

INSECTICIDAL ACTIVITY OF LEAF EXTRACT OF *ANNONA SQUAMOSA* L. AGAINST *PERICALLIA RICINI* F.

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ABSTRACT : Plants are well known treasure house of highly biologically active organic chemical compound with almost no side effect. The leaf extract of Custard apple, *Annona squamosa* is tested against the polyphagous insect pest *Pericallia ricini*. Ethanolic extract of leaves of *Annona squamosa* was prepared in Soxhlet apparatus. Different aqueous solutions of concentrations 0.1%, 0.5%, 1.0%, 1.5% and 2.0% were prepared. The larvae of *P. ricini* were feed on treated leaves of castor and mortality effect was calculated after 24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours and 96 hours. The leaf extract of Annona is proved to be an effective botanical insecticide against this polyphagous pest. The insecticidal characteristics of Annona are attributed by a group of C-32 or C-34 linear fatty acids called acetogenins.

Key Words: *Annona squamosa*, botanical insecticide, *Pericallia ricini*, mortality.