

PROTECTIVE ROLE OF DIFERENT LOCAL SPICES ON LAMBDA CYHALOTHRIN INDUCED NEPHROTOXICITY IN MALE MICE

Abstract

Aim: This study was aimed at evaluating the protective role of some local spices on lambda cyhalothrin induced nephrotoxicity in male mice

Experimental design: A completely randomized experimental design using standard methods for analysis.

Place and duration of Study: This study was carried out in the Animal house, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology of Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt, Nigeria. GPS 4°47'50"N 6°58'49"E. This study lasted for 35days.

Methodology: The experimental animals were separated into 6 groups (A-F) of seven mice each. Group A served as the control and Group B – F served as the test groups. At the end of the 35 day treatment period, feed was withdrawn from the mice 24 hours before termination of the experiment. Blood samples for analysis of kidney function test were collected from each mouse by ocular puncture into plain tubes. The blood was allowed to clot and centrifuged at 2500g to separate the serum from the cells. Total protein was analyzed using the spectrophotometric method of biuret, Bradford and erythrosine – b, albumin was estimated, creatinine and urea was done using enzymatic method. Vital organs were removed and weighed for organosomatic indices. Histological sections of the kidney were mounted on slides, stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E). Photomicrographs were generated.

Results: There is no significant difference ($P=0.05$) between the organ weight and bodyweight in group A compared with the treatment groups. The values of Albumin, total protein, urea, creatinine and total bilirubin increased significantly in group B administered lambda cyhalothrin alone but decreased in groups administered the local spices. Histopathological analysis of the kidney shows the regular structure of the kidney architecture in group A, tubular degeneration and several vacuolations were observed in group B. However, less degeneration of the epithelial cells, regeneration of renal tubular epithelium were observed in groups C- F.

Conclusion. Based on the results from liver biomarkers and histological micrographs from this study, pronounced degeneration was observed in the kidney cells exposed to lambda-cyhalothrin only. Moreover, all spices used had a regenerating ability on the kidney tubules. It is advocated therefore that consumption of this spices either singly or in combination should be encouraged especially for those exposed to insecticides poisoning

Keywords: antioxidant, biomarkers, insecticides, Nephrotoxicity, spices.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pesticides are used all over the world to enhance food production by eradicating unwanted pests, insects and controlling disease vectors[1] The indiscriminate use over large agricultural and urban areas have been implicated in environmental pollution with adverse health hazards. However, health hazards resulting from human exposure to these insecticides especially indirect consumption through the food chain or as fumigants in developing countries have been a growing concern to researchers across the globe. Lambda Cyhalothrin is a non-systemic [2] synthetic pyrethroid widely used for pest eradication in

different areas with humans inadvertently exposed to it. Since the importance of Lambda-cyhalothrin in insect control can't be overemphasized, there is great concern about the mechanism of action and its negative impact on the environment and non-target organisms.

Induction of oxidative stress is one of the main mechanisms of many of the pesticides action therefore, estimation of free radical generation in relation to decreased antioxidant defense has become an important aspect of investigation in mammals [2,3,4,5,6].

Several studies have shown that pyrethroids cause kidney injury, alteration in kidney biomarkers and induction of oxidative stress [7, 8, 9,10]. According to [8] an induction of kidney cell damage with a significant increase in the activities of the transaminases in deltamethrin exposed rats, disruption of renal function causing DNA damages in pubescent female rats has been reported [10]. Exposure to subchronic concentrations of Cypermethrin showed enlargement of sinusoid, shrinkage of glomeruli, congestion of blood vessels with hemorrhage between the groups treated with 5mg/kg/bw, 7.5mg/kg/bw, and 10mg of Cypermethrin [11].

In the histopathological observation of kidneys exposed to varying concentrations of deltamethrin, there was a significant alterations and lesions within proximal and distal tubules of the kidney of female wistar rats administered subcutaneous injections of deltamethrin at doses 0.003, 0.03 and 0.3mg/kg/bw [9,12]. More so, kidney function test of some farm workers showed significant ($p < 0.05$) elevation in serum urea and creatinine concentrations of Cypermethrin exposed farm workers compared to the control group. However, uric acid exhibited no significant difference between farm workers and controls ($p > 0.05$). Serum total protein, albumin and globulin were significantly increased in farm workers compared to controls ($p < 0.05$). In general, serum urea and creatinine concentrations increased with the farm worker's age and work duration [9, 12]

The histological changes induced by 0.32 ppm/kg-bw of Endosulfan in kidney of albino rat was reported with few histological changes in the cellular structure of unexposed rats or control [13]. However, large capsular space, degeneration and necrosis of renal tubular epithelia were reported in exposed animals with varying health stress conditions finally causing mortality at higher concentration.

There has been an immense effort for researchers to find a potent, natural supplements from indigenous plant parts in the reduction of oxidative stress and kidney injury.

Administration of lycopene along with deltamethrin resulted in the reversal of deltamethrin-induced biochemical changes in kidney and increase in the level of renal antioxidant defense system [5]. Histopathological studies showed lycopene administration markedly reduced the toxicity of deltamethrin and preserve the normal histological architecture of the renal tissue [14,15].

However, report also showed that oral administration of *Allium sativum* extract and Vitamin C causes significant reduction of Urea, Albumin, Total protein in rats exposed to deltamethrin [13,14,16]. This researcher maintained that biological defense mechanisms against intracellular oxidative stress induced by pesticides are present in the organism as antioxidant enzymes and non-enzymatic antioxidants like

carotenoids, vitamin E, Vitamin C, glutathione and Coenzyme Q10 [15,17]. Cyhalothrin is known to produce a variety of biochemical and histological changes on non-target organisms with few researchers proffering solution to this damage. The ameliorative effect of pomegranate as treatment for albino rats exposed to lambda-cyhalothrin has been reported [14]

The potency of medicinal plants depend on their active phytochemical components. The phytochemical constituents of the fruits of *Xylopia aethiopica* showed the presence of cardiac glycoside, flavonoids, tannins, phenols anthraquinones, saponins, and steroids but absence of terpenoids and alkaloids proving its antimicrobial and antibacterial activity [15,17,18].

Tetrapleura tetraptera fruit is widely used in Nigeria as spice for the treatment and management of various medical conditions such as asthma, hypertension and painful arthritic inflammatory conditions. The analgesic and anticonvulsant effects of 50-800mg/kg of *T. tetraptera* in mice [16].

Piper guineense is a West African species of pepper. The spice derived from its dried fruit is known as West African pepper, uziza pepper, ashanti pepper with the presence of flavonoids, tannins, anthraquinones, steroids, coumarins, proteins, cardiac glycoside and terpenoids. The leaves and fruits are used as flavor in most dishes due to its assumed medicinal properties. The leaves assist in the treatment of cough, bronchitis, intestinal disease, rheumatism and while the fruits are used as an aphrodisiac and contraction of the uterus [18, 19]. Moreover, [20] reported *Piper guineense* possesses phytochemicals with anti-plasmodial and analgesic potentials.

Several reports have shown the alarming increase of kidney diseases in both children and adults while the exact causative agent and treatment are not known. Moreover, on daily basis, people use plant natural spices without scientific knowledge of their components and effects. Therefore, there is need to evaluate the effect of *T. tetraptera*, *P. guineense* and *X. aethiopica* on lambda –Cyhalothrin induced nephrotoxicity.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Experimental Location

This study was carried out in the Animal house, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology of Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo Port Harcourt, Nigeria. GPS 4°47'50"N 6°58'49"E.

2.2 Animal Care and Management:

The animal house was properly washed and disinfected, drinkers and food trawlers were equally washed with soap and water. 42 Adult male Swiss mice of mean weight 20.57 ± 3.35 g were purchased from an animal farm in Rivers State, Nigeria. The mice were housed in wire mesh cages under standard conditions (12hrs:12hd) and allowed to acclimatize for 7days before the commencement of the experiment. The mice were fed with standard pellet and clean cool water *ad libitum*. All experiments were conducted according to the institutional protocols of animal care at Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, and the standard procedure for ethical treatment of Laboratory animals.

2.3 Chemicals

Lambda-Cyhalothrin was purchased from a reputable chemical store in Port Harcourt. The dosage was calculated based on information of the lethal dose (LD_{50}) from literature [21].

2.4 Preparation of *Tetrapleura tetraptera*, *Xylopia aethiopica* and *Piper guineense*

Tetrapleura tetraptera fruit, *Xylopia aethiopica* and *Piper guineense* seeds were purchased from a reputable market near the study area. The fruits and seeds were sun dried, blended into fine powder and stored for use.

2.5 Experimental design

The experimental animals were separated into 6 groups (A-F) of seven mice each. Group A served as the control and received water and standard pellet only. Group B – F served as the test groups. Group B received the 10mg/kg/bw/day of Lambda-Cyhalothrin only, Group C received 10mg/kg/bw/day of Lambda-cyhalothrin and 30mg/kg/bw/day of *Tetrapleura tetraptera*. Group D received 10mg/kg/bw/day of Lambda-cyhalothrin and 30mg/kg/bw/day of *Piper guineense*. Group E received 10mg/kg/bw/day of Lambda-cyhalothrin and 30mg/kg/bw/day *Xylopia aethiopica* while Group F received combination of 30mg/kg/bw/day of the three spices with 10mg/kg/bw/day of Lambda-Cyhalothrin.

2.6 Blood Collection

After the 35 days exposure of the mice, feed was withdrawn from the mice 24 hours before termination of the experiment. Blood samples for analysis of kidney function test were collected from each rat by ocular

puncture modified [22] into plain tubes. The blood was allowed to clot and centrifuged at 2500g to separate the serum from the cells. Serum samples were stored in the freezer at 4°C for further analysis [23]. Total protein was analyzed using the spectrophotometric method of biuret, Bradford and erythrosine – B according to [24,25] Albumin was estimated using the method of [26, 27]. Creatinine and Urea was done using enzymatic method [28,29].

2.7 Histopathological analysis of the Kidney

Immediately after dissection of each animal, 0.5g of kidney was fixed in 10% neutral formalin and sectioned with a digital Rotatory Microtome (AO spencer No. 820) at 5µm. Histological sections mounted on slides was stained with hematoxylin and counter-stained with eosin (H&E) according to [22,30]. Photomicrographs were generated with a digital microscope Biosphere Miller B with an image processor DN2 – microscopy image processing software [22] at x40 magnification.

Data obtained from the biochemical analysis of Kidney biomarkers were subjected to one-way ANOVA and graphs produced using SPSS 22 software.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Body weight and organosomatic indices of male mice co-administered with lambda-cyhalothrin and different local spices

The effect of lambda-cyhalothrin exposure administered with different local spices on the mean weight in relation to their bodyweight is shown in Table 1.

There was no significant difference ($P>0.05$) between the percentage weight of liver in the control group and that in the treatment groups compared to their body weights. Also there was no significant difference in the heart, spleen, kidney and seminal vesicle of the animals in group B compared to those in other groups co-administered with lambda-cyhalothrin.

Table 1: Effect of co-administration of the spices on organosomatic indices of male mice exposed to Cyhalothrin.

GRPS	Body wt (g)	Hepatosomatic (%)	Cardiosomatic (%)	Spleenosomatic (%)	Renosomatic (%)	Sem.Vesicle (%)
A	27.40±3.06	4.79±0.26	0.55±0.08	0.39±0.05	1.45±0.08	0.61±0.21

B	28.61±2.36	4.74±0.34	0.52±0.05	0.39± 0.07	1.59±0.20	0.53±0.17
C	25.22±2.53	4.82±0.32	0.11±0.03	0.51±0.12	1.62±0.08	0.60±0.11
D	26.93±2.47	5.57±0.56	0.52±0.08	0.67±0.20	1.54±0.17	0.73±0.20
E	30.94±2.33	5.05±0.53	0.49±0.15	0.56±0.16	1.47±0.29	0.69±0.12
F	26.32±1.72	4.51±0.39	0.52±0.17	0.45±0.16	1.35±0.25	0.56±0.23
P>0.05	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02

*Values are Mean±SD, level of significance (P=0.05)

3.2 Potential Nephrotoxicity by analysis of kidney biomarkers

The effect of lambda-cyhalothrin coadministered the three local spices in this study on some kidney biomarkers are shown in fig 1A-1D. The value of albumin in the control was 43.3g/dl and increased significantly (P=0.05) to 47.01g/dl in group B, administered Cyhalothrin only. The administration of the three spices alongside Lambda-Cyhalothrin in groups C, D, E, F however recorded non-significant values of 45.11g/dl,42.03g/dl, 41.14 g/dl and 45.1g/dl respectively when compared to the control group.

The concentration of total protein recorded in the control group was 69.12 g/dl. When compared to those in other groups, the value increased significantly (P=0.05) to 82.13g/dl in group B with administration of cyhalothrin only. The values of urea (UR), creatinine (CR), and total bilirubin (TB) followed the same trend with a significant increase (P=0.05) in the group exposed to Cyhalothrin but decreased in groups C-F that were co-administered the spices.

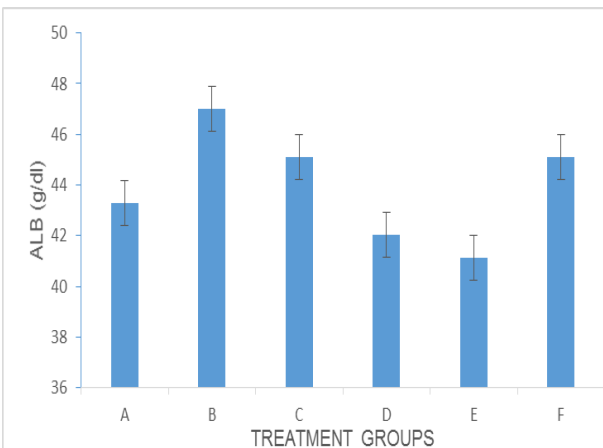


Fig 1A: Concentration of Albumin (ALB g/dl) in the treatment groups

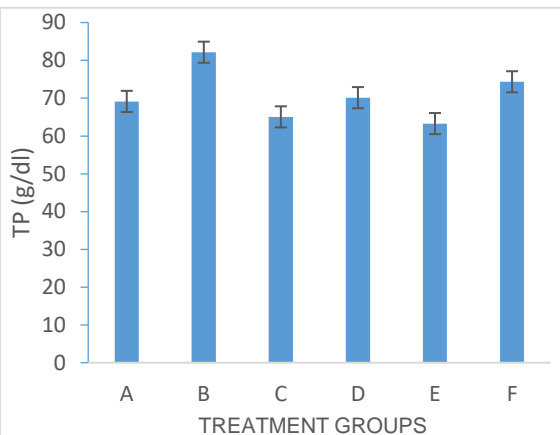


Fig 1B: Concentration of Total protein (TP g/dl) in the treatment groups

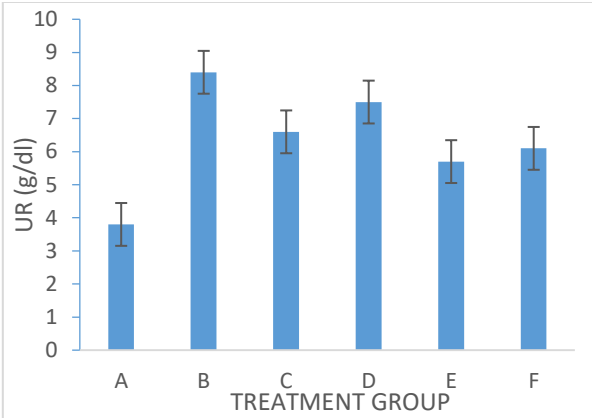


Fig 1C: Concentration of Urea (UR g/dl) in the treatment groups

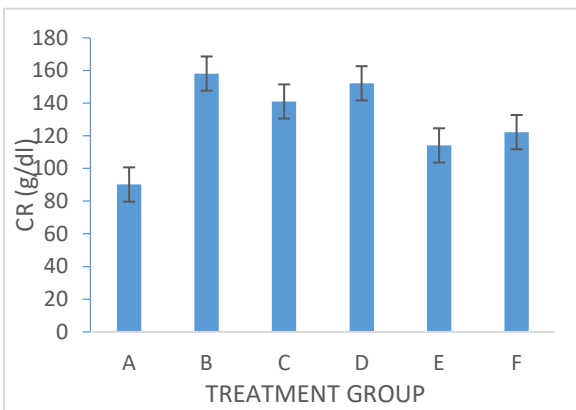


Fig 1D: Concentration of Creatinine (CR g/dl) in the treatment groups

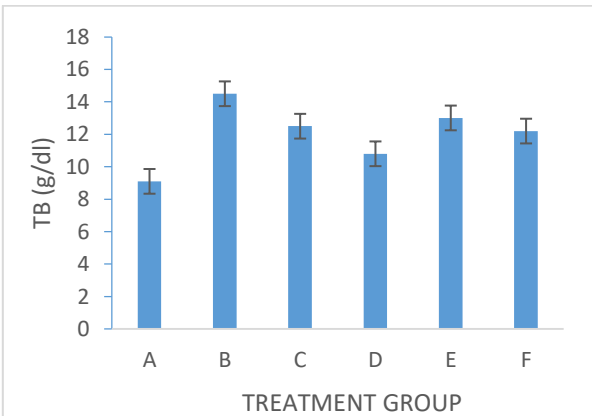
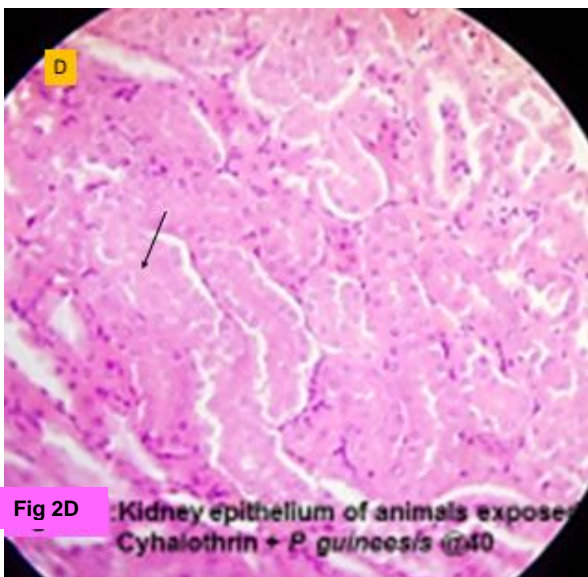
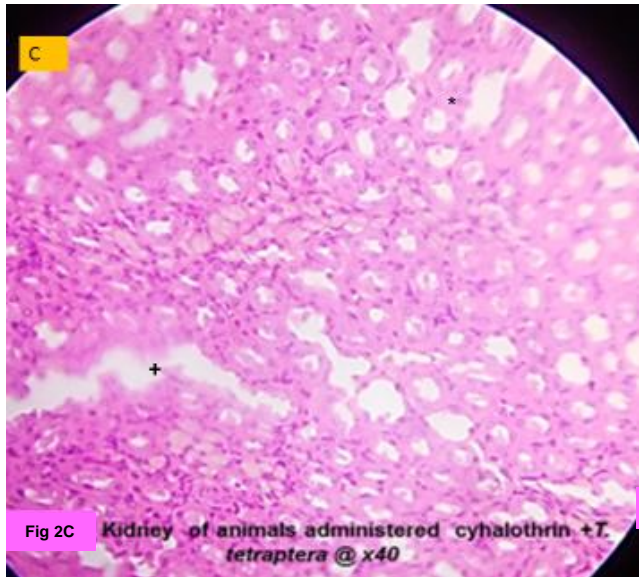
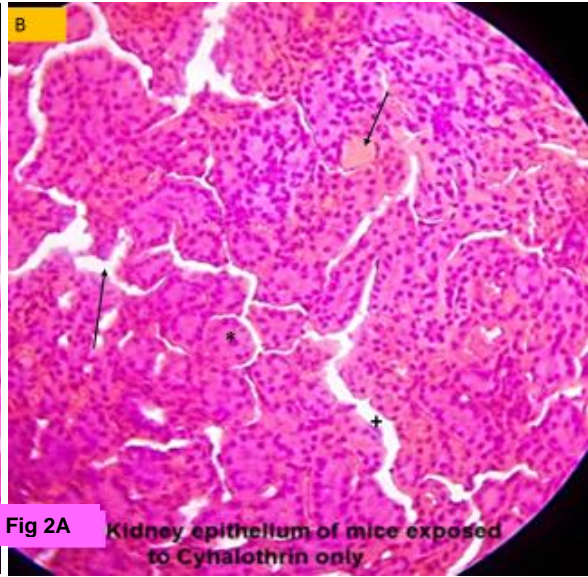
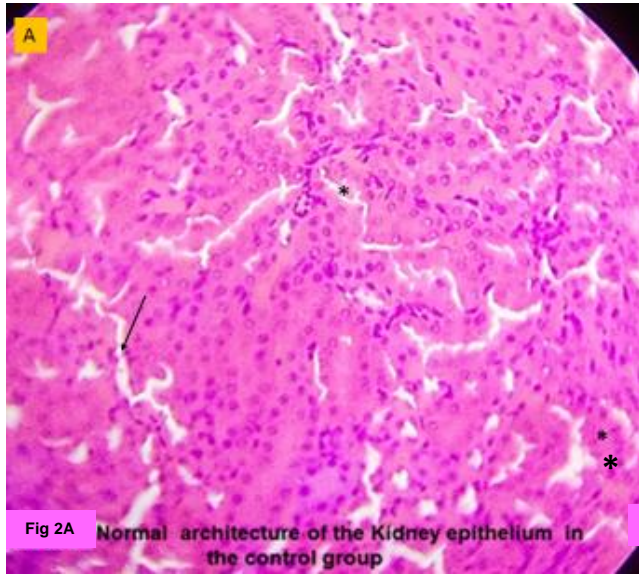


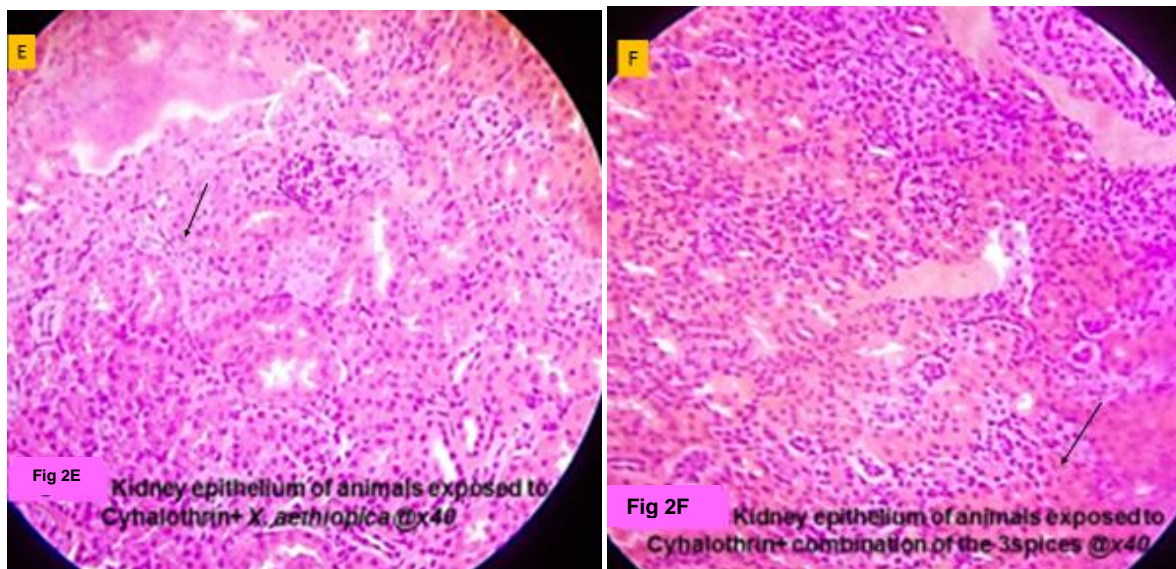
Fig 1E: Concentration of TB (Total Bilirubin g/dl) in the treatment groups

Fig 1: Analysis of kidney markers in treated group. (A) Concentration of albumin; (B) Concentration of total protein, (C) Concentration of urea; (D) Concentration of creatinine; (E) Concentration of total bilirubin.

3.3. Histopathological analysis of the kidney of Swiss mice exposed to lambda-cyhalothrin and different local spices

Histopathological analysis of the kidney of male mice exposed to lambda-cyhalothrin and the three different local spices are shown in figure 2A-2F. Figure 2A shows the regular structure of the kidney architecture showing epithelial cells (+), Bowman capsule's space (*), regular structure of capillaries, tubules and glomeruli of animals in the control group. Close examination of the micrograph in Figure 2B shows tubular degeneration and several vacuolations, alteration in Bowman's space impaired epithelium mononuclear inflammatory cells (+), infiltration of blood corpuscles. Figure 2C shows less pronounced changes in areas of renal cortex containing corpuscles and associated tubules co-administered the spices, presence of epithelial vacuolation(*) in the group co-administered *Tetrapleura tetraptera*. Figure 2D shows less degeneration of the epithelial cells and restoration of renal tubular epithelium in the group co-administered *Xylopi aethiopica*. Figure 2E shows full restoration of the unique renal tubular epithelium in the group co-administered *Piper guineense*. Figure 2F shows fully regenerated renal epithelium with Bowman's capsule space and normal cellular architecture in the group co-administered the combination of the three spices.





4. DISCUSSION

The kidney is a specialized organ that selectively removes toxic substances from the body thereby maintaining its internal environment (Homeostasis). The non-significant differences observed in the organ and bodyweight of the experimental animals shows that lambda cyhalothrin is not a systemic toxin. Therefore, it can silently destroy the vital organs of the body without conspicuous changes in the bodyweight. This finding is also supported by [2]. Cyhalothrin is a synthetic pyrethroid implicated in the induction of oxidative stress by elevation of serum total bilirubin (TB) which was significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher in group B administered Cyhalothrin alone than the control. The level of urea, total protein, albumin and creatinine were also significantly ($p < 0.05$) elevated in group B (fig 1). This is at variance with studies by [29] who reported no significant difference in the creatinine level of rats exposed to 20mg/kg/bw/day of Cypermethrin. The increase in the level of urea in group B indicates the decreased ability of the kidney to filter and excrete the waste product of metabolism. Moreover, [2,5,6,31] reported a significant elevation of total bilirubin and creatinine known to be associated with kidney pathology including tubular necrosis in rats exposed to deltamethrin, cypermethrin and lambda- Cyhalothrin respectively. The significant increase in the level of glucose, urea, creatinine and total bilirubin of rats exposed to deltamethrin and a significant decrease in this biochemical parameters when coadministered vitamin E was reported by [32] Also [33] reported an increase in kidney weight, total bilirubin, urea, creatinine in rats induced lambda-cyhalothrin but pomegranate fruit ameliorated lambda cyhalothrin induced toxicity in exposed rats. The histological micrographs of the kidneys of mice in the group administered lambda-cyhalothrin alone, show pronounced degeneration of the tubules, several vacuolations, and widened tubular lumen, alteration in Bowman's space, impaired epithelium, mononuclear inflammatory cells(+) and infiltration of blood

corpuscles. [32] reported severe vacuolations, cell infiltration and widened tubular lumen in rats administered lambda cyhalothrin alone. The decrease in all the kidney biomarkers evaluated and regeneration of the renal tubules in the groups coadministered *Tetrapleura tetraptera*, *Xylopia aethiopica*, *Piper guineense* alone or in combination show the contributive antioxidant and regenerating ability of these spices against lambda-Cyhalothrin induced kidney injury.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the results from liver biomarkers and histological micrographs from this study, lambda-cyhalothrin induced pronounced degeneration of the tubules, several vacuolations, and widened tubular lumen. Moreover, all spices used had a regenerating ability on the kidney tubules, an indication that the different local spices may serve as remedy against kidney injury. It is advocated therefore that consumption of these different local spices alone or in combination should be encouraged especially for those exposed to insecticides poisoning.

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ETHICAL APPROVAL

The experiment was conducted according to the institutional animal care protocols at the Rivers State University Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt, Rivers state, Nigeria and followed approved guidelines for the ethical treatment of experimental animals.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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