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3 **Effect of some Botanical Extracts on the management of *Meloidogyne incognita* and on**  
4 **Growth of Tomato.**

5 **ABSTRACT**

6 Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) is an important and widely grown vegetable  
7 crop all over the world. Although tomato is nutritionally and economically  
8 important, its production is constrained by biotic and abiotic constraints leading to  
9 poor marketable quantity and quality worldwide. Nematodes have one of the major  
10 pests affecting tomato production worldwide, especially, in the tropical and sub-  
11 tropical regions. Screen house experiments were laid out in Complete Block  
12 Design (CBD) with a 3x7 factorial arrangement replicated three times carried out  
13 at the Department of Crop and Environmental Protection, University of Agriculture  
14 Makurdi screen house. The soil was sterilized before the experiment. Fresh leaves  
15 and seeds of Moringa, Castor bean and Jatropha were washed with tap water 15 g  
16 each of leaves and seeds of the different botanicals were macerated separately in an  
17 electric blender at high speed for 4minutes in 100ml distilled water. The mixtures  
18 were passed through a Whatman filter paper, the filtrates of the leaves/seed were  
19 then collected. Three tomato varieties viz: Roma Vf, Rio Grande and UC82B were  
20 inoculated with approximately 5000 freshly hatched *Meloidogyne incognita*  
21 juvenile two weeks after transplanting. 30%v/v aqueous extract of castor, moringa  
22 and Jatropha leaves and seeds were used, while distilled water (0%) served as the  
23 control. 30ml of various leaves and seed aqueous extracts was applied 48 hours  
24 after inoculation as soil drench. Application was done at 1weeks intervals  
25 thereafter for a period of 16weeks. Data collected include number of fruits per  
26 plant, root gall index, nematode reproductive factor, and final nematode  
27 population. The results showed that various leaves and seed extracts significantly  
28 (P<0.05) reduced root gall index, final population of *M. incognita* in the soil and  
29 nematode reproductive factor than the control. Application of the various  
30 treatments led to significant increase in mean number of fruits and mean fruit  
31 weight yield of all the three tomato varieties. Therefore, the application of leaves  
32 and seed aqueous extract of Moringa, Jatropha and Castor will serve as good  
33 alternative for the management of root knot nematode population.

34 Keywords: Tomato, Botanical extracts, *M. incognita*

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Comment [AK4]: Root knot nematodes

Comment [AK5]: Pest

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Comment [AK10]: Write botanicals name

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Comment [AK12]: Double distilled water

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Comment [AK15]: Hatched second stage juveniles of

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Comment [AK20]: Write name of botanicals

Comment [AK21]: Name of treatment

Comment [AK22]: *Meloidogyne incognita*

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## INTRODUCTION

38 Tomato fruit is an important source of minerals, essential amino acids, sugars, dietary fibers,  
39 and vitamins as it contains vitamin A as carotene, vitamin B1 (thiamin), B2(riboflavin), niacin  
40 and vitamin C (1). Tomato seed contains 24 percent edible oil, used for manufacturing of  
41 salad creams, margarine and soap, the residual pressed cake is used for fertilizer and  
42 livestock feed (2). It is also found to have medicinal value as it is important in weight  
43 management and reduction of cancer risk (3).

44 Although tomato is nutritionally and economically important, its production is constrained by  
45 biotic and abiotic factors leading to poor marketable quantity and quality worldwide (27). (4)  
46 Identified nematodes as one of the major pests affecting tomato production worldwide,  
47 especially, in the tropical and sub-tropical regions. (5) stated that plant parasitic nematodes  
48 attack seedling roots after emergence there by affecting crop productivity. (6) Reported that  
49 a lot of plant species such as tomato, amaranth, soy bean, yam tubers, cassava, maize, rice  
50 e.t.c are prone to attack by the root-knot nematode.

51 The need for farmers to adopt strategies that do not pollute the environment has increased  
52 urgency in the search for alternative sustainable methods to manage nematodes (7; 8 and 9).  
53 Alternatively, research has focused on antagonistic plants (10, 26). These compounds can be  
54 developed for use as nematicides or they can serve as model compounds for the  
55 development of derivatives with enhanced activity or environmental friendliness (11). The  
56 objective of the study was to determine the effect of botanical extracts from leaves and seed  
57 of Moringa, Jatropha and castor on root-knot nematode infesting three Tomato varieties

Comment [AK24]: *Italic*

Comment [AK25]: *Remove it*

Comment [AK26]: *Nematodes*

Comment [AK27]: *Natural nematicides*

Comment [AK28]: *Italic*

Comment [AK29]: *Meloidogyne incognita*

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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### Experimental Layout and Location

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The experiment was carried out at the Department of Crop and Environmental Protection  
64 Laboratory University of Agriculture, Makurdi, laid out in 3x7 factorial arrangement laid out in  
65 Completely Randomized Design (CRD) replicated three times

66

### Soil Sterilization

67

The Soil for the pot experiment was sterilized using the steam sterilization method, using a metal  
68 barrel steam sterilizer. The steam sterilizer has two chambers, the lower chamber contained water  
69 and the upper part the soil. The soil was covered with wet jute sacks to conserve steam in the  
70 chamber. Fire wood was used as the source of heat. The soil was sterilized for 30 minutes at 100° C; it  
71 was then left for 48hrs before used.

72

### Nursery Preparations and Agronomic Practice

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Tomato seedlings were raised in three different buckets containing sterilized soils for the  
74 three different varieties, the seeds of the various varieties were spread and soil was lightly  
75 poured on it about two inches was used to cover the seeds. Mulch was provided to protect

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76 the seeds from excessive sunlight and to serve as moisture conserver. Watering of the young  
77 seedlings was done daily until when the seedlings were ready for transplanting.

#### 78 Transplanting and Inoculation of Seedlings

79 Tomato seedlings were transplanted into 72 plastic buckets. Seven kg of sterilized soil was  
80 put into each plastic buckets. The seedlings were transplanted four weeks after germination.  
81 Each of the tomato stands contained in the pots was inoculated with approximately 5000  
82 root-knot nematode (*M. incognita*) juveniles. Inoculation took place one week after  
83 transplanting with the use of a syringe and by pulling away the soil around the roots 2 cm  
84 deep and 3 cm from the root. The juveniles were inoculated into the hole and the soil was  
85 gently covered. Each bucket contained one seedling.

Comment [AK31]: Second stage juveniles of *Meloidogyne incognita*

Comment [AK32]: Pipette

#### 86 Source and Preparation of Plant Aqueous Extracts

87 Seeds/leaves of Moringa, Castor and Jatropha were obtained from the University Research  
88 Farm.

89 Fresh leaves and seeds of Moringa, Castor bean and Jatropha were washed with tap water.  
90 Fifteen grams each of leaves and seeds of the different plant (Castor, Jatropha and Moringa)  
91 were macerated separately in an electric blender at high speed for 4 minutes in 100ml  
92 distilled water. The mixture was left for 12 hours (overnight). Each mixture was passed  
93 through a Whatman filter paper. Filtrates of the leaves/seed collected served as standard  
94 solution 'S' for the experiment

#### 96 Application of Treatments

97 The stands were treated with 30ml of various leaves and seed aqueous extracts 48 hours  
98 after inoculation. The untreated seedlings/stand served as the controls. Application of the  
99 botanical extracts was done at weekly intervals thereafter until harvest.

Comment [AK33]: Specify plant name

#### 101 Harvesting of tomato plants

102 The tested plants were harvested when fully matured (16 weeks). To ensure easy removal of  
103 the plants from the soil, the sides of the plastic pots was pressed in order to loosen the soil.  
104 The soil was then removed from the roots by gently shaking the plants.

#### 107 Data Analysis

108 Data collected were analyzed, using the Genstat statistical package (Discovery edition  
109 7). Least significant difference (LSD) at 5% was used for comparing mean differences.

## 114 RESULTS

116 Table 1 shows no significant difference ( $P>0.05$ ) among the varieties on root gall index.  
117 However, there are differences ( $P<0.05$ ) between the varieties in nematode final populations  
118 and reproductive factor, Roma VF recorded the highest final population and reproductive

119 factor of 2228 J<sub>2</sub>/200g of soil and 0.45 while Rio Grande recorded the least population and  
120 reproductive factor of 1461J<sub>2</sub>/200g and 0.29 respectively.

121 On the mean number of fruits, there was no significant difference (P>0.05). However,  
122 differences (P<0.05) were observed on the mean fruit weight (kg/ha) with Rio Grande  
123 yielding higher fruit weight of 39.63 closely followed by UC28Bwith 36.87 while the least was  
124 observed from Roma VF with 34.95.

125  
126 There was significant difference (P<0.05) between the botanical extracts on root-knot  
127 nematode parameters and yield parameters. Jatropha seed recorded the lowest root gall  
128 index of 1.00 while the control had a root gall score of 5.0 (>75% of the root system galled).  
129 The untreated control plant recorded the highest nematode reproductive factor (2.4) and  
130 final population of 11978.00 J<sub>2</sub>/200g of soil. Moringa leaf recorded the least final root-knot  
131 nematode population of 200 J<sub>2</sub>/200g of soil. Similarly, Moringa leaf recorded0.04  
132 reproductive factors.

133 There was significant difference (P<0.05) on the mean number of fruit and fruit weight  
134 (kg/ha). Moringa leaf had the highest number of fruits/ plant and weight of fruit, 8.56 and  
135 47.22 respectively. The control recorded the least number of fruits/plant (1.89) and fruit  
136 weight (17.51). Table 2.

137  
138 Table 2 shows that there was no significant difference (P<0.05) between the three varieties  
139 treated with different botanical extracts (leaf and seeds) on the root gall index, mean number  
140 of fruits and fruits weight. However, there was significant difference between the treated and  
141 the untreated pots. With the control having highest root gall index and lower mean number  
142 of fruits and fruit weight for all varieties. On nematode final population and reproductive  
143 factor however, significant differences were observed between the varieties treated with  
144 different botanical extracts. Plants treated with Jatropha leaves and seed recorded the final  
145 population of 0.00 for  
146 both the three varieties as compared to their respective untreated control (10233, 15533.00  
147 and10167.00 J<sub>2</sub>/200 g of soil).

154 **Table 1: Effect of botanical extracts applied on Tomato Varieties on Root-Knot Nematode**  
155 **on Final Population, Reproductive Factor, Root Gall Index and Yield in Pot Experiment**

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Varieties	Root-Knot Nematode Parameters			Reproductive Factor (RF)	Yield parameters	
	Root Gall Index (RGI)	Initial Population (Pi)	Final Population (Pf)/200g of soil		Mean Number of Fruits	Mean Fruit Weight/pot(g)

UC28B	1.67	5000.00	1474.00	0.29	6.90	36.63
ROMA VF	1.71	5000.00	2228.00	0.45	6.95	34.87
RIOGRANDE	1.67	5000.00	1461.00	0.29	6.29	39.95
FLSD <sub>0.05</sub>	ns	Ns	491.90	0.098	Ns	2.984

157 NS= Not Significant, FLSD= Fishers Least Significant Difference

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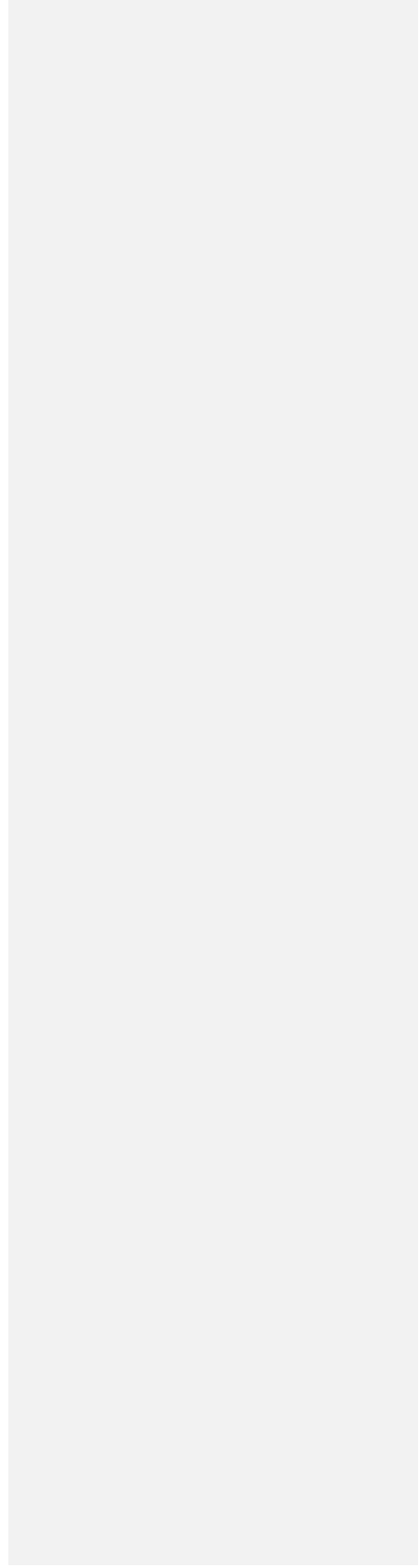
UNDER PEER REVIEW

**Table 2: Effect of Botanical Extracts on Root-Knot Nematode, Final Population, Reproductive Factor, Root Gall Index and Yield of Infected Tomato in Pot Experiment**

Botanical Extracts	Root- Knot Nematode Parameters				Yield Parameters	
	Root Gall Index (RGI)	Initial Population (Pi)	Final Population (PF)/200g of soil	Reproductive Factor (RF)	Mean Number of Fruits	Mean Fruit Weight/pot(g)
Castor Leaf	1.11	5000	230.00	0.05	7.33	44.41
Castor Seed	1.33	5000	260.00	0.05	7.56	37.32
Jatropha Leaf	1.11	5000	350.00	0.07	7.33	38.90
Jatropha Seed	1.00	5000	500.00	0.10	7.78	36.33
Moringa Leaf	1.11	5000	200.00	0.04	8.56	47.22
Moringa Seed	1.11	5000	450.00	0.09	6.56	38.36
Control	5.00	5000	11978.00	2.40	1.89	17.51
FLSD <sub>0.05</sub>	0.28		751.40	0.15	1.53	4.56

FLSD= Fishers Least Significant Difference

UNDER PEER REVIEW



**Table 3: Effect of Botanical Extracts on Root-Knot Nematode Final Population, Reproductive Factor, Root Gall Index and Yield of Tomato Varieties in Pot Experiment**

	Botanical Extracts	Root-knot Nematode parameters			Yield Parameters	
		Root Gall Index (RGI)	Final Population (Pf)/200g of soil	Reproductive factor (RF)	Mean Number of Fruits	Mean Fruit Weight/pot(g)
UC28B	Castor Leaf	1.33	22.00	0.00	8.67	48.60
	Castor Seed	1.00	28.00	0.01	6.67	38.77
	Jatropha Leaf	1.00	34.00	0.00	8.33	40.40
	Jatropha Seed	1.00	54.00	0.00	8.00	38.03
	Moringa Leaf	1.00	20.00	0.00	8.67	49.73
	Moringa Seed	1.33	12.00	0.00	6.00	40.33
	Control	5.00	10233	2.05	2.00	21.53
ROMA VF	Castor Leaf	1.00	17.00	0.00	6.00	48.66
	Castor Seed	1.67	8.00	0.67	9.67	39.33
	Jatropha Leaf	1.00	7.00	0.00	7.33	33.29
	Jatropha Seed	1.00	5.00	0.00	6.33	35.54
	Moringa Leaf	1.00	27.00	0.01	9.00	50.20
	Moringa Seed	1.00	5.00	0.00	8.00	35.26
	Control	5.00	15533.00	3.11	2.33	15.80
RIO GRANDE	Castor Leaf	1.00	5.00	0.00	7.33	35.97
	Castor Seed	1.33	7.00	0.00	6.33	33.85
	Jatropha Leaf	1.00	65.00	0.00	6.00	35.85
	Jatropha Seed	1.00	55.00	0.00	9.00	43.00
	Moringa Leaf	1.33	38.00	0.01	8.33	43.40
	Moringa Seed	1.00	8.00	0.00	5.67	39.50
	Control	5.00	10167.00	2.03	1.33	15.20
	FLSD <sub>0.05</sub>	Ns	1301.40	Ns	Ns	Ns



## DISCUSSION

Scientists are resorting to use botanicals for the control of pest since synthetic pesticides are expensive and hazardous. The use of botanicals as control measures against parasitic nematodes is now the focus of researchers because they are eco-friendly, easy degradable, cost effective and also available. (27)

Comment [AK34]: Add plant

Comment [AK35]: Easily

From this research, leaves and seed extracts from castor, moringa and Jatropha were able to have effect on final population of root-knot nematodes, root gall index and nematode reproductive factor as well as improved the growth and yield of root-knot nematode infected tomato in the screen house.

This is in line with different promising results carried out by different researchers on the management of root knot nematode using different botanicals extracts.

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On a studies carried out by (12) indicated that some pant parts caused reduction in gall formation by the root knot nematode. (13) Also found that application of sesame seed extract reduced the incidence of root knot nematodes and the severity of galling on okra roots. Previous studies indicated that some pant parts caused reduction in gall formation by the root knot nematode (12)

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Comment [AK38]: Italic

Report by (14) pointed out that Moringa leaf powder was not phytotoxic to sweet pepper plants but led to increase and even suppress nematode population. The soil populations of root-knot nematode juveniles were found to be significantly reduced within six months under the host plants most damaged by *Meloidogyne* spp (15).

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Comment [AK40]: Italic

(16) Also stated that plant extracts of basil, marigold, pyrethrum, neem and china berry are effective in the reduction of nematode population in soil. (17) Reported a reduction in number of egg masses, number of females and final larval population of the soil is a strong indication of the ability of neem leaf extract to control root-knot nematode in tomato.

(18) Found a positive correlation between number of Jatropha species and percentage reduction in nematode final population as well as percent reduction in root gall index caused by the root-knot nematode. So, from his study application of 4 plants of Jatropha caused the greatest reduction in the root gall index (83 % and 72% for *J. curcas* and *J. gossypifolia* respectively). According to (19), sesame seed extracts have a systemic activity against nematodes which may have accounted for the lower number of galls and mean population in treated plants. The study agrees with that of (20) who stated that the application of neem led to decrease in nematode population, reduced galling index leading to increase plant growth of the plots as compared to that of the untreated plants. (21) Reported the extracts of neem seeds, leaves and bark had the ability to significantly suppress root galling index and reduce population of *M. javanica* juvenile on sweet gourd.

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The reduction in population of root-knot nematodes, nematode reproductive factor and number of root galls formed could be due to the ability of active ingredients present in the botanical extracts (castor, Jatropha and moringa) to get in contact with juveniles. This agrees with the findings of (13) that reported reduction on nematode final population and root

Comment [AK42]: Add second stage

galling on the root of sweet paper and attributed it to the direct contact of the extracts with the eggs and juveniles of the root-knot nematodes which ensured that the active ingredients in the moringa leaf extracts were effectively delivered to the nematode. The reduction in the nematode final population may be due nematotoxic substances found in the different botanical extracts used.

Comment [AK43]: *Italic*

All extracts were effective in increasing yield of the three varieties of tomato as compared to the untreated pots.

The differences in the effectivity of different test plant extracts could be due to the differences in the chemical compositions and concentrations of toxic components contain in the plant material which led to higher yield from the treated plants as compared to the untreated. This agree with the findings of (22) who stated that application of coffee (*Cassia occidentalis*) and lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citrates*) led to provision of the necessary nutrients required by the plant for optimum yield.

Comment [AK44]: *Present*

Root-knot infestation led to stunted growth of all untreated plants and reduced vigor as well as tomato yield, decrease in nematode final population accompanied by increase in yield of tomato plants might be due to the nematicidal potential of the tested plant extract. The effects of the tested plant extracts on yield of tomato plant were different, in some cases.

Comment [AK45]: *Remove it*

Galling and reproductive responses are important indicators of host plant reaction than just root-knot galling index. From this study, nematode multiplication rate was high in the untreated plots as compared to those treated by the different botanical extract. This is in line with the findings of (15) who also reported a lower reproductive factor (Pf) in tomato when treated with *Crotalaria*, *C. juncea* and African marigold (*T. erecta*) plants a. The finding of this studies agrees with (23) who pointed out that natural plants can control root- knot nematode in the laboratory or when incorporated into the soil under field condition.

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The results of this study is also in line with that of (24) who evaluated some botanicals extract on nematode affecting cowpea they pointed out that active ingredients contained in the plant materials suppressed the nematode populations in the field. (25) Also reported similar findings of the efficacy of neem compost on nematodes in spinach. Several other plants and organic materials have also been reported to contain different metabolites necessary for plant growth, better yield and at same time toxic to pathogenic microorganisms in the soil (22).

#### CONCLUSION

The botanical extracts (Castor, *Jatropha* and *Moringa*) leaves and seeds used were able to decreased nematode population, reduced root galling as well as reproductive factor and increased yield of the tomato varieties. The botanical extracts can therefore serve as alternative to synthetic nematicides.

Comment [AK48]: *Italic*

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