

Efficacy of Aloe vera gel and Water-leaf Extract for Removal of Egg Adhesiveness During Artificial Propagation of African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*, Burchel 1822)

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Abstract follow the plan of a ScienceDomain abstract: Aims, Study design, Place and Duration of Study, Methodology, results and conclusion

The present study has been focused on the optimum concentration and immersion period of Aloe vera gel and water leaf extract that efficiently removed adhesiveness of *C. gariepinus* eggs. The results revealed that 1% (10mls) of waterleaf extract with 1 minute immersion period gave the lowest eggs sticky rate, highest fertilization, hatchability and survival of *C. gariepinus*. In view of this, elimination of stickiness of *C. gariepinus* eggs using waterleaf extract with 1% concentration level at 1 minute immersion period is therefore recommended to fish hatcheries operators/ fish breeders because of the effective, quick, simple technology and at affordable price than other methods. Urea solution which served as the reference de-adhesion agent was not different from waterleaf in term of hatching and survival however, it is more expensive. Waterleaf extract is therefore recommended for its efficacy, efficiency, cost effectiveness, availability, handling and processing.

Comment [AP1]: This is not the result but the recommendation. It should appear at the end of the abstract

Comment [AP2]: is it a result here?

Keywords: *Clarias gariepinus*, Artificial Propagation, Egg Adhesiveness, Aloe vera gel.

Introduction

Aquaculture has evolved as the fastest growing sector of agriculture in the world (1). It is perceived as a means of protein security, poverty alleviation, economic and community development for the populace in many developing countries (2). African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* is considered as one of the most economically important culturable freshwater fish species that dominated local fish production in developing countries like Nigeria (3). The species is known for its favourable food conversion, resistance to diseases, excellent food meat quality (4), possibility for high stocking density under culture conditions and can tolerate wide ranges of environmental conditions (5). *C. gariepinus* is easily induced for breeding activity in the hatchery, and possess high feed efficiency and utilization (6). However, egg adhesiveness of *C. gariepinus* is one of the problems affecting hatching and cause high larval mortality which discourage Nigeria fish farmers (7). This problem is probably due to the demersal nature of catfishes eggs which becomes sticky after encountering water thereby adhering themselves to substrata (8). This problem can be solved either by rinsing the eggs of *C. gariepinus* with certain solutions or coat the eggs with certain powders. For instance, (9) used urea solution to removed egg stickiness of *Clarias gariepinus* for 1 minute. Pineapple juice solution had effectively reduces stickiness of *Heterobranchus bidosalis* eggs for about 3 minutes (10), tannic acids have also been used as rinsing agent in

44 himri barbel, *Barbus luteus* (11) and enzymes (α -Chymotrypsin and Alcalase) in the common
45 carp (12). Aloe Vera and waterleaf (*Aloe barbadensis* and *Talinum triangulare*) are readily
46 available plants that contain many antioxidants, polysaccharides, minerals, proteins, enzymes
47 vitamins (13; 14). To date, no study has been done to remove adhesiveness of the African
48 catfish eggs using these plants. Therefore, this study focused on the optimum concentration
49 and immersion period of Aloe vera gel and water leaf extract that efficiently removed
50 adhesiveness of *C. gariepinus* eggs.

51 **Materials and Methods** I propose you to divided your text into numbered sections with
52 brief headings. Starting from introduction with section 1. subsections should be
53 numbered (for example 2.1 (then 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, etc.), up to three levels.

54 Study Zone?

55 **Fish Holding Facility**

56 Apparently healthy male and female *C. gariepinus* weighing 1.0 kg and 1.3 kg, respectively
57 were procured from a reputable fish farm in Akure prior to the commencement of the
58 experiment. Selected broodstocks were kept in separate holding tanks (40 x 30 x 35cm³)
59 containing aerated water on the farm where they were acclimatized and fed with commercial
60 diet for five days prior to exposure period. The brooders were starved for 24 hours before the
61 commencement of the breeding exercise.

62 **Plants collection and identification**

63 Aloe vera plant were collected at Alaba hostel around The Federal University of Technology,
64 Akure, while fresh waterleaf plants were collected within the Teaching and Research Fish
65 Farm, FUTA. They and were identified as *Aloe barbadensis* and *Talinum triangulare*,
66 respectively by a Botanist in the Department of Crop, Soil and Pest Management, FUTA
67 before transported to the experimental site.

Comment [AP3]: Too long sentence

68 **Processing of Plants to Form Aqueous Extract**

69 Aloe vera leaves were thoroughly washed with clean water, the serrated edges of the plants
70 were cut and the green barks were stripped off with the use of a sharp knife. The bitter yellow
71 latex was carefully skimmed out with the knife into a clean transparent nylon and put inside
72 boiled water (45°C). The gel gradually melted to form colourless liquid as the water
73 temperature decreases.

74 Waterleaf leaves were washed free from dust, soil, organic and inorganic matters under a
75 running tap. The leaf was plucked without the stem and the extract was squeezed out using
76 an electrical blender and a muslin bag. The greenish extract gotten was stored in a dry, clean
77 air tight transparent plastic container, labelled and refrigerated at 4°C

78 **Rinse solution preparation**

79 Three different concentrations of rinse solution were used in this experiment namely. The
80 aqueous solution of Aloe vera and waterleaf was prepared into the percentages
81 (concentrations) as follows:

Comment [AP4]: I do not understand well did you mix 2 gels to form a single aqueous solution? yet you do not have to because of the title. What is the role of waterleaf in this study?

82 1% = 1.0ml of aqueous aloe vera gel in 99ml of water.

83 3% = 3.0ml of aqueous aloe vera gel in 97ml of water.

84 5% = 5.0ml of aqueous aloe vera gel in 95ml of water.

85 **Preparation of Urea Solution (Reference de-adhesion???, agent)**

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87 Urea/NaCl solution that served as reference de-adhesion agent was prepared by diluting 2g of
88 urea in 4g NaCl into one litres of water.

89 Water without any of the extracts served as the control.

90 **Preparation of Spawning Bowls**

91 Fifty six spawning bowls of 4 litres capacity labelled according to the inclusion levels of the
92 treatments (1%, 3% and 5%), control and urea/NaCl as well as the immersion periods
93 (1mins, 3_mins and 5_mins). The bowls were filled with 100_mls of water (control), 99_mls
94 of water (1%), 97_mls of water (3%) and 95_mls of water (5%) respectively.

95 **Sperm and Egg Collections**

96 Female brooder was injected with ovaprim at angle 45° with the needle pointing towards the
97 gonad region. The injected brooder was kept inside separate plastic tanks containing water
98 and tightly covered with perforated lid to prevent it from jumping out. After latency period
99 of 12 hours, the female was squeezed abdominally to collect the eggs inside a clean bowl.
100 Then the testes of the male was removed by abdominal dissection and cleaned with a towel
101 and milt was gently squeezed out and collected in a beaker. Milt collected was then mixed
102 with small quantity of saline solution.

103 **Rinsing Procedure**

104 1g of the striped eggs was carefully weighed and each measured eggs was fertilized with the
105 prepared milt. The eggs were randomly rinsed inside the spawning bowls containing varying
106 concentration of aloe vera and water leaf extract, and left for 1, 3, 5 minutes, respectively in
107 the experimental bowls (in duplicates). After completion of each duration period, the
108 concentrated water were decanted, eggs were replaced with clean aerated water and left to
109 incubate in the spawning bowls. control and urea/NaCl do not receive the same treatment?

110 **Non-adhesive, Incubating Period, Hatching and Percentage Survival Examination**

111 Percentage non-adhesive egg, incubation period, hatching and survival were assessed to
112 determine the efficacy and efficiency of Aloe vera gel and waterleaf on egg adhesiveness.
113 The parameters assessed were computed according to the method described by Adebayo
114 (2006).

115 **Non- adhesive eggs (%)** = number of non – adhesive egg/initial number of eggs × 100

116 **Hatchability (%)** = number of egg hatched/Total number of eggs counted × 100

117 **Survival (%)** = number of hatchling/Total number of hatchling × 100

118 **Data analysis**

119 All percentage data at different concentrations and immersion periods were subjected to
120 multivariate Analysis of Variance test. Also, Tukey multiple range tests was used as a follow
121 up procedure. Polynomial regression analysis was then used to determine the best
122 concentration and immersion period that effectively removed egg adhesiveness during
123 artificial propagation at 0.05 significance level.

124 **Results** I propose you to divided your text into numbered sections with brief headings.
125 Starting from introduction with section 1. subsections should be numbered (for example
126 2.1 (then 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, etc.), up to three levels.

127 Result of eggs of *C. gariipinus* exposed to varying concentrations and immersion periods of
128 Aloe vera gel is shown in table 1. Eggs of *C. gariipinus* in varying concentrations and
129 immersion periods of Aloe vera gel showed no significant effect on the non-adhesive eggs

130 ($P>0.05$). Eggs of *C. gariepinus* immersed in water was significantly different ($P<0.05$) from
131 the non-adhesive eggs of *C. gariepinus* exposed to Urea solution and Aloe vera gel.
132 However, Urea solution and Aloe vera were not significantly different ($p>0.05$) from one
133 another. Incubation period of *C. gariepinus* was not affected by the varying concentrations
134 and immersion periods of Aloe vera gel. Hatching was fast in eggs exposed to Aloe vera gel
135 compared to the reference de-adhesion agent. However statistically, eggs of *C. gariepinus* in
136 control and urea solution are not significantly different ($p>0.05$) from one another
137 Percentage hatchability and survival showed that hatching rate and hatched larvae increases
138 with increasing concentration and immersion period of Aloe vera gel. This result was not
139 significantly different ($p>0.05$) from percentage hatchability of urea solution However,
140 percentage hatched larvae in the control group were significantly different from percentage
141 hatchability of urea solution and aloe vera gel. Eggs immersed in 1% concentration of Aloe
142 vera gel did not hatch out due to high stickiness.

143 **Table 1:** Percentages of non-adhesive eggs, hatchability, survival and incubation period of Aloe vera gel, Urea solution and water.

144	Rinsing Agents	Concentration (%)	Immersion time(mins)	Non-adhesive eggs (%)	Incubation period (mins)	Hatching (%)	Survival (%)
145	Water(Control)			19.00±1.73 ^b	1515±5.00 ^a	17.93±3.15 ^b	16.00±2.00 ^b
146	Aloe vera	1%	1	72.16±3.39 ^a	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00
147			3	68.23±4.69 ^a	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00
148			5	66.93±5.70^a	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00
149	Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	1%	1	75.70±3.39 ^a	1524±6.00 ^a	22.85±3.16 ^b	10.91±1.53^b
150			3	70.16±7.85 ^a	1511±0.50 ^a	29.00±0.08 ^b	15.52±0.89 ^b
151			5	58.00±1.53^a	1509±4.00 ^a	22.00±1.69^b	20.29±1.96 ^b
152	Aloe vera	3%	1	81.31±5.00 ^a	1454±4.00 ^a	12.97±1.80 ^b	0.00±0.00
153			3	77.54±5.39 ^a	1488±8.00 ^a	11.77±0.38 ^b	0.00±0.00
154			5	78.00±1.23 ^a	1509±1.00 ^a	13.08±0.16 ^b	0.00±0.00
155	Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	3%	1	81.47±1.15 ^a	1524±9.00 ^a	23.08±0.62 ^b	15.17±1.07 ^b
156			3	77.16±8.39 ^a	1525±10.0 ^a	47.85±0.46 ^a	41.58±4.60 ^a
157			5	73.34±5.34 ^a	1563±2.50 ^a	43.31±0.39 ^a	41.66±1.66 ^a
158	Aloe vera	5%	1	79.92±4.84 ^a	1511±1.00 ^a	11.23±0.92^b	5.53±1.53^b
159			3	83.00±1.15^a	1509±1.00 ^a	41.47±1.93 ^a	29.91±5.72 ^a
160			5	73.00±0.85 ^a	1575±3.00 ^a	49.31±2.55 ^a	39.78±0.88^a
161	Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	5%	1	79.24±3.85 ^a	1521±12.50 ^a	27.54±0.78 ^b	23.46±1.43 ^b
162			3	81.54±2.77 ^a	1530±0.00 ^a	32.08±4.23 ^{ab}	27.39±2.50 ^{ab}
163			5	84.85±4.70^a	1521±12.50 ^a	50.23±5.77^a	49.25±3.83^a

The mean values in the same column with different superscripts were significantly different (P<0.05)

161 Result of eggs of *C. gariepinus* exposed to varying concentrations and immersion
162 periods of waterleaf extract is shown in table 2. Percentage non-adhesive eggs exposed
163 to waterleaf and urea solution were not significantly different ($p>0.05$) from one another.
164 Detachment of eggs reduces in waterleaf and urea solution with increasing
165 concentration. However, detachment of eggs in waterleaf and urea solution were
166 significantly different ($p<0.05$) . Hatching was delayed in eggs exposed to waterleaf
167 extract and were significantly different ($p<0.05$) from both the reference de-adhesive
168 agent and the control. Incubation across the different concentration levels and immersion
169 periods were similar and there was no significant difference ($p<0.05$). Incubation periods
170 of eggs in urea solution and water were not significantly different ($p>0.05$) from each
171 other but waterleaf was significantly different from both urea solution and water
172 (control) ($p<0.05$). Percentage hatching decreases with increasing concentrations of
173 waterleaf extract. Percentage hatched larvae in waterleaf extract at 1 % concentration
174 and 1 minute immersion period was significantly different ($p<0.05$) from the control and
175 other rinsing agents at varying concentrations and immersion periods.
176 Hatched larvae that survived in waterleaf with concentration of 1% were not
177 significantly different from hatched larvae that survived in urea solution with
178 concentrations of 3% and 5% with immersion periods of 3 minutes and 5 minutes,
179 respectively. There was no significant difference ($p>0.05$) at the concentration levels and
180 immersion periods of larvae that survived in waterleaf extract but there was significant
181 difference across the immersion periods ($p<0.05$) in the larvae that survived in urea
182 solution.

183 **Table 2:** Percentages of non-adhesive eggs, hatchability, survival and incubation period of waterleaf extract, Urea solution
 184 and water.

Rinsing Agents	Concentration (%)	Time (minute)	Non-adhesive eggs (%)	Incubation period	Hatching (%)	Survival (%)
Water (Control)			19.00±1.73 ^c	1515±5.00 ^a	17.93±3.15 ^c	16.00±2.00 ^b
Waterleaf	1%	1	93.77±4.08 ^a	1673±2.50 ^b	70.59±1.23 ^a	48.09±6.53 ^a
		3	88.16±3.70 ^a	1603±2.50 ^b	48.81±0.95 ^b	40.00±7.54 ^a
		5	78.16±5.85 ^a	1432±2.00 ^b	36.92±1.23 ^b	32.95±0.37 ^a
Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	1%	1	75.70±3.39 ^a	1524±6.00 ^a	22.85±3.16 ^c	10.91±1.53 ^b
		3	70.16±7.85 ^a	1511±0.50 ^a	29.00±0.08 ^{bc}	15.52±0.89 ^b
		5	58.00±1.53 ^b	1509±4.00 ^a	22.00±1.69 ^c	20.29±1.96 ^b
Waterleaf	3%	1	83.24±0.16 ^a	1605±2.50 ^b	29.39±0.77 ^{bc}	16.90±1.78 ^b
		3	58.85±1.93 ^b	1613±2.50 ^b	24.77±0.92 ^c	17.33±1.55 ^b
		5	60.70±1.31 ^{ab}	1678±2.50 ^b	22.46±2.00 ^c	16.70±0.23 ^b
Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	3%	1	81.47±1.15 ^a	1524±9.00 ^a	23.08±0.62 ^c	15.17±1.07 ^b
		3	77.16±8.39 ^a	1525±10.0 ^a	47.85±0.46 ^b	41.58±4.60 ^a
		5	73.34±5.34 ^a	1563±2.50 ^a	43.31±0.39 ^b	41.66±1.66 ^a
Waterleaf	5%	1	63.10±2.69 ^{ab}	1462±2.50 ^b	1.54±0.31 ^d	3.08±1.07 ^c
		3	61.47±0.54 ^{ab}	1474±0.00 ^b	0.16±0.16 ^d	0.08±0.08 ^c
		5	63.93±5.31 ^{ab}	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00	0.00±0.00
Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	5%	1	79.24±3.85 ^a	1521±12.50 ^a	27.54±0.78 ^c	23.46±1.43 ^b
		3	81.54±2.77 ^a	1530±0.00 ^a	32.08±4.23 ^b	27.39±2.50 ^{ab}
		5	84.85±4.70 ^a	1521±12.50 ^a	50.23±5.77 ^b	49.25±6.64 ^a

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185 The mean values in the same column with different superscripts were significantly different (P>0.05).

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187 The concentration and immersion period that performed best in all the rising agents were compared in order to determine the best extract,
 188 concentration and immersion period that reduced egg stickiness of *C. garipepinus* as shown in table 3.

189

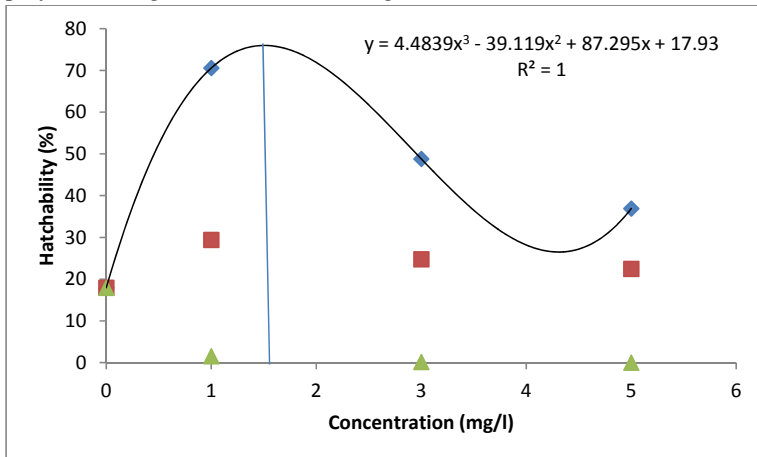
190 Table 3: The main effect of varying concentration against immersion periods of aloe vera, waterleaf extract and urea solution on the
 191 removal of *C. gariepinus* egg adhesiveness.

Rinsing Agents	Concentration (%)	Time (minute)	Non-adhesive eggs (%)	Incubation period (minutes)	Hatching (%)	Survival (%)
Water			19.00±3.00 ^c	1515±5.00 ^a	17.93±3.15 ^c	16.00±2.00 ^b
Urea (Reference de-adhesion agent)	5	5	84.85±4.70 ^{ab}	1521±12.50 ^a	50.23±5.77 ^{ab}	49.25±3.83 ^a
Aloe vera gel	5	5	73.00 ± 0.85 ^b	1515±3.00 ^a	49.31±2.55 ^b	39.78±0.88 ^a
Waterleaf extract	1	1	93.77±4.08 ^a	1673±2.50 ^b	70.59±1.23 ^a	48.09±6.53 ^a

The mean values in the same column with different superscript is significantly different (P<0.05).

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 193
 194

195 The optimum concentration that can efficiently remove egg adhesiveness and increase hatching
196 in *C. gariepinus* using waterleaf extract was observed at concentration of 1.6% using 3rd order
197 polynomial regression as shown in figure 1.



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199

200 **Figure 1: The Optimum Concentration of Waterleaf Extract used as de-adhesive agent**
201 **during artificial propagation of *C. gariepinus***

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204 The highest number of non-adhesive eggs was observed in waterleaf extract at 1.6%
205 concentration which was significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from aloe vera gel and the control but
206 not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from urea solution. Percentage non- adhesive eggs in urea
207 solution was not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from eggs immersed in aloe vera gel but
208 significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from eggs immersed in the control. Incubation period in water
209 leaf was significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from the other two rinsing agents and control, however,
210 urea solution was not significantly different from the control and aloe vera gel. Highest hatched
211 larvae was recorded in group exposed to waterleaf which was not significantly different
212 ($p > 0.05$) from group exposed to urea solution but significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from the
213 control group and aloe vera gel. Survived hatched larvae in the three rinsing agents were not
214 significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from one another but survived larvae in the control group were
215 significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from all the rinsing agents used in the experiment.

216 Waterleaf extract efficiently removed egg adhesiveness of *C. gariepinus* at concentration of 1%
217 and within short period of 1 minute, It gave the best egg detachment although statistically, it was
218 not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from urea. Aloe vera gel and urea were not significantly
219 different ($p > 0.05$) from each another but waterleaf extract is significantly different ($p < 0.05$)
220 from Aloe vera. The control gave the least egg detachment and was significantly different from
221 all the treatments ($p < 0.05$). Hatchability was highest in waterleaf extract followed by urea but
222 they were not significantly different from one another ($p < 0.05$). Aloe vera gel and urea solution

223 | were not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from each other but waterleaf was significantly
224 | different from Aloe vera and control

225 | The control had the least number of larvae that survived at the end of the experiment and it was
226 | significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from other treatments. Highest survival rate was recorded in
227 | urea solution followed by waterleaf and Aloe vera but they were not significantly different
228 | ($p > 0.05$) from one another. The de-adhesive agents used in the experiment had no significant
229 | ($p > 0.05$) effect on the incubation period except waterleaf in which hatching was delayed.

230 | **Discussion I propose you to divided your text into numbered sections with brief headings.**
231 | **Starting from introduction with section 1. subsections should be numbered (for example**
232 | **2.1 (then 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, etc.), up to three levels.**

233 | This finding revealed that eggs detachment increases as the concentration and immersion period
234 | increased, at 5% concentration with immersion period of 5 minutes, Aloe vera gel effectively
235 | reduced *C. gariepinus* egg stickiness. This reduction could be attributed to the presence of
236 | alkaline protease which is one of the active ingredients in Aloe vera gel. (15) Used Alkaline
237 | protease at its highest concentration and immersion period to remove egg adhesiveness and
238 | increase hatching in Walleye (*Sander vitreus*). Urea was not significantly different from Aloe
239 | vera gel, enhanced hatching rate, this result is similar to the result obtained by (16) and (17)
240 | during the use of urea to reduce stickiness of carp eggs. The present study indicates that the
241 | optimal time needed to rinse the African catfish eggs was 5 minutes using Aloe vera and urea
242 | solution which does not conform to the finding of (9) in that the optimal time needed to rinse
243 | African cat fish eggs was one minute. The result gotten from the percentage non-adhesive eggs
244 | showed the adhesive elimination was not successful for all the groups of eggs in Aloe vera gel,
245 | at concentration of 1%, *C. gariepinus* eggs stick together. Hence, egg stickiness was not
246 | effectively reduced by Aloe vera gel and urea solution.

Comment [AP5]: Which do you mixed aloe vera and waterleaf?

247 | Incubation period is directly affected by temperature and exposure period (18). Temperature of
248 | eggs immersed in Aloe vera and urea solution ranged from 27.4°C and 28.8°C which falls within
249 | the temperature range stated by (19), in that the best temperature for *C. gariepinus* hatching is
250 | between the range of 23.89°C -29.44°C.

Comment [AP6]: you have a problem under discussion. you do not explain your results but compare them only to those of other authors. Tell why your results are different or similar to those of other researchers

251 | In most cultured species such as *C. gariepinus*, hatching rate is an important criterion to
252 | evaluate the efficacy of artificial reproduction (20). Result from the current study showed that
253 | hatching rate increases with increasing concentration and immersion period of Aloe vera gel
254 | and urea solution. However, this is in contrast with the findings of (8) who reported that the
255 | hatching rates decreased as urea concentration increases. The percentage survival increased with
256 | an increase in immersion period. This result was not in agreement with the result of (21) who
257 | reported that survival decreases with an increase in concentration level in formalin. The high
258 | concentration and immersion period of Aloe vera that support survival depict that this plant is
259 | not harmful to *C. gariepinus*.

Comment [AP7]: is there an explanation for these contradictory results? this is called the discussion. you have a problem under discussion.

260 | Waterleaf extract was effective in reducing egg stickiness at the lowest concentration of 1%
261 | (10ml) with shortest immersion period of 1 minute. The reduction in the stickiness may be due
262 | to the presence of tannic acid in waterleaf which is a good agent that reduces stickiness.

263 Although the percentage non adhesive eggs contradict (22) who reported that the application of
264 low concentration of tannic acid solution for a short exposure period is not effective to reduced
265 egg stickiness.

266 Incubation period of eggs immersed in waterleaf extract were delayed. This delay may be due to
267 the presence of nitrate concentrations present in waterleaf. (23) reported that high nitrate
268 concentrations delay hatching in fish eggs.

269 Waterleaf at 1% concentration and immersion period of 1minute gave the highest hatchability
270 and with a prolong exposure period of 5 minutes, hatchability decreases. Hatchability was
271 successful in groups exposed to waterleaf due to the presence of tannin and tannic acid in
272 waterleaf. A similar recommendation was proposed by (24) that the application of tannin
273 solution with immersion period of 1min in pikeperch eggs gave the highest hatching rate of
274 95%. Asraf *et al.*, 2013 used urea solution to removed egg stickiness of *Clarias gariepinus* for
275 1minute. Thai *et al.*,2004 observed hatching rate of 70.2% of hatching in common carp when
276 treated with salt/urea/tannin for 1minute. Thus, the decrease in hatching rate may be due to
277 antinutritional factors present in *waterleaf* as reported by (25) and Horvath *et al.*, 2002 indicated
278 that tannin has a detrimental effect during incubation and can be toxic to eggs if not well used or
279 at a contact exceeding a few seconds. Thus, the best immersion period needed to rinse African
280 catfish eggs when using waterleaf extract is 1 minute and this result conform to the finding of
281 (9).

Comment [AP8]: you have worked with aloe vera gel or with waterleaf extract? you are not clear

282 The result obtained from the comparative appraisal of all the de-adhesive agents showed that
283 waterleaf extract was more efficient in the detachment of *C. gariepinus* eggs. The detachment
284 might be due to the present of tannic acid in water leaf, in that(22) reported the application of
285 tannic acid in the elimination of pikeperch, *Sander lucioperca*, eggs.

286 Waterleaf incubation period of eggs was delayed in waterleaf because of the presence of tannin,
287 nitrites and nitrate which was reported by (26) to be very toxic to eggs at prolong of time 20
288 seconds.

289 Hatching rate of 70.59% was obtained in waterleaf extract and 50.23% in urea solution at
290 concentration of 1%. (27) reported highest hatching of 70.2% in salt/urea/tannin with 1%
291 concentration which was in conformity with the use of waterleaf and urea solution. Eliminating
292 stickiness of eggs using urea and waterleaf does not affect the survival rates of *C. gariepinus*

Comment [AP9]: you must be explicit in materials and methods and in the title

293 **Conclusion and recommendation** conclusion is the response to your objectives

294 This present study revealed that 1% (10mls) of waterleaf extract how for aloe vera?with 1
295 minute immersion period gave the lowest eggs sticky rate, highest fertilization, hatchability and
296 survival of *C. gariepinus*. In view of this, elimination of stickiness of *C. gariepinus* eggs using
297 waterleaf extract with 1% concentration level at 1 minute immersion period is therefore
298 recommended to fish hatcheries operators/ fish breeders because of the effective, quick, simple
299 technology and at affordable price than other methods. Urea solution which served as the
300 reference de-adhesion agent was not different from waterleaf how for aloe vera? in term of
301 hatching and survival however, it is more expensive. Waterleaf extract how for aloe vera? is
302 therefore recommended for its efficacy, efficiency, cost effectiveness, availability, handling and
303 processing.

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