



Efficacy of the Aqueous Extract of the Seeds Capsules of *Ricinus communis* on the Infestations of Shoot and Fruit Borer *Leucinodes orbonalis* Guenee (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae), Pest of Eggplant

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Abstract

This study was carried out from April to November 2014 in Azaguié, located in the south of Côte d'Ivoire. It consisted in testing the effect of the aqueous extract of the seeds capsules of *Ricinus communis* on the infestations of shoot and fruit borer *Leucinodes orbonalis*, pest of eggplant. Five treatments corresponding to five concentrations of aqueous extract of the seeds capsules of *R. communis* were compared to treatment with the chemical insecticide. The lowest infestation percentages and the highest percentages reduction of shoots and fruits infestation were obtained with aqueous extract seeds capsules of the *R. communis* at concentrations of 50 and 60 g / l compared to those obtained with the chemical insecticide. The aqueous extract of the seeds capsules of *R. communis* (50 and 60 g / l) also allowed to record the highest total and marketable fruit yields This extract was therefore more effective than the chemical insecticide.

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Introduction

Eggplant is a vegetable of high consumption in tropical Africa and especially in Côte d'Ivoire (Lester *et al.*, 1990; DSDI, 2005). It is grown for its fruits and leaves that are used in various culinary techniques in Africa (Daunay *et al.*, 1997; N'Tamon, 2007). In Côte d'Ivoire, as part of the ivorian food self-sufficiency policy, great importance has been given to vegetable crops including eggplant, which are allocated large areas. However the eggplant crop is confronted with the harmful action of several insect pests, the most formidable of which is *Leucinodes orbonalis*, which cause considerable damage

to eggplant mainly by their larvae (Obodji *et al.*, 2015). To combat this pest, it is the chemical control that is commonly employed.

Unfortunately, this method of control based on the use of chemical insecticides has many disadvantages, namely destruction of non-target organisms (pest insect predator, pollinator), environmental pollution (water, air and soil), the accumulation of toxic residues in fruits, thereby harming human health (Pasteur and Poirie, 1991). Because of the adverse effects of chemical insecticides, researches are oriented towards plants with an insecticidal effect for crop protection. Thus, we are

conducting this study to control infestations of *L. orbonalis* using *Ricinus communis* plant in south Côte d'Ivoire.

Materials and Methods

Study site

The study was carried out at Azaguié (5 ° 37 north latitude; 4 ° 02 west longitude), a area located in south of Côte d'Ivoire. The sub-equatorial climate of this locality is characterized by four seasons two dry seasons (minor and major seasons) and two rainy seasons (minor and major seasons). The work was carried out at temperatures ranging from 24.7 to 28.3°C, relative humidity ranging from 81.9 to 89.9 % and rainfall of 1844.49 mm.

Preparation of aqueous extracts

The capsules of the seeds of *R. communis* were harvested in the locality of Azaguié. These organs were dried in the shade (sheltered from the sun) during three to four weeks. The capsules were then milled in a blender until obtain powder. An amount of 100 g of powder obtained was diluted in 200 ml of distilled water. The whole (powder + distilled water) was then homogenized in the blender for five minutes. The resulting mixture was then filtered using poplin.

Two other filtrations were made respectively with Whatman paper and with the aid of the hydrophilic cotton placed in a funnel. The product obtained from these three filtrations was put into melam plates and then concentrated by evaporation in an oven set at 50 ° C during 48 hours until a dry residue was obtained. The dry residue obtained made it possible to prepare five concentrations of aqueous extracts (20 g / l; 30 g / l; 40 g / l; 50 g / l; 60 g / l) which were used to treat the subplots. For the chemical insecticide called K-Optimal 35 EC containing the active products which are: lambda-cyhalothrin (15 g/l) and acetamiprid (20 g/l), the dose

recommended for the treatment of the plants was 4 ml of the product diluted in 1.5 litres of water.

Experimental device and application of treatments

The variety of eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum*) used in this study was N'drowa issia. The experimental device was Fisher block at a three repetition composed of three blocks separated from each other by 2.5 meters. Each block consists of seven (7) elementary plots. In each block, the chemical insecticide was applied to one (1) elementary plot and five (5) elementary plots were received the different concentrations of the aqueous extract of the capsules of seeds of *R. communis*. A control plot was not treated. Two (2) hand-held sprayers with a capacity of one liter were used to perform the treatments. One was used to apply the chemical insecticide and the other sprayer was used to apply the aqueous extract of capsules of the seeds of *R. communis*. The various concentrations were sprayed one after the other. A total of 13 treatments were carried out and those was done at intervals of two weeks from transplanting to the end of the eggplant cycle.

Assessment of the effect of aqueous extracts on the infestations caused by *L. orbonalis*

To evaluate the efficacy of aqueous extracts at different concentrations (20 g/l; 30 g/l; 40g/l; 50 g/l; 60 g/l), one week after each treatment, 10 plants were selected randomly per elementary plot and were examined in order to count all the shoots and to identify those that are infested by the *L. orbonalis* larvae. At the fructification stage, in addition to counting the infested shoots, all fruits on the 10 plants selected randomly were harvested to count the infested and uninfested fruits. The fruits were weighed using a scale. The percentages of shoots infestation and percentages reduction of shoots infestation, the percentages of fruits infestation and percentages reduction of fruits infestation, the total and marketable fruits yields were calculated using the following formulas:

$$\text{Percentage of shoots infestation} = \frac{\text{Number of infested shoots}}{\text{Total number of shoots}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage reduction of shoots infestation} = \frac{\text{Number of infested shoots in the control plot} - \text{Number of infested shoots in the treated plot}}{\text{Number of infested shoots in the control plot}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage of fruits infestation} = \frac{\text{Number of infested fruits}}{\text{Total number of fruits}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Percentage reduction of fruits infestation} = \frac{\text{Number of infested fruits in the control plot} - \text{Number of infested fruits in the treated plot}}{\text{Number of infested fruits in the control plot}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Total yield (t h}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{\text{Weight of uninfested fruits} + \text{Weight of infested fruits}}{\text{Surface where the fruits were harvested}}$$

$$\text{Marketable fruits yield (t h}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{\text{Weight of uninfested fruits}}{\text{Surface where the fruits were harvested}}$$

Data analysis

Data processing was performed using statistica software version 7.1. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed significant differences between the data. The test of Student-Newman Keuls at 5% was used to classify the means into homogeneous groups.

Results and Discussion

Effect of aqueous extract of seeds capsules on shoots infestation

Percentage of shoots infestation

The percentage of infested shoots on the control plot was 28.08 ± 1.55 %. The chemical insecticide allowed to record an percentage of infested shoots of 5.25 ± 0.13 %. The lowest percentages of shoots infestation were obtained with the aqueous extract of the seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 and 60 g /l. These infestation percentages were 1.77 ± 0.19 (50 g / l) and 1.83 ± 0.2 % (60 g / l) (Fig.1a). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman- Keul test revealed significant differences between percentages shoots infestation.

Percentage reduction of shoots infestation

Percentages reduction of shoots infestation were higher with the aqueous extract of seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 g/l ($93.31 \pm 0.80\%$) and 60 g/l ($93.18 \pm 0.81\%$) comparatively to that obtained with the

chemical insecticide ($79.85 \pm 1.05\%$) (Fig.1b). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman-Keul test showed significant differences between the percentages of reduction of shoots infestation.

Effect of aqueous extract of seeds capsules on fruits infestation

Percentage of fruits infestation

The percentage of infested fruit obtained on the control plot was $29.26 \pm 2.34\%$. The aqueous extract of the seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l allowed to obtain the lowest percentage of infested fruits which were 2.71 ± 0.1 (50 g / l) and 2.96 ± 0.12 % (60 g / l) compared to the chemical insecticide which induced a percentage of fruit infestation of $4.85 \pm 0.18\%$ (Fig.2a). The analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman-Keul test revealed significant differences between percentages fruits infestation

Percentage reduction of fruits infestation

Comparatively to the chemical insecticide which allowed to obtain a percentage reduction of fruits infestation of 73.49 ± 3.33 %, the aqueous extract of the seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l induced the percentages reduction of fruit infestation of 83.84 ± 1.72 and 83.46 ± 1.78 % (Fig.2b). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman - Keul test showed significant differences between the percentages reduction of fruits infestation.

Effect of the aqueous extract of the capsules of the seeds on the number, weight of the fruits harvested and yields

Number of infested and uninfested fruits

The lowest mean numbers of infested fruit were obtained with the aqueous extract of seeds capsules at concentrations at 50 and 60 g / l with 0.67 ± 0.1 and 0.74 ± 0.13 fruit per plant compared to the chemical insecticide (1.02 ± 0.27 fruit per plant). The highest mean numbers of uninfested fruits obtained with this extract were 21.79 ± 1.56 (60 g/l) and 21.93 ± 2.1 (50 g/l) fruits per plant. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman-Keul test showed significant differences between the numbers of fruits (Table 1).

Weight of infested and uninfested fruits

The aqueous extract of seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l allowed to obtain the lowest mean weights of infested fruits (256.67 ± 14.74 and 262.38 ± 12.51 g) and the highest mean weights of uninfested fruits (8089.48 ± 180.33 and 8166.67 ± 188.65 g) compared to those obtained by chemical insecticide. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the

Newman - Keul test revealed significant differences between the fruits numbers (Table 1).

Total and marketable fruits yields

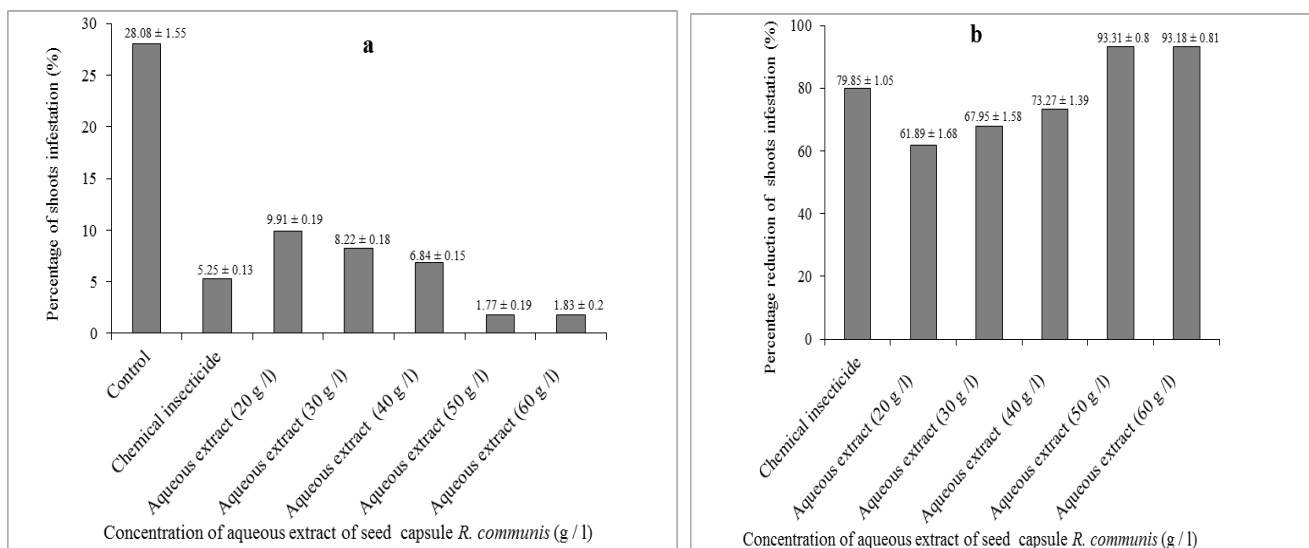
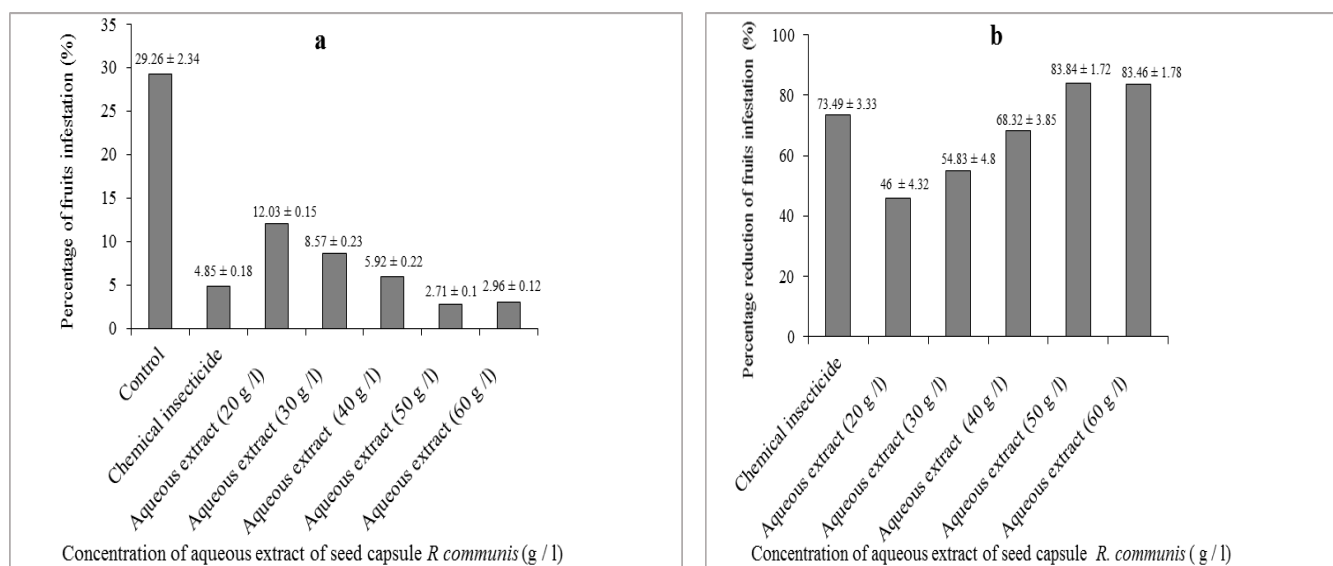
The highest total and marketable fruits yields were recorded with the aqueous extract of seeds capsules at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l compared to the chemical insecticide. These total yields were 21.18 ± 0.48 t h⁻¹ (60 g / l) and 21.41 ± 0.49 t ha⁻¹ (50 g / l) and the marketable fruits yields were 19.98 ± 0.45 t h⁻¹ (60 g / l) and 20.37 ± 0.48 t h⁻¹ (50 g / l). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by the Newman- Keul test indicated significant differences between yields (Table 1).

The aqueous extract of the seeds capsules of *R. communis* at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l allowed to obtain a lower percentage of shoots infestation compared to those induced by the chemical insecticide. It has effectively reduced shoot infestation of *L. orbonalis*. This shows that this aqueous extract (50 and 60 g / l) was more effective in controlling the infestation of *L. orbonalis* compared to the chemical insecticide. Similar results of efficacy of the aqueous extract seeds capsules of the *R. communis* had been obtained by Tano *et al.*, (2012) which reported higher mortality rates of *Coelaenomenodera lameensis* adults with this extract.

Table.1 Numbers of fruits, weights of fruits harvested and yields

Concentrations of the aqueous extract (g/l)	Average number of fruits per plant		Average weight of fruits harvested (g)		Yields (t h ⁻¹)	
	infested	Uninfested	infested	uninfested	total	marketable fruits
20	2.35 ± 1.07^b	17.09 ± 1.2^d	902.38 ± 44.38^b	6342.86 ± 229.34^d	18.11 ± 0.67^c	15.86 ± 0.57^c
30	1.82 ± 0.59^c	19.54 ± 1.1^c	756.67 ± 48.35^c	7266.67 ± 182.49^c	19.67 ± 0.41^b	18.17 ± 0.46^b
40	1.25 ± 0.18^d	20.22 ± 1.83^b	390.48 ± 30.79^d	7433.33 ± 132.62^b	20.06 ± 0.48^{ab}	18.58 ± 0.33^b
50	0.67 ± 0.1^e	21.93 ± 2.1^a	256.67 ± 14.74^e	8166.67 ± 188.65^a	21.41 ± 0.49^a	20.37 ± 0.48^a
60	0.74 ± 0.13^e	21.79 ± 1.56^a	262.38 ± 12.51^e	8089.48 ± 180.33^a	21.18 ± 0.48^a	19.98 ± 0.45^{ab}
Chemical insecticide	1.02 ± 0.27^d	20.58 ± 1.02^b	349.52 ± 17.18^d	7409.05 ± 285.44^b	20.50 ± 0.49^{ab}	18.82 ± 0.39^b
Control	5.05 ± 1.32^a	11.02 ± 1.13^e	1890.95 ± 233.72^a	4080.95 ± 149.86^e	14.93 ± 0.83^d	10.20 ± 0.37^d

In the same column, the averages affected of the different letters are significantly different according Newman-Keuls test at the threshold of 5 %.

Fig.1 Percentage of shoots infestation (a) and percentage reduction of shoots infestation (b)**Fig.2** Percentage of fruits infestation (a) and percentage reduction of fruits infestation (b)

Several authors have reported the effectiveness of the aqueous extract seeds and leaves of *R. communis* in the management against insect pests. Thus Singh and Kaur (2012) mentioned a toxicity of the aqueous extract of *R. communis* on *Musca domestica*, Elimam *et al.*, (2009) reported an effectiveness of the aqueous extract of *R. communis* on mosquitoes *Anopheles arabiensis* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* in Sudan. Pacheco *et al.*, (2012) also demonstrated remarkable efficacy of alcohol extracts of the leaves and seeds of *R. communis* on the beetle *Scyphophorus acupunctatus*. A similar study carried out by owusu, 2009 in Ghana revealed that the aqueous extract of *Annona muricata* permitted to record

lower percentage of shoots infestation induced by *L. orbonalis* larvae. The aqueous extract of seeds capsules of *R. communis* at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l also allowed to record lower percentages of fruits infestation and a higher percentage of infestation reduction compared to the chemical insecticide. The effectiveness of the aqueous extract of seeds capsules of *R. communis* could be explained by two hypotheses. The first hypothesis is that this extract would have had an ovidical effect on *L. orbonalis*. After spraying the aqueous extract, the eggs that would have been laid by the females on the leaves, flower buds or the fruit calyx, as reported by Taley *et al.*, (1984) and Alpuerto (1994)

would have been destroyed by this extract. According to Alzouma and Boubacar (1987), the ovicidal effect of products of vegetable origin would occur before hatching of the first instar larva. This would be linked to the chemical composition of the various aqueous extracts of plant species. The effectiveness of the aqueous extract of seeds capsules of *R. communis* is due to the ricin contained in the capsules enveloping the seeds and which is a very toxic substance for insects (Burgess *et al.*, 1988; Déthiollaz, 2003; Olsnes, 2004). The second hypothesis would be that the aqueous extract would have repulsive effect on females of *L. orbonalis*. These extracts after application, would have repelled the females of *L. orbonalis* thus preventing a large number of female to lay on the eggplant plants. Results on the repellent effect of aqueous extract of leaves of *R. communis* were obtained by Elimam *et al.*, (2009) who reported that this extract had a remarkable repellent effect on two mosquito species that were *Anopheles arabiensis* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*. Other studies on the use of plant extracts to control infestation of *L. orbonalis* have been carried out by several authors. Thus, Chitra *et al.*, (1993) observed, after spraying, aqueous extract leaves of *Azadirachta indica*, percentage of fruits infestation of 0.1 % against 69.55 % for the control. Dutta *et al.*, (2011) also reported a significant reduction of percentage of fruits infestation with extract of *A. indica*. Ghatak *et al.*, (2009) also reported a reduction of percentage of fruits infestation with aqueous extract leaves of *Annona squamosa*. The results showed that the yields (total and marketable fruits) were higher with the aqueous extract of seeds capsules of *R. communis* at concentrations of 50 and 60 g/l compared to those obtained with the chemical insecticide. These higher total and marketable fruits yields obtained with the aqueous extract of seeds capsules of *R. communis* would be justified by the fact that the extract would have allowed the plants to be less attacked, to grow well, to have a good health status and to be more productive. Similar results have been reported by Ashadul *et al.*, (2014) and Mondedji *et al.*, (2014). Indeed, Mondedji *et al.*, (2014), in their study, they obtained the highest marketable cabbage yields on plots treated with the hydroethanol extract of leaves of *A. indica*.

Conclusion

The aqueous extract of the seeds capsules of *R. communis* at concentrations of 50 and 60 g / l reduced significantly shoots and fruits infestation caused by the larvae of *L. orbonalis*. This aqueous extract was also allowed to record the highest total and marketable fruits

yields. It was therefore more effective than chemical insecticide. In order to preserve human health and the environment, the aqueous extract of capsules of the seeds of *R. communis* could be used as an alternative to the abuse of insecticides for to control *L. orbonalis* infestations.

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