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Larvicidal efficacy of some plant extracts on *Culex quinquefasciatus* with characterization of their bioactive compounds

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Abstract

Annually millions of people get affected by mosquito borne diseases worldwide. Lymphatic filariasis, West Nile Virus (WNV) and St. Louis encephalitis are major diseases transmitted by *Culex quinquefasciatus*. Three plants *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, and *Cassine glauca* were selected for biocontrol of *Cx. quinquefasciatus* and leaf extracts of the same plants in different solvents have shown good larvicidal activity on 4th instar larvae of *Cx. quinquefasciatus*. *Oxalis corniculata* extracts in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane were reported to have LC50 values of 33.23 ppm, 82.20 ppm, and 215.19 ppm against *C. quinquefasciatus*, LC50 values for *Maytenus senegalensis* extract in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane against *C. quinquefasciatus* were determined to be 87.87 ppm, 177.20 ppm, and 164.53 ppm and the LC50 values for *Oxalis corniculata* extract in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane against *C. quinquefasciatus* were 79.65 ppm, 177.20 ppm, and 133.80 ppm. The *M. senegalensis* ethyl acetate extracts showed greatest mortality rate and the *Cassine glauca* chloroform extract showed the least amount of activity (1%).

Keywords: *Culex quinquefasciatus*, bio-control, *oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, *Cassine glauca*

1. Introduction

More than 700 million individuals affected each year, by mosquito-transmitted illnesses continue to be a significant cause of death in humans worldwide ^[1]. Mosquito-borne illnesses have a negative influence on the economy, especially in nations with tropical and subtropical climates, and may also result in decreased labour and commercial outputs ^[2]. *Lymphatic filariasis* is a tropical illness that affects many individuals, affecting 120 million people globally and 44 million of them have a common chronic manifestation caused by *C. quinquefasciatus* ^[3].

Programs for controlling mosquitoes mostly rely on phytochemicals. By extracting the bioactive plant ingredient(s) using various polar and nonpolar solvents, such as benzene, petroleum ether, methanol, chloroform, acetone, absolute alcohol, etc., the complete plant or a particular part may be used ^[4]. Using botanicals that are easily biodegradable, nontoxic, and have wide range target specific action is one such option ^[5]. One strategy that offers a less expensive and more environmentally friendly means of controlling mosquito larvae is the use of phytochemicals found in the oils, leaves, and roots of plants ^[6].

The most efficient method of controlling this mosquito infestation is to use larvicides to inhibit mosquito reproduction. During the last 30 years in various countries, synthetic pesticides like organophosphates have been employed as larvicides ^[7]. The fact that these chemical pesticides are non-selective and may damage other creatures in the natural ecosystem, is a significant disadvantage to their usage ^[8]. The issue with toxicity and the rise in insect resistance serve as reminders of the need for efficient pesticides that are eco-friendly, target-specific, and biodegradable. The secondary metabolites of plants are considered as a potentially viable alternative approach against various life stages of different species of mosquitoes due to their excellent properties such as cheap availability, environmental safety, and the presence of a rich source of bioactive compounds ^[9-12]

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The goal of the current research work was to characterize the bioactive chemical compound and investigate the larvicidal activity of the leaves of *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, and *Cassine glauca* against the larvae of *Cx. quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes.

2. Materials and Method

2.1 Plants materials

Plants of *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, and *Cassine glauca* were gathered from the city's local market. These plants were dried in the shade at room temperature for about 20 days.

2.2 Preparation of plant extract

The shade dried leaves of each plant (600 g) were mechanically ground into a powder using a commercial electric stainless-steel blender before being extracted for 6 hours in a Soxhlet apparatus with hexane (2,200 ml), chloroform (1,000 ml), and ethyl acetate (2,500 ml). The extracts were filtered by using Whatman (number 1) filter paper and a Buchner funnel. The residue recovered was held at 4°C after the extract was concentrated at 45°C under decreased pressure (22–26 mm Hg). The leftovers were then turned into an acetone-based 1% stock solution. Dilutions were created from the stock solution, 1000- 4.69 mg/l, using dechlorinated tap water. In the final test solution, Polysorbate 80 (Qualigens) was utilized as an emulsifier at a concentration of 0.05% [13].

2.3 Phytochemical screening

As per the procedures outlined by Senthil Kumar and Reetha (2009) [14] and Nazar *et al.* (2009) [15], the phytochemical analysis of all extracts was completed.

2.4 GC-MS analysis

GC-MS analysis of the crude extracts of shade dried leaves was carried out, which featured an auto sampler and GC-MS instrument, on an Agilent technology (6890 N). With a constant flow of 1.491 ml min⁻¹, an injection volume of 1 ml, an injector with 140°C, and an ion source of temperature 200°C, helium (99.999%) was used as the carrier gas. 624 ms capillary column operating in an electron mode at 70 eV. A 45°C setting was made for the oven. Mass spectra were captured at 70 eV.

2.5 Mosquito culture

Cx. quinquefasciatus mosquitoes used for all the experiments

are raised in laboratories without exposure to diseases or pesticides. At a temperature of 25 to 29°C, cyclical generations of this mosquito were kept alive. Dog biscuit powder and yeast were used as larval feed in a ratio 3:1, and 10% glucose solution was given to adult mosquitoes [16].

2.6 Larvicidal bioassay

The modified version of the WHO (1996) and the Rahuman *et al.* (2000) [17] procedure was used to assess the larvicidal activity. Larvae were collected for the bioassay test and placed in 249 ml of aqua with one ml of the selected plant extract. Polysorbate 80 and petroleum ether were used to create the control. After 24 hours of exposure, counting the quantity of dead larvae and the % mortality was calculated by using the average of five repeats.

2.7 Larval susceptibility tests

The WHO procedure was followed for conducting the test on larval susceptibility. The following approach was used to test each solution on an *Cx. quinquefasciatus* fourth instar larva to determine if it had any larvicidal properties or not. In 400 ml of the extract solution, 25 fourth instar larvae were released, and parallel control trials without extract were conducted. The average mortality rate from each experiment was determined by counting the number of larvae that had died after being exposed to each solution for 24 hours. When control mortality varied between 5% - 20%, mortality was noted and adjusted using Abbott's formula. The Abbott's (1925) formula was used to adjust the observed percentage mortality during the observation of the plant extract's larvicidal ability.

2.8 Statistical analysis

To determine the significance of relationship between the components and the death rate, a three-way factorial ANOVA with variables of concentrations, instars, and hours was performed. We performed statistical analysis on the experimental data using SPSS 25 and MS Excel so as to determine the fatal concentrations, regression equations, and regression co-efficient.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Phytochemical screening

Plant extracts were subjected to a preliminary phytochemical screening, which identified the presence of phenol, tannins, coumarins, alkaloids, flavonoids, quinones, terpenoids, carbohydrates, triterpenoids, saponins, vitamin E and ascorbic acid (Table-1).

Table 1: Phytochemical screening of plant extracts of *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis* and *Cassine glauca*.

Sl. No.	Secondary metabolites	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> ,	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	<i>Cassine glauca</i>
1.	Phenol	+++	+++	+++
2.	Tannins	+++	+++	+++
3.	Coumarins	+++	+++	+++
4.	Alkaloids	+++	+++	+++
5.	Flavonoids	+++	+++	-
6.	Quinones	+++	+++	++
7.	Terpenoids	+++	++	+++
8.	Carbohydrates	+++	+++	+++
9.	Triterpenoids	+++	+++	+++
10.	Saponins	-	+++	+++
11.	Vitamin E	+++	-	-
12.	Ascorbic acid	+++	-	-

The composition and identification of the main compounds present in the ethyl acetate extracts of plants (*Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis* and *Cassine glauca*) are shown in Table-2.

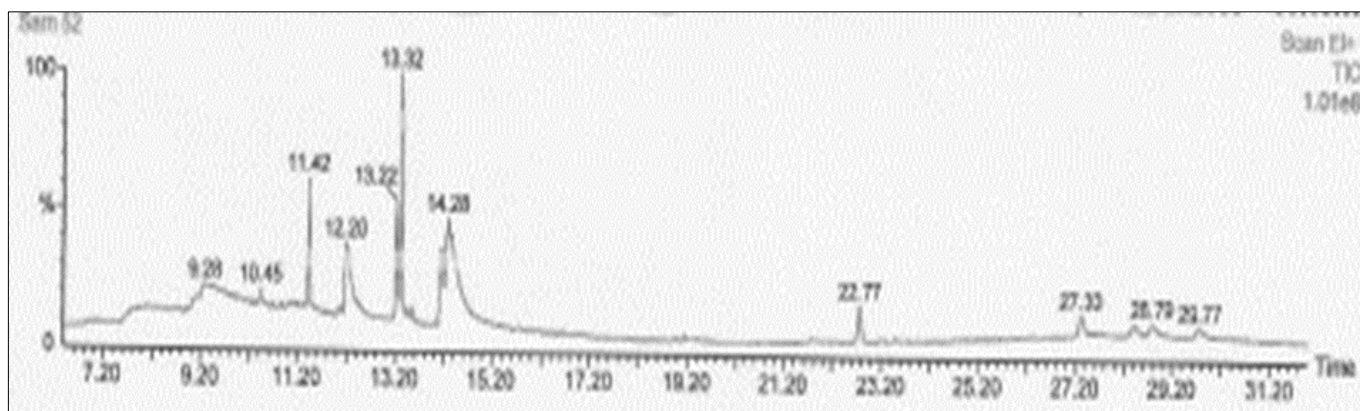
By using GC-MS, 12 compounds were identified in *Oxalis corniculata* and in *Maytenus senegalensis*, *Cassine glauca*, 7 and 5 compounds were identified respectively. The main

compounds were “ α -D-glucopyranoside, O- α -D-glucopyranosyl (1. fwdarw.3) - α - D fructofuranosyl, 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, methyl ester, hexadecanoic acid, 12-hydroxy- 9- octadecenoic acid, 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, 9-octadecenoic acid, 1- dimethoxyacetone and 13-hexyloxacyclotridec-10-en-2-on” (Fig. 1)

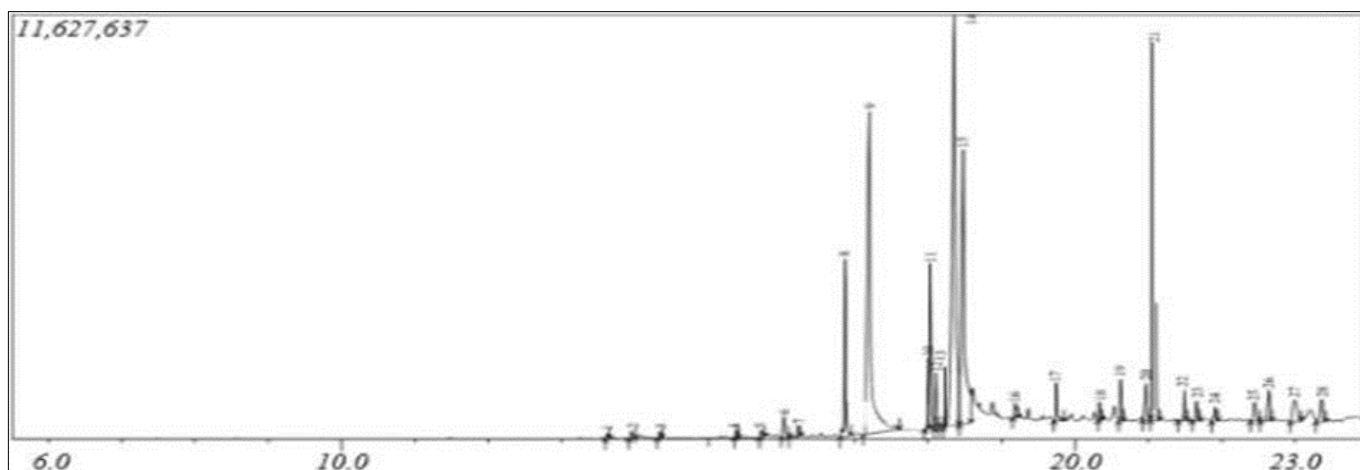
3.2 GC-MS Analysis

Table 2: Phytocompounds identified from the whole plant extract of *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis* and *Cassine glauca* by GC-MS

<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> ,	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	<i>Cassine glauca</i>
“D-Glucose, 4-o- α -D-glucopyranosyl”	Hexadecanoic acid	Dibutyl phthalate
“ α -D-glucopyranoside, O- α -D-glucopyranosyl (1. fwdarw.3) - α D fructofuranosyl”	9-octadecenoic acid (Z)	Phthalic acid
“Hexadecanoic acid, Methyl ester”	“12-hydroxy-9- octadecenoic acid”	Butyl ester
“n-Hexadecanoic acid”	Methyl-1-cyclopentene-1-carboxylate	Hexadecenoic acid
“9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, Methyl ester”	12-hydroxy-9-octadecenoic acid	Ethyl ester
“9,12-Octadecadienoic acid”	Methyl ester	
“9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, Methyl ester”	1, 1-dimethoxyacetone and 13 hexyloxacyclotridec-10-en-2-on	
Squalene		
Vitamin E		
“9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z, Z)-, phenyl, Methyl ester”		
“1b, 5, 5, 6a Tetramethyl-octahydro-1-oxa-cyclopropa[a]inden-6-one”		
“7-Oxabicyclo [4.1.0] heptanes,1-methyl-4-(2-methyloxiranyl)”		



a)



b)

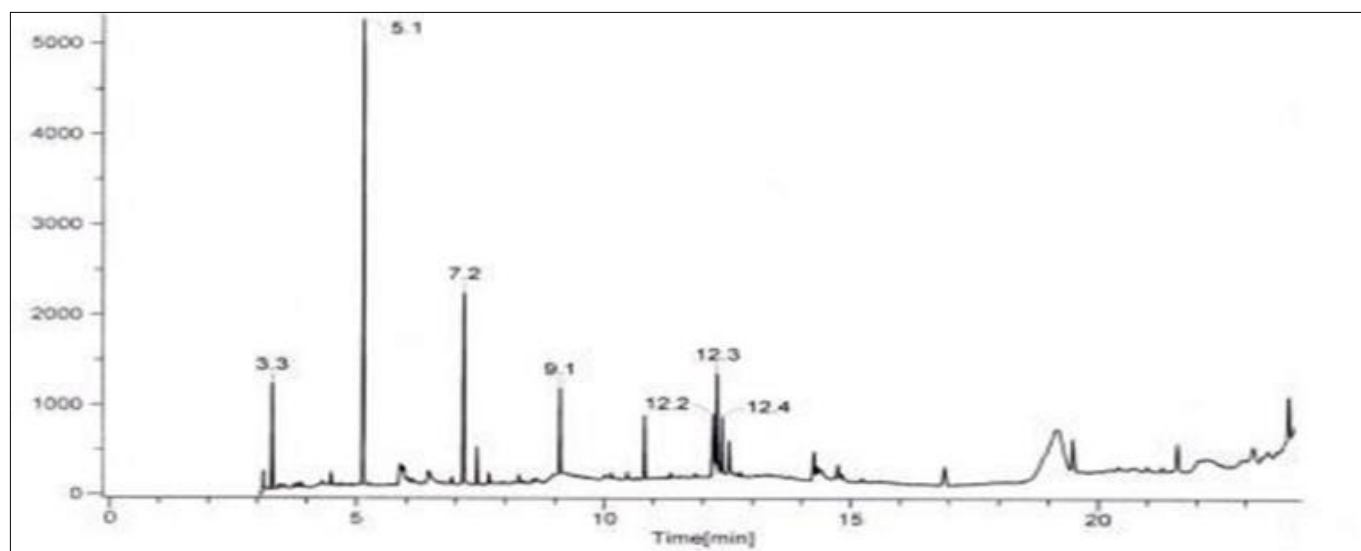


Fig 1: GC-MS chromatogram of a) *Oxalis corniculata* b) *Maytenus senegalensis* and c) *Cassine glauca*

3.3 Larvicidal Activity

Table 3: Larvicidal activity of different solvent leaf extracts of selected plants against 4th instar larvae of *C. quinquefasciatus* at 400 ppm (0.04%)

Sr. No	Plant names	Ethyl acetate	Hexane	Chloroform
1.	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> ,	90.6±0.5	26.6±2.3	10.6±1.1
2.	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i>	97.3±0.5	21.3±0.5	34.6±1.1
3.	<i>Cassine glauca</i>	14.6±1.5	85.3±1.5	6.6±3.0

Table 4: Larvicidal efficacy of *Oxalis corniculata* against *C. quinquefasciatus*

Solvent	Mosquito species	LC50 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		LC90 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		Chi-Square
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Hexane	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	215.19	24.453	39.977	71.64	62.020	88.831	0.454
Chloroform	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	82.20	0.544	168.247	201.57	134.641	655.708	8.919
Ethyl acetate	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	33.23	136.617	315.137	527.86	399.508	844.975	8.133

Table-3 displays the findings on the larvicidal effectiveness of various solvent extracts of the chosen plants. After 24 hours of exposure at a 400 ppm (0.04%) concentration, all plant extracts had a fair to moderate impact on *Cx. quinquefasciatus* fourth instar larvae. The *M. senegalensis* ethyl acetate extracts showed greatest mortality (100%) rate. The activity was shown to be significant ($P>0.05$) in ethyl acetate extracts. The remaining extracts of the chosen plants exhibited the least larvicidal activity, while other extracts showed significant (45-82%) larvicidal activity. The *Cassine glauca* chloroform

extract showed the least amount of activity (1%).

Plant extracts in Hexane, Chloroform, and Ethyl acetate exhibit mediocre larvicidal action against mosquito vectors. *Oxalis corniculata* extracts in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane were reported to have LC50 values of 33.23 ppm, 82.20 ppm, and 215.19 ppm against *C. quinquefasciatus* in Table 4. With an LC50 value of 33.23 against *C. quinquefasciatus*, the extract made of ethyl acetate showed relatively high potency. Nevertheless, hexane and chloroform extract were less effective against *C. quinquefasciatus*

Table 5: Larvicidal efficacy of *Maytenus senegalensis* against *C. quinquefasciatus*.

Solvent	Mosquito Species	LC50 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		LC90 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		Chi-Square
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Hexane	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	164.53	47.775	287.333	478.42	335.375	994.149	2.639
Chloroform	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	177.20	61.397	300.813	434.67	352.246	1011.943	2.187
Ethyl acetate	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	87.87	62.326	112.006	268.25	225.219	340.198	2.036

According to Table-5, the LC50 values for *Maytenus senegalensis* extract in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane against *C. quinquefasciatus* were determined to be 87.87 ppm, 177.20 ppm, and 164.53 ppm, respectively. Ethyl acetate

extract showed relatively high efficacy against *C. quinquefasciatus*, with an LC50 value of 87.87 ppm. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of hexane and chloroform extract against *C. quinquefasciatus* was noticed to be low

Table 6: Larvicidal efficacy of *Cassine glauca* against *C. quinquefasciatus*.

Solvent	Mosquito species	LC50 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		LC90 (ppm)	95% confidence interval		Chi -square
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound		Lower Bound	Upper Bound	
Hexane	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	133.80	109.286	161.074	320.56	273.913	394.119	2.307
Chloroform	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	177.20	145.097	212.275	433.67	374.651	525.196	4.637
Ethyl acetate	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	79.65	2.262	133.040	499.34	376.800	596.013	2.439

According to Table-6, the LC50 values for *Oxalis corniculata* extract in Ethyl acetate, Chloroform, and Hexane against *C. quinquefasciatus* were 79.65 ppm, 177.20 ppm, and 133.80 ppm, respectively. Here also Ethyl acetate extract showed relatively high efficacy against *C. quinquefasciatus*, with an LC50 value of 79.65 ppm. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of Hexane and chloroform extract against *C. quinquefasciatus* was reduced here.

4. Discussion

The increasing use of synthetic pesticides has been connected to a number of contentious contamination incidents [18]. Several nations throughout the globe place a high focus on spreading knowledge about and using Integrated Pest Management (IPM), strategies as well as using biopesticides and less damaging chemicals. If more individuals had access to good training on how to utilize biopesticides, there may be a decrease in the wasteful use of chemicals that have been stored. For incorporation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems, biopesticides made from non-toxic or low-toxic secondary plant metabolites provide new opportunities. The objective is to develop biopesticides that are efficient but also emit less hazardous by-products into the environment, as well as products that biodegrade swiftly and are advantageous to both humans and beneficial insects [19]. The search for the development of more eco-friendly biopesticides has been prompted by these issues. Insecticide resistance in certain populations is being decreased by new plant-based biopesticides [20]. Plant extracts and their secondary metabolites have been successfully used throughout the history to reduce insect infestations [21, 22].

Natural botanicals are increasingly being used as a safe substitute for synthetic pesticides, whose widespread availability and quick degradability make them a popular choice. A few botanicals, such as *Chrysanthemum cinerarifolium*, have transitioned from laboratory to field application; even though other plants from various families have been shown to have mosquitocidal properties [23, 24].

The large range of secondary metabolites produced by the plants participate in many biological functions. In the current study, phytochemicals like saponins, tannins, alkaloids, and flavanoids were found to be the main mosquito-inhibiting components in the leaf extracts of chosen plants. In most of the preliminary research, steroidal saponins were identified as the active ingredients with mosquito larvicidal properties. According to Wiesman and Chapagain [20], saponin taken from the *Balanites aegyptica* caused 100 percent inhibition of *Stegomyia aegypti* larvae. Ghosh and Chandra [25] assessed the larvicidal efficacy of a saponin combination derived from *Cestrum diurnum* against *A. stephensi* mosquito.

According to Lee [26] and Francois *et al.* [27], alkaloids extracted from the *Piper longum* fruit and *Triphyophyllum pellatum* both displayed larvicidal efficacy against the larvae of *C. pipiens* and *A. stephensi*, respectively. Joseph *et al.* [28], discovered that the, iso-flavonoids found in the tubers of *Neorautanenia mitis* exerted larvicidal effects on the *Cx.*

quinquefasciatus and *A. gambiae*. Mann *et al.* [29] discovered that the root of *M. senegalensis* include alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins, and steroidal substances that were efficient against mosquitoes.

In the current investigation, it was discovered that an extract from mature *M. senegalensis* leaves had significant larvicidal action against *Cx. quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes. The extract of ethyl acetate showed the strongest larvicidal effect against mosquito larvae. Many bioactive compounds were detected in the qualitative and chromatographic examination, and the bioassay experiment's probit analysis confirmed the bioactive chemicals' substantial LC50 values for various instars of *C. quinquefasciatus* larvae. Yet the IR spectra and GCMS analyses of the bioactive compounds used in the current investigation also revealed the existence of steroid compound(s) that might be too accountable for larval toxicity.

5. Conclusion

The present results showed that, compared to *Oxalis corniculata*, and *Cassine glauca*, the leaf extract of *Maytenus senegalensis* had the potential to be larvicidal. Screening, purifying, and identifying potentially beneficial compounds discovered in these species would surely increase the effectiveness in mosquito control. Stagnant water provides breeding habitat for mosquitoes, which may spread a wide range of ailments. In certain areas, the extract could be sprayed. Ultimately, we found that leaf extract of *Oxalis corniculata*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, and *Cassine glauca* has the potential to be developed as an ecofriendly larvicide. Also, our findings provide a foundation for future research into the larvicidal capabilities of natural plant product extracts.

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