

## Multiple forms of esterase in the larvae of *Pectinophora gossypiella* treated with three volatile oils.

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### ABSTRACT

In the present work, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis were used for detection the forms of esterase in the last larval instar of *Pectinophora gossypiella*. The larvae were treated as newly hatched larvae with sublethal concentration (LC<sub>50</sub>) of three volatile oils (*Petroselinum sativum*, *Coriandrum sativum* and *Cymbapoyon citratus*). The larval tissues showed response towards  $\alpha$  - naphthyl acetate and  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate substrates. The esterase bands have been classified according to their reaction with three specific inhibitors (Eserine, Chlorphrifos and Fenitrothion).

The results were showed great differences in number of zones of esterase activity and in substrate specificity between treated and untreated samples. Five, four, seven and six esterase bands in untreated and (*P. sativum*, *C. sativum* and *C. citrates*) treated samples respectively, show activity towards  $\alpha$ - naphthyl acetate. Six, five, seven and seven esterases were able to hydrolyze  $\beta$ - naphthyl acetate in previous samples arrangement. In the case of  $\alpha$  - naphthyl acetate, volatile oils caused the increasing of arylestrases and carboxylestrases activities, while cholinesterase activity was inhibited.

**Key Words:** *Pectinophora gossypiella*- Esterases- specific inhibitors– electrophoresis

### INTRODUCTION

Esterases exhibit a greater degree of polymorphism than other enzymes because they act on a class of molecules many of which come directly from external environment (Kojima *et al.*, 1970). The esterases can break an ester bond with the help of a water molecule. Most enzymes of this class hydrolyze endogenous substances and are important in intermediary metabolism (Sivakumarm and Maya, 1991), but can also play a role in detoxification of xenobiotics (Shen and Dowd, 1991). Because most insecticides are ester of substituted phosphoric, carbamic, or cyclopropanecarboxylic acids, they are subjected to degradation by esterases (Devonshire, 1991).

These esterases can often be separated into isozymes with different substrate specificities. Also, esterase can be divided as follows; Carboxylestrases inhibited by organophosphorus compounds but not by carbamate (eserine); Cholinesterases inhibited by organophosphorus and carbamate compounds and Arylesterases not inhibited by organophosphorus and carbamate compounds (Augustinsson, 1961).

The pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* is an important cotton pest that causes serious losses in cotton crop due to the attack of the fruiting parts (squares, flowers, green bolls), so the success in controlling such insect is considered to be of great economical importance. Also, for the importance of esterases in physiology, metabolism and xenobiotic detoxification in insects, this study was concerned with characterization and differentiation of *P. gossypiella* esterase activity in untreated and treated larvae with LC<sub>50</sub> of three volatile oils (*Petroselinum sativum*, *Coriandrum sativum* and *Cymbapoyon citratus*).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### \*Insects preparation:

*Pectinophora gossypiella* used in this study originated from eggs obtained from a susceptible strain established in the bollworm department, plant protection, Research Institute, Dokki, Giza. This strain was reared in the laboratory on an artificial diet according to (Abdel-Hafez *et al.*, 1982.) under constant laboratory conditions of  $26 \pm 1$  °C and  $70 \pm 5$  % RH.

Glass vials (2.0 x 7.5 cm) filled one third with the artificial diet. 60 diet tubes each were used for each concentration 0.5, 0.52 and 0.017 % ( $LC_{50}$  values) for *Petroselinum sativum*, *Coriandrum sativum* and *Cymbapoyon citratus* oils, respectively. 0.05 ml for each conc. was applied on the upper surface of the diet/tube/concentration. The same quantity of water was added to the untreated tubes. The tubes were kept uncapping for half an hour then hatched larvae of *P. gossypiella* were placed individually into each tube using a fine hair brush and covered with a piece of cotton wool. All the tubes were kept at  $26 \pm 1$  °C and 70-75% R.H. until the larvae reached to last larval instars. Untreated and treated larvae were homogenized, centrifuged and kept frozen.

### \*Esterases analysis:

Esterase bands were separated by Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) according to the method of (Salama *et al.*, 1992).

### Substrate and inhibitors studies :

#### Reagent :

- 0.5M borat buffer (pH4.1): 30.9 gm boric acid were dissolved in 900ml of distwater and pH was adjusted using conc. Hcl the final volume was complet up to 1liter with dist. water.
- $\alpha$  - naphthyl acetate and  $\beta$ - naphthyl acetate as substrates.
- Fast blue RR salt (as diazo coupler).
- Stock phosphate buffer (A) 0.1M: 27.8gm sod. dihydrogen phosphate hydrous ( $NaH_2 PO_4 - H_2O$ ) were dissolved in 1 liter of dist. Water.
- Stock phosphate buffer (B) 0.1M: 53.65 gm disodium hydrogen phosphate ( $Na_2 HPO_4 - H_2O$ ) was dissolved in 1 liter of dist. water.
- Phosphat buffer (pH6.5): 46ml from mixture (A) and 40ml from mix (B) were mixed and up to one liter of dist. water the pH was adjusted to 6.5.
- Destaining: 70 ml of glacial acetic acid was completed to one liter of dist. water.

#### Procedure:

After electrophoresis, the gel was soaked in 0.5M borate buffer (pH 4.1) for 90min. at 4 °C (Sims, 1965) to lower the pH of the gel from 8.8 to  $\approx 7$  which the reaction proceeds readily. The low temperature minimizes diffusion of the protein with in the gel. The gel then was rinsed rapidly in two changes of double distilled water.

The gel was stained for esterolytic activity by incubation at 25 °C in a solution of 100 mg  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate in 2ml acetone (as substrate) and 100mg fast blue RR salt in 200 ml of 0.1M phosphate buffer, pH 6.5 (Sell *et al.* 1974).

The  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate, which was released on hydrolysis of the substrate, coupled with the dye salt to produce on insoluble pigment at the site of enzyme activity.

$\beta$ - naphthyl acetate also was used as substrate. After incubation, the gel was destained in 7% acetic acid.

The effect of esterase inhibitors (Eserine, Chlorphrifos and Fenitrothion) were examined before the incubation of the substrate and coupler, i.e.; another gel were placed in phosphate buffer containing inhibitor ( $10^{-4}$ M) for 30 min. at 25 °C before being incubated with substrate solution. Esterase classification was done according to **Augustinsson, (1961)** Table (1). The gels were scanned to calculate the relative mobility and concentration of identified bands using Gel-Pro Analyzer.

**Table (1): Classification of esterases (Augustinsson, 1961).**

Inhibitors Enzymes	Eserine	Chlorphrifos	Fenitrothion
<b>Cholinesterases</b>	+	+	+
<b>Carboxyestrases</b>	-	+	+
<b>Arylesterases</b>	-	-	-

(+) = Inhibition  
(-) = Non Inhibition

## RESULTS

Esterase isozymes are a group of enzymes characterized by their activity on many ester substrates. The larval tissues of untreated and treated samples of *P. gossypiella* had 18 bands of esterolytic activity capable of hydrolysing  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetat and  $\beta$ - naphthyl acetate as substrates. The esterase patterns of larval tissues had RF ranged from 0.001 to 0.56 as revealed in Table (2) and Plate [1( $\alpha$ .n) & 2( $\beta$ .n)].

Table (2): Relative fragmentation Rf and amount percentage of esterases pattern of *P. gossypiella* larval tissues after treated the 1<sup>st</sup> instars larvae with Volatile oils detected by  $\alpha$ - &  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate.

Band No.	Rf	Control				<i>P. sativum</i>				<i>C. sativum</i>				<i>C. citratus</i>			
		$\alpha$	Amount %	$\beta$	Amount %	$\alpha$	Amount %	$\beta$	Amount %	$\alpha$	Amount %	$\beta$	Amount %	$\alpha$	Amount %	$\beta$	Amount %
1	0.001	-		+	3.58	-		-		-		-		-		-	
2	0.01	-		-		-		+	5.35	+	4.03	+	4.9	+	3.58	+	5.05
3	0.03	-		-		+	18.61	-		+	5.24	-		+	3.72	+	4.12
4	0.04	+	7.27	+	9.27	-		+	9.66	-		+	5.9	-		-	
5	0.06	+	6.37	+	12.62	-		-		-		-		-		+	6.97
6	0.07	-		-		-		-		+	8.76	+	15.26	-		-	
7	0.08	-		-		-		+	25.44	-		-		+	31.05	-	
8	0.09	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		+	16.91
9	0.15	+	20.56	-		+	16.92	-		+	12.31	-		-		-	
10	0.16	-		+	13.71	-		-		-		+	10.01	-		-	
11	0.27	+	40.66	+	36.16	-		-		-		+	34.73	-		+	34
12	0.28	-		-		+	40.61	+	37.29	+	40.86	-		+	34.97	-	
13	0.34	+	25.15	+	24.56	-		-		-		-		-		-	
14	0.35	-		-		-		+	22.27	-		+	19.46	-		+	15.39
15	0.37	-		-		+	23.87	-		+	19.01	-		+	12.07	-	
16	0.53	-		-		-		-		-		+	9.73	-		-	
17	0.55	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		+	17.57
18	0.56	-		-		-		-		+	9.8	-		+	14.61	-	

(+) = Present band  
(-) = Absent band

Five, four, seven and six esterase bands in untreated, *P. sativum*, *C. sativum* and *C. citratus* treated samples respectively, show activity towards  $\alpha$ - naphthyl acetate as shown in Figure (1).

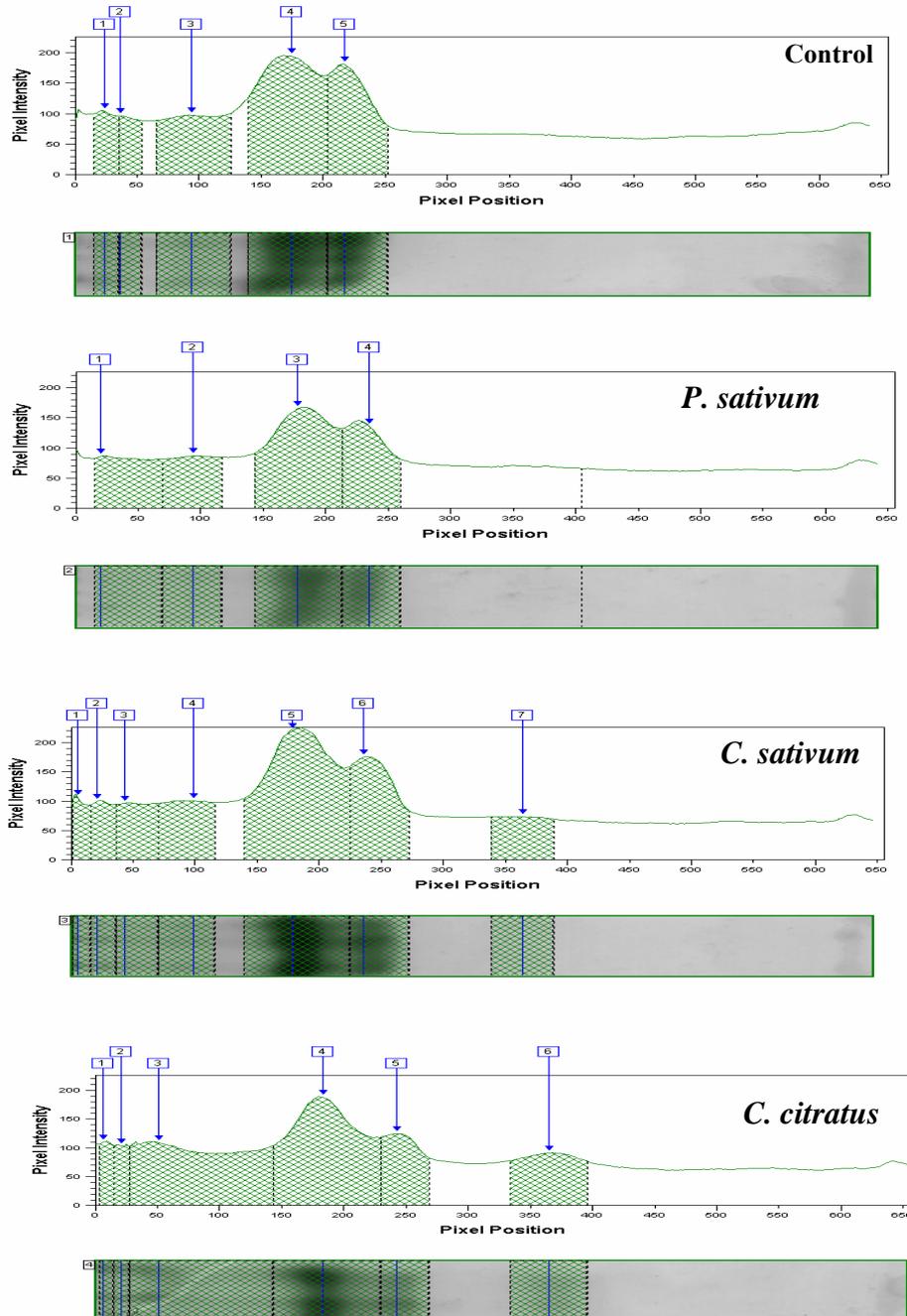


Fig. (1): Graph illustration of larval tissue esterases pattern of *P. gossypiella* after treated the newly hatched larvae with the tested compounds detected by  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate as a substrate.

Six, five, seven and seven esterases were able to hydrolyze  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate in previous arrangement Figure (2).

Among these bands, the bands no. 1 and 13 were characteristic bands for control with  $R_f$  values 0.001 and 0.34 respectively, Also the bands no. 6 and 16

appeared only in *C. sativum* samples with  $R_f$  0.07 and 0.53. The bands no. 8 and 17 were characteristic for *C. citratus* samples with  $R_f$  0.09 and 0.55 respectively.

On the other hand, four common bands appeared in all treated samples. These bands are no. 3, 12, 14 and 15 with  $R_f$  0.03, 0.28, 0.35 and 0.37 respectively.

Densitometric scanning of electrophorogram of general esterase pattern revealed that the last two bands in all samples had higher densities than others except in the case of *C. sativum* and *C. citratus* samples as shown in Table ( 2 ) and Figures (1&2).

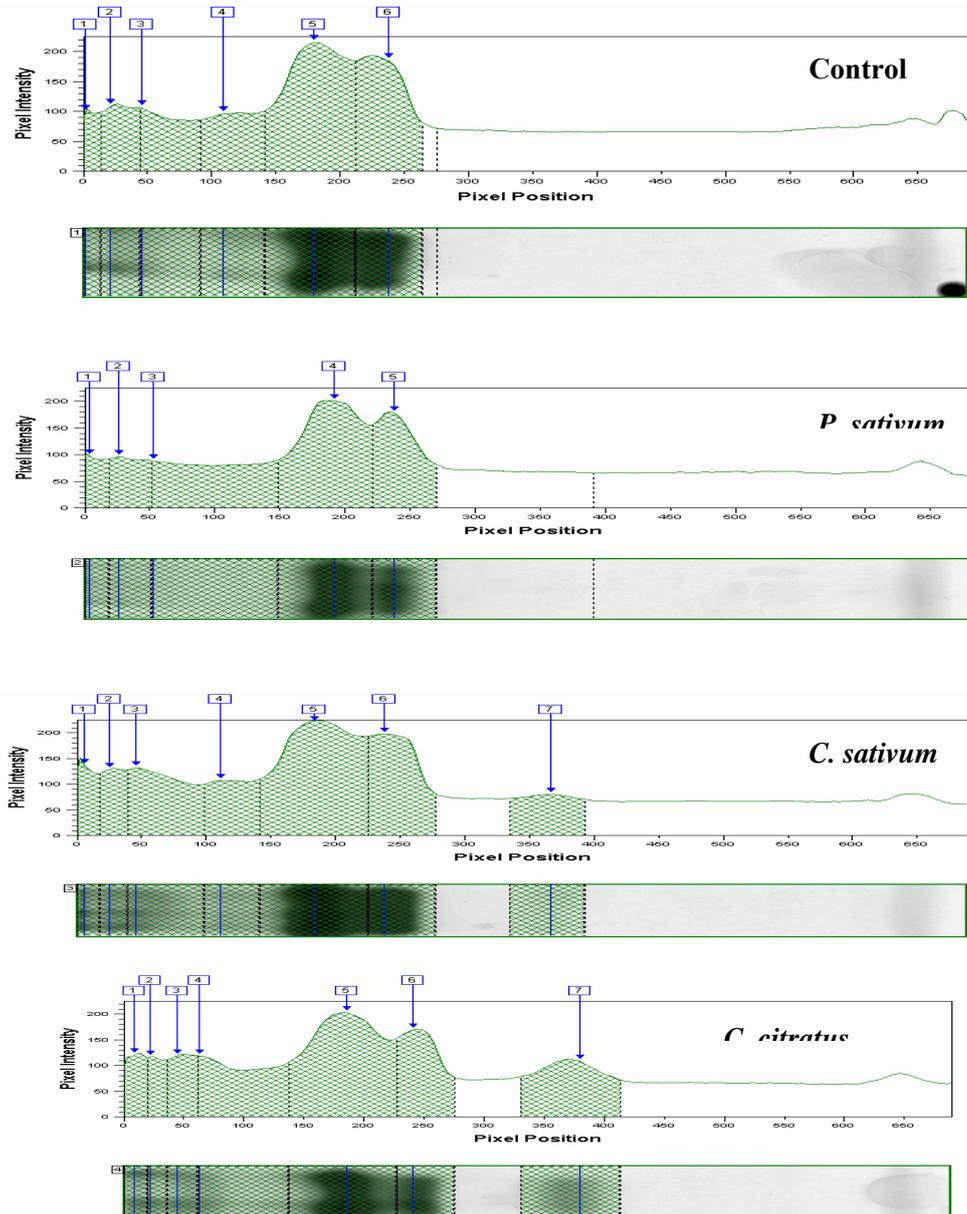


Fig. (2): Graph illustration of larval tissue esterases pattern of *P. gossypiella* after treated the newly hatched larvae with the tested compounds detected by  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetat as a substrate.

The classification of non-specific esterases is the principal aim of the inhibition studies. Bands inhibited by organophosphorus (Chlorphrifos and Fenitrothion) and carbamate (Eserine) compounds were classified as cholinesterases,

those inhibited by organophosphorus alone were grouped as carboxyesterases and those not inhibited by organophosphorus or carbamate compounds were classified as arylesterases as clear in Table (1).

It is quite clear from results in Table (3) and plates (1 & 2) that the use of inhibitors mentioned previously revealed dominant cholinesterase activity of untreated *P. gossypiella* larvae, the  $R_f$  values were 0.15, 0.16, 0.27 and 0.34, while carboxyesterase identified in two bands had  $R_f$  values 0.001 and 0.04. Only one band with  $R_f$  0.06 recorded as arylesterase.

Table (3): Response of non-specific esterase bands to specific inhibitors in larval tissues of *P. gossypiella* using  $\alpha$  &  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate.

Band No.	Sample $R_f$	Control						<i>P. sativum</i>						<i>C. sativum</i>						<i>C. citratus</i>						Type of enzyme	
		Es.		Ch.		Fen.		Es.		Ch.		Fen.		Es.		Ch.		Fen.		Es.		Ch.		Fen.			
		$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\beta$		
1	0.001		-		+		+																				Carboxyesterases
2	0.01							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Arylesterases
3	0.03							-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Arylesterases
4	0.04	-	-	+	++	+	+	-	+		+		-		+		+										Carboxyesterases
5	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-														-						Arylesterases
6	0.07												-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-							Arylesterases
7	0.08							+		+		+								+	+		+				Cholinesterases
8	0.09																				-		-				Arylesterases
9	0.15	++		++		+	+		+		++		+		+		+										Cholinesterases
10	0.16			++		++		++						+		++		++									Cholinesterases
11	0.27	+	++	++	++	++	++							++		+		++		++	++		++		++		Cholinesterases
12	0.28							+	++	++	++	++	++	+		+		++		+		++		++			Cholinesterases
13	0.34	+	+	-	-	++	++																				Cholinesterases
14	0.35							++		+		++		++		+		++		+		+		++			Cholinesterases
15	0.37							-	++		++		-	++		++		++		-	+		+		+		Carboxyesterases
16	0.53													-		+		++									Carboxyesterases
17	0.55																				-		-				Arylesterases
18	0.56													-		+		++		-	+		+		+		Carboxyesterases

Es. = Eserine Ch. = Chlorphrifos Fen. = Fenitrothion Bands detected by  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate only. 

(-) = Non Inhibition (+) = Partial inhibition (++) = complete inhibition Bands detected by  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate only. 

Bands number (2, 3); (2, 3, 6) and (2, 3, 5, 9, 17) in treated samples with *P. sativum*, *C. sativum* and *C. citratus* respectively were highly capable for hydrolyzing  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate and  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate after the inhibition with eserine, chlorphrifos and fenitrothion so they classified as arylesterase. In addition, bands number (4, 15); (4, 15, 16, 18) and (15, 18) were identified as carboxyesterase. While bands number (7, 9, 12, 14); (9, 10, 11, 12, 14) and (7, 11, 12, 14) at the previous arrangement of samples were inhibited by eserine, chlorphrifos and fenitrothion they were classified as cholinesterase.

## DISCUSSION

Esterases can often be separated into isozymes with different substrate specificities. Insect esterases are very diverse and can include monomer, dimers and multimers, which means that their relative molecular mass can cover a wide range **Dauterman, (1985)**. Therefore electrophoresis plays a major role in identifying esterases **Grafton-Cardwell et al., (1998)**.

In the present work, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis was used for separation of different isozymes. Esterases in *P. gossypiella* larvae showed greatest specific activity toward  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate and  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate. These results are

agreement with many authors, **El-Bermawy, (2000)** on *Bombyx mori* and *Spodoptera littoralis*.

**El-Deeb et al., (2002)** observed that the optimum substrate of *Earias insulana* larvae were either  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate or  $\beta$ - naphthyl acetate depending on the type of tissues. In addition, the results were showed great differences in number of zones of esterase activity and in substrate specificity between treated and untreated samples. Similar results were observed by **El-Bermawy, (2004)** who analyzed esterases from body extracts of 6<sup>th</sup> larval instar and newly formed pupa of *S. littoralis* produced from treated 2<sup>nd</sup> larval instar by four plant extracts using polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and two substrates.

Esterases have routinely been classified according to their reaction with various specific enzyme inhibitors **Bush et al., (1970)**. At least three classes of esterases can be identified based on the substrate specificity and the inhibition tests of **Augustinsson, (1961)** The current research discussed the usage of three inhibitors (eserine, chlorphrifos and fenitrothion) with  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate and  $\beta$ - naphthyl acetate as substrates to identify the band detected in untreated and treated samples of the last larval instar of *P. gossypiella*.

In the case of  $\alpha$  - naphthyl acetate as substrate, all volatile oils caused the increasing of arylestrases and carboxylestrases activities, while cholinesterase activity was inhibited. **Shakoori et al., (1994)** mentioned that the sublethal dose LC<sub>50</sub> of Cypermethrin increased carboxylestrases activities (54%) and decreased the cholinesterase activities (65%) in *Tribolium castaneum* larvae. However, **Cruz et al., (1997)** strengthen the hypothesis that the mechanism associated with insecticides resistance found in many insects includes an increase of esterase activity, propably as a result of gene amplification.

In general, the importance of esterases in physiology, metabolism and detoxification of xenobiotics in insects was concluded by **Davis et al., (1995)**; **Sivakumarm & Maya, (1991)** and **Shen & Dowd, (1991)**.

Acetylcholine esterase (AChE) has the potential for serving as a biochemical indicator of toxic stress. So AChE activity has the potential to serve as a biomarker of heavy metal pollution [**Hama, (1976)** and **Gerson et al., (1991)**].

Carboxylesterases are closely related to cholinesterase, since they hydrolyze a wide range of aliphatic ester including cholinesterase. Also, Carboxylesterases isozymes are more responsible for insecticides resistance than other esterase isozymes **Raymond et al., (1987)**; **Wirth et al., (1991)** and **Xuguo et al., (2005)**.

Arylesterases readily hydrolyze a variety of aromatic esters, but have little action with aliphatic esters. **Zhukausken et al., (1983)** mentioned that the synthesis of arylesterases in haemolymph of *Galleria mellonella* larvae bloked *B. thuriengensis* infection indicating a direct relationship between these isozymes and the immunological properties of insects.

Finally, it can be concluded that the over production of carboxyesterases and arylesterases as a response to the treatment with LC<sub>50</sub> of three volatile oils (*Petroselinum sativum*, *Coriandrum sativum* and *Cymbapoyon citratus*) may explain the ability of this insect to secret a high concentration of esterase to minimize the effect of these compounds as apart of defense mechanism. On the other hand, the Inhibition of cholinsesterase revealed that these compounds may be affected the central nervous system of the treated insect.

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- Plate [1 ( $\alpha$ -n)]** Esterases pattern of larval tissue of *P. gossypiella* after treated the newly hatched larvae with the tested compounds detected by  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetat as a substrate.
- Plate [1 (Es.)]** An electrophotograph of larval tissue esterases of *P. gossypiella* gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with eserine.
- Plate [1 (ch.)]** An electrophotograph of larval tissue esterases of *P. gossypiella* gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with Chlorphrifos.
- Plate [1 (Fen.)]** An electrophotograph of larval tissue esterases of *P. gossypiella* gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with Fenitrothion.
- Plate [2 ( $\beta$ -n)]** Esterases pattern of larval tissue of *P. gossypiella* after treated the newly hatched larvae with the tested compounds detected by  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetat as a substrate.
- Plate [2 (Es.)]** An electrophotograph *P. gossypiella* esterases gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with eserine.
- Plate [2 (Ch.)]** An electrophotograph *P. gossypiella* esterases gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with Chlorphrifos.
- Plate [2 (Fen.)]** An electrophotograph *P. gossypiella* esterases gave positive enzymatic reaction with  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetat after inhibition with Fenitrothion.

**A** = Larval tissue samples of Control

**B** = Larval tissue samples of *P. sativum* oil

**C** = Larval tissue samples of *C. sativum* oil

**D** = Larval tissue samples of *C. citratus* oil

$\alpha$ -n = esterase pattern by  $\alpha$ -naphthyl acetate

$\beta$ -n = esterase pattern by  $\beta$ -naphthyl acetate

**Es.** = Eserine

**Ch.** = Chlorphrifos

**Fen.** = Fenitrothion

Figure 1: Larvae of *Pectinophora gossypiella* treated with oil

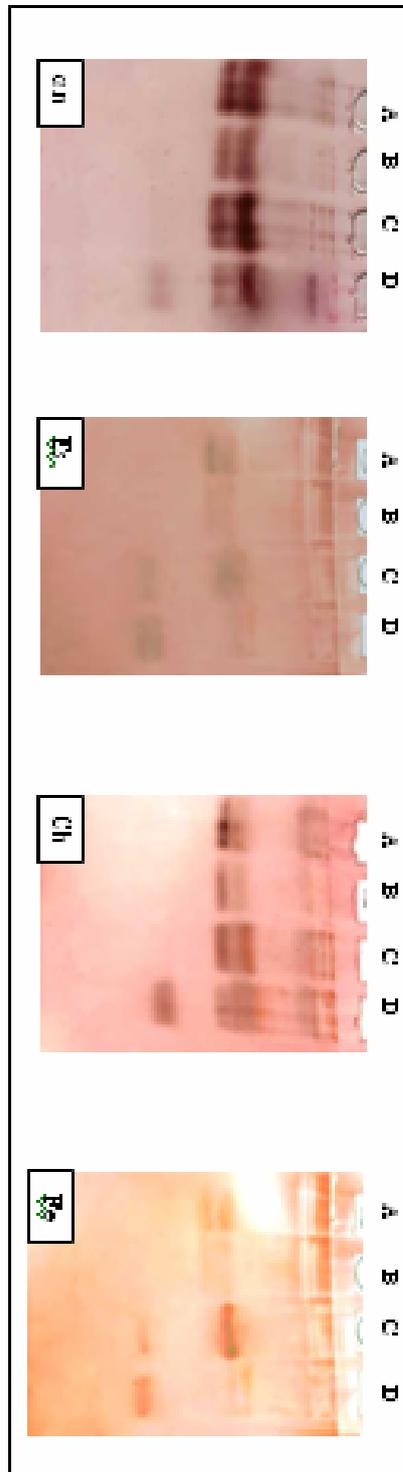


Plate 1

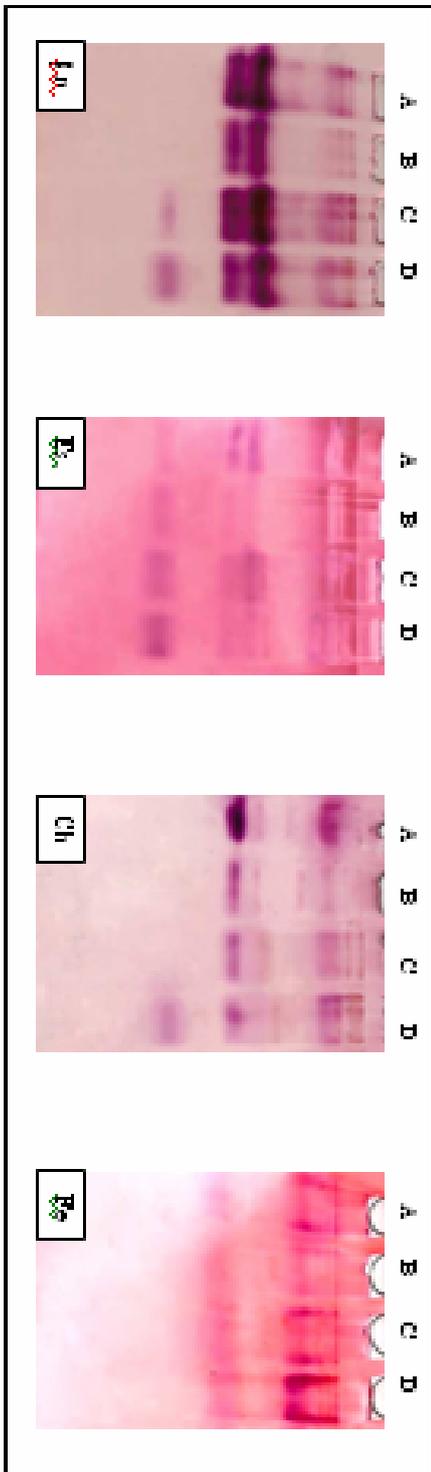


Plate 2

## ARABIC SUMMERY

### الأنماط المتعددة لانزيم الاستيريز في يرقات دودة اللوز القرنفلية المعاملة بثلاثة انواع من الزيوت الطيارة.

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لقد تم دراسة الانماط المتعددة لانزيم الاستيريز في الطور اليرقى الاخير لدودة اللوز القرنفلية بعد معاملة اليرقات حديثة الفقس بالتركيز المميت للنصف لثلاثة زيوت طيارة (زيت البقدونس و الكسبرة و حشيشة اليمون) مستخدما في ذلك خاصية التفريد الكهربى لهلامة البولى اكريلاميد. وقد اوضحت النتائج أن 18 حزمة انزيمية فى العمر اليرقى الاخير اظهرت نشاطا تجاه مادتى اساس الفا و بيتا اسيتات النفثالين. وكانت النتائج للعينات الضابطة و المعاملة بزيت البقدونس و الكسبرة وحشيشة اليمون كالتالى (5 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.04 ، 0.34 ) و(4 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.03 ، 0.37) و(7 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.01 ، 0.56) على التوالى مع القدرة على هضم الفا نفتيل أسيتات ، بينما خمائر الأستيريز التى لها القدرة على هضم البيتا نفتيل أسيتات للعينات الضابطة و المعاملة بزيت البقدونس و الكسبرة وحشيشة اليمون فكانت (6 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.001 ، 0.34) و (5 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.01 ، 0.53) و(7 حزمة من الخمائر مع معامل هجرة يتراوح بين 0.01 ، 0.55) على التوالى. وقد تم تصنيف حزم الاستيريز فى وجود ثلاث مثبطات (الازيرين و الكلوروفوس و الفينثروثيون) الى ثلاث انزيمات : الاول ، انزيم الاسيتيل كولين و الثانى ، انزيم الكربوسيل استيريز و الثالث، انزيم الاريل استيريز. وقد لوحظ ان نتيجة المعاملة بالزيوت سابقة الذكر لها زيادة فى نشاط انزيمى الكربوسيل استيريز والاريل استيريز مع تاثير تثبيطى لانزيم الكولين استيريز.