ASIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH



MOSQUITO LARVICIDAL EFFICACY OF THE ACETONE LEAF EXTRACT OF SOLANUM TRILOBATUM AGAINST CULEX QUINQUEFASCIATUS AND AEDES AEGYPTI

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Received: 21 May 2018, Revised and Accepted: 01 August 2018

ABSTRACT

Objective: The main objective of our study is to control the vector-borne disease. It is one among the major disease burden in developing countries. There are lots of researches carried out using the various plant extracts against larvicidal activities of the *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Aedes aegypti*. The present investigation was aimed to investigate the phytochemical analysis and mosquito larvicidal activities of *Solanum trilobatum* in acetone extract against the second instar larvae of *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti*.

Methods: The leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* was subjected to phytochemical analysis and Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry analysis. The mortality rates of the second instar larvae were recorded after 24, 48, 72, and 96 h of exposure. The lethal concentration $(LC)_{50}$ and LC_{90} were determined followed by probit analysis.

Results: The LC_{50} values for *C. quinquefasciatus* were found to be 265.69 ppm, 227.59 ppm, 212.42 ppm, and 189.47 ppm at various time intervals, and the LC_{90} values were 558.27 ppm, 504.92 ppm, 479.09 ppm, and 444.28 ppm. Similarly, LC_{50} values for *A. aegypti* were noticed at 301.09 ppm, 256.01 ppm, 209.75 ppm, and 167.44 ppm and the LC_{90} values were 582.34 ppm, 477.52 ppm, 419.40 ppm, and 371.84 ppm for the time interval of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h.

Conclusion: The result of the current work revealed that the leaf extract of the *S. trilobatum* has the potential to be acted as an alternative for the controlling of the mosquitoes.

Keywords: Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry, Phytochemical analysis, Probit analysis, Mortality rate.

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INTRODUCTION

Mosquito-borne disease is a major health problem in worldwide for both human and veterinary sectors. Mosquitoes are a serious threat to the public and also health transmitting several dangerous diseases in tropics [1]. Diseases transmitted by mosquitoes include malaria, dengue hemorrhagic fever, Japanese encephalitis, yellow fever, and filariasis [2]. One of the prime concerns of malaria treatment is increase in the alarming rate of resistance to different antimalarial drugs [3]. There are about 3500 species of mosquitoes have been reported. Among the 13 genera of the family Culicidae, besides, *Anopheles* and *Culex* individuals of genus *Aedes* are considered as dangerous because they cause public health threat worldwide [4].

In the past years, the plant kingdom has been of great interest potential source of insecticidal products. Many number of plant species are playing an important role in insecticidal products. Plants synthesize a variety of secondary metabolites which play a key role in defense against mosquitoes [5]. Phytochemicals are mostly secondary metabolites extracted from various plant species have been tested for their larvicidal activity against mosquitoes [6]. Phytochemicals obtained from plants are usually harmless, easily biodegradable and comparatively safer to human and environment. Hence, the present study revealed the interest in the research on these compounds, considering them as an ecologically safe alternative for synthetic insecticides [7].

Solanum trilobatum is an important medicinal plant in Ayurveda and Siddha systems, commonly available in Southern India and has been used in herbal medicine to treat various diseases such as respiratory problems, bronchial asthma, and tuberculosis [8,9]. The leaves and stem of *S. trilobatum* are reported to possess antimitotic, antiinflammatory, and antiulcerogenic properties [10]. The leaves contain rich amount of calcium, iron, phosphorus, carbohydrates, proteins, fat, crude extracts, and minerals [11]. Leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* possesses potent larvicidal against *Culex quinquefasciatus*, oviposition deterrent, and skin repellent activity against *Anopheles stephensi* [12]. Various chemical constituents are reported to be isolated from *Solanum* species, which includes alkaloids, phenolics, flavonoids, sterols, saponins, and their glycosides [13]. Alkaloids such as soladunalinidine and tomatidine were isolated from leaf and stem of *Solanum* species. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out to determine the mosquito larvicidal activity of *S. trilobatum* leaf against two mosquito vectors *C. quinquefasciatus* and *Aedes aegypti*.

METHODS

Plant collection and extraction

Healthy, disease free, mature leaves of *S. trilobatum* were collected from the region of Annur, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu. The collected plant material was identified and authenticated in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Tamil Nadu. Leaves of *S. trilobatum* washed thoroughly with running tap water. The leaves were again washed with sterile distilled water to remove the dirt before drying process. Then, the leaves were dried in shade room temperature for a week to remove moisture content and powdered using mixer grinder. Finally, powdered sample was stored at room temperature for further studies. 2.5 g of powdered leaf sample was taken in air-tight bottles. To this, 50 ml of acetone was added. After 48 h, the contents were stirred well thoroughly and filtered through Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The filtrate was collected and stored in sterile bottles at 4°C until further use.

Phytochemical analysis of S. trilobatum

Freshly prepared leaf extracts of *S. trilobatum* were subjected to standard phytochemical analysis according to Trease and Evans [14] to find out the presence of various phytochemical constituents.

Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrum (GC-MS) analysis

GC–MS analysis is a common confirmation test to separate all the compounds in a sample and provides a representative spectral output. The sample is injected into the injection port of the GC device. The GC instruments vaporize the sample and then separate and analyze the various compounds ideally produce a specific spectral peak that may be recorded on a paper chart or electronically. The retention time can help to differentiate between some compounds. The size of the peaks is proportional to the quantity of the corresponding substances in the specimen analyzed. An aliquot of 2 μ l of sample was injected with temperature at 280°C. GC oven temperature started at 70°C and holding for 8 min, and it was raised to 220°C holding for 7 min at the rate of 10°C/min. Iron source temperature was maintained at 300°C. The detector was operated scan mode form with interval of 0.50 s.

Preparation of stock solution

Dried and powdered aerial parts (1 kg) were macerated sequentially with 3 L of acetone for 96 h and filtered. The crude plant extracts were evaporated to dryness in a room temperature.

Test organisms

The II instar larvae of *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti* obtained from National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD), Mettupalayam, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. The larvae were kept in enameled trays containing tap water. The larvae were maintained at 25–29°C and 75-85% relative humidity under 14:10 light and dark cycles.

Larvicidal bioassay

The larvicidal bioassay was carried out according to standard the WHO protocol with minor modifications. From the stock solution, different concentrations of 100, 200, 300, 400, and 500 ppm were prepared. 25 healthy second instar larvae were introduced into beaker containing 200 ml of water with each test concentration. Larval mortality was observed at 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h. A total of three trials were performed [15].

 $Percent mortality = \frac{Number of dead larvae}{Number of larva intoduced} \times 100$

Statistical analysis

SPSS 12 version package was used for the determination of lethal concentration LC_{50} and LC_{90} (LC causing 50 and 90% mortality). The experiment data of larval mortality and effect of concentration were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by probit analysis to determine the difference in larval mortality between concentrations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phytochemical screening

The preliminary phytochemical analysis of the *S. trilobatum* leaf extract of acetone solvent revealed the presence of alkaloids, tannins, steroids, glycosides, and phenols (Table 1). Balakrishnan *et al.* [16] observed that *S. trilobatum* leaf extracts contained various phytochemical compounds such as alkaloids, flavonoids, carbohydrates, glycosides, saponins, tannins, terpenoids, proteins, and anthraquinone. The present results of phytochemical compounds are coincident with other researchers [17-19].

GC-MS analysis

Plant possesses immense medicinal properties. The aim of the present work was to identify the phytochemicals present in acetone extracts of the leaves of *S. trilobatum* by qualitative photochemical testing and to identify the compounds present in the acetone extract of the leaves by GC–MS analysis (Fig. 1). The GC–MS spectrum revealed that the acetone leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* contained the major phytochemical compounds such as cyclodecanol (12.42%), 2-tetradecycloxirane (6.07%), beta-sitosterol (10.25%), 1H-imidazole, 4,5-dimethyl-imidazole (4.65%), 1-octadecyne (4.30%), and phenol (4.05%). The other compounds also identified are diisoamylene (2.90%), chloro-5-iodo-benzoic acid pyridine-3-yl methylene-hydrazide (1.70%), 4-(2-oxo-bicyclo (3.1.0)

 Table 1: Qualitative phytochemical analysis of Solanum

 trilobatum leaf extracts

Compounds	Test adopted	Acetone extract
Alkaloids	Mayer's test	+
Terpenoids	Salkowski test	-
Flavonoids	Sodium hydroxide test	-
Tannins	Lead acetate test	+
Steroids	Chloroform test	+
Anthraquinones	Free anthraquinones test	-
Saponins	Foam test	-
Resins	Sodium hydroxide test	-
Glycosides	Keller–Killiani's test	+
Phenols	Ferric chloride test	+

+: Present, -: Absent

hex-6-yl (1.57%), permethrin-1,3-phenoxybenzyl (1.36), 1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (2.38%), 2-cyclohexen-1-ol (1.38%), benzene,2-(tertbutyldimethylsilyl) oxy (2.63%), hydrochlorothiazide N-butylbronate (1.99%), silicic acid diethyl bis(trimethylsilyl)ester (2.83%), and isopropyl tris (3.48%) (Table 2). Its presence in the plant suggests that it to be of medicinal value because tannins have shown potential antiviral and antiparasitic effects [20]. Krishnaiah and Prashanth [21] reported that the similar compound detected was 3,7,11,15-tetramethyl-2hexadecen-1-ol in the present result.

Larvicidal activity

Larvicidal activity of acetone extract of S. trilobatum leaves at various concentrations was tested against filarial and dengue vectors such as C. quinquefasciatus and A. aegypti. Acetone extract of S. trilobatum leaves exhibited potential larvicidal activity at varying concentrations, whereas no larval death was observed in controls. The mortality rate obtained was 25.33% (24 h) and 37.33% (96 h) at a concentration of 100 ppm, whereas the maximum mortality rate was obtained at 500 ppm for 24 h (86.7%) and 96 h (97.33%). It clearly depicted that the larvicidal effect of acetone leaf extract of S. trilobatum was a dose dependent as well as duration of exposure. Similarly, larvicidal effect of acetone extract of S. trilobatum on A. aegypti exhibited minimum larval death rate at concentration of 100 ppm in 24 h (17.33%) and 96 h (38.67%). The maximum mortality 81.33% and 100% was observed at a concentration of 500 ppm at 24 h and 96 h, respectively. The mortality rate was recorded maximum at 96 h compared to 24, 48, and 72 h for both C. quinquefasciatus and A. aegypti.

The LC₅₀ values for *C. quinquefasciatus* were found to be 265.69 ppm, 227.59 ppm, 212.42 ppm, and 189.47 ppm for the time intervals of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h, respectively. Similarly, LC₅₀ values for *A. aegypti* were noticed at 301.09 ppm, 256.01 ppm, 209.75 ppm, and 167.44 ppm at time intervals of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h, respectively. LC₉₀ values also calculated for both *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti*. The LC₉₀ value for *C. quinquefasciatus* was 558.27 ppm, 504.92 ppm, 479.09 ppm, and 444.28 ppm for the time interval of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h, respectively. The LC₉₀ values of *A. aegypti* were 582.34 ppm, 477.52 ppm, 419.40 ppm, and 371.84 ppm for the time interval of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h, respectively (Table 3).

Regression analysis revealed that the mortality rate (Y) was positively correlated with the concentration (X). Two-way ANOVA analysis demonstrated that the larvicidal effect exhibited by various concentrations of acetone leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* on *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti* was statistically significant (p<0.05) at 48 and 96 h.

Rajkumar and Jebanesan [12] reported that the acetone leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* acts as oviposition deterrents. This indicates that *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti* mosquitoes were acutely sensitive to phytochemical stimuli and responded to the odor of the acetone leaf extract produce maximum effective repellency against oviposition. Premalatha *et al.* [22] reported that the larvicidal activity methanol extract



Fig. 1: Gas chromatography-mass spectrum of acetone extract of Solanum trilobatum leaves

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S. No	RT	Area %	Peak Height %	Name of the compound
1	15.025	15.58	46.15	Tungsten
2	18.051	4.65	0.73	1H-imidazole, 4,5-dimethyl-imidazole
3	21.823	12.42	14.43	Cyclodecanol
4	21.783	2.90	2.99	Disoamylene
5	22.082	2.76	2.96	3,7,11.15-Tetramethyl-2-hexadeen-1ol
6	22.204	1.34	1.45	1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, Bis (2-methylpropyl) ester
7	22.272	4.30	4.44	1-Octadecyne
8	23.193	4.05	1.81	Phenol
9	23.300	1.48	0.73	Propennitrile, 3-ethoxy-2-(2-thienylm)
10	24.861	6.48	5.09	2-Tetradecycloxirane
11	25.413	1.58	0.61	Bicyclo (3.2.1) octan-2-ol
12	35.967	2.01	0.89	2-(1-bromoethyl)-4,5-dimethyoxycarboxamid
13	36.192	2.04	1.06	L-Alanine
14	36.726	6.07	2.68	3-Keto-isoteviol
15	38.135	10.25	4.07	Beta-sitosterol
16	38.358	1.70	0.69	2-Chloro-5-iodo-benzoicacid pyridine-3-ylmethylene-hydrazide
17	38.472	1.57	0.99	4-(2-oxo-bicyclo (3.1.0) hex-6-yl
18	38.815	2.78	1.29	Rocellaric acid
19	39.463	1.36	0.78	Permethrin-1, 3-phenoxybenzyl
20	40.061	2.38	1.51	1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide
21	40.142	1.38	1.11	2-Cyclohexen-1-ol
22	41.034	2.63	0.81	Benzene, 2-(tert-butyldimethylsilyl) oxy
23	41.543	1.99	0.66	Hydrochlorothiazide N-butylbronate
24	41.866	2.83	0.84	Silicic acid diethyl bis (trimethylsilyl) ester
25	42.586	3.48	1.22	Isopropyl tris

GC-MS: Gas chromatography-mass spectrum

Table 3: Probit analysis for the data on larval mortality of acetone extract at 95% confidence limit

Hours	Mean % larval mortality				LC ₅₀	LC ₉₀	Regression equation	R value	Chi-square value	
	Concentration (ppm)									
	100	200	300	400	500					
Culex quinquefasciatus										
24	25.33	37.33	54.67	70.67	86.67	265.69	558.27	Y=15.602x+8.128	0.99	0.74
48	29.33	41.33	66.67	76	90.67	227.59	504.92	Y=15.735x+13.59	0.97	1.75
72	33.33	45.33	62.67	80	94.67	212.42	479.09	Y=15.735x+15.99	0.99	2.89
96	37.33	49.3	66.6	84	97.33	189.49	444.28	Y=15.467x+20.53	0.99	4.341
Aedes aeg	ypti									
24	17.33	32	52	66.67	81.33	301.09	582.34	Y=16.267x+1.065	0.996	0.261
48	21.33	36	56	78.67	94.67	256.00	477.52	Y=18.935x+0.529	0.995	2.335
72	29.33	45.33	64	90.67	97.33	209.75	419.40	Y=18.134x+10.93	0.977	4.632
96	38.67	56	72	74.67	100	167.44	371.84	Y=15.467x+20.531	0.996	7.423

Chi-square value significant at p<0.05 level. LC: Lethal concentration, LCL: Lower confident limit, UCL: Upper confidence limit

of *S. trilobatum* was found to be more susceptible against the larvae of *A. aegypti, C. quinquefasciatus,* and *A. stephensi.* Leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* also exhibited pupicidal and adult emergence properties [23,24]. The plant extract provides the bases to act as alternative to synthetic insecticide

to control program of mosquito [25]. Finally, the study revealed that the plant origin chemicals from the *S. trilobatum* leaf extracts showed that insecticidal and medicinal values have higher efficiency in reducing mosquito menace due to their larvicidal toxicity.

CONCLUSION

Results from the current study demonstrated that the acetone leaf extract of *S. trilobatum* has significantly higher larvicidal activity against selected human vector mosquitoes *C. quinquefasciatus* and *A. aegypti*. The phytochemicals present in *S. trilobatum* leaf extracts are effective mosquito vector control agents, and the plant extracts may be used for the further integrated pest management programs. In conclusion, the obtained results suggested that the effective plant crude extracts have the potential to be used as an ideal eco-friendly approach for the control of disease vectors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are grateful to the management of PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore, for their encouragement and providing facilities for this work. Thanks are also extended to NICD, Tamil Nadu, India, for providing the larvae for the current study and TNAU, Tamil Nadu, India, for plant identification.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Author 1 has planned and conducted the experiment. The experiment was guided by Author 2.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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