EFFICACY OF AQUEOUS FLOWER EXTRACT OF AFRICAN MARIGOLD (*Tagetes erecta* L.) AGAINST COTTON APHID (*Aphis gossypii* Glover) AND GREEN PEACH APHID (*Myzus persicae* Sulzer) OF SWEET PEPPER (*Capsicum annuum* L.)

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By

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted from July 23 to October 15, 2019 at Central Philippine University urban garden near Gate 6, Jaro, Iloilo City. The objective of the study was to determine the efficacy of aqueous flower extracts of *Tagetes erecta* Linn at different concentrations against *Aphis gossypii* Glover and *Myzus persicae* Sulzer of sweet pepper. The experimental treatments were composed of the three concentrations (2%, 4% and 6%) of flower aqueous extracts (FAE) of marigold. Synthetic pesticide served as positive control while water was used as negative control. These were laid-out in a randomized complete block design with three replications. Spraying of botanical treatments was done when the aphid count reached 50 to100 insects/plant. Results of the study revealed that the flower aqueous extract of marigold has a good insect repellent in the control of aphid population. Furthermore, the aphid population was also regulated by the natural enemies. The data on plant height and days to flowering did not significantly ($P>0.05$) differ among the treatments. There was no statistical analysis done on the number and weight of marketable fruits because of the inconsistency of the results. Some plants did not produce fruits which could be due to the combined damage of thrips and aphids. The severe damage of thrips led to a few flowers developed and even no fruit development in some plants.