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Research Article

Formulation and Evaluation of Essential Oil Encapsulated Mosquito Repellent Gel

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Abstract

Mosquitoes can be found in almost every country. Many mosquito repellents have been introduced to the market in order to combat them. The mosquitos, on the other hand, developed a resistance to them. Not only that, but users are experiencing a variety of known and unknown negative side effects. As a result, a poly herbal insect repellent gel has been developed in an attempt to give dependable, long-lasting, and full protection from mosquito bites by destroying them. Three essential oils were included in the formulation of the mosquito repellent gel, as well as polymers such as tween 80, span 20, Carbopol 934, and triethanolamine. They were assessed based on their actions. Spreadability, viscosity, swelling index, and mosquito repellent activity were used to evaluate the prepared mosquito repellent gel. As acceptance criterion, all parameters received favorable responses. The rheological study and mosquito repellent activity are highly correlated. Although the results of the current trials are promising, there is still room for more pharmacokinetic research.

Keywords: Essential Oil, Emulsion Formulations, Gel, Mosquito Repellent Activity

INTRODUCTION:

Mosquitoes are among the most vexing bloodsucking insects that plague humans^{1, 2}. Several mosquito species from the genera Anopheles, Culex, and Aedes serve as vectors for pathogens associated with diseases such as Dengue fever, Malaria, Yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, and others³. Mosquitoes alone transmit diseases to over 700 million people, and over one million people die each year around the world. Four and five as a result, mosquito control is a major public health concern globally^{4, 5}.

Because the majority of mosquito repellent products and devices on the market have been reported to be harmful to humans, the goal of this study is to develop an effective essential oil-based mosquito repellent gel.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The selection of the plants was based on their availability as raw materials, scientific evidence and folkloric use as mosquito repellents. The essential were procured from local market of Lucknow.

Formulation Development:

A) Preparation of Emulsion:

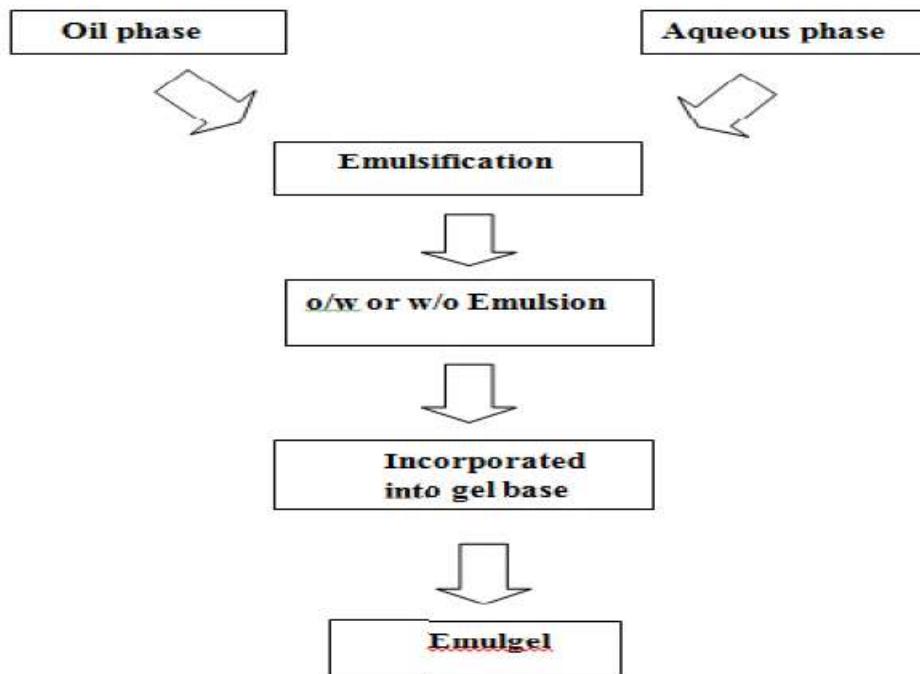
- 1) Firstly, take a 100 ml beaker and add 0.5 ml of lemon grass oil, 0.5 ml camphor oil and 0.5 ml eucalyptus oil.
- 2) Then add 1ml of span 20 in beaker and shake for few minutes.
- 3) Then taken another beaker (II) and add 1.5 ml of tween 80 and then add 3.5 ml distilled water in beaker (II) and shake for few minutes
- 4) Then beaker (II) sample add dropwise in beaker (I) and shake till the until clear transparent emulsion are not obtained.

B) Preparation of Gel Base:

- 1) Firstly, take 500 mg of Carbopol 934 was taken in a 500 ml beaker and 40 ml distilled water was added into the beaker.
- 2) Now the mixture was kept on mechanical stirrer for 1 hours.
- 3) Now add 2-3 drops of triethanolamine was added to clear and transparent gel was formed.

C) Preparation of Mosquito Repellent Gel: Firstly, take the prepared gel 40.5 gm in 500ml beaker and add prepared emulsion 7.5 ml then volume make up 50gm with distilled

water and stirrer for few minutes till a clear transparent gel was formed. Finally, the gel was placed into a plastic container, allowing for testing⁵.



Flow Chart 1: Formulation of Emulgel

Evaluation of Gels: Gels were evaluated for their clarity, pH, viscosity, spreadability, by using standard procedure. All studies were carried out in triplicate and average values were reported⁶.

A) Clarity: Visual assessment of several formulations against a black and white background was used to grade their clarity, which was graded as follows: turbid: +, clear: ++, very clear (glossy): +++.⁷

B) pH: 2.5 g of gel was weighed and mixed with 25 mL of distilled water. A digital pH meter was used to determine the dispersion's pH. (Systronics pH system 362).⁸

C) Homogeneity: After the gels had been placed in the container, they were visually inspected for homogeneity and any aggregates.⁶

D) Spreadability: It was determined by wooden block and glass slide apparatus and for the determination of spreadability excess of sample was applied in between two glass slides and was compressed to uniform thickness by placing 1000gm weight for 5 minutes. Weight (50 gm) was added to pan. The time required to separate the two slides, i.e. the time in which the upper glass slide moves over the lower plates was taken as measure of spreadability (S).⁶ This formula was used to calculate spreadability:

$$S = ML/T$$

Where, S= Spreadability, M= Weight tide to upper slide,

L= Length moved on the glass slide, T= Time taken to separate the slide completely from each other

E) Viscosity Measurement: The gels' viscosity was measured with a Brookfield Viscometer and a tiny sample adaptor with the spindle number SC4-18/13R. A torque ranging from 10% to 100% was applied to the gel. The viscosity was calculated using the software Rheocal.⁷

F) Extrudability: The Pfizer harness tester was used to conduct the extrudability test. In an aluminum tube, 15 gram of gel was placed. The plunger was adjusted to adequately grasp the tube. For 30 seconds, a pressure of 1 kg/cm² was applied. The amount of gel extruded was measured and weighed. The operation was done three times at equal distances along the tube. Test was carried out in triplicates.⁷

F) Swelling Index: Using 2 gm of dermal polyherbal gel in a beaker containing 10 ml distilled water, the swelling index of the gel was calculated. The swollen formulation was removed from the beaker and placed on a petridish after one hour (CEVC G, 2004). The swelling index was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Swelling index (Si)} = W_t - W_0 / W_t \times 100$$

Where, W_t = weight of swollen at t time, W₀ = original weight of gel at zero time.

G) Mosquito Repellent Activity: Initially, volunteers' forearms were carefully cleansed with soap and dried completely. The control was maintained within the mosquito cage using the left arm. Within 30 seconds, the frequency of the vector settled on the forearm. The investigation began when the mosquitoes landed in groups of more than ten. After 30 seconds, the arm was carefully withdrawn from the mosquito cage, and the right arm was wiped with mosquito repellent gel formulation, and the trial was repeated after 30, 60, 120, 240, and 480 minutes, in the same manner. The number of mosquitos that landed was counted and compared to a positive control group (Transfluthrin).⁹ The study was performed in triplicate manner.

H) Accelerated Stability Studies: The For 90 days, the improved formulation was exposed to accelerated stability (40°C 2°C temperature; 75 percent 5 percent relative humidity). The prepared gel formulation was stored in a PVC

container with a black foil covering. Physical appearance, pH, readability, viscosity, and extrudability were considered as key characteristics¹⁰.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physical Appearance of Essential Oil:

1. Lemon grass oil

- Appearance: Pale yellow to yellow clear liquid
- Colour: Pale yellow to yellow
- Odour: Odourless
- Taste: Pungent

2. Camphor oil

- Appearance: White Liquid

- Colour: Fragrant and Penetrating

- Odour: White Translucent crystal

3. Eucalyptus oil

- Appearance: Pale yellow Liquid-oil
- Odour: Camphoraceous odour
- Colour: Colorless to pale yellow liquid
- Taste: Pungent, spicy, cooling taste

FTIR Study: FTIR Spectra of Eucalyptus oil, Camphor oil and Lemongrass oil in their pure form was recorded. The FTIR spectrum of essential oil are shown in figure 1, 2 and 3. The IR spectrum interpretation of essential oil (Eucalyptus oil, Camphor oil and Lemongrass oil) is given in Table 1, 2, 3.

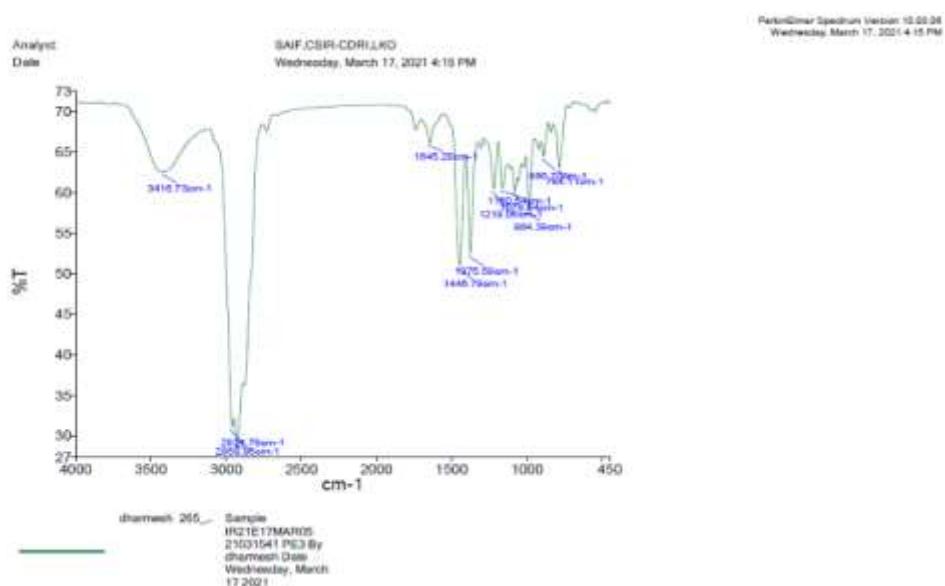


Figure 1: FTIR of Eucalyptus oil

Table 1: Interpretation of FTIR of Eucalyptus oil

S. No.	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
1	3416.73	-OH Stretching
2	2959.95	-CH ₂ asymmetric stretching
3	1645.20	C-C binding with aromatic ring stretching
4	1446.78	Alkene type stretching
5	1375.59	C=C stretch
6	784.11	C-OH out of plane bending

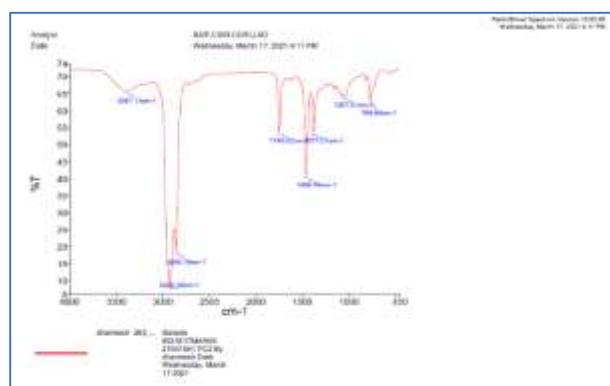
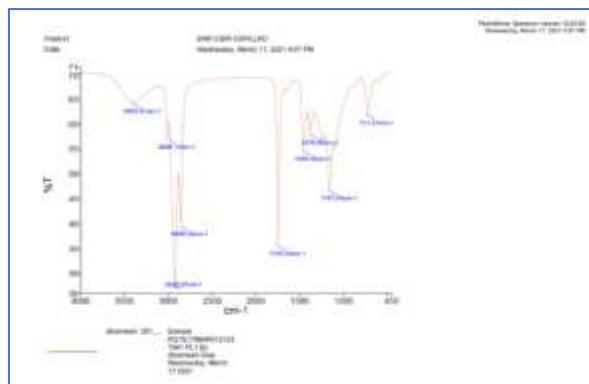


Figure 2: FTIR of Camphor oil

Table 2: Interpretation of FTIR of Camphor

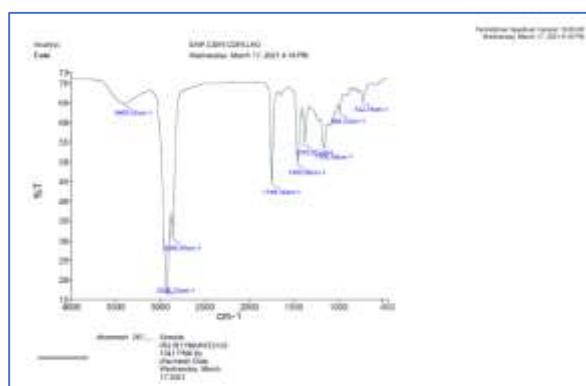
S. No.	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
1	3387.13	-OH Stretching
2	2924.28	-CH ₂ asymmetric stretching
3	1746.62	C-C binding with aromatic ring stretching
4	1458.79	Alkene type stretching
5	1377.01	C=C stretch
6	766.88	C-OH out of plane bending

**Figure 3: FTIR of Lemongrass****Table 3: Interpretation of FTIR of Lemongrass oil**

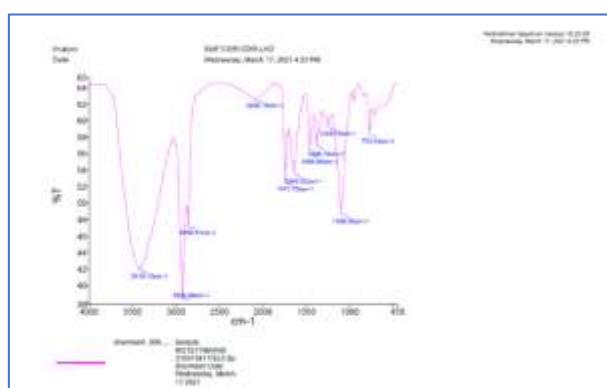
S. No.	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
1	3403.01	-OH Stretching
2	2926.07	-CH ₂ asymmetric stretching
3	1745.34	C-C binding with aromatic ring stretching
4	1458.49	Alkene type stretching
5	1161.94	C=C stretch
6	721.47	C-OH out of plane bending

FTIR spectrum showed characteristic peaks and bands which are representing the presence of functional groups which help in the identification of the drug. These bending and stretching in the FTIR spectrum expressed the structure of camphor oil, lemon grass oil and eucalyptus oil and the presence of functional groups in the active moiety which would be responsible for the characteristics of the drug, and it would also act as a helping tool for the identification of camphor oil, lemon grass oil and eucalyptus oil.

Compatibility Study of Essential Oil: Principle peaks of essential oil were observed retained; broadening of peaks may be due to overlapping of peaks of polymer system. From the spectral study it was observed that the FTIR spectrum of pure essential oil (camphor oil, eucalyptus oil, lemongrass oil) there was no significant change in the peaks essential oil polymer mixture. Therefore, it can be inferred that there was no specific interaction observed between the essential oil and the polymers.

**Figure 4: FTIR of mixture of Essential oils****Table 4: Interpretation of FTIR of mixture of Essential oils**

S. No.	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
1	3405.42	-OH Stretching
2	2925.07	-CH ₂ asymmetric stretching
3	1746.18	C-C binding with aromatic ring stretching
4	1376.62	Alkene type stretching
5	1160.56	C=C stretch
6	722.75	C-OH out of plane bending

**Figure 5: FTIR Study of emulsion****Table 5: Interpretation of FTIR of emulsion**

S. No.	Frequency (cm ⁻¹)	Assignments
1	3416.18	-OH Stretching
2	2858.51	-CH ₂ asymmetric stretching
3	2086.16	C-C binding with aromatic ring stretching
4	1380.18	Alkene type stretching
5	1248.78	C=C stretch
6	770.43	C-OH out of plane bending

FORMULATION DEVELOPMENT:

A) Preparation of Emulsion: Various types of essential oil was used for the preparation of emulsion. List of ingredient show Table 6.

Table 6: Formulation of Emulsion 3%

S. No.	Chemicals	Quantity
1	Lemongrass oil	0.5 ml
2	Camphor oil	0.5 ml
3	Eucalyptus oil	0.5 ml
4	Tween 80	1.5 ml
5	Span 20	1 ml
6	Distilled Water	3.5 ml

B) Preparation of Gel Base: Formulation of gel base with the Carbopol and triethanolamine for the development of mosquito repellent gel.

Table 7: Formulation of Gel Base I

S. No.	Chemicals	Quantity
1	Carbopol 934	0.5 gm
2	Triethanolamine	Few drops
3	Distilled water	40 ml

Table 8: Formulation of Gel Base II

S. No.	Chemicals	Quantity
1	Carbopol 934	1.0 gm
2	Triethanolamine	Few drops
3	Distilled water	40 ml

Table 9: Formulation of Gel Base III

S. No.	Chemicals	Quantity
1	Carbopol 934	1.5 gm
2	Triethanolamine	Few drops
3	Distilled water	40 ml

C) Preparation of Mosquito repellent Gel: Preparation of mosquito repellent gel with the help of gel base and emulsion.

Table 10: Formulation of Mosquito Repellent Gel

S. No.	Chemicals	Quantity
1	Prepared gel	40.5 gm
2	Emulsion	7.5 ml
3	Distilled water	q.s

**Figure 6: Gel base****EVALUATION OF GELS:**

A) Clarity: The Carbopol 934 gels were found to be gleaming and clear. There were no particles in any of the gels at all shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Clarity of Gel

S. No.	Formulation	Clarity
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	++
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	+++
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	++

Note: + Satisfactory, ++ Good, +++ Excellent

B) pH: All Carbopol gel formulations tested had pH values ranging from 6.3 to 6.38 (shown in Table 12).

**Figure 7: pH study of gel****Table 12: pH of Gel**

S. No.	Formulation	pH
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	6.31
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	6.38
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	6.45

C) Homogeneity: There were no lumps in any of the created materials. The final products were significantly clearer and more transparent.

Table 13: Homogeneity of Gel

S. No.	Formulation	Homogeneity
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	Good
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	Good
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	Good

D) Spreadability: The value of spreadability indicates that the gel is easily spreadable by small amount of shear. Spreadability of Carbopol 934 in the range 18.76 -25.56 g.cm/sec indicating Spreadability of Carbopol 934 containing mosquito repellent gel was good (shown in Table 14).



Figure 8: Spreadability study of gel

Table 14: Spreadability of Gel

S. No.	Formulation	Spreadability
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	18.76
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	21.76
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	25.65

E) Viscosity measurement: The viscosity of formulated mosquito repellent gel was measured using a Brookfield viscometer. The rheological behavior of all formulated gels systems was studied. In gel system, consistency depends on the ratio of solid fraction, which produces the structure to liquid fraction. Viscosity of formulated mosquito repellent gels was found in range of 4456-4776 centipoises.

Table 17: Repellency Bioassay

Sample name	Sample C***	Normal Control	Positive Control
Time (min)	Repellency (%) \pm Mean SD	Repellency (%) \pm Mean SD	Repellency (%) \pm Mean SD
0	0.0 \pm 0.00	0.0 \pm 0.00	0.0 \pm 0.00
15	0.0 \pm 0.00	0.0 \pm 0.00	40.66 \pm 2.89
30	14.0 \pm 7.63	4.0 \pm 0.00	65.33 \pm 2.86
45	20.0 \pm 5.00	4.0 \pm 0.00	95.0 \pm 0.00
60	51.0 \pm 2.44	4.0 \pm 0.00	100.0 \pm 0.00

Positive control = Transfluthrin conc. (0.88 % w/w) (Dose = 10 μ l/ml on cardboard sheet)

***SAMPLE C CARDBOARD SIZE: L x B= 2.9 x 2.4 cms

H) Stability Studies: The drug content was analyzed and there was a marginal difference between the formulations stored at different temperatures as shown in Table 18. Mosquito repellent gel formulations retained good stability throughout the study.

Table 18: Stability Studies

Parameters	Initial	1 month	2 months	3 months
pH	6.38	6.35	6.33	6.30
Spreadability	21.76	21.74	21.70	21.70
Viscosity	4456	4450	4448	4446

Table 15: Viscosity of Gel

S. No.	Formulation	Viscosity
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	4776
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	4456
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	4567

F) Extrudability: The extrusion of the gel from the tube is an important during its application and in patient acceptance. Gels with high consistency may not extrude from tube whereas, low viscous gels may flow quickly, and hence suitable consistency is required in order to extrude the gel from the tube. Carbopol gel compositions were found to have good extrudability.

Table 16: Extrudability of Gel

S. No.	Formulation	Extrudability
1	Mosquito repellent gel (0.5%)	++
2	Mosquito repellent gel (1.0%)	+++
3	Mosquito repellent gel (1.5%)	++

Note: + Satisfactory, ++ Good, +++ Excellent

G) Mosquito Repellent Bioassay: The number of mosquitoes that aligned/left and aligned/bit the participants' treated portions of legs within 6 hours is shown in Table 17.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings of this study, proper essential oil selection was a requirement for creating and creating a mosquito repellent. According to the IR investigations, the polymer chosen, Carbopol 934, was proven to be compatible with the necessary Mosquito repellent gel. The pH, viscosity and spreadability, of the gel were found to be affected by different polymer concentrations. When Mosquito repellent gel Carbopol 934 is used with essential oil, patients experience better and faster results. The rate of penetration is increased by increasing the concentration of essential oil to its optimum concentration.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Nil

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