

## EFFECT OF GROWTH REGULATOR ANALOGUES PYRIPROXFEN, HYDROPRENE AND THEIR COMBINATIONS WITH DELTAMETHRIN ON REPRODUCTION OF *BOOPHILUS ANNULATUS*

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### ABSTRACT

Effect of growth regulator analogues, pyriproxfen, hydroprene and their combinations with deltamethrin on *Boophilus annulatus* was investigated. Fully engorged female *B. annulatus* ticks were collected from naturally infected cattle. The collected ticks were divided into 6 groups of 5 replicates; control untreated, pyriproxfen, pyriproxfen - deltamethrin, hydroprene, hydroprene - deltamethrin, and deltamethrin. Insect growth regulators (IGRs) and deltamethrin were dissolved in DMSO 10% then diluted with distilled water before application. Adult immersion test for the different compounds was applied on engorged female ticks. Reduction of egg mass per female, reproductive index (RI), reproductive efficiency index (REI), and dead tick % in the different groups were estimated. Consequently, the deposited eggs of the different groups were incubated to record the hatching %. Furthermore, egg immersion test of untreated ticks was conducted in the different preparations. Both of pyriproxfen and hydroprene groups had no lethal effect to adult female ticks. Meanwhile, hydroprene and pyriproxfen treated groups showed significant reduction in the egg mass ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) with the control untreated. The highest reduction of egg deposition was estimated in hydroprene - deltamethrin combination groups. There was non-significant difference in hatchability of deposited egg mass of the different groups. Furthermore, with egg immersion test, there was non-significant difference in hatchability of treated eggs including deltamethrin in a comparison with untreated eggs. Hatched larvae in different treatments did not show any abnormal changes. Both of pyriproxfen and hydroprene groups had no lethal effect on adult female ticks in a comparison with deltamethrin groups and deltamethrin-GRAs combination.

**Key words:** Growth regulator, Analogues pyriproxfen, Hydroprene, *Boophilus annulatus*

### INTRODUCTION

Ticks are the most predominant ectoparasites of cattle all over the world specially tropical and subtropical area. In Egypt, *B. annulatus* is the most common tick species infesting cattle (El Kammah, 2001). Blood feeding habits of tick and its activity as vectors of diseases of economic importance represent threats for the livestock industry in Africa (FAO, 1984). Tick-borne diseases (TBD), mainly babesiosis and anaplasmosis present serious constraints to productivity of particularly exotic cattle and their crosses. Cattle breeders and farmers based extensively on chemical acaricides for control the ticks. Thus there is huge demand for acaricides in Egypt. Incorrect dilution, application methods and extensive acaricide pressure are amongst factors that accelerate development of acaricide resistance (Aguilar- Tipacamu *et al.*, 2011 and Abbas *et al.*,

2014). Synthetic pyrethroid (SP) resistance in *R. (B.) microplus*, a species close to *R. (B.) annulatus*, from India, Mexico, Brazil, North America and Australia was recorded (Nolan *et al.*, 1989; Miller *et al.*, 2007; Mendes *et al.*, 2011; Rodriguez-Vivas *et al.*, 2012 and Sharma *et al.*, 2012).

Smart approach to insect pest control is the use of substances that badly affect insect reproduction, growth and development. These substances are classified as insect hormone mimics (Juvenile hormone) or insect growth regulators (IGRs) (Invest and Lucas, 2008). These analogs act by contact or ingestion, and end up in eggs via adult that came into contact with the active ingredients or directly through the cuticle of the eggs (Beugnet and Franc, 2012). Interestingly, IGRs generally control insects either through regulation of metamorphosis or interference with reproduction (Riddiford and Truman, 1978). Extracts of *Melia azedarach* (IGR) inhibit egg production of immersed *B. microplus* ticks (Borges *et al.*, 2003). These analogs are either used in the environment, in the form of sprays or diffusers often combined with an insecticide, or applied directly on animals (Beugnet and Franc, 2012). Juvenile

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hormone analogs include methoprene and S-methoprene (active isomer), pyriproxyfen (Jacobs *et al.*, 1996 and Stanneck *et al.*, 2002). In most cases, these analogs are used in animals in combination with an insecticide/ acaricide such as fipronil, permethrin, dinotefuran, or imidacloprid (Beugnet and Franc, 2012). Combination of synthetic pyrethroids (SPs) with the GRA is a way to overcome the acaricides resistance. A formulation combining dinotefuran, permethrin and pyriproxyfen (Vectra 3D™) was registered in the USA in 2007 and is indicated for the prevention and the treatment of sandfly, fleas, ticks and mosquitoes in dogs (Franc *et al.*, 2012 and Liénard *et al.*, 2013). Juvenile hormone analogs (JHAs) induce elevated levels of juvenile hormone, which interferes with reproduction in the arthropod target (Goodman *et al.*, 2012). There is one licensed product containing hydroprene available for bed bug treatments (Hydroprene Zoecon Ltd., Schaumburg, Illinois, USA (Potter *et al.*, 2010). The combination of several products (acaricides, insecticides and insect growth regulators) is available and safe for the integrated control of ectoparasites on domestic dogs. Insects developing resistance to one insecticide should theoretically still be killed by the second insecticide and thus prevent the resistance genes from passing to the next generation (Horak *et al.*, 2012 and Ohashi *et al.*, 2012).

The present study aimed to compare influence of pyriproxyfen, hydroprene and their combinations with deltamethrin on reproductive capacity of *B. annulatus* tick.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1. Ticks collection

Fully engorged female *B. annulatus* ticks were collected according Rodriguez-vivas *et al.* (2012) directly from naturally infested animals none of which had received tick treatments for at least 30 days. The ticks were placed in identified plastic bottles free of acaricide residues with lids containing small holes, and transported to the parasitology laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary medicine in Beni-Suef University.

### 2. Tick preparation

The freshly collected ticks were divided into 6 groups of 10 ticks of five replicates in each trail in clean labeled petri dishes. Ticks were weighted and divided to be equal in the different groups. In the laboratory, all females were separated, carefully washed, and then dried on absorbent paper. Engorged females weighing not less than 140 mg, with no signs of injury, were used in the study. Selected ticks were admitted to the adult immersion test as soon as possible post collection (not more than 24 hours).

### 3. IGR Preparation.

Commercial solution of Martin's IGR® (pyriproxyfen 1.3%) was diluted with DMSO 10% to achieve the complete solubility of the product. About 200 µl of pyriproxyfen 1.3 completed to 1 ml with DMSO 10%. Subsequently 1 ml Pyriproxyfen / DMSO compound completed up to 10 ml with DW in 15 ml labelled plastic tube to obtain a 0.26 mg / ml pyriproxyfen concentration (2.5 X the recommended dose). Similarly, 200 µl of Gentrol® IGR concentrate (9% Hydroprene) was completed to 1 ml with DMSO 10%. Later, 1 ml hydroprene / DMSO combination was completed to 10 ml with DW to form a 1.8 mg/ml hydroprene concentration (2.5 X the recommended dose). Deltamethrin 5 % was diluted with DMSO (20 µl deltamethrin 5% + 980 µl DW). Deltamethrin / DMSO combination completed to 10 ml DW to obtain 1mg / 10 ml. For pyriproxyfen / deltamethrin combination, about 200 µl pyriproxyfen plus 20 µl deltamethrin were completed to 1 ml with DMSO. Then the product was completed to 10 ml with DW. Hydroprene / deltamethrin combination was performed similar to the last one. Control tubes were composed of 200 µl DMSO and completed to 10 ml DW.

### 3. Adult Immersion Test (AIT)

AIT was performed as described by Sharma *et al.* (2012) with minor modifications. The ticks were weighed and assigned to groups. The different groups of ticks were immersed in 10 ml of the different treatments by placing them directly into Petri dish and stirred with glass rod before and after adding ticks. After 2 min, the acaricide was poured off through a sieve and the ticks were transferred to the filter paper for drying and kept separately in glass tubes and sealed with cotton. For each concentration five replicates were maintained. Simultaneously, the ticks in the control group were treated with DMSO. The treated ticks were kept in BOD incubator at a temperature of  $27 \pm 2$  °C and relative humidity of  $80 \pm 10$  % for oviposition.

The eggs laid by the treated ticks were collected at one week post treatment with brush, weighed. Average of tick eggs per female was calculated. Collected eggs were transferred to labeled glass tubes (About 140 mg/ tube) and observed at the same conditions of incubation for up to 30 days for visual estimation of hatching.

Reproductive index (RI), reproductive efficiency index (REI), and the percentage inhibition of oviposition (IO), hatching %, and hatching inhibition were calculated (Goncalves *et al.*, 2007 and Drummond *et al.*, 1973) as follows:

**RI** = Average weight of eggs laid mg / Average weight of live ticks mg

**REI** = egg mass weight × % egg hatching/engorged female weight × 20.000\*

Where \* shows the constant that indicates the number of eggs present in 1 g.

Percentage inhibition of oviposition (IO %) =

$$\frac{\text{RI (control group)} - \text{RI (treated group)}}{\text{RI (control group)}} \times 100.$$

**Percentage inhibition of hatching (IH%)** = [(Hatching % control – Hatching % treated)/Hatching % control × 100].

HC and HT are the hatching of the control and treated groups.

#### Dead tick %

The mortality was observed on day 14 post treatment (PT). The ticks which did not oviposit even after 14 days were considered as dead (Sharma *et al.*, 2012).

**Dead tick %** = Number of dead tick in treated groups - Number of dead tick in control groups / Total number of treated tick × 100

#### 4. Egg Immersion Test (EIT)

Egg immersion test was conducted according to the method of Ribeiro *et al.* (2008) with minor modifications. Approximately 100 mg *B. annulatus* embryonated eggs were weighted in a filter paper and immersed for 2 min in 10 ml of the test solutions. Subsequently, the solutions were decanted and after evaporation of the solvent the filter papers were let up to 30 minutes till complete dryness. After that, treated eggs were transferred into clean labeled tubes covered with a cotton. Eggs were incubated at  $28 \pm 1$  °C and  $80 \pm 10\%$  relative humidity for 2 – 4 weeks, until hatching was completed. Water was used as control and each treatment contained 5 replicates. The following parameters were compared:

(a) Hatching (%) = [The number of hatched larvae divided by the total number of incubated eggs × 100]

(b) Percentage inhibition of hatching (IH %) = [(Hatching % control – Hatching % treated) / Hatching % control × 100].

#### 5. Statistics

Data were analyzed statistically using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS for Windows (IBM), version 22, Chicago, USA) to determine if variables differed between treatments. Data were analyzed using ANOVA tests and subsequent Duncan's multiple range test to determine the differences between means. Results are expressed as

means ± SD. Probability values of less than 0.05 ( $P < 0.05$ ) were considered significant.

## RESULTS

#### 1. Eggs mass per female tick and reproductive index

Egg mass per female ticks was  $53.6 \pm 3.2$  in control untreated, and reduced significantly in pyriproxfen, pyriproxfen deltamethrin, hydroprone, hydroprone deltamethrin, and deltamethrin groups ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ). The lowest egg mass per females was recorded in deltamethrin GRAs combinations. Inhibition of oviposition % was  $1.15 \pm 2.19$ , in control untreated, and increased significantly in the different treated groups ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ). Comparing the egg mass to the female tick weights was decreased significantly in the different groups with the control ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ). The RI was  $0.36 \pm 0.008$  in control untreated, was decreased significantly in the different groups with the control ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ). The lowest RI was in deltamethrin and GRA deltamethrin combination groups (Fig.1, 2, 3, table 1).

#### 2. Hatching inhibition %

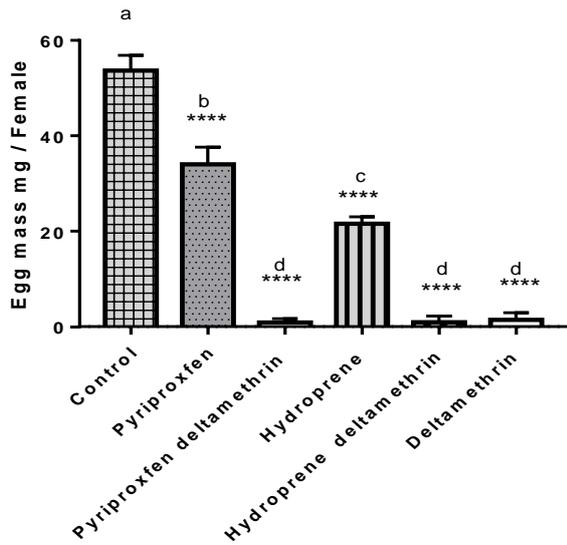
There was non-significant difference in hatching % of incubated eggs including deltamethrin groups with control untreated ( $91.6 \pm 2.8\%$ ). Hatched larvae in all groups had not any apparent morphological abnormalities. The reproductive efficiency index (REI) of the all treated groups was varied significantly ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) with the control.

#### 3. Percentage of dead tick

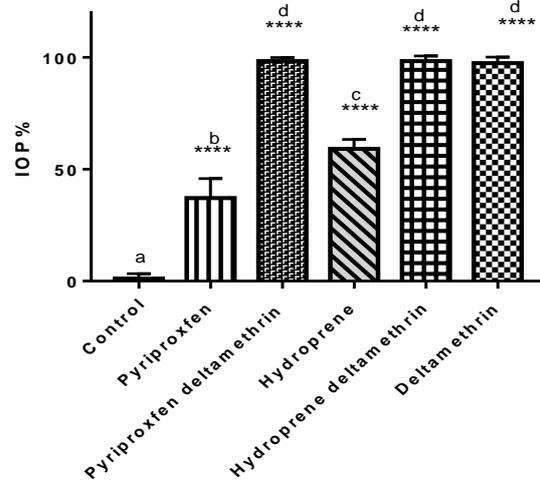
With the adult immersion test, neither pyriproxfen nor hydroprone has acaricidal effect in a comparison with the control untreated. GRA alone didn't show any lethal effect on the adult ticks. On the contrary, deltamethrin, and GRA deltamethrin combination showed significant deaths of immersed ticks. Dead % was  $83.3 \pm 5.7$ ,  $86.6 \pm 5.7$ , and  $83.3 \pm 5.7$  in pyriproxfen deltamethrin, hydroprone deltamethrin and deltamethrin groups respectively (Fig 4).

#### 4. Egg hatching inhibition assay

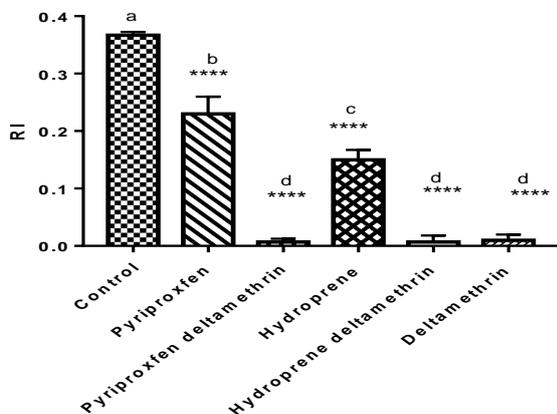
Immersed eggs in the different groups were able to hatch and produced active larvae without apparent abnormalities. There were non-significant differences in hatching inhibition % of the immersed ticks in the different groups in a comparison with control untreated ( $20 \pm 17.3\%$ ).



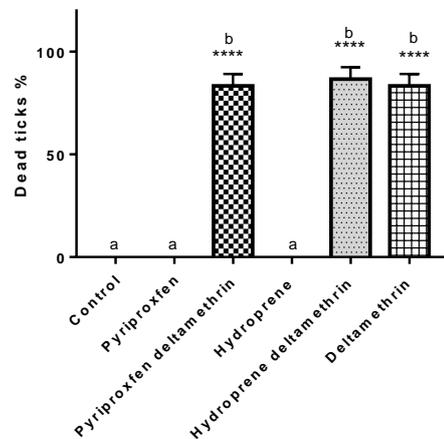
**Fig. 1:** Egg mass (mg) per female ticks in the different groups. Significant differences between control and treated groups are indicated by \*\*\*\* ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ).



**Fig. 2:** Inhibition of oviposition % in the different groups. Significant differences between control and treated groups are indicated by \*\*\*\* ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ).



**Fig. 3:** Reproductive index of female tick in the different groups. Significant differences between control and treated groups are indicated by \*\*\*\* ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ).



**Fig. 4:** Percentage of dead ticks in the different groups. Significant differences between control and treated groups are indicated by \*\*\*\* ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ).

**Table 1:** Reproductive efficacy and dead % of different tick groups

Group	Average of female weight (mg) $\pm$ SD	Average Egg Mass (mg) / female $\pm$ SD	Reduction OVP % $\pm$ SD	IOP $\pm$ SD	Hatching %	Hatching inhibition %	Reproductive index $\pm$ SD	Egg hatching assay inhibition	REI $\pm$ SD	Dead tick % $\pm$ SD
Control	146.6 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 5.7	53.6 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 3.2	0.00 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 0.00	1.15 $\pm$ 2.19 <sup>a</sup>	91.66 $\pm$ 2.88	8.33 $\pm$ 2.8	0.36 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 0.008	20.0 $\pm$ 17.3	670.5 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 26.93	0.0 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 0.0
Pyriproxfen	146.6 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 5.7	34.0 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 3.6	36.56 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 6.72	37.15 $\pm$ 8.68 <sup>b</sup>	92.66 $\pm$ 2.51	7.33 $\pm$ 2.5	0.20 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 0.032	15.6 $\pm$ 12.5	430.52 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 56.	0.0 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 0.0
Pyriproxfen deltamethrin	146.6 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 5.7	0.8 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ .80	98.38 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 1.50	98.4 $\pm$ 1.55 <sup>d</sup>	91.66 $\pm$ 2.88	8.33 $\pm$ 2.8	0.006 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 0.005	16.6 $\pm$ 11.5	10.85 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 10.33	83.3 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 5.7
Hydroprene	143.3 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 5.7	21.6 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 1.4	59.70 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 2.69	59.16 $\pm$ 4.23 <sup>c</sup>	91.66 $\pm$ 2.88	8.3 $\pm$ 2.8	0.151 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 0.015	18.3 $\pm$ 14.4	277.2 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 32.36	0.0 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 0.0
Hydroprene deltamethrin	152.3 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 4.0	0.9 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 1.2	98.25 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 2.37	98.32 $\pm$ 2.29 <sup>d</sup>	92.66 $\pm$ 2.51	7.3 $\pm$ 2.5	0.006 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 0.008	15.6 $\pm$ 12.5	11.75 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 16.19	86.6 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 5.7
Deltamethrin	146.6 <sup>a</sup> $\pm$ 5.7	1.4 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 1.5	97.38 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 2.81	97.47 $\pm$ 2.72 <sup>d</sup>	92.66 $\pm$ 2.5	7.3 $\pm$ 2.5	0.009 <sup>c</sup> $\pm$ 0.010	12.3 $\pm$ 6.8	17.20 <sup>d</sup> $\pm$ 18.75	83.3 <sup>b</sup> $\pm$ 5.7

Superscript of the same letter in cells of the same column is non-significant with the control. Superscript of different letters in cells of the same column is significant ( $P \leq 0.0001$ )

## DISCUSSION

In fact, ticks are the chief ectoparasites of domesticated animals, and its risks as vectors of lethal pathogens are being considered by the animal breeders all over the world. In the current study, egg mass of treated ticks was reduced significantly ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) in the different treated groups in a comparison with untreated control. The RI was significantly decreased ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) in different treated groups in a comparison with the untreated. Pyriproxfen and hydroprene treated groups showed inhibition of oviposition (IOP) ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ). Meanwhile, combination of GRAs either pyriproxfen or hydroprene with deltamethrin and deltamethrin groups showed the highest IOP per female tick,  $98.4 \pm 1.55$ ,  $98.32 \pm 2.29$ , and  $97.47 \pm 2.72$  respectively. Topical application of JHAs onto the mosquito abdomen has been reported to reduce fecundity (Patterson, 1974). Moreover, evidence suggests that tarsal contact with a pyriproxfen-treated substrate induces reduction of fecundity in adult females of *Aedes aegypti* (Itoh *et al.*, 1994). Moreover, Miler (1994) reported that exposure of a susceptible and a pyrethroid-resistant strain of *Anopheles stephensi* to a net treated with pyriproxfen produced only a 33 and 55% reduction in the number of eggs, respectively. Furthermore, Ohashi *et al.* (2012) demonstrated that adult female *Anopheles gambiae* that came into contact with pyriproxfen treated

netting were sterilized or had reduced fecundity and shortened longevity.

It is of interest to clarify that, all treated GRAs groups and their combination with deltamethrin showed non-significant difference in hatchability of eggs laid by treated females and immersed eggs in a comparison with control untreated groups. Therefore, this study clarified that, GRAs pyriproxfen, and hydroprene have not effect on embryogenesis and hatchability. Meanwhile, reproductive efficiency index (REI) of the all treated groups was decreased significantly ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) in treated groups in a comparison with the control. On the contrary, several studies were carried on different insects, and ticks showed that, GRAs inhibit metamorphosis and embryogenesis and hatching of several insects, and has no cross-resistance to older class chemicals, including pyrethroids (Dhadialla *et al.*, 1998; Roe *et al.*, 2008; Dhadialla *et al.*, 2010; Wijayarathne *et al.*, 2012; Ginjupalli and Baldwin 2013 and Brar *et al.*, 2015).

Concerning the acaricidal activity, neither pyriproxfen nor hydroprene has acaricidal effect. Therefore, GRAs alone didn't show any lethal effect on the adult ticks. Study showed that, pyriproxfen did not kill adult insects, flies and ticks (Liénard *et al.*, 2013). On the contrary, deltamethrin, GRAs deltamethrin combination showed significant deaths of immersed ticks. The treatment of dogs with permethrin-

dinotefuran–pyriproxyfen formulation offer better protection from *Aedes* mosquito bites than formulations of lower or similar dosage of permethrin combined with imidacloprid or with permethrin alone (Franc *et al.*, 2012). In similar trials performed with *A. aegypti* (Meyer *et al.*, 2003 and Tiawsirisup *et al.*, 2007), insecticide efficacy for 65% permethrin alone ranged from 84% to 90.9%, meanwhile, permethrin–dinotefuran–pyriproxyfen combination provided an insecticide efficacy between 93% (day 28) and 100% (day 7).

It is worthy to clarify that, acaricidal activity of deltamethrin alone in the current study was  $83.3 \pm 5.7$ . Consequently, the resistant (live) female ticks produced viable eggs and hatched to active larvae. The insect growth regulator (IGR) pyriproxyfen is a juvenile hormone analog (JHA) with extremely low toxicity to mammals (FAO, 2004). Combination of deltamethrin with GRA did not affect the acaricidal activity but the point is that, it reduced the egg mass deposited by resistant females. A formulation combining dinotefuran, permethrin and pyriproxyfen (Vectra 3D) was registered in the USA in 2007 and is indicated for the prevention and treatment of fleas, ticks, flies and mosquitoes on dogs (Franc *et al.*, 2012; Liénard *et al.*, 2013).

## CONCLUSION

GRAs pyriproxyfen and hydroprene reduced the reproductive index of *Boophilus annulatus* significantly ( $P \leq 0.0001$ ) in a comparison with the control untreated. GRAs have not significant effect on hatchability of the deposited egg mass. Combination of GRAs with deltamethrin is a way to overcome the acaricide resistance of *Boophilus annulatus*, since deposited egg mass of the resistant tick will be reduced.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare that there are no competing interests.

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### تأثير منظّمات النمو (بيربروكسيفين وهيدروبرين) وخليطهم مع الدلتاميثرين على التكاثر في القراد بوفيلس انيولاتس

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تناولت هذه الدراسة تأثير شبيه منظّمات النمو في الحشرات وخليطها مع الدلتاميثرين على القراد من نوع البوفيلس انيولاتس. تم تجميع انثى القراد من الأبقار المصابة طبيعياً وقسم إلى ستة مجاميع متساوية في الوزن على النحو التالي: بيربروكسيفين ، بيربروكسيفين/ دلتاميثرين، هيدروبرين ، هيدروبرين / دلتاميثرين، دلتاميثرين، ومجموعة ضابطة غير معالجة. تم إجراء كل من اختبار غمر الإناث وغمر البيض في المحاليل المختلفة التي تم تجهيزها. تم وزن كمية البيض التي تم تجميعها خلال أسبوع من التحضين في المجاميع المختلفة ومن ثم حساب نسبة الاختزال في البيض ونسبة الفقس بعد التحضين. أيضاً تم حساب نسبة الموت في القراد المغمور. وظهرت النتائج أن المركبات المستخدمة لها تأثير معنوي حيث تم اختزال متوسط نسبة البيض ومعدل الخصوبة في القراد المغمور. كانت أعلى نتائج اختزال في كمية البيض في مجاميع القراد التي تم معالجتها بمخلوط شبيهات النمو والدلتاميثرين معاً. ولكن لم يكن لشبيهات منظّمات النمو تأثير مميّت على القراد ولم يؤثر أيضاً على نسبة الفقس والنمو في البيض المعالج.