

**FUMIGANT TOXICITY OF ESSENTIAL OILS OF  
*LAVANDULA OFFICINALIS*, *ARTEMISIA  
DRACUNCULUS* AND *HERACLEUM PERSICUM* ON THE  
ADULTS OF *CALLOSBRUCHUS MACULATUS*  
(COLEOPTERA: BRUCHIDAE)**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Callosobruchus maculatus* F. is a major insect pest of stored-grain legumes in many countries. In the present study, fumigant toxicity of essential oils from *Lavandula officinalis* L., *Artemisia dracunculus* L. and *Heracleum persicum* Desf. was assessed on the adults of *Callosobruchus maculatus*. The results indicated that the mortality of adults increased with increased concentration and exposure time. LC<sub>50</sub> values for oils from *Lavandula officinalis*, *Artemisia dracunculus* and *Heracleum persicum* were 41.52, 210.61 and 337.58 µL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Toxicity of *Lavandula officinalis* oil was more than other two plants (LC<sub>50</sub> = 41.52 µL<sup>-1</sup>), but the essential oils from all three plants were effective against this pest. Therefore, these essential oils were suggested to be used for *Callosobruchus maculatus* control in stores.

**KEY WORDS:** *Callosobruchus maculatus*, essential oils, fumigant toxicity, *Lavandula officinalis*, *Artemisia dracunculus*, *Heracleum persicum*

Chemical fumigants are commonly used to control stored product pests throughout the world, but these products adversely affect the environment and are hazardous to human health (Lee et al., 2004; Tapondjou et al., 2002). Therefore, considerable amount of investigations have been carried out in the last three decades to find alternative control methods of store product pests (Morimoto et al., 2002; Park et al., 2002; Koul et al., 2003). The *Callosobruchus maculatus* F. causes considerable damage to the legumes, especially to *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) in storages and it damages distinctively with feeding by larvae inside the seeds (Hu et al., 2008). Many researches are conducted for managing this pest by various essential oils. Kestenholz et al. (2007) reported that *Cassia sophera* L. extract is effective in reducing *C. maculatus* infestation. Ketoh et al. (2006) indicated that essential oils of *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* and piperitone had toxic effects on adults of *C. maculatus*.

In this study, the fumigant toxicity of *Lavandula officinalis* L., *Artemisia dracunculus* L. and *Heracleum persicum* Desf. oils were assayed on the adults of *Callosobruchus maculatus*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research was conducted in the laboratory of the Department of Entomology at University of Mohaghegh-Ardabili, Iran, in 2008. One hundred

pairs of two day old adults of *C. maculatus* were transferred on 150 g seeds of *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) in a plastic jar of 2000 ml volume. Experiments were carried out in an incubator that was set at  $28 \pm 1$  °C,  $60 \pm 5\%$  RH, in total darkness. Flowers of *Lavandula officinalis* L. were collected from Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran and the leaves of *Artemisia dracunculus* L. and the fruits of *Heracleum persicum* Desf. were obtained from a drugstore in Mashhad, Iran. The plant materials were dried under suitable ventilation and shade conditions and were hydrodistilled with a Clevenger set to extract their essential oils. Concentrations of 24, 30, 36, 42, 51 and 61  $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *Lavandula officinalis* L., and 91, 139, 206, 303 and 454  $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *Artemisia dracunculus* L. and 152, 212, 333, 515 and 758  $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *Heracleum persicum* Desf. were infused on the filter paper pieces of 2 cm in diameter. They were transferred to the caps of glass vials of 33 ml volume. Five pairs of two day old adults were transferred to each glass vial. In control containers no essential oil was used. The experiment was replicated eight times. Mortality was recorded after 3, 6, 9, 12 and 24 h exposure time. The relationship between data was examined by analysis of variance (ANOVA) and correlation analysis. The data were transformed into  $\arcsin\sqrt{x}$  before statistical analysis as necessary. The means were separated by using the Tukey test,  $\alpha = 0.01$ . In order to determine  $\text{LC}_{50}$  values, mortality were recorded after 24 h. Data was analyzed using Probit analysis of SPSS 11.5.

## RESULTS

The results illustrated that  $\text{LC}_{50}$  value for *A. dracunculus* oil ( $210.61 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ ) was about 8 times higher than for *L. officinalis* oil ( $41.52 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ ). *L. officinalis* oil was the most toxic one. *H. persicum* oil had the highest  $\text{LC}_{50}$  value ( $337.58 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ ) and had less toxic effect on the pest (Table 1). It was found that mortality depended on concentration and exposure time in addition to essential oil type (Table 2). There was no mortality in concentrations  $24 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *L. officinalis* oil and  $91 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *A. dracunculus* at 3, 6 and 9 h exposure time. Also no mortality was observed at the concentrations of 30, 36 and  $42 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *L. officinalis* oil, 139, 206 and  $303 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *A. dracunculus* oil and 152,  $212 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *H. persicum* oil at 3 and 6 h exposure time. The highest mortality at 3 h exposure time was 6.25% at the concentration of  $758 \mu\text{L}^{-1}$  of *H. persicum*. The mortality rate increased in all essential oils by increased concentrations at 12 and 24 h exposure time. Regression analysis of data indicated significant correlation between percentage mortality and period of exposure in all treatments ( $P < 0.05$ ). The highest coefficient of determination (96%) was attributed to *L. officinalis* oil (Table 3).

## DISCUSSION

Among the three essential oils that were assayed in this research, *L. officinalis* oil was more toxic and *H. persicum* oil was less toxic than the others. Papachristos & Stamopoulos, 2001 indicated that essential oils from various plant species had very different toxicities on *Acanthoscelides obtectus* (Say). According to Park et al. (2002) some constituents of many plants such as linalool, terpineol, carvacrol and myrcene have insecticidal effects on some stored products pests.

The results showed that insect mortality varied with the essential oils type, concentration and the exposure time. The mortality of adult *C. maculatus* has increased with increasing of concentrations of *Ocimum basilicum*, *O. gratissimum*, *A. scoparia* and *A. sieberi* oils (Keita et al., 2001; Sanon et al., 2002. Negahban et al., 2006). The slope value of probit mortality regression of *L.*

*officinalis* oil was higher than the other two oils which indicated that there was a large increase in the mortality of insects with relatively small increase in the concentration of the toxicant. Similar results were reported by Tiwari and Singh, 2004. According to LC<sub>50</sub> values, *L. officinalis* oil was the most toxic (LC<sub>50</sub> = 41.52 µL<sup>-1</sup>) and *H. persicum* oil was the least toxic (LC<sub>50</sub> = 337.58 µL<sup>-1</sup>) in our studies. Keita et al. (2001) has reported that fumigant LC<sub>50</sub> value of *Ocimum basilicum* on *C. maculatus* was 440 µL<sup>-1</sup>. It was higher than LC<sub>50</sub> values of essential oils tested in our study means *Ocimum basilicum* was less toxic to *C. maculatus*.

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Table 1. Fumigant toxicity of essential oils of *Lavandula officinalis* L., *Artemisia dracunculus* L. and *Heracleum persicum* Desf. on *Callosobruchus maculatus* F. after 24 h exposure time<sup>§</sup>

Source of essential oil	LC50 values ( $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ )	LC90 values ( $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ )	Slop $\pm$ SE	Chi-square <sub>(df)</sub>	P-value
<i>L. officinalis</i>	41.52 (39.70 - 43.03)	61.52 (57.27 - 67.27)	7.50 $\pm$ 0.60	5.8 <sub>(4)</sub>	0.29
<i>A. dracunculus</i>	210.61 (190.91 - 232.72)	520.30 (438.18 - 661.21)	3.26 $\pm$ 0.31	2.9 <sub>(3)</sub>	0.51
<i>H. persicum</i>	337.58 (305.45 - 373.64)	848.97 (713.93 - 1073.03)	3.21 $\pm$ 0.30	7.9 <sub>(3)</sub>	0.69

<sup>§</sup> Oil applied to 2 cm filter papers held in 33 mL vials.

Table 2. Mortality percent ( $\pm$ SE) in the adults *Callosobruchus maculatus* exposed for various periods to *Lavandula officinalis* and *Artemisia dracunculus* essential oils at different concentrations (replicates = 8)<sup>§</sup>

Source of essential oil	Concentration ( $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ )	Exposure period (h)					Effects of exposure period	
		3	6	9	12	24	F(4,35)	p
<i>L. officinalis</i>	24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>A</sup>	3.75 $\pm$ 2.63 <sup>A</sup>	1.57	0.20
	30	0.00	0.00	7.50 $\pm$ 2.50 <sup>AB</sup>	7.50 $\pm$ 2.50 <sup>AB</sup>	16.25 $\pm$ 4.60 <sup>AB</sup>	6.72	0.001
	36	0.00	0.00	12.50 $\pm$ 3.70 <sup>AB</sup>	15.00 $\pm$ 5.34 <sup>AB</sup>	36.25 $\pm$ 4.98 <sup>BC</sup>	16.53	0.001
	42	0.00	0.00	23.75 $\pm$ 4.20 <sup>BC</sup>	38.75 $\pm$ 5.15 <sup>BC</sup>	46.25 $\pm$ 4.98 <sup>BC</sup>	33.34	0.001
	51	1.25 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>A</sup>	3.75 $\pm$ 2.63 <sup>A</sup>	37.50 $\pm$ 4.53 <sup>CD</sup>	56.25 $\pm$ 5.96 <sup>CD</sup>	71.25 $\pm$ 5.15 <sup>CD</sup>	53.29	0.001
	61	0.00	5.00 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>A</sup>	50.00 $\pm$ 4.22 <sup>DE</sup>	81.25 $\pm$ 3.98 <sup>CD</sup>	95.00 $\pm$ 1.89 <sup>DE</sup>	209.82	0.001
Results of concentration effect	F(5,42) P	1 0.43	2.24 0.07	28.73 0.001	51.28 0.001	64.75 0.001		
<i>A. dracunculus</i>	91	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.75 $\pm$ 1.83 <sup>AB</sup>	11.25 $\pm$ 2.95 <sup>AB</sup>	9.92	0.001
	139	0.00	0.00	1.25 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>AB</sup>	15.00 $\pm$ 4.22 <sup>AB</sup>	36.25 $\pm$ 5.96 <sup>BC</sup>	23.19	0.001
	206	0.00	0.00	5.00 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>AB</sup>	32.50 $\pm$ 6.20 <sup>BC</sup>	43.75 $\pm$ 5.32 <sup>BC</sup>	30.40	0.001
	303	0.00	0.00	12.5 $\pm$ 3.66 <sup>AB</sup>	46.25 $\pm$ 4.98 <sup>BC</sup>	67.50 $\pm$ 4.53 <sup>CD</sup>	92.82	0.001
	454	0.00	2.50 $\pm$ 1.64 <sup>A</sup>	18.75 $\pm$ 3.98 <sup>BC</sup>	58.75 $\pm$ 5.15 <sup>CD</sup>	88.75 $\pm$ 2.26 <sup>DE</sup>	152.95	0.001
Results of concentration effect	F(4,35) P	-	2.33 0.08	11.15 0.001	24.11 0.001	52.50 0.001		
<i>H. persicum</i>	152	0.00	0.00	1.25 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>AA</sup>	5.00 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>AB</sup>	12.5 $\pm$ 3.66 <sup>AB</sup>	6.36	0.001
	212	0.00	0.00	6.25 $\pm$ 2.63 <sup>AA</sup>	13.75 $\pm$ 3.75 <sup>AB</sup>	26.25 $\pm$ 5.96 <sup>AB</sup>	10.83	0.001
	333	0.00	1.25 $\pm$ 1.25 <sup>A</sup>	23.75 $\pm$ 4.60 <sup>AB</sup>	36.25 $\pm$ 7.06 <sup>BC</sup>	52.50 $\pm$ 4.53 <sup>BC</sup>	36.89	0.001
	515	2.50 $\pm$ 1.64 <sup>A</sup>	5.00 $\pm$ 2.67 <sup>A</sup>	35.00 $\pm$ 6.27 <sup>BC</sup>	41.25 $\pm$ 4.41 <sup>CD</sup>	67.50 $\pm$ 5.90 <sup>CD</sup>	35.51	0.001
	758	6.25 $\pm$ 2.63 <sup>A</sup>	8.75 $\pm$ 3.98 <sup>A</sup>	52.50 $\pm$ 5.90 <sup>CD</sup>	63.75 $\pm$ 4.60 <sup>CD</sup>	88.75 $\pm$ 3.98 <sup>CD</sup>	67.79	0.001
Results of concentration effect	F(4,35) P	3.91 0.01	2.96 0.03	21.26 0.001	32.29 0.001	39.38 0.001		

<sup>§</sup> Mortality data at each exposure period was a mean of eight replicates, concentrations applied to 2 cm filter papers held in 33 mL vials. Exposure periods were 3, 6, 9, 12 and 24 h. The means with similar words have no significant difference in each row (small words) and columns (large words). (Tukey test,  $\alpha = 0.01$ ).

Table 3. Linear regression analysis of *Callosobruchus maculatus* mortality data on exposure periods in various concentrations of the three essential oils<sup>§</sup>

Source of essential oil	Concentration ( $\mu\text{L}^{-1}$ )	Total number of insects	F <sub>(1,3)</sub>	P-value	R <sup>2</sup>	Slop $\pm$ SE
<i>L. officinalis</i>	24	560	36.82	0.009	90	0.26 $\pm$ 0.04
	30		37.45	0.009	90.1	0.79 $\pm$ 0.13
	36		93.03	0.002	95.8	1.80 $\pm$ 0.19
	42		10.67	0.047	70.7	2.34 $\pm$ 0.72
	51		12.86	0.037	74.8	3.49 $\pm$ 0.97
	61		10.44	0.048	70.2	4.74 $\pm$ 1.47
<i>A. dracunculuz</i>	91	480	40.80	0.008	90.9	0.58 $\pm$ 0.09
	139		41.18	0.008	90.9	1.69 $\pm$ 0.26
	206		14.65	0.031	77.3	2.32 $\pm$ 0.60
	303		28.81	0.013	87.4	3.50 $\pm$ 0.65
	454		30.73	0.012	88.1	4.54 $\pm$ 0.82
<i>H. persicum</i>	152	480	78.49	0.003	95.1	0.64 $\pm$ 0.07
	212		76.07	0.003	94.9	1.34 $\pm$ 0.15
	333		35.26	0.010	89.5	2.59 $\pm$ 0.44
	515		25.60	0.015	86	3.18 $\pm$ 0.63
	758		15.44	0.029	78.3	4.40 $\pm$ 1.03

<sup>§</sup> Concentrations applied to 2 cm filter papers held in 33 mL vials.