TOXICITY OF PYRETHROIDS TO ORGANOPHOSHATE-CARBAMATE- AND DDT-RESISTANT MOSOUITOES

THOMAS M. PRIESTER, GEORGE P. GEORGHIOU, MARILYN K. HAWLEY AND MILTON E. PASTERNAK³

Division of Toxicology and Physiology, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521

ABSTRACT. Larvae of Culex quinquefasciatus Say and Cx. tarsalis Coquillett resistant to organophosphates by means of esterases were found to be fully susceptible to 26 synthetic pyrethroid insecticides that were examined [resistance ratios (RR) = 0.24 to 1.7]. However, Cx. quinquefasciatus resistant to propoxur and

is due largely to the DDT resistance component of the strains. chemicals against resistant populations, Resistance to organochlorine, organowe investigated the toxicity of 26 experphosphorus and carbamate insecticides imental pyrethroids of diverse chemical structure against several species and strains of mosquitoes representing most of the known mechanisms of resistance. In earlier papers we reported on the induction of high levels of pyrethroid re-

has been found to be a serious problem in the control of several important species of mosquitoes. In Culex quinquefasciatus Say, a broad spectrum of organophosphate resistance has been reported in field populations from California (Georghiou et al. 1975), and moderate levels of resistance to carbamates have been induced by selection in the laboratory (Georghiou et al. 1965). In Cx. tarsalis Coquillett, resistance to malathion appeared in the field in 1956 (Gjullin and Isaac 1957) and was later followed by extensive multiresistance involving all organophosphates that were licensed for mosquito control (Georghiou et al. 1969, Apperson and Georghiou 1975a).

The important malaria vector in Central America, Anopheles albimanus Wied. has developed resistance to several organophosphates as well as to carbamates (Breeland et al. 1970, Georghiou et al. 1972). An account of the status of resistance in anopheline and culicine mosquitoes is given in the 1975 Report of the WHO Expert Committee on Resistance (WHO 1976).

Because of the emergence of the pyrethroid group as a source of alternative and Georghiou 1978) and indicated that permethrin-resistant strains are also variously cross-resistant to other pyrethroids (Priester and Georghiou 1980). MATERIALS AND METHODS

sistance in Culex quinquefasciatus (Priester

DDT, and Anopheles albimanus Wied, resistant

to organophosphates, carbamates and DDT,

were found to possess a low level of cross-

tolerance to some of the pyrethroids. The

available evidence indicates that this tolerance

The following species and strains were tested:

Cx. quinquefasciatus:

S-Lab

A susceptible reference strain of California ori-

Propoxur-R

Strain selected by propoxur to 25x larval and -15x adult resistance (Georghiou et al. 1965) based primarily on detoxication by mixed function oxidases (Shrivastava et al. 1970). This strain is also 67x resistant to DDT.

Temephos-R

Strain selected by temephos to 322x larval resistance based pri-

Graduate student, Research Assistant.

² Professor.

³ Staff Research Associates.

marily on detoxication by esterases (Ranasinghe and Georghiou 1979). This strain is also cross-resistant to other organophosphates and 19x resistant to DDT.

Cx. tarsalis:

T-S

A susceptible reference strain of California origin.

Methyl parathion-R

Strain selected by methyl parathion to 94x larval resistance based primarily on esterase detoxication (Apperson and Georghiou 1975a,b). This strain is also crossresistant to other organophosphates but not to DDT.

An. albimanus:

S-Gorgas

A susceptible reference strain of Panamanian origin.

OP/Carb.-R

Strain selected by propoxur and subsequently by parathion to high levels of carbamate and organophosphate multi-resistance (Ariaratnam and Georghiou 1974, Ayad and Georghiou 1979) based primarily on reduced sensitivity of acetylcholinesterase (Ayad and Georghiou 1975). This strain is also 8x resistant to DDT and 293x resistant to dieldrin.

The compounds tested are listed below according to chemical structure. They are referred to in the tables in abbreviated form.

I. (1R) - cis - permethrin; NRDC 167; 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - cis - 3 - (2, 2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

II. (1R)-trans-permethrin; NRDC 147; 3-phenoxybenzyl (1R)-trans-3-(2,2-

dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate:

III. (1R, S) - cis, trans - permethrin; NRDC 143; 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R,S) - cis, trans - 3 - (2, 2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

IV. (1R(-cis-bromophenothrin; RU 23603; 3-phenoxybenzyl (1R)-cis-3-(2,2-dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

V. RU 24701; 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - trans - 3 - (2, 2 - dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

VI. RU 24299; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - cis - 3 - (2,2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate:

VII. RU 24298; $(R,S) - \alpha$ - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - trans - 3 - (2, 2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

VIII. NRDC 156; $(R,S) - \alpha$ - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - cis - 3 - (2,2 - dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

IX. RU 24633; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - trans - 3 - (2, 2 - dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

X. RU 25160; $(R, S) - \alpha$ - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - cis - 3 - (2, 3, 4, 5 - tetrahydro-2-oxothien-3-ylidenemethyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XI. RU24853; (R,S)- α -cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl(1R)-trans-3-(2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-2-oxothien-3-ylidenemethyl) -2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XII. RU 24788; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1S) - cis - 3 - (2,2 - dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XIII. RU 24787; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1S) - trans - 3 - (2, 2 - dibromovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate:

XIV. RU 25147; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - cis - 3 - cyclopentylidenemethyl - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate:

XV. RU 24673; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R) - trans - 3 - cyclo - pentylidenemethyl - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclo-propanecarboxylate;

XVI. cismethrin; NRDC 119; 5 - benzyl - 3 - furylmethyl (1R) - cis - 3 - (2, 2 - dimethylvinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XVII. bioresmethrin; NRDC 107; 5 - benzyl-3-furylmethyl (1R)-trans-3-(2,2-dimethylvinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopro-

panecarboxylate:

XVIII. ŘU 12610; 5 - benzyl - 3 - furylmethyl (1R) - cis - 3 - cyclopentylidene - methyl - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecar-boxylate;

XIX. RU 11679; 5 - benzyl - 3 - furylmethyl (1R) trans - 3 - cyclopentylidenemethyl - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XX. RU25136; (S)-allethronyl (1R)cis - (2, 2 - diffluorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcy-

clopropanecarboxylate;

XXI. RU25135;(S)-allethronyl(1R)trans - 3 - (2, 2 - difluorovinyl) - 2, 2 dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XXII. RU 24501; (S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (1R)-cis - 3 - (2, 2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate:

XXIII. RU 24674; (R) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl (R) - cw - 3 - (2,2 - dichlorovinyl) - 2, 2 - dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XXIV. (S) - α - (1R) - cis - decamethrin; NRDC 161; (S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl(1R)-cis-3-(2,2-dibromovinyl)-2,2dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate;

XXV. RU 24957; (R,S)- α -cyano-3-phenoxybenzyl (1R)-2-(p-chlorophenyl)-

3 - methylbutyrate;

XXVI. RU 24956; (R,S) - α - cyano - 3 - phenoxybenzyl(1S)-2-(p-chlorophenyl)-3

methylbutyrate.

The test methods employed have been described earlier (Georghiou et al. 1965). The chemicals were applied dissolved in acetone. The toxicity of the pyrethroids is compared on the basis of their trans/cis, and 1R/1S configurations. The results are also discussed with respect to the known mechanisms of resistance of each strain.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The larval toxicity of several of the pyrethroids was comparable to that of

other common insecticides. For example, the LC₅₀ value of (1R,S)-cis,trans-permethrin (III) ranged from 0.0034 ppm for Cx. quinquefasciatus to 0.017 ppm for Cx. tarsalis to 0.036 ppm for An. albimanus (Tables 1-3). Such toxicity compares favorably with that of many organophosphates against the same species and strains (Georghiou et al. 1965, Apperson and Georghiou 1975a, Ayad and Georghiou 1979). In contrast, adulticidal activity tests with permethrin, using cellulose filter paper as a substrate (Georghiou and Metcalf 1961) produced LC₅₀ values ranging from 4.5 μ g/cm² for An. albimanus to 12.6 µg/cm² for Cx. tarsalis (Table 4). These values indicate 11- to 18-fold lower toxicity than is demonstrated by propoxur against the respective species. It must be pointed out, however, that the adulticidal toxicity of pyrethroids in laboratory tests can be enhanced by the use of di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate as a solvent (Barlow et al. 1977). Topical application tests against adult Cx. quinquefasciatus have revealed considerably higher toxicity of permethrin (LC₅₀) cis isomer = 0.00044 µg/insect; LC₅₀ trans isomer = $0.0011 \mu g/insect$ compared to 0.0069 for propoxur).

Compound XXIV ["(S) - α - (1R) - cis decamethrin"] demonstrated the highest larvicidal activity, i.e., LC₅₀ of 0.000046 against Cx. quinquefasciatus (Table 1). Of the 3 species examined, An. albimanus was almost always less sensitive to the pyrethroids than were the 2 Culex species (data in Table 3 vs Tables 1 and 2). Compound XXIV was also the most toxic to An. al-

bimanus (Table 3).

ACTIVITY OF cis Vs trans Isomers. In Cx. tarsalis the cis isomer was invariably more toxic than the trans isomer for all pyrethroids tested (Table 2). Likewise, against Cx. quinquefasciatus, the cis isomer was generally more toxic than the trans isomer, but not in all cases (Table 1). The exceptions were (R,S)- α -(-)-decamethrin (XII, XIII), (R,S)- α -(1R)-ethanocyphenothrin (XIV, XV) and (S)- α -(1R)-fluoroallethrin (XX, XXI). In An. al-bimanus, no consistent pattern was discernible (Table 3). For example, against

the S-Gorgas strain, the cis isomer was more toxic in the case of (1R)-permethrin (I, II), (1R)-bromophenothrin (IV, V), (1R)-ethanoresmethrin (XVIII, XIX), while the trans isomer was more toxic in (R,S)- α -(1R)-cypermethrin (VI, VII),

(R,S)- α -(1R)-decamethrin (VIII, IX), (R,S)- α -(1R)-ethanocyphenothrin (XIV, XV), (1R)-resmethrin (XVI, XVII), and (S)- α -(1R)-fluoroallethrin (XX, XXI). The OP/Carb.-R strain manifests the same relative pattern of response except

Table 1. Relative toxicity of trans/cis, (R)- α /(S)- α and (1S)/(1R) pyrethroids to larvae of susceptible, proporur-resistant and temephos-resistant strains of Cx. quinquefasciatus.

		Susceptible		Propoxur-R		Temephos-R	
		LC ₅₀		LC ₅₀		LC_{50}	
Compound		(ppm)	Slope	(ppm)	RRa	(ppm)	RR
I.	(1R)-c-permethrin	0.00095	6.2	0.0032	3.4	0.001	1.1
II.	(1R)-t-permethrin	0.0021	5.3	0.0056	2.7	0.0019	0.9
III.	$(1R)$ -c, \hat{t} -permethrin	0.0034	4.2	0.011	3.2	0.0033	0.9
IV.	(1R)-c-bromophenothrin	0.0010	4.5	0.0034	3.4	0.0017	1.7
V.	(1R)-t-bromophenothrin	0.0030	6.0	0.016	5.3	0.0035	1.2
VI.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1R)-c$						
	cypermethrin	0.00016	5.9	0.00031	1.9	0.00014	0.8
VII.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - t -						
	cypermethrin	0.00037	4.8	0.00079	2.1	0.00024	0.6
VIII.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -						
	decamethrin	0.00030	6.0	0.00053	1.8	0.00029	0.9
IX.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1R)-t-$						
	decamethrin	0.00049	7.6	0.0011	2.2	0.00055	1.3
X.							
	tonylcyphenothrin	0.0045	3.4	0.0065	1.4	0.0021	0.4
XI.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1R)-t$ -thiolac-						
	tonylcyphenothrin	0.049	5.6	0.30	6.1	0.043	0.
XII.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1S)-c-$						
	decamethrin	0.039	4.2	0.082	2.1	0.043	1.
XIII.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1S)-t-$	0.000		0.00			
	decamethrin	0.016	5.0	0.037	2.3	0.018	1.
XIV.							
	cyphenothrin	0.048	5.1	0.32	6.7	0.034	0.
XV.		0.010	0.1	5.5 2	•••		
	cyphenothrin	0.012	4.8	0.042	3.5	0.011	0.
XVI.	(1R)-c-resmethrin	0.0034	5.8	0.0089	2.6	0.0028	Õ.
XVII.	(1R)-t-resmethrin	0.01	2.8	0.022	2.2	0.0049	õ.
XVIII.	(1R)-c-ethanoresmethrin	0.01	2.7	0.050	5.0	0.0046	0.
XIX.	(1R)-t-ethanoresmethrin	0.019	5.0	0.079	4.1	0.013	0.
XX.	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -	0.010	0.0	0.0.0		0.010	•
	fluoroallethrin	0.029	6.9	0.39	13.4	0.038	0.
XXI,	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - t -	0.020	0.0	0100		0,000	•
	fluoroallethrin	0.030	6.2	0.17	4.9	0.026	0.
XXII.	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -	0.000	O. 	0.11		0.020	•
	cypermethrin	0.000081	6.7	0.00017	2.1	0.000076	0.9
XXIII.	(R) - α - $(1R)$ - c -	0.000001	0.,	0.00017		0.000070	0.
EZELLE.	cypermethrin	0.00032	2.0	0.0011	3.4	0.00018	0.5
XXIV.	$(S)-\alpha-(1R)-c-$	0.00002		0.0011	0.1	0.00010	٥.,
	decamethrin	0.000046	7.0	0.00012	2.6	0.000033	0.
XXV.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ -fenvalerate	0.0032	5.5	0.00012	6.3	0.0047	1.5
XXVI.	(R,S) - α - $(1S)$ -fenvalerate	0.42	1.5	>1	ND ^b	0.71	1.
	(25,0) a-(10)-renvalerate	U. 1.	1.0		1727	J. / 1	

^a Resistance ratio - LC₅₀ resistant ÷ LC₅₀ susceptible.

b Not detectable.

Table 2. Relative toxicity of selected pyrethroids to larvae of susceptible and organophosphate-resistant strains of Cx. tarsalis.

		Susce	ptible	Methyl Parathion-R			
Compound		LC ₅₀ (ppm)	Slope	LC ₅₀ (ppm)	Slope	RRa	
I.	(1R)-c-permethrin	0.0063	4.2	0.0024	2.1	0.38	
II.	(1R)-t-permethrin	0.0091	3.4	0.0045	2.0	0.49	
III.	(1R)-c,t-permethrin	0.017	2.8	0.0040	5.8	0.24	
XVI.	(1R)-c-resmethrin	0.0078	2.8	0.0053	4.4	0.68	
XVII.	(1R)-t-resmethrin	0.065	2.6	0.024	3.5	0.37	

^a As in Table 1.

in the case of (S)- α -(1R)-fluoroallethrin (XX, XXI) where the *cis* isomer is the most toxic (Table 3).

ACTIVITY OF (1S) vs (1R) ISOMERS. In the three (1R/1S) pairs examined, the (1R) isomer (VIII, IX, XXV) was considerably more toxic than the respective (1S) isomer (XII, XIII, XXVI). This relationship held true in all species and strains tested. This is in accordance with Elliott and Janes (1973) and Elliott et al. (1978) who have shown that the dextrorotatory isomer is always more toxic than the levorotatory isomer in mustard beetles and the house fly.

RESISTANCE PYRE-CROSS TO THROIDS. Although the permethrin-resistant strains of Cx. quinquefasciatus are cross-resistant to all pyrethroids that were tested (Priester and Georghiou 1980), the organophosphate-resistant strains of Culex spp. were found to be of equal or greater susceptibility than the respective susceptible reference strains (resistance ratio ≤1). Negative cross resistance has been reported with various chemicals in the past (see reviews by Brown 1971, Georghiou 1965), but this phenomenon has not found application as a countermeasure for resistance to date.

At variance with these results are the data obtained on Propoxur-R Cx. quinquefasciatus and OP/Carb-R An. albimanus which show a low level of positive cross resistance to pyrethroids. It must be pointed out that propoxur resistance in Cx. quinquefasciatus is partially due to a piperonyl butoxide-suppressible oxidative mechanism (Shrivastava et al. 1970) and

that this synergist also provides partial suppression of pyrethroid resistance in permethrin-resistant strains of this species (Priester and Georghiou 1980). In this regard, it is also noteworthy that Propoxur-R Cx. quinquefasciatus resists most pyrethroids at about the same degree as Permethrin-R Cx. quinquefasciatus resists propoxur (resistance ratio = ≤ 4.0). Previously, Collins (1976) reported propoxur-resistant German cockroach to be cross-resistant to DDT and pyrethrins at greater than 12-fold. This has been attributed to a "single pleio-tropic mechanism" providing a protective effect against both DDT, pyrethrins and propoxur (Collins 1976).

The cross resistance to pyrethroids in An. albimanus was somewhat unexpected in view of the fact that this strain resists organophosphates and carbamates through a single gene involving insensitivity of acetylcholinesterase (Ayad and Georghiou 1975). From the evidence presently available, it would appear that the DDT resistance component of these strains (i.e. 8× in OP/Carb-R An. albimanus and 67× in Propoxur-R Cx. quinquefasciatus) is responsible for at least part of the low level cross resistance of these strains toward pyrethroid insecticides. Such correlation of DDT resistance with cross resistance to pyrethroids has also been observed earlier in Cx. tarsalis (Plapp and Hoyer 1968) and more recently in Aedes aegypti (Chadwick et al. 1977, Prasittisuk and Busvine 1977), and Anopheles stephensi (Omer and Georghiou 1980).

Table 3. Relative toxicity of translcis, (R)-α/(S)-α, and (1S)/(1R) pyrethroids to larvae of susceptible and organophosphate/carbamate-resistant strains of An. albimanus.

		Suscep	C	t		
		LC ₅₀		LC ₅₀		
Compou	ınd	(ppm)	Slope	(ppm)	Slope	RRª
I.	(1R)-c-permethrin	0.017	3.9	0.014	3.0	0.82
II.	(1R)-t-permethrin	0.024	4.2	0.019	3.9	0.79
III.	(1R)-c,t-permethrin	0.036	2.0	0.054	2.8	1.5
IV.	(1R)-c-bromophenothrin	0.018	3.2	0.064	3.0	3.6
\mathbf{v} .	(1R)-t-bromophenothrin	0.048	1.9	0.50	5.2	10.4
VI.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -					
	cypermethrin	0.008	4.0	0.032	9.3	4.0
VII.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - t -					
	cypermethrin	0.0029	3.8	0.0052	2.3	1.8
VIII.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -					
	decamethrin	0.021	6.3	0.034	4.9	1.6
IX.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - t -					
	decamethrin	0.0023	4.0	0.0061	2.2	2.7
X.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -thiolac-					
	tonylcyphenothrin	>1	ND^a	>1	ND	ND
XI.	$(R,S)-\alpha-(1R)-t$ -thiolac-					
	tonylcyphenothrin	>1	ND^b	>1	ND	ND
XII.	(R,S) - α - $(1S)$ - c -decamethrin	>1	ND	>1	ND	ND
XIII.	(R,S) - α - $(1S)$ - t -decamethrin	>1	ND	>1	ND	ND
XIV.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -ethano-					
	cyphenothrin	>1	ND	>1	ND	ND
XV.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ - t -ethano-					
	cyphenothrin	0.12	2.5	0.24	3.2	2.0
XVI.	(1R)-c-resmethrin	0.015	3.7	0.025	2.8	1.7
XVII.	(1R)-t-resmethrin	0.012	4.2	0.016	2.4	1.3
XVIII.	(1R)- c -ethanoresmethrin	0.024	3.4	0.036	2.0	1.5
XIX.	(1R)-t-ethanoresmethrin	0.031	3.4	0.042	2.0	1.4
XX.	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -					
	fluoroallethrin	0.30	5.8	0.12	4.8	0.4
XXI.	$(S)-\alpha-(1R)-t-$	•				
	fluoroallethrin	0.25	3.7	0.23	5.6	0.92
XXII.	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -					
	cypermethrin	0.020	4.3	0.038	2.8	1.9
XXIII.	(R) - α - $(1R)$ - c -					
	cypermethrin	0.039	3.2	0.072	2.8	1.8
XXIV.	(S) - α - $(1R)$ - c -decamethrin	0.00016	1.4	0.0028	3.8	17.5^{c}
XXV.	(R,S) - α - $(1R)$ -fenvalerate	0.082	2.2	0.20	2.5	2.4
XXVI.	(R,S) - α - $(1S)$ -fenvalerate	>1	ND	>1	ND	ND

^a As in Table 1.

^b Not detectable.

^c This relatively high RR value was apparently enhanced by the low slope of the susceptible line (b = 1.4). At the LC₉₅, RR is only 2.9.

Table 4. Comparative toxicity of (1R)-cis, trans-permethrin to larvae and adults of susceptible, organophosphate- and/or carbamate-resistant strains of Cx. quinquefasciatus, Cx. tarsalis and An. albimanus.

	Larval			Adult			
Species and Strain	LC ₅₀ (ppm)	Slope	RRa	$\frac{\text{LC}_{50}}{(\mu \text{g/cm}^2)}$	Slope	RR	
Cx. quinquefasciatus							
S-Lab	0.0034	4.2		10.4	2.3		
Temephos-R	0.0033	5.7	0.97	12.7	1.7	1.2	
Propoxur-R	0.011	2.0	3.2	44.6	1.4	4.5	
Cx. tarsalis							
T-S	0.017	2.8		12.6	2.6		
methyl Parathion-R	0.004	5.8	0.24	14.0	3.3	1.1	
An. albimanus							
S-Gorgas	0.036	2.0		4.5	2.4		
OP/CarbR	0.054	2.8	1.5	5.9	2.7	1.3	

^a Resistance ratio = LC_{50} resistant ÷ LC_{50} susceptible.

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