

**GENOTOXIC EFFECT OF THE INSECTICIDE
CHLORPYRIFOS AND THE ROLE OF
LETTUCE LEAVE AS
ANTIMUTAGEN
IN MALE MICE**

BY

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B. Sc. Agric. Sc. (Genetics), Ain Shams University, 2003

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment
of
the requirements for the degree of**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

**Agricultural Science
(Genetics)**

**Department of Genetics
Faculty of Agriculture
Ain Shams University**

2009

Approval Sheet

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للحصول على

درجة الماجستير في العلوم الزراعية
(وراثه)

قسم الوراثة
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جامعة عين شمس

صفحة الموافقة على الرسالة

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تاريخ المناقشة: ٤ / ٤ / ٢٠٠٩

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الدراسات العليا

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٢٠٠٩ / /

ختم الإجازة

موافقة مجلس الجامعة
٢٠٠٩ / /

موافقة مجلس الكلية
٢٠٠٩ / /

ACKNOLEDGMENT

At the first I thank Allah who gives us life that he gives us mind to think, hands to write, tongue to thank and the heart to love. Then I thank my parents be cause they are the cause of my existence in this life,

I wish to express my special thank to my great professor **Dr Aly Zain Elabidin** professor of genetic in agriculture faculty Ain shams university and dean of biotechnology faculty for his brilliant name in the scientific research especially in the field of biotechnology that it's honor for each student to record with him.

Also, I would like to express sincere gratitude to **Dr Kamilia Badrakhan** professor of genetic in cell biology in National Research center who helps us hard to build a great research that it is honor to record with her. She had the first kindness after Allah in this research.

Then I thank **Dr Aida Ibrahim El Makawy** professor in cell biology in National research center who was the unknown solider who exerts her best and had a little. She is the owner of this idea and the owner of the plant of this research.

I don't forget to ask mercy for **Dr Wafaa Mohamed** who I wish paradise for her. In addition to I don't forget to thank my beloved wife Abed El Rahman's mother

Finally I thank every one who helps me on purpose or not from colleagues or relatives thanks very much.

ABSTRACT

Ahmed Mohamed Mohamed Darwish: Genotoxic Effect of the insecticide Chlorpyrifos and the role of Lettuce Leave as Antimutagen in Male Mice. Unpublished M. Sc. Dissertation, Department of Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2009.

Chlorpyrifos [O, O-diethyl-O-(3, 5, 6-trichloro-2-pyridyl)-phosphorothioate] is one of the most widely used organophosphate insecticides. Previous studies proved that chlorpyrifos at different doses induced genotoxicity. Since, the residual levels of pesticides in Egyptian foods often higher than those found in developed countries, the aim of the present work is to evaluate the mutagenicity of the insecticide chlorpyrifos at the doses that equal to its maximum residue limit (MRL) in the leafy vegetables, its double and triple (0.5, 1 & 2 mg/kg body weight) in somatic and germ cells of male mice. In addition, to evaluate the role of lettuce leaves as antimutagen in reducing the genotoxic effect of chlorpyrifos tested doses when concurrently administrated to animals with the insecticide. The study of this effect is conducted on adult male laboratory mice at three levels: Bone marrow cells as model for mitotic chromosome, spermatocytes as a model for meiotic chromosomes and sperm count and morphology. The results of the present study indicated that the treatment of male mice with chlorpyrifos three doses by oral gavages for three month induced significant increase in the frequencies of total chromosomal aberrations in both somatic, and germ cells over than the control groups. Results of the sperm analysis indicated that chlorpyrifos induced significant decrease in the sperm count as compared to negative control. In addition, it induced significant increase in head and tail sperm abnormalities and the coiled tail is

considered the more obvious sperm abnormality induced by chlorpyrifos. Meanwhile, the present study indicated that administration of lettuce leaves at tested dose concurrently with chlorpyrifos different doses could not protect cells from damage.

Key word: Genotoxic, Mutation, Chlorpyrifos, Insecticides, Lettuce, Anti mutagen, Chromosomal aberration, Mice Male

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I- INTRODUCTION

Chlorpyrifos [O, O-diethyl-O-(3, 5, 6-trichloro-2-pyridyl)-phosphorothioate] is one of the most widely used organophosphate insecticides (*Donaldson et al., 2002*). According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, approximately 800 registered products on the market contain chlorpyrifos, and these products are used for a number of purposes, including pest control for a variety of food crops, turf and ornamental plants, green houses, and sod; indoor pest control; structural pest control; and pet collars (*Smegal, 2002*).

The primary mechanism of action of chlorpyrifos involves the inhibition of acetylcholinesterase resulting in a wide range of neurotoxic effects in humans, such as sensory and motor neuropathy with permanent paralysis (*Meggs, 2003*).

Some experimental studies proved that chlorpyrifos-induced genotoxicity (*Patnaik and Tripathy, 1992; Rahman et al., 2002*), sister-chromatid exchanges (*Amer and Aly, 1992; Sobti et al., 1982*), and chromosomal loss (*Woodruff et al., 1983*). In rats, chlorpyrifos has been found to induce mitotic abnormalities and cytotoxicity (*Roy et al., 1998*); immunologic abnormalities, such as increased expression of the CD5 and CD8 surface markers (*Blakley et al., 1999*); and generation of reactive oxygen species, DNA damage, and lactate acid dehydrogenase leakage (*Bagchi et al., 1995*). Also, *De Saliva and Samayawardhena, (2005)* demonstrated that chlorpyrifos affects mating behavior, number of offspring and offspring survival in guppy. But Recent work on organophosphate pesticide illustrate that exposure to neurotoxic compounds, such as chlorpyrifos, at levels considered safe for adults could lead to permanent loss of brain function in early childhood exposure and that these concerns were relevant to the average child's exposure to pesticide residues in their diet (*Slotkin, 2004*).