



FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF HERBAL MOSQUITO REPELLENT CREAM

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Abstract

The medicinal plants include a variety of biologically active components that aid in the prevention and treatment of a wide range of diseases. The essential oils have great fragrance and repellent activity. Mosquitoes bite can cause discomfort and transmit the vector diseases such as dengue fever or malaria that affected mankind. Mosquitoes are attracted human blood contains albumin to expand its balls and bite one human into another humans, thus transmitting the vector-borne disease to humans. This research is focused on the formulation and evaluation of herbal mosquito repellent composite to repelle mosquito from biting to human being. Topical mosquito repellent cream was formulated with varying concentrations of extracted essential oil. Formulated cream was evaluated for different parameters like pH, Spreadability, Washability, Mosquito repellent activity etc. The F3 formulation has good evaluation metrics and is effective against mosquitoes. The oil extracts in F3 formulations may have potential of mosquito repellent and it can be made into commercially available essence stick, gel formulation.

Keywords: Eucalyptus, Azadirachta indica, Marigold, Extracts, Cream, Mosquito repellent.

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1. Introduction

There are about 3500 different species of mosquito, and they're set up in tropical and tropical areas. Anopheles (filariasis, malaria), Culex (Japanese encephalitis, West Nile, chikungunya), and Aedes (chikungunya, dengue fever, and unheroic fever) are the main rubrics of mosquitoes that serve as vectors for multitudinous conditions¹. Mosquitoes suck during day or night. They live outdoors and outside and begin to search for warm places as temperatures drop. The season for the mosquitoes generally starts in summer and continues till fall. Suck(s) from a mosquito can be further than just annoying or itchy. It can make one sick and in rare cases can beget death². In actuality, mosquito repellent does not kill mosquitoes. Repellents serve by making individualities less charming to mosquitoes, which reduces their liability of smelling people. When used duly, natural oil painting- grounded mosquito repellents are safe for grown-ups and children over the age of two months, according to the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA). There are multitudinous repellents on the request moment that effectively shield off mosquitoes but are bad for your health since they contain the poisonous chemical DEET³.

Eucalyptus - Eucalyptus (Family-Myrtaceae), native to Australia, represented by about 700 species, is a genus of tall and beautiful evergreen trees grown worldwide for oil, rubber, pulp, timber, medicine and aesthetic value. The pesticidal effect of eucalyptus oils is based on components such as 1,8-cineole, citronellal, citronellol, citronellyl acetate, p-cymene, eucamalol, limonene, linalool, alpha-pinene, g-terpinene, alpha-terpineol, allocimene and aromatenderne⁴.

Azadirachta indica- According to research, neem's most significant usage worldwide is as a pesticide. Numerous aromatic chemicals found in neem can be utilised to deter insects from attacking both humans and animals. Anopheles

culicifacies mosquitoes were up to 98.03% protected against by neem oil and coconut oil mixture. Additionally, neem oil offered greater than 75% protection against *A. fluviatilis*, *Aedestaeniorhynchoides*, and *Mansonia uniformis*⁵.

Tagetes (Marigold) - It has a distinct odour that numerous insects find repulsive. The "a-terthienyl" chemical is to condemn for the odour. It gives marigold a erected- in insecticidal property. also, it contains pyrethrin, a natural substance that works well to repel mosquitoes. Marigold is known to repulse nematodes as well as some common nonentity pests. As a result, marigolds are constantly planted with tomatoes, chilli, and potatoes. Pyrethrin, a constituent in multitudinous insect repellents, can be set up in flowers⁶.

2. Material And Methods

2.1 Material

Leaves and other plant parts required were collected directly from the local market of Pandharpur, Maharastra and authenticated from botanical department of K.B.P. college, Pandharpur. All other chemicals were collected from Signet chemicals Pvt Ltd, Loba chemicals Pvt Ltd.

2.2 Preparation of Extraction

Air-dried leaves, flowers were ground just prior to extraction. The Ground leaves were placed in distilled water in a round bottom flask on a heater to prevent the plant components from overheating or being charred by direct steam⁷. One hundred grams (100 g) of plant material was mixed with 800 ml of distilled water distillation process was performed for 3 h, and the obtained essential oil was collected⁸. Extracted essential oil was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate (Na_2SO_4) to remove all the water and then stored it in dark-sealed-vial at 4°C for further tests⁷.

2.3 Formulation of mosquito repellent cream

Table 1. Formulation concentration of repellent cream

Ingredient	F1	F2	F3
Eucalyptus oil	1.5%	3.5%	5.5%
Neem Oil	2%	4%	6%
Marigold	1.5%	3.5%	5.5%
Camphor	0.5gm	1gm	1.5gm
Cetyl alcohol	2 %	2 %	2 %
Lanolin	1%	1%	1%
Mineral oil	2 %	2 %	2 %
Stearic acid	15%	15%	15%
Glycerine	10%	10%	10%
Pot. Hydroxide	1%	1%	1%
Preservative	Q.S.	Q.S.	Q.S.
Water	Q.S.	Q.S.	Q.S.

2.4 Procedure

Lanolin, stearic acid, cetyl alcohol, mineral oil, propyl paraben, in oil phase etc. were combined with glycerine, potassium hydroxide, etc. in the water phase to create the oil in water type cream. Heat was applied to the aqueous and oil phases till

75°C. After heating, the oil phase was gradually added to the aqueous phase while being continuously stirred to create a homogeneous cream. Essential oils were added after complete emulsification when the temperature dropped to 55°C to 60°C⁹.



Fig 1. Formulated cream

2.5 Evaluation

2.5.1 Evaluation of extracted oil

Fourier Transform Infra-red Spectroscopy (F.T.I.R)

FT-IR spectrophotometer (JASCO FTIR-410) was used to perform Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy Of oil samples. The spectra were scanned with a resolution of 4 cm⁻¹ spanning the wavelength range of 4000 to 400 cm⁻¹. The process involved distributing a sample of KBr and compressing it into a disc using a hydraulic press at a pressure of 5 tonnes for 5 minutes. The spectrum was acquired after the oil was exposed to the light⁹.

2.5.2 Evaluation of herbal mosquito repellent Cream

2.5.2.1 Organoleptic Characteristics

Colour, texture, physical appearance of cream was evaluated¹⁰.

2.5.2.2 pH

The pH of various formulations was determined by using digital pH meter. About 1 g of the cream was weighed and dissolved in 100 ml of distilled water and stored for two hours. The measurement of pH of each formulation was done in triplicate and average values were calculated¹¹.

2.5.2.3 Spreadability

The Spreadability was measured in terms of how long it took two slides operating under a specific load to separate from the cream positioned in

between the slides. Better spreadability results from faster separation of the two slides. Glass slides with uniform dimensions were selected from two sets. On one of the slides, the herbal cream mixture was applied. The cream was sandwiched between the two slides after the other slide was placed on top of the formulation. Weight was applied to the upper slides to evenly press the cream between them, forming a thin coating. The excess formulation that was sticking to the slides was scraped off once the weight was removed. Due to the weight that was attached to it, the upper slide allowed for unrestricted slipping off. It was noted how long the upper slide took.

$$\text{Spreadability} = m \times l / t$$

Where,

m=Weight tied to upper slide (30gm)

l = (5 cm) length of glass slide

t = amount of time in seconds¹².

2.5.2.4 Washability

A small amount of cream was applied on the hand and it is then washed with tap water¹³.

2.5.2.5 Extrudability

In this technique, the standard-capped collapsible aluminium tube was filled with the herbal cream formulation and the end was crimped shut to seal it. The mass of the tube was captured. The tube was clamped after being positioned between two glass slides. The slides were covered with a 500 g weight, and the cap was taken off. The extruded cream's volume was gathered and weighed¹⁴.

2.5.2.6 Irritancy test

Test area was marked about (1sq.cm) on the left hand dorsal surface. The cream was applied to the specified area and time was noted. Irritancy, erythema, edema, was checked if any for regular intervals up to 24 hrs and reported¹⁵.

2.5.2.7 Viscosity

For rheological tests, a Brookfield Viscometer (Model RVT) with helipath stand was employed. The sample (50 g) was put in a beaker and given 5 minutes to acclimatise before the dial reading was measured using a T-D spindle at 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, and 100 rpm. The dial reading on the viscometer was recorded for each speed. The dial reading that corresponded to each decrease in

spindle speed was recorded. At room temperature, the measurements were made in triplicate. The viscosity in centipoises was obtained by directly multiplying the dial readings by the coefficients listed in the Brookfield viscometer catalogue. A three-triplicate average was calculated¹⁶.

2.5.2.8 Evaluation of mosquito repellent activity

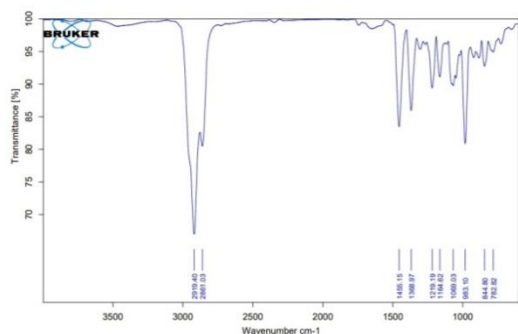
Method employs a glass-frame cage with a wooden bottom, screened top and back, clear acrylic sides (for viewing), and a front for access. Mosquitoes are placed in the cage before the test. The treated hand is inserted into the cage (a glove is used to protect the hand from mosquito bites.) and the number of mosquitoes repels is observed for 10 min and recorded⁹.



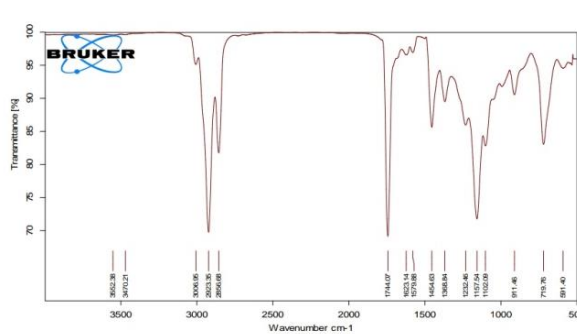
Fig 2. Evaluation of mosquito repellent activity

3. Results

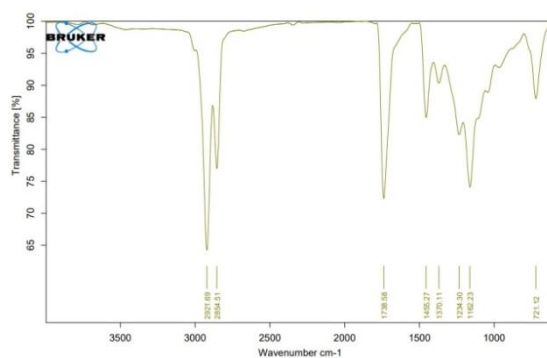
3.1 Results of extracted oils



(a)



(b)



(c)

Fig 3. (a) FT-IR spectrum of Eucalyptus oil. (b) FT-IR spectrum of Marigold oil. (c) FT-IR spectrum of Azadirachta indica oil

3.1.1 Eucalyptus oil: IR spectrum of Eucalyptus oil shows characteristic peaks at 1164.62, 2919.40, 2861.03, 1455.15, 782.2, 844.80

Table 2. FT-IR results of Eucalyptus oil

Sr no.	Bond	Functional group	Frequency
1	C-O-C stretch	Ether	1164.62
2	-C-H aliphatic stretching	Alkyl group	2919.40, 2681.03
3	-C-H bend	Alkyl Group	1455.15
4	Ring substitution	Para, meta disubstituted ring	782.2, 844.80

3.1.2 Marigold oil: IR spectrum of Marigold oil shows characteristic peaks at 1744.07, 1102.09, 3006.95, 2923.35, 1454.63, 719.76, 3552.38, 1623.14

Table 3. FT-IR results of Marigold oil

Sr.no	Bond	Functional group	Frequency
1	-C=O	Ketone	1744.07
2	C-O-C stretch	Ether	1102.0
3	-C-H aliphatic stretching	Alkyl Group	3006.95, 2923.35
4	-C-H bend	Alkyl Group	1454.63
5	Ring substitution	Monosubstituted ring	719.76
6	-OH stretching	Alcohol	3552.38
7	C=C stretch	Aromatic ring conjugated double bond	1623.14

3.1.3 Azadirachta indica oil: IR spectrum of Azadirachta indica oil shows characteristic peaks at 1738.58, 1162.23, 2921.69, 1455.27, 721.12

Table 4. FT-IR results of Azadirachta indica oil

Sr.no	Bond	Functional group	Frequency
1	-C=O	Ketone	1738.58
2	C-O-C stretch	Ether	1162.23
3	-C-H aliphatic stretching	Alkyl Group	2921.09
4	-C-H bend	Alkyl Group	1455.27
5	Ring substitution	Monosubstituted ring	721.12

3.2 Evaluation of Formulated Cream

Table 5. Evaluation of Cream

Sr No.	Evaluation	F1	F2	F3
1	Physical Appearance	Opaque	Opaque	Opaque
2	Color	Pale yellow	Pale yellow	Pale yellow
3	Texture	Smooth	Smooth	Smooth
4	Homogeneity	Homogeneous	Homogeneous	Homogeneous
5	Immediate Skin Feels	Moisturizing, no grittiness, light	Moisturizing, no grittiness, light	Moisturizing, no grittiness, light
6	pH	6.12	6.10	6.15
7	Spreadability g.cm/s	13.63	16.6	18.75
8	Washability	Easily Washable	Easily Washable	Easily Washable
9	Extrudability (%)	70	73.6	78.8
10	Viscosity at 10 rpm (CPS)	2845	3290	3315

3.2.1 Organoleptic Characteristics

The organoleptic characteristics like appearance, colour, texture etc was evaluated and results are as per Table 5

3.2.2 pH

pH of all the formulations were found to be between 6.10 to 6.15 that is within the range, which are presented in the Table 5. Although alkaline, this pH is typical of creams acceptable by the all standards

3.2.3 Spreadability

The spreadability of all formulations was found between 13.63 to 18.75 g.cm/s and it was observed that formulation F3 has greater spreadability value as compared to other formulations.

3.2.4 Washability

The washability of all formulations was determined. All formulations are easily washable.

3.2.8 Mosquito repellent activity

Table 6. Mosquito repellent activity

Formulation no.	Parameter	Control	Test 1	Test 2
F1	Number of Mosquitoes	10	10	10
	Number of mosquitos respells	0	04	05
	Repellent activity	No	Yes	Yes
	Observation Time (min)	10	10	10
	Temperature ⁰ C	28	28	28
F2	Number of mosquitoes	10	10	10
	Number of mosquitos respells	0	05	07
	Repellent activity	No	Yes	Yes
	Observation Time (min)	10	10	10
	Temperature ⁰ C	28	28	28

F3	Number of Mosquitoes	10	10	10
	Number of mosquitos respells	0	08	09
	Repellent activity	No	Yes	Yes
	observation Time (min)	10	10	10
	Temperature ⁰ C	28	28	28

4. Conclusion

Although the history of DEET and other well-known repellents like dimethyl phthalate is established, it is true that the blend of various essential oils affects repellent effectiveness. According to the current study, natural, non-DEET formulations can be employed as insect repellents. The results are positive and promising. The formulation F3 demonstrated highest repellent activity. Finally, it was determined that oil extracts have the potential to be a mosquito repellent and can be made into a commercial product such as an essence stick, a lotion that repels insects, etc

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