

## Characterization of the Toxic Activity of *Carica* seeds on the Larvae of the *Aedes aegypti*

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*Aedes aegypti* transmits etiologic agents of yellow fever and dengue. Vaccine for dengue virus is not available and vector control is essential to minimize dengue incidence. The aim of this work was the characterization of the toxic activity found in *Carica* seeds on the larvae of *A. aegypti*. Aqueous extracts 1% (p/v) of the seed tegument and cotyledon of *Carica* did not show larvicidal activity when tested separately. However, the mixture of both caused 100% of larval mortality at concentration of approximately 5mg/mL, in bioassay. The larval effect of the mixture lost its activity when the tegument extract was pretreated at 100 ° C, for 10 minutes. The crude extracts of seed tegument and cotyledon were separately submitted to a gel filtration chromatography on Sephadex G –25. The resulting fractions from each chromatography were assayed for larvicidal activity after being mixed and preincubated for 2 hours. The active substance was isolated by ethanol precipitation and HPLC chromatography and the results suggest a peptide nature. Thus, this work provides preliminary evidence of the potential larvicidal against *A. aegypti* in *Carica* seeds.

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