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# GROWTH OF SESAME AS INFLUENCED BY VARIETIES AND PLANT EXTRACTS ON THE CONTROL OF *Cercospora* sp. IN ARDO-KOLA AND GASSOL, TARABA STATE, NIGERIA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Field trial was conducted at Ardokola (Latitude 08<sup>o</sup> 53'N and Longitude 11<sup>o</sup> 19'E) and Gassol (Latitude 08° 31'N and Longitude 10° 33'E) 2012 to investigate the influence of four cultivars (Yandev 55, NCRIBEN 01M, E8 and NCRIBEN-03L) and five plant extracts (Azadirachtaindica, **Jatrophacurcas** Linn.. Aliumsativum, Ocimum gratissimum (L., Chromolaenaodorata) and Benomylincluding unsprayed control on Cercosporasesami on sesame growth parameters. The trial was designed using randomized complete block design (RCRD) in a split plot arrangement in allocating treatments to plots which was replicated four times. In both locations sesame plants were sprayed with 10% extracts once in every two weeks using hand sprayer from 4 to 10 weeks after sowing. Results obtained showed that plant extracts (Ocimum, Chromolaena), which had statistical similarities with Benlate help to significantly reduced incidence of infection of Cercospora leaf spot (CLS) disease on sesame and slow down epiphytotic rate of progress, which subsequently resulted in to significant increase in plant height (cm) and branches per plant at both locations. Furthermore, variety E8 was found to be resistant to Cercospora leaf spot. Similarly, interaction effect indicated that E8 seedlings sprayed with plant extract from Ocimumgratissimum and Chromolaenaodorata gave the lowest incidence and infection rate, compared with the highest disease obtained from unsprayed plants of Yandev 55 variety. This had resulted in highest increase of plant height (cm) and branches per plant. From this study it could be seen that the performance of the plant extracts is comparable to the synthetic fungicide Benomyl, and therefore this has given the farmers ample opportunities to try many alternatives that are user friendly. Therefore, plant extracts and crop varieties can be used as a potential tool in plant disease management, particularly Cercospora leaf spot of sesame, as sustainable and ecofriendly botanical fungicides that are economically and environmentally rewarding for sesame and other crop producers.

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**Keywords:** *Cercospora* sp., sesame varieties, plant extracts, incidence, infection rate, growth parameters.

#### INTRODUCTION

Sesame (*Sesamumindicum* L.) is considered to be the oldest of the oilseed plants and has been under cultivation in Asia for over 5000 years (3). Among oil crops, sesame is one of the highest in oil content (50 to 52 %), protein (17 - 19 %) and 16 - 18 % carbohydrates (29, 2, 30, 32). Sesame is suitable for use in resin production because of its low cholesterol level and presence of unsaturated fatty acids (43 % each of oleic and linoleic). Therefore, because of the high unsaturated fat and methionine contents, sesame seed and oil are in high demand in Nigeria as export materials (24, 6).

Despite its great export potential, the yields of sesame in Nigeria and elsewhere is still dismally low, averaging 300 - 430 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> as opposed to research seed yield as high as 2000 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (13). The low seed yield could be due to damage by insect pests and diseases, insufficient weed control, and poor management practices. Fungal diseases are major constraints militating against optimal growth and development (11). Amongst these, Cercospora leaf spot (Cercosporasesami. Zimm) has been identified as the most prevalent in Nigeria and other parts of Africa, of which there are no satisfactory control methods being, evolved yet (11, 21, 16). Over the years, synthetic fungicides like Benomyl and Mancozeb had been effectively used to control the disease. However, pesticides have been found to create a myriad of problems which include pest resistance, resurgence of pests, pesticide residues, secondary pest development, destruction of beneficial fauna, environmental pollution, toxicity posed to man and high costs that forbid their use by ordinary farmers (7, 17, 1). Under such debilitating circumstances, interest in organic farming has been growing and, therefore, exploring alternatives to control Cercospora Leaf Spot (CLS) of sesame is a fundamental means of supporting the smallholder farmer to diversify into organic production and be able to tap into the high profits associated with organic products. This, in turn, necessitates the search for alternatives in plant products, many of which have been reported to be effective in the control of several plant diseases (20). This study was, therefore, aimed at determining the influence of varieties and plant extracts on Cercospora sp. and subsequent growth of sesame in Northern (Ardo-kola) and Southern (Gassol) Guinea Ecological areas of Taraba State, Nigeria.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### I. Field layout and experimental design

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The field experiment in Ardo-Kola (Latitude 08°51′N - 08° 53′N and Longitude 011°17′E - 11° 19'E) and Gassol (Latitude 08° 31'N and Longitude 10° 33'E) were laid out using Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) in a split plot arrangement whereby Four sesame varieties (Yandev 55, NCRIBEN-01M, E8 and NCRIBEN-03L) recommended for Northern Guinea and Southern Guinea Savanna (Table 1), obtained from National Cereals Research Institute Badegi, were assigned to the main-plots; while water extracts from Neem leaf (AzadirachtaindicaJuss), Jatropha leaf (Jatrophacurcas Linn.), Garlic bulb (Aliumsativum L.), African Basil leaf (Ocimumgratissimum L.) and Siam weed leaf (Chromolaenaodorata (Linn.) King and Robinson), a synthetic fungicide, Benomyl 50 WP (500 g a.i kg<sup>-1</sup>) and an unsprayed control (7 treatments) were tested on subplots. Both main plots and subplots were replicated four (4) times. Subplot size was 5 m x 4 m with inter-and intra-row spacing of 50 cm and 10 cm respectively. A total of 112 subplots were laid out on the field. About six seeds were sown in each planting hole and at two weeks after sowing, the emerging seedlings were thinned to two plants per stand. Hoe weeding was carried out at 3 and 7 weeks after sowing. Field insects such as sesame webworm (AntigastracatalaunalisDup.), the gall midge (AsphondyliasesamiFelt.), Green peach aphid (Myzuspersica), white fly (Bemisiatabacci), and sesame seed bug (Elasmolomussordidus) were controlled by applying Super plus (Cypermethrin 100 EC) at the rate of 30 ml 1<sup>-1</sup> of water at 3 and 5 WAS. Compound fertilizer (15:15:15 NPK) was broadcasted over the areas at the rate of 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> before the land was marked out (28).

#### II. Pathogen isolation

The causal organism *Cercospora* sp. was isolated from leaves showing typical leaf spot symptoms of *Cercospora* leaf spot (CLS). With the aid of forceps flamed and cooled in methylated spirit, the leaves were carefully transferred unto humid chambers made up of petri dishes that were under laid with filter papers at both covers and wetted thoroughly. The whole process was carried out under sterile conditions in a Laminar flow Chamber. The plates were then kept on the bench in a previously fumigated clean room where they could access sunlight at room temperature for 72 hours, and examined for sporulation under Trinocular Microscope.

#### III. Purification and examination

After 72 hours of incubation pieces of leaves around the spot areas were cut using sterile needles and transferred unto glass slides containing cotton blue stain. The slides were then covered with lids, pressed tightly with fingers to eliminate air bubbles and mounted on a trinocular microscope. Observed conidia from separate conidiophores were picked using glass needle (that was previously flamed and cooled in methylated spirit) and transferred aseptically in to six different plates containing V8 agar using single spore technique as part of the culture purification process. The process was carried out under sterile condition. The plates were placed in an

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incubator for 7 days. After that the plates were removed and kept on the bench in a previously fumigated clean room where they could access sunlight at room temperature for 3 weekswhere morphological characteristics of the fungus were observed daily during the growth period until the cultures had fully sporulated. Detailed microscopic examinations were carried out during the growing stages to reveal the organism. In each case, temporary slides were prepared and viewed under x 45 objective lens of a trinocular microscope.

Table 1. Origin and Description of Sesame Varieties used for the Experiments

Variety	Source/Developing Institute	Description
Yandev 55	IAR, Samaru, Zaria	A local variety improved through selection, grown in derived, southern and northern ecological zones of Nigeria. Tall (about 125 cm), 2-3 branches and late maturing (125 days). Moderately resistant to leaf spot disease and potential seed yield of 600 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> .
NCRIBEN-01M	India/ IAR, Samaru, Zaria; NCRI, Badeggi	Originally named 530-6-1, recommended for all ecological zones. Medium height (111.5 cm), about 3.0 branches and with medium maturity (102-115 days). Resistant to leaf spot, attractive seed colour and potential seed yield of 1000 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> .
E8	Sudan/ IAR, Samaru, Zaria	Early maturing (90 days), about 116 cm tall, profuse branching (4.0). Resistant to leaf spot and potential seed yield of about 1000 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> .
NCRIBEN-03L	Sudan/ NCRI, Badeggi	Original name was GOZA-25. Late maturing (125-140 days), moderately resistant to leaf spot, about 125 cm tall and branching of about 3.0. Drought tolerant, good seed quality and potential yield of about 600 kg ha <sup>-1</sup> .

Source: National Centre for Genetic Research and Biotechnology (14, 15, 8).

#### IV. Pathogenicity test

Pathogenicity study was conducted on sesame plants using cv. Yandev 55 variety (4, 5). Seedlings were raised by sowing seeds in 25 cm diameter plastic buckets (10 seedlings/bucket) and later thinned to 5 seedlings/bucket. At 3 weeks after sowing, the seedlings were sprayed with spore suspension of  $1x10^4$  spores/ml in distilled water of the pathogen. Such inoculated plants

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were then covered with perforated transparent polythene sheets to build relative humidity and maintained for 24 hours. At the end of 24 hours, the pots were kept in screenhouse under natural humidity. The plants were watered regularly and observations were made for the appearance and development of symptoms. Symptoms of Cercospora leaf spot were observed as from 4 to 12 weeks after sowing. Symptoms started 1 week after inoculation as small brown spots, which later turned to dark brown colour. Advanced leaf lesion characterized by a dark to dark-brown spots with a whitish to straw-coloured or perforated centre was observed 7 weeks after inoculation. The fungus was re-isolated from the leaves that exhibited symptoms and the cultures obtained were compared with the original to confirm the identity according to Kock's postulates. This confirmation was done before inoculation of the isolated pathogen for the field experiments.

Source and preparation of extracts: Plant extracts from leaves of Azadirachtaindica, Jatrophacurcas Linn., Aliumsativum (bulbs), Ocimumgratissimum(L.), and Chromolaenaodorata that were obtained from within and around ModibboAdama University of Technology, Yola were used for the screenhouse trials. The crude extracts were obtained by first of all sterilizing plant parts in 10% Sodium hypochlorite (NaCl) for 1 minute, washed 5 times in distilled water and air dried for 3 weeks. Thereafter, the plant materials were ground using mortar and pestle and sieved in a 40 mm sieve into a fine powder. To obtain extracts 100 g of the grounded powder (packaged according to plant species) were weighed in to conical flasks. After, 100 mls distilled water was added to form a ratio of 1:1 weight over volume basis. This was then corkedand shaken well for 20 minutes to mix and allow to stand overnight (24 hours) at room temperature and the content filtered using a muslin cloth. To obtain 10% concentration for spray, 100 mls of the filtered extract suspension was added to 900 mls distilled water to make up to 1 litre. This was then kept in glass bottles until needed.

#### V. Inoculation and application of plant extracts

The seedlings in the field were inoculated with spore suspension of 1 x 10<sup>4</sup> conidial/ml for even distribution of the pathogen at 3 WAS. This is to ensure adequate contact between the pathogen and the sesame plants. Thereafter, plant extracts (10%) were sprayed as from 4 WAS using hand sprayer and repeated at two weeks intervals until 10 WAS. The synthetic fungicide, Benomyl 50 WP (500 g a.i. /kg) was sprayed at the recommended rate of 2 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> at 4 WAS and 8 WAS, while the control was left unsprayed.

#### VI. Disease assessment

The incidence of CLS infection (percentage calculated on the basis of diseased plants over the total plants) was obtained at 4, 6, 8 and 12 WAS. This was intended to show the progress of the disease in each treatment.

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#### VII. Logistic infection rate

This was determined using the modified (31) formula and according to (33) as follows:

$$r = \left\{ \frac{1 \log i t X_2 - \log i t X_1}{t_2 - t_1} \right\}$$

Where:  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are the incidences of diseases at the days  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively. This was expected to measure the speed of the epiphytotic process in each treatment.

#### VIII. Growth parameters' measurement

Determinations of agronomic traits were done using the five plants that were maintained per pot. The parameters measured included:

- a). **Plant height (cm):** This was done at 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 weeks after sowing (WAS) and at harvest by measuring distance from ground level to the tip of all the 5 plants and finding average for one plant.
- b). **Number of branches:** The number of branches was determined by counting number of branches at 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 weeks after sowing (WAS) and at harvest on the 5 plants and finding average per plant.
- c). Weeks to 50% flowering: It was achieved by counting number of plants to determine when 50% of plants per each plot have flowered.
- d). Weeks at harvest: Weeks to harvest was estimated when 90 % of the plants in each plot had two thirds of their capsules way up fully matured by turning yellow.

#### IX. Statistical analysis

The data obtained from disease incidence, infection rate and growth parameters were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) for split plot design using the generalized linear model (GLM) procedure of SAS Version 9 (25).

#### **RESULTS**

#### I. Effects of varieties and plant extracts on cercospora leaf spot (CLS) incidence at 12 WAS

There was a highly significant cultivar effects on the disease incidence. Sesame variety E8, which was significantly at par with NCRIBEN-01M, recorded reduced/lowered incidence of

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CLS disease at Ardo-kola (63.40 %) and Gassol (57.37 %) as compared to susceptible Yandev 55 with the highest incidence (71.86; 71.39 %) respectively (Table 2). There was also significant ( $P \le 0.05$ ) difference between plant extracts and unsprayed control in 2012. Meanwhile, the lowest value (63 %) was obtained in plants treated with Chromolaena and Benomyl (standard check) in 2012. At Gassol location the result revealed that plant extracts, which were significantly the same with Benomyl (61.43 %), gave the lowest incidence than unsprayed control (78.70 %). The result of CLS incidence indicated insignificant effect due to location amongst varieties and plant extracts (Table 2). However, there were significant cultivar and plant extracts effects for the two locations' combined analysis (Table 2). Sesame variety E8, which was statistically the same with NCRIBEN-01M, gave the lowest combined analysis incidence of 60.39 %, than Yandev 55 (71.63 %) and NCRIBEN-03L (71.50 %). Furthermore, the synthetic fungicide Benomyl, which was statistically similar to Chromolaena and Ocimum, produced the lowest combined analysis incidence (61.99 %) than unsprayed control (78.90 %).

#### II. Variety x plant extracts interaction on incidence

There was highly significant (P= 0.001) interaction between varieties and plant extracts on CLS incidence at 12 WAS at Ardo-kola field experiment (Table 3). The result revealed the lowest interaction value of 58.99 % in sesame variety E8 plants sprayed with Benomyl, which was statistically at par with combination of E8 x Chromolaena, E8 x Ocimum, and E8 x Garlic, NCRIBEN-01 M x Ocimum, NCRIBEN-01 M x Chromolaena and NCRIBEN-01 M x Benomyl. The highest incidence value of 84.98 % was obtained from unsprayed plants of Yandev 55. The trend was repeated in the Gassol location (Table 4) with E8 x Benomyl, which was statistically the same with E8 x Chromolaena, E8 x Ocimum, and E8 x Garlic, having lowest value (54.89 %), compared to the highest value obtained from unsprayed plants of NCRIBEN-03L (90.00 %) and Yandev 55 (88.42 %). The combined analysis interaction effect in Table 5 of the two locations indicated that plants of E8 (moderately resistant) sprayed with extract of Benomyl gave the lowest value of 56.94 %, which was at par with plants of the same variety treated with Ocimum andChromolaena. The highest combined analysis mean value of 87.43 % was observed on unsprayed susceptible Yandev 55.

#### III. Effects of varieties and plant extracts on CLS Logistic infection rate

Logistic infection rate presented in Table 2 showed various levels of epiphytotic rate of progress in both locations with respect to varieties and plant extracts. The result indicated that sesame variety E8 had the lowest epiphytotic rate in Ardo-kola (0.007 unit per day), Gassol (0.0027 unit per day) and combined analysis (0.0049 unit per day) than Yandev 55 (0.014; 0.017; 0.015 units per day) respectively. The results of both locations indicated that the speed of the epiphytotic process was highly (P=0.01) slower in Ocimum extract than unsprayed plots. Combined analysis

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of two locations further confirmed the efficacy of Ocimum in slowing down rate of epiphytotic processes with lowest value of 0.0060 units per day (Table 2), compared with the unsprayed control plots having the highest logistic infection rate of 0.020 units per day. The result also revealed that infection rate did not show significant locational effect amongst varieties and plant extracts (Table 2).

Table 2.Incidence and Infection rate of CLS on Sesame at 12 WAS in Ardo-kola and Gassol during 2012 Rainy Season

Treatment	Incidence (%) at Ardo-kola	Incidence (%) at Gassol	Combined analysis of incidence (%)	<sup>1</sup> Infection rate at Ardo-kola	<sup>1</sup> Infection rate at Gassol	<sup>1</sup> Combined analysis of infection rate
Ardo-kola (L1)			67.37 <sup>a</sup>			0.01 <sup>a</sup>
Gassol (L2)			65.60 <sup>a</sup>			$0.0097^{a}$
Mean			66.49			0.0099
SE			2.55			0.00031
LSD			6.24			0.00076
Variety(V)						
Yandev 55	$71.86^{a}$	71.39 <sup>a</sup>	71.63 <sup>a</sup>	$0.014^{a}$	$0.015^{b}$	$0.015^{a}$
NCRIBEN- 01M	65.64 <sup>bc</sup>	59.22 <sup>b</sup>	62.43 <sup>b</sup>	0.0093°	0.0045°	0.0069°
E8	63.40°	57.37 <sup>b</sup>	60.39 <sup>b</sup>	$0.007^{d}$	$0.0027^{d}$	$0.0049^{d}$
NCRIBEN- 03L	68.58 <sup>ab</sup>	74.41 <sup>a</sup>	71.50 <sup>a</sup>	0.011 <sup>b</sup>	$0.017^{a}$	0.014 <sup>b</sup>
SE	2.32	2.78	2.55	0.00034	0.00027	0.00031
LSD(0.05)	5.06	6.06	5.56	0.00074	0.00059	0.00068
Plant Extract (F)						
Neem	69.88 <sup>b</sup>	66.72 <sup>b</sup>	68.3 <sup>b</sup>	$0.013^{b}$	$0.01^{b}$	$0.012^{b}$
Jatropha	68.30 <sup>b</sup>	65.98 <sup>b</sup>	67.14 <sup>b</sup>	0.011 <sup>c</sup>	0.0091°	$0.010^{c}$

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Garlic	65.41 <sup>bc</sup>	62.34 <sup>b</sup>	63.88 <sup>bc</sup>	0.0087 <sup>d</sup>	0.0076 <sup>d</sup>	0.0082 <sup>d</sup>
Ocimum	65.31 <sup>bc</sup>	61.88 <sup>b</sup>	63.60 <sup>bc</sup>	$0.0053^{\rm g}$	$0.0066^{\rm e}$	$0.0060^{\rm f}$
Chromolaena	63.05°	62.14 <sup>b</sup>	62.60 <sup>bc</sup>	$0.0066^{\rm f}$	$0.0073^{d}$	$0.0070^{\rm e}$
Benomyl	62.55 <sup>c</sup>	61.43 <sup>b</sup>	61.99 <sup>c</sup>	0.0075 <sup>e</sup>	$0.0068^{e}$	$0.0072^{e}$
Control	79.10 <sup>a</sup>	$78.70^{a}$	$78.90^{a}$	$0.019^{a}$	0.021 <sup>a</sup>	$0.02^{a}$
Mean	67.37	65.60	66.49	0.01	0.0097	0.0099
SE	2.32	2.78	2.55	0.00034	0.00027	0.00031
LSD(0.05)	4.65	5.57	5.11	0.00068	0.00054	0.00062
VxF	*	*	*	*	*	*
V x L	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VxFxL	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table3. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Incidence (%) of CLS at Ardo-kola in 2012 Rainy Season

	Incidence (%) of cercospora leaf spot at 12 weeks after sowing					
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55		
Neem	68.29 <sup>ef</sup>	64.52 <sup>jk</sup>	72.14 <sup>d</sup>	81.79 <sup>a-c</sup>		
Jatropha	$67.37^{ef}$	$64.56^{jk}$	$66.75^{\text{f-h}}$	$81.77^{bc}$		
Garlic	$63.10^{k}$	$61.20^{1}$	$68.26^{ m ef}$	$79.06^{c-e}$		
Occimum	$61.03^{1}$	$60.19^{1}$	64.90 <sup>h-k</sup>	$78.06^{de}$		
Chromoaena	$61.35^{1}$	59.99 <sup>1</sup>	64.69 <sup>i-k</sup>	$77.59^{de}$		
Benomyl	$60.65^{1}$	$58.99^{1}$	64.03 <sup>k</sup>	$77.78^{de}$		
Control	77.74 <sup>bc</sup>	$74.34^{d}$	79.33 <sup>b</sup>	86.43a		
LSD (0.05)	6.56					

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>unit per day (calculated from incidence at 4 and 12 WAS)

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Table 4. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Incidence (%) of CLS at Gassol in 2012 Rainy Season

	Incidence (%) of cercospora leaf spot at 12 weeks after sowing					
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55		
Neem	59.44 <sup>j</sup>	57.92 <sup>j-1</sup>	75.86 <sup>b</sup>	76.10 <sup>bc</sup>		
Jatropha	58.84 <sup>j</sup>	$58.17^{jk}$	73.96 <sup>bc</sup>	$75.75^{bc}$		
Garlic	56.14 <sup>k-m</sup>	55.78 <sup>m</sup>	$70.43^{\rm ef}$	$70.92^{de}$		
Occimum	56.16 <sup>k-m</sup>	54.85 <sup>m</sup>	$70.39^{\rm ef}$	68.35 <sup>ef</sup>		
Chromoaena	55.99 <sup>lm</sup>	55.30 <sup>m</sup>	$70.66^{d-f}$	$69.46^{ef}$		
Benomyl	$55.68^{\rm m}$	54.89 <sup>m</sup>	$69.58^{\mathrm{fg}}$	$67.04^{\rm f}$		
Control	72.27 <sup>c-f</sup>	64.71 <sup>i</sup>	$90.00^{a}$	88.42a		
LSD (0.05)	12.01					

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 5. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Combined Analysis of Incidence (%) of CLS at Ardo-kola and Gassol in 2012 Rainy Season

	Incidence (	Incidence (%) of cercospora leaf spot at 12 weeks after sowing					
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55			
Neem	63.87 <sup>d-h</sup>	61.22 <sup>e-h</sup>	74.00 <sup>bc</sup>	78.95 <sup>ab</sup>			
Jatropha	63.10 <sup>e-h</sup>	61.37 <sup>e-h</sup>	$70.36^{b-e}$	$78.76^{ab}$			
Garlic	59.62 <sup>f-h</sup>	$58.50^{e-h}$	69.35 <sup>с-е</sup>	$74.99^{bc}$			
Occimum	$58.60^{\text{f-h}}$	$57.52^{gh}$	67.65 <sup>c-f</sup>	73.21 <sup>bc</sup>			
Chromoaena	58.67 <sup>f-h</sup>	$57.65^{gh}$	67.68 <sup>c-f</sup>	$73.53^{b}$			
Benomyl	58.17 <sup>gh</sup>	56.94g	66.81 <sup>c-g</sup>	72.41 <sup>b-d</sup>			
Control	75.00 <sup>bc</sup>	69.53 <sup>c-e</sup>	84.67 <sup>ab</sup>	87.43 <sup>a</sup>			
LSD (0.05)	9.28						

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

#### IV. Variety x plant extracts interaction on infection rate

It was further observed that there was interaction between varieties and plant extracts on logistic infection rate of CLS infection on sesame at bothArdo-kola and Gassollocations (Tables 6 to 8). InTable 6 at Ardo-kola, the combinations of moderately resistant variety E8 xChromolaena, which was similar statistically with E8 x Benomyl, E8 xOcimum, E8xGarlic and NCRIBEN-01M x Ocimum, gave the lowest logistic infection rates of 0.0033 units per day than unsprayed plants of Yandev 55 (0.025 units per day). Significant ( $p \le 0.05$ ) E8 x Ocimum extract application was observed on infection rate (0.0015 units per day) at Gassol, compared to the highest value (0.027 units per day) of unsprayed plants of Yandev 55 (Table 7). The combined analysis proved that the lowest infection rate(0.0028 units per day) was obtained from E8 x Chromolaena application, compared to 0.026 units per day from unsprayed plants of Yandev 55 (Table 8).

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Table 6. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Infection Rate (unit per day) of CLS at Ardo-kola in 2012 Rainy Season

	Infection Rate (unit per day) of cercospora leaf spot at 4 and 12 weeks after sowing					
Treatments	NCRIBEN- 01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55		
Neem	0.011 <sup>ef</sup>	0.0089 <sup>e-h</sup>	0.015 <sup>cd</sup>	0.017 <sup>b-e</sup>		
Jatropha	$0.0080^{ m g-i}$	$0.0071^{h-j}$	$0.01^{\mathrm{e-g}}$	$0.017^{b-e}$		
Garlic	$0.0072^{h-j}$	$0.0048^{\mathrm{j-l}}$	0.012 <sup>de</sup>	$0.011^{g-i}$		
Occimum	$0.0035^{1}$	$0.0048^{\mathrm{j-l}}$	$0.0063^{i-k}$	$0.015^{d-g}$		
Chromoaena	$0.0069^{h-j}$	$0.0033^{1}$	$0.0083^{\mathrm{f-i}}$	$0.015^{d-g}$		
Benomyl	$0.0089^{e-h}$	$0.0041^{kl}$	$0.0089^{e-h}$	$0.014^{d-g}$		
Control	$0.020^{\mathrm{ab}}$	$0.016^{bc}$	$0.015^{\rm cd}$	$0.025^{a}$		
LSD (0.05)	0.00068					

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 7. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Infection Rate (unit per day) of CLS at Gassol in 2012 Rainy Season

	Infection Rate (unit	Infection Rate (unit per day) of cercospora leaf spot at 4 and 12 weeks after sowing				
Treatments	NCRIBEN- 01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55		
Neem	$0.0033^{\rm hi}$	0.0029 <sup>hi</sup>	0.018 <sup>b</sup>	0.018a		
Jatropha	$0.002^{hi}$	$0.0024^{\rm hi}$	$0.017^{\rm b}$	$0.018^{a}$		
Garlic	$0.0035^{ m gh}$	$0.0022^{\rm hi}$	$0.013^{cd}$	$0.012^{bc}$		
Occimum	$0.0022^{\mathrm{hi}}$	$0.0015^{i}$	$0.013^{cd}$	$0.010^{\rm cd}$		
Chromoaena	$0.0033^{\mathrm{hi}}$	$0.0022^{\mathrm{hi}}$	$0.012^{de}$	0.011 <sup>c</sup>		
Benomyl	$0.002^{\mathrm{hi}}$	$0.0024^{\rm hi}$	$0.013^{cd}$	$0.0067^{d-f}$		
Control	$0.015^{\rm bc}$	$0.0056^{g}$	$0.032^{a}$	$0.027^{a}$		
LSD (0.05)	0.00054					

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 8. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Combined Analysis of Infection Rate (unit per day) of CLS at Ardo-kola and Gassol in 2012 Rainy Season

	Infection Rate (unit	per day) of cercosp	pora leaf spot at 4 and 12 w	veeks after sowing
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55
Neem	$0.0072^{j}$	$0.0059^{k}$	0.017 <sup>d</sup>	0.018 <sup>c</sup>
Jatropha	$0.005^{1}$	$0.0048^{1}$	$0.014^{e}$	$0.018^{c}$
Garlic	$0.0054^{k}$	$0.0035^{\rm m}$	$0.013^{\rm f}$	$0.012^{g}$
Occimum	0.0029	$0.0032^{mn}$	$0.0097^{\rm f}$	$0.013^{\rm f}$
Chromoaena	$0.0051^{1}$	$0.0028^{n}$	$0.0102^{i}$	$0.013^{\rm f}$
Benomyl	$0.0055^{k}$	$0.0033^{mn}$	$0.011^{h}$	0.0104
Control	$0.018^{c}$	$0.011^{h}$	$0.024^{b}$	$0.026^{a}$
LSD (0.05)	0.00061			

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

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# V. Plant heightfollowing effects of varieties and plant extracts on CLS on sesame at Ardokola and Gassol

The results in Table 9 showed that E8 which was statistically at par with NCRIBEN-01M gave the highest plant height at Ardo-kola (147.68 cm) and Gassol (143.61 cm), compared with the lowest values of 118.72 cm and 111.94 cm from Yandev 55 respectively. Furthermore, combined analysis revealed that E8 continued to exhibit significantly highest plant height (145.65 cm), while Yandev 55 had the lowest value of 115.33 cm. The effect of Ocimumextracton plant height obtained at Ardo-kola, which was at par with that of Benomyl, showed significantly (P=0.05) tallest value of 142.81 cm, compared with unsprayed control having the shortest plant height (110.88 cm). The trend in Gassol proved the efficacy of Benomyl, which was statistically similar to Chromolaenaand Ocimum, in producing the tallest plant height (134.23 cm), than unsprayed control (109.30 cm). Combined analysis of the two locations indicated that Benomyl, which was satistically at par with extracts of Ocimum andChromolaena, produced highly significant plant height (138.46 cm), as compared to unsprayed control plots with the shortest height of 110.09 cm (Table 9).

#### VI. Variety x plant extracts interaction on plant height

Table 10 showed significant interaction between varieties and plant extracts on plant height at Ardo-kola, which inferred that E8 x Benomyl, which was at par with E8 x Chromolaena and E8 x Ocimum, to control CLS significantly influenced the tallest plant height (160.33 cm), while the unsprayed plants of NCRIBEN-03L significantly produced the shortest plants height (108.88 cm).

# VII. Branches per plant following effects of varieties and plant extracts on CLS on sesame at Ardo-kola and Gassol

The results on branches per plant showed highly significant (P≤0.01) difference between varieties and plant extracts (Table 11). Highest values were observed on E8 at Ardo-kola (3.29),Gassol (3.34) and their combined analysis (3.32), while lowest values were observed on NCRIBEN-03L (2.89) at Ardo-kola, Yandev 55 (2.39) at Gassol and NCRIBEN-03L (2.65) for combined analysis of the two locations. Subsequently, plants treated with Chromolaena extract, which had statistical similarity with those of Ocimum, Garlic and Benomyl, produced more branches per plant (3.38) than the unsprayed control (2.39) in Ardo-kola. The trend in Gassol revealed the efficacy of the synthetic fungicide Benomyl (check), though at par with results of Ocimum, Chromolaenaand Garlicextracts, having the highest branches per plant (3.13) as against the unsprayed control (2.12). The results of the combined analysis confirmed the pattern obtained at Ardo-kola location with Chromolaena extract, which was statistically at par with

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Ocimum, Garlic and Benomyl,, producing highest branches per plant (3.26), compared to the lowest branches per plant (2.26) from unsprayed control.

#### VIII. Variety x plant extracts interaction on branches per plant

Interaction result in Table 12 indicated that E8 seedlings treated with Ocimum extract significantly increased branches per plant of 4.04, though not different from results of E8 x Chomolaena, E8 x Benomyl and E8 x Garlic, compared to unsprayed control (1.96).

Table 9. Effect of CLS on Plant height of Sesame at 12 WAS in Ardo-kola and Gassol during 2012 Rainy Season

	Plant height (cm) at Ardo-kola	Plant height (cm) at Gassol	Combined analysis of plant height
Ardo-kola (L1)			133.57ª
Gassol (L2)			126.69 <sup>a</sup>
Mean			130.01
SE			4.43
LSD (0.05)			10.84
Variety(V)			
Yandev 55	118.72 <sup>d</sup>	111.94 <sup>d</sup>	115.33°
NCRIBEN- 01M	137.96 <sup>b</sup>	131.73 <sup>b</sup>	134.85 <sup>b</sup>
E8	147.68 <sup>a</sup>	143.61 <sup>a</sup>	145.65 <sup>a</sup>
NCRIBEN-03L	129.92°	119.47 <sup>c</sup>	124.70°
SE	4.28	4.57	4.43
LSD (0.05)	9.33	9.96	9.65
Plant Extract (F)			
Neem	128.83°	120.84 <sup>b</sup>	124.84°
Jatropha	129.18 <sup>c</sup>	123.73 <sup>b</sup>	126.46 <sup>bc</sup>
Garlic	138.91 <sup>b</sup>	131.37 <sup>a</sup>	135.14 <sup>ab</sup>
Ocimum	142.81 <sup>a</sup>	133.52 <sup>a</sup>	138.17 <sup>a</sup>

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Chromolaena	141.69 <sup>ab</sup>	133.83 <sup>a</sup>	137.76ª
Benomyl	142.69 <sup>a</sup>	134.23 <sup>a</sup>	138.46 <sup>a</sup>
Control	110.88 <sup>d</sup>	109.30 <sup>c</sup>	110.09 <sup>d</sup>
Mean	133.57	126.69	130.13
SE	4.28	4.57	4.43
LSD (0.05)	8.58	9.16	8.88
V x F	*	NS	NS
V x L	NS	NS	NS
VxFxL	NS	NS	NS

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 10. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Plant Height (cm) of Sesame at Ardokola in 2012 Rainy Season

		Plant height (cm) at 12 WAS					
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55			
Neem	128.80 <sup>i</sup>	143.00 <sup>fg</sup>	127.93 <sup>ij</sup>	132.84 <sup>k</sup>			
Jatropha	133.23 <sup>h</sup>	$143.45^{fg}$	$124.75^{jk}$	131.07 <sup>k</sup>			
Garlic	$145.13^{ef}$	154.43 <sup>b-d</sup>	133.83 <sup>h</sup>	139.64 <sup>ij</sup>			
Occimum	$150.00^{c-e}$	155.95 <sup>ab</sup>	139.83 <sup>g</sup>	$141.10^{\mathrm{hi}}$			
Chromoaena	151.23 <sup>b-d</sup>	155.43 <sup>a-c</sup>	134.98 <sup>h</sup>	141.68 <sup>g-i</sup>			
Benomyl	148.48 <sup>de</sup>	160.33 <sup>a</sup>	134.30 <sup>h</sup>	$140.37^{\mathrm{hi}}$			
Control	108,88 <sup>n</sup>	121.181	113.83 <sup>m</sup>	118.35 <sup>m</sup>			
LSD (0.05)	8.58						

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 11. Effect of CLS on Branches per of Sesame at 12 WAS in Ardo-kola and Gassol during 2012 Rainy Season

	Branches per plant at Ardo-kola	Branches per plant at Gassol	Combined analysis of Branches per plant
Ardo-kola (L1)			3.07 <sup>a</sup>
Gassol (L2)			2.77ª
Mean			2.92
SE			0.19

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LSD (0.005)			0.46
Variety(V)			
Yandev 55	3.04 <sup>b</sup>	2.39 <sup>c</sup>	2.72 <sup>b</sup>
NCRIBEN- 01M	3.09 <sup>b</sup>	2.97 <sup>b</sup>	3.03 <sup>ab</sup>
E8	3.29 <sup>a</sup>	3.34 <sup>a</sup>	3.32ª
NCRIBEN-03L	2.89°	2.40°	2.65 <sup>b</sup>
SE	0.62	0.82	0.19
LSD (0.005)			0.41
Plant Extract (F)			
Neem	$2.88^{b}$	2.47 <sup>b</sup>	2.68 <sup>b</sup>
Jatropha	2.94 <sup>b</sup>	2.59 <sup>b</sup>	$2.77^{ab}$
Garlic	$3.26^{\mathrm{a}}$	2.97 <sup>a</sup>	3.12 <sup>a</sup>
Ocimum	$3.25^{a}$	$3.08^{a}$	3.17 <sup>a</sup>
Chromolaena	$3.38^{a}$	$3.06^{a}$	3.22ª
Benomyl	3.29 <sup>a</sup>	3.13 <sup>a</sup>	3.21 <sup>a</sup>
Control	2.39°	2.12°	$2.26^{\circ}$
Mean	3.07	2.77	2.92
SE	0.16	0.22	0.19
LSD (0.005)			0.38
VxF	NS	*	NS
VxL	NS	NS	NS
VxFxL	NS	NS	NS

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

Table 12. Interaction of Plants Extracts and Varieties on Branches per plant at harvest of Sesame at Gassol in 2012 Rainy Season

	Branches per plant at harvest					
Treatments	NCRIBEN-01M	E8	NCRIBEN-03L	Yandev 55 2.23 <sup>1</sup>		
Neem	2.67 <sup>f-h</sup>	3.46 <sup>b</sup>	2.25 <sup>1</sup>			
Jatropha	$2.77^{\rm f}$	$3.53^{b}$	$2.25^{1}$	$2.34^{kl}$		
Garlic	$3.23^{\rm cd}$	$3.87^{a}$	$2.52^{ij}$	$2.64^{f-i}$		

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Occimum	3.15 <sup>de</sup>	4.04 <sup>a</sup>	2.61 <sup>g-j</sup>	$2.71^{\rm fg}$
Chromoaena	$3.25^{\circ}$	4.01 <sup>a</sup>	$2.56^{h-j}$	$2.69^{f-h}$
Benomyl	$3.43^{bc}$	$3.84^{a}$	$2.50^{j}$	$2.72^{\mathrm{fg}}$
Control	$2.37^{k}$	$3.02^{e}$	1.96 <sup>m</sup>	$2.01^{m}$
LSD (0.05)	0.44			

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

# IX.Weeks to 50 % flowering and Weeks to Harvest following effects of varieties and plant extracts on CLS

Effect of varieties on weeks to 50% flowering was highly significant. Varieties Yandev 55 and NCRIBEN -03L took more weeks of 8 to reach 50% flowering for both Ardo-kola and Gassol (Table 13). This was followed by E8 and NCRIBEN – 01M reaching 50% flowering at 6 to 7 weeks. Results of the two locations and their combined analysis for weeks to 50% flowering showed that variations due to application of plant extracts and Benomyl were not statistically significant. Furthermore, there were highly significant (P=0.01) differences between varieties and weeks to harvest. NCRIBEN -03L and Yandev 55 stayed for 18 weeks to reach harvest (Tables 13). E8 and NCRIBEN -01M were early in maturity reaching up to 15 weeks before harvest at both locations. The results further inferred that plant extracts application had no significant effect on weeks to harvest.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Study on the effects of varieties and plant extracts on incidence and logistic infection rate of CLS disease infection on sesame showed that the disease progressed steadily from 4 - 12 WAS. Van der Plank's (1963) studied the rate of disease development and observed that Cercospora leaf spot is a compound interest disease, which completes many generations on the crop in a season. The results also proved the effectiveness of E8 in reducing incidence and infection rate, compared to the highest results from Yandev 55. The reduced rate of disease development in variety E8 observed may be attributed to the levels of resistance of the variety against Cercospora sp. This finding confirmed works by (12) and (5) who reported that the resistant gene of genotypes was one of principal factors influencing Cercospora incidence and severity. On the antimicrobial activities of plant extracts against incidence of CLS, a significant variation was observed on their effectiveness on the disease in both locations. In this study the Ocimum and Chromolaena extracts were found to significantly reduce disease incidence of Cercospora leaf spot (CLS) disease on sesame and slow down epiphytotic rate of progress, compared with the unsprayed control. The efficacy the plant extracts in retarding the incidence of CLS over time in this study might be due to the presence of phenolic compound4-Allyl-2-methoxyphenol-5-Allylguaiacol called eugenol (Ocimumgratissimum) and Geijerene and Pregeijerene

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(Chromolaenaodorata) contained in them. This confirms the findings of (26, 22) that eugenoland Geijerene and Pregeijerene inhibited the growth of Alternariasp. and P.chrysogenum, in tomato plants. Different manifestations of CLS had been reported to individually or collectively influence the growth, development and yield of sesame (9). Investigation in this study revealed the presence of *Cercospora*sp.with varied reactions to sesame varieties and application of plant extracts. The study revealed that sesame varieties E8 had less prevalent of CLS disease which might have been responsible in increased plant height and branches per plant. This corroborated the works by (28) which inferred that amongst the agronomic parameters measured, the total number of branches, plant height and capsule numbers were positively correlated with seed yield. The application of Ocimumand Chromolaenaextracts, which had statistical similarity with the synthetic fungicide Benomyl, influenced incidence and infection rate of CLS thereby inducing significantly better agronomic traits that contributed to increased plant height and branches per plant. Several workers have investigated the use of plant extracts as fungicides (10, 27, 23, 18, 19). From this study it was also observed that synergistic effect of plant extracts and host resistance had strong capacity to reduce the spread of CLS on sesame plants compared to control treatment. Interactions of E8 x Ocimum extract, which is statistically the same with E8 x Chromolaena and E8x Benlate, effectively reduced incidence and infection rate. This confirmed the work of (6) which revealed that Sesame cv. Pbtil No.1 sprayed with plant extracts (Aspiliaafricana, Chromoleanaodorata and Tithoniadiversifalia) and plots of sesame cv 530-6-1 sprayed with extracts (A.Africana, C. odorata and T. diversifolia ) reduced the percentage of leaves infected and number of lesions per leaf. The application of plant extracts associated with host resistance of the four tested varieties considerably reduced the progression of CLS on sesame crops. Consequently, these two methods can be used in an integrated management approach to protect sesame against diseases. From this study it could be seen that the performance of the plant extracts is comparable to the synthetic fungicide Benomyl, and therefore this has given the farmers ample opportunities to try many alternatives that are user friendly. Therefore, plant extracts and crop varieties can be used as a potential tool in plant disease management, particularly Cercospora leaf spot of sesame, as sustainable and ecofriendly botanical fungicides that are economically and environmentally rewarding for sesame and other crop producers.

Table 13. Effect of CLS on Weeks to 50 % flowering and Weeks to Harvest of Sesame at 12 WAS in Ardo-kola and Gassol

Treatment	Weeks to 50	Weeks to 50	Combined	Weeks to	Weeks to	Combined
	% flowering	% flowering	analysis of	harvest at	harvest at	analysis of
	at Ardo-kola	at Gassol	weeks to 50	Ardo-kola	Gassol	weeks to
			% flowering			harvest
Ardo-kola (L1)			7.56 <sup>a</sup>			16.71 <sup>a</sup>

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Gassol (L2)			7.23 <sup>a</sup>			16.58 <sup>a</sup>
Mean			7.40			16.65
SE			0.78			1.19
LSD			1.91			2.91
Variety(V)						
Yandev 55	8.08 <sup>b</sup>	7.89 <sup>b</sup>	7.99ª	18.27 <sup>b</sup>	17.13 <sup>b</sup>	4 <b>-</b> - 0 - b
NCRIBEN- 01M	7.05°	6.53°	6.79ª	15.58°	15.08°	17.70 <sup>ab</sup>
E8	6.92 <sup>d</sup>	6.43 <sup>d</sup>	6.68ª	14.57 <sup>d</sup>	15.11°	15.33 <sup>bc</sup>
NCRIBEN-03L	8.20ª	$8.06^{\mathrm{a}}$	8.13 <sup>a</sup>	18.43ª	18.22ª	14.84°
						18.33a
SE	0.87	1.07	0.78	2.40	2.10	1.19
LSD(0.05)			1.70			2.59
Plant Extract (F)						
Neem	7.36 <sup>b</sup>	7.13°	7.25 <sup>a</sup>	16.63°	16.51 <sup>bcd</sup>	16.57 <sup>a</sup>
Jatropha	7.53 <sup>b</sup>	7.16 <sup>c</sup>	7.35 <sup>a</sup>	16.64 <sup>bc</sup>	16.53 <sup>cd</sup>	16.59 <sup>a</sup>
Garlic	$7.80^{ab}$	$7.28^{ab}$	7.54 <sup>a</sup>	16.73 <sup>ab</sup>	16.61 <sup>abc</sup>	16.67ª
Ocimum	7.07 <sup>a</sup>	$7.20^{bc}$	7.14 <sup>a</sup>	16.79ª	16.57 <sup>bc</sup>	16.68 <sup>a</sup>
Chromolaena	7.62ª	7.37 <sup>a</sup>	$7.50^{a}$	16.82ª	16.71 <sup>ab</sup>	16.77ª
Benomyl	7.43 <sup>a</sup>	7.49 <sup>a</sup>	7.46 <sup>a</sup>	16.83 <sup>a</sup>	16.33 <sup>a</sup>	16.58 <sup>a</sup>
Control	7.43°	7.11 <sup>c</sup>	7.43 <sup>a</sup>	16.54°	16.41 <sup>d</sup>	16.48 <sup>a</sup>
Mean	7.56	7.23	7.40	16.71	16.58	16.65
SE	0.63	0.92	0.78	0.97	1.40	1.19
LSD(0.05)			1.56			2.39
VxF	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
V x L	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VxFxL	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

Means in the same column followed by the same superscript(s) are not significantly different (0.05) using LSD.

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