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**Adipokinetic hormone activities in insect body infected by entomopathogenic
nematode**

**Emad Ibrahim^{a,b,c}, Markéta Hejníková^{a,b}, Haq Abdul Shaik^a, David Doležel^a and
Dalibor Kodrík^{a,b,*}**

^aInstitute of Entomology, Biology Centre, CAS, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice,
Czech Republic

^bFaculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice,
Czech Republic

^cFaculty of Agriculture, University of Cairo, Giza, Egypt

*corresponding author. Tel.: +420 387 775 271; fax: +420 385 310 254; *E-mail address:*
kodrik@entu.cas.cz (D. Kodrík)

Abstract

The role of adipokinetic hormone (AKH) in the firebug *Pyrrhocoris apterus* adults infected by the entomopathogenic nematode (EPN) *Steinernema carpocapsae* was examined in this study. It was found that co-application of EPN and AKH enhanced firebug mortality about 2.5 times within 24 hours (from 20 to 51% in EPN vs. EPN + AKH treatments), and resulted in metabolism intensification, as carbon dioxide production in firebugs increased about 2.1 and 1.6 times compared to control- and EPN-treated insects, respectively. Accordingly, firebugs with reduced expression of AKH receptors showed a significantly lower mortality (by 1.6 to 2.9-folds), and lower general metabolism after EPN + AKH treatments. In addition, EPN

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