* 2362 lineage with intracytoplasmic endotoxins present, in the same excipient of the previous formulation. Its spores showed sensitivity to heat resistance at 80° C, a fact not observed with spores of the lineage of *Bti* IPS-82, which forced the work to 70°C temperature with this lineage. The Co<sup>60</sup> radiation applied to the *Ls* formulated biomass, starting with mean values of 1.86 CFU / mL (as spores), showed that complete inactivation of *Ls* 2362 occurred with 12.5 kGy. These findings show significant difference in results obtained with *Bti* IPS-82. Experiments with new formulations of entomopathogenic aerobic spore-forming bacteria are being carried out to confirm this finding in other serotypes.

**Keywords:** *Bacillus thuringiensis*; *Lysinibacillus sphaericus*; entomopathogenic; aerobic spore; Co<sup>60</sup>, irradiation; Simuliidae