

# Fumigation Toxicity of Essential Oils from Five Species of *Eucalyptus* against Adult of *Sitophilus Oryzae* L. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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**Abstract** – Rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae* L. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is one of the major and cosmopolitan pests of stored products. This study was conducted to estimate the fumigant toxicity effect of essential oils from five species of *Eucalyptus* including *E. camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E. viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E.sargentii* against adults of this pest. Essential oils were prepared by hydro distillation methods using clevenger-type apparatus. Based on primary experiments, for each essential oil, five concentrations in five replications with controls were used. The adult mortality was recorded after 24, 48 and 72 h of treatment. Probit analysis was used to estimate LC<sub>50</sub> values by SAS 9.1. Based on the results, the mortality of 1-7 day old adults of the insect pest increased with increasing concentration and exposure time from 24 to 72 h. LC<sub>50</sub> values of essential oil of *E. camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E.viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* on adults of *S. oryzae* were found to be 17.49, 15.65, 14.73, 11.11 and 11.94  $\mu\text{l/l}_{\text{air}}$ , respectively. Results show that after 48 h of fumigation the highest and lowest toxicity was related to the *E. microtheca* (LC<sub>50</sub>= 11.11  $\mu\text{l/l}_{\text{air}}$ ) and *E. camaldulensis* (LC<sub>50</sub>=17.49  $\mu\text{l/l}_{\text{air}}$ ), respectively. It was found that essential oils extracted from *Eucalypts* species could be used as a safe pesticide or model for new synthetic pesticides to control storage pest.

**Keywords** – Essential Oil, *Eucalyptus*, Fumigant Toxicity, Natural Pesticide, *Sitophilus Oryzae*.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Major part of agricultural produce are not used immediately after harvesting but also are stored in warehouses for a gradual use in other seasons or to export or transfer to other areas. The substantial amount of stored product is lost by various biotic and abiotic factors [2]. Insect pests are the major problem in storage products throughout the world because they reduce the quantity and quality of stored products [24,32]. The rice weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, is one of the most widespread and destructive stored-product pests of rice throughout the world [9]. Although various methods were tested for controlling pests but fumigation with toxic gases is the oldest and most common method [3]. However, due to development of insect strains resistant to pesticides [7,40,41], toxic residues on stored grain for human consumption, acute and chronic toxicity for workers and adverse effects on the environment (e.g. ozone depletion caused by methyl bromide), alternative approaches in integrated pest management (IPM) have been considered [31]. Due to the damage of pests and harmful effects of

chemical pesticides, the use of natural compounds is the best method to control of pests [10,13,15,16,28]. Plant essential oils are secondary metabolites with volatile compounds and usually have a protective role in nature [4]. Compounds, of several plant species, have been tested in order to achieve safe and effective pesticides. Some of these compounds have repellency effect [17,19,25,27,34], ovicide [29,35,36], oviposition inhibition [35,37,38] and fumigant toxicity on storage pests [18,26,30].

The genus *Eucalyptus* includes many species which are widely distributed in different regions of Iran. Essential oil of *Eucalyptus* species has a variety of volatile compounds such as monoterpenoids and sesquiterpenoids that are active against storage pest [23,33]. Essential oil of *Eucalyptus* has been placed under GRAS (Generally Regarded as Safe) category by Food and Drug Authority of USA and classified as non-toxic (USEPA, 1993).

Among the various components of *Eucalyptus* oil, 1,8-cineole is the most important one and, in fact, a characteristic compound of the genus *Eucalyptus*, and is largely responsible for a variety of its pesticidal properties [11].

Fumigation toxicity of essential oil and extracts of various species of *Eucalyptus* on storage pest has been studied by several researchers [3,20,26,36]. The purpose of the present study was to investigate the fumigation toxicity of essential oils from five species of *Eucalyptus* against adults of *S. oryzae*.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### *Plant collection*

The fresh leaves of *Eucalyptus* species were collected from Malawi district, located in the southern portion of Lorestan province of Iran, from 15 May to 15 June 2012 from their natural habitats and were identified by taxonomic specialists. Collected leaves were shadow dried under good ventilation and woody stems were separated. Dried samples were kept in separate plastic bags inside a refrigerator until the time for oil extraction.

### *Essential oil extraction*

Dried leaves were first ground into powder. The essential oils were obtained by hydro distillation of 100 g of leaf powder and 1200 mL of distilled water using a Clevenger type apparatus for 2.5 hours at 100°C. The obtained essential oils were dried over sodium sulfate (Merck) and were kept in separate vials (volume 2 mL) with aluminum caps inside a refrigerator to be used later.

### Insects

Parent stocks of rice weevils were obtained from the entomological research laboratory at the Department of Entomology, faculty of Agriculture Mazandaran. They were reared on whole tarom variety rice in the dark at  $30\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $65\pm 5\%$  R.H. Adult insects, 1–7 days old, were used for fumigation test.

### Fumigant toxicity

The fumigant toxicity of essential oils was tested against 1-7 day-old adults of *S. oryzae*. Ten adults (male and female) of rice weevil were placed inside glass vials (volume 27 mL). Since, according to the trial experiment, fumigant toxicity of the studied essential oils significantly differed, distinct concentrations were used; 3.7, 6.55, 11.7, 20.81 and 37.07  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  of *E. camaldulensis*, *E. viminalis*, and *E. grandis*, 3.7, 6.22, 10.48, 17.62 and 29.62  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  of *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* were applied to separate filter papers (Whatman No. 1, diameter 1 cm). The filter papers were placed on the underside of the cap of the glass vials for homogeneous dispersion. This experiment was carried out in completely randomized design with five replicates incubated in the dark at  $30\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $65\pm 5\%$  R.H. In this experiment, crude essential oils were used in treatments and no compound was used in control. The number of dead insects was counted after 24, 48 and 72 hrs of treatment to determine end-point mortality. Insects were considered dead if couldn't move their appendages. The observed mortality data were corrected using Abbott's formula [1]. Data were transformed into  $\arcsin\sqrt{(x/100)}$  to reduce variance heterogeneity. Data were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan Comparison test to estimate statistical differences between means at  $\alpha = 0.01$ . The  $\text{LC}_{50}$  values of five essential oils were calculated by probit analysis [14]. using SAS 9.1 and POLO-PC programs.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present results showed that the oils of all the plants tested had toxicity against *S. oryzae*. Fumigation toxicity of essential oils extracted from five *Eucalyptus* species is listed in Table 1 and Figure 1. The *Eucalyptus* oil is a complex mixture of a variety of monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, and aromatic phenols, oxides, ethers, alcohols, esters, aldehydes and ketones; however, the exact composition and proportion of which varies with species [6].

The pesticidal activity of *Eucalyptus* oils has been due to the components such as 1,8-cineole, citronellal, citronellol, citronellyl acetate, p-cymene, eucamalol, limonene, linalool, a-pinene, g-terpinene, a-terpineol, alloocimene, and aromadendrene [5,8,11,21,22,23,33,39].

Significant difference was observed among the fumigant toxicity of the five *Eucalyptus* essential oils against rice weevil ( $P < 0.01$ ). Results indicated that susceptibility of adults of *S. oryzae* differed according to the tested oils and to the concentrations used. The obtained results, in congruence with numerous reports, indicated that

mortality increased with increase in concentration [12,17,26,37].

In general, lowest and highest fumigant activity for all essential oils was observed after the 24 and 72 hour exposure, respectively. At all times the most mortality was observed at the highest concentration of each essential oil (Fig. 1).

After 24 hrs of fumigation at a concentration 37.03  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$ , essential oil *E. Camaldulensis*, *E. grandis* and *E. viminalis* caused 48, 30 and 46% mortality of *S. oryzae*, respectively, While the essential oil of *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* at 29.62  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  caused 56 and 62% mortality of this pest, respectively (Fig. 1).

After 48 hrs of treatment the same concentrations of essential oils of *E. Camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E. viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* caused 80, 76, 72, 78 and 78% mortality of rice weevil. However after 72 hrs of fumigation the essential oils of *E. Camaldulensis*, *E. grandis* and *E. viminalis* at 37.03  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  oil concentration reached 90, 96 and 98% mortality of adults pest, respectively, the essential oils of *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* at 29.62  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  oil concentration reached 96 and 90% mortality of *S. oryzae*, respectively. (Fig. 1).

After 48 hours of treatment results revealed that essential oil of *E. microtheca* ( $\text{LC}_{50} = 11.11 \mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$ ) was more toxic to *S. oryzae* adults than *E. camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E. viminalis*, and *E. sargentii* ( $\text{LC}_{50}$ 's were 17.49, 15.65, 14.73 and 11.94  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  (Table 1).

Results reported by Negahban and Moharrampour (2007) revealed that *S. oryzae* is more sensitive to *E. intertexta* essential oil ( $\text{LC}_{50} = 6.93 \mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$ ) than essential oils of *E. Camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E. viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* studied here ( $\text{LC}_{50}$ 's were 17.49, 15.65, 14.73, 11.11 and 11.94  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$ ).

Lee *et al.*, 2004 [20] reported that  $\text{LC}_{50}$  value of *Eucalyptus* essential oil against *S. oryzae* was 19  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$  which indicated that it exhibited weaker fumigant toxicity in comparison with essential oil of *Eucalyptus* species studied here (Table 1).

Ebadollahi, 2011[12] reported that  $\text{LC}_{50}$  values of essential oils extracted from *Foeniculum vulgare* and *Satureja hortensis* against rice weevils were 37.52 and 42.99  $\mu\text{L}/\text{L}_{\text{air}}$ , respectively, indicating that their fumigant toxicity is weaker than that of the five essential oils studied here (Table 1).

*Eucalyptus* species used as medicinal plants are considered to be less harmful than most conventional insecticides. Apart from a natural origin, the essential oils of *Eucalyptus* species, like most of plant essential oils, can pose fewer or lesser risks to human health and the environment. However further research is needed in order to evaluate the effectiveness of *Eucalyptus* species essential oils, explore their mode of action and establish their utility as natural insecticidal agents.

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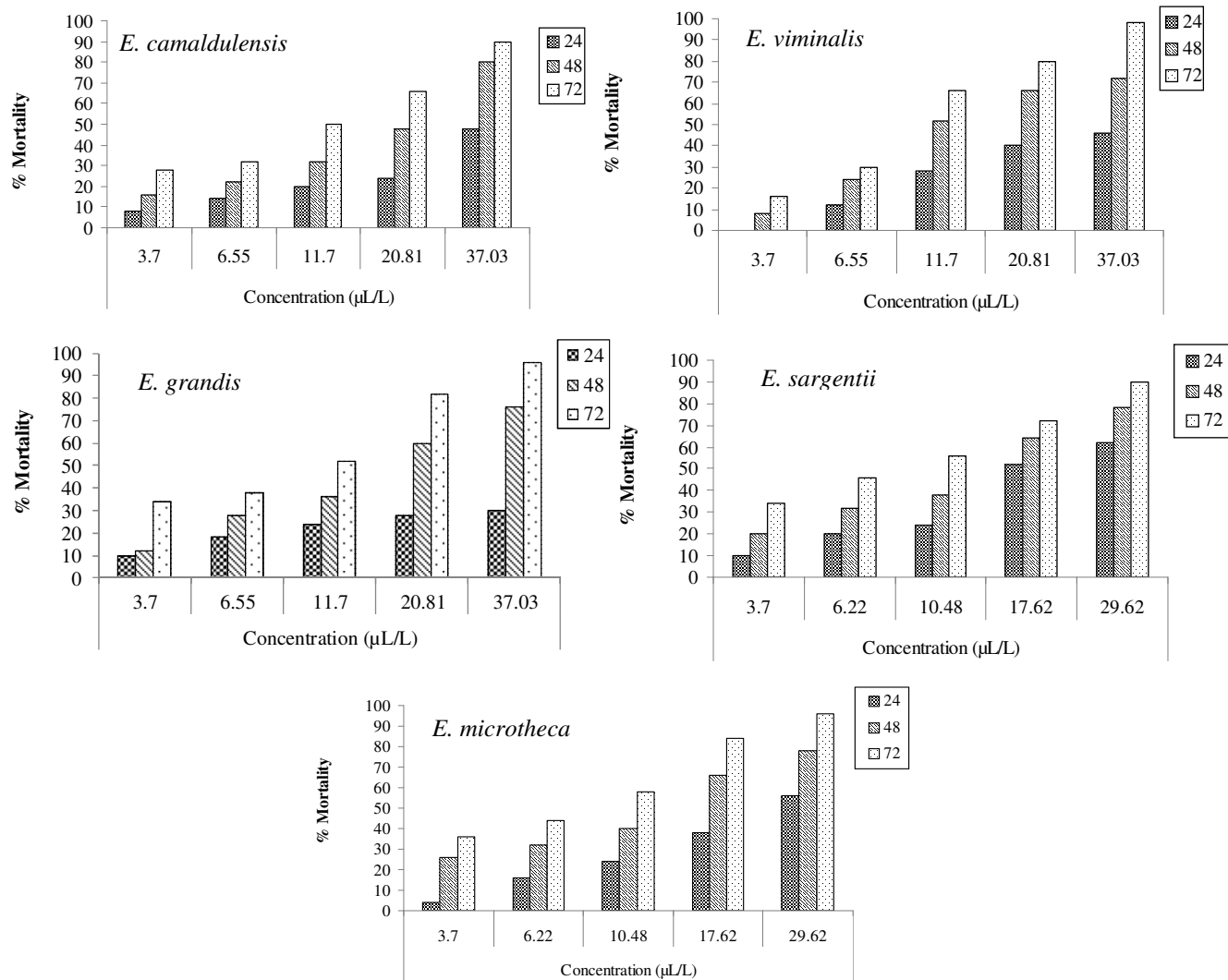


Fig.1. Percent mortality of *S.oryzae* adults after treatment of essential oil of *E. camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E. viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E.sargentii* according to doses exposure and treatment times

Table 1: Estimated LC50 of essential oils extracted from *E. Camaldulensis*, *E. grandis*, *E.viminalis*, *E. microtheca* and *E. sargentii* against *S.oryzae* adults

Essential oil	Number of insects ( <i>S.oryzae</i> )	X2 (df=3)	Slope±SE	LC50 (µL/L)	Confidence Limit	
					Lower	Upper
<i>E. camaldulensis</i>	250	4.4608	1.7695±0.2569	17.49	14.02	23.06
<i>E. viminalis</i>	250	4.2975	1.9648±0.2624	14.73	12.04	18.41
<i>E. grandis</i>	250	0.8792	1.8309±0.2580	15.65	12.66	20.03
<i>E. sargentii</i>	250	1.6597	1.8007±0.2751	11.94	9.65	15.10
<i>E. microtheca</i>	250	2.3706	1.6479±0.2697	11.11	8.78	14.24