COMPARATIVE EFFICACY OF CERTAIN PLANT EXTRACTS AGAINST DENGUE MOSQUITO VECTOR, *Aedes aegypti*

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ABSTRACT - Comparative efficacy of the petroleum ether extract of *Clerodendrum inerme*, *Vitex negundo*, *Pongamia glabra*, *Annona squamosa*, *Ricinus communis* and *Eupatorium odoratum* plant leaves were tested for larvicidal activity against early fourth instar larvae of dengue vector mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae). A 24 h bioassay was conducted in glass beakers of 250 ml of test solutions at five different concentrations (1000, 500, 250, 125 and 62.5 ppm). The results demonstrated that *Clerodendrum inerme*, *Vitex negundo* and *Pongamia glabra* were highly toxic, with an LC$_{50}$ value of less than 100 ppm, *Annona squamosa* and *Ricinus communis* were moderately toxic with an LC$_{50}$ value of more than 100 ppm and *Eupatorium odoratum* extract showed less toxic activity with an LC$_{50}$ value of 416 ppm against dengue vector mosquito. Therefore, *C. inerme*, *V. negundo*, *P. glabra* plant extracts may be use for the control of mosquitoes at rural area of high risk from mosquito borne diseases such as dengue and yellow fever.

Keywords : Plant extracts, dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, biological control.