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Potentials of Pesticidal Plants in Enhancing Diversity of Pollinators in Cropped Fields

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Abstract

Declines in populations of pollinators in agricultural based landscapes have raised a concern, which could be associated with various factors such as intensive farming systems like monocropping and the use of non-selective synthetic pesticides. Such practices are likely to remove beneficial non-crop plants around or nearby the cropped fields. This may in turn result into losses of pollinators due to loss of the natural habitats for insects therefore, interfering the interaction between beneficial insects and flowering crop plants. Initiatives to restore friendly habitats for pollinators require multidisciplinary approaches. One of these could be the use of pesticidal flowering plants as part of field margin plants with the aim of encouraging the population of pollinators whilst reducing the number of pests. Farmers should be fully engaged in the efforts of creating conducive environments to pollinators and be well equipped with the knowledge of proper habitats management strategies in agricultural fields. Developing appropriate conservation strategies to combat decline of pollinators is of high importance and thus there is a need to evaluate management practices, which potentially favour the populations of pollinators. Therefore, this review aims at unravelling available evidences on habitats manipulation options through provision of flowering plants along the field margins that have shown to increase plant biodiversity surrounding the cropped fields. It also summarizes the options for increasing plant biodiversity, which have improved habitats for the pollinating insects and beneficially boosting pollination services in agro-ecosystems.

Keywords

Beneficial Insects, Cropping Options, Plant-Insects Interaction, Pesticidal Plants, Pollinators

1. Introduction

Some non-crop plants have a significant role to crop pollinators and other

flower visitors and can be useful in making margins for flower-rich crops to encourage populations of beneficial insects [1]. Marshal *et al.* (2003) [2] indicated that some weeds are potential for the survival of beneficial insects in agricultural systems. For this case, introducing some specific weeds in agricultural fields has been indicated to boost floral resources to beneficial insects as well as providing nests and nesting materials for refuges [2]. In addition, retaining hedge-rows and insectary flowering plants in agro-ecosystems and leaving uncultivated lands around the crop fields help in provision of shelters, micro-climates and resources for pollinators and eventually increase the diversity of beneficial insects relative to monocropping [3]. It is well known that nectar or pollen feeding is vital for the reproductive success of many insect predators and parasitoids [4]. However, shortage of pollinators and the services they offer to the environments have increased for a long period due to habitat loss and degradation, as well as the increased use of synthetic pesticides [5] [6].

Monoculture cropping practices are reported to be associated with decline in the population of pollinators in different parts of the world [7]. Nevertheless, the removal of weeds around the cropped fields decreases the floral diversity as well as the foraging and nesting sites for wild species of insects. This results into reduction in diversity of pollinating insects, which in turn leads to decline in populations of pollinators [8]. Therefore, management strategies which focus on restoring and conserving diversity of beneficial plants such as the use of pesticidal plants in the cropped fields or around the fields are important. However, in facilitating diversity of plants in cropped field margins, appropriate manipulation strategies should be employed to avoid resource competition with the crop plants. Steffan-Dewenter *et al.* (2005) [9] indicated that specific plants attracted different groups of insects and therefore, in habitats manipulation, it is critical to select flowering plants while targeting a specific insect (**Table 1**). Insects pollinators are attracted to flowers by various characteristics including floral morphology, scenting odour, petal colour, taste of nectar, and texture of pollen [10] [11]. Considering these characteristics, pesticidal plants which are commonly grown within agro-ecosystems can potentially be utilized as important floral resources. Therefore, the inclusion of flowering pesticidal plants as part of cropped field margins deemed useful habitats to pollinators while providing additional benefits as biological pest control. It is under these explanations that this review explores the potentials of including pesticidal plants along field margins so as to enhance diversity of pollinators in cropped fields.

2. Importance of including Pesticidal Plants in Margins of Cropped Fields

Flowering plants favour existence of beneficial insect species in the fields resulting into optimized and sustainable crop productivity. Different non-crop plants have been reported to attract beneficial insects in crop ecosystems due to ecological relationships between the plant resources and insect biology [12].

Table 1. Common plant species attracting pollinators.

Plant specie	Visiting Pollinators	Reference
<i>Trifolium pratense</i> , <i>Ballota nigra</i> , <i>Lamium album</i> , <i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> , <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Bumble bee (<i>Bombus</i> spp)	Carvell (2006) [16]
<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> , <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , <i>Onobrychis</i> <i>viciifolia</i> , <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> , <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> and <i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Most hymenopteran	Kassina <i>et al.</i> (2006) [15]
<i>Fagopyrum sagittatum</i> , <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> and <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Cresson (<i>Microplitis croceipes</i>)	[21]
<i>Sium suave</i> (Apiaceae) and <i>Solidago Canadensis</i> (Asteraceae)	Most hymenopteran including Wasps species <i>Myzinum quinquecinctum</i> (tiphiid) and <i>Scolia bicincta</i> (scoliid)	[24] [25]
Coriander, phacelia, alyssum, fennel, buckwheat, mustard	Hoverflies	[10]
<i>Allium cepa</i> , <i>Daucus carota</i> , <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Launaea procumbens</i> , <i>Ranunculus muricatus</i> and <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Hoverflies	[26]
<i>Glebionis segetum</i> Corn marigold, <i>Coriandrum sativum</i> Coriander, <i>Foeniculum</i> <i>vulgare</i> Fennel, <i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i> (Phacelia)	Wasps and Hoverflies	[27]
fennel, cosmos hypericum, yarrow, lavender, bishop's weed, petunia, chamomile	Hoverflies	[28]
<i>Tagetes erecta</i> , <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> , <i>Ocimum</i> , <i>Ziziphora interrupta</i>	Syrphidae, Anthocoridae and Coccinellidae	[20]
<i>Aster pilosus</i> (Asteraceae) and <i>Heracleum maximum</i> , <i>Pastinaca sativa</i> , <i>Cicuta maculata</i> (Apiaceae)	Syrphidae and tachnid flies	[29]
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> , <i>Tagetes minuta</i> , <i>Ageratum cinyzoides</i> , <i>Ocimum suave</i> , <i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Stingless bee and butter flies	[17]

Understanding of the biology and ecology of different crop and non-crop plants is relevant in designing valuable vegetative barriers in cropped fields [13]. Diversity of field margin plants across the cropping seasons can have a major influence on insect dynamics [14]. Kassina *et al.* (2006) [15] confirmed the diversity of beneficial arthropods to be enhanced by the field margin plants.

Different species of flowering plants with pesticidal properties have been reported to show promising results in attracting pollinators when planted as field margin plants. These plants include *Trifolium pratense*, *Ballota nigra*, *Centaurea nigra*, *Teucrium scorodonia*, *Lamium album*, *Trifolium hybridum*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Onobrychis viciifolia*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, and *Achillea millefolium* [16]. Karani *et al.* (2017) [17] found that *Hyptis suaveolens*, *Ocimum suave*, *Bidens pilosa*, *Tagetes minuta*, and *Ageratum conyzoides* influenced the population of pollinators while reducing the number of pests in cultivated fields.

Pollinators such as parasitic wasps perform their full role of biological control and pollination when provided with essential sugar resources for their survival [18]. Wasps are attracted by volatiles that are produced by plant tissues of pesticidal plants (Brodmann *et al.* 2008) [19]. The contribution of pesticidal plants that produce secondary metabolites in form of volatile organic compounds to

attract pollinating insects is widely documented [16] [17] [18] [19] [20]. Therefore, if pesticidal plants are well utilized as field margin plants they are expected to attract diverse species of pollinators due to their aroma characteristics.

Nafziger and Fadamiro (2011) [21] investigated the suitability of buckwheat (*Fagopyrum sagittatum*), sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) and licorice mint (*Agastache foeniculum*) as nectar sources for Cresson wasp (*Microplitis croceipes*) a potential parasitoid of some caterpillar pests and a pollinator. Their study found that the longevity of adult *Microplitis croceipes* was enhanced by buckwheat and licorice mint but females outperformed the males. They attributed these observations with the amount of energy needed for the host location and oviposition by females.

The use of pesticidal plants as artificial pesticide replacers has also been reported [22]. The pesticidal plants also provide ecosystem services like pollination and biological pest control in agricultural fields [23]. Tooker and Hanks (2014) [24] identified several species of hymenopteran which visited the pesticidal flowering plant hosts. The host plants visited were *Sium suave* (Apiaceae), *Solidago canadensis* (Asteraceae) and the wasp's species were *Myzinumquin quecinctum* (tiphiid) and *Scolia bicincta* (scoliid). Wasps have also been indicated to visit Apiaceae plants due to exposed anthers and nectar since mouthparts of these insects are not adapted specifically for extracting floral resources [25].

The importance of flowering plants as both attractant to natural enemies and pollinators is widely investigated [10] [26] [27] [28] [29]. Some plant species were potential floral resource to hoverflies [10] an effective pollinator and a natural enemy of aphids [30]. Martini *et al.* (2014) [28] reported the importance of plant species such as fennel, cosmos hypericum, yarrow, lavender, bishop's weed, petunia and chamomile in attracting hoverflies species. Sajjad and Saeed (2010) [26] reported *Allium cepa*, *Daucus carota*, *Coriandrum sativum*, *Cirsium arvense*, *Launaea procumbens*, *Ranunculus muricatus*, and *Prosopis juliflora* to be the potential attractants of syrphid species under natural conditions.

Siewwright *et al.* (2006) [27] investigated the attractiveness of *Coriandrum sativum* Coriander, *Glebionis segetum* Corn marigold, *Foeniculum vulgare* (Fennel) and *Phacelia tanacetifolia* (Phacelia) on lacewings, parasitic wasps, ladybirds and hoverflies, as key natural enemies of pests and pollinators in agricultural fields. Saidov and Douglas (2008) [20] studied the key natural enemies and pollinators including Syrphidae, Anthocoridae and Coccinellidae using pesticidal plants such as *Tagetes erecta*, *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Ocimum basilicum* and *Ziziphora interrupta* which showed promising performance. Tooker *et al.* (2014) [29] studied the plant species preferred by syrphid and tachinid flies and found that most syrphid and tachinid flies visited *Aster pilosus* (Asteraceae), *Heracleum maximum*, *Pastinaca sativa* and *Cicutam aculata* (Apiaceae). Therefore, inclusion of strips of pesticidal plants as a field margin could offer a multiple purpose in reducing number of pests whilst favouring beneficial insects most of them being pollinators. **Table 1** shows various studies reported on usage of pesticidal plants in attracting pollinators.

3. Role of Pollinators in Crop Productivity

Pollination services are referred to as the transfer of pollen grains from the floral anthers to the floral stigma of a different plant (cross-pollination) or the same plant (self-pollination) [31]. Kron *et al.* (2001) [32] reported that pollinators take pollen from anthers and deliver them to the stigma through foraging. Pollination depends on the plant-animal association, whereby both plants and animals benefit from the service.

There is an interaction between floral signals and the senses of the pollinators [33]. Floral signals are delivered by the synthesized volatile organic compounds, and some of them are derivatives of fatty acids, some nitrogenous compounds, terpenoids and benzenoids [34]. Floral volatiles emitted by the plants have potential in attracting specific groups of pollinators, some being common to most plants while others differ from plant to plant. Due to this chemical prompt the pollinators such as honey bees that can fly long distances in attraction of such floral resources [35] [36]. In addition, it is indicated that flowers provided amino acids and carbohydrates as sources of energy for reproduction, oviposition, development and survival of beneficial insects including the pollinators [37] [38]. Since, pestiferous plants produce these volatile compounds as secondary metabolites, if well maintained within the agricultural landscape they would be a good floral resource for pollinators.

Ecosystem services such as biological control of pests, pollination, soil formation and nutrient cycling are provided by pollinators and natural enemies in many agricultural fields [23]. Beneficial insects-mediated services such as pollination are essential for livelihoods improvement as they provide assurance of food security. Subsistence agriculture is the backbone of smallholder in most African countries and thus, pollination is the key and essential service for boosting the economies through cultivation of different crops and products [39] [40]. Studies have revealed that 75% of agricultural crops are insect pollinated, in which up to 87.5% of flowering plants in the tropics and temperate zones benefit from insect pollinators which are naturally found in the environment [41]. Bees are key pollinators of many crops and hence it is important to provide comfortable environment and resources such as nectar, pollen, places for overwintering for the insects for their sustainable ecosystem services [42] [43] [44]. Thus, pollinators require specific recognition in agro-ecological system because of their importance in pollination process in agriculture and natural ecosystems.

Generally, quality and yield of different crops are reported to increase when there is pollinators' involvement [45]. For instance, in self-pollinated crop like beans yield has been reported to increase by 5% in presence of insect pollinators [46]. Aouar-sadli *et al.* (2008) [47] investigated the pollination potential of wild bees (*Eucera pulveracea*), honey bees *Apis mellifera* and carpenter bees (*Xylocopa violacea*) in relation to seed production on the broad bean (Fabaceae). Their findings revealed that the wild bees made frequent visits to broad bean but the honey bees and the carpenter bee made several visits to forage. In a similar study, Barbir, (2015) [30] observed that the presence of bees increased yield in

cross-pollinated coriander than in self-pollinated. Stein *et al.* (2017) [48] found that cross-pollination by honey bees and wild bees successfully improved the quality of cotton and sesame products.

Bischoff *et al.* (2013) [49] investigated the visits of Syrphid flies (*Allograpta* spp) and solitary bees (*Hylaeus matamoko*) on two New Zealand alpine herbs; *Ourisiagla ndulosa* and *Wahlenbergia albomarginata* and found that both pollinators had equal frequencies of visits to *Ourisiagla ndulosa*, while the solitary bee had more frequencies of visits to *Wahlenbergia albomarginata*. Insect pollinators have a lot to do with the reproduction potential of flowering plants regardless of the mode of reproduction of a particular crop plant. Thus, there is a continuous need of considering and investigating the relative attractiveness of the field margin plants to pollinators for sustainable crop production in agricultural systems.

In addition to optimized crop productivity, pollination enhances food security as well as genetic variation among crops, which lessens inbreeding depression and accelerates resistance to environmental changes [50] [51] [52]. Therefore, the knowledge on management techniques which attract different pollinators in the agricultural fields is an important way forward to enhanced agro-ecosystems for increased crop production.

4. Roles of Selected Pesticidal Plants in Controlling Pests and Attracting Pollinators

This review provides detailed explanations to three pesticidal plants namely *Hyptis suaveolens*, *Ocimum suave* and *Dysphania ambrosioides* as the representatives of the diverse flower producing pesticidal plants that could be used as field margin plants. These pesticidal plants are mostly used by farmers as plant protectants against insect pests and their occurrence is abundant in local settings [53] [54]. Considering the use of these plants in biological pest control and the association of pollinators with the volatile organic compounds produced by different plants, it deemed useful to include them as field margin plants to enhance the population of insect pollinators in cultivated fields. The odour characteristic of most pesticidal plants provides them with added advantage to be attracted by the senses of pollinators. In addition, among the selected plants *H. suaveolens* and *O. suave* are reported to have influence on attracting many stingless bees and butterflies in common bean intercrops [17]. However, based on farmers' field experience, *O. suave* fresh leaves are used by bee keepers in cleaning the beehives because of its ability to attract many honey bees. Despite the potential influence of these plants to pollinators, little is known on their potential role in attracting pollinators in agricultural fields.

5. *Hyptis suaveleons* as a Beneficial Pesticidal Plant

H. suaveolens belongs to the family Lamiaceae and has been traditionally used as a botanical pesticide in many developing countries due to its insecticidal and re-

pellent properties against several field and storage insect pests [51]. More than 400 species of the genus *Hyptis* are characterized by high aromatic and grow in tropical regions, mostly in Africa and America and it is not commonly found over 500 m. The plant is normally restricted to places where soils have been intensely disturbed, and may be considered as a ruderal species [55]. *H. suaveolens* is found around villages, along roadsides, on-farmsteads and on bushes. Its oil constituents have been used in controlling stem borer in maize intercrop [56]. Chemical screening for the chemical constituent of its aqueous extracts revealed that the plant is rich in flavonoids and alkaloids (Figure 1). Other secondary compounds include tannins and phenols [57]. When tested against *Fusarium oxysporum* in *Gladiolus* corms, it significantly reduced the pathogen population during storage [58]. In addition, an extract from the fresh leaves were reported to have larvicidal and repellence properties against the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus* Skuse (Diptera: Culicidae).

Ofuya (2010) [60] evaluated the efficacy of the *H. suaveolens* extracts on storage pests, namely *Sitophilus oryzae*, *Sitophilus zeamais* and *Callosobruchus maculatus*. The results of this study revealed that methanolic extract of the plant at 100% concentration was able to cause mortality of all exposed insect pests after 5 seconds. Chi and Apiah (2012) [61] tested the toxicity and feeding deterrent using *H. suaveolens* ethanol, distilled water, chloroform, petroleum, ether and methanol extracts on cowpea weevils, *Callosobruchus maculatus*. Their findings indicated that chloroform extracts at the concentrations of 250 and 500 µg/ml showed 100% deterrent effect to the weevils whereas, the chloroform extract at the concentration of 125 µg/ml showed the least deterrent effect. When compared, chloroform extracts caused the highest mortality at an average of 41% whereas ethanol extract had the lowest average mortality of 29%. Contrarily, the flowers of *H. suaveolens* have been reported to provide pollen and nectar to bees and butterfly for its pollination process by hovering around the flowers and touching the carinal-corolla with their proboscis [62]. However, the potential role of this plant in attracting populations of pollinators in agriculture production is underestimated in most parts of the world where similar studies have been conducted [62] [63]. Thus, further research needs to be done to investigate the importance of these plants in attracting pollinators to increase crop productivity.

6. *Ocimum suave* as a Beneficial Pesticidal Plant

Ocimum suave is also known as Wild Basil and it belongs to the family Lamiaceae or Labiatae. Lamiaceae family have been used since early times because of its medicinal properties and many of these species are distributed in Mediterranean and tropical countries across the world [64]. The three main centres of *Ocimum* diversity has been reported as tropical and subtropical parts of Africa and America and tropical Asia [65]. The phytochemical analysis (Figure 2) has identified eugenol as the major component of *O. suave* essential oil [66] [67].

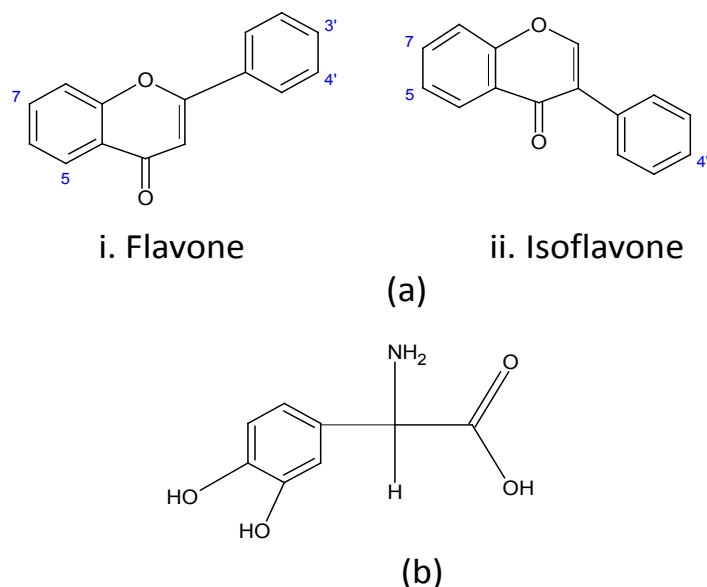
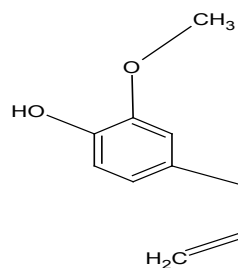


Figure 1. Chemical structures of some *Flavonoid* and *Alkaloid* compounds [59]. (a) *Flavonoid* compounds; (b) *Alkaloid* compound.

Several studies have been conducted on the toxicity of the leaf oil on important agricultural pests. Ojuanwuna *et al.* (2013) [69] tested the toxicity of the plant oil extracts on the bruchid (*Callosobruchus maculatus*), which is a cowpea weevil, and a major problem in storage of cowpea seeds in the tropics. Their study revealed that the crude oil extracts had a potential insecticidal activity on the weevil and the mortality increased with extract concentration from 0.02 to 0.08 mg/20 ml of water. However, the period of exposure from 24 to 96 h was an important factor for the mortality of the insects. Obeng-Ofori and Reichmuth (1997) [70] investigated the toxicity of eugenol against four coleopteran species of stored-products, which are *Sitophilus granarius*, *Sitophilus zeamais*, *Tribolium castaneum* and *Prostephanus truncates*. Their study found that mortality effect on the beetles increased with extract dosage and exposure time. High mortality occurred on *S. granarius*, *S. zeamais* and *T. castaneum* at higher dose. The eugenol also significantly inhibited the development of eggs, larvae, and pupae and was highly repellent to the Coleopterans. Similar findings were obtained by Obeng-Ofori *et al.* (2000) [66] when investigating the effectiveness of essential oil of the *Ocimum* plant species namely *O. kenyense*, *O. suave*, and *O. kilimandscharicum* against storage pests *S. zeamais* and *P. truncates*. The essential oils from all species extracts indicated a dose-dependent mortality effect against the pests. The oils also resulted into inhibition of developments of the eggs, larva and pupa, oviposition by the adults, deterrence and the repellence. However, there is limited understanding of the role of *O. suave* plant in supporting beneficial insects (pollinators). Thus, future research should focus on *O. suave* to determine its potential role for promoting diversity of populations of pollinators.



Eugenol

Figure 2. Chemical structure of *Eugenol* [68].

7. *Dysphania ambrosioides* (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*) as a Beneficial Pesticidal Plant

Dysphania ambrosioides belongs to Chenopodiaceae, a family of varieties of herbaceous weedy plants [71]. The genus *Chenopodium* comprises about 250 species [72] which most species are annuals, distributed in the Americas, Asia, and Europe. *D. ambrosioides* has been used for medicinal purposes mainly for treating intestinal parasites [73]. However, its use ranges from pharmaceutical purposes to pest control in agricultural fields [74]. Reported bioactive compounds of *Dysphania ambrosioides* essential oil includes, ascaridole, isoascaridole, α -terpinene, Isoascaridolnene, 2-carinene and p-cymene [75] of which ascaridole is the major compound constituting 40% - 70% of the total active compound present [76] (Figure 3).

The activities of the plant extracts and its essential oil against different agricultural pests have been studied. Vázquez-Covarrubias *et al.* (2015) [78] tested the effects of essential oils and the aqueous extracts of Chenopodiaceae plants including *D. ambrosioides* on the development and reproductive potential of Lepidopteran *Copitarsia decolora*. This is a serious pest of several plants including Brassicaceae species [79]. The results indicated that the essential oils of *D. ambrosioides* at 0.5% significantly reduced larval weight to 33% compared with the control ($F = 2.1$, $df = 5, 328$, $p > 0.05$). The essential oil also increased duration of the larval period at 0.1% concentration compared with the control by 20% ($H = 60.9$, $df = 6, 400$, $p \leq 0.00$), and this was the largest while all the essential oils at the concentration of 0.5% increased the duration of the larval period in relation to the control ($F = 74.917$, $df = 6, 172$, $p < 0.001$). It was further observed that the essential oils at a concentration of 0.5% significantly reduced fecundity by 88% ($F = 38.5$, $df = 6, 74$, $p < 0.001$) whereas 0.5% of aqueous extracts reduced the fecundity by 70% ($F = 14.4$, $df = 5, 97$, $p < 0.001$). Furthermore, *D. ambrosioides* essential oils significantly decreased survival time for *Copitarsia decolora*. At 0.5% concentration, the oils significantly reduced the number of fertile eggs by 93% ($F = 36.6$, $df = 6, 74$, $p < 0.001$) while at 75% caused significant largest reduction in fertility ($F = 13.4$, $df = 5, 97$, $p < 0.001$).

Insecticidal properties of a *Chenopodium*-based botanical effects on different pests including green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*) greenhouse whitefly

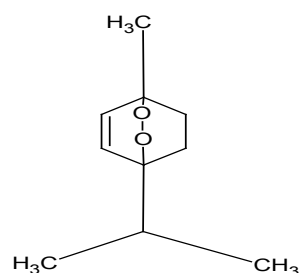


Figure 3. Chemical structure of Ascaridol [77].

(*Trialeurodes vaporariorum*), and flower thrips (*Frankliniellaocci dentalis*) are also reported. A mixture of UDA-245 (which was based on an essential oil extracts from *D. ambrosioides*) had potential in controlling aphids, thrips and whiteflies compared with neem oil, insecticidal soap and endosulfan. Insecticidal soap exhibited high mortality of the parasitoid *Encarsia formosa* (Aphelinidae) than emulsifiable concentrate but UDA-245 was safer to the parasitoid [80].

Denloye *et al.* (2010) [81] investigated toxicity of *Chenopodium ambrosioides* powder extracts and essential oil against storage insect pests namely *Callosobruchus maculatus* (Bruchidae), *S. zeamais* (Curculionidae) and *T. castaneum* (Tenebrionidae). Their study found that *Dysphania ambrosioides* powder induced toxicity to *S. zeamais* compared with other test organisms. Ethanol extract and essential oils were more effective against *Callosobruchus maculatus* compared with other test organisms. Based on these explanations, there is limited scientific data on the use of this herb in attracting beneficial insects to promote crop pollination. Hence, it is crucial to undertake studies so as to generate data on the role of *D. ambrosioides* in enhancing populations of pollinators.

8. Conclusion

This review has demonstrated that ecosystem services such as pollination are interfered by habitat manipulation and landscape disturbance, which ultimately leads to disruption of the communities of plant pollinators. Agricultural intensification has led to reduction in floral resources, nesting places for pollinators and thus decreases pollinator abundance and diversity. This has created a need for appropriate habitat management practices such as the use of field margin plants as a mitigating strategy in reducing pollinator decline for crop production. For development of sustainable conservation practices and increasing productivity, it is important to understand and identify plants that play role in the maintenance of the pollinators' populations to improve the ecosystem services while boosting the biological pest control. In this case, various pesticidal plant species can be fully utilized to provide dual function within agro-ecosystem. To date, few studies have been done on the potentials of some native pesticidal plants in promoting the diversity of the agents of pollination. Therefore, further research is needed in identifying specific pesticidal plants species that potentially influence pollinators' population and the volatiles that enhance their visits.

Again, studies on proper design of these plants are of high importance to avoid competition with crop plants. Among pesticidal plant species used, *Hyptis suaveolens*, *Osimum suave* and *Dysphania ambrosioides* have been fully utilized in the control of crop storage pests due to their secondary compounds that are responsible for insecticidal activities which are also likely to have influence in attraction of beneficial insects including pollinators. These plant species may therefore be important as resources in promoting the diversity of pollinators for increasing crop productivity.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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