

## Screening of Different Extracts of Marine Macro Green Algae for Larvicidal Activity against Dengue Fever Mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culiadae)

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**Abstract.** The present study larvicidal activities of hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol extracts of *Halimeda macroloba*, Decsne, *Caulerpa racemosa* (Frosk) Weber-Van-Bosses and *Ulva lactuca* Lin, (Chlorophyceae) against *Aedes aegypti*. The marine macro green algae extracts were tested against early 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae of *A. aegypti* using WHO protocol and concentrations of 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 ppm. The observed mortality was made 24 and 48 h after treatment, data was subjected to probit analysis to determine the lethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub>) of the treated larvae of the tested species. Among the tested extracts the maximum efficacy was observed in the ethyl acetate extracts. The ethyl acetate extracts of the seaweeds showed the presence of terpenoids, tannins and phenolic compounds stronger than the other extracts. The results revealed that all the extracts showed varied levels of larvicidal activity against *A. aegypti* tested. However, the ethyl acetate extract of *C. racemosa* showed remarkable larvicidal activity against *A. aegypti* (LC<sub>50</sub>=579.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1255.4 ppm values at 24 h and LC<sub>50</sub>=495.4 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1073.9 ppm at 48 h) followed by *U. lactuca* (LC<sub>50</sub>=588.1 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1290.7 ppm values at 24 h, and LC<sub>50</sub>= 530.8, and LC<sub>90</sub>= 1160.0 ppm at 48 h), respectively. The lowest larval mortality was observed with hexane extract of *H. macroloba* against *A. aegypti* with values of LC<sub>50</sub>=1116.8 and LC<sub>90</sub>= 1824.5 ppm (after 24 h) and LC<sub>50</sub>=1059.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1768.3 ppm (after 24 h). The present studies indicate that the larvicidal activity and phytochemicals derived from the ethyl acetate extract of *C. racemosa* have the potential to be used as an ideal eco-friendly approach and effective mosquito vector control agent.

### 1. Introduction

Marine algae are one of the most important producers of biomass in the marine environment. They produce a wide variety of chemically active metabolites in their surroundings to protect themselves against other settling organisms [1]. So far, it was evidenced that marine algae are potential antimutagenic, anticoagulant and antitumor agent. Up to now, numerous studies have confirmed the anti-HSV activity of algae that increase the interest in algae as a source of antiviral compounds. Marine macro algae are an excellent source of vitamins such as A, B1, B12, C, D, E, riboflavin, niacin, pantothenic acid and folic acid as well as minerals such as Ca, P, Na and K [2]. Chlorophyceae seaweeds, popularly known as green algae, are widely distributed in both inter-tidal and deep-water regions of the seas. More recent reports indicate that in many parts of the world marine algae are still used in folk medicine for the treatment of a variety of disease [3].

Vector-borne diseases are dengue, malaria, filariasis, dengue haemorrhagic fever, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, chagas disease, yellow fever, lymphatic filariasis, African trypanosomiasis and onchocerciasis [4]. *Aedes aegypti* (Culicidae) occurs in Asia, Africa, Central and South America and transmits virus of Flavi virus genus, etiologic agents of human diseases like dengue and yellow fever [5]. On the other hand, there is no vaccine for dengue fever; vector control is the only method used to minimize the transmission of the virus. Dengue fever can be caused by four serotypes of the dengue arbovirus and clinically can happen in asymptomatic forms, classic dengue fever, hemorrhagic dengue fever and other more severe forms. Worldwide, 2.5 billion of

people are in risk to acquire the disease and 50 million are infected every year, characterizing a pandemia [6].

Plant extracts and phytochemicals have potential as mosquito control agents because many of them are selective, may biodegrade to nontoxic products and may be applied to mosquito breeding sites in the same way as conventional insecticides [7]. Each year, an increasing number of novel marine metabolites are reported in the literature, indicating that the marine environments is likely to continue to be a prolific sources of more natural products for many years to come. Several studies have demonstrated that marine algae have biological activity such as larvicidal, antifeedant and anticoagulant [8].

Therefore, the present study was carried out to evaluate the larvicidal properties of marine macro green algae of different extracts against the dengue fever mosquito, *A. aegypti*.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Plants sample collection

*Halimeda macroloba*, Decsne and *Caulerpa racemosa* (Frosk.) Weber-Van-Bosses were collected from various places in Mandapam (Lat. 09° 17.417'N; Long. 079° 08.558'E) at Rameshwaram district, *Ulva lactuca* Lin (Chlorophyceae) were collected from various places in Manappad (Lat. 09° 17.417'N; longitude 079° 08.558'E), at Tuticorin district, Gulf of Mannar marine Biosphere Reserve, Tamilnadu, India. The collections were made during the months of November and December 2012. The algae were identified by Dr. R. Selvaraj, Former Professor, Department of Botany, Annamalai University and the museum specimens are deposited in the Department of Botany, Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu, India.

### 2.2. Preparation of extracts

Algal species were handpicked from rocks and shells submerged under water during low tide. They were washed thoroughly with sea water to remove all unwanted impurities, epiphytes, animal casting and adhering sand particles etc., Morphologically distinct thallus of algae were placed separately in new polythene bags and were kept in an ice box containing slush ice and transported to the laboratory. Then, the samples were blot dried using sterile tissue paper. The seaweed materials dried in one week in room temperature. After getting from all the samples were grounds in to a fine powder. Five hundred grams of finely ground algal powder material were packed in Whatman filter paper. The powdered samples were extracted with different organic solvents in a Soxhlet apparatus for 72 hours with increasing polarity viz., hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol. The extracts were concentrated to solvents free by evaporation in a rotary vacuum evaporator (Heidolph, Germany) at a temperature less than 40 °C. The crude extracts were obtained were kept at 4 °C for larvicidal assay.

### 2.3. Phytochemical screening

The qualitative phytochemical analyses of hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol extracts of *H. macroloba*, *C. racemosa* and *U. lactuca* (Chlorophyceae). Phytochemicals like terpenoids, tannins, cardiac glycosides, steroids, alkaloids, phenolic compounds and coumarins were carried out according to the method [9].

### 2.4. Mosquito larvicidal assay

The eggs of *A. aegypti* were received from the Field Station, Centre for Research in Medical Entomology (ICMR-Government of India), Viruthachalam. The egg rafts of *A. aegypti* were kept in the tray containing tap water (culture medium) at a laboratory condition (29 ± 3 °C, 75 to 85 % RH, 14:10 light and dark photo period). After 24 h of incubation, the eggs were observed for hatch out in to first instar larvae. Appropriate amount of nutrient (sterilized fed with Brewer's yeast/ dog biscuit 1:3 ratio). The 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae were used in the study.

The larvicidal activity was observed as per the standard procedures recommended [10]. The seaweeds extracts were dissolved in 2 ml dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and prepared into different

concentrations viz., 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 ppm were prepared with distilled water. Twenty larvae (in a 100 ml beaker) of early fourth instar stage were used for larvicidal assay and five replicates were maintained for each concentration. During this experiment, no food was offered to the larvae. The larval mortality was calculated after 24 and 48 hours of the exposure period. All moribund mosquito larvae were considered as dead. The larval mortality was also checked for water and DMSO individually.

## 2.5. Statistical Analysis

The results are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 16.0 statistical software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The average larval mortality data were subjected to probit analysis calculating LC<sub>50</sub>, LC<sub>90</sub> and other statistics, 95% confidence limits and chi-square values were calculated.

## 2. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Phytochemical analysis

The hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol extracts were analyzed for phytochemicals, terpenoids, tannins, cardiac glycosides, steroids, alkaloids, phenolic compounds and coumarins (Table 1). The ethyl acetate extracts of *H. macroloba*, *C. racemosa* and *U. lactuca* showed the presence of phytochemicals, terpenoids, tannins and phenolic compounds strongly than the other extracts. Among the phytochemicals, cardiac glycosides were present in all the extracts except acetone and methanol. Steroids were present in all the extracts of *C. racemosa*, *H. macroloba* and *U. lactuca* except acetone and methanol extracts of *H. macroloba*. Alkaloids and coumarins were absent in all the extracts of *H. macroloba*, *C. racemosa* and *U. lactuca*.

**Table 1.** Phytochemical constituents of marine macro green algae extracts.

Seaweed extracts prepared with different solvents	Secondary metabolites						
	Terpenoids	Tannins	Cardic glycosides	Steroids	Alkaloids	Phenolic compounds	Coumarins
<b><i>Halimeda macroloba</i></b>							
Hexane	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
Chloroform	+	-	-	+	-	++	-
Ethyl acetate	++	++	+	+	-	+++	-
Acetone	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
Methanol	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
<b><i>Caulerpa racemosa</i></b>							
Hexane	++	-	+	+	-	+	-
Chloroform	+++	-	-	++	-	++	-
Ethyl acetate	+++	+++	+	++	-	+++	-
Acetone	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
Methanol	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
<b><i>Ulva lactuca</i></b>							
Hexane	++	-	+	+	-	+	-
Chloroform	++	+	-	+	-	++	-
Ethyl acetate	++	+++	+	++	-	+++	-
Acetone	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
Methanol	-	+	-	+	-	+	-

- = Absence, + = weak, ++ = medium, +++ = strong

### 3.2. Larvicidal activity

Current strategies based on the elimination of breeding sites and applications of chemical insecticides for larval and adult mosquito control have resulted in development of resistance without eliminating the constant risk of dengue epidemics [11]. Thus new approaches are urgently needed. Interest on possible use of environment friendly natural products such as extracts of plants or plant parts increased for vector control. Plant derived products have received increased attention from scientists and more than 2000 plant species are already known to have insecticide properties [12]. Algae synthesize a number of chemically diversified secondary metabolites. Among them, some of the compounds are recognized as insecticides. The control of adult mosquito is an unsuccessful strategy, as the adult stage occurs beside human inhabitation and they can easily overcome remedial measures [13].

The larvicidal activity of different solvents viz., hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol extracts of *H. macroloba*, *U. lactuca* and *C. racemosa* against *A. aegypti* and the results are presented in (Tables 2-3) which shows that in case of 4<sup>th</sup> instar of *A. aegypti* 1000 ppm concentration exhibits mortality at 24 and 48 hours (for 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1000 ppm concentration). The larvicidal mortality rate which increase with time of exposure (24 h>48 h). Tables 2-3 reveals significant difference in larvicidal mortality of log probit analysis at 95% confidence level where LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> values. The highest activity of ethyl acetate extract of *C. racemosa* against the larva of *A. aegypti* (LC<sub>50</sub>=579.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1255.4 ppm values at 24 h and LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> values of 495.4 and 1073.9 ppm at 48 h and *U. lactuca* (LC<sub>50</sub>=588.1 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1290.7 ppm values at 24 h and LC<sub>50</sub>= 530.8 and LC<sub>90</sub>= 1160.0 ppm. at 48 h), respectively. The lowest larval mortality was observed with hexane extract of *H. macroloba* against *A. aegypti* with values of LC<sub>50</sub>=1116.8 and LC<sub>90</sub>= 1824.5 ppm (after 24 h) and LC<sub>50</sub>=1059.9 and LC<sub>90</sub> 1768.3 (after 24 h). Ali et al. [14] reported that the seaweed extracts of *U. lactuca*, *C. racemosa*, *Sargassum microstum*, *Caulerpa scalpelliformis*, *Gracilaria corticata*, *Turbinaria decurrens*, *Turbinaria conoides* and *Caulerpa toxifolia* against mosquito larvicidal activity. Among the seaweed extracts, *C. racemosa* showed toxicity against 4<sup>th</sup> instar larvae of *A. aegypti*, *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Anopheles stephensi* with equivalent LC<sub>50</sub> values (0.0556 ± 0.0103) µg/mL, (0.0675±0.1360) µg/mL and (0.0661 ±0.0076) µg/mL, respectively. Manilal et al. [15] reported that the *Lobophora variegata* (LD<sub>50</sub> = 95.5 ppm), *Spatoglossum asperum* (LD<sub>50</sub> = 96.1 ppm) and *S. marginatum* (LD<sub>50</sub> = 97.3 ppm) against third instar larvae of *A. aegypti*. Thangam and Kathiresan[16] reported that the number of other components of algal extracts have been shown to act as larvicidal agents against mosquito vectors. Thus, acetone extracts of the marine seaweeds *Caulerpa scapelliformis*, *D. dichotoma*, *Enteromorpha clathrata*, *E. intestinalis* and *U. lactuca* were active against fourth instar larvae of *A. aegypti* with LC<sub>50</sub> values of 53.70, 61.65, 85.11, 67.70 and 91.20 ppm, respectively.

*Padina minor* showed significantly greater larvicidal activity compared to *D. linearis* at LC<sub>50</sub>. Greater larvicidal activity of *Padina* than *Dictyota* was also observed in *P. tetrastromatica* and *D. dichotoma* from southwest Coast of India [17].

**Table 2.** Mortality effects of 24 hours *A. aegypti* exposed to different concentration of crude extracts of selected Marine macro algae.

Seaweeds	Seaweeds prepared with different solvents	% Mortality ± SD (Concentration of ppm)				
		200	400	600	800	1000
<i>Halimeda macroloba</i>	Hexane	5.8 ± 1.48	9.6 ± 0.54	17.2 ± 1.09	31.0 ± 0.70	40.2 ± 1.09
	Chloroform	7.8 ± 0.83	13.2 ± 0.44	24.2 ± 1.09	36.4 ± 0.57	49.6 ± 0.54
	Ethyl acetate	11.0 ± 1.22	19.4 ± 1.64	34.6 ± 0.83	46.0 ± 0.89	54.2 ± 1.09
	Acetone	6.4 ± 0.57	11.6 ± 0.54	20.8 ± 1.48	32.1 ± 0.48	42.6 ± 0.54
	Methanol	5.2 ± 1.09	9.2 ± 1.78	17.4 ± 0.57	32.8 ± 1.48	41.2 ± 1.09

<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>	Hexane	15.2 ± 0.63	25.4 ± 1.64	33.8 ± 1.09	42.0 ± 0.70	56.6 ± 0.89
	Chloroform	18.2 ± 0.83	35.2 ± 0.83	44.6 ± 0.89	53.2 ± 1.09	65.3 ± 1.44
	Ethyl acetate	21.4 ± 1.14	37.0 ± 0.70	56.2 ± 0.83	67.4 ± 0.54	76.6 ± 0.89
	Acetone	16.2 ± 0.09	30.4 ± 0.59	36.0 ± 0.70	48.2 ± 0.83	62.6 ± 0.89
	Methanol	13.8 ± 1.09	22.0 ± 1.22	35.6 ± 0.59	46.0 ± 0.70	52.2 ± 1.30
<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Hexane	13.0 ± 0.70	22.7 ± 1.09	30.6 ± 1.14	41.2 ± 1.22	53.0 ± 0.70
	Chloroform	17.1 ± 1.0	33.2 ± 1.48	41.6 ± 1.14	52.0 ± 0.70	63.2 ± 1.09
	Ethyl acetate	19.4 ± 1.14	36.8 ± 0.44	55.1 ± 1.0	69.6 ± 0.89	73.6 ± 1.14
	Acetone	16.2 ± 1.48	28.0 ± 0.70	34.7 ± 1.09	49.2 ± 1.22	60.2 ± 0.83
	Methanol	12.6 ± 0.54	21.0 ± 1.22	34.2 ± 0.83	41.6 ± 0.54	51.4 ± 0.59

Control- Nil activity; SD - Standard Deviation; <sup>a</sup> Values are Mean ± SD of five replicates; <sup>b</sup> Each of the dilutions made with the solvent DMSO

**Table 2a.** LC<sub>50</sub>, LC<sub>90</sub> and other statistically analysis of selected marine macro algae extracts fourth instars larvae of *A. aegypti*.

Seaweeds	Seaweeds prepared with different solvents	LC <sub>50</sub> (LCL-UCL) <sup>a</sup>	LC <sub>90</sub> (LCL-UCL) <sup>a</sup>	χ <sup>2</sup> (df=4) <sup>b</sup>
<i>Halimeda macroloba</i>	Hexane	1116.8 (1004.1-1300.2)	1824.5 (1570.4-2268.0)	0.599
	Chloroform	1003.7 (911.8-1142.6)	1706.1 (1485.8-2073.9)	0.108
	Ethyl acetate	894.9 (812.5-1013.0)	1653.9 (1437.1-2016.5)	1.233
	Acetone	1109.9 (992.6-1304.1)	1869.4 (1596.1-2356.2)	0.347
	Methanol	1119.0 (1003.3-1292.8)	1890.3 (1561.2-2239.2)	0.343
<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Hexane	950.3 (849.4-1109.4)	1823.0 (1545.6-2323.7)	0.99
	Chloroform	761.6 (683.7-862.6)	1611.7 (1386.9-2000.9)	1.247
	Ethyl acetate	588.1 (526.3-662.8)	1298.7 (1042.6-1487.9)	1.361
	Acetone	831.0 (748.1947.3)	1673.6 (1437.2-2083.8)	0.68
	Methanol	952.9 (890.9-1113.7)	1830.4 (1549.9-2339.6)	0.977
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>	Hexane	910.2 (812.3-1062.1)	1813.7 (1532.9-2326.3)	0.33
	Chloroform	728.4 (652.0-823.0)	1579.2 (1360.8-1955.7)	1.599
	Ethyl acetate	579.9 (516.3-641.6)	1255.4 (1123.1-1456.9)	1.645
	Acetone	811.8 (730.8-923.1)	1643.0 (1421.2-2054.0)	0.955
	Methanol	886.0 (791.5-1029.8)	1790.1 (1514.9-2290.8)	0.600

LCL lower confidence level, UCL upper confidence level

<sup>a</sup> 95 % Confidence interval

<sup>b</sup> Degrees of freedom; χ<sup>2</sup> = Chi-square value

**Table 3.** Mortality effects of 48 hours *A. aegypti* exposed to different concentration of crude extracts of selected Marine macro algae.

Seaweeds	Solvents\ Extracts	% Mortality ± SD (Concentration of ppm)				
		200	400	600	800	1000
<i>Halimeda macroloba</i>	Hexane	8.6 ± 0.54	14.8 ± 1.48	27.8 ± 0.48	32.0 ± 0.70	46.2 ± 0.44
	Chloroform	9.4 ± 0.54	17.0 ± 1.0	31.4 ± 0.57	40.6 ± 0.54	52.8 ± 1.98
	Ethyl acetate	14.2 ± 0.83	26.0 ± 1.22	43.8 ± 0.83	51.6 ± 0.89	60.6 ± 1.14
	Acetone	9.2 ± 0.49	17.0 ± 1.0	28.8 ± 1.98	36.8 ± 0.48	46.6 ± 1.0
	Methanol	8.2 ± 0.83	13.2 ± 1.09	24.6 ± 1.93	33.0 ± 1.0	45.6 ± 0.89
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>	Hexane	16.6 ± 0.89	27.0 ± 0.70	33.6 ± 1.14	44.8 ± 1.08	62.2 ± 0.83
	Chloroform	20.6 ± 0.89	35.8 ± 0.83	47.0 ± 1.0	60.2 ± 0.83	71.0 ± 1.22
	Ethyl acetate	26.2 ± 1.30	43.8 ± 1.09	59.6 ± 0.89	70.4 ± 1.64	90.0 ± 1.22

<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Acetone	18.8 ± 1.09	33.1 ± 1.14	43.0 ± 1.22	55.2 ± 0.83	66.6 ± 0.89
	Methanol	15.2 ± 1.30	25.6 ± 0.89	37.8 ± 1.09	45.6 ± 0.59	55.0 ± 0.70
	Hexane	15.2 ± 0.83	26.0 ± 0.70	33.2 ± 1.09	42.0 ± 0.70	55.8 ± 0.83
	Chloroform	19.2 ± 1.48	35.6 ± 0.89	47.0 ± 0.70	61.6 ± 0.89	70.4 ± 0.54
	Ethyl acetate	24.8 ± 0.83	41.0 ± 0.70	57.6 ± 0.89	68.6 ± 1.14	84.2 ± 1.22
	Acetone	17.1 ± 1.0	30.2 ± 1.48	41.6 ± 0.89	52.6 ± 1.14	63.6 ± 0.89
	Methanol	14.0 ± 0.70	23.8 ± 0.83	34.6 ± 0.89	43.2 ± 1.09	54.4 ± 0.89

Control- Nil activity; SD - Standard Deviation; <sup>a</sup> Values are Mean ± SD of five replicates; <sup>b</sup> Each of the dilutions made with the solvent DMSO

**Table 3a.** LC<sub>50</sub>, LC<sub>90</sub> and other statistically analysis of selected marine macro algae extracts fourth instars larvae of *A. aegypti*.

Seaweeds name	Solvents\Extracts	LC <sub>50</sub> (LCL-UCL) <sup>a</sup>	LC <sub>90</sub> (LCL-UCL) <sup>a</sup>	$\chi^2$ (df=4) <sup>b</sup>
<i>Halimeda macroloba</i>	Hexane	1059.9 (946.8-1245.7)	1768.3 (1868.3-1588.9)	1.050
	Chloroform	947.4 (859.0-1079.0)	1697.9 (1472.1-208.4)	0.810
	Ethyl acetate	794.0 (719.4-892.2)	1578.5 (1373.0-1921.3)	2.197
	Acetone	1040.9 (926.6-1230.6)	1893.9 (1600.3-2430.6)	0.650
	Methanol	1070.1 (956.8-1256.0)	1863.9 (1588.1-2355.8)	0.237
<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Hexane	919.1 (817.2-1080.9)	1853.0 (1556.3-2405.6)	0.479
	Chloroform	651.8 (583.2-726.0)	1416.2 (1244.0-1695.2)	0.471
	Ethyl acetate	530.8 (468.3-588.2)	1160.6 (1046.7-1329.1)	0.681
	Acetone	768.1 (692.0-866.6)	1590.6 (1375.5-1956.3)	0.480
	Methanol	917.2 (820.1-1067.3)	1801.7 (1527.4-2297.4)	0.235
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i>	Hexane	837.5 (754.2-955.2)	1676.9 (1440.3-22087.3)	0.947
	Chloroform	656.4 (588.9-7298)	1407.9 (1239.4-1678.6)	0.951
	Ethyl acetate	495.4 (435.3-549.1)	1073.9 (976.4-1213.9)	2.308
	Acetone	722.5 (650.1-810.1)	1526.2 (1327.2-1858.9)	0.718
	Methanol	886.0 (791.5-1029.8)	1790.1 (1574.9-2290.8)	0.600

LCL - lower confidence level, UCL - upper confidence level

<sup>a</sup> 95 % Confidence interval

<sup>b</sup> Degrees of freedom;  $\chi^2$  = Chi-square value

In the present study the highest activity of ethyl acetate extract of *C. racemosa* against the larva of *A. aegypti* (LC<sub>50</sub>=579.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1255.4 ppm values at 24 h and LC<sub>50</sub> and LC<sub>90</sub> values of 495.4 and 1073.9 ppm at 48 h and *U. lactuca* (LC<sub>50</sub>=588.1 and LC<sub>90</sub>=1290.7 ppm values at 24 h and LC<sub>50</sub>= 530.8 and LC<sub>90</sub>= 1160.0 ppm. at 48 h), respectively. Adaikala Raj et al. [18] revealed that the essential oil from *Nigella sativa* was evaluated against the fourth instar larvae of *A. aegypti*, *A. stephensi* and *C. quinquefasciatus*. After 12 h of exposure period, the larvicidal activities were LC<sub>50</sub>=196.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>= 523.5 ppm (*A. aegypti*), LC<sub>50</sub>=88.1 and LC<sub>90</sub>=272.4 ppm (*A. stephensi*), and LC<sub>50</sub>=241.6 and LC<sub>90</sub>=545.4 ppm (*C. quinquefasciatus*), and the larvicidal activities after 24 h of exposure period were LC<sub>50</sub>=99.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=300.8 ppm (*A. aegypti*), LC<sub>50</sub>=53.9 and LC<sub>90</sub>=172.6 ppm (*A. stephensi*) and LC<sub>50</sub>=141.7 and LC<sub>90</sub>=364.0 ppm (*C. quinquefasciatus*). The leaf essential oil from *Murraya exotica* had a strong larvicidal activity with LC<sub>50</sub>=74.7 and LC<sub>90</sub>=152.7 (after 12 h); LC<sub>50</sub>=35.8 and LC<sub>90</sub>=85.4 ppm (after 24 h) against *A. aegypti*, LC<sub>50</sub>=56.3 and LC<sub>90</sub>=107.8 (after 12 h); LC<sub>50</sub>=31.3 and LC<sub>90</sub>=75.1 ppm (after 24 h) against *A. stephensi* and LC<sub>50</sub>=74.4 and LC<sub>90</sub>=136.9 ppm (after 12 h); LC<sub>50</sub>=43.2 and LC<sub>90</sub>=103.2 ppm (after 24 h) against *C. quinquefasciatus* [19].

In this study, the ethyl acetate extract of *C. racemosa* green alga the highest larvicidal activity may be due to the presence of phytochemicals, terpenoids, tannins and phenolic compounds. Many

of the secondary metabolites produced by plants for its protection against microorganisms and predator insects are natural source for the discovery of new plants based products to combat *A. aegypti*. Many researchers have been focused on natural products for controlling *Aedes* mosquito as insecticide and larvicide with varied results [20]. The biological activities of this marine plant extracts might be due to various compounds, including phenolics, terpenoids, flavonoids, saponins and alkaloids existing in plant. These compounds may jointly or independently contribute to produce larvicidal activity against mosquitoes [17].

### 3. Conclusion

The results of the present study suggest the larvicidal activity of hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate, acetone and methanol extracts of *H. macroloba*, *C. racemosa* and *U. lactuca* against *A. aegypti*. Among the ethyl acetate crude extract of *C. racemosa* could be used for mosquito control. The *C. racemosa* ethyl acetate extract can be well utilized for preparing biocide or insecticide formulation, effects on non-target organisms and field evaluation are necessary. In that way, the results of the present study offer a possible way for further investigations to find out the active molecule needed to elucidate this activity against a wide range of all stages of mosquito species.

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