



Revisión | Review

Potential of botanical driven essential oils against *Haemonchus contortus* in small ruminants

[Potencial de aceites esenciales botánicos contra *Haemonchus contortus* en pequeños rumiantes]

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Abstract: The livestock sector is continuously facing problems in controlling parasitic diseases especially Haemonchosis due to emergence of anthelmintic resistance and failure in vaccination control programmes. Therefore, to increase milk and meat production and emerging demand of meat free from drug residues development of new alternative approaches are appealing for prevention and control of Haemonchosis in small ruminants. Among alternatives, plants driven essential oils have shown promising results in control of *Haemonchus contortus* infection at various concentrations by different assays including egg hatch assay, larval development assay, larval exsheathment assay and adult motility assay. Essential oils are complex mixtures of various impulsive or volatile compounds which have potential to control Haemonchosis. The current study reviews the therapeutic effects of essential oils of plants against *Haemonchus contortus* and to be used them against *Haemonchus contortus* for future perspectives.

Keywords: Essential oils; *Hemaonchus contortus*; Resistance; Parasites.

Resumen: El sector ganadero enfrenta continuamente problemas para controlar las enfermedades parasitarias, especialmente la hemoncosis, debido a la aparición de resistencia antihelmíntica y al fracaso en los programas de control de vacunación. Por lo tanto, para aumentar la producción de leche y carne, y la demanda emergente de carne libre de residuos de medicamentos, el desarrollo de nuevos enfoques alternativos es atractivo para la prevención y el control de la hemoncosis en pequeños rumiantes. Entre las alternativas, los aceites esenciales producidos por las plantas han mostrado resultados prometedores en el control de la infección por *Haemonchus contortus* a diversas concentraciones mediante diferentes ensayos, incluido el análisis de eclosión de huevos, el desarrollo de larvas, el análisis de vaciado de larvas y el ensayo de motilidad en adultos. Los aceites esenciales son mezclas complejas de varios compuestos impulsivos o volátiles que tienen potencial para controlar la hemoncosis. Este estudio revisa los efectos terapéuticos de los aceites esenciales de las plantas contra *Haemonchus contortus* y evalúa sus perspectivas futuras como agentes para combatir las enfermedades causadas por este parásito.

Palabras clave: Aceites esenciales; *Hemaonchus contortus*; Resistencia; Parasitos.

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INTRODUCTION

All over the world livestock population has become susceptible to parasitic diseases affecting their health as well production performance (Mehmood *et al.*, 2017; Khater *et al.*, 2018; Kiran *et al.*, 2018). In livestock gastrointestinal parasites having vital socio-economic importance lead to clinical as well subclinical infections. The gastrointestinal burden of parasites includes *Haemonchus*, *Oesophagostomum*, *Ostertagia*, *Cchabertia*, *Nematodirus*, *Trichuris*, *Fasciola* and *Moniezi*. *Haemonchus* belongs to kingdom Animalia, Phylum Nematode, Family *Tricostrongylidae*. The subfamily *Haemonchoidae* consists of four species in domestic animals including *Haemonchus contortus* (Caprine and ovine), *Haemonchus similis*, *Haemonchus placei* (Bovines) and *Haemonchus longistipes* (Camels) (Inaam *et al.*, 2007). *Haemonchosis* is the major threat to small ruminants in terms of health, productive efficiency and economic point of view. *Haemonchus contortus* remains in abomasum and sucks blood hence called blood sucking parasite in small ruminants (Ijaz *et al.*, 2009). The clinical pathogenesis of *Haemonchosis* include loss of appetite, weakness, dehydration, rough skin appearance, pale mucus membrane, debilitating condition, decreased milk production, and chronic wasting and severe anemia due to blood loss ultimately leading to death of animal (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2015). In *Haemonchosis* each parasite sucks blood 0.05ml per day and ultimately anorexia, anemia and chronicity of infection lead to death of host. The 10000 worms of *Haemonchus* are sufficient to kill the goat or sheep (Burke *et al.*, 2004).

Traditionally various control strategies are being attempted to reduce *Haemonchosis* risk in small ruminants (sheep and goats). *Haemochus contortus* have been usually controlled by chemotherapeutic agents like anthelmintic, vaccination and also by rotational grazing management in livestock population. The chemotherapeutic agents showed satisfactory results to control *Haemonchus contortus* in sheep and goats. However, blindly use of anthelmintic drugs has shown resistance against *Haemonchus contortus*. Frequent use of anthelmintic drugs has shown resistance against *Haemonchus contortus* (Besier & Love, 2003). The first drug shown resistance against *Haemochus contortus* was phenothiazine in sheep.

Later on Thiabendazole was documented to be resistant for nematodes in livestock (Drudge *et al.*, 1964). The *Haemonchus contortus* have been documented to be resistant against various classes of anthelmintic like Benzimidazole, Imidazothazole, Ivermectin and Salicylanilides (Katiki *et al.*, 2012). Anthelmintic resistance in gastrointestinal nematodes is a worldwide problem. Multi-drug resistant *Haemonchosis* is the most serious impediment for small ruminant systems, and there are no new drug candidates currently under development (Araújo *et al.*, 2017; Katiki *et al.*, 2017; Ijaz *et al.*, 2018).

Vaccination is one of the authentic method to control the parasitic infestation in livestock population (Lejambre *et al.*, 2008). The major hindrance in commercialization of *Haemonchus contortus* vaccine is the manufacturing of recombinant proteins that move toward the effectiveness of better native antigens. The vaccine provides round about 65% protection against *Haemonchosis* that is not satisfactory (Besier *et al.*, 2015). Moreover the vaccine schedule that is being applied now a days is unprofitable. However it is not clear about its usage in neither ruminants nor its advantage as well withdrawal period.

Due to synthetic drug resistance and vaccination failure, there is need to be used alternate technologies to control parasitic problem in livestock population (Khan *et al.*, 2017; Mahmood *et al.*, 2018; Soares *et al.*, 2018). Among alternatives, botanicals and their essential oils have shown favorable effects against external and internal parasites (Katiki *et al.*, 2012; Katiki *et al.*, 2017; Abbas *et al.*, 2017a; Abbas *et al.*, 2017b; Idris *et al.*, 2017; Khan *et al.*, 2018). Essential oils, are complex mixtures of impulsive or volatile compounds which are particularly abundant in aromatic plants and have diverse therapeutic properties against parasitic, and bacterial diseases. These compounds are mainly composed of terpenes which are biogenerated by mevalonate pathway. These volatile molecules include monoterpenes (oxygenated monoterpenes, hydrocarbon), and also sesquiterpenes (hydrocarbon and oxygenated sesquiterpens) (Dhifi *et al.*, 2016).

In this review importance of essential oils, their origin, their role in controlling *Hemaonchus contours* including their mechanism of action and limitations are comprehensively discussed below.

Table No. 1
Status of Anthelmintic drug resistance to *Haemonchus contortus* in different regions of the world

Anthelmintic Drugs (Class)	Country	Reference
Imidazothiazoles class (Levamisole)	Australia	Sangster, 1999
	New Zealand	Gopal <i>et al.</i> , 1999
	Kenya	Rolfe <i>et al.</i> , 1990
	Pakistan	Khan <i>et al.</i> , 2017
Salicylanilides (Closantel)	Australia	Sangster, 1999
	Kenya	Rolfe <i>et al.</i> , 1990
	Canada	Prichard, 1994
Macrolitic Lactones (Avermectins & moxidectin)	Kenya	Waruiru <i>et al.</i> , 1998
	Australia	Sangster & Gill, 1999
	Pakistan	Khan <i>et al.</i> , 2017
	Indonesia	Puspitasari <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Benzimidazoles	Brazil	Uppal <i>et al.</i> , 1992
	Pakistan	Khan <i>et al.</i> , 2017
	Malaysia	Rahman, 1994
	India	Uppal <i>et al.</i> , 1992
	kenya	Mwamachi <i>et al.</i> , 1995
	Brazil	Echevarria <i>et al.</i> , 1991
	New Zealand	Gopal <i>et al.</i> , 1999
	Australia	Sangster & Gill, 1999
	Indonesia	Puspitasari <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Malaysia	Sivaraj <i>et al.</i> , 1994	

Anthelmintic effect of Different botanical driven Essential Oils against Haemonchus contortus

Hesperozygis myrtoides

Essential oil of *Hesperozygis myrtoides* (A.St.-Hil. ex Benth.) used against *Haemonchus contortus* given a new path toward ethno-veterinary products to use for gastrointestinal parasites. *Hesperozygis myrtoides* commonly called as “*poejo*” (*pen-nyroyal*) have perfect aroma which related to essential oil that include monoterpene ketones. To control *Haemonchus contortus*, egg hatching and larval development tests were performed in concentrations of 0.012 mg/ml to 25 mg/ml and 0.003 mg/ml to 0.4 mg/ml respectively. The main components identified in the essential oil were isomenthone (47.7%), limonene (7.7%), pulegone (21.4%), isomenthyl acetate (6.8%) and neoisomenthol (3.9%). The essential oils of *H. myrtoides* showed the anthelmintic effectiveness against *Haemonchus contortus* (Castilho et al., 2017).

Artemisia species

Plants of genus *Artemisia* include various plants which are used against diseases like hepatitis, malaria, cancer (Rustaiyan & Masoudi, 2011) and also used as anthelmintics. The essential oil of *Artemisia* act as synergistically within and other constituents of essential oils way to target the parasitic stages by various mechanism (Marie-Magdeleine et al., 2009). *In vitro* study of essential oil of *Artemisia lancea* (Vaniot) first time studied against *Haemonchus contortus* by larval migration inhibition assay were camphor 16.65% and 1,8-cineole 34.56 %. The major components of essential oil were 1,8-cineole (34.56%) and camphor (16.65%). Hence the activity of essential oil of the *Artemisia launcea* proved to be effective against various stages of *Haemonchus contortus* (Zhu et al., 2013a).

Eucalyptus species

Eucalyptus belonging to Myrtaceae family known to have as acaricidal (Chagas et al., 2002), insecticidal (Maciel et al., 2010) and nematicidal effects (Macedo et al., 2010). Myrtaceae family local to Australia grown majorly for cosmetic, pharmaceutical and paper industry (Hasegawa et al., 2008). *In vitro* anthelmintic activity of essential oils of *Eucalyptus staigeriana* (F.Muell. ex F.M.Bailey) performed on

larvae and eggs of *Haemonchus contortus*. *Eucalyptus staigeriana* essential oil arrested the larval hatchability 99.96 % at concentration of 1.0 mg/ml. The major chemical constituents of essential oil were Limonene (72.9%), 1,8-Cineole (9.5%) and o-Cimene (4.6%) (Ribeiro et al., 2013).

In another study, essential oil of *Eucalyptus citriodorais* proved to be effective in prohibition of *H. contortus* larvae development (Macedo et al., 2011).

Thymus vulgaris

Thymus vulgaris (Reut. ex Willk.) essential oil consists of monoterpene thy-mol and carvacrol which are isomers of thy-mol (Walentowska & Foksowicz-Flaczyk, 2013). The *Thymus vulgaris* used in different purpose like as anthelmintic as well toxic tolerability effects in mammals (Behnia et al., 2008). *Thymus vulgaris* proved to be pharmacological effects in food supplement medicines (Behnia et al., 2008). The essential oil of *Thymus vulgaris* has three possible mode of actions like arrest larval development, motility and hatchability by active component. Thymol is major components of essential oil which accounts for 50.22% of total oil composition. The Thymol oil prohibited the egg hatchability of *Haemonchus contortus* up to 96.4 to 100 %, larval motility 97 to 100 % and 90 to 100 % larval development in an *in vitro* study (Ferreira et al., 2016).

Arisaema spp

Arisaema franchetianum (Engler) and *Arisaema lobatum* (Engler) are two perennial plants native to China (Zhao et al., 2010). It is being thought that essential oils of *Arisaema franchetianum* and *Arisaema lobatum* are secondary metabolites of volatile medial plants used for wide activities like antioxidant, antibacterial, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anthelmintic biological programs (Adorjan & Buchbauer, 2010; Shaaban et al., 2012). In one study, *Arisaema franchetianum* and *Arisaema lobatum* essential oils showed more than 99 percent egg hatch inhibition of *Haemonchus contortus* at concentration of 10 mg/ml and 5-10 mg/ml respectively (Zhu et al., 2013b). Carvacrol and linalool were the major constituents of both tested essential oils.

Skimmia laureola

Essential oils from *Skimmia laureola* (Siebold & Zucc. ex Walp) leaf, stem and root were tested for their anthelmintic activity against *Haemochus contortus* by “Adult motility assay”. It was found that leaf, stem and root of *S. laureola* essential oil have anthelmintic effects. Essential oils of *S. laureola* stem and root has ruined the parasite by altering body color by inhibiting the circulatory system or skin destruction. β -linalool and 1,3-cycloheptadiene were major components of tested essential oils. Hence, *S. laureola* having potential to damage the *Haemonchus contortus* by acting on membrane (Mehmood *et al.*, 2011).

Ruta chalepensis

Ruta chalepensis (Carl Linnaeus) essential oil having ability as anthelmintic and insecticidal and different studies proved that flowers and leaves of *Ruta chalepensis* showed valuable potential as insecticidal as well anthelmintic. Leaves essential oils showed higher prohibitory effect on the egg hatching ability than flowers. Moreover it declared that at various concentrations *Ruta* genus was tested to evaluate the activity of essential oil obtained from one major portion of this plant is being used worldwide (Verzera *et al.*, 2000). *Ruta chalepensis* leaves and flowers essential oil at concentration of 1 mg/ml proved to be reduced the 33.3% *Haemonchus contortus* in egg hatching assay test (Akkari *et al.*, 2015). Essential oil mostly contained ketone (2-undecanone derivative) in considerable amounts (85%).

***Melaleuca alternifolia* and Terpinen -4-ol**

The *in vitro* activity of *Melaleuca alternifolia* and terpinen -4-ol were tested on larvae and eggs of *Haemochus contortus* parasite. Inhibition of larval migration test and egg hatching inhibition were used to know the effectiveness. It was concluded that *Melaleuca alternifolia* has 100% effectiveness against *Haemochus contortus* and terpinen-4-ol have 82 percent at same concentration. So, it was proved that these plant constituents act as larvicidal as well ovicidal effects against *Haemonchus contortus* (Grando *et al.*, 2016).

Mode of action of Essential Oils

The mode of action of essential oils are described as it prohibits the growth of enzymes like Adenosine

triphosphatases (ATPases) and acetylcholinesterases (AChE) that requires for the growth and energy relationship of worms and inhibit the GABA receptor of parasite (Zahran *et al.*, 2017). Some essential oils have shown to be ascaricidal and anthelmintic that rich in methone, isomethane, and pulegone enriched monoterpeneketones (Chagas *et al.*, 2014). Normally essential oils showed to inactivate the structures of parasites. They also act to be disrupting the cell membranes by changing permeability of lipophilic compounds leading release of various enzymes as well disturb the nutrients (Cox *et al.*, 2000).

Essential oils act directly or indirectly on various parasites by modifying the host immune response or act on parasite by providing safety to the host (Machado *et al.*, 2010). Moreover it is considered that essential oils cause breakdown of the proteins and releases free amino acids that ultimately influence protein level in the cell (Upadhyay, 2010). Essential oils have also shown to inhibit the various physiological processes like biochemical arresting the nutrition change in structure effect neuromuscular transmitters of helminths. These are the popular functions to inhibit the helminths in various ways (Mehmood *et al.*, 2011).

Restrictions with Essential Oils

The increasing demand and pressure on the livestock industry has initiated new research to find safe, cheap and efficient alternatives. No doubt essential oil having wide potential to use and are safe to use but many studies conducted shown toxic effects of these. However, the applications of these compounds are limited due to questions regarding their potent undesirable aspects such as carcinogenicity, acute toxicity, teratogenicity and slow degradation periods (Calo *et al.*, 2015). The essential oils also potentiate cytotoxic effects in animals that are treated (Christaki *et al.*, 2004). Essential oils led to deteriorates the cell membrane and cell wall structure (Bakkali *et al.*, 2008). Essential oils effect the depolarization of mitochondrial membrane in cell by altering ion channels and reduce ATP production (Vercesi *et al.*, 1997). Likewise, thymol and carvacol essential constituents of various essential oils mentioned to be lethal for the intestinal cells of mucosa layer due to lipophilic and hydrophobic (Giannenas *et al.*, 2003).

Use of essential oils is under discussion to be using them as potential candidate against gastrointestinal parasites in animals. Hence there is

need to study the essential constituents, their lethal or toxic effect and mechanism of action in controlling

Haemochus contortus (Athanasiadou *et al.*, 2007).

Table No. 2
In vitro* efficacy of different botanical driven essential oils against *Haemonchus contortus

Plant name	Dose	Composition	EHA	LMA	LDA	Reference
<i>Mentha piperita</i>	0.26 mg/ml	Menthol (42.5%)	95 %	-	95%	Katiki <i>et al.</i> , 2011
<i>Cymbopogon martinii</i>	0.15 mg/ml	Geraniol (81.4%)	95%	-	95%	
<i>Cymbopogon schoenanthus</i>	0.15 mg/ml	Geraniol (62.5%)				
<i>Newbouldia laevis</i>	18.2 µg/ml	B-caryophyllene (36 %) & Eugenol (5.8 %).		95%		Olounlade <i>et al.</i> , 2012
<i>Zanthoxylum zanthoxyloides</i>	19.5 µg/ml	γ-terpinene (18 %) & undecane (15 %)	98%	95%		
<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i>	46 µg/ml	Eugenol (55.6%)	100%	15%		Pessoa <i>et al.</i> , 2002
Allicin (garlic)	30 ug/ml	Diallyl disulfide (27.9%)& Diallyl trisulfide (33%)		15%		Ankri & Mirelman, 1999
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	20 %					Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2013a; Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2013b
<i>Artemisia lancea</i>	10 mg/ml	1,8-cineole (34.56%) & camphor (16.65%)	99%			
<i>Arisaema franchetianum</i>	10 mg/ml	Carvacrol & Linalool	99%			
<i>Arisaema lobatum</i>	10 mg/ml	Carvacrol & Linalool	99%			
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	1.72 mg/ml	β -ocimene (28.8%) α -copaene	95%			Ademola & Eloff, 2011
<i>Chenopodium ambrosioides</i>	1 mg/ml	ascaridole, carvacrol	100%			Salifou <i>et al.</i> , 2013
<i>Myracrodruon urundeuva</i>	0.29 mg/ml	α-Pinene (87.85%)			Reduced	Soares <i>et al.</i> , 2018

EHA: Egg hatch Assay; LDA: Larval Development Assay; LMA: Larval Motility Assay

Concluding Remarks

There has been an emerging interest by using plant essential oils to control *Haemonchus contortus* due to anthelmintic resistance issue in nematode population as well concerns about the residues in animal byproducts. Therefore using essential oils against *Haemonchus contortus* is profitable approach over anthelmintic drugs. The use of essential oils against *Haemonchosis* is limited due to their antinutritional, cytotoxic effects, under dose response and issues in commercial availability. However, their complexity in structure and approach in clarity of mechanism of action the essential oils are in discussion to improve control strategies for *Haemonchosis* in small ruminants.

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