



Bioactivity and chemical composition of anise (*Pimpinella anisum*) on *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) compared to malathion.

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Abstract:

In recent years, the focus has been on using alternatives to control stored grain pests to overcome resistance to pesticides. It reduced the costs, providing good control and safe to use. Ways to protect grain storage include the use of safe alternatives such as plant products. Lesser grain borer, *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) is one of the most important insect pests of stored products in the world. The adult emergence may spend several days within the grain attacking wheat grains causing before making exit holes to emerge. This cause weight loss and reduced nutrition values. The present study was conducted in laboratory to evaluate the efficacy of anise (oil and powder) compared to malathion as a recommended insecticide for controlling stored grain pests. The tested compounds evaluated by mixing with medium assay to study the parameters of mortality %, emergence % of *R. dominica* adults, on the repellent activity, germination %, weight loss % beside the identification of chemical components of anise oil by GC/MS analysis. The results showed that anise oil and powder and malathion were effective in reducing insect infestations. The tested materials significantly increased the insect mortality % and reduced the emergence % with increasing concentrations and exposure time. Also, the weight loss % of wheat grains decreased with increasing concentrations of all tested compounds compared to control. Moreover, the tested materials showed a good repellent activity on *R. dominica* adults especially at the highest concentration. The effect of anise oil was higher than that of the powder and malathion for repellent activity. Furthermore, anise oil slight inhibited the germination percentage of wheat grains followed by anise powder. While, malathion had no effect on germination percentage compared with control, after three months post treatment. Considering the results of current study, it could be suggested that the anise oil and powder have the potentiality to be used as an alternative to chemical insecticides for protecting stored grains against *R. dominica* in the integrated pest management program.

Introduction

Storage of grains is part of the post-harvest system through which food material passes on its way from field to consumer. It is generally accepted that 5–15% of the total weight of all cereals, oil seeds, and pulses is lost after harvest (Anonymous, 1989). Cereals are the staple and nutritive food but their storage is not safe due to the attack of certain stored grain insect pests. Insect infestation alone has been noted for the causes of over 5-10% losses of stored grains in the temperate countries and 20-30% in the tropical zones (Dubey *et al.*, 2008).

Lesser grain borer *Rhyzopertha dominica* (Fabricius) (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) is one of the most important insect pests of stored products in the world. Newly emerging adults may spend several days within the grain before chewing exit holes to emerge (Benhalima *et al.*, 2004). Feeding by *R. dominica* larvae and adult can reduce weight by as much as 75% (Dal bello *et al.*, 2001), and also reduce nutritional and aesthetic value of the grain. Moreover, the lesser grain borer reduce germination (Moino *et al.*, 1998). Controlling of stored product insect populations is primarily depended upon continued applications of insecticides. However, the implications of these are serious problems of toxic residues, health and environmental hazards, development of insect strain resistant to insecticides, increasing cost of application (Sighamony *et al.*, 1986; Okonkwo and Ewete, 1999 and Dubey *et al.*, 2008). Malathion-resistant phenotype has almost completely replaced the susceptible strain. Moreover, many of the stored product insects have developed resistance to the commonly used chemicals

(Subramanyam and Hagstrum, 1995 and Srivastava and Singh, 2002).

The use of plant oils for controlling insect pests in stored grains is a sustainable alternative because the oils are derived from natural resources. Such oils could function as contact toxin, fumigant, repellent, antifeedant and oviposition inhibitor (Tapondjou *et al.*, 2002 and Isman, 2008).

Furthermore, the use of plant materials as traditional protectants of stored products is an old practice used all over the world (Aslam *et al.*, 2002). The protection of stored products generally involves mixing grain with plant-based protectants (Tapondjou *et al.*, 2002 and Udo *et al.*, 2011). It is an age-old practice of traditional farmers in the tropics to mix a local plant with seeds of legumes. Using plant with insecticidal properties is therefore an attractive alternative to the more explosive synthetic insecticides. Various plant byproducts have been tried recently with a good degree of success as protectants against number of stored grain insect pests (Ketoh *et al.*, 2005; Hosny *et al.*, 2007; Ziga *et al.*, 2012 and Wanida *et al.*, 2012). Therefore, the goal of this study to evaluate the efficiency of anise oil and powder compared to the recommended compound malathion against *R. dominica* with the respect to adult mortality and progeny reduction, to identify the chemical components of anise oil and also losses of grain weight, repellency and germination of wheat grains has been evaluated.

Materials and methods

1. Materials:

1.1. Tested insects:

Lesser grain borer, *R. dominica* used in this study was reared free of insecticidal contamination at $28 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$,

70±5±R.H.% of the laboratory or Stored Product Pests Research Department, Plant Protection Research Institute, Sakha Agricultural Research Station. The culture was maintained under the same conditions, insects were to emplace in glass jar (1000 gm) containing 500 g of sterilized wheat grain and 400-500 of *R. dominica* insects. Adult insects were left for two weeks for eggs laying in the jar and kept again at the untreated conditions in the rearing laboratory. The newly emerging adults (1-2 weeks-old) of *R. dominica* were used for experimental work.

1.2. The stored product:

Wheat grains used were Masr 1, which obtained from Sakha Agriculture Research Station Farm. The grains were used to culture *R. dominica* and to evaluate the efficacy of anise oil and powder against *R. dominica* compared to malathion insecticide.

1.3. Collection and preparation of plant powder:

The plant powders used (*Pimpinella anisum*) anise seeds were collected from local market. The target plant seeds were dried at the room temperature (25-28^oC), the dried seedes powdered mechanically by using an electric blender, then sieved through 300 mesh size. The resulting fine powders were maintained in tightly closed dry bags until used for the experimental work.

1.4. Plant Oil used:

The oil of anise was obtained from Hashem Brothers Company for Essential Oils and Aromatic Products (Kafr Elsohbya, Qalyoubeya, Egypt).

1.5. Analysis of anise essential oil:

The constituents of anise plant oil was analyzed by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC/MS) using HP5890 system with HP column (60

meter x 0.25 millimeter, 0.25 m film thickness). Detector was flame ionization detector (FID). The mobile phase was nitrogen and hydrogen was the stationary phase. Initial temperature was 60^oC and maximum temperature was 250^oC. The injector temperature was 240^oC. Relative percentage amounts were calculated from peaks total area by apparatus software. The compounds were identified by matching the mass spectra data with those held in a computer library (Wiley 275 L). All steps of sample preparation, extraction and analysis procedure were carried out in the Analysis Laboratory of Hashem Brothers for Essential oils and Aromatic Products, Abdel-Moneim Riad St., Giza, Egypt.

1.6. The chemical insecticide (Malathion):

Chemical name: O,O dimethyl-S-(1,2 dicarboxy-ethyl) ethyl phosphorodithioate

The applied formulation: odorless malathion (dust 1%)

Source: Kafr El-Zayat Pesticides and Chemical Company, Egypt

2. Methods:

2.1. Toxicity activity of tested materials against *Rhizopertha dominica* adults:

Mixing with feeding medium technique was used to determine the insecticidal effects of anise oil and powder and malathion against *R. dominica*. The considerable concentrations used were (1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0%) w/w for anise oil, (0.5, 1.5, 3.0 and 5.0% w/w) for anise powder and (0.04, 0.06, 0.08 and 0.1% w/w) for malathion insecticide. These concentrations of each tested materials were separately mixed with 20 g of wheat grains and were introduced in 250 ml and the jar was shaken hand to mix the grain with all tested concentrations. The jars without any tested materials were used as

control. Each concentration and untreated control replicated three times. Twenty of newly emerged adults of *R. dominica* (1-2 weeks old) were added to each jar, the jars covered with muslin cloth and kept under laboratory conditions. Mortality counts were recorded after 7 and 15 days. All results were corrected with Abbott's formula (1925).

Data were then analyzed using Probit analysis Litchfield and Welcoxon (1949), to estimate LC50, slope value and 95% confidence limits (CL). Toxicity index.

2.2. Biological activity of tested materials against *Rhizopertha dominica*:

The biological effect of anise (oil and powder) and malathion were evaluated after recording mortality. The desirable concentrations of anise (oil, powder) and malathion were (1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0% w/w) dissolved in acetone (0.5, 1.5, 3.0 and 5.0% w/w) and (0.04, 0.06, 0.08 and 0.1% w/w) for anise oil, marjoram powder and malathion, respectively. Each concentration was applied in three replicates and in each replicate there were 20 g of wheat grains in 250 mL glass jars. For oil the treatment was carried out by adding 1 ml of each concentration to the wheat grains, mixing well and then left in jars for suitable time until the solvent evaporated before using them in experiment. However, for anise powder and malathion dust the treatments were carried out by mixing powder and dust with wheat grains and were shaken thoroughly to ensure uniform coverage by the different treatments. The untreated treatment was used as control and was replicated three times. After that, 20 adults unsexed (1-2 week-old) of *R. dominica* were transferred to the treated wheat grains in glass jars (250 mL) and kept at $28 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and 70 ± 5 R.H. according to the method described by El-Lakwah *et*

al. (1992). Mortality counts were recorded after 7 and 15 days. Then the adults were sieved out and discarded after twenty days. The newly adult emergence were used to calculate the reduction percentages in *R. dominica* progeny.

$$\text{Reduction \%} = \frac{\text{No. of adults emerged in control} - \text{No. of adults emerged in treatment}}{\text{No. of adults emerged in control}} \times 100$$

2.3. Repellency activity of tested materials against *Rhizopertha dominica*:

The repellency effect of anise (oil and powder) and malathion against *R. dominica* adult was conducted using the modified apparatus according to Helen (1989). It consists of a metallic ring (6 cm diameter x 1 cm height) was placed at the center of Petri-dish (12 cm diameter x 2.5 cm height). Concentrations of anise oil, powder and malathion (1.0, 2.0, 3.0 and 4% w/w), (0.5, 1.5, 3.0 and 5.0% w/w) and (0.04, 0.06, 0.08 and 0.1% w/w) for anise oil, powder and malathion, respectively. anise oil only was dissolved in 1 ml acetone. However, the treatment was carried out by mixing the anise powder and malathion dust with wheat grains and were shaken thoroughly to ensure uniform coverage with the different treatments. The untreated treatment was used as control. The treatments and control were replicated three times. After that, ten grams of treated wheat grains were put inside the metallic ring. Twenty unsexed adults (1-2 weeks-old) of *R. dominica* were released separately at the center of the ring. The Petri dishes were covered and were kept at $28 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $70 \pm 5\%$ R.H. Repellency percentage (PR) values were estimated after 6, 12, 24, 48 and 72 hours according to the following equation of Helen (1989).

$$\text{P.R.} = \frac{\% \text{ Repellency (PR)} \times \text{No. of adults outside ring}}{\text{Total No. of adults used}} \times 100$$

2.4. Wheat grains weight loss:

The weight loss of wheat grains due to infestation with *Rhizopertha dominica* was determined three months post treatment by sieving the insects from the wheat grains. Three replicates were done for each treatment and control. The weight loss of wheat grains was calculated as dry weight loss according to the equation of Harris and Lindblad (1978):

$$\% = \frac{\text{initial dry weight of seeds} - \text{dry seeds weight after three months}}{\text{Initial dry weight of seeds}} \times 100$$

2.5. Germination test:

The germination tests for anise (oil and powder) and malathion were accomplished on wheat grains of each treatment according to Qi and Burkholder (1981), with slight modification. Sixty

wheat grains of each treatment were divided into three replicates, placed in Petri-dishes containing cotton layers (instead of filter paper) soaked with tap water and covered with tissue. Grains germination percentages were recorded four days after treatment after three months post-treatment. % germination percentages were calculated

2.6. Statistical analysis:

The data were statistically analyzed according to Duncan's multiple range test (Duncan, 1955) using SPSS software (1995).

Results and discussion

Results obtained in Table (1) showed that malathion was the most effective agent against *R. dominica* followed by oil powder of anise plant with LC₅₀ (0.053 and 0.035), (0.930 and 0.721) and (1.521 and 0.924) for malathion, oil and powder of anise plant after one and two weeks, respectively.

Table (1): Toxicity of malathion, anise oil and powder against *Rhizopertha dominica*.

Total materials	7days					15days				
	LC ₅₀ %	Confidence limits		S.V.	Toxicity index	LC ₅₀ %	Confidence limits		S.V.	Toxicity index
		Upper	Lower				Upper	Lower		
Malathion	0.053	0.0735	0.0220	1.8	100	0.035	0.0512	0.0331	2.3	100
Anise oil	0.93	0.978	0.526	1.7	5.69	0.721	0.971	0.563	1.9	4.88
Anise powder	1.521	2.751	0.643	1.3	3.48	0.924	1.211	0.533	1.2	3.62

Also, anise oil was more effective than its powder against *R.dominica*. The LC₅₀ values of the tested materials were positively correlated with the time of exposure under all treatments, since the LC₅₀ values after 7days were higher than this after 15days in the all treatments. Results in Table 1 were in agreement with those of Derbalah and Ahmed (2011) who found that spearmint oil and powder were effective on the mortality percentage of *Sitophilus oryzae* compared to malathion and mortality increased with increasing exposure time and concentrations with the all tested

materials. Gonzalez *et al.* (2014) demonstrated that the geranium and bergamot oils had the highest effective on mortality against *T. castaneum* and *R. dominica*. Adel *et al.* (2015) demonstrated that the higher concentration of basil, fennel, and geranium essential oils achieved 100% mortality resulted in contact toxicity against *S. oryzae* and *C. maculatus* adults. However, for *S. oryzae* adults only fennel oil exhibited the lowest LC₅₀ followed by basil oil. Geranium oil evoked no detectable mortality of *S. oryzae* adults. Fennel oil induced the

highest mortality rate to *C. maculatus* followed by geranium, and basil oils. Akunne and Ononye (2015) recorded high mean mortality of adult *S. oryzae* in the rice grains treated with (10g/20g) *Piper guineense* and *Citrus sinensis* powder.

1. Biological activity of tested materials against *Rhizopertha dominica*:

Table (2): Effect of malation, anise oil and powder on mortality, reduction % in progeny and wheat grain loss % against *Rhizopertha dominica*.

Tested materials	Conc. w/w %	Morality		Mean no. of adult emergence	Reduction in progeny %	Weight loss of wheat grains
		7 days	15 days			
Malathion	0.04	60.0	70.0	55.0	71.0e	10.0d
	0.06	80.0	86.7	47.0	75.2d	7.1e
	0.08	86.7	93.3	32.0	83.2b	5.0f
	0.10	88.3	98.3	8.0	95.7a	2.7g
Anise oil	1.0	45.0	55.0	75.0	60.5g	14.2 c
	2.0	60.0	70.0	66.0	65.3f	10.2d
	3.0	66.7	75.0	54.0	71.6 e	8.1e
	4.0	80.0	90.0	29.0	84.7 b	4.7 f
Anise powder	0.5	41.3	50.0	91.0	52.1i	20.0 b
	1.5	50.0	61.7	80.0	57.9 h	14.0 c
	3.0	66.7	75.0	60.0	68.4f	10.3d
	5.0	75.0	83.3	36.0	81.0c	7.2e
Control				190.0		46.0 a

Moreover, malathion and anise oil were the most effective treatment on progeny of *R. dominica* followed by anise powder with % reduction values of 95.7, 84.7 and 81.0%, at the highest concentration respectively. In this respect anise oil was more effective than anise powder at all concentration levels. In addition, treatments significantly reduced the weight loss with increasing the concentrations. The lowest loss of grain weight was found with the highest concentration. Results also demonstrated that malathion was the premier agent for reducing weight loss followed by anise oil and powder with % values of 2.7, 4.7 and 7.2%, respectively. Generally, malathion had the highest effect on the all aspects of the present study. Several studies were conducted on the effect of essential oils on biology of stored product insects. Abo-Arab et al. (1998) found that

The results in Table (2) indicated to the differences in the mortality percentages of *R. dominica* between treatments at 7 and 15 days post treatment. Malathion was the most effective followed by oil and powder of anise plant against adult emergence of *R. dominica*.

Nigella sativa oil at level of 16 ml/kg grains completely prevented adult emergence of *S. oryzae*. Similarly, Abd El-Aziz (2011) found that the marjoram essential oil completely prevented emergence adults of *T. castaneum* and *S. oryzae*. Gamal (2016) mentioned that malathion and the tested plant oils reduced adult emergence of *Callosobruchus maculatus*. Norambuena et al. (2016) found that the emergence (F1) was reduced reaching maximums of 60% in the case of *S. granarius* and *S. oryzae*, and 36% in *S. zeamais* by the essential oil *Laureliopsis philippiana*.

2. Repellency activity of tested materials against *Rhizopertha dominica*:

Results shown in Table (3) cleared the repellent effect of tested materials at 6, 12, 24, 48 and 72 hours post treatment. The lowest repellent

effect values were recorded with malathion insecticide. In contrast, the repellent effect of anise oil was more effective than anise powder and malathion against *R. dominica* adults. The repellent effect for all tested materials increased with increasing concentration against *R. dominica* adults. Also, data in Table (3) showed that the tested materials exhibited repellent activity at the highest rate ranged between (96.0-100.0) and (84.0-100.0) and (30.0-44.0) percent of repellent for anise oil, powder and malathion, respectively. Results also showed that the repellent effect decreased with the increasing of exposure time. The obtained results did agree with those of Zapata and Smaghe (2010) reported the repellent activity of the elaves and bark of *Laurelia sempervirens* and *Drimys*

winters against *T. castaneum*. The oils tested had a very strong repellent activity towards *T. castaneum* when tested in filter paper arena test. After 4 hrs exposure >90% repellency was achieved Lashgari *et al.* (2014) found that repellency effect was increased with increasing concentration and the highest repellency effect was belonged to the highest concentration. Essential oils of *Mentha piperita* and *Cuminum cyminum* caused 61.2 and 66.4 repellency on *T. castaneum*. Meanwhile their effect was found to be 55.2 ad 60.4% repellency on *S. oryzae* at the highest concentration. Norambuena *et al.* (2016) reported that all treatments of the oil *Laureliopsis philippiana* had a repellent effect against adults of *S. oryzae*, *S. zeamais*, and *S. granaries*.

Table (3): Repellent effect of the malathion, anise oil and powder against *Rhizopertha dominica*.

Materials	Conc. w/w %	% Repellency				
		Hours post treatment				
		6	12	24	48	72
Malathion	0.04	8.7 h	13.0 i	12.0 i	10.0 i	8.6 i
	0.06	22.0 g	24.0 h	26.0 h	21.0 h	20.0 h
	0.08	27.0 f	32.0 g	34.0 g	25.0 g	22.0 g
	0.10	40.0 e	44.0 f	40.0 f	32.0 f	30.0 f
Anise oil	1.0	72.0 c	78.0 d	70.0 e	61.0 e	58.0 e
	2.0	85.0 b	85.0 b	83.0 c	75.0 c	66.0 d
	3.0	100.0 a	100.0 a	95.0 b	90.0 b	77.0 c
	4.0	100.0 a	100.0 a	100.0 a	97.0a	96.0 a
Anise powder	0.5	66.0 d	73.0e	70.0 e	65.0 d	60.0 e
	1.5	73.0c	77.0 d	78.0 d	60.0 e	61.0 e
	3.0	86.0 b	86.0c	84.0 c	70.0 d	66.0 d
	5.0	100.0 a	97.0 b	97.0 b	86.0b	84.0b

3. Identification of chemical components of anise oil:

The chemical composition of essential oils extracted from anise oil (Table, 4) was determined by GC-MS. The

Chromatogram profile of anise oil, *P. anisum* was showed in Figure (1), the highest components were trans-anisole (86.74%), estragole (4.08%) and methyl-chavicol (1.68%).

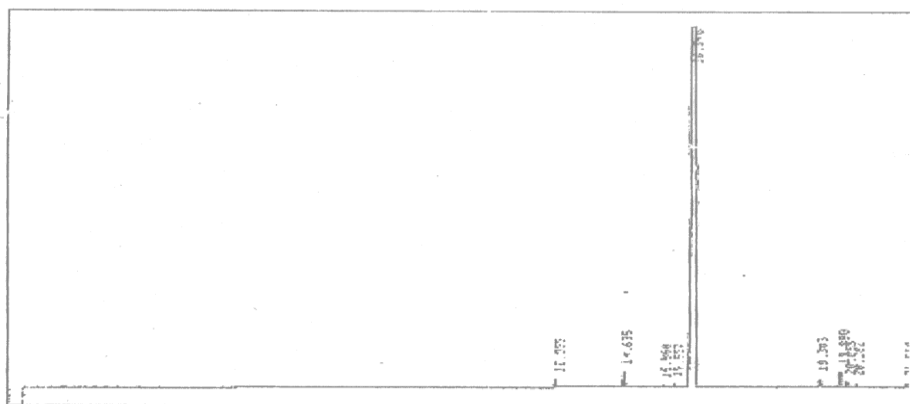


Figure (1): Chromatogram profile of anise seed (*Pimpinella anisum*) essential oil obtained by GC/MS analysis.

Table (4) : Chemical compositions of anise oil, *Pimpinella anisum*.

Main components	Component rate %	Retention time (min.)
Methyl chavicol	1.68	14.61
Trans-anisole	86.74	18.94
Estragol	4.08	25.68

Different studies established the composition of the essential oil of by GC-MS (Özcan and Chalchat (2006) found that the main constituents of *P. anisum* L oil trans-anethole (93.9%) and estragole(2.4%). Soliman *et al.* (2009) reported that the constituents of *O. majorana* L. included terpinen-4-ol (37.4%, 20.5%, 16.3%) was a major component in the summer, autumn and winter oils, resp. and α -terpinene (up to 13.3% in summer). Abd El-Aziz (2011) reported the major constituents of marjoram essential oil plant growing in Egypt are 4-terpineol (29.96%) and β -terpinene (11.34%). Sarrou *et al.* (2013) found that the constituents of *C. aurantium* included limonene (0.53%–94.67%). Ullah *et al.* (2014) reported that the constituents of *P. anisum* L.) oil was trans-anethole (82.1%) . Zarrad *et al.* (2017) found that the constituents of *C. aurantium* included limonene (87.52%). Monoterpenes have insecticidal toxicity including contact and antifeedant action on stored product insect pests. (Lee *et al.*, 2003; Rozman *et al.*, 2007 and Abdelgaleil *et al.*, 2009). The mode of action of bioactivity natural

monoterpenoids (hydrocarbons, alcohols and ketones) from spearmint oil may be due to inhibition of acetylcholinesterase. Miyazawa *et al.* (1997) reported that 1, 8-cineole was most potent inhibitor of AChE among the monoterpenes tested. This inhibition may be a mode of action for essential oil and monoterpene. The compounds may prove toxic when penetrating the insect body via the respiratory system (Shaaya *et al.*, 1997 and Park *et al.*, 2003).

4.Germination tested:

The effect of anise oil and powder and malathion on wheat grains germination percentages after three months post treatment was shown to understand the bioactivities of any essential oil. It is important to know the main chemical composition of the target oil in the research for example all constituents of *C. cyminum* were monoterpenes. In Table (5) the results showed that anise (oil and power) had a slight effect on germination of wheat grains while malathion exhibited non-significant effect on the germination compared to the untreated control.

Table (5): Germination of wheat grains with malation and anise oil and powder after 3 months post-treatment.

Materials	Conc. w/w g/kg	% Germination
Malathion	0.04	100.0 a
	0.06	100.0 a
	0.08	100.0 a
	0.10	100.0 a
Anise oil	1.0	90.0 e
	2.0	86.0 f
	3.0	80.0 g
	4.0	77.0 h
Anise powder	0.5	96.0 b
	1.5	96.0 b
	3.0	94.0 c
	5.0	93.0 d
Control		100.0 a

Anise oil was the highest treatment that reduced germination percentages of wheat grains followed by anise powder. The obtained results agree those of Derbalah and Ahmed (2011) who found that the efficacy of plants evaluated relative to malathion as standard compound to protect wheat against *S. oryzae*. The spearmint oil was the highest treatment that reduced the germination percentage of wheat grains followed by spearmint powder and malathion, respectively. Arya and Tiwari (2013) found that mustard oil at 2% concentration clearly reduced the wheat grains germination.

The current study demonstrated that malathion had distinctive effect on the most investigated parameters compared to anise oil and powder. Since, it achieved the highest effect against *R. dominica* with respect to adult mortality and emergence. However, malathion had many disadvantages serious hazards on human and environment. Furthermore, the development of natural insecticides (anise oil and powder) may help to reduce the negative impact of chemical insecticides malathion because of their low toxicity, no development of resistance of insect and safety to the

environment, biodegradable, non-toxic un-target organism, ecofriendly, easily and many plant derived natural products acting against insects could be produced from locally available raw materials. So, the present findings suggest application of anise oil and powder as protectants against the infestation of *R. dominica* as alternatives to the chemical control of *R. dominica*.

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