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Review Paper

Acaricidal activity of essential oils

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ABSTRACT

The environmental problems caused by the uncontrolled use of synthetic pesticides in crop production around the world has increased the search for new plant species that have this activity. As a result, studies with essential oils extracted from plants intensify because they present, among other biological properties, insecticidal and acaricidal activities. This study analyzes the use of essential oils with acaricidal potential based on reports in the literature, showing the importance of the search for alternative means to the use of chemical pesticides. Studies related to the acaricidal activity of essential oils in 121 species distributed in 25 families, Lamiaceae and Myrtaceae being the largest number of species that demonstrate this activity is due to their bioactive compounds and their interactions, where carvacrol and limonene are the most common monoterpenes cited.

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1. Introduction

Essential oils are complex mixtures of volatile, lipophilic, commonly odoriferous and liquid compounds. Chemically, they consist of terpenes, mainly monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes, and phenylpropanoids. These chemical constituents act ecologically in the interaction of plants with the environment, performing functions such as attracting pollinators, protecting against predators, water loss, UV rays, inhibiting germination, among others (Simões and Spitzer, 2002; Oliveira et al., 2006; Hüsnü et al., 2007; Scherer et al., 2009; Silva et al., 2009; Silva et al., 2013).

Plants with higher levels of essential oils are found in tropical and temperate regions. The oils may be contained in either specialized parts of the vegetable like in the glandular or oil channels, or in organs such as stem, leaves, roots, flowers, fruits or seeds. Several processes can be used to extract these products, such as enfleurage, solvent extraction, supercritical CO₂ extraction, expression (citrus fruit pericarp) and

steam distillation or hydrodistillation, a commonly used technique that can also be aided by microwaves (Simões and Spitzer, 2002; Bizzo et al., 2009; Dunning, 2013; Silva et al., 2013; Mohammadhosseini, 2017a, 2017b).

Regarding industrial applications, essential oils stand out due to the use of their essence in perfumeries and food products, whereas in pharmaceuticals they are widely used for their diversity of biological activities, such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and acaricidal features. These activities are related to a variety of chemical constituents and structures (Bertin et al., 2005; Castro et al., 2006; Morais et al., 2006; Ramos et al., 2006).

In Brazil and other tropical countries, the great majority of mites are among the main causes of respiratory diseases and are also related to agricultural losses, being considered as one of the main pests of economic importance (Nicastro et al., 2010), highlighting the species *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* Canestrini and *Tetranychus urticae* Koch. The

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first mite cited is well-known for its wide geographical distribution (Andreatti et al., 2013), leading to huge economic losses, valued at US\$ 3.236,35 million per year (Grisi et al., 2014). *Tetranychus urticae* Koch, popularly known as spider mite, is considered as one of the main pests present in agriculture. In 2013, almost 80% of the total world market for pesticides (around 900 million EUR) was spent on mite control, being *Tetranychus* spp., with *T. urticae* as the main species, representing 62%

(372 million EUR) (Van Leeuwen et al., 2015).

The use of synthetic acaricides, substances or mixtures that prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate pests has been their main way of combating mites, such as organophosphates, synthetic pyrethroids, amitraz and ivermectin. A number of problems are associated with the indiscriminate use of these products, such as high cost, environmental pollution and the rapid resistance of the species, also damaging their natural predators

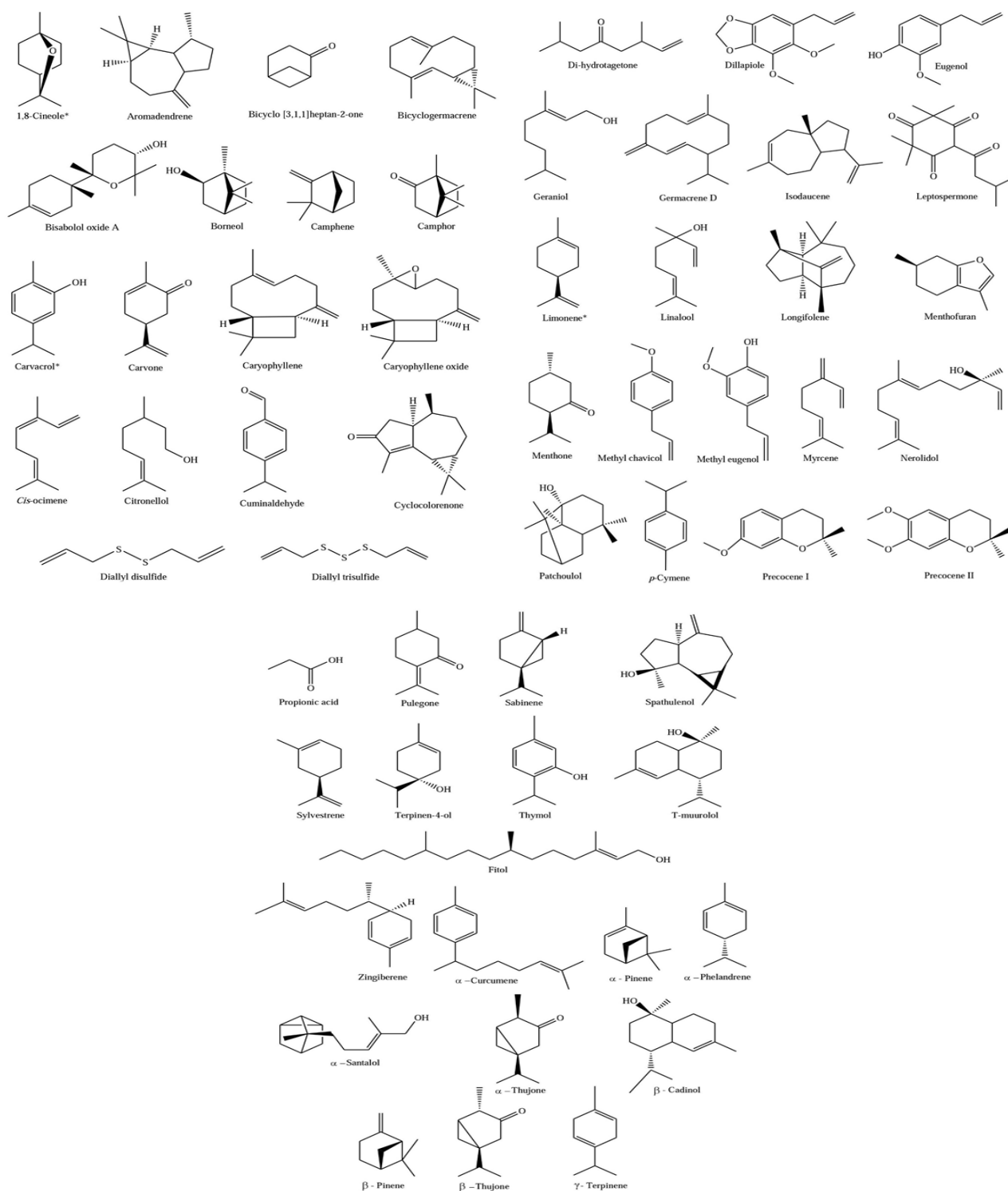


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of the major compounds present in the plant species cited in Table 1. *most frequent compounds.

(Klafke et al., 2010; Nicastro et al., 2010; Ribeiro et al., 2011; Settimi et al., 2016).

An alternative to the synthetic acaricides is the use of plant oils and extracts and the relevant derived products, due to the compatibility with the natural predators and for having short residual effect and low toxicity to man (Chiasson et al., 2004; Hincapié et al., 2008; Bernardi et al., 2010). Studies with essential oils demonstrate good acaricidal activity, such as the oils of species *Lippia alba* (Mill.) N.E. Br. ex Britton & P. Wilson and *Lippia sidoides* Cham., where this activity was attributed to the presence of the chemical constituents carvacrol, thymol and 1,8-cineole (Cavalcanti et al., 2010; Cruz et al., 2013). Studies report different neurotoxic acaricidal mechanisms of action of the essential oils such as inhibition of acetylcholinesterase (AChE), antagonism with the receptors of the octopamine neurotransmitter and the closure of the chloride channels by GABA (Isman, 2006; Badawy et al., 2010; Marcic, 2012; Regnault-Roger et al., 2012).

This review aims to provide a thorough survey on essential oils of various plant species with acaricidal activity, highlighting the botanical families, species of Acari, the LC_{50} , major components and parts of the plant used.

2. Materials and Methods

Data obtained from the following databases was used for realization of this work: Web of Science (WOS), ScienceDirect, Scielo and PubMed, concerning acaricidal activity of essential oils of various species from different regions of the world. On that occasion, 96 published studies were analyzed in the last 18 years (1998-2016). The terms "essential oils" and "acaricidal activity" (alone or combined) were used as keywords. In this research, sources originating from books, dissertations, theses, abstracts, reviews and articles that did not report the origin of the essential oils used or did not tested the oil were excluded.

The plant species were arranged in a table according to their respective families, in alphabetical order, also containing the species of Acari, the values of the lethal concentration for 50% mortality (LC_{50}), major chemical compounds and parts of plants used. The following databases were used for verification of the plant species' scientific names: "Lista de Espécies da Flora do Brasil (<http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/>)", "Tropicos of the Missouri Botanical Garden (<http://www.tropicos.org/>)" and "The Plant List (<http://www.theplantlist.org/>)".

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Essential oils and larvicidal activity

In this bibliographic survey, 121 species were identified, 73 genus distributed in 25 families, with the Lamiaceae and Myrtaceae families having the highest

number of species with 37 and 20, respectively, as shown in Table 1. In most of the works analyzed, the essential oils were composed mainly of monoterpenes, having their structures shown in Fig. 1.

3.2. Plant species and major compounds

Among the compounds shown in Table 1, carvacrol and limonene appeared more frequently, followed by 1,8-cineole. The toxic action of these monoterpenes in conjunction with other components such as phenylpropanoids has increased the acaricidal activity of the essential oils, since the relations of these compounds with the defense of plants are well established (Chagas et al., 2002).

The major chemical compound mostly found in essential oils of species of the Lamiaceae family was carvacrol, monoterpene synthesized from γ -pinene (Kintzios, 2002). It is used as a disinfectant, fungicide, anthelmintic, in insect control, in the perfume industry, with applications in food, recommended by the Federal Drug Administration and the Council of Europe. Its biological activities are widely studied, with antimicrobial, acaricidal, anticancerous, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antiplatelet activities already proven (Andersen, 2006; Suntres et al., 2015).

The essential oils that contain high carvacrol levels are considered more effective in acaricidal activity (Koc et al., 2013), where the toxicity of this compound against mite species is demonstrated in several studies, showing effectiveness at low concentrations (Cetin et al., 2010; Cruz et al., 2013; Koc et al., 2013). In the work of Ramírez et al. (2016), the action of this constituent against the *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* Canestrini species was confirmed.

In the Myrtaceae family, the *Eucalyptus* genus is one of the largest genera, with about 900 species, standing out for a variety of antibacterial, antifungal, antiseptic and insecticide activities (Rossi and Palacios, 2015). Studies with essential oils of various species of this genus reported the presence of the compound 1,8-cineole, monoterpene used in the pharmaceutical industry by having antimicrobial activity, in the treatment of respiratory diseases, as well as having applicability as an acaricide (Estanislau et al., 2001; Chagas et al., 2002; Franco et al., 2005; Ramos et al., 2015; Rossi and Palacios, 2015).

In the study of Roh et al. (2013), the constituents limonene and 1,8-cineole were tested against eggs of the *Tetranychus urticae* Koch mite, obtaining a significant reduction in the number of eggs, being considered potent repellents. In the work of Prates et al. (1998), the compound 1,8-cineole showed high acaricidal activity, killing 100% of the larvae of the *Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus* Canestrini mite.

These constituents may act by inhibiting cytochrome P450 enzymes or interfering in the nervous system, damaging biochemical and physiological functions of

**Table 1**

Plant essential oils with repellent activity against mites.

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
Anarcadiaceae					
<i>Schinus molle</i> L.	<i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	-	Sabinene (51.0%); β-pinene (11.2%)	Leaves Fruits Stems	Guala et al., 2014
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> Raddi	<i>Suidasia pontifica</i> Oudemans <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch <i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)	0.0048 μL/mL -	Limonene (44.1%); α-phellandrene (15.7%)	Leaves Fruits	Assis et al., 2011; Nascimento et al., 2012
Apiaceae					
<i>Carum carvi</i> L.	<i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor) <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	22.4 μg/mL	-	Seeds	Han et al., 2010
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Leaves	George et al., 2010a
<i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	γ-Terpinene (15.6%); cuminaldehyde (22.0%)	Leaves Seeds	Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011a
<i>Deverra scoparia</i> Coss. & Durieu	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	1.79 μg/mL	α-Pinene (31.9%); sabinene (17.2%)	Aerial parts	Attia et al., 2011
<i>Ferula assa-foetida</i> L.	<i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	0.0024 μL/mL	-	Leaves Roots	Ghasemi et al., 2011
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill.	<i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)	-	Carvone (44.8%); D-limonene (25.5%)	Seeds	Lee et al., 2006
Araucariaceae					
<i>Agathis moorei</i> (Lindl.) Mast.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	-	Heartwood Resin	Lebouvier et al., 2013
<i>Agathis ovata</i> (C. Moore ex Vieill.) Warb.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	-	Heartwood Resin	Lebouvier et al., 2013
<i>Araucaria columnaris</i> (Forst.) Hooker	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	1620 μg/mL	Aromadendrin (23.8%); bicyclogermacrene (16.0%)	Heartwood Resin	Lebouvier et al., 2013
Aristolochiaceae					
<i>Asarum sieboldii</i> Miq.	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes	-	Eugenol (42.1%)	Root	Wu et al., 2012 ^a
Asteraceae					
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Mill.	<i>Rhipicephalus lunulatus</i> (Neumann)	20 μL/mg	Precocene I (40.0%); Precocene II (36.5%)	Flowers Leaves	Pamo et al., 2004; Pamo et al., 2005
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	β-Thujone (32.1%)	Whole plant	Chiasson et al., 2001
<i>Artemisia annua</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) annulatus</i> (Say)	-	-	Stem Leaves	Pirali-Kheirabadi et al., 2011
<i>Artemisia gmelinii</i> Weber ex Stechm. var. <i>gmelinii</i>	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes <i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> (Troussart)	-	Camphor (25.4%); 1,8-cineole (13.4%)	Whole plant	Jeon et al., 2014
<i>Artemisia sieberi</i> Besser	<i>Callosobruchus maculatus</i> (Fabr.) <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (L.) <i>Tribolium castaneum</i> (Herbst.)	1.45 μL/mL 3.86 μL/mL 16.76 μL/mL	Camphor (54.7%); camphene (11.7%)	Aerial parts	Negahban et al., 2007
<i>Baccharis dracunculifolia</i> DC.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Nerolidol (22,3%)	Leaves	Lage et al., 2015
<i>Calea serrata</i> Less.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	0.28 μL/mL	Germacrene D (26.4%); precocene II (29.2%)	Leaves	Ribeiro et al., 2011
<i>Chamomilla recutita</i> (L.) Rauschert	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Bisabolol oxide A (35.2%)	Whole plant	Afify et al., 2012
<i>Hertia cheirifolia</i> (L.) Kuntze	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	3.43 μg/mL	Thymol (61%)	Stem Leaves	Attia et al., 2012
<i>Santolina africana</i> Jord. & Fourr.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch;	2.35 μg/mL	Terpinen-4-ol (54.9%)	Stem Leaves	Attia et al., 2012
<i>Tagetes erecta</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> Latreille	-	-	Stem Flowers Leaves	Politi et al., 2013

Table 1 (Continued)

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
<i>Tagetes minuta</i> L.	<i>Amblyomma cajennense</i> (Fabricius)	52 μL/mL	di-Dydrtagetone (54.2%);	Stem	Garcia et al., 2012; Nchu et al., 2012; Andreotti et al., 2013
	<i>Argas miniatus</i> Koch	84	<i>cis</i> -ocimene (28.5%);	Flowers	
	<i>Hyalomma rufipes</i> Enigk & Grittner	μL/mL	limonene (6.9%)	Leaves	
	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini				
	<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> Latreille				
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	β-Thujone (92.2%)	Whole plant	Chiasson et al., 2001
Burseraceae					
<i>Protium heptaphyllum</i> (Aubl.) Marchand	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	α-Terpinene (47.6%)	Leaves Fruits	Pontes et al., 2007
Caryophyllaceae					
<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i> L.	<i>Ixodes ricinus</i> L.	-	-	Flowers	Tunón et al., 2006
Cleomaceae					
<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus appendiculatus</i> Neumann	-	Carvacrol (29.2%); <i>trans</i> -phytol (24.7%)	Leaves	Lwande et al., 1999
Cupressaceae					
<i>Callitris sulcata</i> Schltr.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	650 μg/mL	-	Heartwood Resin	Lebouvier et al., 2013
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> (Siebold & Zucc.) Endl.	<i>Callosobruchus chinensis</i> (L.) <i>Sitophilus oryzae</i> (L.)	-	Limonene (13.4%)	Leaves	Park et al., 2003
<i>Juniperus oxycedrus</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010ab
<i>Neocallitropsis pancheri</i> (Carrière) de Laub.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	550 μg/mL	-	Heartwood Resin	Lebouvier et al., 2013
<i>Taiwania cryptomerioides</i> Hayata	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes <i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> (Troussart)	-	β-Cadinol (36.8%); T-muurolol (17.1%)	Heartwood	Chang et al., 2001
Euphorbiaceae					
<i>Croton malambo</i> H. Karst.	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes	-	Methyl eugenol (68.4%)	Stem Branch	Mendoza-Meza et al., 2014.
Geraniaceae					
<i>Pelargonium roseum</i> Willd.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) annulatus</i> (Say)	-	-	Leaves Stems	Pirali-Kheirabadi et al., 2009
Lamiaceae					
<i>Cunila angustifolia</i> Benth.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Sabinene (32.1%); spathulenol (10.0%)	Aerial parts	Apel et al., 2009
<i>Cunila incana</i> Benth.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	β-Pinene (27.5%); α-pinene (26.7%)	Aerial parts	Apel et al., 2009
<i>Cunila spicata</i> Benth.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Borneol (19.7%); menthofuran (34.8%)	Aerial parts	Apel et al., 2009
<i>Dorystoechas hastata</i> Boiss. et Heldr. ex Benth.	<i>Rhipicephalus turanicus</i> Pom.	-	-	Aerial parts	Koc et al., 2012
<i>Hesperozygis ringens</i> (Benth.) Epling	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	0.541 μL/mL	Pulegone (86%)	Leaves	Ribeiro et al., 2010
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poit.	<i>Amblyomma cajennense</i> (Fabricius)	-	-	Aerial parts	Soares et al., 2010
<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> Mill.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a; Pirali-Kheirabadi et al., 2010
	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) annulatus</i> (Say)			Aerial parts	
<i>Lavandula dentata</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010 ^a
<i>Lavandula officinalis</i> Chaix	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer); <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a
<i>Lavandula stoechas</i> L. subsp. <i>stoechas</i>	<i>Tetranychus cinnabarinus</i> (Boisduval)	2.92 μg/mL	α-Thujone (65.7%)	Stems Leaves	Sertkaya et al., 2010
<i>Melissa officinalis</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	α-Curcumene (14.3%); caryophyllene oxide (10.8%)	Aerial parts	Momen et al., 2014
<i>Mentha longifolia</i> (L.) L.	<i>Rhipicephalus turanicus</i> Pom.	-	-	Aerial parts	Koc et al., 2012

Table 1 (Continued)

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
<i>Mentha pulegium</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	23.7 µg/mL	Pulegone (99%)	Commercial	Rim and Jee, 2006; George et al., 2009; George et al. 2010a; Han et al., 2010
	<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> Trouessart			Flowers	
	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes			Leaves	
	<i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor)			Seeds	
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch				
<i>Mentha spicata</i> L.	<i>Ixodes ricinus</i> L.	0.5	Carvone (54.7%; 59.3%)	Stems	Sertkaya et al., 2010; El-Seedi et al., 2012
	<i>Tetranychus cinnabarinus</i> Boisd	0.5 µg/mL		Commercial	
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch		Leaves		
<i>Mentha x piperita</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	22.8 µg/mL	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a; Han et al., 2010
	<i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor)			Leaves	
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch			Seeds	
<i>Nepeta cataria</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Flowers	Birkett et al., 2011
	<i>Rhipicephalus appendiculatus</i> Neumann				
<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.	<i>Bemisia tabaci</i> Genn	39.5	Linalool (30.6%); methyl chavicol (76.3%)	Commercial	Han et al., 2010; Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011a; Perumalsamy et al., 2014
	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	39.5 µg/mL		Leaves	
	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes		Fruits		
	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini		Aerial parts		
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch		Seeds		
<i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	γ-Terpinene (33.0%)	Leaves	Hüe et al., 2015
	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Eugenol (33.0%)	Leaves	
<i>Ocimum urticaefolium</i> Hort. Ex Benth.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Carvacrol (93.0%)	Aerial parts	Koc et al., 2013
<i>Origanum bilgeri</i> P.H. Davis	<i>Rhipicephalus turanicus</i> Pom.	-	<i>p</i> -Cymene (23.4%); terpinen-4-ol (23.8%)	Whole plant	Afify et al., 2012
<i>Origanum majorana</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Carvacrol (85.1%)	Aerial parts	Cetin et al., 2009
<i>Origanum minutiflorum</i> O. Schwarz & P.H. Davis	<i>Rhipicephalus turanicus</i> Pom.	20000 µL/mL	Carvacrol (68.2%)	Stems	Sertkaya et al., 2010
<i>Origanum onites</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus cinnabarinus</i> (Boisduval)	0.69 µg/mL		Leaves	
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Aerial parts	Çalmaşur et al., 2006
<i>Pogostemon cablin</i> (Blanco) Benth.	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes	-	Patchoulol (32.9%)	Aerial parts	Wu et al., 2012b
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> L.	<i>Ixodes ricinus</i> L.	0.041	α-Thujone (42.3%) 1,8-cineole (26.7%-51.8%) thymol (24.5%)	Commercial	Miresmailli and Isman, 2006; Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011b; El-Seedi et al., 2012; Laborda et al., 2013
	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	0.041 µg/mL		Leaves	
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch		Aerial parts		
	<i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)				
<i>Salvia officinalis</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	63.7 µg/mL	α-Thujone (42.3%)	Aerial parts	Han et al., 2010; Laborda et al., 2013
<i>Satureja hortensis</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	0.0094 µL/mL	Carvacrol (38.3%)	Leaves	Zandi-Sohani and Ramezani, 2015
	<i>Tetranychus turkestanii</i> Ugarov			Aerial parts	
	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch				
<i>Satureja thymbra</i> L.	<i>Hyalomma marginatum rufipes</i> Koch	-	-	Aerial parts	Cetin et al., 2010
<i>Schizonepeta tenuifolia</i> Briq.	<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> (Troussart)	-	Menthone (50.2%)	Aerial parts	Yang et al., 2013
	<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> Hughes	-			
	<i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)	-			
		-			

Table 1 (Continued)

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
<i>Tetradenia riparia</i> (Hochst.) Codd	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	110000 µg/mL	-	Leaves	Gazim et al., 2011
<i>Thymbra capitata</i> Cav.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	Ghrabi-Gammar et al., 2009
<i>Thymbra spicata</i> L. subsp. <i>spicata</i>	<i>Tetranychus cinnabarinus</i> (Boisduval)	0.53 µg/mL	Carvacrol (70.9%)	Stems Leaves	Sertkaya et al., 2010
<i>Thymus kotschyanus</i> Boiss. & Hohen.	<i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	0.001 µL/mL	-	Leaves	Ghasemi et al., 2011
<i>Thymus sipyleus</i> Boiss. subsp. <i>sipyleus</i>	<i>Rhipicephalus turanicus</i> Pom.	-	-	Aerial parts	Koc et al., 2012
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer); <i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor); <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch; <i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	22.7 µg/mL	Thymol (65.3%)	Commercial Leaves Aerial parts Seeds	Çalmaşur et al., 2006; Damiani et al., 2009; George et al., 2009; George et al., 2010ab; Han et al., 2010
<i>Zataria multiflora</i> Bioss.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) annulatus</i> (Say) <i>Tetranychus turkestanii</i> Ugarov Nikolskii	0.0055 µL/mL	Carvacrol (22.1%); Thymol (30.2%)	Stem Leaves	Pirali-Kheirabadi et al., 2011; Zandi-Sohani and Ramezani, 2015
Lauraceae					
<i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> Blume	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer); <i>Psoroptes cuniculi</i> Delafond <i>Suidasia pontifica</i> Oudemans; <i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schränk);	0.00082 µL/mL 0.079 µL/mL 0.021 µL/mL	Eugenol (76.1%); β-caryophyllene (6.7%)	Leaves	Fichi et al., 2007a; George et al., 2010; Assis et al., 2011
<i>Litsea cubeba</i> (Lour.) Pers.	<i>Luciaphorus perniciosus</i> Rack	-	-	Fruits	Pumnuan et al., 2010
<i>Litsea salicifolia</i> (J. Roxb. ex Nees) Hook. f.	<i>Luciaphorus perniciosus</i> Rack	-	-	Fruits	Pumnuan et al., 2010
Liliaceae					
<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	-	Diallyl disulfide (30.9%); Diallyl trisulfide (33.5%)	Bulbs Commercial Leaves	George et al., 2010a; Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011b
Meliaceae					
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss	<i>Sarcoptes scabiei</i> var. <i>Cuniculi</i> De Geer	-	-	Seeds	Xu et al., 2010
<i>Carapa guianensis</i> Aubl.	<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> Latreille	-	-	Seeds	Vendramini et al., 2012
Myrtaceae					
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> (Sol. ex Gaertn.) G. Don	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	1,8-Cineole (54.4%); Limonene (14.4%) Citronellol (94.9%)	Leaves Branches Commercial	Roh et al., 2013
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> (Hook.) K.D. Hill & L.A.S. Johnson	<i>Amblyomma cajennense</i> (Fabricius) <i>Anocentor nitens</i> Neumann <i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor) <i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	19.3 µg/mL 8700 µg/mL		Leaves Seeds	Chagas et al., 2002; Clemente et al., 2010; George et al., 2010a; Han et al., 2010; Chagas et al., 2014
<i>Eucalyptus approximans</i> Maiden	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	1,8-Cineole (61.1%); limonene (14.5%)	Leaves	Roh et al., 2013
<i>Eucalyptus bicostata</i> Maiden, Blakely & Simmonds	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	1,8-Cineole (63.0%); limonene (10.9%)	Leaves	Roh et al., 2013
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> Dehnh.	<i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	0.0017 µL/mL		Leaves	Ghasemi et al., 2011
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Leaves	Hussein et al., 2013
<i>Eucalyptus maidenii</i> F. Muell.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	1,8-Cineole (59.8%); limonene (17.2%)	leaves	Roh et al., 2013
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> A. Cunn. ex Woolls	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	1,8-Cineole (54.4%); limonene (11.9%)	Leaves	Roh et al., 2013
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Leaves	Afify et al., 2012

Table 1 (Continued)

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
<i>Eucalyptus staigeriana</i> F. Muell. ex F.M. Bailey	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	-	Commercial	Chagas et al., 2002
<i>Eugenia langsdorffii</i> O. Berg	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	0.0015 μL/mL	Bicyclogermacrene (15.0%); spathulenol (11.0%)	Leaves	Ribeiro et al., 2016
<i>Eugenia lutescens</i> Cambess.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	0.0025 μL/mL	α-Pinene (12.9%); β-pinene (24.0%)	Leaves	Ribeiro et al., 2016
<i>Eugenia pyriformis</i> Cambess.	<i>Suidasia pontifica</i> Oudemans <i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)	0.0037 μL/mL	Caryophyllene oxide (52.2%)	Leaves	Assis et al., 2011
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i> J.R. Forst. & G. Forst.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i> (Hughes) <i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> (Troussart) <i>Tyrophagus putrescentiae</i> (Schrank)	-	Leptospermone (57.8%)	Commercial Leaves Seeds	George et al., 2009; Jeong et al., 2009; George et al., 2010a
<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i> Cheel	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Ixodes ricinus</i> L. <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Terpinen-4-ol (42.3%)	Commercial Aerial parts	Iori et al., 2005; Williamson et al., 2007; George et al., 2010a; Pazinato et al., 2014
<i>Melaleuca cajuputi</i> Powell	<i>Luciaphorus perniciosus</i> Rack	-	-	Fruits	Pumnuan et al., 2010
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> (Cav.) S.T. Blake	<i>Panonychus citri</i> (Mcgregor) <i>Raoiella indica</i> Hirst <i>Tetranychus tumidus</i> Banks <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Longifolene (32.9%); 1,8-cineole (25.4%)	Leaves	Pino et al., 2011a
<i>Myrtus communis</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	Ghrabi-Gammar et al., 2009
<i>Pimenta dioica</i> (L.) Merr.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Methyl eugenol (62.7%)	Commercial Leaves Fruits Seeds	George et al., 2010a; Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011a
<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merr. & L.M. Perry	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i> (Troussart) <i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor) <i>Psoroptes cuniculi</i> Delafond <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch <i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	23.6 μg/mL	Eugenol (59.3%); β-Caryophyllene (24.9%)	Floral buttons Flowers Commercial	Fichi et al., 2007b; George et al., 2010a; Han et al., 2010; Maggi et al., 2012; Hussein et al., 2013; Mahakittikun et al., 2013; Mello et al., 2014
Pinaceae					
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> L.	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer)	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a
Piperaceae					
<i>Piper aduncum</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Dillapiole (79.0%)	Leaves	Araújo et al., 2012
<i>Piper aduncum</i> var. <i>ossanum</i> (C. DC.) Saralegui	<i>Varroa destructor</i> (Anderson & Trueman)	-	-	Leaves	Pino et al., 2011b
<i>Piper amalago</i> L.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Limonene (20.5%)	Aerial parts	Ferraz et al., 2010
<i>Piper mikanianum</i> (Kunth) Steud.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	2.33 μg/mL	(E)-Caryophyllene (3.6%)	Aerial parts	Ferraz et al., 2010
<i>Piper xylosteoides</i> (Kunth) Steud.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	6.15 μg/mL	Zingiberene (9.2%)	Aerial parts	Ferraz et al., 2010
Poaceae					
<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC.) Stapf	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer) <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a
<i>Cymbopogon martini</i> (Roxb.) Will. Watson	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> De Geer	-	-	Commercial	George et al., 2010a
<i>Cymbopogon nardus</i> (L.) Rendle	<i>Amblyomma cajennense</i> (Fabricius) <i>Anocentor nitens</i> Neumann	22.5 μg/mL 46500 μg/mL	-	Commercial Leaves Aerial parts Seeds	Clemente et al., 2010; George et al., 2010a; Han et al., 2010;

Table 1 (Continued)

Family/Plant species	Species (Acari)	LC ₅₀	Major compound	Plant part	References
	<i>Dermanyssus gallinae</i> (De Geer); <i>Neoseiulus californicus</i> (Mcgregor) <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch		-		Chagas et al., 2014
<i>Cymbopogon winterianus</i> Jowwiit ex Bor	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	49900 µg/mL	-	Commercial Leaves Aerial parts	Agnolin et al., 2014; Chagas et al., 2014; Mello et al., 2014
<i>Melinis minutiflora</i> P. Beauv.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Propionic acid (43.0%); 1,8-Cineole (10.6%)	Stems Leaves	Prates et al., 1998
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	-	Seeds	Hussein et al., 2013
Rosaceae					
<i>Rosa x damascena</i> Mill.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Geraniol (34.9%); citronellol (23.4%)	Flowers	Salman and Erbaş, 2014
Rutaceae					
<i>Zanthoxylum caribaeum</i> Lam.	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Isodaucene (8.3%); sylvestrene (11.3%)	Leaves	Nogueira et al., 2014
Santalaceae					
<i>Santalum austrocaledonicum</i> Vieill.	<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	α-Santalol (45.8%)	Bark	Roh et al., 2011
Solanaceae					
<i>Solanum sarrachoides</i> Sendtn.	<i>Tetranychus evansi</i> Baker & Pritchard	-	Camphor (34.0%)	Leaves Fruits	Murungi et al., 2013
Verbenaceae					
<i>Lippia alba</i> (Mill.) N.E. Br. ex Britton & P. Wilson	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	8800 µg/mL	Carvone (63.4%); geraniol (46.2%)	Leaves	Peixoto et al., 2015
<i>Lippia gracilis</i> Schauer	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	2000 µg/mL 650 µg/mL	Carvacrol (48.9%); thymol (59.2%)	Leaves	Cruz et al., 2013; Costa-Júnior et al., 2016
<i>Lippia graveolens</i> Kunth	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Carvacrol (24.5%); thymol (24.5%)	Leaves	Martinez-Velazquez et al., 2011b
<i>Lippia javanica</i> (Burm f.) Spreng.	<i>Hyalomma marginatum rufipes</i> Koch	-	Bicyclo (3.1.1) heptan-2-one (20.8%); myrcene (13.4%)	Flowers Leaves Branches	Magano et al., 2011
<i>Lippia sidoides</i> Cham.	<i>Dermacentor nitens</i> (Neumann) <i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch	-	Thymol (69.9%)	Leaves	Cavalcanti et al., 2010; Gomes et al., 2012; Monteiro et al., 2014
<i>Lippia triplinervis</i> Gardner	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini	-	Carvacrol (31.9%); thymol (30.6%)	Aerial parts	Lage et al., 2013
Winteraceae					
<i>Drimys brasiliensis</i> Miers	<i>Rhipicephalus (Boophilus) microplus</i> Canestrini <i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i> Latreille	-	Cyclocolorenone (30.4%)	Leaves Stem barks	Ribeiro et al., 2008

these ectoparasites (Baldin et al., 2010). The effectiveness of the essential oils can vary depending on the dosage of the product, application surface, the route and method of application (Garcia et al., 2012; Vieira et al., 2012). Lima et al. (2011) have stated that these compounds could be considered as potent insecticides and can be used to control agricultural pests.

These compounds are also reported as potent acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors, with carvacrol having an AChE inhibitory effect 10-fold higher than its thymol isomer, which demonstrates that the position of the hydroxyl group in its structure plays a key role in this. In addition, the phenolic grouping of this compound

may play an important role in the elimination of ticks and mites through action on the GABA receptor and the octopamine receptor (Jukic et al., 2007; López and Pascual-Villalobos, 2010; Shang et al., 2016; Rey-Valeirón et al., 2017).

The *Cinnamomum zeylanicum* Blume species presented the best value of LC₅₀ (0.0008 µL/mL) when compared to the other species. This activity may be related to the presence of the compound eugenol, in which Assis et al. (2011) have reported the direct relationship between the concentration of this compound and the mortality values. Some studies report various activities associated with this compound,



such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and larvicidal, as well (Pereira et al., 2014; Lee et al., 2016; Modjinou et al., 2016).

3.3. Commercialization and formulation

There are three important issues for the commercialization of natural products used in the agribusiness: scarcity of the natural resource, the need for chemical standardization and quality control. In addition to these, there are some challenges like long term stability, storage and transportation. Although essential oils are relatively stable, they are susceptible to oxidation and due to the volatility of their constituents, need to be stored with porous and chemically inert materials. Another challenge is the persistence of effective activity in target areas. It is necessary to extend the residual life of oil-based pesticides in open areas where their efficacy is evidently not based on smoking activity (Isman, 2000, 2016).

New advances in the formulation of acaricides, such as microencapsulation and nanoformulation, provide clues to solving problems with essential oil-based products, such as the residual activity and phytotoxicity of some compounds used in high concentrations (Isman, 2016).

3.4. Future perspectives

Most studies on acaricidal activity report the screening and bioactivity of oils and their compounds against mites, but there is a minority of reports about the end of the development of natural acaricides. Most of this knowledge in research is protected by intellectual property, only arriving at the scientific literature when protected by patent, which is fair. However, the discrepancy of the reports on successful products based on essential oils and those on their bioactivity is striking (Isman, 2016).

In addition to the studies that show the repellent and toxic properties of the essential oils and their monoterpenes as an alternative, such as the ones mentioned in Table 1, new studies should report the structure-activity relationship of compounds associated with acaricidal activity, where many compounds that act on the same target or mechanism of action can act synergistically combined and improved. In addition, studies are needed to reduce the impact of conventional management techniques, such as the use of synthetic pesticides, on predator populations, where researchers on selectivity of acaricides and insecticides should work together with those in the biological control area (Pallini et al., 2007; Shang et al., 2016).

4. Concluding remarks

Thus, it can be confirmed that the use of essential oils with acaricidal activity represents an important

alternative to the use of synthetic acaricides for presenting bioactive compounds that reduce the resistance, environmental damage and risks to human health. Studies on this activity have been growing and deepening on a large scale over the years, but some challenges still have to be reached for the effective use of these resources. It is noteworthy that this work is pioneering in compiling data on acaricidal activity, serving as a basis for further studies aimed at seeking natural products with potential acaricidal activity that can replace synthetic products.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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