

# Larvicidal and Synergistic Activities of Crude Leaf Extracts of *Pyrethrum* (*Chrysanthemum*), *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Sm. (Myrtaceae) and *Nicotiana tabaccum* (Tobacco) against the Larvae of the Malaria Vector *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles (Diptera: Culicidae)

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**Abstract:** The present study was undertaken to evaluate larvicidal efficacy of crude leaf extracts of *Pyrethrum*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* individually and in combination (synergistic activities) of the extracts against third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles. In the individual extract tests it was found that pyrethrum DCM extract exhibited best activity achieving 100% mortality of third instar larvae at LC<sub>50</sub> 164.86 ppm and LC<sub>90</sub> 255.17 ppm. This was followed by the DCM extract of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (LC<sub>50</sub> 168.58 ppm, LC<sub>90</sub> 315.85 ppm). *Nicotiana tabaccum* was third LC<sub>50</sub> (189.58 ppm, LC<sub>90</sub> 320.75 ppm). The results revealed that pyrethrum extract was more toxic plant when tested individually. In the synergistic tests a total of 30 combinations of extracts (comprising of 30 treatments) amongst the three plants were tested. It was observed that the maximum synergistic activities were found in the combination extracts of DCM and Methanol in the ratio 1:1 (v/v) (pyrethrum and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* extracts respectively) at 118.65 ppm. Other combinations that exhibited good activities were DCM combination of ethyl acetate (pyrethrum and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* extracts respectively), DCM combination of hexane (*Pyrethrum* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* extracts respectively) and DCM combination of hexane (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* extracts respectively). These combinations exhibited appreciable activities by achieving 100% larval mortality at 121.45, 127.85, 130.78 and 135.55 ppm respectively. The results of the study revealed that pyrethrum plant leaves individual and/or combinations with extracts of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* can be used as a potent source of natural mosquito larvicidal agent to replace the synthetic insecticides.

**Keywords:** Pyrethrum, *E. camaldulensis*, *Nicotiana tabaccum*, synergistic, crude leaf extracts, combination extracts, third instar larvae, larval mortality

## 1. Introduction

Mosquitoes are blood sucking insects and through this habit they transmit disease agents that cause malaria, dengue, yellow fever, encephalitis, West Nile fever and filariasis. Human malaria is commonly reported in tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world and is caused by infection with *Plasmodium falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale* or *P. malariae* (1), which are transmitted to humans only by *Anopheles* mosquitoes. In Africa malaria is endemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mosquitoes transmit malaria to more than 700 million people each year and remain the major source of illness and death world-wide (2) contributing to poverty and mortality thus affecting socio-economic development in tropical and sub-tropical countries (3). Dengue fever is the most common life threatening viral infection with no proper vaccine or treatment (4). It is transmitted by bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* (4) and affects 50 million people a year and 2.5 billion at risk (5).

Mosquito control is high in demand for managing the spread of disease agents mosquitoes transmit. Currently, control strategies are based on mainly the use of conventional synthetic chemical insecticides. The effectiveness of these chemicals for vector control is rendered unproductive when mosquitoes develop resistance to insecticides as a result of their repeated use. Coupled with this, the use of synthetic chemical insecticides presents the potential for environmental pollution and some evidence suggests these substances act as immunosuppressants (7).

To counteract the negative effects of synthetic chemical insecticides to the environment interest in alternatives has developed and continuous evaluation and use of plant extracts with insecticidal activity are being preferred for mosquito control. This is because the botanical insecticides have advantages which include safety to humans and animals, rapid breakdown of the toxic molecules in the environment and comparatively few

adverse effects to non-target organisms. For example Pushpanathan et al., (2006) (8) and Thangam and Katheresan (1991) (9) have studied a number of extracts from terrestrial plants for toxicity to larvae of *Anopheles* mosquitoes, including those from *Calophyllum inophyllum* (Chusiaceae), *Rhinacanthus nasutus* (Acanthaceae), *Solanum suratense*, (Solanaceae), *Samadera indica* (Simaroubaceae) and *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Haloragaceae). This also includes the study of *Sargassum Withii* Greville (Sargassaceae) which is an abundant marine brown alga commonly found in the shorelines of India. It is a macroscopic, multicellular, photosynthetic, non vascular, pelagic marine species (10) rich in sulphated polysacchrides that manifest potent free radical scavenging (11) and antioxidant (12) effects.

Synergistic activity between pesticides is a powerful and effective tool for the development of an efficient, more eco-friendly and less hazardous insect pest control strategy (Benard and Philogene, 1993) (13). The application of synergists has been preferred as a strategy to enhance the eco-friendliness and cost-effectiveness of an insecticide by reducing the quantity needed to kill the target population and lengthen the residual activity. The role of synergists in resistance management is an accepted alternative for resistance management. The importance of proper selection of plant extracts as synergists in mixed formulations with different other plant extracts or synergistic insecticides is being increasingly recognized in mosquito management. The mixture may provide less toxicity, prevent the development of resistance, have economic benefits and could be more effective than individual components of the mixture. Synthetic phytopesticide combinations are rarely evaluated as mosquito larvicides (14). In the present investigation, the joint action of Pyrethrum and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, pyrethrum and *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Eucalyptus* and *Nicotiana tabacum* crude leaf extracts in their various solvent extracts were evaluated against the third instar larvae of the malaria vector, *Anopheles gambiae s.s* Giles.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Plants collection and preparation

Leaves of pyrethrum were collected (already dried) from Pyrethrum Board of Kenya (PBK), Stanely Mathenge Road, Nakuru, Kenya. The leaves of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* from mature trees were collected from the lead researcher's farm, Molo sub-district, Kenya and leaves of *Nicotiana tabacum* were collected from Mr Meshack Wasike farm in Malakhisi location, Bungoma district, Kenya. The leaves of *E. camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabacum* were cleaned and dried in shade for 25-30 days. The leaves of the three plants were then chopped ground into fine powder. One hundred grams of each plant were extracted mechanically using a commercial stainless steel blender then 1kg of powdered leaves were macerated using non-polar and polar solvents

(Dichloromethane (DCM), methanol, ethyl, acetate, ethanol, hexane, and aqueous). In each solvent the plant material was soaked for 48 hours at 35<sup>0</sup>C and filtered twice using a fine cloth and then Watman No. 1 filter paper (12 x 15cm) to obtain the extract and to the same residue the same solvent was added again. The procedure was repeated twice to obtain maximum extract. The extracts were concentrated at reduced temperature using a rotary vacuum evaporator and stored in air-tight amber or blue bottles at 4<sup>0</sup>C until when required for use. From the stock solutions of the extracts, varying concentrations of each extract were prepared (50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300 350 and 400 ppm), and these concentrations were used for larvicidal bioassays. All chemicals used in this study were of extreme pure grade obtained from Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kisumu, Kenya.

### 2.2 Mosquito collection and rearing

By using a mouth aspirator, adult male and female *Anopheles gambiae s.s*. Giles mosquitoes were collected from Langas area of Eldoret County in the ratio of 3:1 (Male: Female) and were cultured in cages (30 x 30 x 30cm). The mosquitoes were fed with 10% sucrose solution soaked in cotton wool. Female mosquitoes were fed with rat blood providing them protein for hatching by the rat back hairs cut and shaved leaving bear skin and then put in the mosquito cages.

### 2.3 *Anopheles gambiae s.s*. Giles Culture

Male and female *An. gambiae s.s*. Giles mosquitoes in the same cage were allowed to mate. Female mosquitoes laid eggs on a plastic bowl 12 inches in diameter, on which a filter paper stripe was placed (lined) inside. The bowl was filled with water to nearly full. The filter paper served as a substrate for mosquito eggs. The filter paper stripe full of eggs was removed and dried at room temperature and then kept at 20<sup>0</sup>C in the period of the study. Eggs were collected and allowed to hatch in a filled water container (plastic bowl). This approach was meant to maintain larvae of the same age within a period of 2-4 days. There are four stages of *An. gambiae s.s*. Giles larvae development i.e. first instar, second instar, third instar and fourth instar. The larvae were fed with brewers yeast and dog biscuits (3:1) on water surface. Some of the third instar larvae were used to test with the extracts.

### 2.4 Experimental design

In this study experiments were set up as complete randomized design (CRD). They were in two main parts in which each part three experiments were performed totaling to six units of experiments as shown in figures 1(a) and 1(b) below:

**Part 1:** Effects of individual extracts on third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae s.s*. Giles.

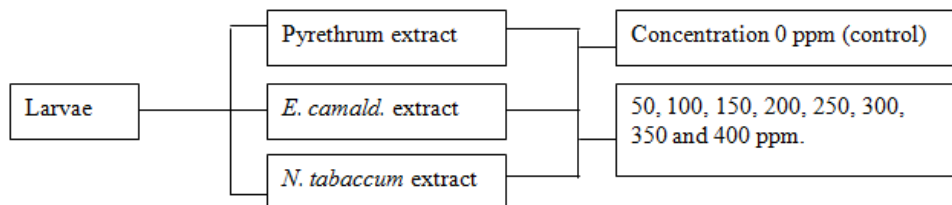


Fig 1(a) Experimental design of individual extracts

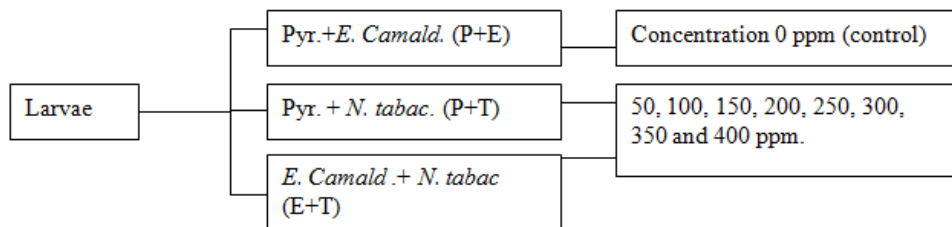


Figure 1(b): Experimental design of combination extracts

The third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles were exposed to broad ranges of test concentrations of each crude leaf extract to determine the activity range of each extract {Part 1 Fig 1(a)} and the larvae were also exposed to combination crude leaf extract oils {Part 1 Fig 1(b)}. Susceptibility tests were carried out using WHO insecticide susceptibility procedures (1981) (15). All experiments were performed under conducive laboratory conditions ( $27 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;  $75 \pm 5\text{RH}$  and 14:10 dark photo period).

## 2.5 Materials

### 2.5.1 *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles rearing

- Rats
- Earth – wave or plastic bowl (diameter 12 inches)
- Mosquito rearing cages (30x30x30cm) with nets
- Brewers yeast and dog biscuits (3:1)
- Sucrose solution (10%)
- Cotton cloth

### 2.5.2 Equipment

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a) Membrane filter 47 mm in diameter or (12x25cm) Whatman No. 1 | Buchi |
| b) Dry oven   | Buchi |
| c) Blender  | Pyrex |
| d) Rotary evaporator  | Pyrex |
| e) Vacuum pump  | Pyrex |
| f) Beakers (50,100, 250, 500 and 1000 ml)                       | Pyrex |
| g) Conical flask (100, 250, and 500 ml)                         | Pyrex |
| h) Pipettes (1, 5 and 10ml)                                     | Pyrex |
| i) Measuring cylinders (10, 50, 100, 250 and 500 ml)            | Pyrex |
| j) Petri dishes   | Pyrex |
| k) Test tubes (6in x ¾ in)                                      | Pyrex |
| l) Dropper  | Pyrex |
| m) Glass funnel   | Pyrex |
| n) Sprayer bottle   | Brand |

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Effects of the individual extract on the third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.

Under this procedure three experiments in the order of pyrethrum crude leaf extract effect on the larvae, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* crude leaf extract effect on the larvae and *Nicotiana tabaccum* crude leaf extract effect on the larvae were carried out (Table 1) as described below:

#### Experiment 1: The effect of pyrethrum crude leaf extract on the third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.

The effects of pyrethrum crude leaf extract on the mortality of *An. Gambiae* s.s. Giles were investigated. Twenty (20) ml of each concentration for each plant extract was put into 50 ml beakers and then 25 third instar larvae were dipped into the beakers. Mortality of the larvae was observed at the end of 24 hours exposure by counting the number of dead third instar larvae. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently. Calculation of the percentage of mortality of third instar larvae from three replications of each treatment determined lethal concentration ( $\text{LC}_{50}$ ).

#### Experiment 2: The effects of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* crude leaf extract on the mortality of third instar larvae of *An. Gambiae* s.s. Giles.

Twenty (20) ml of each concentration was put into 50 ml beakers followed by dipping into solution 25 third instar larvae. The effect of the concentrations upon the third instar larvae was observed at 24 hours exposure. The numbers of dead third instar larvae were counted. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently.

Percentage of mortality was calculated based on three replicates of each treatment in order to determine lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>).

**Experiment 3: The effects of *Nicotiana tabaccum* crude leaf extract on the mortality of third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.**

Twenty (20) ml of each concentration was put into 50ml beakers followed by dipping into solution 25 third instar larvae. Mortality was observed at 24 hours exposure by counting the number of dead third instar larvae. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently. Percentage of mortality of third instar larvae was calculated based on three replicates of each treatment, hence determined lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>).

**3.2 The efficacy of crude leaf extract combination on the mortality of the third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.**

Three experiments were performed in this procedure and a total of thirty (30) treatments were carried out in an equal basis P + E (10), P+ T (10) and E+T (10) see Table 2.

**3.2.1 Effects of combination extracts**

**Experiment 1: The effects of pyrethrum crude leaf extract in combination with *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* crude leaf extract (i.e P+E) on third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.**

The synergistic effect of crude leaf extract combination (P+E) on the mortality of third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles were investigated. In this experiment ten (10) treatments were performed using combination of various solvents ( see Table 2).

Twenty ml of pyrethrum crude leaf extract and 20ml of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (Ratio 1:1 v/v) of various solvent extract were put into 100 ml beakers and 25 third instar larvae were dipped into the test solutions in beakers. Mortality of third instar larvae was observed at 24 hours exposure by counting the number of dead third instar larvae. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently. Percentage of mortality was calculated from three replicates of each treatment and thus determined lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>). The synergistic factor (SF) was calculated for each extract combination using Kalyanasandaram and Babu formula (1982) (16) and Kalyanasandaram and Das (1985) (17).

$SF = \frac{LC_{50} \text{ value of the individual plant extract}}{LC_{50} \text{ value of the combined plant extracts}}$

A value more than one, confirms synergism, the greater the value, the higher the synergistic activity. An SF value less than one indicate antagonism.

**Experiment 2: The effects of pyrethrum crude leaf extract combined with *Nicotiana tabaccum* crude leaf extract (i.e. P+T) on *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles third instar larvae.**

The synergistic effect of the combined (pyrethrum and *Nicotiana tabaccum*) crude leaf extracts on the mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles were investigated. As in P+E in experiment 1 above 20 mls of pyrethrum and 20 mls of *Nicotiana tabaccum* ( ratio 1:1, v/v ) were put into 100 ml beakers and 25 third instar larvae were dipped into the solutions in beakers. Mortality of third instar larvae was recorded at 24 hour exposure by counting the number of dead third instar larvae. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently. Percentage of mortality was calculated from three replicates of each treatment and therefore determined lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>).

**Experiment 3: The synergistic effects of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* (i.e. E+T) crude leaf extracts on *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.**

The synergistic effects of crude leaf extracts combination (E+T ) on the mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles was investigated. As in the first and second experiments 20 mls of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* crude leaf extract and 20 mls of *Nicotiana tabaccum* crude leaf extracts ( ratio 1:1 v/v ) were put in 100 ml beakers and into them were dipped 25 third instar larvae. Mortality of the third instar was observed at 24 hours exposure by counting the number of dead larvae. Larvae were confirmed dead when they failed to move after probing them with a needle at their cervical region. Moribund larvae were those incapable of rising to the surface when the test solutions were disturbed gently. Percentage of morbidity was calculated from three replicates of each treatment and thus determined lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>).

**3.3 Statistical Analysis**

Mortality of insects was determined at the end of 24 hours exposure. The average larval mortality data were subjected to profit analysis for calculating LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> and other statistics at 95% fiducial limits of upper confidence limit (UCL) and lower confidence limit (LCL) and Chi- square values were calculated using the SPSS 20.0 (Statistical Package of Social Sciences) software. Percent mortality was corrected by using Abbott's formula (Abbott 1925) (18). Lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>) with their 95% confidence limits of the activities were determined using Log probit analysis test (Finney, 1971) (19).

#### 4. Results

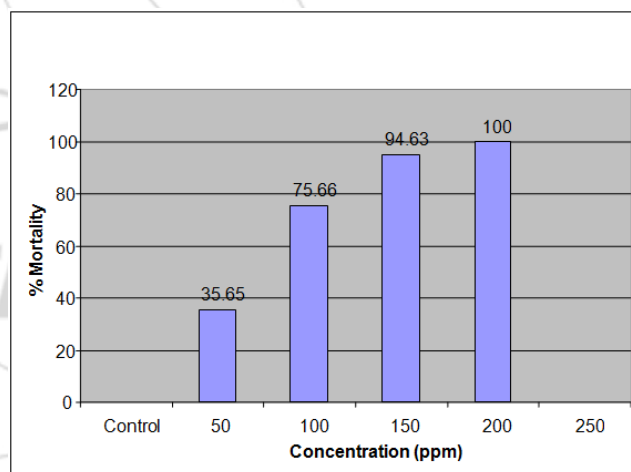
Table 1 shows the activities of individual crude leaf extract of pyrethrum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabaccum* applied as a 24 hour bioassay study at 50, 100,

200, 250, 300, 350 and 400 ppm against third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles. The result showed highest toxicity value of 164.86 ppm for DCM crude leaf

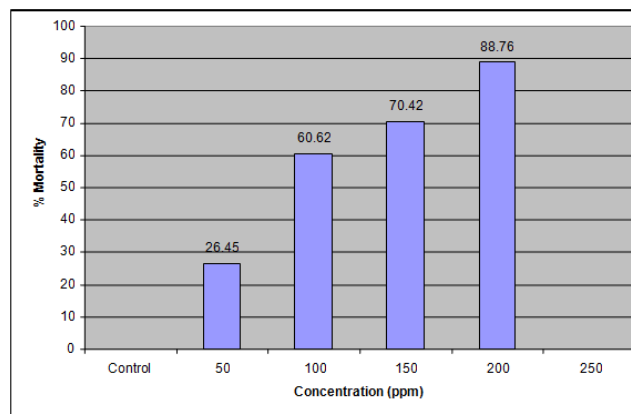
**Table 1: The effects of individual crude leaf extracts on the third instar larvae of *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.**

Name of plant	Extract solvent	LC <sub>50</sub> (ppm)	Fiducial limits		Regression equation	Chi-square value (x2)
			Upper	Lower		
Pyrethrum	Ethanol	187.78	179.78	196.53	0.7470+1.7758x	4.5217
	Methanol	222.45	209.85	238.71	0.4684+1.9089x	10.6452
	DCM	164.86	161.57	176.28	0.7336+1.7893x	14.2584
	Hexane	230.66	214.79	252.67	0.5566+1.9098x	19.5759
	Ethylacetate	227.56	219.77	269.96	0.4899+1.9078x	19.5759
	Aqueous	247.84	233.37	267.72	0.6758+1.2123x	18.6202
<i>Eucalyptus Camaldulensis</i>	Ethanol	210.15	193.88	232.07	0.7686+1.9694x	4.6621
	Methanol	197.46	189.61	208.69	0.4868+1.9227x	13.256
	DCM	168.65	152.44	176.95	0.6975+1.9567x	10.4532
	Hexane	198.56	181.66	220.45	0.7086+1.8685x	9.5033
	Ethylacetate	260.56	240.77	289.96	0.05886+1.7825x	14.0773
	Aqueous	259.58	239.87	288.87	0.05977+1.8365x	6.7556
<i>Nicotiana tabaccum</i>	Ethanol	189.58	181.50	298.42	0.7376+1.8898x	3.5463
	Methanol	224.35	211.73	240.86	0.4988+1.8985x	3.8642
	DCM	229.72	216.80	246.63	0.5878+1.9874x	15.5740
	Hexane	235.85	221.25	240.53	0.5663+1.9096x	4.6542
	Ethylacetate	201.52	191.00	213.84	0.6455+1.8990x	14.0773
	Aqueous	258.42	238.79	287.58	0.0608+2.1015x	6.4444

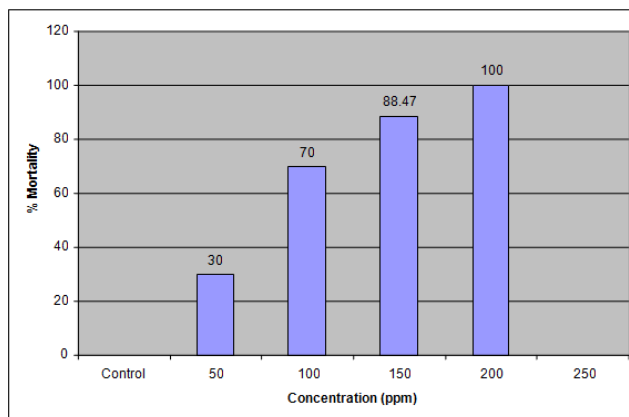
Extract of pyrethrum seconded by DCM crude leaf extract of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* at 168.65 ppm. Both of these extracts achieved 100% larval mortality. Ethanol crude leaf extract of pyrethrum showed high activity as well at 181.78 ppm causing a mortality of 92.5%. Two crude leaf extracts of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* showed the lowest activities that of aqueous solvent and ethyl acetate solvent at 259.58 ppm and 260.56 ppm respectively and causing larval mortality of 80.8% and 78.6% respectively. It was observed that the plant crude leaf extracts indicated dose – dependent mortality of the tested larvae. The LC<sub>50</sub> value with other associated values such as 95% fiducial limit, regression equation and Chi – square were given in table 1. Table 2 shows individual and combination extracts in order to calculate synergistic factor (SF). In this test it was observed that when the crude leaf extracts were combined in the ratio of 1: 1 (v/v) 15 pairs indicated synergistic activity, 10 pairs acted antagonistic and 2 pairs were neither synergistic nor antagonistic.



**Figure 1: Percent Larval mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles against DCM leaf extracts of Pyrethrum**



**Figure 2: Percent Larval mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles against DCM leaf extract of *Nicotiana tabaccum***



**Figure 3:** Percent Larval mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles against DCM leaf extracts of *E. camaldulensis*

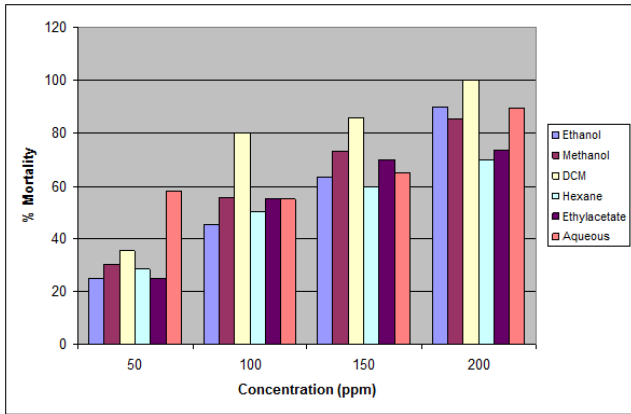
**Table 2:** The effect of crude leaf extract combination of the plants pyrethrum, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Nicotiana tabacum*

Plant	Ratio	Combination solvent extracts	Individual LC <sub>50</sub> ppm		Combination LC <sub>50</sub> ppm	SF		effect
Pyr. + <i>Eucalyptus</i>	1:1	Ethanol +Aqueous Methanol	187.78	210.15	152.85	1.2285	1.3749	S
		+Ethyl acetate	224.45	260.56	189.54	1.736	1.3747	S
		DCM + Hexane	164.86	168.65	127.85	1.2894	1.3191	S
Pyr + <i>N. tabacum</i>	1:1	Ethanol +Aqueous Methanol	187.78	189.58	146.64	1.2855	1.2928	S
		+Ethyl acetate	224.45	224.35	232.66	0.9561	0.9643	A
		DCM + Hexane	164.86	229.72	130.78	1.2606	1.7565	S
<i>E. camald.</i> + <i>N. tabacum</i>	1:1	Ethanol +Aqueous Methanol	210.15	258.42	242.80	0.8655	1.0643	SA
		+Ethyl acetate	197.46	201.52	219.45	0.8998	0.9182	A
		DCM + Hexane	168.65	235.85	135.55	1.2442	1.7399	S
Pyr. + <i>E. camald.</i>	1:1	Methanol + Aqueous	224.45	259.58	201.55	1.1136	1.2879	S
		DCM + Aqueous	164.86	259.58	151.75	1.0864	1.7106	S
		DCM +Methanol	164.86	197.46	118.65	1.3895	1.6642	S
		DCM +Ethyl acetate	164.86	260.56	121.45	1.3574	2.1454	S
		Methanol +Ethyl acetate	224.45	260.56	230.50	0.9651	1.1304	SA
		Methanol + Hexane	197.46	198.56	147.46	1.3391	1.3465	S
		Ethylacetate+ Hexane	227.56	198.56	236.65	0.9616	0.8390	A
Pyr + <i>N. tabacum</i>	1:1	DCM +Methanol	164.86	224.35	225.80	0.7301	0.9936	A
		DCM +Ethyl acetate	164.86	201.52	160.75	1.0256	1.2536	S
		Methanol + Aqueous	224.45	259.58	263.15	0.8453	0.9864	A
		DCM + Aqueous	164.86	259.58	155.80	1.0582	2.6164	S
		Methanol +Ethyl acetate	224.45	201.52	160.75	1.0256	1.2536	S
		Methanol + Hexane	224.45	235.85	231.65	0.9360	0.9924	A
		Ethylacetate+ Hexane	227.56	235.85	241.45	0.9425	0.9768	A
<i>E. camald.</i> + <i>N. tabacum</i>	1:1	DCM +Methanol	164.65	224.35	149.35	1.1292	1.5022	S
		DCM +Ethyl acetate	164.65	201.52	211.55	0.7972	0.9526	A
		DCM + Aqueous	164.86	259.58	158.43	1.0406	1.6385	S
		Methanol + Aqueous	222.45	259.58	264.65	0.8483	0.9808	A
		Methanol + Hexane	197.46	235.85	220.75	0.8945	1.0684	SA
		Ethylacetate+ Hexane	260.56	235.85	262.60	0.9922	0.8981	A

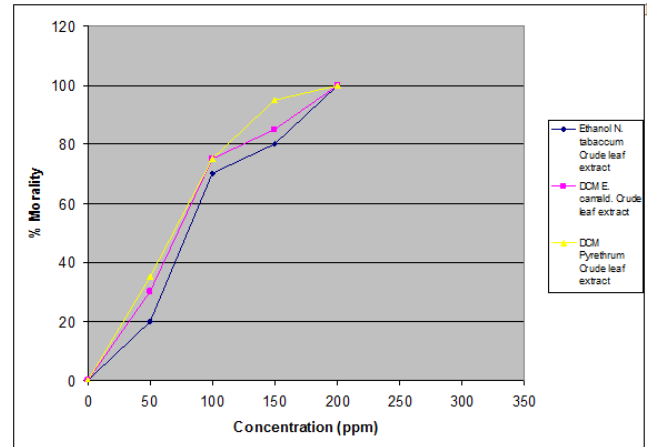
Key: S- Synergistic; A – Antagonistic; SA- neither Synergistic nor Antagonistic

Of the five highest synergistic activities to note are the following combinations in their order: pyrethrum DCM extract + *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* methanol extract; pyrethrum DCM extract + *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* ethyl acetate extract; pyrethrum DCM extract + *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* hexane extract; pyrethrum DCM extract + *Nicotiana tabacum* hexane extract and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* DCM extract + *Nicotiana tabacum* hexane extract. All these combinations yielded 100% larval mortality at the concentrations of 118.65, 121.45, 127.85, 130.78 and 135.55 ppm respectively. These were indeed reduced concentrations compared to those used as individual extracts. From table 1 individual extracts

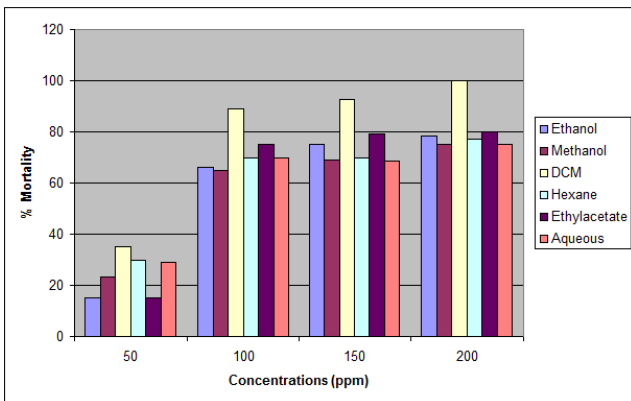
activities are high: pyrethrum DCM (164.86 ppm); *E. camaldulensis* methanol (197.46 ppm); *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* ethyl acetate (260.56 ppm); and *E. camaldulensis* – hexane (198.56 ppm); and *N. tabacum* hexane (235.85 ppm). This comparison raises the need for combination extracts as they prove to be economical. From the above highest synergistic activities it is observed that DCM extract of pyrethrum is a synergist (as it appears 5 times in the highest 5 activities shown above) and DCM extract of *E. Camaldulensis* is another synergist (as it appears once in the highest 5 activities shown above). Even in the lower activities DCM extract of all the plants is seen to be useful.



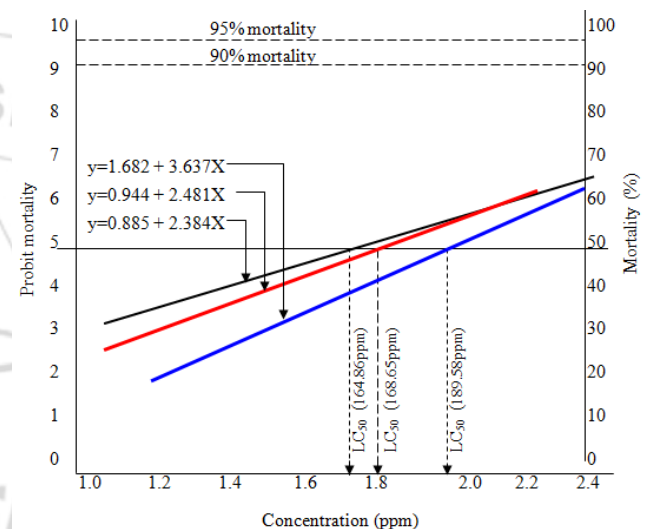
**Figure 4:** Pyrethrum crude leaf extracts against mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae s.s.* Giles using various concentrations.



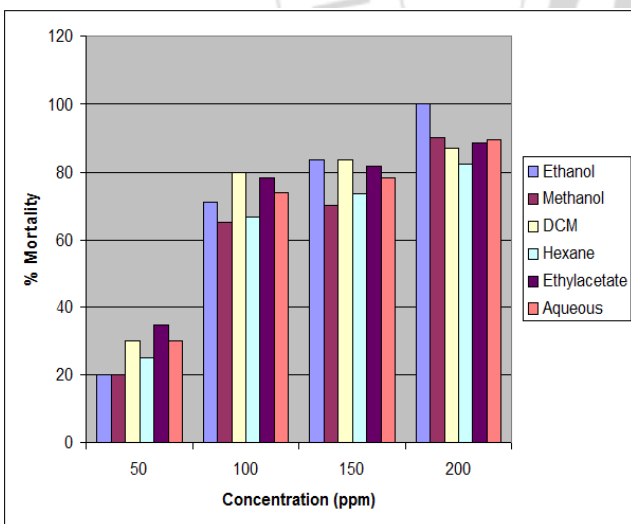
**Figure 7:** Percentage mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae s.s.* Giles against crude leaf extracts of Ethanol *N. tabacum*, DCM *E. camald.* and DCM pyrethrum



**Figure 5:** *E. camaldulensis* crude leaf extracts against mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae s.s.* Giles using various concentrations.



**Figure 8:** Regression lines (based on Probit analysis) of log concentration of leaf extracts of Pyrethrum ( $y=0.885 + 2.384X$ ), *E. camaldulensis* ( $y=0.944 + 2.481X$ ) and *N. tabacum* ( $y=1.682 + 3.637X$ ) v/s percent mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae s.s.* Giles.



**Figure 6:** *Nicotiana tabacum* crude leaf extracts against mortality of third instar larvae of *An. gambiae s.s.* Giles using various concentrations.

## 5. Discussion

The plants possessing biological activities indicate that they are important for consideration in the aspect of control strategies involved in vector control in terms of feasibility, cost effectiveness and easy availability of plant resources (Kumar et al., 2012) (20). Importantly, selection of solvent system for extraction from plants material has impact on resultant efficacy and previous reports on the toxicity evaluation against vector mosquitoes showed that petroleum ether was effective than other solvents from plant extraction (Yankamchi, 2009); (21) Sakthivadivel et al., 2012) (22). It is possible that the active components responsible for different bioactivities are extracted in greater measure only with certain specific solvents, and such specificity could be due to the polarity range of the solvents used for extraction. In this experiment DCM extract of pyrethrum and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* seemed to possess these qualities. The 24 hours bioassay is a major tool for evaluating the toxicity of Phytotoxins, and a number of researchers have been applying this method to

assess the toxic effect of different plant extracts on mosquitoes (Remia and Logaswamy, 2010; (23) Sakthivadivel et al., 2012; (24) Patil et al., 2014) (25).

In the acute toxicity of both tests (individual crude leaf extracts and combination) against third instar of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles larval mortality increased with increased concentrations of the extracts and similar trend was observed by several researchers in botanicals (Sakthivadivel et al., 2012; (26) Kumar et al., 2012; (27) Patil et al; 2014) (28) Observed was that on the exposure to high concentrations, the larval body retracted accompanied with a sluggish behavior (weak), loss of balance (equilibrium) and inability to come on water surface. No doubt the mortality of larvae subjected to the extracts was attributed to the presence of feeding inhibition and / or neurotoxic compounds in the extract agents have proved very effective in the control of various pests (Caraballo, 2000; (29) Seyoum et al., 2001) (30).

## 6. Conclusion

In this study the synergistic mixture of the three plants proved to be toxic to the third instar larvae of *An. gambiae* s.s. Giles. DCM crude leaf extract exhibited the highest activity and hence the search for an alternative effective biopesticide is inevitable. The present results clearly indicated that better alternative and an effective substitute in the form of a synergistic mixture of pyrethrum – *E. camaldulensis* (DCM – Methanol extract; pyrethrum - *E. Camadulensis* (DCM – Ethylacetate extract); pyrethrum – *N. tabaccum* (DCM – Hexane extract) respectively can be used in the control of malaria vector mosquito *Anopheles gambiae* s.s. Giles.

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