

Nematicidal Weeds, *Solanum nigrum* and *Datura stramonium*

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Abstract

We investigated *Solanum nigrum* (seeds) and *Datura stramonium* (shoots) against root-knot nematodes in terms of J2 paralysis and egg hatch inhibition (methanol extract), as well as inhibition of nematode development in host roots (soil amending with either *S. nigrum* seeds' or *D. stramonium* shoots' meal). *Datura stramonium* was found equally effective at inhibiting motility of *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Meloidogyne javanica* (both $EC_{50}=427\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at 3 day), but inhibition occurred more quickly for *M. incognita* (1 day). *Solanum nigrum* was faster and more effective at inhibiting motility of *M. incognita* than *M. javanica* ($EC_{50}=481$ and $954\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at 3 day, respectively). *Datura stramonium* was slower, but eventually more potent in decreasing egg hatch and cell division in *M. incognita* eggs, than *S. nigrum*. Specifically, *D. stramonium* significantly inhibited cell division in eggs immersed in at least 100 and $1\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at Day 6 and 10, respectively. *Solanum nigrum* impeded cell division in un-differentiated eggs immersed in not less than 10 and $100\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ after days 2 and 6, respectively. Both extracts were similar in suppressing J2 enclosure but *D. stramonium* was effective in smaller test concentrations. Specifically, *D. stramonium* suppressed J2 emerging from eggs immersed in $10\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at day 2, and in at least $1\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at day 6. *Solanum nigrum* significantly reduced J2 hatch from eggs immersed in a minimum of $100\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at day 2 and not less than $1,000\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ at day 6. In pots, powdered *S. nigrum* seeds meal was more active than *D. stramonium* and the respective EC_{50} females/g values for *M. incognita* were 1.13 and 11.4mg g^{-1} of soil, respectively. The chemical composition of active extracts was determined after derivatization by GC-MS. Chemical analysis of active extracts showed the presence of fatty acids with known nematicidal activity.

Key words

Black nightshade, Jimsonweed, Root-knot nematodes, Weeds.

Weeds compete with crop plants and soil organisms for resources through the production of allelochemicals like phenolic acids, terpenes, terpenoids, glycosides, alkaloids, and flavonoids (Whittaker and Feeny, 1971; Blum, 1996; Keating, 1999). A major phyto-nematode control research issue is the study of herbal preparations rich in allelochemicals with nematicidal activity, of no adverse effects to non-target organisms and easy biodegradability. The use of green manures as soil bioamendments may be a

suitable nematode control tool for many crop systems, especially if the botanical species to be incorporated are readily available *in situ*, like weeds. *Solanum nigrum* Linn. and *Datura stramonium* Linn., commonly known as black nightshade and jimsonweed, are two Solanaceous, highly invasive and globally distributed weeds that exhibit a range of biological properties (Zhou et al., 2012; Abbasi et al., 2015; Sher et al., 2015).

Although *S. nigrum* can be infected by *Meloidogyne incognita* (Robab et al., 2012) it also exhibits

nematicidal activity. Specifically, its dried ground seed powder incorporated in soil at the rate of 5 g kg⁻¹ lessens root galling and increases host shoot length (Radwan et al., 2012). Moreover, the water extract of *S. nigrum* at a concentration of 10 mg ml⁻¹ induces morphological changes in the body structure of the root-lesion nematode *Pratylenchus goodeyi*, greatly affects movement and causes mortality (Gouveia et al., 2014). Interestingly, root extracts of *S. nigrum* are traditionally used in the treatment of animal worms and abdominal pain (Jagtap et al., 2013).

Solanum nigrum is a major source of various chemical groups of nematicidal compounds like alkaloids (Jagtap et al., 2013; Sammani et al., 2013), glycoalkaloids (Li et al., 2007; Ding et al., 2013), saponins (Jagtap et al., 2013), phenols (Gharbi et al., 2017), fatty acids (Dhellit et al., 2006; Mohy-ud-din et al., 2010) and tannins (Jagtap et al., 2013). An alkaloid named drupacine was found to exhibit an EC₅₀ value of 76.3 µg ml⁻¹ on *M. incognita* second stage juveniles (J2) and to reduce egg hatch by 36% after immersion in 1.0 mg ml⁻¹ (Wen et al., 2013). Similarly, 4-quinolone waltherione and waltherione A, have been reported to have larvicidal activity against *M. incognita* (EC₅₀ values of 0.09 and 0.27 µg ml⁻¹ at 48 h) and egg hatch inhibition activity (91.9 and 87.4% after 7 days of exposure to 1.25 µg ml⁻¹) (Jang et al., 2015). Saponins like solanigraside A and solanigraside B (Zhou et al., 2007) as well as oleanane-type triterpenoid saponins exhibit LC₅₀ values against *M. incognita* ranging from 70.1 to 94.7 µg ml⁻¹ after 48 h (Li et al., 2013); while a saponin based commercial nematicide from *Quillaja saponaria* has been registered for nematode control in Europe (Giannakou, 2011). 4-methylphenol is of significant *in vitro* activity against *M. javanica* (Yang et al., 2015) while Zhang and co-workers have demonstrated that fatty acids like caproic, caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, and palmitic cause significantly high mortality to *M. incognita* J2 (Zhang et al., 2012). Tannic acid has been proven nematicidal as well (Hewlett et al., 1997). We also, in our previous studies, have demonstrated that acetic and hexanoic acid, as components of *Melia azedarach*, are effective against root-knot nematodes in terms of J2 paralysis activity (Ntalli et al., 2010).

Similar to *S. nigrum*, *D. stramonium* is a host for root-knot nematodes and even increases populations of *Meloidogyne* species if not controlled effectively (Ntidi et al., 2012). Nonetheless, hot water and ethanol extracts of *D. stramonium* seeds tested at 25 to 100 mg ml⁻¹ caused 75% to 100% mortality of *M. incognita* J2 (Chaudhary et al., 2013). Similarly, leaf and stem extracts of *D. stramonium* tested

at 500 mg L⁻¹ against J2 resulted in relatively high mortality rates of 68 and 70% after 72 h of exposure (Elbadri et al., 2008). When tested in pot experiments, dried ground leaves of *D. stramonium* mixed with soil at the rate of 1 to 10 g kg⁻¹ soil significantly suppressed *M. incognita* populations and root galling as they decomposed, but high rates proved to be phytotoxic (Radwan et al., 2006). Pre-plant treatments with *D. stramonium* leaf extracts at 0.5% to 1% significantly reduced gall numbers (Mateeva and Ivanova, 2000). Furthermore, aqueous leaf extracts of *D. stramonium* inhibited egg hatch and killed *M. incognita* larvae (Rao et al., 1986).

Chemical composition studies on *D. stramonium* seeds revealed *N-trans*-feruloyl tryptamine, hyoscyamilactol, scopoletin, umckalin, daturaolone, daturadiol, *N-trans*-ferulicacyl-tyramine, cleomiscosin A, fraxetin, scopolamine, 1-acetyl-7-hydroxy-beta-carbol-ine, 7-hydroxy-beta-carboline-1-propionic acid (Li et al., 2012). Scopolamine is a muscarinic antagonist (Lee et al., 2000) and one of the most important alkaloids present in *D. stramonium* (Ma et al., 2015).

The scope of this study was to (i) evaluate the nematicidal activity of *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* in terms of (a) J2 paralysis, (b) egg hatch inhibition, and (c) inhibition of nematode development in host roots and (ii) to delineate the chemical composition of active extracts after derivatization by GC-MS.

Materials and methods

Nematode rearing and collection

Populations of *M. incognita* and *M. javanica* both of Greek origin were reared on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* Mill.) cv. Belladonna. Freshly hatched (24 h) J2 as well as eggs of different growth stages were extracted from egg masses according to Hussey and Barker (1973) from 60 day-old (d) infested roots, to be used for the bioassays. The egg masses were hand-picked from the tomato roots under a stereoscope.

Chemicals

Methanol, chloroform, and hexane were of high-performance liquid chromatography grade. All chemical standards were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Milano, Italy).

Plant material extraction procedure

Dry plant material, 5 g of *S. nigrum* (seeds) and *D. stramonium* (shoots), were extracted in 50 ml methanol for 30 min in a sonicator apparatus. After exhaustive evaporation of the solvent the yields

in dry material were measured at 12.3 ± 0.07 and $12.6 \pm 0.01\%$ (w/w) for *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum*, respectively. The extracts were used directly for bioassays with nematodes and chemical composition analysis without evaporation.

J2 paralysis bioassays

J2s were extracted as described previously after hatch in modified Baermann funnels. Hatched juveniles were discarded after the first 2 days. Thereafter, hatched J2 less than or equal to 2 days-old were used for the paralysis experiments. The *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* extracts were diluted in DMSO, brought to volume with water and tested for paralysis activity in Cellstar 96-well cell culture plates (Greiner Bio-One) at a ratio of 1:1 (v/v) with nematodes' suspension. The final concentration of DMSO in test wells did not exceed 1% (v/v). Distilled water served as a control together with the carrier control (DMSO). Each well contained 15 J2s and the test concentrations of both extracts ranged from 100 to $1,000 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$. Border wells with J2s immersed in distilled water alone served as controls for fumigant activity test (Ntalli et al., 2011). Multiwell plates were covered to avoid evaporation and were maintained in the dark at 20°C . Juveniles were ranked into two distinct categories, moving and paralysed, with the aid of an inverted microscope (Euromex, The Netherlands) at $\times 40$ after 1d, 2d, and 3d. After evaluation, J2 were washed through a $20 \mu\text{m}$ sieve, to remove the test compounds, and were immersed in water alone to determine if motility was regained. Numbers of motile and paralysed J2s were assessed by pricking the juvenile body with a needle, and they were counted. Nematodes that did not move at this point were considered dead. J2 paralysis bioassays were performed three times, and every treatment was replicated six times.

Egg hatch inhibition in free eggs treated with the test compounds

The egg hatch inhibition tests were performed in microwell assays (Ntalli et al., 2016). Briefly, nematodes were pipetted into 24-well cell culture plates (Greiner Bio-One), with 0.5 mL treatment at double the test concentration and 0.5 mL nematode inoculum (20 eggs) in sterile distilled water per well. *Datura stramonium* and *S. nigrum* methanol extracts were dissolved in DMSO and then brought to volume with water to reach desired concentrations. The final concentration of DMSO in test solutions did not exceed 1% as this concentration did not harm nematodes. The bioassay treatments were: $0.0 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ (water control),

$0.0 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ (carrier control), and 1, 10, 100, and $1,000 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$, extract in the carrier. Five wells were used per treatment, and the plates were covered by plastic adhesive sheets to prevent volatiles escaping to adjacent wells. Hatch quantification was done by directly counting undifferentiated eggs and J2 in each well at day 0 using an inverted microscope at $\times 40$. Thereafter, assessments were performed after 2, 6, 10, and 14 days. Cumulative percent J2 release was calculated using the formula: $((J2_{D_x} - J2_{D_0})/\text{total}) \times 100$ where D_x = day after the start of the assay. Cumulative percent undifferentiated egg hatch was calculated using the formula: $((\text{Eggs}_{D_0} - \text{Eggs}_{D_x})/\text{total}) \times 100$ where D_x = day after the start of the assay.

Inhibition of nematode development

Procedures were according to Ntalli et al. (2010). Briefly artificially inoculated with *M. incognita* tomato plants were then treated with powders of *S. nigrum* seeds and *D. stramonium* shoots, in a dose response from 0.1 to 100 mg g^{-1} . After the completion of a biological cycle at 27°C , 60% RH at 16h photoperiod, plants were uprooted and roots were stained with acid fuchsin (Byrd et al., 1983). The following variables were assessed: fresh root weight, fresh shoot weight, and total number of female nematodes and galls per gram of root at $\times 10$ magnification under uniform illumination by transparent light. The experiment was performed twice, and the treatments were arranged in a completely randomised design with five replicates.

Sample extraction for GC–MS analysis

For small polar metabolite analysis, the following procedure was used. Powdered plant material (100 mg) was extracted with 2 mL solvent mix chloroform/methanol (2/1, v/v), and three replications were made. After dispersion, the whole mixture was agitated for 15 to 20 min in an orbital shaker at room temperature. The mixture was centrifuged to recover the liquid phase. The supernatant was washed with $400 \mu\text{L}$ of 0.9% KCl solution in water and vortexed for 1 min. After centrifugation at 2,000 rpm, the water phase was evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream. Afterwards, the residue was suspended in $50 \mu\text{L}$ of methoxyamine hydrochloride (10 mg ml^{-1}) in pyridine. After 17 h, 50 mL of *N,O*-bis(trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) were added and kept for 1 hr at room temperature before $600 \mu\text{L}$ of a solution of 2-dodecanone in hexane (20 mg L^{-1}) were added and samples were GC/MS analyzed. Derivatized atropine, linoleic acid and monostearin were used for GC/MS calibration.

For the alkaloidal compounds analysis, extraction with chloroform was performed as follows. Powdered plant material (100mg) was extracted with a mix of 5mL of a 0.1N sodium hydroxide in water and 5mL of CHCl_3 . A solution of caffeine in methanol (1 mg ml^{-1}) was added as internal standard (I.S.). After 5 min centrifugation, the chloroform phase was separated and evaporated to dryness under a nitrogen stream. The residue was suspended in $100 \mu\text{L}$ of BSTFA and kept for 1 h at 70°C for silylation. After a 10-fold dilution with hexane, samples were GC/MS analyzed.

GC–MS conditions

One microliter of derivatized plant extract was injected in splitless mode into a 6,850 gas chromatograph coupled with a mass spectrometer 5,973 Network (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with a $30 \text{ m} \times 0.25 \text{ mm}$ ID silica capillary column, which was chemically bonded with $0.25 \mu\text{m}$ DB-5MS stationary phase (J&W scientific, Folsom, CA, USA). The injector temperature was kept at 200°C and the mobile phase flow was 1 mL min^{-1} . The column temperature gradient was as follows: 50°C for 10 min, then increased from 50 to 300°C at a rate of $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ and finally held at 300°C for 4 min. The transfer line and the ion source temperatures were respectively 280°C and 180°C . Ions were generated at 70 eV with electron ionization and were recorded at $1.6 \text{ scan sec}^{-1}$ over the mass range m/z 50 to 550. GC–MS data analysis was conducted by integrating each resolved chromatogram peak and normalizing the area for the corrected total area of the chromatogram. These peaks were examined for their mass spectra and identification of the peaks was attempted using the NIST 08 library after deconvolution with AMDIS.

Statistical analysis

Treatments of motility experiments were replicated six times, and each experiment was performed twice. The percentages of paralyzed J2 observed in the microwell assays after 1 h were corrected by eliminating the natural death/paralysis in the water control according to the Schneider Orelli's formula: Corrected % = $\{(\text{Mortality percent in treatment} - \text{Mortality percent in control}) / (100 - \text{Mortality percent in control})\} \times 100$ and they were analysed (ANOVA) after being combined over time. Since the ANOVA indicated no significant treatment by time interaction, means were averaged over experiments. Corrected percentages of paralyzed J2 treated with the weed extracts were subjected to nonlinear regression analysis using the log-logistic equation proposed by Seefeldt *et al.*:

$Y = C + (D - C) / \{1 + \exp[b (\log(x) - \log(\text{EC}_{50}))]\}$ where C = the lower limit, D = the upper limit, b = the slope at the EC_{50} , and EC_{50} = the test solution concentration required for 50% death/paralysis of nematodes after normalizing with the control (natural death/paralysis). In the regression equation, the test concentration was the independent variable (x) and the paralyzed J2 (percentage increase over water control) was the dependent variable (y). The mean value of the six replicates per each test concentration and immersion period was used to calculate the EC_{50} value.

Egg hatch inhibition treatments were replicated five times, and each bioassay was performed twice. Because the ANOVA indicated no significant treatment by time interaction, means were averaged over experiments. In egg hatch inhibition bioassays, treatment means were compared using Tukey's test at $P \leq 0.05$. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS 20.

Pot bioassays were organised in a complete randomized design with five replications and were performed twice. Since ANOVAs indicated no significant treatment by time interaction (between runs of experiment), means were averaged over experiments. The data from the pot bioassays were expressed as a percentage decrease in the number of females or galls per gram of root corrected according to the control, using the Abbott's formula: corrected percent = $100 \times \{1 - [\text{females number in treated plot} / \text{females number in control plot}]\}$. Data were fit to the log-logistic model (Seefeldt *et al.*, 1995) to estimate the concentration that caused a 50% decrease in females and galls per gram of root (EC_{50} value). In this regression equation, the test compounds (% w/w) were the independent variables (x) and the female nematodes, or galls, (as the percentage decrease over the water control) was the dependent variable (y). Because ANOVAs indicated no significant treatment by time interaction (between runs of experiments), means were averaged over experiments. Treatments means were compared using Tukey's test at $P \leq 0.05$.

Results

J2 paralysis bioassays

Paralysis activity of *M. incognita* was more affected by *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* extracts than *M. javanica* (Table 1). Clear time and dose response relationships were established for *D. stramonium* and the $\text{EC}_{50/96\text{h}}$ values were $427 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ for both *M. incognita* and *M. javanica* (Table 1). *Solanum nigrum* demonstrated a nematostatic effect and the mortality was stabilized 3 days post J2 immersion in test solutions.

Table 1. Efficacy of *Datura stramonium* and *Solanum nigrum* methanol extracts against *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Meloidogyne javanica*.¹

| Immersion period | <i>D. stramonium</i> | | <i>S. nigrum</i> | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | <i>M. incognita</i> | <i>M. javanica</i> | <i>M. incognita</i> | <i>M. javanica</i> |
| 1d | 968 ± 98 | >8,000 | 409 ± 56 | 686 ± 98 |
| 2d | 553 ± 85 | 581 ± 73 | 507 ± 72 | 792 ± 95 |
| 3d | 427 ± 75 | 427 ± 23 | 418 ± 78 | 954 ± 96 |

¹Half maximal effective concentration EC₅₀ ± SD (µg ml⁻¹) calculated after 1, 2, and 3 days of nematode immersion in test solutions.

Egg hatch inhibition in free eggs treated with the test compounds

The cumulative undifferentiated egg hatch was decreased significantly by both *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* extracts at 100 µg mL⁻¹ at day 6, while in successive assessments the activity increased for *D. stramonium* and decreased for *S. nigrum* (Tables 2, 3). Concerning the percent of J2 released from eggs immersed in the two methanol extracts, again *D. stramonium* was more active since it differed from control at 10 µg mL⁻¹ at day 2 while *S. nigrum* differed from the control only at concentrations equal or higher than 100 µg mL⁻¹ (day 2). In the next assessment date at day 6, activity increased for *D. stramonium* and decreased for *S. nigrum* differing

from control at 1 and 100 µg mL⁻¹, respectively. At day 10 the percent J2 release in control decreased naturally and thus J2 release differences among treatments were not evident thereafter (Tables 4, 5).

Inhibition of nematode development

Meloidogyne incognita densities in tomato roots and gall formation were significantly suppressed when *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* powders were incorporated in the nematode infested soil. *Meloidogyne incognita* development in artificially inoculated tomato plants treated with the weed powders was reduced with EC₅₀ values for female per gram root counts calculated for *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* of 1.13 and 11.40 mg g⁻¹, respectively. Galls/g root were

Table 2. Effect of *Datura stramonium* methanol extract on cumulative percent hatch of *Meloidogyne incognita* undifferentiated eggs.¹

| µg ml ⁻¹ | <i>D. stramonium</i> cumulative undifferentiated egg hatch | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Day 2 | Day 6 | Day 10 | Day 14 |
| 1,000 | 9 ± 1.0 ^a | 9 ± 1.0 ^a | 9 ± 1.5 ^a | 9 ± 1.5 ^a |
| 100 | 10 ± 5.0 ^a | 10 ± 5.0 ^a | 10 ± 5.0 ^a | 10 ± 5.0 ^a |
| 10 | 17 ± 6.5 ^a | 23 ± 6.5 ^{ab} | 23 ± 6.5 ^a | 23 ± 6.5 ^a |
| 1 | 14 ± 6.0 ^a | 24 ± 4.5 ^{ab} | 23 ± 6.5 ^a | 23 ± 6.5 ^a |
| 0 | 13 ± 8.0 ^a | 35 ± 9.0 ^b | 47 ± 9.0 ^b | 47 ± 9.0 ^b |

¹The cumulative percent hatch of undifferentiated eggs ± SD was calculated using the formula: ((eggs_{Do} - eggs_{Dx})/total) x 100. Eggs (20-30 per well) were collected and distributed in 24-well plates and were incubated at 27°C for 14 days in test solutions or plane water. Eggs were counted at 2, 6, 10, and 14 days post experiment establishment. Each percent data represent the mean ± SD from two experiments performed in time, with five replicates per treatment each. Values within each day were compared using Tuckey's test and those followed by different letters are significantly different at (P ≤ 0.05).

Table 3. Effect of *Solanum nigrum* methanol extract on cumulative percent hatch of *Meloidogyne incognita* undifferentiated eggs.¹

| <i>S. nigrum</i> cumulative undifferentiated egg hatch | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ | Day 2 | Day 6 | Day 10 | Day 14 |
| 1,000 | 9±0.5 ^a | 8±0.0 ^a | 9±6.0 ^a | 9±6.0 ^a |
| 100 | 15±2.0 ^a | 16±4.0 ^a | 16±4.0 ^a | 16±4.0 ^a |
| 10 | 15±2.0 ^a | 22±1.0 ^{ab} | 27±1.5 ^{ab} | 27±1.0 ^{ab} |
| 1 | 17±2.0 ^{ab} | 24±3.5 ^{ab} | 27±5.0 ^{ab} | 27±5.0 ^{ab} |
| 0 | 25±4.0 ^b | 35±9.0 ^b | 47±9.0 ^b | 47±9.0 ^b |

¹The cumulative percent hatch of undifferentiated eggs \pm SD was calculated using the formula: $((\text{eggs}_{\text{D}_0} - \text{eggs}_{\text{D}_x}) / \text{total}) \times 100$. Eggs (20–30 per well) were collected and distributed in 24-well plates and were incubated at 27°C for 14 days in test solutions or plane water. Eggs were counted at 2, 6, 10, and 14 days post experiment establishment. Each percent data represent the mean \pm SD from two experiments performed in time, with five replicates per treatment each. Values within each day were compared using Tuckey's test and those followed by different letters are significantly different at ($P \leq 0.05$).

similar (Table 6), with no phytotoxicity evident at the dose range of the treatments used for the bioassay.

GC–MS analysis

The low-molecular weight polar compounds extracted from both plants *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* were submitted to derivatization and were chemically analyz-

ed using GC–MS. We were able to detect amino acids, carbohydrates, carboxylic acids and some compounds with non-elucidated structures termed unknowns, from U1 to U16 (Table 7). The metabolites with the highest concentrations present in both plants were fructose, sucrose and U1 with concentrations ranging from 20 to 90 mgL⁻¹. Although sugars like glucose and galactose were abundant in *D. stramonium* aqueous extracts,

Table 4. Effect of *Datura stramonium* methanol extract on cumulative percent release of *Meloidogyne incognita* J2.¹

| <i>D. stramonium</i> percent J2 release | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ | Day 2 | Day 6 | Day 10 | Day 14 |
| 1,000 | 3±1.5 ^a | 1±1.0 ^a | 1±1.0 ^a | 1±1.0 ^a |
| 100 | 6±4.0 ^a | 5±3.5 ^a | 4±3.0 ^a | 4±3.0 ^a |
| 10 | 20±5.5 ^{ab} | 5±5.0 ^a | 4±1.5 ^a | 4±1.5 ^a |
| 1 | 31±6.5 ^{bc} | 5±4.0 ^a | 5±3.5 ^a | 5±3.5 ^a |
| 0 | 40±5.5 ^c | 20±5.5 ^b | 8±4.5 ^a | 5±3.5 ^a |

¹The cumulative percent release of J2 \pm SD was calculated using the formula: $((\text{J2}_{\text{D}_x} - \text{J2}_{\text{D}_0}) / \text{total}) \times 100$. Eggs (20–30 per well) were collected and distributed in 24-well plates and were incubated at 27°C for 14 days in test solutions or plane water. Released J2 were counted at 2, 6, 10, and 14 days post experiment establishment. Each percent data represent the mean \pm SD from two experiments performed in time, with five replicates per treatment each. Values within each day were compared using Tuckey's test and those followed by different letters are significantly different at ($P \leq 0.05$).

Table 5. Effect of *Solanum nigrum* methanol extract on cumulative percent release of *Meloidogyne incognita* J2.¹

| $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ | <i>S. nigrum</i> percent J2 release | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Day 2 | Day 6 | Day 10 | Day 14 |
| 1,000 | 2±2.0 ^a | 2±2.0 ^a | 2±2.0 ^a | 2±2.0 ^a |
| 100 | 11±6.0 ^{ab} | 5±4.5 ^{ab} | 2±1.5 ^a | 2±1.5 ^a |
| 10 | 23±2.0 ^{bc} | 6±2.0 ^{ab} | 2±1.0 ^a | 2±1.0 ^a |
| 1 | 33±6.5 ^c | 10±5.0 ^{ab} | 11±6.5 ^a | 6±3.5 ^a |
| 0 | 40±5.5 ^c | 20±5.5 ^b | 8±4.5 ^a | ±3.5 ^a |

¹The cumulative percent release of *Meloidogyne incognita* J2 ± SD was calculated using the formula: $((J2_{Dx} - J2_{D0}) / \text{total}) \times 100$. Eggs (20–30 per well) were collected and distributed in 24-well plates and were incubated at 27°C for 14 days in test solutions or plane water. Released J2 were counted at 2, 6, 10, and 14 days post experiment establishment. Each percent data represent the mean ± SD from two experiments performed in time, with five replicates per treatment each. Values within each day were compared using Tuckey’s test and those followed by different letters are significantly different at ($P \leq 0.05$).

they were not detectable in *S. nigrum* extracts. Likewise, *S. nigrum* was richer in palmitic acid and glycerol. On the other hand, the chloroform extracts of both plants showed high levels of alkaloids such as dehydrohyoscinamine, atropine, and scopolamine (Table 8). Fatty acids and monoglycerides were also present at high concentrations; for example, palmitic acid was present at 1,694 mgL⁻¹ only in *S. nigrum* and monoheptadecanoate glycerol at 466 mgL⁻¹ in *D. stramonium*. When the alkaloid rich extract was tested against J2, no paralysis was evidenced at the concentration range of 100 to 1,000 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ (data not shown).

Discussion

A number of weeds have been studied as alternatives to synthetic nematicides. For instance, water and ethanol leaf extracts of *Euphorbia hirta*, *Phyllanthus amarus*, *Cassia obtusifolia*, *Sida acuta*, and *Andropogon gayanus* have been found to provoke 100% mortality on *M. incognita* juveniles at 15% to 20% (w/v) (Olabiya et al., 2008). Chaudhary and co-workers have reported on 75% to 100% mortality of juveniles of *M. incognita* after treatment with hot water and ethanol extracts of *D. stramonium* seed at 25 to 100 mg ml⁻¹

Table 6. Efficacy of weed paste (decomposing tissues) on *Meloidogyne incognita* as calculated in pot experiments.

| Females/g root | | | Galls/g root | | |
|--|------|------------|--|------|-------------|
| EC ₅₀ (mg g ⁻¹) | SE | 95% CI | EC ₅₀ (mg g ⁻¹) | SE | 95% CI |
| <i>Datura stramonium</i> | | | | | |
| 11.40 | 0.92 | 9.48–13.32 | 12.85 | 1.19 | 10.39–15.33 |
| <i>Solanum nigrum</i> | | | | | |
| 1.13 | 0.17 | 0.78–1.48 | 1.15 | 0.17 | 0.79–1.51 |

SE, Standard error; CI, Confidence interval.

Table 7. Small polar metabolites extracted from *Datura stramonium* and *Solanum nigrum*.

| n° | RT ^a | LRI ^b | m/z | Quantitative masse | Cmpd | Concentration (mg L ⁻¹) | |
|----|-----------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | <i>D. stramonium</i> | <i>S. nigrum</i> |
| 1 | 18.303 | 1,099 | 147–233–133 | 147 | Propanedioic acid (2TMS) | ND | 48.52 |
| 2 | 19.498 | 1,166 | 147–205–299 | 147 | Glycerol (3TMS) | 3.61 | 43.36 |
| 3 | 19.982 | 1,193 | 147–247–129 | 147 | U1 | 78.45 | 89.87 |
| 4 | 20.331 | 1,215 | 147–189–292 | 147 | Lactic acid (2TMS) | 28.29 | 11.70 |
| 5 | 20.699 | 1,240 | 147–175–117 | 147 | U2 | 1.68 | 1.13 |
| 6 | 21.238 | 1,276 | 138–168–227 | 138 | U3 | 7.60 | ND |
| 7 | 21.723 | 1,309 | 147–189–233 | 147 | U4 | 6.47 | 2.22 |
| 8 | 22.473 | 1,361 | 147–233–245 | 147 | Malic acid (2TMS) | 4.90 | 1.70 |
| 9 | 22.706 | 1,377 | 147–189–219 | 147 | U5 | 34.81 | 13.35 |
| 10 | 22.793 | 1,383 | 217–205–147 | 217 | Erythrose (1MEOX) (3TMS) | ND | 2.81 |
| 11 | 23.006 | 1,398 | 254–269–180 | 254 | U6 | – | – |
| 12 | 23.161 | 1,410 | 271–169–147 | 147 | 5-hydroxymethyl 2-Furoic acid (2TMS) | 14.15 | ND |
| 13 | 23.206 | 1,413 | 117–147–217 | 117 | U7 | – | – |
| 14 | 23.243 | 1,416 | 205–292–147 | 147 | Threonic acid (4TMS) | 1.52 | ND |
| 15 | 23.616 | 1,445 | 147–334–245 | 334 | U8 | 1.09 | ND |
| 16 | 24.63 | 1,525 | 103–147–217 | 217 | Xylitol (5TMS) | 1.32 | 1.13 |
| 17 | 25.339 | 1,583 | 117–147–147 | 117 | U9 | – | – |
| 18 | 25.518 | 1,598 | 217–319–147 | 217 | Altrose (5TMS) | 3.96 | ND |
| 19 | 25.7 | 1,614 | 231–147–133 | 231 | U10 | – | – |
| 20 | 25.872 | 1,629 | 246–147–129 | 147 | U11 | – | – |
| 21 | 26.126 | 1,651 | 217–257–379 | 217 | U12 | – | – |
| 22 | 26.462 | 1,679 | 204–379–147 | 204 | Lyxose (1MEOX) (4TMS) | t | t |
| 23 | 26.878 | 1,716 | 217–307–103 | 217 | Arabinitol (5TMS) | 2.72 | 2.22 |
| 24 | 26.889 | 1,717 | 345–255–147 | 345 | U13 | – | – |
| 25 | 27.08 | 1,735 | 147–217–307 | 217 | Fructose oxime (6TMS) | 99.41 | 60.26 |
| 26 | 27.363 | 1,761 | 205–319–147 | 319 | Glucose oxime (6TMS) | 161.16 | ND |
| 27 | 27.562 | 1,779 | 319–205–160 | 319 | Galactose oxime (6TMS) | 43.89 | ND |
| 28 | 27.72 | 1,794 | 319–205–147 | 319 | Glucitol tms | ND | 18.40 |
| 29 | 28.313 | 1,851 | 95–83–195 | 95 | U14 | – | – |
| 30 | 28.427 | 1,862 | 313–129–117 | 313 | Palmitic acid (TMS) | ND | 21.06 |
| 31 | 29.189 | 1,937 | 217–305–318 | 305 | Myo-inositol (6TMS) | 10.10 | 1.43 |
| 32 | 29.683 | 1,986 | 319–205–72 | 319 | U15 | – | – |
| 33 | 30.64 | 2,087 | 124–361–140 | 124 | Atropine TMS | 6.04 | 1.23 |
| 34 | 31.03 | 2,130 | 98–217–330 | 330 | Methyl-5,8-epoxyretinoate | 1.87 | 2.34 |
| 35 | 31.33 | 2,164 | 59–72–126 | 59 | Oleamide | 11.28 | – |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------------|-----|--|--------|-------|
| 36 | 33.11 | 2,387 | 371–147–203 | 371 | Monopalmitin (2TMS) | 4.20 | 2.60 |
| 37 | 33.73 | 2,436 | 217–289–361 | 217 | U16 | – | – |
| 38 | 33.89 | 2,447 | 361–217–147 | 361 | Sucrose (8TMS) | 46.74 | 20.16 |
| 39 | 34.01 | 2,456 | 217–230–147 | 217 | Alpha.-DL-arabinofuranoside, methyl (3TMS) | 6,8658 | – |
| 40 | 34.54 | 2,491 | 399–217–147 | 399 | Monostearin (2TMS) | 3.21 | 2.06 |

^aRetention time; ^bLinear retention index; ND, Not detected; TMS, trimethylsilyl; U, unknown.

Table 8. Chemical composition of chloroform extraction of *Datura stramonium* and *Solanum nigrum*.

| n° | RT ^a | LRI ^b | m/z | Quantitative masse | Cmpd | Concentration (mg L ⁻¹) | |
|----|-----------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | | <i>D. stramonium</i> | <i>S. nigrum</i> |
| 1 | 15.30 | 977 | 77–147–174 | 147 | U1 | – | – |
| 2 | 15.80 | 993 | 147–117–191 | 147 | U2 | – | – |
| 3 | 17.09 | 1,047 | 130–174–188 | 130 | U3 | – | – |
| 4 | 17.92 | 1,083 | 117–131–147 | 117 | U4 | – | – |
| 5 | 18.55 | 1,113 | 144–218–73 | 144 | Valine TMS | 28.43 | ND |
| 6 | 19.22 | 1,150 | 192–191–123 | 192 | 4-methylesculetin | 62.86 | ND |
| 7 | 19.97 | 1,192 | 109–111–183 | 183 | U5 | – | – |
| 8 | 23.11 | 1,406 | 263–278–175 | 263 | U6 | – | – |
| 9 | 25.77 | 1,620 | 357–299–211 | 299 | Phosphoric acid TMS | ND | 13.12 |
| 10 | 26.47 | 1,681 | 285–117–85 | 285 | Myristic acid TMS | ND | 51.57 |
| 11 | 28.32 | 1,852 | 95–96–195 | 95 | Acetic acid, 9-methyl-9-aza-bicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-en-2-yl ester | 19.97 | ND |
| 12 | 28.44 | 1,864 | 313–117–129 | 313 | 6-oxo-3-methoxy-n-methyl-4,5,7,8-diepoxy-morphine | 14.93 | ND |
| 13 | 28.5 | 1,869 | 117–129–313 | 313 | Palmitic acid TMS | – | 1,694.97 |
| 14 | 28.54 | 1,873 | 195–194–81 | 195 | U7 | – | – |
| 15 | 28.95 | 1,913 | 263–294–81–67 | 67 | Linoleic acid, methyl ester | ND | 7.82 |
| 16 | 28.98 | 1,917 | 94–124–271 | 124 | Dehydrohyoscinamine | – | – |
| 17 | 29.47 | 1,966 | 160–262–328 | 328 | U8 | – | – |
| 18 | 29.98 | 2,017 | 315–337–183 | 315 | Lauric acid propyl ester | – | – |
| 19 | 30.07 | 2,026 | 337–315–262 | 337 | Linoleic acid TMS | 169.48 | 3,268 |
| 20 | 30.15 | 2,035 | 328–262–160 | 328 | U9 | – | – |
| 21 | 30.29 | 2,050 | 341–117–129 | 341 | Stearic acid TMS | ND | 834.952 |
| 22 | 30.68 | 2,091 | 124–361–94 | 124 | Atropine TMS | 77.95 | 7.00 |
| 23 | 30.88 | 2,112 | 328–329–160 | 328 | U10 | – | – |
| 24 | 31.63 | 2,197 | 343–211–147 | 343 | Myristic acid glycerine TMS | 17.732 | 25.34 |
| 25 | 31.68 | 2,202 | 138–94–154–94 | 138 | Scopolamine | 5.65 | ND |
| 26 | 31.72 | 2,208 | 356–262–160 | 356 | U11 | 6.38 | 15.27 |
| 27 | 32.43 | 2,286 | 356–160–444 | 356 | U12 | – | – |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------------|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 28 | 32.88 | 2,351 | 218–129–313 | 218 | 2-monopalmitin TMS | 13.56 | 544.79 |
| 29 | 33.24 | 2,406 | 371–239–203 | 371 | Palmitin TMS | – | – |
| 30 | 33.87 | 2,446 | 385–147–203 | 385 | Heptadecanoic acid glycerine TMS | 466.72 | ND |
| 31 | 34.32 | 2,476 | 341–218–147 | 218 | 2-monostearin TMS | 13.95 | 14.71 |
| 32 | 34.41 | 2,483 | 397–129–147 | 129 | 1-monooleoylglycerol TMS | – | – |
| 33 | 34.48 | 2,487 | 441–399–147 | 441 | U13 | – | – |
| 34 | 34.63 | 2,498 | 399–147–203 | 399 | Stearin TMS | ND | 496.04 |

^aRetention time; ^bLinear retention index; ND, Not detected; TMS, trimethylsilyl; U, unknown.

(Chaudhary et al., 2013), while Elbadri and co-workers have reported high nematicidal activity levels for *D. stramonium* seed extracts on *M. incognita* J2 at 500ppm (Elbadri et al., 2008). Herein we report on a higher *Meloidogyne* sp. paralysis activity exhibited by *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* methanol extracts, since the $EC_{50/3d}$ values were calculated at around $420\mu\text{gml}^{-1}$. Interestingly the chloroform extracts of *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* were not active against the phytonematodes, thus suggesting the absence of activity for the alkaloids fraction. As previously demonstrated for other nematicidal plant extracts (Ntalli et al., 2013) *M. incognita* was found more susceptible than *M. javanica* when exposed to *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* extracts. When the weed extracts were tested for egg hatch inhibition, *D. stramonium* was more effective than *S. nigrum* in suppressing both cumulating undifferentiated egg hatch and J2 release from eggs. Similarly, water extracts of *Luffa cylindrica* and *Momordica charantia* significantly inhibited the hatching of *Meloidogyne* spp. eggs (Ononuju and Nzenwa, 2011). To the best of our knowledge this is the first report on the paralysis activity and egg hatch inhibition activity of *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* methanol extracts against *Meloidogyne* spp.

Interestingly when the *S. nigrum* seeds paste was used to treat nematode infested soil the EC_{50} value for reducing females per gram of tomato roots was the lowest ever reported for similar treatments by our group, namely 1.13mgg^{-1} (Ntalli et al., 2010; Caboni et al., 2012; Caboni et al., 2013; Aissani et al., 2015; Caboni et al., 2015). Also Radwan and co-workers have reported on *S. nigrum* powder activity on *M. incognita* but at higher concentration levels, namely 5gkg^{-1} (Radwan et al., 2012). It seems *S. nigrum* paste incorporated in the nematode infested soil was more active than the extract and more effective than *D. stramonium*.

Our results, on the chemical composition of the weeds under study agreed with former broad chemical screening studies (Jimoh et al., 2010). Steenkamp et al. (2004) also detected atropine and scopolamine

by high performance liquid chromatography in *D. stramonium*. Additionally, linoleic acid, present at $3,268\text{mgL}^{-1}$ in *S. nigrum* was reported for its nematicidal activity on *Caenorhabditis elegans* with EC_{50} value as low as 5mgL^{-1} (Stadler et al., 1993). This work reports for the first time, ten metabolites in *D. stramonium* and *S. nigrum* using GC–MS after methoxylation and silylation.

It appears that the complexity of the biological interactions among chemical constituents adds to the overall efficacy of the material. We previously found that soil incorporation of powdered plant materials had lower EC_{50} values for nematicidal activity than the respective extracts (Ntalli et al., 2010, Aissani et al., 2015, Caboni et al., 2015). Farmers do in fact utilize complex materials like waste resources, oil seed cake, and gutter oil to help manage *M. incognita* (Zhang et al., 2012) and efficacy is the sum of activities of active(s) against various nematode growth stages (egg, J2, and female laying eggs). The efficacy of the botanical nematicidals along with their side effects on non-target organisms, easiness of preparation, and cost effectiveness contribute to their overall significance (Ntalli and Caboni, 2017). Biofumigation has been advocated as an eco-friendly tactic to manage plant-parasitic nematodes amongst which the number-one target has been *Meloidogyne* sp. (Jones et al., 2013) and Brassicas is the oldest green manure amendment for their control globally (Fourie et al., 2016). Here we prove that the production/release of nematicidal allelochemicals by *S. nigrum* when its seeds are crashed and incorporated into the soil is among the best reported ($EC_{50}=1.13\text{mg}$ of *S. nigrum* powder per gram of soil) by our group. Since both *S. nigrum* and *D. stramonium* are widespread weed species, their soil incorporation could be an interesting alternative nematode control tool.

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