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Chemical studies of some plant essential oils and their effect on some stored product insects

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2015

Thesis

Submitted in partial of fulfillment of the requirement for the
degree of doctor of philosophy in agriculture sciences

(Pesticides Chemistry and Toxicology)

Department of Pesticides Chemistry and Toxicology

Faculty of Agriculture

Kafr El-Sheikh University

2020

CONTENTS

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	1
AIM OF STUDY	4
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
1. Bioassay.....	5
1.1. Fumigant Toxicity of Essential Oils	5
1.2. Repellant Activity of Essential Oils	11
1.3. Contact Toxicity of essential oils.....	16
1.4. Effect of essential oils on the biology of insects.....	18
2. Essential oils.....	22
3. Germination.....	29
MATERIAL AND METHODS	32
1. Teste insect	32
2. Plant Materials	32
3. Extraction techniques.....	33
3.1. Basil oil	34
3.2. Basil absolute oil.....	34
3.3. Geranium oil.....	35
3.4. Geranium absolute oil.....	36
3.5. Geranium stripping oil.....	37
3.6. Jasmine absolute oil.....	38
3.7. Tagette oil.....	39
4. The effect of air drying on geranium oil.....	40
5. GC-MS analysis.....	40
6. Repellent Activity Assay	41
7. Fumigant Toxicity test.....	42
7.1. LC ₅₀ Determination.....	42
7.2. LT ₅₀ Assessment of Essential Oils	43
8. Contact Toxicity.....	43
8.1. LC ₅₀ Determination	43
8.2. LT ₅₀ Assessment of Essential Oils.....	44
9. The effect on progeny.....	44
10. Antifeedant Activity.....	45

11. Germination Test.....	46
Results And Discussion.....	48
1. Chemical composition of Essential Oils	48
1.1. Geranium oil extracted with steam distillation.....	48
1.2. Geranium stripping oil extracted with hydrodistillation.....	50
1.3. Geranium absolute extracted with solvents.....	51
1.4. Jasmine absolute extracted with solvent.....	55
1.5. Basil absolute extracted with solvent.....	56
1.6. Basil oil extracted with steam distillation.....	57
1.7. Tagette oil extracted with steam distillation.....	61
2. Repellent Acticity	62
3. Fumigant toxicity.....	68
3.1. LC ₅₀ evaluation.....	69
3.2. LT ₅₀ evaluation	76
4. Contact toxicity.....	80
4.1. LC ₅₀ Determination.....	80
4.2. LT ₅₀ Assessment.....	82
5. The Effect on Progeny.....	85
6. Antifeedant Test	89
7. The Effect on Germination.....	93
SUMMARY	96
REFERANCES	103
Arabic Summary	

List of Tables

<i>No.</i>		<i>Page</i>
1	Main components of geranium oil produced from one ton of plants dried for different amounts of time.	48
2	Main component of geranium stripping oil following different drying times.	50
3	Main components of geranium absolute after different time periods	51
4	Jasmine absolute extracted with solvent	55
5	Basil absolute extracted with solvent	56
6	Basil oil Extracted with Steam Distillation	57
7	Tagette oil Extracted with Steam Distillation	61
8	Mean repellency (%) on filter paper of essential oils from four plant species against adults of <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> .	63
9	Mean repellency (%) on filter paper of essential oils from four plant species against adults of <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> .	65
10	Mean repellency (%) activity of five essential oil components against adults of <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> and <i>Rhyzopertha dominica</i>	67
11	Fumigant toxicity of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> adults exposed for 48 h at 30°C and 70% r.h.	69
12	Fumigant toxicity of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> adults exposed for 48 h at 30°C and 70% r.h.	70
13	Fumigant toxicity of main essential oil constituents of geranium (<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i>) against adults of <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> and <i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	72
14	LT ₅₀ values of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> adults exposed to four different concentrations as fumigants.	76
15	LT ₅₀ values of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> adults exposed to four different concentrations as fumigants.	77

16	Insecticidal efficiency of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> adults exposed to crushed wheat grains mixed with oil concentrations.	80
17	Insecticidal efficiency of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> adults exposed to wheat grains mixed with oil concentrations.	81
18	LT ₅₀ values of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> adults exposed to four different concentrations in mixing with medium.	82
19	LT ₅₀ values of seven essential oils from four plant species against <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> adults exposed to four different concentrations in mixing with medium.	83
20	Means of F1-progeny production in <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> exposed to crushed wheat grains mixed with tested oils at different concentrations compared to control treatment	86
21	Means of F1-progeny production in <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> exposed to crushed wheat grains mixed with tested oils at different concentrations compared to control treatment	87
22	Percentage of loss of weight of crushed wheat grains infested with 10 unsexed pairs of <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> after treatment with seven essential oils extracted from four different plant species	90
23	Percentage of loss of wheat grains after infestation of 10 unsexed pairs of <i>Rhizobertha dominica</i> and treated with seven essential oils extracted from four different plant species.	91
24	The effect of seven essential oils on wheat grains rootlet germination percentage and germination speed	93
25	The effect of seven essential oils on wheat grains feather germination percentage and germination speed.	94

List of Figures

<i>No.</i>		<i>Page</i>
1	Monoterpenoid compounds.....	33
2	Distillation of geranium oil by direct steam distillation.....	35
3	Transporting geranium.....	36
4	Solvent extraction unit.....	37
5	Geranium field.....	37
6	Jasmine field.....	39
7	Tagete Field.....	39
8	Air drying for geranium herb.....	40
9	Germination experiment.....	47
10	Chromatogram profile of Geranium oil obtained by GC/MS analysis.....	49
11	Chromatogram profile of Geranium absolute obtained by GC/MS analysis.....	52
12	Chromatogram profile of Jasmine absolute obtained by GC/MS analysis.....	55
13	Chromatogram profile of Basil absolute obtained by GC/MS analysis	57
14	Chromatogram profile of Basil oil obtained by GC/MS analysis.....	58

Abstract

Geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*), Jasmine *Jasminum grandiflorum* (Fam. Oleaceae), Basil *Ocimum basilicum* Var, (Fam. Lamiaceae), and *Tagetes minuta* (Fam. Asteraceae) are economical plants in Egypt that can resist insect infections, which may be related to its oils. Three types of geranium essential oils (geranium oil, geranium absolute and geranium stripping oil) were extracted with three different methods (steam distillation, solvent extraction, and hydrodistillation, respectively). Seven types of crude essential oils, three natural components (linalool, citronellol, and geraniol), and synthetic counterparts of two of these components (linalool and citronellol) were evaluated against *Tribolium castaneum* and *Rhyzopertha dominica* adults through evaluating their repellency, fumigation, contact and effect on progeny. The seven types of crude essential oils were analyzed by Gas Chromatography/mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). Chromatographic analysis of the geranium essential oils demonstrated that citronellol is the main constituent, accounting 29.70%, 31.80% and 18.30% of geranium oil, geranium stripping oil and geranium absolute, respectively. Acetic acid was the main component in Jasmine absolute with 15.951%, while linalool was the main component for basil oil and basil absolute with 54.80% and 46.345% respectively, for tagette oil dihydrotagetone was the main component with 28.85%. Geranium oil, geranium absolute and geranium stripping oil had the highest repellent activity against *T. castaneum*. In contrast, all tested crude essential oils had 100% repellency against *R. dominica* except basil absolute had 92.5% repellency. Furthermore, natural linalool had the strongest fumigant effect on *T. castaneum* among the oil components, while citronellol had the

strongest effect on *R. dominica*, and the oil components had stronger fumigant effects than the crude essential oils.

The fumigation activity showed the same trend as repellency against the two tested insects. Based on the LC_{50} , the oil components have a stronger effect than the crude essential oils. Finally, *T. castaneum* was more tolerant than *R. dominica* to all tested materials. All geranium oils had no effect on *T. castaneum* for contact toxicity while geranium stripping oil had the strongest effect on *R. dominica* with the level of 63.1 mg/kg. All tested essential oils had reduction effect on both tested insects. The method of extraction effects on the chemical composition of essential oils produced from the same plant, all tested crude essential oils and its components (natural and synthetic) can be used as safe pesticide alternatives for stored product insects, geranium stripping oil is a new crude oil can increase the national income instead of losing it in waste water.