

Original Article

# Antimicrobial and insecticidal effects of essential oil and plant extracts of *Myrcia oblongata* DC in pathogenic bacteria and *Alphitobius diaperinus*

Aplicação de óleo e extratos de *Myrcia oblongata* DC em bactérias patogênicas e controle biológico de *Alphitobius diaperinus*

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## Abstract

The secondary metabolism products of plants have influenced great economic interest, given their chemical diversity and biological activities. Because of this, this study evaluates the phytochemical composition, antimicrobial activity, insecticidal, and antioxidant activity of plant extracts and oil of *Myrcia oblongata*. Saponins, steroids, triterpenoids, tannins, and flavonoids were detected. The extracts showed antimicrobial capacity on the tested microorganisms, except for the methanolic extract, which showed no activity for *P. mirabilis* and *S. enteritidis*. Regarding the analysis of antioxidant compounds, the hexanic, ethyl acetate and acetone extracts showed higher antioxidant activities and also higher insecticidal performance on *Alphitobius diaperinus* larvae, resulting in 80% adult mortality. The results reported here show that there may be a relationship between antioxidant potential and the insecticidal effect of *Myrcia oblongata* DC. The components present in both the extract and the oil can be used as natural alternative to synthetic compounds in the biological control of parasites and pathogenic microorganisms.

**Keywords:** antioxidant, phytochemistry, *Salmonella*, insecticide.

## Resumo

Os produtos do metabolismo secundário das plantas têm despertado grande interesse econômico, dada sua diversidade química e atividades biológicas. Neste sentido, o estudo objetivou avaliar a composição fitoquímica, atividade antimicrobiana, inseticida e antioxidante dos extratos vegetais e óleo de *Myrcia oblongata*. Foram detectados a presença de saponinas, esteróides, triterpenóides, taninos e flavonóides. Os extratos apresentaram capacidade antimicrobiana sobre os microrganismos testados, exceto o extrato metanólico que não demonstrou atividade para *P. mirabilis* e *S. Enteritidis*. Quanto a análise de compostos antioxidantes observou-se que os extratos hexânico, acetato de etila e acetona apresentaram maiores atividades antioxidantes e também maior performance inseticida sobre a larva *Alphitobius diaperinus* e exibindo mortalidade de 80% na fase adulta. Os resultados aqui reportados mostram que pode haver uma relação entre potencial antioxidante e efeito inseticida do óleo de *Myrcia oblongata*; os componentes presentes tanto no extrato como o óleo podem ser utilizados como alternativa natural aos compostos sintéticos no controle biológico de parasitas e microrganismos patogênicos.

**Palavras-chaves:** antioxidante, fitoquímica, *Salmonella*, inseticida.

## 1. Introduction

With the increase of poultry productivity, the number of enteric diseases also increased, caused by bacteria, mainly of the Enterobacteriaceae family, which include the genus *Salmonella* (Netto et al., 2005). These bacteria, in particular, are of utmost importance to public health, as salmonellosis is responsible for high human mortality rates worldwide (Sánchez-Vargas et al., 2011). In addition, the dispersal of these bacteria in the environment is associated with the intensive production of food of animal origin, and poultry

products stand out as the main carriers of this pathogen (D'Aoust and Maurer, 2007)

The problem of microbial resistance is increasing mainly due to the extensive and inadequate use of growth-promoting antibiotics in poultry National Health Surveillance Agency of the Ministry of Health – ANVISA, 2011. There is a significant increase in the frequency of antimicrobial resistant bacteria that were routinely used.

Another problem in the poultry sector is the frequent use of chemicals for control of pests such as *Alphitobius*

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Received: January 27, 2020 – Accepted: October 13, 2020



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*diaperinus* (Coleoptera:Tenebrionidae). These beetles are controlled with pyrethroids and organophosphates (Lambkin and Furlong, 2011). However, these and other products have some disadvantages such as selection for resistant populations, environmental and bird contamination, as well as the microbial resistance of bacteria present in some insects (Japp et al., 2010).

Beyond the antimicrobial and insecticidal activity of extracts and essential oils, knowing the antioxidant activity is of great importance, as some compounds isolated from plants can replace synthetic preservatives in products and industries. However, for this purpose it is necessary to know the active principle of extracts and essential oils, in addition to adverse effects such as toxicity and chemical composition of these products (Melo et al., 2006).

Because of this, studies of this overview, work for therapeutic, prophylactic and alternative uses of these chemical compounds is of recognized importance (Vieira da Silva et al., 2016), and in this direction, plant extracts and essential oils stand out for their efficiency worldwide. In Brazil, the exploration of biological activity of plant chemicals has proven to be an efficient and more sustainable way to control zoonoses and decrease microbial resistance indices (Pandini et al., 2015; Weber et al., 2014).

In this context, the importance of exploring the antimicrobial, antioxidant, and insecticidal potential of plant bioactives, as well as the identification of their chemical constituents, increases. This research was divided into four experiments with the purpose of identify the phytochemical classes present in the plant extracts of *Myrcia oblongata* DC., and evaluated their antimicrobial activity against eleven standard bacteria and one yeast. Additionally to the activity of the essential oil and extracts on ten serotypes of *Salmonella* spp. of poultry importance were analyzed, the antioxidant activity was verified, and the insecticidal activity of the essential oil and plant extracts on the larvae and adults of *A. diaperinus* was evaluated.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Collection and identification of plant material

The leaves of *M. oblongata* were collected during the autumn season at the Paulo Gorski Ecological Park, from an Atlantic Forest biome located in the city of Cascavel in Paraná, Brazil (24°56'14" 24°56'14" to 24°58'1724°58'17" S, 53°25'1453°25'14 "a 53°27'06" W). The species had its identity confirmed and specimens deposited in the Herbarium of the State University of Western Paraná (UNOP) (UNOP voucher 1816).

The leaves were oven-dried at 40°C and processed in a Wiley knife mill with a 0.42 mm grain size. The obtained powder was stored in glass containers protected from light and humidity in a temperature-controlled (27 °C) room until the preparation of the plant extracts and the extraction of the essential oil (Ceyhan et al., 2012; Weber et al., 2014).

### 2.2. Obtaining the essential oil

According to the methodology proposed by Weber et al., (2014), *M. oblongata* dry plant material (140 g) was added to 1,400 mL of distilled water. The solution was placed in a Clevenger apparatus following the steam-dragging distillation methodology for approximately 3 h at 100°C. The obtained oil was stored in a freezer at 4 °C until use.

### 2.3. Obtaining extracts

To obtain the plant extracts, the dried and shredded leaves (20 g) were submitted to extraction on a shaker rotary shaker at 170 rpm for 24 h. The following extracting agents (100 mL) were used: distilled water, methanol (MeOH), ethanol (EtOH), ethyl acetate (AcEt), acetone (AcOH) and hexane (Hex). The obtained mixture were filtered on Whatman N° 1 filter papers and centrifuged at 3,800 rpm for 15 minutes. After collecting the supernatant, except for the aqueous extract, the liquid phases were concentrated in a rotary evaporator to remove the solvent. All extracts were stored at 4 °C.

For the aqueous extract, the dried and ground leaves (20 g) were added to distilled water (100 mL); this mixture was kept on a rotary shaker at 220 rpm for 24 h. This solution was filtered on Whatman N°1 and centrifuged at 5,000 rpm for 15 minutes. Extracts of MeOH, EtOH, AcEt, AcOH, and Hex were prepared similarly to aqueous extracts, but after the supernatant collection, the extracts were rotated and evaporated. All extracts were stored at 4 °C.

### 2.4. Phytochemical prospecting

Phytochemical assays for detecting the presence of steroids, triterpenoids, tannins, alkaloids, coumarins, saponins, anthocyanins, and flavonoids were performed according to the methodology developed by Matos (1997).

### 2.5. Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity was performed according to the methodology proposed by Weber et al. (2014) and Pandini et al. (2015) with modifications. Bacteria obtained from the International Bank were used: *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Salmonella enteritidis* (ATCC 13076), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 27853), *Proteus mirabilis* (ATCC 25933), and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (ATCC 13883). *Staphylococcus epidermidis* (ATCC 12228), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 19433), and *Candida albicans* yeast (ATCC 10231). In addition, *Salmonella allinarum* was obtained from the Adolfo Lutz Institute (IAL) and *Bacillus subtilis* was obtained from the culture collection of the Cefar Diagnostic Clinical Microbiology Laboratory located in São Paulo, SP, Brazil (CCCD-B005). In addition, ten serotypes of *Salmonella* spp. occurring in the western region of Paraná, Brazil (Pandini et al., 2015), were isolated from different aviaries in the region, and supplied by Mercolab Laboratories Ltda: *S. Albany*. These were *S. braenderup*, *S. gafsa*, *S. heidelberg*, *S. idikan*, *S. lexington*, *S. livingstone*, *S. montevideo*, *S. saintpaul* and *S. senftenberg*.

All microorganisms were recovered in Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) enrichment broth and incubated for 24 h at 37°C. The final bacterial concentrations were standardized to  $1 \times 10^5$  CFU/mL and  $1 \times 10^5$  CFU/mL yeast in saline at 0.85%.

For the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) test, the essential oil was diluted to a concentration of 7000 µg/mL. For this, a 70 mg aliquot of the oil was diluted with 1 mL methanol (10%). From this solution 500 µL were homogenized in 4.5 mL Muller-Hinton (MH) broth. The plant extracts were diluted as follows: to 0.40 g of extract, 1 mL of methanol.P.A and 1 mL of MH broth (2× concentration) were added. The aqueous extract was used directly in the wells with 150 µL MH broth.

The MIC for both oil and extracts were performed according to the standards of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute – CLSI (2007). For dilutions with essential oil, we proceeded as follows: in 96 well microdilution plates 150 µL of diluted MH broth (in all wells) and 150 µL of the essential oil solution (previously prepared) were added. Serial dilutions from 7.000 to 3.4 µg/mL were performed in the posterior wells. For the extracts, the extract solution, methanol and MH broth (previously prepared) were added to the first well of each row at a concentration of 200 mg/mL, in the subsequent wells 150 µL of MH broth (double concentration) was added, and serial dilutions ranging from 200 mg/mL to 3.12 mg/mL were performed. To each well was added 10 µL of the previously diluted microorganism inoculum. The plates were slightly homogenized and incubated for 24h at 37°C. The MIC was performed in triplicate.

After the incubation period, 10 µL of 1% triphenyl tetrazolium chloride (TTC) solution was added to each well of the microplates, and they were incubated for a further three hours at 37°C. The presence of red staining in the wells was interpreted as evidence of a negative inhibitory effect of the essential oil or plant extract, while the absence of staining was considered positive proof of the inhibitory action; that is, the essential oil or the plant extract did not inhibit the growth of microorganisms present in the microplates.

As a positive control, 30 mg/mL gentamicin solution was used for bacteria and nystatin for *C. albicans* yeast. A control with methanol was also performed; to this were added 70 µL MH broth, 70 µL 10% methanol and 10 µL of the microorganisms tested.

Before TTC was added to the wells, 10 µL of the solution from each well, including controls, were removed and inoculated into MH Agar Petri dishes for the Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) or Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) test. The plates were incubated for 24 h at 37 °C.

MIC and MBC of the essential oil were classified according to the criteria proposed by (Sartoratto et al., 2004), with the activity considered low (7000–3500 µg/mL), moderate (1700–875 µg/mL), high (437.5–218.75 µg/mL) or very high (< 109.375 µg/mL). For the extracts the classifications were considered high (< 12.5 mg/mL), moderate (12.5–25 mg/mL), low (50–100 mg/mL), and very low (> 100 mg/mL) (Araújo, 2010).

## 2.6. Antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of the essential oil was measured according to the free radical reduction

method using 2,2-diphenyl-1-picryl hydrazole (DPPH) (Scherer et al., 2009; Weber et al., 2014). For this, 0.1 mL aliquots of the plant extracts, at a concentration of 200 mg/mL were treated with 3.9 mL of 50% methanolic solution and homogenized in a tube shaker. The absorbances of the samples were measured by a spectrophotometer at 515 nm. As negative control, a solution composed of methanol, acetone, and water (40 mL of 70% acetone solution, 40 mL of 50% methanol solution, and 20 mL of distilled water) was added with the addition of the DPPH radical. The positive control was the commercial synthetic butyl hydroxy toluene (BHT) antioxidant. As blank 50% methanol was used for spectrophotometer calibration. DPPH absorbances at concentrations of 34, 64, 100, 134, 166 and 200 µm (readings:  $\lambda = 515\text{nm}$ ) were used to determine a linear data dispersion function (of DPPH absorbances).

Antioxidant activity calculations were performed as follows: initially the equation of the DPPH line (linear function) was calculated. DPPH reduction indices for plant extracts and BHT (positive control) were calculated by the equation:  $\% [(Abs_0 - Abs_1) / Abs_0] \times 100$ , where  $Abs_0$  is the absorbance of the negative control and  $Abs_1$  is the absorbance of sample. The  $IC_{50}$ , which is the concentration of oil/plant extract required to reduce 50% of the DPPH free radical, was calculated through the absorbances of the different DPPH concentrations, which generated a linear function. The absorbance values were evaluated by the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test, with a significance level of 0.05, followed by the Tukey test for comparison of means. Statistical analysis was performed using the statistical software R® version 3.3.2.

## 2.7. Insecticidal activity of essential oil and plant extracts of *M. oblongata* on *A. diaperinus* larvae and adults

The experiment was based on Marcomini et al. (2009) with modifications. The insects were collected in a broiler poultry house in Cascavel, Paraná, Brazil and kept in the laboratory for 24 h before being used in biological assays. Two bioassays were conducted to determine the toxicity of the treatments on the young phase, in which larvae with 1 cm length were used, and for the adult phase of *A. diaperinus*.

Plant extracts (AcEt, AcOH, MeOH, EtOH, and Hex) were solubilized in acetone to concentrations of 10, 5, 2.5, and 1.25%. Then aliquots of the acetone-solubilized extracts were further diluted using 0.1% Tween 80® aqueous solution. For the tests using the essential oil, the acetone was diluted to 10, 5, 2.5, and 1.25%.

In both bioassays, the control treatment used sterile distilled water and 0.1% Tween 80® (in the same proportion as the extracts) and 10% acetone. The assays were performed on glass plates (diameter: 7 cm) with Whatman N° 1 filter paper1 (diameter: 5 cm) and the larvae and adults of *A. diaperinus* were fed 1g of wheat straw. Based on the methodology of Marcomini et al. (2009) different concentrations of essential oil and extracts of *M. oblongata* were added to the Petri dishes, and *A. diaperinus* larvae and adults walked for 30 seconds in this material (Marcomini et al., 2009). Mortality assessment was performed 24 hours after oil and extract application;

Insects that did not respond to touch with tweezers were considered dead. Five repetitions were performed for each extract and concentration of essential oil.; insects that did not respond to touch with forceps were considered dead. Five repetitions were performed for each extract and essential oil concentration.

The results underwent a nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis statistical test and Dunn's follow-up test for independent sample comparisons after normality and homoscedasticity assumptions were analyzed ( $\alpha = 0.05\%$ ).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Phytochemical Prospecting

In the determination of the phytochemistry of the leaves of *M. oblongata*, it was possible to verify groups of compounds from the secondary metabolism of the plants, such as saponins, steroids, triterpenoids, tannins, and flavonoids. The aqueous extract showed the presence of saponins and tannins; in the extracts Hex, AcEt, and AcOH there were steroids, triterpenoids, and tannins. The EtOH and MeOH extracts showed only the presence of triterpenoids (Table 1)

#### 3.2. Antimicrobial activity

The extracts of *M. oblongata* showed antimicrobial activity for all microorganisms tested, except for the MeOH extract, which did not have bactericidal activity for *P. mirabilis* and *S. enteritidis* (Table 2).

The MIC and MBC of *M. oblongata* essential oil ranged from 437.5 to 7000  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  for the ten salmonella serotypes tested (Table 3). The best activities were verified on the serotypes *S. Lexington* and *S. Saintpaul* with CIM 437.5/MBC 3,500 and 875/1,750, respectively. Plant extracts showed activity on all *Salmonella* spp. evaluated, ranging from 1.57 to 100 mg/mL.

#### 3.3. Antioxidant activity

The absorbances of the free radical DPPH resulted in the linear function (Equation 1) with  $R^2 = 0.9233$ , which was achieved by  $\text{IC}_{50}$  calculations (Table 4).

$$y = 0.0139x - 0.138 \quad (1)$$

By the analysis of variance test (ANOVA), with a significance level of 0.05, it was found that at least one of the mean absorbances of the six extracts is different ( $p < 0.05$ ;  $GL = 6$ ). The means of extracts HeOH and AcEt did not differ from BHT (positive control) by Tukey test (Table 4). These two extracts showed activity higher than 80%. The EtOH, MeOH, and aqueous extracts did not show antioxidant activity; that is, there was no reduction of significant absorbances in the reading on the spectrophotometer, presenting DPPH sequestration percentage below 30%.

#### 3.4. Insecticidal activity of essential oil and plant extracts of *M. oblongata* on *A. diaperinus* larvae and adults

The experiment to evaluate insecticide activity showed that, for *A. diaperinus* larvae, there was a statistical difference between the medians of the treatments by Kruskal-Wallis ( $p < 0,0$ ; 5; Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared = 26.63;  $GL=24$ ). The best mortality rate was 97.75% for the EtOH extract, followed by 95.25% for the essential oil. AcEt and MeOH extract did not differ by the Dunn test for independent sample comparisons ( $\alpha = 0.05\%$ ) and showed 87.75% and 86.5% lethality, respectively. EtOH (78.5%) and AcOH (59.8%) had the lowest mortality rates. There was no mortality for the aqueous extract (Table 5).

*A. diaperinus* adults showed different mortality responses between treatments by the test Kruskal-Wallis ( $p < 0,05$ ; Kruskal-Wallis chi-squared = 28.117;  $GL = 24$ ). There was a large range in the Coefficient of Variation for adults due to the large difference in mortality between treatments. The best fatality rate was for essential oil (92.5%). The other extracts had mortality below 20%: MeOH 19.75%, AcEt 19.25%, Hex 13.25%, AcOH 6.5%, and EtOH 2.25% (Table 6). There was no mortality for the aqueous extract.

### 4. Discussion

In the phytochemical prospecting saponins, steroids, triterpenoids, tannins, and flavonoids were identified

**Table 1.** Classes of secondary metabolites identified in the extracts of *M. oblongata*.

Metabolite Classes	Extracts of <i>M. oblongata</i>					
	Aqueous	EtOH	MeOH	AcEt.	AcOH	Hex
Saponins	+	-	-	-	-	-
Steroids	-	-	-	+	+	+
Triterpenoids	-	+	+	+	+	+
Alkaloids	-	-	-	-	-	+
Tannins	+	-	-	+	+	+
Coumarins	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthocyanins	-	-	-	-	-	-
Flavonoids	-	-	-	+	-	+

+ Presence of the compound; - absence of compound. MeOH: methanol extract; EtOH: ethanol extract; AcEt: ethyl acetate; AcOH: acetone extract and Hex: hexane extract.

**Table 2.** Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC), Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC), and Minimum Fungicidal Concentration (MFC) of *M. oblongata* plant extracts against standard microorganisms.

Microorganisms	Extracts CIM/MBC				
	Hex	MeOH	EtOH	AcEt	AcOH
<b>Gram-negative</b>					
<i>E. coli</i>	50/100	50/50	100/100	50/100	6.25/25
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	25/100	25/100	50/100	100/100	12.5/100
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	25/50	100/–	25/100	50/200	1.56/25
<i>K. pneumoniae</i>	50/100	12.5/25	12.5/100	12.5/50	12.5/100
<i>S. Enteritidis</i>	50/200	50/–	50/100	6.25/50	25/100
<i>S. Gallinarum</i>	50/100	50/100	100/200	50/100	100/200
<b>Gram-positive</b>					
<i>S. epidermidis</i>	12.5/50	12.5/12.5	6.25/25	6.25/25	3.125/12.5
<i>S. aureus</i>	25/50	12.5/50	12.5/50	3.125/50	6.25/12.5
<i>E. faecalis</i>	25/100	6.25/50	50/100	3.125/25	3.125/12.5
<i>B. subtilis</i>	25/50	25/100	50/100	25/25	12.5/25
<b>Yeast cells</b>					
<i>C. albicans</i>	12,5/25	50/100	100/100	25/100	25/100

High: <12.5 mg/mL; Moderate: 12.5–25 mg/mL; low: 50–100 mg/mL; very low: > 100 mg/mL; –: Not detected; MeOH: methanol extract; EtOH ethanol extract; AcEt: ethyl acetate; AcOH: acetone extract and Hex: hexane extract.

**Table 3.** Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) and Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) of *M. oblongata* plant extracts and essential oil against different *Salmonella* spp serotypes.

Microorganisms	Extracts CIM/MBC					
	Hex	MeOH	EtOH	AcEt	AcOH	OE
<i>S. Albany</i>	12.5/50	100/100	50/100	25/50	50/100	3,500/7000
<i>S. Braenderup</i>	6.25/50	50/200	12.5/100	3.125/50	25/50	3,500/7000
<i>S. Gafsa</i>	12.5/100	100/200	50/100	25/200	12,5/100	1,750/3,500
<i>S. Heidelberg</i>	12.5/50	12.5/100	25/100	12.5/50	12,,5/50	3,500/7000
<i>S. Idikan</i>	6.25/100	100/–	100/100	6.25/100	25/200	1,750/3,500
<i>S. Lexington</i>	12,5/200	100/100	100/100	50/200	25/100	437,5/3,500
<i>S. Livingstone</i>	25/100	100/200	50/200	6.25/50	25/100	3,500/3,500
<i>S. Montevideo</i>	12.5/100	100/100	100/200	12,5/100	12.5/100	3,500/–
<i>S. Saintpaul</i>	6,25/25	50/100	100/200	1.5625/25	6.25/100	875/1,750
<i>S. Senftenberg</i>	12.5/100	25/100	25/100	12.5/50	100/50	3,500/7000

Extract activity ranges from: 200 mg/mL to 0.0976 mg/mL. High Activity: <12.5 mg/mL; Moderate: 12.5–25 mg/mL; low: 50–100 mg/mL; very low: > 100 mg/mL. Essential Oil Activity - Low: 7000–3500; Moderate: 1700–875; high: 437.5–218.75; very high: <109.3. Not detected: –. There was no activity for aqueous extracts. MeOH: methanol extract; EtOH ethanol extract; AcEt: ethyl acetate; AcOH: acetone extract; Hex: hexane extract and OE: essential oil.

in the plant extracts of *M. oblongata*. The extracts of *M. oblongata* showed activity for all microorganisms tested, except the MeOH extract, which did not show bactericidal activity for *P. mirabilis* or *S. enteritidis*. Hex, AcEt, and AcOH extracts showed similar antioxidant activity to BHT (positive control).

The essential oil and Hex extract presented the highest mortality rates, above 95%, on *A. diaperinus* larvae. The best adult lethality rate for *A. diaperinus* was for essential oil (92.5%).

The Myrtaceae family is widely studied for the production of secondary metabolites. The presence of tannins, steroids, and saponins in the leaves of *Gomidesia affinis* and *Gomidesia spectabilis* of this family has been demonstrated (Sakita and Aguiar, 2006). In addition, there are triterpenes, flavonoids, and alkaloids in extracts of *Calycorectes psidiiflorus* (Domingues et al., 2010) and tannins and flavonoids in *Pimenta pseudocaryophyllus*. These are all from the same family (Paula et al., 2008), for the genus *Myrcia*, we found in the literature reports

**Table 4.** DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picril hidrazil) index (% reduction) and IC<sub>50</sub> in different extracts of *M. oblongata*.

Test Solution	Mean ± standard deviation	% reduction DPPH	IC <sub>50</sub>
BHT Positive Control	0.4070 ± 0.44 a <sup>*</sup>	93.77	6.18
Hexane	0.2672 ± 0.1 a b	90.18	9.37
Ethyl acetate	0.4260 ± 0.42 a b c	84.14	14.13
Acetone	0.5824 ± 0.19 c	76.26	19.17

\*Values followed by the same letter do not differ from each other by the Tukey test.

**Table 5.** Mortality (%) caused by *M. oblongata* essential oil and plant extracts on *A. diaperinus* larvae.

Extracts/ Essential Oil	Concentrations				Witness	p-value
	1.25%	2.5%	5%	10%		
AcEt	87bC	86bC	83cC	95aC	0	< 0.0005
AcOH	17.20dE	74bE	82aE	66cE	0	< 0.0005
MeOH	70cC	90bC	90bC	96aC	0	< 0.0005
EtOH	16bD	98aD	100aD	100aD	0	< 0.0005
Hex	96aA	97aA	99aA	99aA	0	< 0.0005
EO	81bB	100aB	100aB	100aB	0	0.0923
p-value	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0005		
CV (%)						3.14

Lower case letters in the row and upper case letters in the column differ by Dunn's multiple comparison test ( $\alpha = 0.05\%$ ) after the Kruskal-Wallis test; CV: coefficient of variation; Average mortality in percentage. MeOH: methanol extract; EtOH ethanol extract; AcEt: ethyl acetate; AcOH: acetone extract; Hex: hexane extract, and OE: essential oil.

**Table 6.** Mortality (%) caused by *M. oblongata* essential oil and plant extracts on *A. diaperinus* adults.

Extracts/ Essential Oil	Concentrations				control	p-value
	1.25%	2.5%	5%	10%		
AcEt	8bB	19aB	21aB	29aB	0	< 0.0005
AcOH	0bB	2bB	5bB	19aB	0	< 0.0005
MeOH	9bB	15bB	22aB	33aB	0	< 0.0005
EtOH	3aC	1aC	2aC	3aC	0	> 0.0005
Hex	1cB	5cB	16bB	31aB	0	< 0.0005
OE	87aA	87aA	96aA	100aA	0	> 0.0005
p-value	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0005	< 0.0005		
CV (%)						58.76

Lower case letters in the row and upper case letters in the column differ by Dunn's multiple comparison test ( $\alpha = 0.05\%$ ) after the Kruskal-Wallis test; CV: coefficient of variation; Average mortality in percentages. MeOH: methanol extract; EtOH ethanol extract; AcEt: ethyl acetate; AcOH: acetone extract; Hex: hexane extract; and OE: essential oil.

of phenolic compounds in *Myrcia bela* (Saldanha, 2013), *Myrcia hiemalis* (Silva, 2007) and *Myrcia rotundifolia* (Cerqueira et al., 2009).

In studies with phenolic compounds, their antioxidant capacities have been demonstrated, as well as their possible effects in the prevention of several cardiovascular, cancerous, and neurological diseases. The beneficial action of phenolic compounds in human health has been related to their anti-inflammatory activity, and preventing the action of free radicals in the body (Pham-Huy et al., 2008).

Phenolic compounds such as steroids, triterpenoids, tannins and flavonoids have in their structure benzene groups and hydroxyl groups (Hernández Ángel and Prieto

González, 1999). Flavonoids are polyphenols, single or acid phenols, where hydrogen atoms of hydroxyl groups, double benzene ring bonds, and some flavonoids may confer biological activities (Silva et al., 2010; Rice-Evans et al., 1997) as antioxidants and antimicrobials and insect repellents (Rosa et al., 2016; Rathi et al., 2008).

Flavonoids are present in some fruits and vegetables, and these are presented as flavonoids, flavones, flavanones, catechins, anthocyanins, isoflavones, and chalcones (Graham, 1992; Van-Acker et al., 1996). Non-flavonoids are derivatives of hydroxycinnamic and hydroxybenzoic acids, which may also have biological activities. These activities are related to the position of the hydroxyl groups and also

to the proximity of the  $-CO_2H$  group to the phenyl group (Silva et al., 2010).

The triterpenoids in the terpene group have diverse structures with over 40,000 different shapes. These different forms are present in plants, animals, and microorganisms and have many functions in the plant and animal kingdom and human health. These compounds are released when predators and pathogens attack; however, the biological role of several terpenoids are not yet known ((Arteaga et al., 2009; Gershenzon and Dudareva, 2007; Roberts, 2007).

Several studies have demonstrate the activity of plant extracts of members of the Myrtaceae family on different types of microorganisms. Ferreira and Vargas, (1999) indicated that in the *S. typhimurium* assay, *Myrciaria tenella* extract (Myrtaceae) showed mutagenic activity on this bacterium, probably due to the presence of flavonoids and tannins in the extracts. These compounds are also present in the extracts of *M. oblongata*. Extracts with different solvents of *Psidium guajava* showed antimicrobial activity on growth of *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *P. mirabilis*, *K. pneumoniae*, *S. typhimurium*, and *Candida sp.* (Carvalho et al., 2002; Chah et al., 2006; Nair and Chanda, 2007). In addition, the efficiency of *Myrciaria cauliflora*, *P. guajava* and *Syzygium cumini* extracts that showed activity by CIM and MBC/MFC on *C. albicans*, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. aureus* and *B. subtilis* have also been reported (Bona et al., 2014); In Boskovic et al. (2018) study, the ethanol extract of *Anchusa officinalis* was the best extract with antimicrobial activity.

The aqueous extract showed no activity for any microorganism tested (Tables 2 and 3). This result is similar to information reported by other authors who found no antimicrobial activity from aqueous extracts of *P. guajava*, *M. cauliflora*, and *S. cumini* (Myrtaceae) for *C. albicans*, *E. coli*, *K. pneumoniae*, *B. subtilis*, *S. aureus*, or *S. typhimurium*. *S. typhimurium*, at a concentration of 400 mg. mL<sup>-1</sup>, by agar diffusion and microdilution methodologies (MIC and MBC) (Bona et al., 2014).

The antibacterial activity of the essential oil can be explained by the presence of the major compounds caryophyllene oxide (22.03%), trans-verbenol (11.94%) and  $\delta$ -pinene (6.65%). As they are highly hydrophobic, these monoterpenes can interact with the cell membrane of microorganisms, causing significant damage to the plasma membrane and ultimately causing cell lysis (Turina et al., 2006). Burt (2004) states that the antimicrobial activity of essential oils is related to the synergistic effect of chemical constituents, which may have occurred with *M. oblongata* essential oil.

Plant extracts showed activity on all *Salmonella* spp. evaluated. Similar results were observed by Voss-Rech et al. (2011), where 20 *Salmonella* serotypes were tested against extracts of *Eugenia jambolana*, *Eugenia uniflora*, *Caryophyllus aromaticus*, and *Psidium araca* (Myrtaceae), and all presented MIC and MBC ranging from 40 to 240 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>. The wide variation between the inhibitory effect may be related to the different metabolite groups present in the extracts (Raven, 2007).

There is a difficulty for methodological comparisons to evaluate antimicrobial activity, there is a difficulty in

comparing the results obtained by different authors, since there are modifications in the methodologies used; that is, there is no one pattern followed. Variations occur from inoculum preparation method, dilutions, and reading results (Cavanagh and Wilkinson, 2002).

The antioxidant activity of Hex, AcEt, AcEt and AcOH extracts may be associated with the presence of phenolic compounds, especially tannins and flavonoids that have recognized antioxidant activities (Ali et al., 2011). The efficiency of these compounds is linked to hydrogen transfer that neutralizes the action of free radicals (Brewer, 2011). Flavonoids act as metal chelators, singlet oxygen deactivators, and consequently reduce free radicals (Carteler, 2005; Carvalho et al., 2002). Tannins are capable of intercepting active oxygen into stable radicals (Simões et al., 2004). The quantities of phenolic compounds vary due to different variables that affect the plants, such as climate, soil type, species, cultivar, temperature, pathogen attack, and the type of storage of leaves and plant extracts (Melo et al., 2008). In foods, phenolic compounds may contribute to oxidative stability (Castañeda-Ovando et al., 2009).

Extracts of twelve species of the Myrtaceae family: *Blepharocalyx salicifolius*, *Eugenia bimarginata*, *Eugenia dysenterica*, *Eugenia klotzschiana*, *Hexachlamys edulis*, *Psidium australe*, and *Psidium laruotteanum* and of the genus *Myrcia*: *Myrcia bela*, *Myrcia tomyrcia* and *Myrcia lingua* were tested against the free radical DPPH. They had DPPH and IC<sub>50</sub> reduction percentage values similar or higher than *Camellia sinensis* (positive control), whose tea has high antioxidant activity due to the large amount of phenolic compounds (Takao et al., 2015). The aqueous extract of *Lafoensia pacari* (Myrtaceae) did not show significant antioxidant activity at a concentration of 400 µg/mL (Campos and Fransson, 2011). These data from the extracts of the Myrtaceae family and genus *Myrcia* are similar to those found for *M. oblongata*.

Results with mortality rates higher than 50% for extracts and oils of the Myrtaceae family were demonstrated by *Eucalyptus citriodora* essential oil on nematodes (Macedo et al., 2012). *Eucalyptus grandis* and *Eucalyptus citriodora* extracts also caused high lethality on the beetle *Acanthoscelides obtectus* (Mazzonetto and Vendramim, 2003).

Essential oils can act on digestive and essential oils can act on digestive, neurological enzymes or interact with the insect's integument (Isman, 2006). Kim et al., (2003) described the relationship between chemical structure and biological activity of compounds, noting that the greater the ability of a chemical compound to dissolve into fats, the greater the penetration of the insect integument. Prado (2007) pointed out that some compounds can act by contact; that is, they are absorbed by exoskeleton chitin or airways, presenting a fumigant action.

In this work, the essential oil promoted mortality higher than 80% for both larvae and adults at all concentrations tested (10, 5, 2.5 and 1.25%), possibly due to the substances present in the essential oil and the form of application. *Myrcia oblongata* oil presents as major compounds caryophyllene oxide, trans-verbenol, and  $\delta$ -pinene. These terpenes have repellency potential and proven mortality on coleopterans such as *Sitophilus zeamais* (Taponjijou et al., 2005) and *Tribolium confusum* (Lima et al., 2009).

When analyzing the volatile constituents of *Cyanea angustifolia*, researchers when analyzing the volatile constituents of *Cyanea angustifolia*, they found 40 different types of terpenes, noting that these constituents are responsible for the inhibition of acetylcholinesterase in insects (Savaris et al., 2012). Such substances were also found in the *M. oblongata* phytochemistry. Pauliquevis and Favero (2015), analyzing different methods of application of the essential oil of *Pothomorphe umbellata*, found that it was efficient by the contact surface method on *Sitophilus zeamais*, a methodology similar to that used in this study with *M. oblongata*.

The insecticidal activity of members of the Myrtaceae family is proven. *Eugenia uniflora* and *Melia azedarach* 10% essential oil was tested on *Atta laevigata* and showed high mortality potential (Jung et al., 2013). *Eugenia florida* and *Eugenia handroana* (Myrtaceae) extracts reduced the survival of *Atta sexdens rubropilosa* (Formicidae) via dietary intake (Torres et al., 2013). Plant extracts of *Myrcia obtecta* also demonstrated insecticidal activity for the control of *S. zeamais* (Coleoptera) (Vendramin, 2010).

## 5. Conclusion

In the phytochemical prospecting, saponins, steroids, triterpenoids, tannins, and flavonoids were identified in the plant extracts of *M. oblongata*. The extracts of *M. oblongata* showed activity for all tested microorganisms, except for the methanolic extract that showed no bactericidal activity for *P. mirabilis* and *S. enteritidis*. Hex, AcEt and AcOH extracts showed similar antioxidant activity to BHT (positive control); demonstrating important antioxidant potential. The essential oil and hexanic extract presented the highest mortality rates, above 95%, on *A. diaperinus* larvae. The ethyl acetate, acetone, methanolic, and ethanolic extracts presented mortalities higher than 50%. There was no mortality for the aqueous extract. The best adult lethality rate for *A. diaperinus* was for essential oil (92.5%). The other treatments had mortality rates below 20%.

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