

Studies on insect control materials from plant origin

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Lantana camara Linn., family verbenaceae had a potent antifeedant activity. Consequently, it was important to study the antifeedant activity of *L. camara* and to isolate, purify and identify the principal or principals responsible for this property. The plant was extracted with solvents of increasing polarity (cold extract) and a phytochemical screening was made on the soluble successive extracts, as well as dry powder. It could be concluded that *L. camara* leaves contain mainly sterols and/or triterpenes, free and combined flavonoids, glycosides and/or carbohydrate, tannins, saponins and sublimable substances. Alkaloids and nitrogenous bases are absent. Pet. ether extract contains mainly sterols and/or triterpenes. Feeding deterrent screening tests of the extracts were made according to Butterworth (1971). The percent reduction of feeding/control was calculated. The 5th instar nymphs of *S. gregaria* were used. The screening showed that pet. ether extract was the most potent followed by ethanol 70%, then ether, acetone, chloroform and dis. water (91.16, 85.23, 83.73, 70.21, 42.30 and 37.42% respectively). •Dried powder was extracted with pet. ether in a Soxhlet extractor (Hot extract), the extract was examined for its antifeedant properties. Feeding tests showed 95.69% reduction of feeding/control. Therefore the pet. ether extract was fractionated on a column of alumina, using the solvent system pet. ether (F1); benzene (F2), benzene mixed with chloroform in an increasing proportion (20 to 50%) (F3), chloroform (F4), chloroform (F5) and chloroform: methanol (95 : 5 %) (F6). Fraction F3 was the most potent as antifeedant (9.24%). TLC examination of fraction 3 revealed the presence of 2 spots (A and B) one of them was parallel to Lantadene A while the other one was parallel to Lantadene B. For better separation and isolation of the active ingredients, fraction 3 was acetylated and the acetylated product was introduced to preparative TLC chromatography, each developed band was scraped and separately with chloroform, and the acetyl group eliminated, the two free components A and B were solely examined for their antifeedant properties. The results obtained, showed that neither component A (63.25%) nor component B (40.96%) reached the antifeedant activity of their mother mixture of fraction 3 (93.0%). TLC technique of the two components of 3 by visualization by U.V. light was used to avoid any chemical treatment which might effect the stereochemical structure of these compounds which may effect their biological properties. Results revealed that 1'3 and component A were active as antifeedants (92.77 and 87.61% respectively). Such results might support the deduction of some change in stereochemical structure during acetylation and removal of the acetyl group. Although, Jf has a lower antifeedant activity but it showed two new and unknown spots on the TLC chromatogram. These two spots were corresponding to the same two spots in the original fraction. TLC separation of F6 by visualization under U.V. light revealed that fraction 6 is a mixture of two steroid substances C and D respectively. Components A, B, C and D were examined for their purity by determining their melting point, optical rotation, elementary analysis, U.V., I.R. and ¹¹J.I.R. Spectroscopic analysis. The obtained results of the 110 components A and B are almost in complete agreement with those obtained for the two authentic samples Lantadene A and Lantadene B. The results obtained for the other two compounds C and D were almost identical with that reviewed before for oleanolic acid and 22-B-hydroxy oleanonic acid respectively. Different concentrations of component A at 70, 35, 17.5 mg/100 ml. were tested on *S. gregaria*. The obtained results showed that the concentration 35 mg/100 ml. is the threshold potent concentration for antifeedant. Stock solutions of the

components A, B, C and D were prepared by dissolving 35 mg of each in 100 ml, ethanol. To study the biological effects different solutions were used. Results revealed slight toxicity by contact and the compound did not exert any adverse biological effect on the 6th instar Larvae of *S. littoralis* when topically applied. The results revealed some toxic effects by feeding and no other adverse biological effects on the 6th instar larvae or adults of *S. littoralis*. It was evident that component A produced some degree of feeding deterrence to *S. littoralis*.