

# Efficacy of extracts from plants of the Brazilian Pantanal against *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*

Eficácia de extratos de plantas do Pantanal brasileiro sobre *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus*

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## Abstract

This research evaluated the *in vitro* acaricidal activity of extracts from 21 plant species from the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul. During stage I, a larval immersion test was performed using three extract concentrations (5%, 20%, and 40%). During stage II, we used only plants that showed over 95% efficiency at the 40% concentration in stage I in an amount sufficient for the adult immersion test. *Aeschynomene denticulata*, *Angelonia hirta*, *Aspilia latissima*, *Caperonia castaneifolia*, *Centratherum punctatum*, *Crotalaria micans*, *Diodia kuntzei*, *Echinodorus paniculatus*, *Hyptis mutabilis*, *Lantana canescens*, *Melanthera latifolia*, *Ocotea diospyrifolia*, *Richardia grandiflora*, *Sebastiania hispida*, *Tocoyena formosa*, *Zanthoxylum rigidum*, and *Sesbania virgata* (fruit extract) showed acaricidal activity against the larval stage of *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* higher than 95% at a 40% (w/v) concentration, while *Hippocratea volubilis* and *Randia armata* showed moderate efficacy and *Croton glandulosus* and *Senna obtusifolia* had no effect. The *M. latifolia*, *A. hirta*, *R. grandiflora*, and *A. latissima* raw extracts were evaluated for their activity against adults, and only *A. hirta* showed an efficacy close to 90%. Eighteen extracts had an efficacy of up to 95% against larvae at a 40% concentration, seven extracts were effective at 20%, and only one (*Sebastiania hispida*) was effective at a 5% concentration.

**Keywords:** Cattle tick, natural compounds, phytotherapy, parasites.

## Resumo

Este trabalho avaliou a atividade acaricida *in vitro* de extratos de 21 espécies de plantas do Pantanal de Mato Grosso do Sul. Na etapa I, foi realizado um teste de imersão larval utilizando três concentrações de extrato (5%, 20% e 40%). Na etapa II, utilizou-se apenas as plantas que apresentaram eficácia superior a 95%, na concentração de 40% na etapa I e que apresentasse quantidade suficiente para o teste de imersão de adulto. *Aeschynomene denticulata*, *Angelonia hirta*, *Aspilia latissima*, *Caperonia castaneifolia*, *Centratherum punctatum*, *Crotalaria micans*, *Diodia kuntzei*, *Echinodorus paniculatus*, *Hyptis mutabilis*, *Lantana canescens*, *Melanthera latifolia*, *Ocotea diospyrifolia*, *Richardia grandiflora*, *Sebastiania hispida*, *Tocoyena formosa*, *Zanthoxylum rigidum* e *Sesbania virgata* (extrato do fruto) apresentaram atividade acaricida sobre larvas de *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* superior a 95% na concentração de 40% (w/v), enquanto *Hippocratea volubilis* e *Randia armata* apresentaram eficácia moderada e *Croton glandulosus* e *Senna obtusifolia* não apresentaram efeito acaricida. Os extratos brutos de *M. latifolia*, *A. hirta*, *R. grandiflora* e *A. latissima* foram avaliados sobre adultos e *A. hirta* apresentou eficácia próxima de 90%. Dezoito extratos apresentaram eficácia de até 95%, contra larvas, na concentração de 40%, sete extratos foram eficazes a 20% e apenas um (*Sebastiania hispida*) foi eficaz na concentração de 5%.

**Palavras-chave:** Carrapato bovino, compostos naturais, fitoterapia, parasitas.

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## Introduction

The resistance of *R. (B.) microplus* to almost every chemical group in Mato Grosso do Sul State has been demonstrated; this situation is detrimental to Brazil as a whole (GOMES et al., 2011) and affects several other countries (FAO, 2004). Due to this reduction in the susceptibility to current acaricidals, there has been an increase in the development of studies using natural products to search for new active ingredients (NEEWMAN; CRAGG, 2012). A survey of the records from the United States Environmental Protection Agency between 1997 and 2010 shows that 69.3% of the new pesticide registrations originated from research on natural products; the success of several of these substances is what sustains this type of research (CANTRELL et al., 2012).

In Brazil, several plants have been evaluated against *R. (B.) microplus*, highlighting *Melia azadirachta* (SOUSA et al., 2008), *Azadirachta indica* (COSTA et al., 2008), *Drimys brasiliensis* (RIBEIRO et al., 2008b), *Piper aduncum* (SILVA et al., 2009), *Simarouba versicolor* (CATTO et al., 2009), *Calea serrata* (RIBEIRO et al., 2011), *Tagetes minuta* (GARCIA et al., 2012) and *Guarea kunthiana* (BARBOSA et al., 2013).

Nineteen plants were evaluated for the first time with respect to their acaricidal activity in this study, and only two of the 21 species (*Croton glandulosus* and *Sebastiania hispida*) had already been evaluated by Catto et al. (2009) in relation to *R. (B.) microplus*.

The use of phytotherapies to control ticks is a major challenge; however, given the great diversity of plants found in the Pantanal bioma (Brazil), this approach represents a feasible alternative. The objective of this study was to evaluate 21 species from 12 different families of plants from the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS) Plant extracts collection to identify candidate for new synthetic acaricidal drug screening.

## Materials and Methods

### Isolate of *R. (B.) microplus*

A field isolate of *R. (B.) microplus* resistant to a pyrethroid (deltamethrin) was used. The acaricidal profile of this isolate also showed resistance to organophosphate and pyrethroid association (ethion and cypermethrin, chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin) and organophosphate and organophosphate association (dichlorvos and chlorpyrifos) and sensitivity to amidine (amitraz). This isolate originated from the Federal University of Uberlândia, granted by Embrapa Gado de Corte. For their maintenance, 5000 larvae of *R. (B.) microplus* were infested over a calf on a weekly basis. All procedures followed the biosafety, ethics and welfare requirements for animal research, established by the Animal Ethics Committee from the Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul (UFMS) under process number 410/2012.

### Plant material

Twenty-one plant species were collected (different parts) (Table 1) from the area of Rio Miranda/Abobral, at São Miguel Farm (19° 36' 30" S; 151 57° 2' 8" W), Estrada Parque (19° 37' 5" S; 57° 2' 4" W), Base de Estudos do Pantanal – UFMS (19° 34' 36" S; 57° 1' 11" W) and São Bento Farm (19° 34' 7" S; 57° 1' 15" O) during the flood season (December to March) of 2012, with access and sample shipment authorization under the Brazilian Genetic Heritage Component number 010457/2010-0. The criteria for the species choice were the amount of material available for evaluation and the family to which the species belonged. Of the 12 evaluated families, some showed previously identified acaricidal action, while others were unstudied.

The plant materials were dried, pulverized, sieved and stored in sealed vials (–12 °C) until preparation of the extracts (maximum elapsed time of three months), which were also stored at the same temperature until the in vitro tests

The samples stored was extracted with a pressurized fluid extractor (DIONEX®) (ASE 150) using the raw method: solvent (ethanol/distilled water 7:3), 100 °C, 1,600 psi, one cycle, static time of 5 min, 60% wash, and 50 sec of purging.

### Larval immersion test (LIT)

Twenty-two hydroalcoholic raw extracts were evaluated, which were taken from the twenty-one plants of the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul (one species had two extracts, one from its fruit and the other from its thin branches and leaves) listed in Table 1. These extracts were tested at three different concentrations (40%, 20% and 5%) in triplicate using the larval immersion test (LIT) (Klafke, 2006) with modifications.

Briefly, 0.025 grams of eggs were weighed and kept in 2 mL polypropylene tubes at 27 °C ± 1, which were adapted with an orifice on the lid for free air exchange so that the treatments could be injected.

The diluents used for the in vitro evaluations were determined by the polarity and water solubility of the raw extracts: 20% ethanol, 5% Tween 80 or distilled water. Immediately after 1 mL of the diluted extracts was added to the polypropylene tubes containing approximately 500 larvae (0.025 grams of eggs), the tube was closed and shaken manually for a few seconds and then at 200 rpm in a shaker for 10 minutes. After this period, the larvae were placed in filter paper envelopes using a brush, and the envelopes were fastened with paper clamps and kept at 27 °C ± 1 and 80% relative humidity. After 24 hours, the live and dead larvae were counted. For each extract, a positive control (cypermethrin, dichlorvos, and citronellal according to the concentrations recommended by the manufacturer, Colosso Pulverização® - Ourofino Saúde Animal) and a negative control (20% ethanol, 5% Tween 80 or distilled water) were used.

### Adult immersion test (AIT)

The raw extracts from the following plants, *M. latifolia*, *A. hirta*, *R. grandiflora*, and *A. latissima*, were used for the AIT

**Table 1.** Plants collected in the region of the Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul that were used in the Larval Immersion Test (LIT) and the Adult Immersion Test (AIT), listing the families and parts of the plants collected.

Species	Family	Popular Name	Collected Part
<i>Aeschynomene denticulata</i>	Leguminosae	Angiquinho	AP/FL/FR
<i>Angelonia hirta</i>	Scrophulariaceae	-	AP/FL/FR
<i>Aspilia latissima</i>	Asteraceae	Mirassol; fumeiro	LE
<i>Caperonia castaneifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Castanheiro-do-brejo	AP/FL
<i>Centratherum punctatum</i>	Asteraceae	Balaio-de-velho	AP/FL
<i>Crotalaria micans</i>	Leguminosae	Guizo-de-cascavel	AP/FL/FR
<i>Croton glandulosus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Anxuma	AP/FL
<i>Diodia kuntzei</i>	Rubiaceae	-	TP/FL
<i>Echinodorus paniculatus</i>	Alismataceae	Chapéu-de-couro	AP/FL
<i>Hippocratea volubilis</i>	Hippocrateaceae	Cipó borracha	TB/LE
<i>Hyptis mutabilis</i>	Lamiaceae	Betônica-brava	AP/FL
<i>Lantana canescens</i>	Verbenaceae	Camara and Cidreira	AP/FL
<i>Melanthera latifolia</i>	Asteraceae	-	AP/FL
<i>Ocotea diospyrifolia</i>	Lauraceae	Canela-preta	TB/LE
<i>Randia armata</i>	Rubiaceae	Limão-bravo	TB/LE/FR
<i>Richardia grandiflora</i>	Rubiaceae	Trevo-mexicano	AP/FL
<i>Sebastiania hispida</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Mercúrio	AP
<i>Sesbania virgata</i>	Fabaceae	-	TB/LE & FR
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Leguminosae	Fedegoso	AP/FL/FR
<i>Tocoyena formosa</i>	Rubiaceae	Genipapinho	TB/LE
<i>Zanthoxylum rigidum</i>	Rutaceae	Mama de cadela	TB/LE

Abbrev.: TB: thin branches; AP: aerial part (including the leaf, branch and stem); TP: total part (including the root, leaf and thin branches); FL: flower; FR: fruit; LE: leaf.

(DRUMMOND et al., 1973) because only these four species had a sufficient amount of extract to perform the AIT in relation to other extracts that were also effective in the LIT. The tests were performed in duplicate (10 females per group, N=20/concentration, homogeneously distributed among the repetitions) to study the effects of different concentrations on the mortality and reproductive aspects of the females. The same positive and negative controls previously mentioned were used.

### Data analysis

To calculate the efficiency on larvae, we used:

$$E\% = \left[ \frac{\text{Average of dead larvae}}{(\text{Average of live larvae} + \text{Average of dead larvae})} \right] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

The reproductive efficiency (ER) and efficiency index (IE) of the plant extract in adult engorged females were calculated according to Drummond et al. (1973):

$$ER = \left( \frac{\text{Egg mass weight}}{\text{Female mass weight}} \right) \times \% \text{ hatching} \times 20,000 \quad (2)$$

$$IE = \left[ \frac{(\text{ER from control group} - \text{ER from treated group})}{\text{ER from control group}} \right] \times 100 \quad (3)$$

The evaluation criteria for the extracts were established according to the guidelines of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) (HOLDSWORTH et al., 2006) to evaluate the acaricidal efficiency and specified an efficacy greater than 95%.

## Results

The efficiency percentages for the LIT at concentrations of 40%, 20%, and 5% are listed in Table 2.

Overall, twelve extracts presented 100% efficiency at a 40% concentration, seven extracts presented an efficiency equal to or greater than 95% at a 20% concentration, one extract presented an efficiency greater than 95% at a 5% concentration, and two extracts, *S. obtusifolia* and *C. glandulosus*, were considered inefficient against *R. (B.) microplus* because they presented less than 95% efficiency at the highest concentration evaluated in this study (40%).

The effects of the extracts on the adult females of *R. (B.) microplus* are presented in Table 3. *A. hirta* (40%) presented 5% mortality, with an average egg hatchability of 19.3%, and reached an average efficiency of 88%. *M. latifolia* (40%) presented 35% mortality and an average hatchability of 47.6%. *R. grandiflora* (40%) presented 15% mortality and an average hatchability of 45.3%. *A. latissima* (50%) presented 10% mortality and an average hatchability of 33.3%.

## Discussion

This study is the first evaluation of the acaricidal activity of *A. denticulata*, *A. hirta*, *A. latissima*, *C. castaneifolia*, *C. punctatum*, *C. micans*, *D. kuntzei*, *E. paniculatus*, *H. volubilis*, *H. mutabilis*, *L. canescens*, *M. latifolia*, *O. diospyrifolia*, *R. armata*, *R. grandiflora*, *S. virgata*, *S. obtusifolia*, *T. formosa* and *Z. rigidum*, which all collected at the Pantanal region of Mato Grosso do Sul. Two plants

**Table 2.** Average efficiency percentage for the Larval Immersion Test (LIT) at three concentrations, performed in triplicate on *R. (B.) microplus* larvae.

Species	Efficacy (%)/extract concentration			Negative control	Positive control
	5%	20%	40%		
<i>Aeschynomene denticulata</i>	2 (1.2-2.4)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	1.67 (0.9-2.6)	100
<i>Angelonia hirta</i>	9.93 (8-10.9)	97.26 (96.4-97.9)	100 (100-100)	1 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Aspilia latissima</i>	5.84 (2.8-8.6)	46.14 (38.4-53.3)	97.88 (92.9-100)	1.03 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Caperonia castaneifolia</i>	15.16 (6.1-20.8)	61.45 (46.7-61)	100 (100-100)	1 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Centrathrum punctatum</i>	1.74 (0.7-2.5)	98.3 (91.4-98.9)	100 (100-100)	0.83 (0.6-1.3)	100
<i>Crotalaria micans</i>	4.7 (0.3-6.8)	75 (70.4-80.3)	100 (100-100)	1.67 (0.9-2.6)	100
<i>Croton glandulosus</i>	9.23 (6.1-15.6)	12.16 (9-15.7)	45.97 (29.7-58.7)	2.8 (1.9-3.5)	100
<i>Diodia kuntzei</i>	11.07 (3.6-23)	88.53 (88.3-89)	100 (100-100)	1.37 (0.7-2)	100
<i>Echinodorus paniculatus</i>	5.21 (3.8-6.9)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	1.37 (0.7-2)	100
<i>Hippocratea volubilis</i>	4 (2.9-4.2)	43 (41.2-44.5)	84 (82.7-86.8)	0 (0-0)	100
<i>Hyptis mutabilis</i>	5 (3.9-8.7)	78 (71.4-87.9)	95 (87-100)	1.3 (0.9-1.8)	100
<i>Lantana canescens</i>	22.27 (3.4-55.6)	63.82 (47-77.2)	99.63 (98.6-100)	1.03 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Melanthera latifolia</i>	2.93 (1.9-4.1)	76.49 (64-87.7)	100 (100-100)	0.83 (0.6-1.3)	100
<i>Ocotea diospyrifolia</i>	5 (3.4-6.4)	64 (58-69.8)	98 (97.5-99)	0 (0-0)	100
<i>Randia armata</i>	25 (18.6-32.7)	28 (22.7-36.7)	75 (67.2-79.8)	2.8 (1.9-3.5)	100
<i>Richardia grandiflora</i>	4 (3-5.8)	39 (34.6-43.3)	100 (100-100)	1 (0-1.9)	100
<i>Sebastiania hispida</i>	99.11 (99-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	1.37 (0.7-2)	100
<i>Sesbania virgata</i> TB/LE	3.16 (2.4-4.4)	46.01 (41.1- 59.9)	96.52 (98.6-100)	1.03 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Sesbania virgata</i> FR	84.26 (80.9-91)	98.69 (98.7-100)	100 (100-100)	1 (0-2.4)	100
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	11 (8.1-14)	20 (15-25.6)	40 (26.6-53.4)	2.8 (1.9-3.5)	100
<i>Tocoyena formosa</i>	5 (4.2-6)	35 (30.6-40)	95 (90-99.5)	1.3 (0.9-1.8)	100
<i>Zanthoxylum rigidum</i>	3 (2.3-4.7)	99 (98-100)	100 (100-100)	1 (0-1.9)	100

Abbrev.: TB: thin branches AP: aerial part (including the leaf, branch and stem); PT: total part (including the root, leaf and thin branches); FL: flower; FR: fruit; LE: leaf. For each extract, a positive control (cypermethrin, dichlorvos, and citronellal at the concentrations recommended by the manufacturer, OUROFINO®) and a negative control (20% ethanol, 5% Tween 80 or distilled water) were used.

**Table 3.** Average of the acaricidal efficiency of the raw extracts of plants from the Pantanal region of Mato Grosso do Sul, on *R. (B.) microplus* in the Adult Immersion Test (AIT). Tests performed in duplicate, with 10 females per group.

Adult Immersion Test			
<i>Angelonia hirta</i>		<i>Melanthera latifolia</i>	
Concentration %	Efficiency Average	Concentration %	Efficiency Average
40%	88	40%	73
20%	85	20%	35
10%	77	10%	32
5%	57	5%	17.4
2.50%	40	2.50%	19
1.25%	17	1.25%	17
0.63%	8	0.63%	0
0.31%	6	0.31%	0
Positive control	100	Positive control	100
Negative control	0	Negative control	0
<i>Richardia grandiflora</i>		<i>Aspilia latissima</i>	
Concentration %	Efficiency Average	Concentration %	Efficiency Average
40%	63	50%	76
20%	53	25%	52
10%	30	12.50%	23
5%	18	6.25%	27
2.50%	7	3.13%	17
1.25%	8	1.56%	8
0.63%	2	0.78%	15
0.31%	0	0.39%	6
Positive control	100	Positive control	100
Negative control	0	Negative control	0

For each extract, a positive control (cypermethrin, dichlorvos, and citronellal at the concentrations recommended by the manufacturer, OUROFINO®) and a negative control (20% ethanol, 5% Tween 80 or distilled water) were used.



used in this study, *C. glandulosus* and *S. hispida*, had already been evaluated with respect to their acaricidal activity (CATTO et al., 2009). In this study, the *C. glandulosus* extract was obtained using only the aboveground parts of the plant, and it was found to have 9.23% efficacy compared to *R. (B.) microplus* larvae at a 5% concentration. Catto et al. (2009) used the whole plant to obtain the extract and evaluated it at a 2.5% concentration, which is lower than the concentration used in this study, on adults of the same tick species; they observed a hatchability of 89% and an average efficiency of 20.28%. These results showed that *C. glandulosus* has a reduced action against *R. (B.) microplus* that occurs mainly when the engorged females are laying eggs and when there is a possible compromise of embryogenesis.

In this paper, the hydroalcoholic extract prepared from the aboveground part of *S. hispida* was obtained, which presented an efficacy greater than 95% at a 5% concentration in the LIT. In another study, the raw extract of the whole plant at a concentration of 2.5% was evaluated in the AIT, and the average efficiency was only 8.16%, with a reduction in egg hatchability of 7% (CATTO et al., 2009). This difference in the acaricidal action of *S. hispida* may be justified by the interference of factors such as the location and time of collection, the part of the plant used, and the life stage of the tick being treated. Catto et al. (2009) obtained the exsiccate in April 2008, a year when there was a severe drought and low precipitation indices (SOARES et al., 2009). The exsiccate for this study was obtained during the flood season in Pantanal in the summer of 2012 (December to March). According to Gobbo-Neto et al. (2007), the secondary compounds of plants may be influenced by seasonality, circadian rhythm and development; in the case of an extended drought, the stress to which the plant is submitted decreases the concentration of metabolites, and these substances may accumulate in the whole plant or part of it during the summer. In addition, the methods used to extract the active ingredients differed between these studies. Catto et al. (2009) used maceration as an extraction method to obtain a tincture, followed by drying (evaporation of the solvent). Considering that the success of this method depends on the extracting liquid, temperature, shaking, pH and extraction time, in this study, closed system extraction in a pressurized fluid extractor was performed. This extraction method is considered highly efficient and uses a lower amount of solvent compared with other extraction methods (FALKENBERG et al., 2010).

*Z. rigidum* (Rutaceae) at a 20% concentration presented with an efficiency average of 99%. The Rutaceae family has been extensively studied with respect to the significant number of different secondary metabolites and its biological activities - antibacterial, fungicidal (NISSANKA et al., 2001) and acaricidal (ELANGO; RAHUMAN, 2011). The *Zanthoxylum* genus includes species with anti-fungicidal and repellent activity against *Aedes aegypti* (CHOOCHOTE et al., 2007).

*M. latifolia*, *A. latissima* and *C. punctatum* (Asteraceae) presented efficacy greater than 95% at the highest concentration (40%) in the literature. Ribeiro et al. (2008a) also observed an efficiency of greater than 95% for *Calea serrata* (Quebra-tudo), a plant that also belongs to the Asteraceae family. The hexane extract from *C. serrata* (aboveground parts of the plant), which is rich in eupatoriochromene and precocene II, presented a toxic effect in

the LIT (concentrations of 3.12 and 6.25 mg/mL) against *R. (B.) microplus*. Later, Ribeiro et al. (2012) analyzed the mechanism of action of the hexane extract from *C. serrata* (concentrations of 1.5, 3 and 6 mg / mL), and the results showed the inhibition of acetylcholinesterase in *R. (B.) microplus* larvae and in Wistar rats at all concentrations.

In this study, *C. micans* showed 100% efficacy at a concentration of 40%, and *A. denticulata* presented an efficacy of 100% at concentrations of 40% and 20%. Although they belong to the same family (Leguminosae), these two species may contain different secondary metabolites that are present in unequal amounts. These compounds may vary by the state of their growth between its different parts, and they can be activated at any stage of development or during period, so that plants belonging to the same family may have the same classes of substances and yet have different activity levels (MANN, 1987), as reported here for *C. micans* and *A. denticulata*.

Two extracts of *S. virgata* (Fabaceae) were evaluated in this study. The fruit extract showed efficacy higher than 95% at concentrations of 20% and 40%, whereas the extract from leaves and thin branches of the plant had the same efficiency only at a 40% concentration. The main compound in the seeds from the fruit of *S. virgata* is the bioflavonoid (+)-catechin, which has a phytotoxic effect on plants and inhibits the growth of bacteria such as *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (SIMÕES et al., 2008). This compound may be responsible for the higher efficiency of the fruit extract compared with the extract from the leaves and thin branches and for the antimicrobial action, but another substance may act synergistically (WINK, 2010).

At a concentration of 5%, the raw extracts of *A. hirta* and *M. latifolia* showed higher efficacy against adults than against larvae of *R. (B.) microplus*. *R. grandiflora* was more effective against adults at all evaluated concentrations. This result is in contrast with the observation that *R. (B.) microplus* larvae are apparently more susceptible to both the chemical acaricidals and extracts tested in several studies. Chagas et al. (2003) evaluated the sensitivity of *R. (B.) microplus* to solvent and reported a higher sensitivity in females than in larvae, even with one half of the immersion time compared to the larvae. They also emphasized that this result may be related to the difference in the formation of the cuticle of larvae and adults.

The tick's cuticle is composed of wax, which is present in a larger proportion in adults and has several physiological functions (ODHIAMBO; GALUN, 1982). With the use of a solvent, it is possible to increase the penetration of the plant extract into parasites (CHAGAS et al. 2002), thus increasing its effectiveness. Additionally, there may be a direct action of the solvent on the fitness of the adult tick due to a loss of water to the outside because of the removal of the wax cuticle of the female tick (CHAGAS et al., 2003). This action is less pronounced in larvae (CHAGAS et al., 2002) because the lipid layer appears after the changes in the nymph of *R. (B.) microplus* (ODHIAMBO; GALUN, 1982). In this study, the use of methyl alcohol as a solvent may have increased the susceptibility of females compared to the larvae.

Kaplan et al. (1994), when evaluating the chemical diversity of species from the Brazilian Cerrado, observed that the species from the Cerrado have a large number of secondary compounds

(bioactive); however, the amount of each compound is so small that the compounds could only be identified by a detailed analysis of the phytochemical profile. Therefore, in this study, the evaluation of high concentrations (40%) of crude extracts of plants is justifiable for the identification of candidate plant species for future studies aiming at the isolation of bioactive substances.

## Conclusion

Overall, eighteen extracts presented acaricidal activity against the larvae of *R. (B.) microplus* greater than 95% at a concentration of 40%; seven extracts were effective at a concentration of 20%; and only one, the *Sebastiania hispida* extract, was effective at a concentration of 5%. Four plants, *Randia armata*, *Croton glandulosus*, *Hippocratea volubilis* and *Senna obtusifolia*, presented efficiency less than 95% at a 40% concentration. Among the four raw extracts tested in engorged females, only the *Angelonia hirta* species presented efficiency close to 90% and reduced hatchability by 80.7%.

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