

1 **Not just for beer: evaluation of spent hops (*Humulus lupulus* L.) as a source of**
2 **eco-friendly repellents for insect pests of stored foods**

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14 **ABSTRACT**

15 Spent hops is a waste produced in large amount by the brewing industry. *Rhyzopertha*
16 *dominica* and *Sitophilus granarius* are insects that cause important economic losses of
17 stored foods. In this study, for the first time, spent hops has been evaluated as source
18 of essential oil (EO) and chemicals with repellent activity against *R. dominica* and *S.*
19 *granarius*. Spent hops EO yield was 0.11%. The terpenes myrcene, α -humulene, and
20 β -caryophyllene were its main components (47%). Spent hops EO RD₅₀ values were
21 0.01 and 0.19 $\mu\text{L cm}^{-2}$ for *R. dominica* and *S. granarius*, respectively. Among the
22 chemicals, myrcene was able to exert the highest repellency against *R. dominica*
23 (RD₅₀ = 0.27 $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$) while limonene was the most effective compound against *S.*
24 *granarius* (RD₅₀ = 0.89 $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$). These results indicate spent hops as an excellent
25 source of EO and chemicals to be utilized as low-cost eco-friendly insect pests
26 repellents in the protection of stored food.

27

28 **Keywords:** Spent hops · Essential oil · Terpenes · *Rhyzopertha dominica* · *Sitophilus*
29 *granarius* · Repellence

30

31 **Key Message**

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- 33 • No information is available about the bioactivity of extracts from hop or spent
34 hops against stored food insect pests.
- 35 • Spent hops EO resulted rich in bio-active substances (myrcene, 24.2%)
- 36 • Spent hops EO was strongly repellent activity against *R. dominica* and *S.*
37 *granarius* (RD₅₀ = 0.008 and 0.191 $\mu\text{L cm}^{-2}$, respectively).
- 38 • Myrcene was the most effective compound against *R. dominica* and limonene
39 against *S. granarius*.

- 40 • The findings indicate spent hops as a convenient source of eco-friendly
41 chemicals alternative to synthetic repellents.

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43 **1. Introduction**

44

45 Hop (*Humulus lupulus* L.) is a high-climbing, perennial vine, utilized in the brewing
46 industry to add flavour and bitterness to beer (Chadwick et al. 2006) whose production
47 has been estimated at over 100,000 tonnes, worldwide (FAOSTAT 2014). Since only
48 about 15% of the hop constituents end up in the beer, a large amount of residual
49 material, known as “spent hops”, generally considered of no further value, is produced
50 by the brewing industry. Such waste material is usually disposed in agricultural fields
51 or utilized in animal feeding (Davies and Sullivan 1927; Hardwick 1994) and
52 alternative utilizations of spent hops in order to increase its added value are foreseen by
53 industries (Oosterveld et al. 2002).

54 Insect pests are responsible for the loss of 20% of the world's annual crop production
55 (Sallam 1999) and up to 40% of food grains loss in granaries and storehouses
56 (Matthews 1993). The traditional control of such pests in stored food has relied
57 primarily on synthetic insecticides like methyl bromide and phosphine (Shaaya et al.
58 1997). However, due to their persistency and neurotoxic, carcinogenic, teratogenic and
59 mutagenic effects in non-target animals, and to the depleting effect on atmospheric
60 ozone, the use of such chemicals is now under increasing restrictions for their
61 environmental and human health hazards (Ayaz et al. 2010; Bakkali et al. 2008; Boyer
62 et al. 2012; Ohr et al. 1996). Besides, several studies indicate an increase of the
63 resistance of stored product insects to conventional synthetic pesticides (Bell and
64 Wilson 1995; Pretheep-Kumar et al. 2010; Kumar et al. 2010; Shukla and Toke, 2013).
65 For these problems the development of alternative strategies to synthetic chemicals is

66 a priority in insect pest control of stored food (González et al. 2014; Saeidi and
67 Moharramipour 2013).

68 In this view, increased attention had been given to essential oils of aromatic plants as
69 source of natural pesticides (Bougherra et al. 2014; Isman 2006; Nenaah 2013; Zehnder
70 et al. 2007). Essential oils of aromatic plants are among the most promising alternative
71 to synthetic chemicals to be used as pest control agents with no or minimal side effects
72 (Lima et al. 2014; Rajendran and Sriranjini 2008; Regnault- Roger et al. 2012).

73 Among aromatic plants, hop contains numerous bioactive substances, such as the
74 flavonoid xanthohumol and the flavanone 8-prenylnaringenin, that have been shown to
75 have anti-cancer (Colgate et al. 2007; Drenzek et al. 2011; Okano et al. 2011),
76 antioxidant (Jacob et al. 2011), anti-HIV (Wang et al. 2004) and phyto-estrogen activity
77 (Böttner 2008). Besides, hop also contains α - and β -acids, and terpenes that have been
78 found to be toxic, anti-feeding and repellent for insects (DeGrandi-Hoffman et al. 2012;
79 Gökçe et al. 2009; Powell et al. 1997). Recent investigation performed by means of
80 supercritical CO₂ extraction revealed that spent hops is still rich in bio-active
81 compounds (Aniol et al. 2007). However, for the best of our knowledge no information
82 is available about the bio-activity of extracts from hop or spent hops against stored
83 product insect pests.

84 The aim of the present study was to evaluate the brewing by-product spent hops as a
85 source of a terpenes-rich essential oil to be utilized as repellent against adults of the
86 lesser grain borer *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.) (Bostrichidae) and the granary weevil
87 *Sitophilus granarius* (L.) (Curculionidae), two Coleoptera considered among the major
88 stored food pests (Trematerra and Süß, 2006).

89

90 **2. Materials and Methods**

91

92 *2.1. Plant material*

93

94 Spent hops, was supplied by the brewery “Opificio Birraio” of Pisa, Italy after
95 utilization of the hop cones (*Humulus lupulus* cv. Northern Brewery) in the brewing
96 process. Spent hops was dried in the shade, at room temperature (20-25°C) until
97 constant weight.

98

99 *2.2. Essential oil extraction and GC-MS analyses*

100

101 Dried spent hops was hydro-distilled in a Clevenger-type apparatus for 3 h and stored
102 in a refrigerator until use.

103 Gas chromatography (GC) analyses were carried out with an HP-5890 Series II
104 instrument equipped with HP-WAX and HP-5 capillary columns (30 m × 0.25 mm,
105 0.25 µm film thickness), working with the following temperature program: 60°C for 10
106 min, ramp of 3°C min⁻¹ up to 220°C; injector and detector temperatures 250°C; carrier
107 gas helium (2 ml min⁻¹); detector dual FID; split ratio 1:30; injection of 0.5 µl (10%
108 hexane solution). Components identification was carried out, for both columns, by
109 comparing their retention times with those of pure authentic samples and by means of
110 their linear retention index (LRI), relative to the series of *n*-hydrocarbons. Gas
111 chromatography-electron impact mass spectroscopy (GC-EIMS) analyses were
112 performed with a Varian CP-3800 gas chromatograph, equipped with a HP-5 capillary
113 column (30 m × 0.25 mm; coating thickness 0.25 µm) and a Varian Saturn 2000 ion
114 trap mass detector with the following analytical conditions: injector and transfer line
115 temperatures 220°C and 240°C respectively; oven temperature programmed from 60°C

116 to 240°C at 3°C min⁻¹; carrier gas helium at 1 ml min⁻¹; injection of 0.2 µl (10% hexane
117 solution); split ratio 1:30. Constituents identification was based on the comparison of
118 retention times with those of authentic samples, comparing their LRIs with the series
119 of *n*-hydrocarbons and using computer matching against commercial (Adams 1995) and
120 home-made library mass spectra (built up from pure substances and components of
121 known oils and MS literature data (Davies 1990; Adams 1995). Moreover, molecular
122 weights of all identified substances were confirmed by gas chromatography-chemical
123 ionization mass spectrometry (GC-CIMS), using methanol as the chemical ionizing gas.
124

125 2.3. Chemicals

126 Myrcene, α -humulene, linalool and β -caryophyllene, were purchased from Sigma-
127 Aldrich (Italy). In detail: myrcene with a purity $\geq 90\%$ (prod. # W276200), α -humulene
128 with a purity $\geq 96.0\%$ (prod. # 53675), (\pm)-linalool, with a purity of 97% (prod. #
129 L2602) and β -caryophyllene with a purity $\geq 98.5\%$ (prod. # 22075). (+/-)-limonene
130 (with a purity of 96%) was purchased from ChemPur GmbH (Germany).

131

132 2.4. Insect cultures and rearing conditions

133

134 Strains of *R. dominica* and *S. granarius* were reared at the Department of Agriculture,
135 Food and Environment of the University of Pisa, since 2000. Insects were reared at
136 room temperature (20-25 °C), 65% R.H., with natural photoperiod, in plastic boxes
137 (20×25×15 cm), containing grains of wheat and covered by a nylon net allowing air
138 exchange. Since the adults remain until three days into the grain, homogeneous adults
139 (0-3 days old) were obtained by removing adults from the box and the daily newly
140 emerged insects were used for the bioassays.

141

142 *2.5. Insect pests repellence bioassays*

143

144 The repellence of the spent hops essential oil and of some of its chemical constituents
145 was evaluated by two methods: the area preference and the two choice pitfall
146 bioassays.

147 The area preference is, by far, the most common method utilized to assess insect
148 repellency. However, it implies the direct contact of the insects on the filter paper
149 treated with the chemicals and does not allows the presence of food. To test the
150 repellence potential of the chemicals by an assay more close to a real situation we also
151 evaluated the repellence by a two choice pitfall bioassay in which the repellent effect
152 of the tested compound is evaluated in the presence of food. In addition, insects are
153 never in direct contact with the compound.

154

155 *2.5.1 Area preference bioassay*

156

157 The bioassays were conducted following the method described by Tapondjiou et al.
158 (2005). Preliminary tests were conducted to determine the appropriate ranges of
159 concentration of spent hops essential oil (EO) and chemicals. For spent hops EO and
160 chemicals the maximum concentration was chose in order to allow the survival of the
161 whole insect population (0% of mortality) after 24h. As regards the spent hops EO, half
162 filter paper disks (Whatman no. 1 filter paper, 8 cm Ø) were treated with 500 µL of
163 spent hops EO as ethanolic solution at 5 doses ranging from 0.002 to 0.3 µL cm⁻².
164 Chemicals were tested as ethanolic solutions at the doses of 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2 and 3
165 µM cm⁻².

166 The treated filter paper disks were dried under a fan. In each polystyrene Petri dish (8
167 cm Ø) were placed two half filter paper disks, one treated with the EO or EO component
168 solutions and the other treated with 500 µl of ethanol (control). Twenty unsexed adults
169 were introduced in each Petri dish, and the lid was sealed with self-sealing film
170 (Parafilm®). The Petri dishes were maintained at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, 65% R.H., in the dark. Five
171 replicates were performed for each assay, and insects were used only once. The number
172 of insects on the two halves of the Petri dish was recorded after 1, 3, and 24 h from the
173 beginning of the test. The percent repellence (PR) of EO and of each volatile compound
174 was calculated by the formula: $\text{PR} (\%) = [(\text{Nc}-\text{Nt})/(\text{Nc}+\text{Nt})] \times 100$ where Nc is the
175 number of insects present in the control half paper and Nt the number of insects present
176 in the treated one.

177

178 2.5.2 Two-choice pitfall bioassay

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180 The repellent activity of the spent hops volatile compounds was evaluated against *R.*
181 *dominica* and *S. granarius* adults, using the bioassay described by Germinara et al.
182 (2007). The bioassay was conducted in a steel arena (32 cm Ø × 12 cm high) with two
183 diametrically opposed holes (3 cm Ø) in the bottom, located 3 cm from the sidewall.
184 The floor of the arena was covered with filter paper to facilitate insect movements. 10
185 µl of ethanol (control) or chemicals solutions were adsorbed onto a filter paper disk (1
186 cm Ø). Preliminary tests were conducted to determine the appropriate range of
187 concentration of spent hops essential oil (EO) and chemicals. The concentrations of
188 chemicals of the treated disks ranged from 0.03 to 0.125 µM cm⁻². The paper disks were
189 suspended at the centre of each hole by a cotton thread taped to the outer surface of the
190 arena. Glass flasks (500 ml) filled with 100 gr of pasta (Barilla G. e R. Fratelli S.p.A.)

191 were positioned under each hole, and the inside surface of their necks were coated with
192 paraffin oil to prevent insects from returning to the arena. Preliminary trials allowed us
193 to exclude any repellent or attractant effect of paraffin oil. Sixty insects, deprived of
194 food for at least 4 hours, were placed under an inverted Petri dish (3 cm \varnothing \times 1.3 cm
195 high) at the center of the arena and allowed to acclimate for 30 min. The arena was
196 covered with a steel lid and sealed with Parafilm to prevent insects from escaping and
197 was left for 24 h in the dark at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and 65% R.H. Five replicates were performed
198 for each assay, and insects were used only once. The number of insects in the flasks
199 was recorded 24 h from the beginning of the test. The percent repellence (PR) of each
200 volatile was then calculated after 24 h using the formula: $\text{PR} (\%) = [(\text{Nc} - \text{Nt}) / (\text{Nc} + \text{Nt})]$
201 $\times 100$ where Nc was the number of insects present in the control and Nt the number of
202 insects present in the treated flask. The number of non-choosing insects (Nn)
203 (individuals that remained in the arena without entering in any of the two chambers
204 with the food) was recorded.

205

206 *2.6. Statistics and data analyses*

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208 Differences among treatments and species were analyzed after data arcsine-
209 transformation by one-way ANOVA (insect species or essential oil component as
210 factor) or two-way ANOVA (insect species and essential oil component as fixed
211 factors, essential oil concentration as covariate). Means and standard errors (S.E.)
212 given in tables and figures are for untransformed data. Median repellent dose (RD_{50})
213 was calculated by Log-probit regressions. Significant differences between RD_{50}
214 values were determined by estimation of confidence intervals of the relative median
215 potency (RMP). Differences among RD_{50} values were judged as statistically

216 significant when values in the 95% confidence interval of relative median potency
217 analyses were \neq 1.0. All the analyses and RD₅₀ determination were performed by the
218 SPSS 22.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA).

219

220 **3. Results**

221

222 *3.1. Essential oil extraction and GC-MS analysis*

223

224 Essential oil yield from spent hops was 0.11% dry weight. In the spent hops essential
225 oil, 31 constituents were identified, accounting for 94.3% of the whole oil (Table 1).

226 All the components were mono- and sesquiterpenes, both hydrocarbons and

227 oxygenated derivatives, together with some non-terpene compounds such as esters,

228 aldehydes and methylketones. The principal constituents were myrcene (24.2%), α -

229 humulene (16.2%), and β -caryophyllene (6.6%).

230 The main chemical class was represented by sesquiterpene hydrocarbons that reached

231 36.7% followed by monoterpene hydrocarbons (26.4%). Other important classes were

232 non-terpene derivatives and oxygenated sesquiterpenes (Fig. 1).

233

234 *3.2. Insect pests repellence bioassays*

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236 *3.2.1 Area preference bioassay*

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238 The area preference bioassay showed a strong repellent activity against the two insect

239 pests *R. dominica* and *S. granarius* by spent hops essential oil (SHEO) (Fig. 2).

240 Interestingly, we observed a clear different susceptibility of the two species to SHEO

241 ($F_{1,15} = 37.563$, $P < 0.001$) (Fig. 2). Actually, according to probit analysis, *R.*
242 *dominica* resulted about 24-fold more susceptible to SHEO than *S. granarius* ($RD_{50} =$
243 0.008 and $0.191 \mu\text{L cm}^{-2}$, respectively) (Table 2, see also Table 4).
244 On the base of our data, the repellent activity of SHEO is consistent with the
245 repellence of the single SHEO compounds (Tab. 3). Two ways ANOVA showed that
246 the repellence after 24 h of SHEO main components was significantly different as a
247 function of the species ($F_{1,311} = 136.895$, $P < 0.001$), the compound ($F_{3,311} = 57.517$,
248 $P < 0.001$) and that there was a significant interaction between the species and the
249 repellent compound ($F_{3,311} = 12.247$, $P < 0.001$).
250 RMP analyses indicated that the most effective compound against *R. dominica* was
251 myrcene, while limonene was the most effective compound against *S. granarius* (Tab.
252 5). As regards the activity of β -caryophyllene against *R. dominica*, we found that it
253 was significantly higher than the ones of limonene and linalool and similar to the one
254 of myrcene and α -humulene, while, the repellency of β -caryophyllene against *S.*
255 *granarius*, was lower than the limonene one but higher than the repellency of linalool
256 and similar to the activity of β -caryophyllene and α -humulene (Tab. 5). However,
257 albeit limonene was the most repellent compound against *S. granarius*, since SHEO
258 contains 20 fold more myrcene than limonene (Tab. 1), myrcene can be considered
259 the overall most active compound of spent hops EO against the two insect pests
260 species.

261

262 2.4.3 Two-choice pitfall bioassay

263

264 The repellent effect of the SHEO and of the SHEO main components in the presence
265 of food was tested by the two-choice pitfall bioassay. The repellency of SHEO

266 observed by the pitfall bioassay, varied, from 33.62 to 34.51% for *R. dominica* and *S.*
267 *granarius*, respectively with no significant differences between the two species ($F_{1, 4}$
268 $= 0.009$, $P > 0.05$). On the contrary, differences were found in the repellency of the
269 singles SHEO chemical components. Statistically significant differences in repellence
270 rates were found, as a function of species ($F_{1, 20} = 13.737$, $P = 0.001$), compound ($F_{4,}$
271 $20 = 8.433$, $P < 0.001$), with significant interaction between species and compound ($F_{4,}$
272 $20 = 6.116$, $P = 0.002$). Significant RD_{50} values, consistent with the Probit model,
273 were obtained only for β -caryophyllene and limonene: β -caryophyllene RD_{50} values
274 ranged from 0.074 (95% $CI = 0.040$ -0.183; $\chi^2 = 0.13$) to 0.128 (95% $CI = 0.104$ -
275 0.188; $\chi^2 = 1.02$) $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$, while, RD_{50} values of limonene were 0.206 (95% $CI =$
276 0.124-1.452; $\chi^2 = 0.80$) to 0.232 (95% $CI = 0.168$ -0.521; $\chi^2 = 0.78$) $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$. RMP
277 analyses of the pitfall bioassay data showed that the most responsive species was *R.*
278 *dominica*. RMP values (*R. dominica* vs. *S. granarius*) were 0.499 (95% $CI = 0.259$ -
279 0.751) and 0.522 (95% $CI = 0.272$ -0.776) for β -caryophyllene and limonene,
280 respectively. The two-choice pitfall bioassay also highlight the presence of
281 individuals that did no make a choice remaining in the arena at the end of the
282 experiment (Non-choosing Individuals). The number of such non-choosing
283 individuals was different between the two insect pest species ($F_{1, 20} = 240.985$; $P <$
284 0.001), ranging, in average, from 60.00 ± 8.22 to $0.00 \pm 0.00\%$ for *R. dominica* and *S.*
285 *granarius*, respectively (data not shown). On the contrary, no significant effect of the
286 SHEO compounds was found ($F_{4, 20} = 1.824$; $P = 0.164$) with an interaction between
287 species and compound ($F_{4, 20} = 3.380$; $P = 0.029$).

288

289 **4. Discussion**

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291 4.1. Essential oil extraction and GC-MS analysis

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293 To our knowledge this is the first report on the extraction and characterization of
294 essential oil obtained by hydrodistillation from spent hops. Hydrodistillation allowed
295 the extraction of a noteworthy amount of essential from the spent hops. Even if,
296 essential oil yield is quite higher in fresh hops (2.2%, for the Northern Brewer variety)
297 (Davies and Menary 1982) this result showed that a consistent amount of essential oil
298 is still extractable from the spent hops, after the brewing process, In fact, the
299 percentage of essential oil recovered from spent hops is comparable or even higher
300 than that obtained from numerous aromatic and/or officinal plants, i.e. *Salvia*
301 *officinalis* L. (0.2-2.4%) (Raal et al. 2007), *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (0.9-1.9%)
302 (Chahboun et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2012) or *Daucus carota* L. (0.5-0.8%) (Flamini et
303 al. 2014). Moreover, the composition of the spent hops EO resulted not very
304 dissimilar from those reported in literature for the not-spent one: myrcene (52.0%), α -
305 humulene (20.2%), and β -caryophyllene (7.0%) (Davies and Menary 1982). These
306 findings indicate that spent hops could be a convenient low-cost source of essential
307 oil.

308

309 4.2. Insect pests repellence bioassays

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311 4.2.1 Area preference bioassay

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313 This work is also the first assessment of spent hops as a source of repellent substances
314 against pest insects. The repellency assays showed a clear repellent activity of spent
315 hops EO against both *R. dominica* and *S. granarius*. SHEO, evaluated by the area

316 preference method, exerted a strong repellent activity against the two insect pests *R.*
317 *dominica* and *S. granarius*.

318 Interestingly, we observed a clear different susceptibility of the two species to SHEO.
319 Actually, according to probit analysis, *R. dominica* resulted about 24-fold more
320 susceptible to SHEO than *S. granarius*. This result is consistent with the findings of
321 Bougherra et al. (2014) who observed a higher susceptibility of *R. dominica* respect to
322 the maize weevil *Sitophilus zeamais* (Motsch.), and the confused flour beetle
323 *Tribolium confusum* Du Val to *Pistacia lentiscus* L. essential oil and its main
324 chemical components.

325 Overall, our data are in accordance with previous studies showing a repellent effect of
326 several plant essential oils on *R. dominica* (Jilani and Malik 1973; Mediouni Ben
327 Jemâa et al. 2012), and *S. granarius* (Benelli et al. 2012; Conti et al. 2011). However,
328 a comparison of the results of this experiment with the data available in literature
329 shows that the SHEO results about 2 to 5 fold more effective against *R. dominica* than
330 what observed by Mediouni Ben Jemâa et al. (2012) for the essential oils of
331 Mediterranean *Laurus nobilis* L. plants and shows about the same percentage of
332 repellency, after 24h against *S. granarius*, of the essential oil of *Hyptis suaveolens* L.
333 (Benelli et al. 2012).

334 The high repellent activity of SHEO is consistent with the activities of the single
335 SHEO compounds. Chemical analysis and bio-assays indicate that the repellence of
336 the SHEO relies mainly on its high content of myrcene and β -caryophyllene. It is
337 noteworthy that myrcene, on the contrary of limonene do not have enantiomers that
338 could exert a different bioactivity. In this regard, Giatropoulos et al. (2012),
339 evaluating the bioefficacy of three *Citrus* essential oils against the Asian tiger
340 mosquito *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse) (Diptera Culicidae) in correlation to their

341 components enantiomeric distribution, found that the two enantiomeric forms of
342 limonene, although similar in the LC₅₀, showed significant differences in their
343 repellent activity. In our experiment, since we have tested the racemic mixture of
344 limonene, its RD₅₀ should be considered as the average activity of the two
345 enantiomers. In fact, albeit limonene was the most repellent compound against *S.*
346 *granarius*, for its much higher content myrcene can be considered the overall most
347 active compound of SHEO against both the two insect pests species.

348 In previous studies, myrcene has been already found to exert a repellent or toxic
349 activity against insects. A strong larvicidal effect of myrcene against the yellow fever
350 mosquito *Aedes aegypti* L. and *A. albopictus* (Diptera Culicidae) was observed by
351 Cheng et al. (2009). Papachristos et al. (2009) proved that myrcene, together with
352 limonene and terpinene were responsible for the toxic effect of citrus oil in diets of
353 larvae of *Ceratitis capitata* Wiedemann (Diptera Tephritidae) and Karemu et al.
354 (2013) observed that the essential oil of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh., containing
355 myrcene, was more active than DEET (N,N-diethyl-3-methylbenzamide) in repelling
356 *S. zeamais*. In line with this experiment, Kim and Lee (2014) in a study on basil and
357 orange essential oils observed a toxic effect of myrcene against *S. zeamais*. On the
358 contrary, no repellency of myrcene was found against the silverleaf whitefly *Bemisia*
359 *tabaci* (Gennadius) (Homoptera Aleyrodidae) (Bleeker et al. 2009). As regards to β -
360 caryophyllene, we found that its activity was similar to the one of myrcene. Our data
361 confirm a previous work by Bougherra et al. (2014) where β -caryophyllene resulted the
362 overall most active compound of *P. lentiscus* essential oil against three pasta pests
363 species, *R. dominica*, *S. zeamais*, and *T. confusum*. Consistently, Chaubey (2012)
364 found that β -caryophyllene was more toxic and with higher anti-feeding activity than
365 α -pinene against the red flour beetle *Tribolium castaneum* (Herbst) and the lesser rice

366 weevil *Sitophilus oryzae* (L.)

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368 4.2.2 *Two-choice pitfall bioassay*

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370 When tested in the presence of food by the two-choice pitfall bioassay, no difference
371 in the SHEO repellence between the two species was observed. On the contrary,
372 differences were found in the repellency of the singles SHEO chemical components.
373 Such differences in the insects behavior between the two assays could be due to the
374 different conditions of the test. In fact, in the pitfall bioassay, insects are, in a more
375 close to a real-life situation because they avoid the direct contact with the repellent
376 compound, are in a much larger volume arena than the one of the area preference
377 assay, and for the attractive presence of food (Bougherra et al 2014; Phillips et al
378 1993). An influence of the presence of food on the efficacy of chemicals such as the
379 synthetic pyrethroid cyfluthrin (Arthur 2000) and the macrocyclic lactone spinetoram
380 (Vassilakos et al 2014) was previously observed. In addition, an interaction between
381 the chemicals and the food such as a differential volatiles sorption cannot be
382 excluded.

383 Interestingly, the two-choice pitfall bioassay allowed us also to highlight the presence
384 of individuals that did no make a choice remaining in the arena at the end of the
385 experiment (Non-choosing Individuals). Such behavior, that was observed quite
386 exclusively for *R. dominica*, was previously observed also by Bougherra et al. (2014)
387 and is probably a characteristic response of the species to the environmental
388 conditions of the two-choice pitfall bioassay arena.

389

390 **5. Conclusions**

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392 This study, for the first time, provides a scientific rationale for the use of spent hops
393 derivatives in the protection of stored food. The large availability of spent hops as
394 industry by-product and its good content of essential oil with high repellent activity
395 makes spent hops an excellent low-cost resource for the production of eco-friendly
396 alternative to synthetic repellents in the protection of stored food-stuff from insect
397 pests.

398

399 **Author Contribution Statement**

400

401 BC conceived and designed research. FC, JG, BC and GF conducted experiments. SB
402 analyzed data. SB, GF and BC wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved
403 the manuscript.

404

405 **Ethical approval**

406 All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and
407 use of animals were followed.

408

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410

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414

415 **Conflict of Interest**

416

417 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

418

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580

581 **Figure captions**

582

583 **Fig. 1** Principal chemical classes (%) of the essential oil extracted from spent hops

584

585 **Fig. 2** Repellence (%) of the spent hops essential oil against the two stored food insect
586 pests *Rizopherta dominica*, black squares, and *Sitophilus granarius*, white squares,
587 assessed by the “Area Preference Method”. Bars indicate standard error

588

589

Table 1
Chemical composition (%) of the spent hops essential oil.

Constituents ^a	<i>LRI</i>	%
Myrcene*	993	24.2
α -Humulene*	1456	16.2
β -Caryophyllene*	1419	6.6
2-Undecanone	1293	4.7
Humulene oxide II	1607	4
2-Methylbutyl isobutyrate	1015	3.6
δ -Cadinene	1524	3.3
Methyl 4-decenoate	1311	3.1
2-Tridecanone	1494	2.4
<i>trans</i> - γ -Cadinene	1514	2.4
Caryophyllene oxide	1582	2.2
Methyl geranate	1325	2.1
γ -Muurolene	1479	2.1
Linalool*	1101	1.9
α -Selinene	1495	1.6
<i>1-epi</i> -Cubenol	1628	1.3
Selina-3,7(11)-diene	1544	1.3
Limonene*	1032	1.2
β -Selinene	1487	1.2
β -Pinene	982	1
2-Dodecanone	1393	0.9
Methyl nonanoate	1228	0.8
α -Copaene	1377	0.8
2-Decanone	1194	0.7
Isoamyl 2-methylbutyrate	1105	0.7
Methyl octanoate	1128	0.7
Pentyl propanoate	1008	0.7
Methyl 6-methylheptanoate	1087	0.6
<i>trans</i> -Cadina-1(6),4-diene	1475	0.6
α -Muurolene	1500	0.6
τ -Cadinol	1642	0.8
Total		94.3

^a Chemical constituents $\geq 0.1\%$

LRI, linear retention index on DB-5 column

*, chemicals tested for insect pests repellency

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Table 2

Repellency, after 24 h, of the spent hops essential oil (EO) and terpene constituents (myrcene, linalool, limonene, α -humulene and β -caryophyllene) against adults of *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Sitophilus granarius* assessed by the area preference bioassay.

Repellent	Pest target	RD ₅₀	95 % CI	Slope \pm SE	Intercept \pm SE	χ^2 (df)
Spent Hops EO	<i>R. dominica</i>	0.01	0.005-0.012	1.269 \pm 0.184	2.643 \pm 0.345	4.63* (3)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	0.19	0.166-0.224	2.499 \pm 0.352	1.797 \pm 0.283	2.75* (4)
Myrcene	<i>R. dominica</i>	0.27	0.200-0.332	1.944 \pm 0.308	1.119 \pm 0.172	0.88* (2)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	2.27	1.716-3.376	1.319 \pm 0.271	-0.470 \pm 0.103	3.57* (3)
Linalool	<i>R. dominica</i>	2.04	1.693-2.718	2.137 \pm 0.384	-0.663 \pm 0.105	1.30* (3)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	2.12	1.847-2.521	2.583 \pm 0.364	-0.844 \pm 0.118	2.42* (4)
Limonene	<i>R. dominica</i>	0.65	0.431-0.887	1.190 \pm 0.225	0.224 \pm 0.084	3.79* (3)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	0.89	0.434-1.638	0.689 \pm 0.211	0.034 \pm 0.080	0.63* (3)
α -Humulene	<i>R. dominica</i>	0.59	n.d.	2.103 \pm 0.3.11	0.486 \pm 0.111	6.66* (2)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	2.95	1.839-8.374	0.771 \pm 199	-0.362 \pm 0.078	1.72* (4)
β -Caryophyllene	<i>R. dominica</i>	0.39 ^a	0.274-0.612	1.193 \pm 0.255	0.489 \pm 0.160	1.81* (2)
	<i>S. granarius</i>	2.31	n.d.	2.308 \pm 1.432	-0.837 \pm 0.570	0.02* (1)

RD₅₀, repellency dose for 50% of treated adults. Data are expressed as $\mu\text{L cm}^{-2}$ for spent hops essential oil and as $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$ for chemicals.

CI, Confidence Interval;

(df), degrees of freedom;

*, indicate $P > 0.05$;

^a Data from Bougherra et al. (2014).

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Table 3

Spent hops terpene constituents (myrcene, linalol, limonene, α -humulene, and β -caryophyllene) repellent activity against *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Sitophilus granarius* adults exposed to different concentrations (1 and 2 $\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$) for different exposure time (1, 3, 24 h) in the area preference bioassay.

Species	$\mu\text{M cm}^{-2}$	h	% Repellency				
			Myrcene	Linalool	Limonene	α -Humulene	β -Caryophyllene
<i>R. dominica</i>	1	1	32.0 ^a ± 8.0	36.0 ± 10.3	60.0 ± 12.3	50.0 ± 27.4	42.0 ± 6.4
		3	46.0 ± 9.3	32.0 ± 8.1	54.0 ± 11.7	48.0 ± 34.2	46.0 ± 4.2
		24	74.0 ± 10.3b	12.0 ± 4.9a	42.0 ± 16.6ab	72.0 ± 22.8b	48.0 ± 6.7ab
	2	1	36.0 ± 20.2	30.0 ± 11.4	52.0 ± 3.7	66.0 ± 15.2	60.0 ± 6.2
		3	42.0 ± 8.0ab	18.0 ± 13.6a	60.0 ± 6.3b	74.0 ± 27.0b	58.0 ± 5.4b
		24	84.0 ± 8.1b	20.0 ± 12.6a	58.0 ± 8.0b	60.0 ± 30.8b	68.0 ± 3.6b
<i>S. granarius</i>	1	1	46.0 ± 2.5	12.0 ± 5.8	24.0 ± 8.1	48.0 ± 14.6	36.0 ± 15.7
		3	40.0 ± 5.5	14.0 ± 6.8	36.00 ± 4.0	52.0 ± 17.4	26.0 ± 6.8
		24	28.0 ± 7.4ab	6.0 ± 4.0a	46.0 ± 2.5b	34.0 ± 11.7ab	48.0 ± 15.6b
	2	1	38.0 ± 8.0	14.0 ± 8.7	14.0 ± 5.1	52.0 ± 12.8	38.0 ± 13.9
		3	24.0 ± 8.2	14.0 ± 5.1	14.0 ± 4.0	62.0 ± 15.9	42.0 ± 2.0
		24	32.0 ± 13.6	14.0 ± 9.8	30.0 ± 8.9	42.0 ± 14.6	48.0 ± 8.0

^a Values are means ± standard error. Values within each species and exposure time followed by different letters are significantly different by Tukey B test ($P \leq 0.05$).

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Table 4

Relative susceptibilities of the two insect pests *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Sitophilus granarius* to the spent hops essential oil (EO) and terpenes constituents (myrcene, linalool, limonene, α -humulene, β -caryophyllene) as assessed by the area preference bioassay.

Repellent	<i>rmp</i> ^a
Spent Hops EO	0.045 ^{b, *}
Myrcene	0.116 [*]
Linalool	0.914
Limonene	0.648
α -Humulene	0.238 [*]
β -Caryophyllene	0.178 [*]

^a, relative median potency analyses (*rmp*) values of the comparison: *Rhyzopertha dominica* vs *Sitophilus granarius*;

^b Values < 1 indicates that *Rhyzopertha dominica* is more susceptible of *Sitophilus granarius*;

^{*}, Indicates significant values (95% CI \neq 1).

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Table 5

Relative repellency of spent hops terpenes constituents (myrcene, linalool, limonene, α -humulene, and β -caryophyllene), against *Rhyzopertha dominica* and *Sitophilus granarius* as assessed by the area preference bioassay.

Species	Repellent	Myrcene ^a	Linalool	Limonene	α -Humulene
<i>R. dominica</i>	Linalool	0.108 ^{b,*}			
	Limonene	0.357*	3.307*		
	α -Humulene	0.445*	4.118*	1.245	
	β -Caryophyllene	0.679	6.281*	1.899*	0.656
<i>S. granarius</i>	Linalool	0.825*			
	Limonene	2.591*	3.141*		
	α -Humulene	1.042*	1.264*	0.402	
	β -Caryophyllene	1.126	1.365*	0.434*	1.080

^a Comparison between compounds (row vs column) by relative median potency analysis (rmp) of repellency;

^b Rmp values < 1 indicates that row compound is more repellent than column compound;

*, Indicates significant values (95% CI \neq 1).

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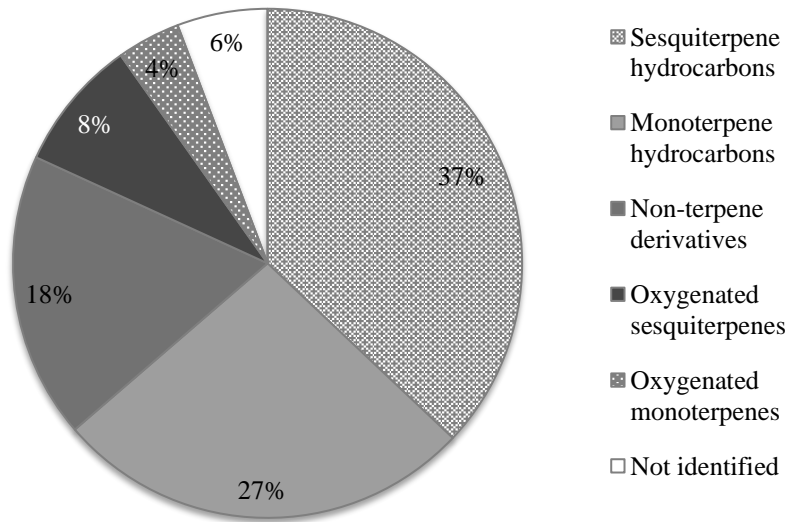
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619 **Figures**

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621 **Fig. 1**



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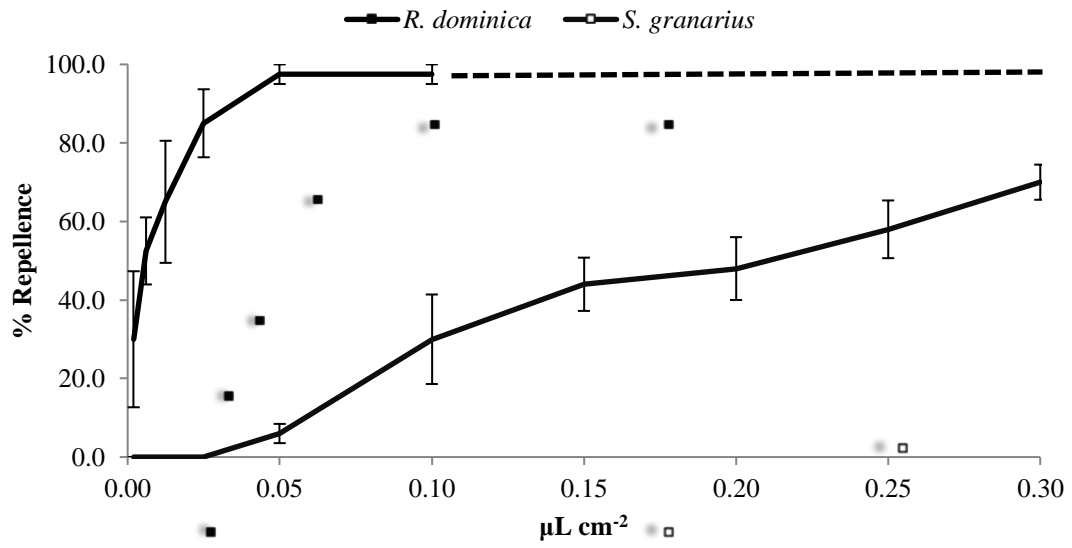
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637 **Fig. 2**

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