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## Evaluation of *in vitro* Bioactivity of *Melaleuca cajuputi* Powell Essential Oil against *Aedes aegypti* (L.) and *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse)

(Penilaian Bioaktiviti *in vitro* Minyak Pati *Melaleuca cajuputi* Powell terhadap *Aedes aegypti* (L.) dan *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse))

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to evaluate the *in vitro* activity of *Melaleuca cajuputi* essential oil leaf extract against *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. The essential oil of the *M. cajuputi* was obtained via steam hydro-distillation and analyzed by GC-MS for the chemical constituents. GC-MS analysis showed that the essential oil of *M. cajuputi* contained 13 compounds with two major chemical constituents, 2-propenoic acid (29.55%) and caryophyllene (20.04%). Adulticidal and larvicidal bioassay was evaluated following WHO guidelines. Larvicidal bioassays were conducted with the 10, 50, 80, 100, and 120 mg/L *M. cajuputi* essential oil against late 3<sup>rd</sup> instar of *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* which give  $LC_{50}$  120.99 mg/L and 222.58 mg/L, respectively. Adult mortality was observed after 24 h with the  $LC_{50}$  of 0.029 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> for *Ae. aegypti* and 0.028 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> for *Ae. albopictus*. In adulticidal bioassay, *M. cajuputi* essential oils showed effective results at 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> concentrations, with values for  $KT_{50}$  of 77.71 min for *Ae. aegypti* and 69.49 min for *Ae. albopictus*. *M. cajuputi* essential oils exhibited moderate toxicity effects against the larva and adults of *Aedes* species and may be used as an alternative to chemical insecticide.

**Keywords:** Adulticidal; *Aedes*; essential oil; larvicidal; *Melaleuca cajuputi*

### ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai aktiviti ekstrak daun minyak pati *Melaleuca cajuputi* secara *in vitro* terhadap larva *Aedes aegypti* dan *Aedes albopictus*. Minyak pati *M. cajuputi* diperoleh secara stim penyulingan-hidro dan dianalisis menggunakan GC-MS untuk menentukan komponen bahan kimia. Analisis GC-MS menunjukkan kandungan komponen kimia minyak pati *M. cajuputi* terdiri daripada 13 sebatian dengan dua unsur kimia utama iaitu asid 2-propenoik (29.55%) dan kariofilena (20.04%). Bioasai nyamuk dewasa dan larva dijalankan mengikut garis panduan WHO. Bioasai larva telah dijalankan dengan minyak pati *M. cajuputi* berkepekatan 10, 50, 80, 100, dan 120 mg/L terhadap instar 3 *Ae. aegypti* dan *Ae. albopictus* yang memberikan nilai  $LC_{50}$  masing-masing, ialah 120.99 mg/L dan 222.58 mg/L. Kadar mortaliti nyamuk dewasa diperhatikan selepas 24 jam dan nilai  $LC_{50}$  yang diperolehi bagi *Ae. aegypti* dan *Ae. albopictus* masing-masing, ialah 0.029 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> dan 0.028 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Melalui ujian bioasai adultisid yang dijalankan, minyak pati *M. cajuputi* menunjukkan hasil yang efektif pada kepekatan 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> dengan nilai  $KT_{50}$  ialah 77.71 min bagi *Ae. aegypti* dan 69.49 min bagi *Ae. albopictus*. Minyak pati *M. cajuputi* menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan sederhana terhadap larva dan dewasa spesies *Aedes* dan dapat digunakan sebagai insektisid alternatif terhadap insektisid bahan kimia.

**Kata kunci:** Adultisid; *Aedes*; bioaktiviti; larvisid; *Melaleuca cajuputi*; minyak pati

### INTRODUCTION

The *Ae. aegypti* mosquito has emerged as one of the most dangerous vectors, as it is able to transmit Yellow fever, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. Dengue is a serious arboviral disease of the Africa, America, and Asia. The spread of dengue fever and Yellow fever in many parts of the world can be directly attributed to the proliferation and adaptation of these mosquitoes to breeding and living close to human populations and settlements. The secondary vector, *Ae. albopictus*, which was originally confined to Asia and known as Asian Tiger mosquito, has also contributed to the spread of the dengue fever, chikungunya, and Yellow fever as well. Yellow fever, which has a 400-year history, occurs only in tropical areas of Africa and the Americas.

In Malaysia, dengue fever (DF) and dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) are the most common vector-borne diseases throughout the year across the nation, with occasional cases of chikungunya in some areas. However, both DF and DHF disease have a significant impact in shaping the socio-economic development and the formation of a government and local authorities' policy (Packierisamy 2015). Dengue fever in Malaysia was first reported by Skae (1902). By the early 1970s, DHF had spread all of Malaysia and has since caused a significant health burden to the population. Until now, the most effective way to control vector-borne diseases has been relying on chemical insecticides. Chemical insecticides are shown to be effective in controlling the spread of the diseases during the outbreak

by suppressing and eliminate the number of vector population (Lee et al. 2015). Organophosphates such as temephos, fenthion, and insect growth regulators such as diflubenzuron and methoprene are generally used for the control of mosquito larvae, whilst pyrethroids such as permethrin and deltamethrin, are used to control vector population of adult mosquitoes (Goindin et al. 2017). However, their repeated use has disrupted natural biological control systems and has led to outbreaks of insect species and the widespread development of resistance, leading to undesirable effects on non-target organisms and human health concerns (Yang et al. 2002). Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop an alternative pesticide which is environmentally safe, friendly and effective and thus has the potential to replace synthetic pesticides (Tapondjou et al. 2005).

In recent decades, research on the interactions between plants and insects has shown the potential use of plant metabolites for this purpose (Kamaraj et al. 2010). Indeed, in many cases plants have a history of use as home remedies to kill or repel insects (Kim et al. 2010). Hence, activities towards the exploring and screening of the potential of new plants and its chemical components in their insecticidal properties have increasingly been carried out among researchers worldwide (Abu Bakar et al. 2018). Chemicals derived from plants have been projected as weapons in future mosquito control programs, as they have been shown to function as general toxicants, growth and reproductive inhibitors, repellents and oviposition-deterrents (Sukumar et al. 1991). Currently, the screening of natural products has received the attention of researchers around the world (Kebede et al. 2010), and many specific compounds have been isolated from plant extracts or essential oils and tested for their specific roles as insecticides (Maciel et al. 2010; Pavela 2009). The aim of this present study was to evaluate the effectiveness of *M. cajuputi* essential oil against *Aedes* spp.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### MOSQUITO REARING

The *Ae. aegypti* (L.) and *Ae. albopictus* used were from laboratory strain reared in the Vector Control Research Unit, School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia. The mosquito colonies were maintained at 30-33°C and 60%-80% relative humidity. All larvae stages were provided with powdered food (a mixture of grounded dried cow liver, cat biscuit, vitamin B complex, powder milk, yeast). Larvae transformed into pupae stage will be transferred into the bowl containing water and placed in screened cages until they emerged into adults. The adults were provided with 10% sucrose solution on saturated cotton pads. For the bioassay testing, the larvae used were late 3<sup>rd</sup> instar and/or early 4<sup>th</sup> instar and the adult was 3-5 days old.

### PLANT MATERIALS

Plant leaves were collected from Mukim Telong, Kandis (5.9785463 North: 102.4265952 East) Bachok, Kelantan, Malaysia. The plant specimens were sent to Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) in Kepong Selangor for species confirmation and kept at the Herbarium of Forest Biodiversity Division, with sample number PID 351016-23.

### EXTRACTION OF THE ESSENTIAL OILS

The *M. cajuputi* essential oils were obtained from the extraction of leaves by performing a steam distillation process. The processing includes air-dried samples at room temperature for 5-7 days and later grounded to small particles. The grounded leaf particles were placed into the distillation flask (500 mL) and filled with distilled water (60-70°C). The flask left to boil slowly at 100°C until distillation process completed. The distillation process completed when the essential oils had settled at the bottom layer of the water. The water layer was slowly drawn off and the remaining oil was transferred and kept in an airtight amber bottle in the refrigerator at 4°C.

### PREPARATION OF THE SOLUTIONS

The solution concentrations for the larvicidal and adulticidal bioassay were prepared according to WHO (2005). For the larvicidal bioassay, essential oil was diluted to 10% (v/v), and five concentrations of 10, 50, 80, 100, 120 mg/L were prepared in 200 mL solutions using acetone as a solvent. 0.01% acetone and untreated tap water were used for positive and negative control, respectively. The solution for the adulticidal bioassay was prepared by dissolving essential oils in 70% ethanol with final concentrations of 0.026, 0.03, 0.034, and 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. Whatman No 1. filter papers (12 cm × 15 cm), were used for the paper-impregnated solutions. The paper was soaked in 2 mL of each concentration and allowed to dry at room temperature (27-30°C). The prepared impregnated papers were then kept in aluminum foil and stored in a refrigerator at 4°C. Control used a paper consisting of 70% ethanol.

### BIOASSAY

**Larvicidal Bioassay** Twenty larvae were placed in a plastic cup with 200 mL of aqueous suspension of tested essential oils at various concentrations. Five replicates per concentration were run simultaneously with a set of positive and negative controls. The number of dead larvae in each cup was counted after one and 24 h following exposure. The larvae are considered dead if they were immobile and do not respond to any mechanical touches after 24 h. Larval mortality was recorded at 24 h post exposure. During observation, food was not supplied to the larvae.

**Adulticidal Bioassay** 25 adult females (3-5 days old) used in the bioassays were from batches of non-blood-fed

mosquitoes. They were introduced into holding tubes then transferred to the exposure tube with a piece of treated filter paper. After 1 h in the exposure tube, mosquitoes were returned to the holding tube and provided a 10% sucrose. Malathion was used as positive control. Knockdown (1 h) and mortality (24 h) were recorded. According to WHO guidelines, a mosquito was scored dead or knockdown/moribund when the legs or wings were impaired and the mosquito was unable to fly.

#### ANALYSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL OILS

Qualitative analysis of the chemical constituents was carried out using GCMS analysis under the following conditions: Alltech 15897 AT-1MS capillary column (30 m×0.25 mm ID×0.25 µm, film thickness); held at 60°C for 1 min, raised to 150°C at a rate of 6°C/min, raised to 240°C at a rate of 10°C/min, and held for 6 min; 250°C injector temperature; carrier helium gas at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min; 300:1 split ratio. Diluted oil (0.1 µL, 1:10, v/v, in dichloromethane) automatically injected into the system using a splitless mode. The oil components were identified by using GC-MS libraries (NIST107.LIB and WILEY229.LIB). The percentage of the identified component was computed via a total ion chromatogram (TIC).

#### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The data of mean larval mortality were subjected to probit analysis for calculating LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> as followed:

$$\% \text{ mortality} = \frac{\% \text{ test mortality} - \% \text{ control mortality}}{100 - \text{control mortality}} \times 100$$

Other statistics data were calculated at 95% confidence limits of upper confidence limit and lower confidence limit by using SPSS. Results with the P value less than 0.05 were statistically significant. The lethal concentrations (LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub>) were calculated by probit analysis (Finney 1971).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this present study, we focused on the larvicidal and adulticidal properties of *M. cajuputi* (Powell) plant essential oils against the dengue vectors *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*. Various studies have been carried out by other researchers on the insecticidal properties of plant essential oils. *M. cajuputi* is a member of Myrtaceae family and an indigenous plant of Australia (Southwell & Lowe 1999). In Malaysia, it is commonly found in swampy ground near the coasts (Corner 1997). The Aboriginal people of Australia use the leaves for numerous kinds of ill-treatment for centuries. In Asia, local people used its oil traditionally to relieve joint pain, stiff joints, and rheumatism, and as a mosquito repellent. In the Malay community it is known locally as 'gelam' or 'kayu putih', and the plant is highly adaptable in a wide range of conditions. GCMS analysis of the *M. cajuputi* essential oil compounds showed a total of 13 identified components representing 92.16% of total constituents (Table 1). The major constituents of the essential oil were 2-propenoic acid (29.55%) and caryophyllene (20.04%). All compounds detected under RT ranged from 11.206 min to 18.365 min. Studies by Sakasegawa et al. (2003) on various types of *Melaleuca* spp. demonstrated that *M. cajuputi* collected from the residential area at Palembang (Indonesia) had four similar compounds to those of our *M. cajuputi* specimen, i.e. caryophyllene,  $\alpha$ -Humulene,  $\delta$ -Cadinene, and (-)-Spathulenol. However, their major constituents of the essential oil were 1,8-cineole (31.78%),  $\alpha$ -Terpineol (11.88%), and (-)-Globulol (10.38%), and total percentages of detected chemical compounds were 82.03%, with 25 identified chemical constituents. Similar studies by Kim et al. (2006) reported the differences in the chemical components of *M. cajuputi* essential oil leaf from six sampling locations. Minor components vary in terms of both structure and proportion but there were no differences in major components. Reasons for the differences and variety of the essential oil composition

TABLE 1. Chemical constituents of *M. cajuputi* essential oil

| Peak | Chemical components | Retention time (RT) | Composition (%)* |
|------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1    | Caryophyllene       | 11.206              | 20.04            |
| 2    | $\alpha$ -Humulene  | 11.663              | 2.92             |
| 3    | $\alpha$ -Gurjunene | 11.919              | 2.29             |
| 4    | $\beta$ -Selenene   | 12.118              | 3.02             |
| 5    | $\alpha$ -Selinene  | 12.228              | 3.60             |
| 6    | $\delta$ -Cadinene  | 12.531              | 3.26             |
| 7    | (-)-Spathulenol     | 13.326              | 8.95             |
| 8    | 2-Propenoic acid    | 13.702              | 29.55            |
| 9    | 1-Naphtalenol       | 13.900              | 1.80             |
| 10   | T-Muurolol          | 14.076              | 5.33             |
| 11   | $\alpha$ -Cadinol   | 14.262              | 7.54             |
| 12   | Juniper camphor     | 14.455              | 1.37             |
| 13   | Ethanone            | 18.365              | 2.49             |
|      | Total               |                     | 92.16            |

\*relative percentage of total essential oil compositions

could be due to geographical location, components of soil minerals/quality, the maturity of the plant, seasonal diversity, genetic diversity, and the specific parts of the plants used for essential oil isolation (Anwar et al. 2009). The results of the larvicidal activity of the *M. cajuputi* essential oil are presented in Table 2. At the lowest concentration of 10 mg/L, both *Aedes* spp. showed very minimal mortality of 3% and 1%, respectively. Within 24 h post-exposure, mortality gradually increased to 55% and 23% at the highest concentration of 120 mg/L. The *M. cajuputi* essential oil was more effective against *Ae. aegypti* larvae populations compared to *Ae. albopictus*. There was a significant difference in mortality between *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* ( $p < 0.05$   $p=0.04$ ). A similar study by Jayakumar et al. (2016) reported that eucalyptus essential oil was the most effective among various plants tested against larvae and pupae of *Culex quinquefasciatus* with the  $LC_{50}$  values were 186.77 mg/L and 206.08 mg/L, respectively. In comparison, *M. cajuputi* essential oil in the present study gives lower  $LC_{50}$  of 120.99 mg/L against *Ae. aegypti* larvae. The potential of larvicidal properties in Myrtaceae plants essential oil was also recorded by Dias et al. (2015) against the *Ae. aegypti* larvae. The plants obtained from the Chapada das Mesas National Park, Brazil showed effectiveness with lethal concentrations ( $LC_{50}$ ) ranging from 230 to 292 mg/L. As known that botanical derivatives products are very unique, their results vary and exhibit a broad spectrum of bioactivities against different mosquito species at different concentrations. This has highlighted the need for further testing on the composition of tested essential oils.

Many plants essential oils have shown effectiveness when tested against mosquito larvae. However, most studies have failed to demonstrate adulticidal effects. Therefore, from the potential results obtained in the larvicidal efficacy, we tested the effects of the essential oils on the adults' mosquito. The results of adulticidal activity of essential oil are presented in terms of mean

knockdown and mortality of *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* (Table 3). At the highest concentration of 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, both *Aedes* spp. gives 100% mean mortality within 24 h post exposure. Early exposure at the lowest concentration 0.026 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, *Ae. albopictus* showed higher mean knockdown of  $12.50 \pm 0.58$  compared to *Ae. aegypti*  $6.50 \pm 0.58$ . However, the mean knockdown of *Ae. aegypti* gradually increased during 1 h observation. The mean mortality was also gradually increased within 24 h post-exposure in both *Aedes* spp. tested populations. The statistical data of  $LC_{50}$  95% confidence limits were also calculated. The results of the susceptibility test showed that 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> *M. cajuputi* essential oil exhibited the highest activity for *Ae. aegypti* ( $LC_{50}=0.029$  mg/cm<sup>2</sup>) and *Ae. albopictus* ( $LC_{50}=0.028$  mg/cm<sup>2</sup>). It showed that mortality rates were at 100%. This suggests that essential oil does not possess insecticidal properties at lower doses or at less than 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. There was no significant difference in the mean mortality among two mosquito species ( $p>0.05$ ).

The different findings among two tested population species between *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* have comprehended the multifactorial contributions to mortality and survival of some mosquito species in certain conditions. According to a previous study (Brady et al. 2013), on the adult survival rate in *Aedes* spp., the *Ae. albopictus* has a higher survival rate than *Ae. aegypti* in the laboratory and field settings with ranges of important factors such as temperature and other environmental factors. In contrast, *Ae. albopictus* population in our study was more susceptible than *Ae. aegypti*. These small findings provide insight into the susceptibility/survival update status of both tested population species in this present study.

The biological properties of the plants are known to be dependent on their composition and products (essential oils, fixed oils, latex, resins, or extracts) (Dias et al. 2015). Among the numerous plant-derived products, essential oils are considered to have the most variable

TABLE 2. Larvicidal bioassay of *M. cajuputi* essential oil against *Aedes* sp mosquito larvae

| Mosquitoes                         | Dose (mg/L) | <sup>1</sup> Mean Mortality $\pm$ SD | Mortality (%) | $LC_{50}$ (mg/L) (CI 95%) | $LC_{90}$ (mg/L) (CI 95%)  | $\chi^2$ | df |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----|
| <sup>2</sup> <i>Ae. aegypti</i>    | 10          | 0.6 $\pm$ 0.55                       | 3             | 120.99<br>(107.67-146.24) | 287.76<br>(210.68-562.37)  | 2.266    | 2  |
|                                    | 50          | 3.0 $\pm$ 0.71                       | 15            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 80          | 5.0 $\pm$ 1.00                       | 25            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 100         | 7.8 $\pm$ 0.84                       | 39            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 120         | 11.0 $\pm$ 1.58                      | 55            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | *Control    | 0                                    | 0             |                           |                            |          |    |
| <sup>2</sup> <i>Ae. albopictus</i> | 10          | 0.2 $\pm$ 0.45                       | 1             | 222.58<br>(162.05-607.11) | 659.84<br>(332.84-6358.33) | 0.506    | 2  |
|                                    | 50          | 0.8 $\pm$ 0.84                       | 4             |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 80          | 2.8 $\pm$ 1.3                        | 14            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 100         | 3.6 $\pm$ 2.3                        | 18            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | 120         | 4.6 $\pm$ 1.14                       | 23            |                           |                            |          |    |
|                                    | *Control    | 0                                    | 0             |                           |                            |          |    |

\*Control (=acetone 0.1%)

<sup>1,2</sup>Significantly difference at  $p<0.05$  ( $p=0.04$ )

TABLE 3. Mean of knockdown and mortality of *M. cajuputi* essential oils against *Aedes* sp adult mosquitoes

| Concentration<br>(mg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | <i>Ae. aegypti</i> (N=100) |                                     | <i>Ae. albopictus</i> (N=100) |                                     |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                        | Mean knockdown<br>± SD     | <sup>a</sup> Mean mortality<br>± SD | Mean<br>knockdown ± SD        | <sup>b</sup> Mean mortality<br>± SD |
| 0.026                                  | 6.50 ± 0.58                | 7.50 ± 0.58                         | 12.50 ± 0.58                  | 8.50 ± 1.29                         |
| 0.03                                   | 9.75 ± 0.56                | 12.50 ± 2.89                        | 13.75 ± 0.96                  | 16.25 ± 0.50                        |
| 0.034                                  | 18.00 ± 0.82               | 20.75 ± 0.82                        | 15.25 ± 2.63                  | 21.25 ± 0.50                        |
| 0.04                                   | 20.00 ± 1.83               | 25.00 ± 0.00                        | 22.75 ± 1.71                  | 25.00 ± 0.00                        |
| Malathion 5%                           | 24.75 ± 0.50               | 25.00 ± 0.00                        | 25.00 ± 0.00                  | 25.00 ± 0.00                        |
| Ethanol 70%                            | 0                          | 0                                   | 0                             | 0                                   |
| LC <sub>50</sub> (CI 95%)              | 0.029<br>(0.023-0.033)     |                                     | 0.028<br>(0.027-0.029)        |                                     |

CI = confidence intervals

<sup>a,b</sup> Not significantly difference at  $p > 0.05$  ( $p = 0.156$ )

composition because of multifactorial factors such as soil, climate, altitude, age and part of the plant used (Barbosa et al. 2012; Feitosa et al. 2009). Many current types of research have recognized plant extracts and plant essential oil as important resources for botanical insecticides. Different part of plants contains a mixture of phytochemicals and secondary metabolites with distinctive biological activities (Ghosh et al. 2012). The diversity in the mosquitocidal activity of plant extracts is probably due to the differences in their active compounds, genetic characteristics of plant species and its harvested conditions (Sujatha et al. 1988).

The values of Knockdown Time (KT) in adulticidal bioassay are presented in Table 4 and a graph line (Figure 1). The values of KT<sub>50</sub> were obtained from a probit analysis calculation using SPSS (v.24). Generally, the KT values of both *Aedes* spp. were lower with the increase of dose concentration. At the lowest concentration of 0.026 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, KT<sub>50</sub> value for *Ae. aegypti* was 87.53 min (73.67-148.96 min) and highest concentration of 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> gives the KT<sub>50</sub> of 77.71 min (64.05-168.20 min). On the other hand, KT<sub>50</sub> values of *Ae. albopictus* did not show the same pattern as *Ae. aegypti*. The highest value of KT<sub>50</sub> was 92.59 min (78.88-124.43 min) at a concentration of 0.034

mg/cm<sup>2</sup> instead of 0.026 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. However, the lowest KT<sub>50</sub> recorded was 69.61 min (61.15-101.75 min) at the highest concentration of 0.04 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>. A positive control using 5% malathion have the lowest KT<sub>50</sub> for *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* of 36.09 min (33.71-38.45 min) and 35.78 min (34.33-37.24 min), respectively. The results of regression analysis showed that the KT<sub>50</sub> values of *M. cajuputi* were negatively correlated with concentration (mg/cm<sup>2</sup>), and both *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* have a regression coefficient (R<sup>2</sup>) of more than 0.5, 0.6686 and 0.5336, respectively (Figure 1).

In this present study, results of *M. cajuputi* essential oil showed significant larvicidal activity. Previous studies on the effectiveness of *M. cajuputi* essential oils in aerosol form (Abu Bakar et al. 2012; Azlinda et al. 2009) have shown significant effects against adult mosquito dengue vectors. In general, essential oil act as contact insecticides, with a neurotoxic mode-of-action targeting gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and octopamine synapses and acetylcholinesterase (Regnault-Roger et al. 2012). The mode of action of essential oils of mosquito larvae is not known, but the earlier studies stated that the plant chemicals initially affect the midgut epithelium, gastric caeca and Malpighian tubules in mosquito larvae

TABLE 4. KT<sub>50</sub> values of *M. cajuputi* essential oils against *Aedes* sp adult mosquitoes

| Concentration<br>(mg/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | <i>Ae. aegypti</i>        |                  | <i>Ae. albopictus</i>     |                  |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
|                                        | KT <sub>50</sub> (CI 95%) | Regression ± S.E | KT <sub>50</sub> (CI 95%) | Regression ± S.E |
| 0.026                                  | 87.53<br>(73.67-148.96)   | 0.05 ± 0.02      | 82.30<br>(71.26-118.55)   | 0.04 ± 0.01      |
| 0.03                                   | 82.07<br>(71.36-117.0)    | 0.05 ± 0.01      | 76.139<br>(68.93-91.46)   | 0.06 ± 0.01      |
| 0.034                                  | 79.56<br>(70.10-97.09)    | 0.04 ± 0.01      | 92.59<br>(78.88-124.43)   | 0.03 ± 0.01      |
| 0.04                                   | 77.71<br>(64.05-168.20)   | 0.04 ± 0.01      | 69.49<br>(61.15-101.75)   | 0.05 ± 0.01      |
| Malathion 5%                           | 36.09<br>(33.71-38.45)    | 4.99 ± 0.34      | 35.78<br>(34.33-37.24)    | 5.13 ± 0.30      |

CI=confidence intervals

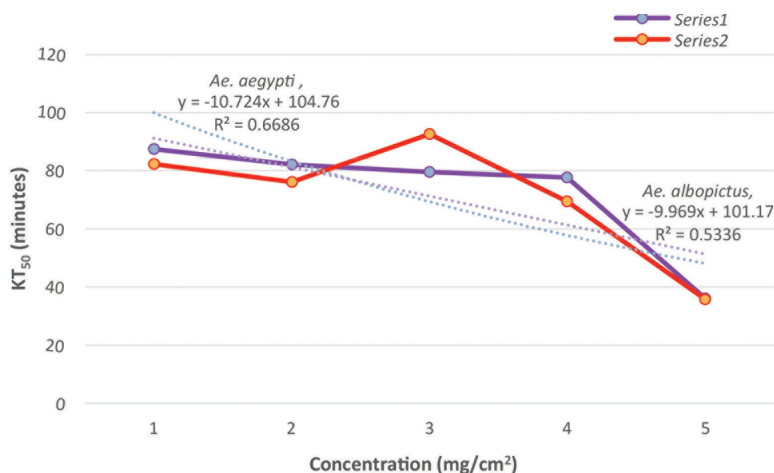


FIGURE 1. Relationship of  $KT_{50}$  of adulticidal activity of *M. cajuputi* essential oils against *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquito adults

(David et al. 2000; Rey et al. 1999). According to a recent report by Govindaraju et al. (2016), other possible targets of essential oils are transient receptor type ion channels, acetylcholinesterase, and receptors tyramine, octopamine and GABA. Instead of synthetic insecticides, plant compounds could lead to the development of potent natural mosquitocidal products. Due to the volatile nature of plant essential oils, their insecticidal products are easily degraded, which leads to a lower level of risk to the environment than synthetic insecticides. Masetti (2016) has suggested in his report that essential oil based products should be effective under a wide range of field conditions (organic matter in the water, salinity, temperature, pH) and different levels of susceptibility among mosquito species should also be considered. The variations in mortality and lethal concentration could be due to insecticidal ingredients of plants, time of collection and season (Sosan et al. 2001).

#### CONCLUSION

The findings of this study have demonstrated a moderate effect on larval and adult mortality induced by *M. cajuputi* essential oil against *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*. In brief, the essential oil from *M. cajuputi* leaves may be explored as a potential bio-insecticide and could be used as an alternative to chemical and synthetic insecticides. However, further studies are needed to assess the effects of individual compounds in both laboratory and semi-field conditions on larval and adult mortality and the mechanisms involved.

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