



# Chemical Compositions and Nematicidal Activities of Essential Oils on *Meloidogyne hapla* (Nematoda: Tylenchida) Under Laboratory Conditions

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**Abstract** To evaluate the efficacy of natural nematicides for the control of root-knot nematode in strawberry greenhouses, commercial essential oils were examined by 24-well culture plate bioassay for their nematicidal activities against second-stage juveniles and eggs of *Meloidogyne hapla*. Based on the mortality of *M. hapla* juveniles at a concentration of 125 µg/mL, the most active essential oil was *Alpinia galanga* (100%), followed by *Carum carbi* (22.3%), *Eugenia caryophyllata* (9.4%), *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (7.2%), *Mentha pulegium* (2.4%), and *Foeniculum vulgare* (2.1%). Moreover, *A. galanga* significantly reduced hatching at 7, 14, and 21 days after treatment. The volatile constituents identified in the *A. galangal* oil were methyl cinnamate (87.4%), 1,8-cineole (4.4%), β-pinene (2.5%), α-pinene (2.2%), and *p*-cymene (1.1%), as major constituents. Results of this study show that *A. galangal* essential oil and its major constituents may serve as an environmental friendly agent of a promising natural nematicide to control *Meloidogyne* spp.

**Key words** *Alpinia galanga*, *Meloidogyne hapla*, Natural nematicide, Plant essential oil

## Introduction

Today, increasing public awareness of the environmental effects of chemical pesticides, health hazards, and adverse effects on non-target organisms becomes more critical on continued use of synthetic nematicides (Pandey *et al.*, 2000; Hong *et al.*, 2010). These undesirable effects highlight the need for application of selective nematode control alternatives, because chemical nematicides such as 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) and 1,2-dibromoethane (ethylene dibromide) have been reserved from the agricultural chemical market due to their harmful effects on human health (Oka *et al.*, 2000; Hong *et al.*, 2010). It is necessary to develop new alternative control strategies for plant-parasitic nematodes, especially those with fumigant action in soil, because powders formulation are usually less effective and do not adequately penetrate deep layers (Hong *et al.*, 2010). One

possible alternative is utilization of natural pesticides based on plant-derived extracts such as essential oils or other nematicidal sources from plants (Chitwood, 2002; Nguyen *et al.*, 2013; Kim *et al.*, 2014). Consequently a large number of plants (flowers, leaves, and rhizomes) have been experimented for their nematicidal effects (Pandey *et al.*, 2000). However, nematicidal effects of essential oils and its volatile constituents against *Meloidogyne hapla* have not been reported. In our present study, plant essential oils from nine species were evaluated for their nematicidal and hatching inhibition activities against *M. hapla* second-stage juveniles (J2) and eggs under laboratory conditions. We also analyze the volatile compounds of essential oil extracted from *Alpinia galanga* rhizomes.

## Materials and Methods

### Essential oils

Nine plant essential oils (*Alpinia galanga*, *Carum carbi*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Eugenia caryophyllata*, *Foeniculum*

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*vulgare*, *Lavandula intermedia* cv. Grosso, *Melaleuca viridiflora*, *Mentha pulegium*, and *Myristica fragrans*) were purchased from a local herb market, Skinmate (Bucheon, Korea) and stored in a glass bottle at 4°C. Triton X-100 was supplied by Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland).

### Nematode

*Meoloidogyne hapla*, originally extracted from a strawberry field in Gongju (Chungnam province, South Korea), was cultured on tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* cv. Rutgers) in a glasshouse. Egg masses were isolated from plant roots, collected in water, and sterilized by agitation for 3 min in 1% sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solution (Kim *et al.*, 2014). The eggs were collected on a 500 mesh sieve, refrigerated overnight at 4°C in sterile distilled water and used for bioassay. Juveniles were obtained by Baermann funnel method (Barker, 1985), and used in this study were less than 5 days old.

### Bioassay

The nematicidal activity of essential oils against *M. hapla* second-stage juveniles (J2) was evaluated by 24-well culture plate bioassay as described previously (Kim and Whang, 2012). The test solution containing 120 to 150 J2 per 0.98 mL of distilled water was prepared by diluting the test solution. Nematodes were placed in each well prior to adding the essential oils. Four concentrations (1,000, 500, 250, and 125 µg/mL) of each materials (0.02 mL) composed of ethanol and Triton X-100 (0.9:0.1, v/v) were added to the wells and incubated at 24 ± 1°C. The percentage mortality of J2 was recorded by counting them after 24 h under a binocular microscope (×40). Essential oils at a concentration of 1,000 µg/mL that showed nematicidal activities more than 90% of the *M. hapla* J2 population were selected for the hatching inhibition experiments.

The hatching inhibition assays of six active essential oils against *M. hapla* eggs were evaluated under laboratory conditions. Approximately 130 to 170 nematode eggs in were introduced into six active essential oil solutions at a concentration of 500 µg/mL and incubated at 24 ± 1°C. Inhibitory effect of hatching was recorded after 7, 14, and 21 days, respectively. Controls consisted of the ethanol/Triton X-100 carrier solution in distilled water. All treatments had three replicated and were performed at least twice.

### Gas chromatography mass spectroscopy (GC/MS)

Gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC/MS) analyses

of the active *Alpinia galanga* oil were performed using Agilent GC model 6890 fitted with MS detector (Agilent 5973) and a DB-5 silica capillary column (inner diameter 0.32 mm; length 30 m; film thickness 0.5 µm). Helium was used as carrier gas at the flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. The analytic conditions were as follows: ion source temperature, 280°C; injector temperature, 250°C; column temperature, 90°C. Mass spectra were recorded over 50 to 600 amu range with 70 eV. The split ratio use was 20:1. The identification of volatile constituents was based on the retention indices on the DB-5 silica capillary column, retention times, and mass spectra with the Wiley Registry of Mass spectral Data 7th edition.

### Data analysis

The percentage mortality values of J2 were calculated from the formula: % = (number of dead J2 / total number of J2) × 100. Data were analyzed statistically by analysis of variance and means compared with Duncan's Multiple Range test ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## Results and discussion

Nematicidal activities of nine essential oils against *M. hapla* J2 were evaluated by 24-well culture plate bioassay (Table 1). Based on the mortality of juveniles at a concentration of 125 µg/mL, the most active essential oil was *A. galanga* (100%), followed by *C. carbi* (22.3%), *E. caryophyllata* (9.4%), *C. zeylanicum* (7.2%), *M. pulegium* (2.4%), and *F. vulgare* (2.1%). However, *L. intermedia* cv. Grosso, *M. viridiflora*, and *M. fragrans* had no activity at the same concentration against *M. hapla* juveniles. Because of potent activity of six essential oils (*A. galanga*, *C. carbi*, *E. caryophyllata*, *C. zeylanicum*, *M. pulegium*, and *F. vulgare*) against *M. hapla* juveniles, the hatching inhibition of selected oils to *M. hapla* eggs was investigated using 24-well culture plate bioassay at a concentration of 500 µg/mL (Fig. 1). *A. galanga* was also effective at hatching inhibition, followed by *C. zeylanicum*, *E. caryophyllata*, *F. vulgare*, *M. pulegium*, and *C. carbi*. These results indicate that toxicity differences were related to that of susceptibility varies with the developmental stage. According to Wharton (2002), egg stage is the most resistant stage in the nematode developmental stages, due to its three-layer shell (vitelline layer, chitinous layer, and lipid layer).

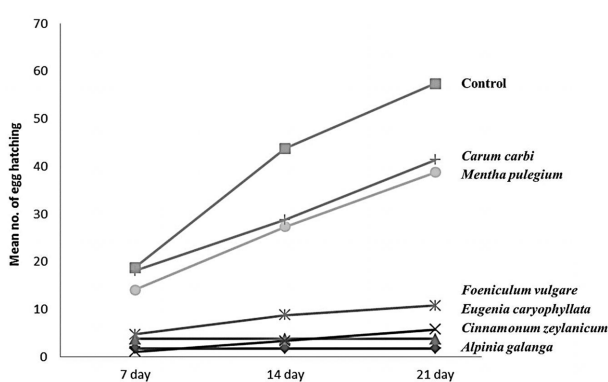
Volatile constituents accounting 98.1% of *A. galanga*

**Table 1.** Nematicidal activity of essential oils against *Meloidogyne hapla* second-stage juveniles<sup>a</sup>

Samples ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	Mortality (%) $\pm$ SE <sup>b</sup>			
	1,000	500	250	125
<i>Alpinia galanga</i>	100a	100a	100a	100a
<i>Carum carbi</i>	100a	100a	59.0 $\pm$ 2.3b	22.3 $\pm$ 5.8b
<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i>	100a	95.9 $\pm$ 0.5a	27.1 $\pm$ 2.6c	7.2 $\pm$ 1.4c
<i>Eugenia caryophyllata</i>	100a	98.2 $\pm$ 0.4a	30.1 $\pm$ 4.5c	9.4 $\pm$ 2.6c
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	100a	67.4 $\pm$ 7.8b	7.8 $\pm$ 2.4d	2.1 $\pm$ 0.8d
<i>Lavandula intermedia</i> cv. <i>Grosso</i>	41.5 $\pm$ 5.6b	23.1 $\pm$ 7.2c	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0e	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0d
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	29.0 $\pm$ 4.9c	14.1 $\pm$ 2.2d	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0e	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0d
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	100a	98.7 $\pm$ 1.2a	10.3 $\pm$ 3.4d	2.4 $\pm$ 0.7d
<i>Myristica fragrans</i>	31.3 $\pm$ 4.6c	15.6 $\pm$ 6.1d	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0e	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0d
Negative control	2.6 $\pm$ 0.5d	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup>Exposed for 24 h.<sup>b</sup>Different letters next to the values in the column indicate significant differences at  $p < 0.05$ .**Table 2.** Volatile constituents from rhizomes of *Alpinia galanga* oil identified by GC/MS

Peak number	RI <sup>a</sup>	Retention time (min)	Components	Relative composition (%)
1	943	6.54	$\alpha$ -Pinene	2.23
2	965	7.41	$\beta$ -Pinene	2.54
3	1010	8.25	<i>p</i> -Cymene	1.05
4	1031	8.42	1,8-Cineole	4.37
5	1121	9.45	Fenchone	0.53
6	1267	16.65	Methyl cinnamate	87.39
Total identified				98.11
Major grouped compounds				
Monoterpene esters				87.39
Monoterpene hydrocarbons				5.82
Monoterpene ketones				0.53
Monoterpene oxides				4.37

<sup>a</sup>Retention indices (RI) were determined on DB-5 capillary column.**Fig. 1.** Inhibitory effect of 500  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  essential oils on hatching of *Meloidogyne hapla* eggs.

rhizomes oil were identified by GC/MS (Table 2). The identified compounds in *A. galanga* oil were methyl cinnamate

(87.39%), 1,8-cineole (4.37%),  $\beta$ -pinene (2.54%),  $\alpha$ -pinene (2.23%), *p*-cymene (1.05%), and fenchone (0.53%). The volatile constituents from *A. galanga* rhizomes oil were grouped as monoterpene ester (methyl cinnamate), monoterpene hydrocarbon ( $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -pinene, and *p*-cymene), monoterpene oxide (1,8-cineole), and monoterpene ketone (fenchone). Compared with the previous studies (Raina *et al.*, 2014), the major components of *A. galanga* oil were 1,8-cineole (63.4%), (*E*)- $\beta$ -farnesene (8.4%), eugenol acetate (3.3%),  $\alpha$ -terpineol (2.8%), terpinen-4-ol (2.8%), and (*E*)-methyl cinnamate (0.2%). However, the occurrence of methyl cinnamate as major component in the *A. galanga* oil in the present study is not matched those of previous reports. The quantitative and compositional differences of chemical composition of plants

are attributed to geographical origin, extraction methods, parts of herbs, chemotypes, and harvest conditions (Raina *et al.*, 2002; Yang and Lee, 2013). Essential oil from various plants is used commercially sources of pesticides for insect control (Oka *et al.*, 2000; Jeon *et al.*, 2015). Several essential oils and their constituents have been reported to their nematicidal effect, such as *Mentha* spp., *Origanum* spp., *Eucalyptus* spp., and *Tagetes* spp., and their components (alcohols, alkaloids, phenolics, and terpenoids) (Uhlenbroek *et al.*, 1958; Belcher and Hussey, 1977; Oka *et al.*, 2000; Pandey *et al.*, 2000; Lee *et al.*, 2011). Our study also demonstrated that essential oil from *A. galanga* rhizome had nematicidal effective against *M. hapla* juveniles and eggs. Therefore, natural nematicides based on plant extracts, essential oils, and phytochemicals could be beneficial as alternatives to pesticides for control nematodes. Further experiments are needed to evaluate the nematicidal efficacy under greenhouse and field conditions for the practical use of *A. galanga* rhizome-derived oil and its volatile constituents. Additionally, nematicidal constituents derived from *A. galanga* oil and mode of action need to be conducted.

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## 식물정유의 당근뿌리혹선충(*Meloidogyne hapla*)에 대한 살선충활성 및 방향성성분 분석

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**요약** 본 연구는 뿌리혹선충의 친환경적 방제를 위하여 9종의 식물정유를 선발하여 당근뿌리혹선충 2령기 유충과 알에 대한 살선충 및 부화억제 효과를 검정하였다. 당근뿌리혹선충의 2령기 유충에 대해 125 µg/mL로 검정한 결과, *Alpinia galanga* 정유가 100% 살선충활성을 나타냈고, *Carum carbi* (22.3%), *Eugenia caryophyllata* (9.4%), *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* (7.2%), *Mentha pulegium* (2.4%) 및 *Foeniculum vulgare* (2.1%) 순으로 활성을 나타내었다. 이들 중 *A. galanga* 정유를 이용하여 당근뿌리혹선충 알의 부화억제 활성을 검정한 결과, 500 µg/mL 농도로 처리 후 7, 14, 21 일째까지 낮은 부화 활성을 나타내었다. 우수한 활성을 보인 *A. galanga* 정유의 활성 성분을 분석한 결과 methyl cinnamate 함유율이 가장 높았으며, 1,8-cineole, β-pinene, α-pinene, p-cymene이 주요 방향성 물질로 구성되어 있음을 확인할 수 있었다. 따라서 본 연구에서 선발한 *A. galanga* 정유가 당근뿌리혹선충의 친환경적 방제 수단으로 활용가능성이 있을 것으로 생각된다.

**색인어** 갈랑갈, 당근뿌리혹선충, 식물정유, 천연살선충제