

## GLEANINGS FROM THE LITERATURE

### CINNAMON OIL IS A MOSQUITO KILLER

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Recent studies have effectively shown that Cinnomon oil is a better mosquito killer than the well known DEET. More accurately cinnamon oil has the ability to kill mosquito larvae, and it is postulated that the oil could be a good mosquito repellent although scientific testing on these lines has not yet been done. The advantage of this is that conventional pesticide application although effective in destroying mosquito larvae, could cause serious environment issues and detrimental health effects. Taking this into cognizance scientists are now turning to natural mosquito repellents to replace the conventional pesticides.

The scientific team has tested 11 compounds in cinnamon leaf oil for their ability to destroy larvae of the yellow fever mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. After 24 hours of testing, four compounds namely cinnamaldehyde, cinnamyl acetate, eugenol and anethole showed the strongest effect against the mosquito larvae. The measurement used was the LC50 value, which is the concentration required to kill 50% of mosquito larvae within the 24 hours. Lower the LC50 value, the more potent the compound, as it takes lesser amount to kill the larvae in the same amount of time. All the compounds tested had a LC50 value of less than 50 ppm (parts per million) with cinnamaldehyde showing a LC50 of 29. It is pertinent to note that the LC50 value of DEET is more than 50 ppm.

The advantage of using cinnamon for this purpose is that it is already used as a food additive and flavouring agent, having established its popularity.

#### References:

<http://www.ecomall.com/greenshopping/cinnamonoil.htm>

