



## APPLICATION OF PLANT EXTRACTS FOR PEST MANAGEMENT IN TEA: A STUDY ON TEA LEAF'S THRIPS, *SCIRTOTHRIPS BISPINOSUS*

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### Abstract

Medicinal plant extract contains bioactive molecules and these molecules are benefited to mitigate, eradicate or cure diseases. In advent to search for new medicinally important plant, the current paper deals to select the most effective and promising plants which are suitable for controlling tea leaf's thrips (*Scirtothrips bispinosus*) based on extracts concentration and death affect over time. To fulfill the specific objectives, five medicinal plants extracts viz. *Ipomoea crassicaulis*, *Lantana camara*, *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Glycosmis arborea*, and *Justicia gendarussa* had been used with four different concentrations. From statistical analysis using One-way ANOVA and post hoc test, it was found that *Ipomoea crassicaulis* and *Lantana camara* are the most promising of all the experimented plants extracts based on both time and concentration. In the study, average mortality was found 0.47, 1.67, 1.93 and 2.53 for concentration of 1%, 5%, 10% and 15% respectively. Analysis based on different concentrations reveals that average mortality of thrips increases significantly with the increase of concentrations. Coefficient of variance was found minimum for *Ipomoea crassicaulis* and *Lantana camara* plants with range of 5.44 to 6.71 based on time and concentration. So, it could be concluded that these two plants are the most effective plants for controlling the tea thrips. For the other plants, ranks were found as *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa* respectively as well.

**Key words:** Extracts, Mortality, Plant, Post hoc test, Thrips

### Introduction

Tea is one of the most consumed non-alcoholic as well as medicinal beverages in the world. At present, more than 58 countries around the world produce tea, while Bangladesh is now ranked 10<sup>th</sup> position amongst the tea growing countries. Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) reported that in 2017 production was 78.95 million kg while export was only 2.56 million kg (m kg). Total internal consumption of tea product has been increased more than two times from 2001 to 2019 (from 36.96 m kg in 2001 to 85.93 m kg in 2019) in Bangladesh but production rate is not up-to the mark as compared to facility of technology. Tea plants are subjected to the attack of insects, mites and nematode pests (Paul et al. 2017). All parts of the plant (leaf, stem, root, flower and seed) are fed upon by at least one pest species. About 15% of tea production could be lost per year by various pests particularly insects, mites and nematodes if adequate control measures are not taken (Mamun et al. 2016). Moreover, production losses to extent of 50% or more might be inflicted by the advent of an epidemic or outbreak of specific pests in a particular season or tea estate. Globally, 1031

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species of arthropods are associated with tea monoculture (Hazarika et al. 2009) and the tea plant is subjected to attack by at least 250 insect species and 380 fungal pathogens. So far, 25 insect, four mites and 10 nematode species of tea related species had been recorded in Bangladesh (Sana 1989, Ahmed 2005). Due to climate change, pest infestation is increasing as well as pest status is changing (Noori et al. 2016). Besides, deforestation is resulting in the migration of forest pest to tea ecosystem (Antony et al. 2012). Natural bio-control agents play an important role to regulate the pest population in tea ecosystem. Existence of more than one hundred species of indigenous natural bio-control agents of tea pests including predators, parasites, parasitoids were recorded from the tea ecosystem (Borthakur et al. 2010).

The increasing awareness of negative effects of synthetic pesticide on human and animal health and the agro-ecosystem, research efforts on alternative and more environmentally friendly methods of controlling pests and diseases have proliferated (Zhou et al. 2019, Hagstrum and Athanassiou 2019). Usage of extract from plants containing natural anti-pest compounds for pest control is considered to be one of the desirable methods for plant protection in agriculture (Kim et al. 2003). In recent past, several plant species had been screened for anti-pest activity and extracts/purified compounds from these plants were found to have a broad spectrum of anti-pest activity (Grayer and Harborne 1994). Different types of microbial agent are being capable to protect leaf and stem damages of tea such as *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Bacillus subtilis* and *pseudomonas fluorescense*. Several higher plants and their constituents have shown success in pest and disease control (Ashrafuzzaman et al. 2011) and proved to be harmless and non-phytotoxic unlike chemical pesticides. Considering the above evidences, the present study was undertaken an in-vitro approach for finding out the suitable plants through application of plants extracts against *Scirtothrips bispinosus* (tea leaf's thrips) which could be effective to control the impact of the thrips naturally. The output of the study could be helpful to provide information regarding plant-insect interaction and to predict suitable techniques for controlling pests.

## Materials and Methods

### *Study area*

In this study, the basic element was tea leaves which were infected by thrips insects. These infected leaves were collected from three different tea gardens viz. Habibnagar Tea Estate, Khan Tea Garden (Sylhet district) and Baraooora Tea Estate (Moulvibazar district) located in the North-East of Bangladesh. Climate of this region is considered to be sub-tropical monsoon with three distinct seasons: pre-monsoon season (February to April), monsoon season (May to August) and winter season (September to October). This region experiences dry weather condition from November to April while the rainy season continues from May to October. Above 80% of annual rainfall is obtained during June to September. It was observed that about 1400 mm of annual rainfall is a critical limit and the monthly mean temperature is between 18.33°C to 29.44°C seem unfavorable for tea production in Bangladesh (Ahmed 2005, Sana 1989). Soil is highly weathered and extremely acidic with low fertility in this region.

### **Sample collection**

The thrips affected tea leaves were collected from three different sampling area which was named as *replication*. At the same time, five types of plants extracts had been used in four different concentrations: 1%, 5%, 10% and 15%. The plants were collected randomly from different places of Bangladesh. So, the total 60 samples (thrips affected leaves) were used in this study.

### **Data recording and statistical analysis**

The laboratory work was carried out at Department of Forestry and Tea Technology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh from February, 2019 to April, 2019. The plant's leaves were used to get the essence of tree using 50% alcohol and used it on the tea leaves in different concentrations. Using *in vitro* method, 5ml essence of trees was used for each sample. Data analysis was carried out using analysis of variance (ANOVA). One-way ANOVA test is a widely used parametric test that is used to determine whether three or more groups have the same means. This test relies on the assumption that mortality of thrips have normal distribution and that the variances for all the groups are similar assumption had been satisfied. From the one-way ANOVA test, it was found that p-value has significant difference on mean time limit in hour to death affect for both plants and solution. Post hoc tests were applied to find out the significantly different pairs.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Mortality of Thrips**

From results, it was found that mortality of thrips was different from plants to plants, concentration to concentration and time to time. In this study, five plants extracts had been used for the experimental work on thrips affected tea. The plants were *Ipomoea crassicaulis*, *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Lantana camara*, *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa*. Fig. 2a illustrates average mortality of thrips within 24 hours depending on different plants extracts. The analysis revealed that *Ipomoea crassicaulis* had the maximum death effect (2.67). *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa* had lower than overall average mortality rate (1.90) which ranges from 1.67 to 1.83 (Fig. 2a).

Analysis based on different concentrations revealed that average mortality of thrips increased significantly with increase of concentrations (Fig. 2b). In this study, four different concentrations of plants extract (1%, 5%, 10% and 15%) had been used to quantify the death affect against tea thrips. The coefficient of determination value (R-squared) explains that regression line fits well and any prediction or estimation made by the regression line may be accepted. Hence, average mortality of thrips also might be increased for 20% concentration of plants extracts. The study found that there had a differential result based on time effect on the mortality of thrips (Fig. 2c). A fact was that none of the five plants had any impact on the mortality of thrips within 6 hours. But maximum mortality rate of thrips was found within six to twelve hours. The study also revealed that the plants extracts were able to impact on mortality of thrips within 18 hours as average mortality rate decreased for the next six hours (from 18 to 24 hours) significantly.

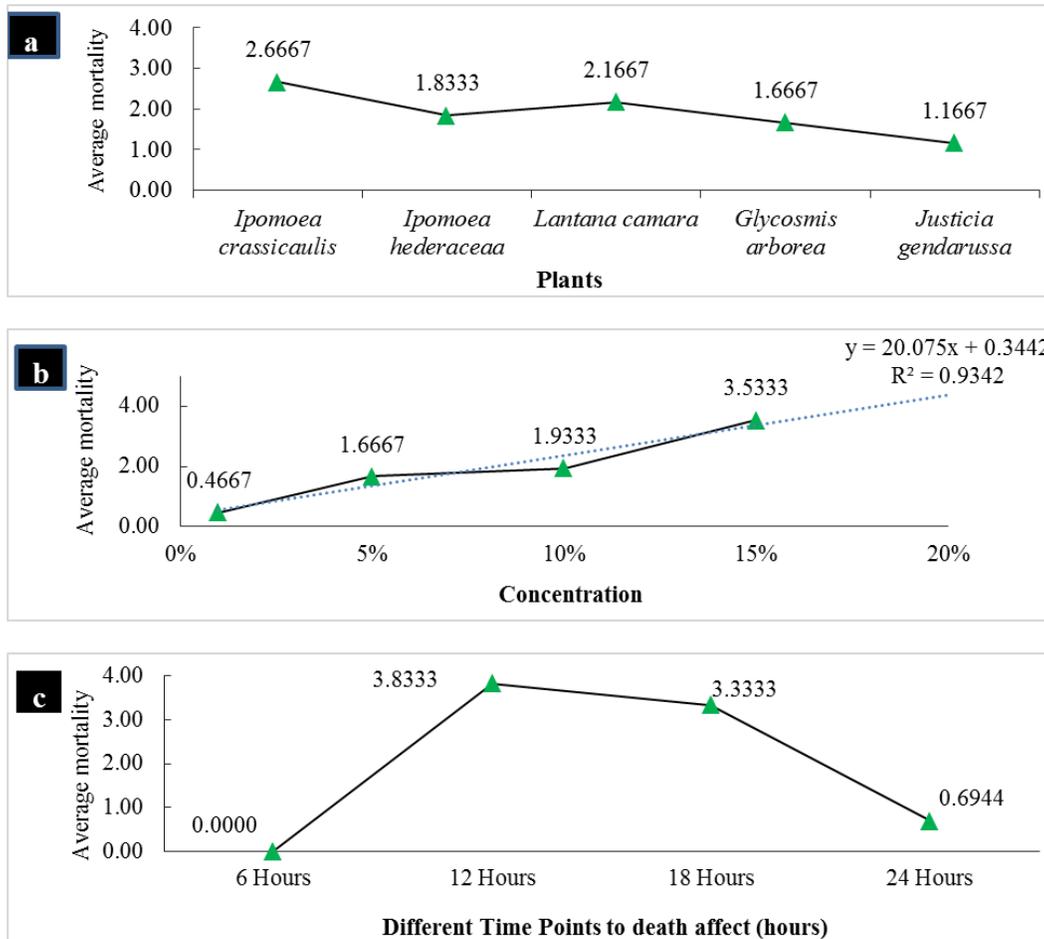


Fig. 2. Average mortality of thrips. a) Plants extracts, b) Concentration of plants essences and c) Time to death affect.

#### Effect of time to thrips death

In the study, it was determined and compared the efficacy of individual plants extracts against tea thrips on the experimental results obtained, to select the most effective and promising plant suitable for the development of natural pesticides. Table 2 illustrates the post hoc test result on time affect to tea thrips death affect against different plants extracts. From analysis, it was found that the number of tea thrips death differs from time limit and plants species. In the study, no death affect was found within first six hours. At the same time, it was found that *Justicia gendarussa* had no death effect on thrips up to 18 hours and upto 12 hours for *Glycosmis arborea*. From the mean standard deviation value, it is found that there is significant death affect relation between the plant pair of *Ipomoea crassicaulis* versus *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Ipomoea hederacea* versus *Glycosmis arborea* for the maximum time period of 12 hours. For the maximum time period of 18

hours, this relation was found between the plants of *Ipomoea crassicaulis* vs *Ipomoea hederacea* and 4, *Ipomoea hederacea* vs *Lantana camara* and 4, and for the maximum time period of 24 hours, the relation is found between *Ipomoea crassicaulis* vs *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa*, *Ipomoea hederacea* vs *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa*, *Lantana camara* vs *Glycosmis arborea* and *Justicia gendarussa*, and *Glycosmis arborea* vs *Justicia gendarussa* as well. Co-efficient of Variance was calculated based on maximum time limit (up to 24 hours) to select and ranking the most effective and promising plant depending on the time of death affect (Table 2). The result signifies that *Ipomoea crassicaulis* had the minimum CV value (5.4) and *Ipomoea crassicaulis*, *Ipomoea hederacea*, *Glycosmis arborea*, *Justicia gendarussa* respectively. So, *Ipomoea crassicaulis* extracts was found to be the most promising plant depending on the time of death affect.

**Table 2.** Post Hoc test result of different plants extracts to control tea thrips based on time

Plant name	Maximum time limit (hours) to death affect				CV	Ranking
	6 h	12 h	18 h	24 h		
(N = No. of deaths)	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD		
<i>Ipomoea crassicaulis</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	8.33 ± 2.00a	8.33 ± 2.00a	10.67 ± 0.58a	5.44	1
<i>Ipomoea hederacea</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	7.33 ± 0.58ab	7.33 ± 0.58ab	7.33 ± 0.50b	6.82	3
<i>Lantana camara</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	4.67 ± 1.21b	7.00 ± 1.41b	8.50 ± 0.57ab	6.71	2
<i>Glycosmis arborea</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	4.33 ± 0.58ab	5.22 ± 1.20c	22.99	4
<i>Justicia gendarussa</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	2.27 ± 2.33d	102.64	5
Total	0.00 ± 0.00	6.94 ± 2.29	5.00 ± 1.79	5.67 ± 3.07	54.14	-

Means within a column followed by the same letters are not statistically significantly different based on Tukey's Post Hoc (Liu et al. 2015) test (at p = 0.05).

#### ***Effect of concentration to thrips death***

From the study, it was also tried to determine and compare the efficacy of individual plants extracts against tea thrips to select the most effective plant suitable for using as natural pesticides based on plants extracts concentrations. Four different concentrations of plants extras had been used to fulfill the objectives and the result of this analysis had been illustrated in the table no 3. The result found that only for the three plants had

death affect against tea thrips when used 1% of concentration. But for these three plants mean value ranged from .33 to 1.67 which was not significant compared to total tea thrips. For the concentration of 10% and 15%, the death effect of thrips was found to be maximum. From the standard deviation value, it was found that there was significant death affect relation between the plant pair of *Glycosmis arborea* versus *Justicia gendarussa* for the maximum concentration of 10%. For the maximum concentration of 15%, this relation was found between the plants *Ipomoea hederaceaa* versus *Lantana camara*, and *Ipomoea hederaceaa* and *Glycosmis arborea*. The result signifies that *Ipomoea crassicaulis* has the minimum CV value (5.44) and *Lantana camara* (6.69), *Ipomoea hederaceaa* (7.91), *Glycosmis arborea* (8.70), *Justicia gendarussa* 24.84) respectively. So, *Ipomoea crassicaulis* extracts was found to be the most promising plant depending on the maximum plant extracts concentration (15%) to death affect and rest of the plants respectively based on coefficient of variance value.

**Table 3.** Post hoc test result of different plants extracts to control tea thrips based on extracts concentrations

Plants name	Maximum concentration (up to 15%) to death affect					
	1%	5%	10%	15%	CV	Ranking
	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD		
<i>Ipomoea crassicaulis</i>	0.33 ± 0.58a	6.33 ± 0.58a	9.00 ± 0.00a	10.67 ± 0.58a	5.44	1
<i>Ipomoea hederaceaa</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	0.00 ± 0.00	7.33 ± 0.58bc	7.91	3
<i>Lantana camara</i>	1.67 ± 0.58b	3.33 ± 0.58b	7.33 ± 0.58b	8.67 ± 0.58b	6.69	2
<i>Glycosmis arborea</i>	0.00 ± 0.00	0.33 ± 0.58c	2.33 ± 0.58c	6.67 ± 0.58c	8.70	4
<i>Justicia gendarussa</i>	0.33 ± 0.58a	0.67 ± 1.16c	1.67 ± 1.16c	4.67 ± 1.16d	24.84	5
Total	0.47 ± 0.74	2.13 ± 2.56	4.07 ± 3.63	7.60 ± 2.17	28.55	-

Means within a column followed by the same letters are not statistically significantly different based on Tukey's Post Hoc test (at  $p = 0.05$ )

### Conclusion

The study was conducted to find out the efficacy of individual plants extracts against tea thrips based on different concentration and time for selecting the best natural pesticides. According to all the results obtained

in the study, it could be concluded that *Ipomoea crassicaulis* and *Lantana camara* are the most promising of all the experimented plants extracts based on both time and concentration. So, these medicinally important plants are the significant natural source that can be used to control the thrips attack on tea leaves. Further biochemical investigations are in progress for purification and characterization of bioactive molecule present in the above described medicinal plants.

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(Manuscript received on September 11, 2019 and revised on November 09, 2019)

