



Phytochemical characterization and bioactive properties of essential oils and extracts of *Marrubium vulgare* L. and *Dittrichia viscosa* L. and exploration of their insecticidal and wound healing potential

Abstract:

Currently, wounds are a major problem in medical science and require special attention in scientific research. Similarly, in the agricultural sector, the use of chemicals for the preservation of stored seeds has multiple health and environmental disadvantages. In this context, scientific research on medicinal plants and their bioactive molecules offers a wide range of potential to address these issues. *D. viscosa* and *M. vulgare* are part of the Moroccan flora, and the objective of this work is part of a phytochemical valuation of EOs and extracts of these plants and the evaluation of their insecticidal and healing effect.

In addition to phytochemical analysis, several *in vitro* and *in vivo* methodological approaches have been used. Therefore, the results of the analysis of HEs by GC-MS revealed the presence of bornyl acetate (41%), and borneol (9.33%) as major compounds in *D. viscosa*. The major compounds in *M. vulgare* EOs were: α -pinene (33.91%), and 3-carene (8.68%). The insecticidal effect by inhalation of EO from *D. viscosa* (1 μ L EO/L) caused $97.5 \pm 5\%$ mortality after 96 h of exposure on *C. maculatus*. In the same test, *M. vulgare* caused $69.44 \pm 2.4\%$ mortality after 96 h of exposure. These results support the development of new insecticidal agents from these EOs.

On the other hand, the hydro-ethanolic extract of the two plants was analyzed by GC-MS after silylation. The major compound in *D. viscosa* was trimethylsilyl-meso-inositol (20.54%), and malic acid (tms) in *M. vulgare* (22.57%). The antioxidant activity was evaluated by three methods (DPPH, FRAP and TAC). In the DPPH test we recorded an $IC_{50} = 12.54 \pm 0.2$ μ g/mL in the EtOH extract of *D. viscosa* and an $IC_{50} = 52.04 \pm 0.2$ μ g/mL in the MVE extract of *M. vulgare*. In antimicrobial activity, MICs ranged from 0.93 to 10 mg/mL in *D. viscosa* extracts, and from 1.75 to 10 mg/mL in *M. vulgare*.

Analysis by HPLC-DAD and LC-TOFSM revealed the richness of these plants in phenolic compounds, flavonoids and fatty acids. Moreover, the results of the *in vivo* tests showed that the mixture had the best analgesic activity, and *M. vulgare* showed the best percentage inhibition (47.65%) in the anti-inflammatory test. The application of plants and their mixture leads to the closure of wounds on day 21. However, additional research would be needed on the bioactive molecules of these plants and more precisely on their mechanism of action as insecticidal and healing agents.

Key Words:

M. vulgare, *D. viscosa*, insecticide, wound healing, antioxidant, antimicrobial