

Emulsions and Nanoemulsions Formation from Wild and Cultivated Thyme and Marjoram Essential Oils for Weeds Control

Balah, M. A. ¹ and W. M. Abd El Azim ²

¹Plant Protection Dept., Desert Res. Center, El-Mataria, Cairo, Egypt

¹Email: mbaziz1974@gmail.com

²Medicinal Plant Dept., Desert Res. Center, El-Mataria, Cairo, Egypt

²Email: dr.w_elzearly@yahoo.com



ABSTRACT

Essential oils and its formulation macroemulsion (Mac-E) and nanoemulsion (Nano-E) of *Thymus capitatus* L. (wild and cultivated thyme) and *Majorana hortensis* L. (marjoram) herbicidal activity were investigated against *Convolvulus arvensis* and *Setaria viridis* seeds and seedlings growth. The suitable systems from oils, water and surfactants for macroemulsion (Mac-E), with addition to co-surfactant for nanoemulsion (Nano-E) were chosen and optimizing based on the stability tests and biological properties. Nanoemulsions seems transparent or translucent and had particle size reached 5.3, 12.0 and 22.1 nm for *M. hortensis*, *T. capitatus* wild and *T. capitatus* cultivated respectively. Depending on ED₅₀, *M. hortensis* (oils, Mac-E and Nano-E) had been exhibited strong herbicidal activity on *C. arvensis*, however, the lowest activity was achieved from *T. capitatus* cultivated followed by *T. capitatus* wild. The Nano-E exhibited post emergence properties pronounced than others formulation on *C. arvensis* at 5-7 leaves stage under the greenhouse. The herbicidal activity based on types of oils, concentration and formulations as well as the weed stage. These result showed that nano-formulations can be contribute in perennial weeds control programs.

Keywords: Herbicidal activity, Macroemulsion, Nanoemulsion, Volatile oils, *Thymus capitatus*, *Majorana hortensis*.

INTRODUCTION

Thyme *Thymus capitatus* L. (wild and cultivated) and marjoram *Majorana hortensis* L. with others species belonging to Family Lamiaceae are native to Mediterranean countries (Harley *et al.* 2004). *Thymus sp* (thyme) is used for medicinal and spice purposes (Morales, 2002). This plants species are scattered around the world, but particularly gathered in the Mediterranean areas (Ghahreman, 1994). The major *Majorana hortensis* essential oil constituents, viz., cis-sabinene hydrate (37.05–47.49 %), terpinen-4-ol (14.45–16.22 %) and trans-sabinene hydrate (5.81–6.97 %) showed considerable variation in their concentrations in relation to crop age (Verma *et al.* 2010) Other components detected in lower amounts in all oil samples were sabinene and p-cymene (up to 7.4% and 13.9% in autumn), and α -terpinene (up to 13.3% in summer) in *Majorana hortensis* (Soliman *et al.* 2009). The volatile extract compositions of marjoram (*Majorana hortensis*) leaves were estimated by GC-MS; 26 components were identified. The major compounds in both extracts were terpinen-4-ol, γ -terpinene, trans-sabinene hydrate, linalool, trans-sabinene hydrate acetate, thujanol, terpinolene and thymol (El-Ghorab *et al.* 2004).

Bindweeds (*Convolvulus arvensis*) reduce the crop value and provide a breeding site for insects attacking adjacent crops (Tamaki *et al.* 1975) and serves as an alternative host for plant viruses (Feldman and Gracia, 1977). The control of bindweed is difficult because of its vigorous regeneration capacity. Some control is obtained with chemical herbicides but not eradication (Westra *et al.* 1992). The phytotoxic effects of aromatic plants volatile oils have increased the interest in exploring for potential weed management (Dayan *et al.* 2009). Among the plant families with promising essential oils used as herbicide, Lamiaceae, Myrtaceae, Asteraceae and Anacardiaceae are the most

cited. Individual compounds present in these mixtures with high activity include α -pinene, limonene, 1,8-cineole, carvacrol, camphor and thymol (Amri *et al.* 2013). The allelopathic effects of thyme essential oil were tested in vitro on germination percentage (GP), hypocotyl (HL) and radicle (RL) length of *Citrullus colocynthis* L., *Lepidium sativum* L. and *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. at 20 mg/l the maximum oil concentration (Soliman, 2013).

In this study, wild thyme, cultivated thyme and *Majorana hortensis* essential oils and their formulations herbicidal activities were evaluated. The prepared macroemulsion (Mac-E) and nanoemulsion (Nano-E) formulations characterizing and its utility for weed control were investigated.

MATERIALS AND METHODES

Collection and cultivation

The wild *Thymus capitatus* (thyme) shoots collected from Wadi Habbes about 18 km of Matrouh city and identified by plant specialist according to (Boulos, 2009). Whereas cutting (young shoots 6-8) cm and half-ripe wood were taken in March 2014 for cultivation in the greenhouse. The seedling of *Majorana hortensis* (marjoram) were obtained from the Experimental Farm of Medicinal and Aromatic plants, Faculty of Pharmacy, Cairo University. Both seedlings of thyme and marjoram were cultivated during May and April 2014 in Matrouh Research Station in the open field respectively, after land preparation as follow; sheep manure 15m³/Feddan with addition calcium superphosphate at rate of 30kg (P₂O₄)/Fed. were mixed with top soil before planting. The physical and chemical analysis of soil of Wadi Habbes & Matrouh Experimental Station, irrigation water in experimental station and sheep manure are presented in Tables 1 (A, B, C, D).

Table 1. Physical and chemical analysis of soil and water.

(A): Particles size distribution of the experimental soil.										
Experimental	Coarse sand (%)	Fine sand (%)	Silt(%)	Clay (%)	Soil texture					
Wadi Habbes	9.87	72.90	16.10	1.13	Sandy loamy					
Matrouh	8.83	58.88	28.11	4.18	Sandy loamy					
(B). Chemical properties of the experimental soil.										
Experimental	pH	E.C. (dSm ⁻¹)	K ⁺	Soluble cations (meq./L)			Soluble anions (meq./L)			
				Na ⁺	Mg ⁺⁺	Ca ⁺⁺	CO ₃ ⁻	HCO ₃ ⁻	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ⁻
Wadi habbes	7.53	4.16	0.20	4.10	1.00	2.50	-	1.75	3.45	2.60
Matrouh	7.30	4.99	2.7	5.9	4.7	36.6	-	3.00	37.10	9.80
(C) Irrigation water analysis.										
Experimental	pH	E.C. (dSm ⁻¹)	K ⁺	Soluble cations (meq./l)			Soluble anions (meq./l)			
				Na ⁺	Mg ⁺⁺	Ca ⁺⁺	CO ₃ ⁻	HCO ₃ ⁻	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ⁻
Matrouh	7.01	5.59	0.03	0.48	0.24	0.15	-	0.11	0.60	0.19
(D) Sheep manure analysis.										
pH		O.C. %				N %				C/N ration
7.50		20.10				1.50				13.56

O.C. organic carbon

Extraction and determination of essential oils.

The shoots of both wild & cultivated Thyme and Marjoram plants were harvest by cutting in April 2015. Essential oil of air dried canopy samples was extracted by hydro distillation (Grosso *et al.* 2010) and subjected to GC-MS analysis at the Department of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, National Research Center with the following specifications. Instrument: a Trace GC Ultra Gas Chromatographs (Thermo Scientific Corp., USA), coupled with a THERMO mass spectrometer detector (ISQ Single Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer). The GC-MS system was equipped with a TG-WAX MS column (30 m x 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness). The oven temperature was programmed; 60-200°C (8 min⁻¹), injection temperature 150 °C and 220°C (20 min). Helium was the carrier gas with flow rate of 1 ml/min., detection was by (EI, 70 eV. Interface 230). Qualitative identification of the oil constituents was carried out by comparing the retention times and mass fragmentation with computer matching of authentic samples and with published data (Adams, 2001).

Emulsions preparation

Macro-emulsions (Mac-E) of essential oils were prepared by mixing oils volume (2.5%) with two volumes of surfactant [polyethylene glycol dioleate (non ionic surfactant) + Toximol (ionic surfactant)] and water. After that, the mixture was vortex several times and visually evaluated at room temperature, then subjected for stability testing and specifications.

The nanoemulsions (Nano-E) were prepared by mixing one volume of oil (2.5%) with one volume of chloroform (co-surfactant) and ten volume of surfactant (Tween 20 plus Tween 80) and vortex several times with adding deionized water to the final volume. The obtained formulation subject to sonication in ultrasonic bath for two hours and stored at laboratory condition for specifications testing (Sinha *et al.* 2015).

Physicochemical properties of prepared emulsions

Stability was studied according to Sinha *et al.* (2015) for thermal and mechanical stress. Formulations (5 ml) was stored at elevated temperature (40 ± 2°C, 25 ± 2°C and 4 ± 2°C) and centrifuged at 2000 rpm for different intervals (20,40,60 and 120 min.) then, visually inspected (phase separation). The pH values of the samples were measured by a pH meter (JENCO, 6010N, USA), at 25 ± 2°C. Electrical

conductivity (EC Meter, Orion 150 A+, Thermo Electron Corporation, USA) of formulations was measured at ambient temperature by m mols/cm. The formulation transparency was determined by measuring percentage transmittance at scan mode with purified water taken as blank using UV-VIS spectrophotometers (Thermo, Nicolet evolution 300) according to Date and Nagarsenker (2008). Droplets size of the formulation were measured by put the samples into the sample chamber of the droplet size analyzer (PSS NICOMP, N3000, Dynamic light scattering, Particle Size Systems, Inc. Santa Barbara, Calif., USA) whereas the measurement conducted without diluting formulation.

Pre and Post-emergence activity

The recipient species was bindweeds *Convolvulus arvensis* (Convolvulaceae) and Foxtail *Staria viridis* (Poaceae) collected from wheat crop in El-Frafra Oasis, Egypt. Bioassay of *T. capitatus* (wild and cultivation) and *M. hortensis* oils were carried out on *C. arvensis* and *S. viridis*, while the prepared formulation used *C. arvensis* seeds after surface-sterilization with 0.3% sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) and washed many times with sterile waters. Ten seeds were placed on filter paper in a sterilized petri-dish (9 cm). The tested concentrations from the volatile oils of *M. hortensis* were; 0, 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 8.0 µl/ml for *C. arvensis* and 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5 µl/ml for *S. viridis*. While, *T. capitatus* cultivated and *T. capitatus* wild were evaluated by 0, 5, 10, 20, 40 µl ml⁻¹ against both *C. arvensis* and *S. viridis*. However, the formulated Mac-E and Nano-E were evaluated at 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 µl/ml (*M. hortensis*) and 1.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10.0 µl/ml (*T. capitatus* wild and cultivated) on *C. arvensis* seeds and seedling growth. Petri dishes were sealed with parafilm and kept in 25 ± 2°C and then after 7 days seed germination and seedling growth (radical and hypocotyl) were measured.

Bindweeds *C. arvensis* seeds were sown in plastic pots filled with sandy soil and watered two times weekly until treated stage under the greenhouse. Formulation sprays were applied with a glass sprayer to provide 10 ml of liquid solution to each pot with control, 5 and 10 µg ml⁻¹ concentrations. The survival of seedlings and dry weight were recorded after one week of spraying of three replicates.

Statistical analysis

Treatment means were compared by Duncan and LSD test at 5% level of probability according to

Snedecor and Cochran (1990) and the effective dose (ED₅₀ values) were calculated by signing the point in a semi-log graph paper. Finally, the reduction percentage obtained from the below equations. $R\% = \frac{C-T}{C} \times 100$ [C=Control] [T=Treatment].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical composition of wild and cultivated *T. capitatus* and *M. hortensis* essential oils

The content of essential oils from the dry herb of *T. capitatus* wild, *T. capitatus* cultivated and *M. hortensis* were obtained by 1.85, 0.8 and 2.1% (v/w)

respectively. The major compounds identified in *T. capitatus* wild were thymol (34.40%) and α -terpinene (14.67%), followed by 1-4-terpineol (9.65%). Otherwise, the mean compounds of *T. capitatus* cultivated were thymol (23.74%), o-cymene (18.74%), trans caryophyllene (9.82%) followed by α -terpinene (9.13%). The major constituents of the third oils of *M. hortensis* were trans-sabinene hydrate (19.23%), cis-sabinene hydrate (17.55), terpinen-4-ol (15.66%) followed by α -terpinene (12.06%) as determined by GC/MS (Table 2).

Table 2. GC-mass analysis of *T. capitatus*, *T. capitatus* cultivated and *M. hortensis* essential oils.

NO	Essential oils constituents	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild) %	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated) %	<i>M. hortensis</i> %	Molecular weight
1	Thujene	1.13	0.68	-	136
2	α - pinene	0.90	1.92	0.46	136
3	Camphene	0.92	1.77	-	136
4	Sabinene	4.47	-	10.24	136
5	1-octen-3-ol	0.31	-	-	128
6	α -myrcene	1.61	1.19	1.03	136
7	3-octanol	0.40	-	-	130
8	Phellandrene	0.33	-	3.18	136
9	α -terpinene	14.67	9.13	12.06	136
10	o-cymene	5.50	18.74	1.65	134
11	d-limonene	0.89	-	-	136
12	trans-sabinene hydrate	1.61	-	19.23	155
13	α -terpinolene	1.86	-	0.71	154
14	L- linalool	0.78	3.71	-	154
15	Cis-sabinene hydrate	4.09	-	17.55	154
16	1-Terpineol	1.06	-	0.61	154
17	Borneol	5.00	1.59	-	154
18	1-4-terpineol	9.65	1.20	-	154
19	α -terpineol	2.07	-	-	154
20	Thymol	34.40	23.74	-	150
21	Iso-thymol	0.34	-	-	150
22	Carvacryl acetate	3.39	-	-	150
23	Trans-caryophyllene	3.41	9.82	4.24	204
24	4-isopropylidene	0.57	-	-	204
25	Caryophyllene oxide	0.63	4.12	-	220
26	Geraniol	-	1.47	-	154
27	Geraniol isovalerate	-	3.35	-	138
28	α -citronellol	-	1.68	-	156
29	camphor	-	3.05	-	152
30	1,8-cineole	-	3.87	5.09	154
31	Humulene	-	0.59	-	204
32	Iso caryophyllene	-	1.71	-	204
33	α -cadinol	-	1.36	-	222
34	pogostol	-	0.49	-	236
35	1,6,10-Dodecatrien-3-ol,3,7,11-trimethyl	-	3.83	-	122
36	Terpinen-4-ol	-	-	15.66	154
37	Linalyl acetate	-	-	2.88	138
38	Geranyl acetate	-	-	1.81	182
	Total	25	22	15	

(-) means not detected

Formulated emulsions

The essential volatile oils were formulated by selected the suitable ternary quantity systems from oils, water and surfactants (Mac-E), plus co-surfactant (Nano-E). These materials and their variable quantity were mixed by vortex and the obtained formulation tested for stability which correlated the specification and desired response biological properties of herbicidal activity against bindweeds.

The nanoemulsion systems (2.5%) were markedly studied as a function of oil type and proper amount of the given co-surfactant/ surfactant: water. Indeed, the prepared Nano-E exposed to ultrasonication for 2 hours to optimizing the obtained Nano-E specific properties

and has minimum dispersion. Otherwise, many compound from co-surfactant and surfactant and their amount were tested, the suitable materials were choosing depending on their λ_{max} and visual observation of the formed Nano-E. Therefore, after emulsification and lamellar crystalline phase were crossed, it seems clearly and stabilized in the final stage due to the decreasing of the hydrodynamic droplet diameters that improving the dispersion quality. Thereby, the final practical Nano-E characterized after the stability test for biological activity using *C. arvensis*.

The formulated macroemulsion (Mac-E) consisting of the volatile oils 2.5% as dispersed phase and 2.5% emulsifying agent which is dispersed in

external water phase 95% ratios used for the preparation, then homogenization of the coarse emulsions was achieved with homogenizer and vortex the prepared emulsion inspected visually and subject to analysis for stability tests and others specific properties.

Characterization of formulated emulsions

The obtained formulated emulsions were assessed by PH and EC values. It's characterized with neutral or acidic pH properties in Nano-E. Otherwise, Mac-E had

Table 3. Characterization of the formulated Mac-E and Nano-E.

	Emulsions Type	Nano particles (nm)	PH	λ_{max}	EC (m mols/cm)	Transmittance
<i>T. capitatus</i> Wild	Macro-E	1468.6±0.54	7.7±0.1	222, 247, 243, 253	0.165±0.1	0.71%±0.53
	Nano-E	12±0.525	6.61± 0.11	260, 272, 282	0.118±0.1	92%±1.3
<i>T. capitatus</i> Cultivated	Macro-E	15840±1.01	7.71±0.13	225,235,262, 266,273,383, 479,486	0.184±0.1	11.2%±2.6
	Nano-E	22.4±0.357	6.49±0.05		0.125±0.1	90%±1
<i>M. hortensis</i>	Macro-E	90.7± 0.63	7.59±0.1	248, 262, 272, 486,	0.142±0.1	0.55%±0.5
	Nano-E	5.3± 0.680	5.64±0.15	568, 575, 586	0.112±0.1	88.43%±2.6

The transparency and Transmittance percentage

The obtained nanoemulsions characterized by excellent transparency and higher (UV/VIS) transmission percentage as compared with Mac-E which has milky color that reflected in their lowest transmission percentage. These values reached 92, 90 and 88.43% for *T. capitatus* wild, *T. capitatus* cultivated and *M. hortensis* for Nano-E respectively. In the other hand, lowest transmittance percentage described the formulated Mac-E by 0.71, 11.2 and 0.55% for *T. capitatus* wild, *T. capitatus* cultivated and *M. hortensis* respectively. On the other hands, the formulated Nano-E had λ_{max} recorded by 222, 247, 243, 253 260, 272, 282 for *T. capitatus* wild, 225,235,262, 266, 273, 383,479,486 for *T. capitatus* cultivated and 248, 262, 272, 486, 568, 575, 586 for *M. hortensis* as show in Table 3.

Particle size of the formulated emulsion

Particle size is the important determiner which influences the characterization of *M. hortensis*, *T. capitatus* wild and *T. capitatus* cultivated formulations. The obtained particles size of Nano-E were measured by 5.3, 12.0 and 22.4 nm for *M. hortensis*, *T. capitatus* wild and *T. capitatus* cultivated respectively. On the others side, the particle sizes of Mac-E were 90.7, 15840 and

PH higher than 7, while *T. capitatus* cultivated at the prepared rate achieved the maximum PH value. The EC value ranged from 0.184 to 0.142 m mols/cm (Mac-E) and 0.125 to 0.112 m mols/cm (Nano-E). In fact, there was less variation in EC value within Nano-E and Mac-E, these values explained the high steady state of establishing water continuous phase. These experiments were performed three times (Table 3).

1468.6 nm for *M. hortensis*, *T. capitatus* wild and cultivated respectively. The studies revealed that *M. hortensis* only was found in the nano size in the present of his milky color and without any sonication exposure whiles the other formulations appeared in macrosize.

Mechanical stability of the formulation

The prepared emulsions (Mac-E and Nano-E) were subjected to the stability assessment of centrifugation at 2000 rpm during 20, 40, 60 and 120 min (Table 4). While thermal stability implemented at 4±1, 25 ±1 and 50 ±1°C during 1, 5, 10, 20, 30 days. The results showed the stability of the obtained nanoemulsions toward precipitation after 20, 40, 60 min. centrifugation. However, trace precipitation in most prepared formulations at 120min. was recorded in *T. capitatus* cultivated higher, followed with *T. capitatus* wild and lower in *M. hortensis*. These treatments will be giving the greatest precipitation amount in Mac-E than Nano-E (Fig 1). Thermal stability study of the tested Mac-E and Nano-E indicated that these emulsions were stable at 4±1, 25±1 and 50±1 °C for thirty days. While, these emulsion at laboratory temperature stability were exceeded five month without any aggregation and separation (Table 5).

Table 4. Separated phase of emulsions after centrifugation at 2000 rpm by %.

Centrifugation Time min.	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild)		<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated)		<i>M. hortensis</i>	
	Mac-E	Nano-E	Mac-E	Nano-E	Mac-E	Nano-E
20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120	2.25	0.5	4.5	1.2	1.5	0.5

Table 5. Separated phase after thermal exposure of formulated emulsions by %.

Temp. °C	days	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild)		<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated)		<i>M. hortensis</i>	
		Mac-E	Nano-E	Mac-E	Nano-E	Mac-E	Nano-E
	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4 ±1,	5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25±1	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40 ±1	20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

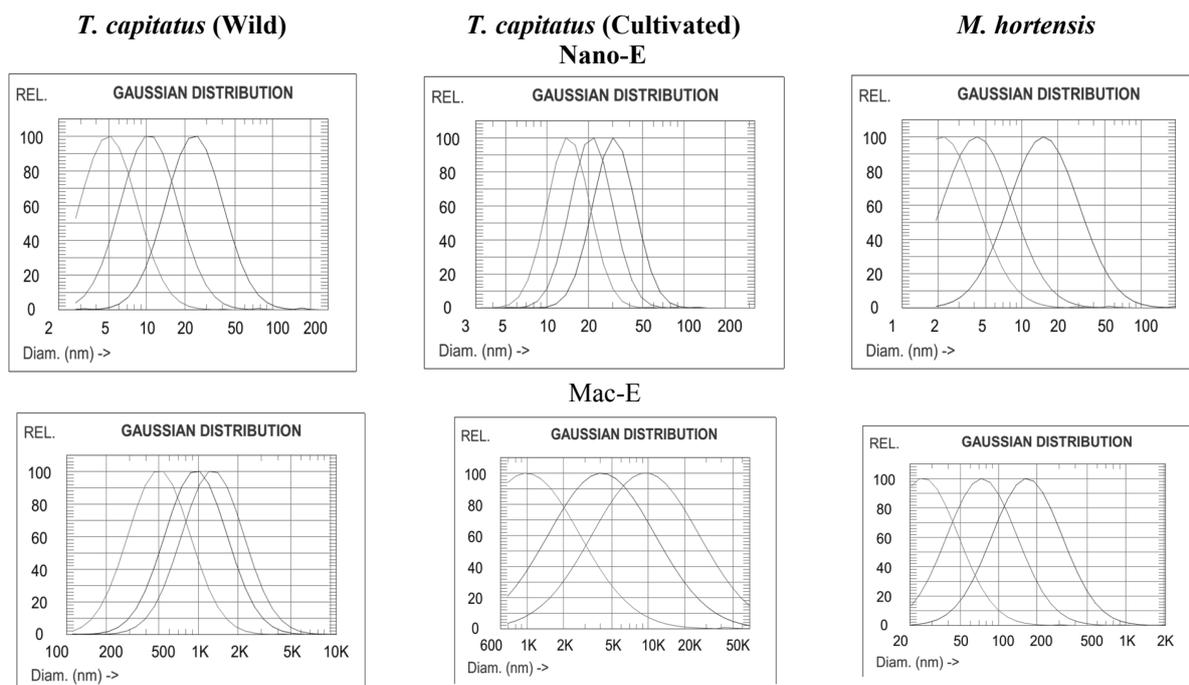


Fig. 1: Emulsions distribution analysis (Particle Size Analysis).

Biological activity against weeds

The essential oils were effective at the lowest concentrations and the highest concentration completely suppressed weeds germination. It had the greatest inhibitory effects upon shoot length of *C. arvensis* and *S. viridis* compared to root length and germination based on EC₅₀. The formulated emulsion phytotoxicity evaluated on *C. arvensis* seeds germination and seedling growth. The most sensitive weed parts were root length and shoot length for Mac-E and Nano-E respectively. The heights activity on *C. arvensis* seedling lengths recorded from Mac-E. While, most prepared Nano-E had slightly similar reduction activity against the tested

weeds. The inhibitory effect of *M. hortensis* was extremely highest phytotoxic against both *C. arvensis* and *S. viridis* compared with *T. capitatus* wild and *T. capitatus* cultivated. It concluded that the concentration and emulsion types were played considerable role in achieving complete weeds suppression. Nano-E exhibited the greatest inhibition followed by Mac-E. Nevertheless, volatile oils exhibited a lowest suppression on the tested weed germination and growth. These indicates that the volatile oils contained growth inhibiting allelochemicals and their effects depended on the type of oils and formulation (Table 6).

Table 6. Dos response relationship of volatile oils and emulsions (ED₅₀) µg/ml.

	Volatile oils <i>C. arvensis</i>	Volatile oils <i>S. viridis</i>	Mac-E <i>C. arvensis</i>	Nano-E <i>C. arvensis</i>
		<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild)		
Shoot length	5.764±0.11	7.133±1.31	2.314±0.41	2.514±0.21
Root length	6.115±0.17	10.954±1.32	2.116±0.51	2.623±0.27
Germination	8.100±0.10	8.215±1.34	2.490±0.34	2.616±0.21
		<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated)		
Shoot length	8.516±0.20	7.436±0.44	3.855±0.12	4.013±0.34
Root length	8.632±0.18	12.713±0.12	2.463±0.18	2.577±0.21
Germination	10.211±0.42	8.891±0.87	3.143±0.16	3.465±0.22
		<i>M. hortensis</i>		
Shoot length	1.693±0.27	0.863±0.11	0.286±0.08	0.324±0.06
Root length	1.745±0.15	1.788±0.02	0.196±0.09	0.367±0.04
Germination	1.713±0.21	1.536±0.1	0.573±0.12	0.392±0.05

Post-emergence herbicidal activities of the formulated macroemulsion (Mac-E) and nanoemulsion (Nano-E) against *C. arvensis* are shown (Fig. 2). *M. hortensis* Mac-E at 5 and 10 µg/ml caused inhibition of 73.7, 81.7 and 54.3, 60.6 for fresh and dry weight respectively. Otherwise, Nano-E represent a significant inhibition amounted to 63.6, 82.9% and 75.3, 62.6% for fresh and dry weight respectively compared with the control. The result of *T. capitatus* wild clearly recorded

its post emergence activity on total biomass fresh and dry weight by 46.9,70.4% and 22.0,41.0%(Mac-E), 50.5,77.5% and 37.6, 50.3%(Nano-E) respectively over the control. Spraying with the formulated *T. capitatus* cultivated at 5 and 10 µg/ml revealed inhibition in *C. arvensis* fresh and dry weight values by 18.3,49.9% and 12.8,38.9 (Mac-E), 29.9,64.1% and 20.15,41.9% (Nano-E), respectively than the control.

C. arvensis seedling fresh and dry weight influenced by the formulated Nano-E under the stage of 5-7 leaves (Table, 7). The result revealed that *M. hortensis* caused inhibition by 49.0, 59.29 % (fresh weight) and 26.4, 38.3 % (dry weight), also, *T. capitatus*

wild exhibited 59.54, 65.8 % (fresh weight) and 16.38, 38.6 % (dry weight) reduction, finally *T. capitatus* cultivated created inhibition value by 45.0, 57.8 % (fresh weight), 17.0 and 33.4 % (dry weight) compared to the control.

Table 7. Post-emergence activity of Nano-E on *C. arvensis* at 5-7 leaves stage fresh and dry weights.

Treatments	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild)	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated)	<i>M. hortensis</i>	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Wild)	<i>T. capitatus</i> (Cultivated)	<i>M. hortensis</i>
	Fresh weight (gm)			Dry weight (gm)		
Control	1.13	1.02	1.02	0.26	0.25	0.26
5 ppm	0.46	0.55	0.52	0.22	0.23	0.19
10 ppm	0.38	0.43	0.42	0.16	0.16	0.16
LSD (0.05):						
Plant Oils	0.26	0.27	0.22	0.12	0.10	0.13
Conc.	0.37	0.42	0.35	0.13	0.11	0.13
Interactions	0.52	0.62	0.55	0.141	0.09	0.14

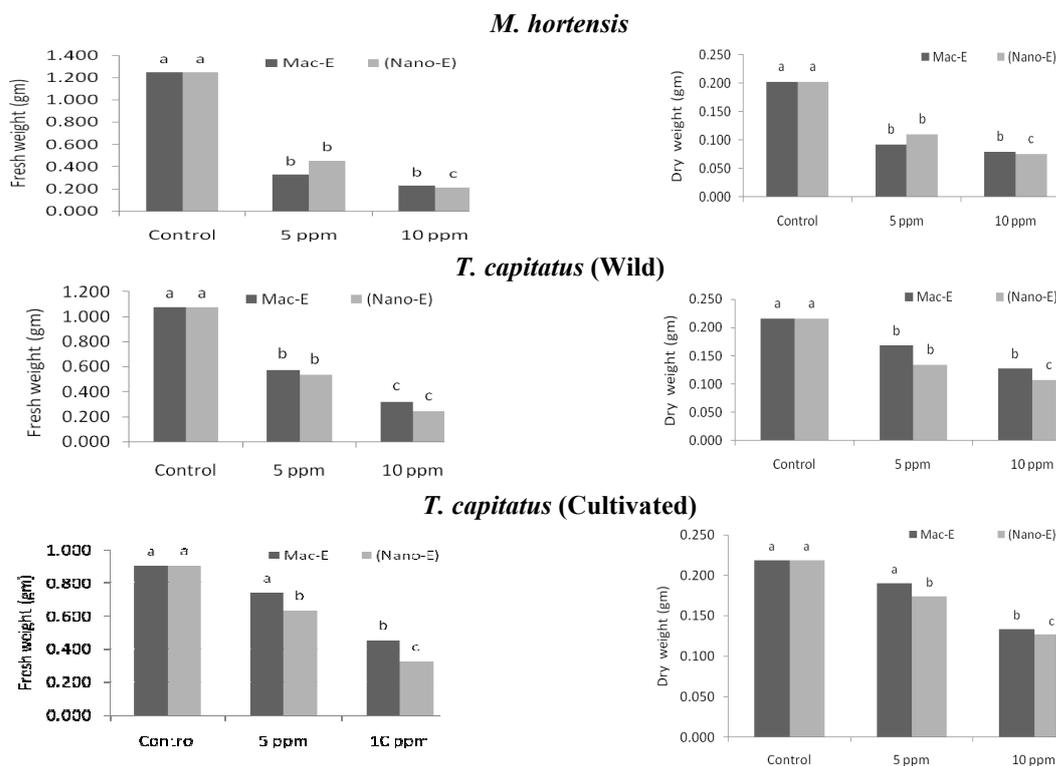


Fig.2. Post-emergence activity of macroemulsion (Macro-E) and nanoemulsion (Nano-E) on *C. arvensis* fresh and dry weight at 2-4 leaves stage.

The herbicidal activity of essential oils revealed that *M. hortensis* had the greatest inhibitory effects followed by *T. capitatus* wild and finally *T. capitatus* cultivated in both *C. arvensis* and *S. viridis*. Due to the application difficulties of the volatile oils, it's emulsified to Mac-E and Nano-E and re-bioassayed under laboratory condition before greenhouse investigation. The formulated Mac-E and Nano-E achieved post emergence activity in the early stage of *C. arvensis* (2-3 leaves) total biomass fresh and dry weight. Nevertheless, only Nano-E was in *C. arvensis* at 5-7 leaves stage than Mac-E. The differences were slightly lower within the tested nanoformulation under greenhouse. The nanoformulation may be of exhibited faster release of active ingredients after application on weed leaves surface and weed seeds (under laboratory) due to pronounced surface properties. Selecting the

suitable mixture (type and amount) from oils, water and surfactants macroemulsion (Mac-E) plus co-surfactant for nanoemulsion (Nano-E) are the critical point that control the prepared formulation suitability and deliver their function. The formulated nanoemulsions size were found close to the standard Nano-E between 1 to 100 nm (Casanova *et al.* 2005) for best deliver their function. Whereas, most prepared Nano-E size not exceeds 22 nm, on the other side only *M. hortensis* Mac-E less than 100 nm, which obtained without sonication and have milky colure similar other Mac-E and over them with higher herbicidal activity. These results supported by Owolade *et al.* (2008) found that nanopesticides, nanofungicides and nanoherbicides which are being used efficiently in agriculture. Nanoparticles loaded with garlic essential oil are efficacious against *Tribolium castaneum* Herbst

(Yang *et al.* 2009). The previous results indicate that the volatile oils contained growth inhibiting allelochemicals their seed germination and seedling growth. The phytotoxicity of volatile constituents in *M. hortensis*, *T. capitatus* wild and *T. capitatus* cultivated was previously reported; δ -terpinene, p-cymene, carvacrol, 1,8-cineole (Angelini *et al.* 2003; Grosso *et al.* 2010), caryophyllene oxide (Macini *et al.* 2009a), Thymol, p-cymene, δ -terpinene (Almeida *et al.* 2010; Grosso *et al.* 2010) α -humulene (Tellez *et al.* 2000), α -pinene, 1,8-cineole, borneol (Angelini *et al.* 2003), Carvacrol, p-cymene (Kordali *et al.* 2008), β -pinene (Almeida *et al.* 2010), 1,8-cineole (Mucciarelli *et al.* 2001), (Z)- Caryophyllene ,caryophyllene oxide (De Martino *et al.* 2010), (Z)- Caryophyllene ,caryophyllene oxide (De Martino *et al.* 2010), Linalol, 1,8-cineole, β -phellandrene, α -pinene (Almeida *et al.* 2010), Linalol, 1,8-cineole, β -phellandrene, α -pinene (Almeida *et al.* 2010), cis-thujone, 1,8-cineole, camphor (De Martino *et al.* 2010), Camphor, 1,8-cineole, Borneol (Kordali *et al.* 2008; Salmaci *et al.* 2007), Thymol (Marandino *et al.* 2011) and Carvacrol ,Linalol (Almeida *et al.* 2010) was reported on many plants growth. α -pinene, limonene, 1,8.cineole and camphor affect the respiratory activity of mitochondria of maize and soybean hypocotyl axes and α -pinene has been shown to be the most active among the all tested monoterpenes (Abraham *et al.* 2003), 1,8-cineole inhibits the germination, speed of germination, seedling growth, chlorophyll content and respiratory activity of *Ageratum conyzoides* Singh *et al.* (2002). The above results presented the potentially useful role of essential oils and their prepared formulations from natural sources to use for weed control. While nanoemulsions has a good and the highest inhibition properties towered the selected weeds than the others, that can be used a good in weed control as alternative means to synthetics herbicides. Also, recommended to develop a protocol based on this modern technique in order to provide a good source for weed control under Egyptian conditions.

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تشكيل المستحلبات و المستحلبات النانومترية من زيوت الزعتر البري والمنزوع والبردقوش لمكافحة الحشائش محمد عبد العزيز بلح^١ ووليد محمد عبد العظيم^٢ ^١ قسم وقاية النبات – مركز بحوث الصحراء ^٢ قسم النباتات الطبية – مركز بحوث الصحراء

استهدفت الدراسة تقييم الكفاءة الابادية العشبية للزيوت الاساسية ومستحضراتها من مستحلبات كبيرة ومستحلبات نانومترية لنبات الزعتر النامي برى والمنزوع والبردقوش على ابناءت ونمو حشائش العليق وديل الثعلب او للصبوق. حيث اوضح من تحليل مكونات الزيوت الاساسية باستخدام جهاز الكروماتوجرافى الغازى المزود بمطياف الكتلة وجود المركبات الاتية: δ -Thymol, camphor, thujone, terpinene, Borneol, p-cymene, carvacrol, 1,8-cineole, caryophyllene oxide, α -humulene α -pinene, borneol, β -pinene, caryophyllene, caryophyllene oxide, linalol and phellandrene. صيغة المستحضرات بواسطة اختيار أنسب نظم خلط بين الزيت والماء والمواد النشطة سطحيا بالاضافة للعوامل المساعدة للمواد النشطة سطحيا فى حالة المستحلبات النانومترية كما تم عمل تعظيم لها بالاعتماد على اختبارات الثبات والخصائص البيولوجية. كما تميزت المستحلبات النانومترية بالشفافية الكاملة ونصف الشفافية، حيث سجلت أحجام الجزيئات ٠.٣ و ١.٠ و ١.٢ و ٢.٢ نانومتر لكل من مستحضرات البردقوش والزعتر البري والمنزوع على التوالي. بناء على قيمة ED₅₀ للبردقوش (زيت ومستحلب كبير ومستحلب نانومتري) أظهر أعلى كفاءة إبادية على حشائش العليق، وعلى العكس من ذلك اقل كفاءة إبادية نتجت من الزعتر المنزوع بينما توسطهم فى التأثير الزعتر البري. أظهرت المستحلبات النانومترية كفاءة إبادية بعد الانبثاق على البادرات العليق فى عمر من ٥-٦ وراقات عن مستحضرات المستحلب الكبير فى الصوبة. أوضحت الدراسة ان الكفاءة الابادية اعتمدت على نوع الزيت، التركيز المستخدم ونوع المستحضر وكذلك طور نمو الحشائش اثناء المعاملة، حيث أكدت النتائج إمكانية استخدام المستحضرات النانومترية فى برامج مكافحة الحشائش المعمرة.