# FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF MOSQUITO REPELLENT SPRAY - AN REVIEW

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# **ABSTRACT:**

Mosquito-borne diseases pose a significant global health challenge, necessitating the development of effective and eco-friendly repellents. This review explores the potential of natural mosquito repellents formulated using orange peel extract and eucalyptus oil. Orange peel (Citrus sinensis) is rich in bioactive compounds such as limonene and flavonoids, which exhibit insecticidal and repellent properties. Eucalyptus oil (Eucalyptus globulus) contains cineole, a potent bioactive component known for its strong mosquito-repelling effects. The combination of these natural ingredients offers a sustainable alternative to synthetic repellents, reducing health and environmental concerns associated with chemical-based formulations The findings highlight the promise of orange peel and eucalyptus oil as cost-effective, biodegradable, and non-toxic alternatives for mosquito control. Further research on optimization, longevity, and large-scale production is recommended to enhance their practical applications.

Keywords: Mosquito repellent, Orange peel extract, Eucalyptus oil, Limonene, Natural insecticide.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Mosquitoes are one of the most notorious vectors of various life-threatening diseases, such as malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, chikungunya, and yellow fever, affecting millions of people worldwide.[2] The increasing incidence of mosquito-borne illnesses has intensified the demand for effective and long-lasting mosquito control measures. Traditionally, chemical-based repellents, particularly those containing **N**, **N-diethyl-meta-toluamide (DEET)**, have been widely used due to their strong repellent activity.[1] However, prolonged exposure to synthetic repellents has raised significant concerns regarding their potential health risks, including skin irritation, allergic reactions, neurotoxicity, and environmental contamination. Consequently, there is a growing shift toward **eco-friendly, plant-based mosquito repellents** that provide safe and sustainable alternatives.[1]

# PLANT BASED COMPOUNDS

Plant-derived compounds have long been recognized for their insect-repelling properties. Various essential oils and plant extracts have shown promising efficacy in repelling mosquitoes due to their high content of bioactive phytochemicals.[4] Among these, **orange peel (Citrus sinensis) and eucalyptus oil (Eucalyptus globulus)** have emerged as natural alternatives with significant potential for mosquito repellent formulations.[1]

# **MOSQUITO REPELLENCY ACTIVITY IN ORANGE PEEL AND EUCALYPTUS:**

Orange peel, a commonly discarded byproduct of the citrus industry, is an abundant and costeffective source of bioactive compounds such as **limonene**, **linalool**, **and flavonoids**, which have demonstrated strong insecticidal and repellent properties.[5],1,2,3 Limonene, in particular, has been identified as a potent bioactive compound with proven mosquito-repelling activity.[8] Orange is a rich source of essential oil paintings including limonene, which has been set up to have mosquito repelling rates. factory grounded repellents are fluently biodegradable and present no toxin dangers. When compared to manufactured substance natural substance, natural products are safer for humans.[4] As a result, the time has come to start a thorough study into natural stuff that are environmentally safe and can be used to manage insignificancy infestations. Different experimenters have discovered interference parcels of the phytochemicals attained from factory coffers, which can serve as larvicidal, nonentity development controllers, repellents, and ovipositional attractants. In numerous regions of the world natural factory medications have been employed for centuries to shield off or kill mosquitoes. The pressing need to probe phytochemicals as insignificancy repellents.[2]



Fig.1 Orange peel

[15]

# Limonene

Limonene is a colourless liquid aliphatic hydrocarbon classified as a cyclic monoterpene, and is the major component in the volatile oil of citrus fruit peels. The (+)- isomer, occurring more commonly in nature as the fragrance of oranges, is a flavoring agent in food manufacturing.[10],5,6,7,8 It is also used in chemical synthesis as a precursor to carvone and as a renewables-based solvent in cleaning products. The less common (-)-isomer has a piny, turpentine-like Odor, and is found in the edible parts of such plants as caraway, dill, and bergamot orange plants. Limonene takes its name from Italian Limone ("lemon").[16],6,8,9 Limonene is a chiral molecule, and biological sources produce one enantiomer: the principal industrial source, citrus fruit, contains (+)-limonene (d-limonene), which is the (R)-enantiomer. (+)-

Limonene is obtained commercially from citrus fruits through two primary methods: centrifugal separation or steam distillation.[1]

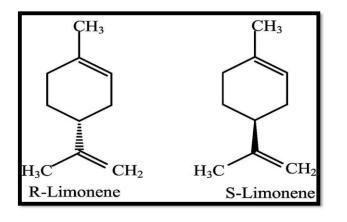


Fig.2 Structure of Limonene [12]

# Phytoconstituents in Orange Peel and Eucalyptus Oil

Plant-derived mosquito repellents are rich in bioactive phytochemicals that contribute to their effectiveness against insects. Orange peel (Citrus sinensis) and eucalyptus oil (Eucalyptus globulus) contain a variety of phytoconstituents with **insecticidal**, **repellent**, **and antimicrobial properties**. Below is a detailed breakdown of the key bioactive compounds present in these natural sources.[5]

# 1. Phytoconstituents in Orange Peel (Citrus sinensis)

Orange peel is a **rich source of essential oils, flavonoids, and terpenoids**, which exhibit strong mosquito-repelling activity.[9],7 Some of the major active compounds include:

# a) Monoterpenes (Essential Oil Components)

- Limonene (up to 90%) The dominant compound in orange peel oil, known for its insecticidal and repellent properties. It disrupts mosquito olfactory receptors, making it difficult for them to locate human hosts.[20]
- **Linalool** Exhibits strong insecticidal activity and acts as a fumigant, making it effective against mosquitoes and other insects.[21]
- **Myrcene** Has antimicrobial and insect-repelling properties, enhancing the overall efficacy of orange peel oil in repelling mosquitoes.[20]

b) Flavonoids

- **Hesperidin** A potent antioxidant and antimicrobial agent that contributes to the plant's defense mechanisms.[21]
- **Naringin** Known for its bioactivity, including insect-repelling and anti-inflammatory properties.[23]

c) Phenolic Compounds

• Caffeic Acid & Ferulic Acid – Exhibit antioxidant properties and may contribute to the protective effects against insect bites and oxidative stress.[24]

d) Alkaloids

• Synephrine – A natural stimulant that can deter insects and contribute to repellent effects.[6]

These are the other phytoconstituents present in the orange peel other than the limonene also has the mosquito repellence activity.[7]

# **Eucalyptus Oil**

On the other hand, eucalyptus oil is widely recognized for its **high cineole (eucalyptol) content**, which contributes to its strong insect-repelling characteristics. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved **oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE)** as an effective natural repellent, further supporting the efficacy of eucalyptus-derived compounds in repelling mosquitoes. [8]

Eucalyptus oil is extracted from the leaves of the eucalyptus plant through steam distillation. Eucalyptus oil is composed of various compounds in which these has mosquito repellent activity [3]

- 1. Eucalyptol (1,8-Cineole): A major component of eucalyptus oil, eucalyptol has insect repelling properties.[3],4,5
- 2. Camphor: A minor component of eucalyptus oil, camphor has insecticidal properties.
- 3. Limonene: A minor component of eucalyptus oil, limonene has insect-repelling properties.[4]



Fig 3. Eucalyptus leaves and oil [16]

# 2. Phytoconstituents in Eucalyptus Oil (Eucalyptus globulus)

Eucalyptus oil is widely used as a natural mosquito repellent due to its high content of volatile compounds, particularly **cineole-rich monoterpenes**.[28],,22,25 The major active constituents include:

# a) Monoterpenes (Primary Essential Oil Components)

- **1,8-Cineole (Eucalyptol) (70-85%)** The most abundant compound in eucalyptus oil, responsible for its strong mosquito-repelling activity. It interferes with mosquito olfactory receptors and has insecticidal properties.[30]
- α-Pinene & β-Pinene Monoterpenes with strong repellent activity against insects.[31]
- Limonene Also found in orange peel, it enhances the overall repellent efficacy.[31]

# b) Other Bioactive Compounds

- **Piperitone** A naturally occurring monoterpenoid with insecticidal properties.
- **Geraniol** Known for its strong insect-repelling and antimicrobial effects.[35]

# Piperitone and geraniol are the other constituents present in the eucalyptus oil also has the mosquito repellence activity.

# Synergistic Effect of Orange Peel and Eucalyptus Oil

When combined, the phytochemicals in orange peel and eucalyptus oil work **synergistically** to enhance their overall mosquito-repellent efficacy. The **high limonene content in orange peel** complements the **cineole-rich eucalyptus oil**, providing a dual mechanism of action:[8]

- 1. **Olfactory Disruption** The strong volatile aroma of these compounds confuses mosquitoes, making it difficult for them to detect human hosts.[48]
- 2. **Toxic Effects on Mosquitoes** Some of these compounds, such as limonene and cineole, have direct insecticidal effects, reducing mosquito populations over time.[38]

# Advancements in Formulation

New technologies like **microencapsulation and nanoencapsulation** can enhance the **stability**, **controlled release**, **and longevity** of essential oils, making natural repellents more effective.[37]

# **Expanding Applications**

These repellents can be used in **personal care**, **outdoor protection**, **agriculture**, **and veterinary applications**, increasing their market potential.[26]

# Sustainability and Waste Reduction

Using orange peel, a citrus industry byproduct, supports waste reduction and promotes biodegradable, plant-based solutions, aligning with green consumer preferences.[25]

# **Research and Innovation**

Future research will focus on synergistic plant formulations, clinical efficacy studies, and regulatory approvals to enhance product performance and market adoption.[12]

With advances in **technology**, **sustainability**, **and consumer demand**, mosquito repellent sprays containing **orange peel extract and eucalyptus oil** have **immense future potential** in creating safer, eco-friendly insect control solutions.[11]

# Conclusion

Both orange peel and eucalyptus oil are rich in potent phytoconstituents that contribute to their efficacy as natural mosquito repellents. The combination of **limonene**, **cineole**, **and other terpenoids** offers an eco-friendly, biodegradable, and non-toxic alternative to synthetic repellents like DEET. Further research on optimized formulations and delivery methods can enhance their effectiveness, making them a promising solution for mosquito control in public health and environmental sustainability. The future of mosquito repellent sprays is shifting towards **natural**, **eco-friendly alternatives** to replace synthetic chemicals. **Orange peel extract and eucalyptus oil** offer proven insect-repelling properties, making them sustainable options.

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