

Lippia spp. essential oil as a control agent against *Acanthoscelides obtectus*, an insect pest in *Phaseolus* *vulgaris* beans

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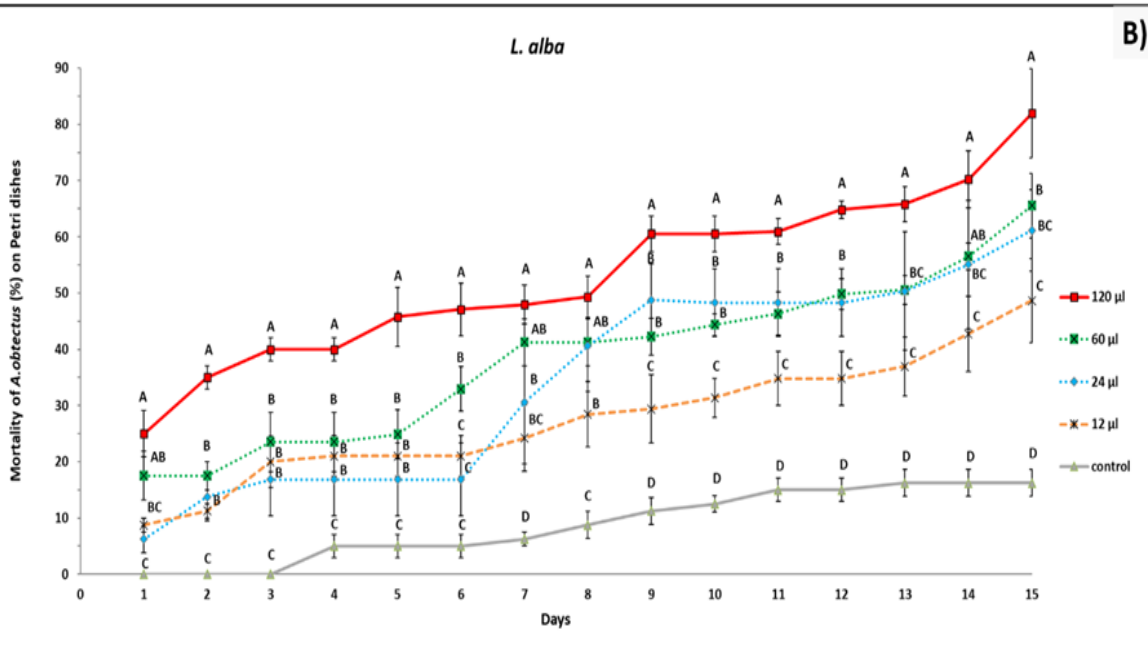
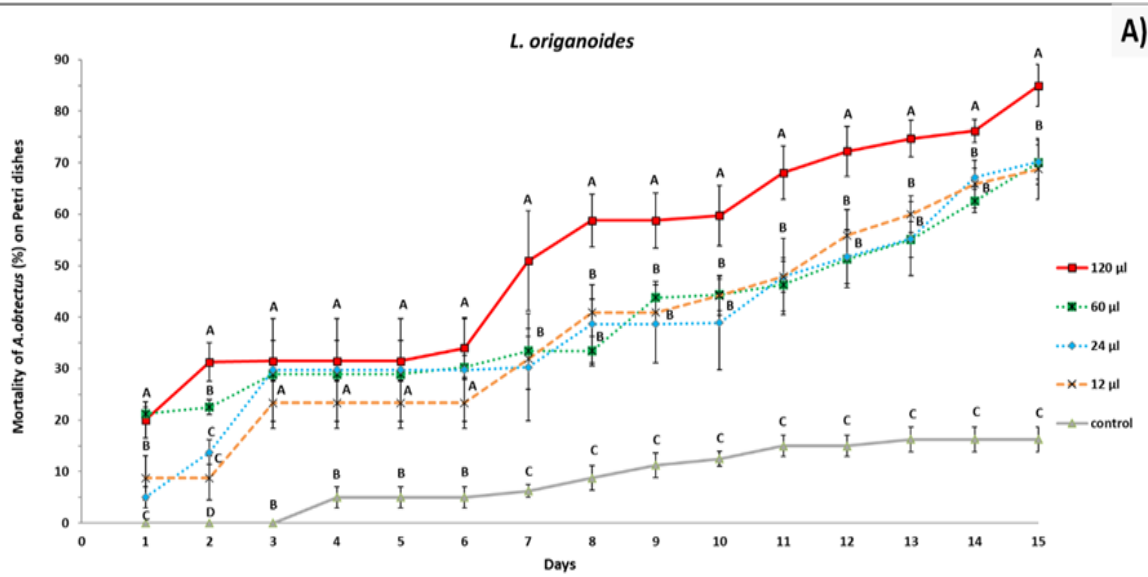
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Abstract: *Acanthoscelides obtectus* Say (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Bruchinae), known as the bean weevil, causes severe post-harvest losses in common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.). The control of this insect pest is still poor and involves the use of conventional insecticides. Besides, there is an increasing demand in the search for new active substances and natural plant products for pest control towards the reduction of adverse effects on human health and the environment. Four doses (12, 24, 60 and 120 μ L) of *Lippia organoides* and *Lippia alba* essential oils were evaluated on Petri dishes against *A. obtectus* insects during 15 days. *L. organoides* and *L. alba* oils exhibited similar patterns of insecticidal activity over the insect. *L. organoides* and *L. alba* accumulated an insect mortality of 85.00 and 81.94% at dose 120 μ L. However, all the lower doses applied of each oil produced significantly higher effects than the control treatment, with an accumulated mortality of 16.25%. The results prove the insecticidal capacity of the essential oils of *Lippia* spp. genus and hence their potential as active substances against *A. obtectus* in environmentally low-risk pest control strategies. Supplementary trials should be conducted under real storage conditions.

Keywords: Essential oils; stored bean pest; *Lippia alba*; *Lippia organoides*; Insecticidal activity

Results and Discussion

- *L. origanoides* and *L. alba* essential oils exhibited similar patterns of insecticidal activity over the insect.
- *L. origanoides* and *L. alba* accumulated an insect mortality of 85.00 and 81.94%, respectively, significantly greater than the lower applied doses of each essential oil.
- All the lower doses applied of each oil were significantly greater than the control treatment, with an accumulated mortality of 16.25%.



Conclusions

- *L. origanoides* and *L. alba* accumulated an insect mortality of 85.00 and 81.94%, respectively.
- All the lower doses applied of each oil were significantly greater than the control treatment, with an accumulated mortality of 16.25%.
- These essential oils affected the survival of *A. obtectus* since the greatest doses applied on insects decreased the life of the bean weevil.
- The results prove the insecticidal capacity of essential oils of *Lippia* spp. genus and hence their potential as active substances against *A. obtectus* in environmentally low risk pest control strategies.
- Supplementary trials should be conducted under real storage conditions.

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