

## Article

# Exposure of *Hyaella bonariensis* (Crustacea, Amphipoda) to Essential Oils: Effects on Anesthesia and Swimming Activity

Alessandra Janaína Becker<sup>1</sup>, Sandro Santos<sup>1</sup> , Berta Maria Heinzmann<sup>2</sup>, Bráulio Otomar Caron<sup>3</sup> and Bernardo Baldisserotto<sup>1,4,\*</sup> 

<sup>1</sup> Post-Graduate Program in Animal Biodiversity, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Santa Maria 97105-900, RS, Brazil

<sup>2</sup> Department of Industrial Pharmacy, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Santa Maria 97105-900, RS, Brazil

<sup>3</sup> Department of Agronomical and Environmental Sciences, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Frederico Westphalen 98400-000, RS, Brazil

<sup>4</sup> Departamento de Fisiologia e Farmacologia, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM), Santa Maria 97105-900, RS, Brazil

\* Correspondence: bernardo.baldisserotto@ufsm.br; Tel.: +55-(55)-98135-1113

**Abstract:** Amphipods are frequently used as bioindicators of water quality in experimental or behavior trials. Thus, it is a group considered suitable for use as a model organism in tests with essential oils (EOs). This study evaluated the time required for anesthesia induction and recovery of the amphipod crustacean *H. bonariensis* exposed to the essential oils of *Aloysia triphylla* (EOAT) and *Lippia alba* (EOLA), and their major compounds citral and linalool, respectively. In addition, we evaluated the locomotor activity of amphipods using ANY-maze<sup>®</sup> software. Mortalities were observed at concentrations of 100 and 200 µL/L of citral ( $50.0 \pm 0.39\%$ ) and 750 µL/L of EOLA ( $66.7 \pm 0.33\%$ ). Except for linalool, increased concentrations of the compounds of the essential oils decreased the time for sedation and anesthesia induction. There were differences for the induction of anesthesia ( $p < 0.05$ ) and recovery ( $p < 0.05$ ) between EOLA and linalool treatments, but not between that for EOAT and citral. Reduced locomotor activity and longer time and episodes of freezing were observed in animals exposed to EOAT. The EOs and their major compounds induced anesthesia and affected the locomotor activity of *H. bonariensis*. Therefore, EOAT and linalool are recommended for anesthesia of this species. EOAT can also be utilized in long-term exposure.

**Keywords:** behavior; citral; linalool; locomotor activity; natural anesthetics

**Key Contribution:** Amphipod *Hyaella bonariensis* can be used as a model to test new anesthetics for crustaceans. The essential oil of *Aloysia triphylla* and linalool can be used as anesthetics for this species.



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## 1. Introduction

The genus *Hyaella* (Smith, 1874; Hyaellidae, Amphipoda) includes about 91 described species distributed from Patagonia to Canada [1]. These amphipods consist of freshwater and some marine species that live in the benthic environment, which is usually associated with algae or sediment [2]. Amphipods are important species in the trophic chain and are used as bioindicators of water quality in ecotoxicological trials due to their high sensitivity to environmental impacts and contamination, short life cycles, easy sampling, and simple laboratory maintenance [3–6].

Behavioral changes provide important tools on the ecological and health status of animals [7,8]. For example, changes in locomotion, swimming speed, feeding, and ventilation frequency may indicate neurotoxic actions or interference in the neuromuscular transmission by various substances in experimental assays [9,10]. Stress affects the locomotor capacity [11], social interactions, and escape from predators [12], as observed in experiments with the amphipod *Gammarus fossarum* [13] and crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) [14].

Observations of individuals of a species can contribute to understanding the relationship between environmental factors and populations, which would support management, either for conservation at the environmental level or for standardization of laboratory protocols [15].

A variety of natural and synthetic anesthetic substances have been investigated to reduce metabolism and stress in crustacean species [16]. Previous studies have reported the use of tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222), Aqui-STM [17], 2-phenoxyethanol [18], and quinaldine [19] on crustaceans. However, these compounds were found to be neither sufficiently safe nor effective for crustaceans. Essential oils (EOs) have been widely employed with a variety of invertebrates, including amphipods and shrimp, mainly because they have therapeutic properties, are easily accessible, and biodegrade in the environment. Clove oil (*Eugenia caryophyllata*); the EOs of *Lippia alba* (EOLA), *Aloysia triphylla* (EOAT), and *Melaleuca alternifolia*; and some major EO compounds, such as eugenol, terpinen-4-ol, linalool, and citral, have been found to present sedative, anesthetic, and antioxidant properties in some species, including *Daphnia magna* [10], *Gammarus minus* [20], *Litopenaeus vannamei* [21], *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* [22], and *Neohelice granulata* [23].

In small invertebrates, anesthetics can be used for short-term immobilization, such as for in vivo studies, microscopic analysis, the application of sensors in physiological assessments, and the manipulation of species in the wild. We hypothesized that *H. bonariensis* [24] may be suitable for use as a behavioral model in EOs tests. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the time required for anesthesia induction and the recovery of *H. bonariensis* exposed to EOAT and EOLA and their major compounds citral (mix of neral and geranial) and linalool (mix of S-(+) and R-(−) isomers) and evaluated their effects on the locomotor activity of amphipods using ANY-maze<sup>®</sup> video monitoring software. Our hypothesis is that the EOs and compounds tested will induce anesthesia and reduce locomotor activity of *H. bonariensis*.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Animals

Specimens of *H. bonariensis* (5 mm) were collected in Santa Maria municipality in the central region of Rio Grande do Sul, South Brazil. The crustaceans were collected with a hand net (mesh of 250 µm) and transported to the laboratory in 150 mL plastic bottles with a maximum of five individuals each. In a laboratory maintained at a temperature of 20 °C and a photoperiod-controlled room (12 L:12 D), the animals were acclimatized in continuously aerated 5 L aquaria with leaves and sediment in the bottom. They were left in acclimatization conditions for at least one week before study.

### 2.2. Essential Oils and Major Constituents

*Lippia alba* (Mill.), N. E. Brown (Verbenaceae), and *A. triphylla* (L'Herit) Britton (Verbenaceae) were obtained from plants cultivated at the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria campus at Frederico Westphalen, Rio Grande do Sul. The EO extraction was performed via hydrodistillation as described by [21]. Linalool and citral were acquired from the company Sigma-Aldrich (Burlington, MA, USA). The major components identified for the essential oil of *L. alba* (EOLA) were linalool (59.8%), cineole (10.29%), germacrene D (6.49%), germacrene B (4.78%), and β-caryophyllene (3.64%). The essential oil of *A. triphylla* (EOAT) was composed mainly of β-citral (45.59%), *p*-menth-1-ene (20.26%), β-caryophyllene (6.02%), and caryophyllene oxide (4.3%).

### 2.3. Anesthesia Induction and Recovery

For the determination of the anesthetic activity, 112 amphipods ( $n = 8$  animals per concentration and anesthetic) were randomly divided and placed into 50 mL beakers ( $n = 2$  amphipods per beaker). Animals were exposed to the following concentrations: clean dechlorinated tap water (control) or solutions containing ethanol (6750 µL/L, equivalent to the highest concentration used to dilute EOLA) with either (i) 250, 500, or 750 µL/L of

EOLA; (ii) 150, 300, or 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT; (iii) 100, 200, or 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool; or (iv) 100, 200, or 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral. After the exposure, animals were transferred to containers free of anesthetics to determine recovery time. The anesthetics were diluted in absolute ethanol at a ratio of 1:10 before being added to the test beakers. Anesthetic induction and recovery were evaluated according to [17]: partial loss of equilibrium (stage 1—sedation), total loss of equilibrium and no reaction to external stimuli (stage 2—anesthesia), and recovery of equilibrium and body movement (stage 3—recovery). Each amphipod was tested only once. The maximum observation time for sedation or anesthesia induction was 30 min. Induction time and recovery time were recorded using a digital stopwatch (expressed in seconds). The studied concentrations were selected according to preliminary tests to observe if the EOs and compounds could induce sedation and/or anesthesia using  $n = 3$  for each concentration, from 25 to 750  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of each EO and compound.

#### 2.4. Locomotor Activity

Forty amphipods ( $n = 5$  animals per concentration and anesthetic) were transferred individually to transparent aquaria containing 40 mL aerated freshwater ( $\pm 24^\circ\text{C}$ ). The following treatments were tested: (i) clean dechlorinated tap water (control), (ii) 1800  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of ethanol, (iii) 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT, (iv) 100 and 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA, or (v) 50 and 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool. The animals were exposed to anesthetic baths in each treatment for 5 min. In this second experiment, concentrations were chosen based on the results of the anesthesia experiments. The concentrations used were the lowest concentrations required for anesthesia induction. The aquarium test was divided into four different virtual zones (A—upper side; B—bottom side; C—right side; D—left side) to delimit the locomotor activity and location of the animals.

Animal movements were recorded for 5 min with a digital camera (Sony Cyber-shot DSC-H300, Campinas, SP, Brazil). Digital analysis of the videos was performed using ANY-maze<sup>®</sup> software (Stoelting CO, Wood Dale, IL, USA) with the aim of scoring the following behavioral parameters: total distance traveled (m); mean speed (m/s), maximum speed (m/s); absolute turning angle; freezing episodes (duration of time not moving) as time freezing (s); number of crossings between the tank zones; number of entries in each virtual zone (upper/bottom and right/left) and dwelling time in each zone (upper/bottom and right/left) (Table 1). The videos for each anesthetic were analyzed separately.

**Table 1.** Description of the behavioral features analyzed by ANY-maze<sup>®</sup> software.

Behavioral Category	Behavior	Description
Speed	Mean speed	Average animal speed as a function of the distance traveled in the aquarium.
	Maximum speed	Maximum speed of the animal in the aquarium.
Maneuvering	Absolute turning angle	The sum of the absolute angle between each movement vector of the animal.
Immobility	Freezing episodes	Number of times the animal froze during the test.
	Time freezing	Total amount of time during the test for which the animal was freezing.
Tank exploration	Total distance	Sum of the total distance that the animal travelled between each point during the test.
	Crossings between the tank zones	Numbers of crossings of the animal between the different zones of the aquarium.
	Entries in each virtual zone	Counts the number of times the animal entered in each zone.
	Dwelling time in each zone	Total amount of time the animal spent in the zone.

#### 2.5. Statistical Analysis

The data were expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SE. The homoscedasticity of variances was verified with the Levene's test, and normality was assessed using the Kolmogorov–Smirnov test. The significant difference between the time needed for anesthesia induction and the concentration of the anesthetic were analyzed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's test. The total distance traveled, mean speed, maximum speed, absolute turning angle, freezing episodes, number of crossings between the tank zones, number of entries in each virtual zone, and dwelling time in each zone data were compared by using one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test, or the Kruskal–Wallis test followed by

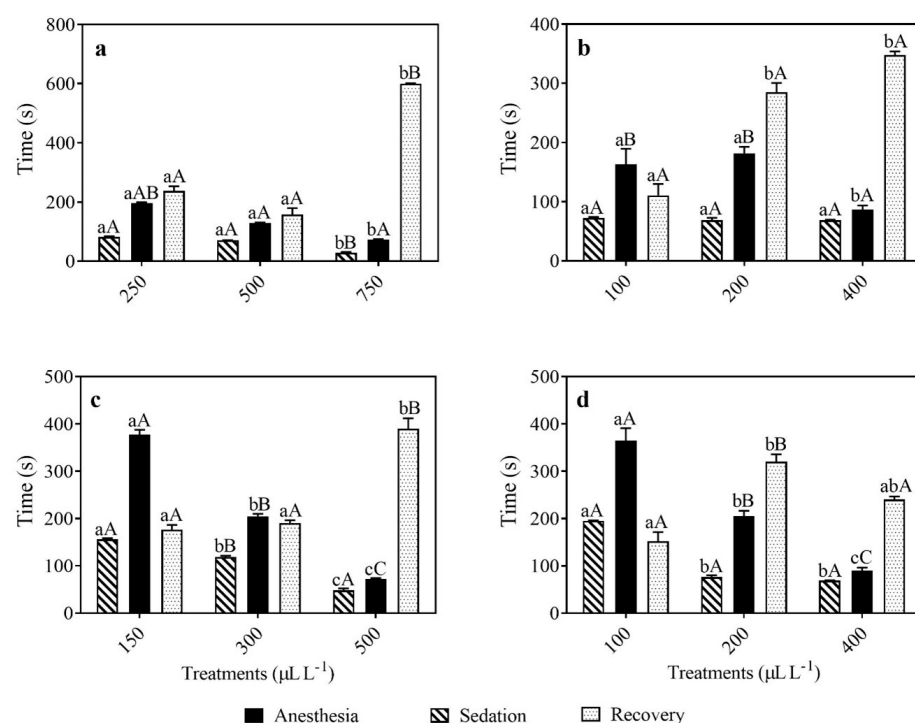
Dunn's post hoc test. Analyses were performed using the Statistical version 7.0 (StatSoft, Tulsa, OK, USA) software, and the minimum significance level was set at  $p < 0.05$ .

The graphics of total distance traveled, mean speed, maximum speed, absolute turning angle, freezing episodes, and time freezing were performed using Graph Pad Prism 6 (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA, USA).

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Anesthesia Induction and Recovery with EOLA and Linalool

Mortality occurred at  $66.7 \pm 0.33\%$  at 750  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA, mainly during the recovery time. Increasing concentrations of EOLA decreased the time required for the induction of sedation and anesthesia stages, but this relationship was not observed for linalool (Figure 1a,b). The EOLA concentration of 750  $\mu\text{L/L}$  shortened the time for the induction of stages 1 (less than 1 min) ( $F = 11.883$ ;  $p = 0.0026$ ) and 2 of anesthesia ( $F = 12.039$ ;  $p = 0.0024$ ) compared with 250 or 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA. The time for the induction of stages 2 of anesthesia with 250 or 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA was  $3.27 \pm 0.08$  min and  $2.15 \pm 0.04$  min, respectively. However, the recovery time was significantly shorter following exposure to the lower EOLA concentrations ( $F = 13.802$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ) (Figure 1a). There were no significant differences with stages 1 and 2 of anesthesia between 100 and 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool. The concentration of 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool reduced the time required for the induction of anesthesia (stage 2) ( $F = 8.431$ ;  $p = 0.015$ ) and increased recovery time ( $F = 2.795$ ;  $p = 0.010$ ) (Figure 1b). Amphipods anesthetized with 500 and 750  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA showed a lower time for the induction of anesthesia (stage 2) than those anesthetized with 100 and 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool. Recovery from anesthesia was significantly longer at 750  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA compared with all EOLA and linalool treatments.



**Figure 1.** Time required for anesthesia induction and recovery of the amphipod *H. bonariensis* exposed to *L. alba* EO (a), linalool (b), *A. triphylla* EO (c), and citral (d). Different lowercase letters above the bars indicate significant differences in the time required for anesthesia induction or recovery between concentrations for the same anesthetics or major compounds. Different uppercase letters indicate significant differences in the time required for anesthesia induction or recovery between the anesthetics and their major compounds (*L. alba* X linalool; *A. triphylla* X citral) ( $p < 0.05$ ). Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM ( $n = 8$ ).

### 3.2. Anesthesia Induction and Recovery with EOAT and Citral

Mortality was  $50.0 \pm 0.39\%$  at the concentrations of 100 or 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral. Increasing concentrations of EOAT and citral decreased the time required for the induction of sedation and anesthesia stages. Amphipods anesthetized with EOAT demonstrated a reduced time for the induction of stages 1 ( $F = 11.925$ ;  $p = 0.0001$ ) and 2 ( $F = 15.358$ ;  $p = 0.008$ ) with higher concentrations. The EOAT concentration of 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  induced fast sedation ( $1.15 \pm 0.01$  min) and anesthesia ( $1.87 \pm 0.11$  min). However, the recovery time was significantly lower for 150 and 300  $\mu\text{L/L}$  EOAT ( $F = 12.194$ ;  $p = 0.002$ ) (Figure 1c). The concentration of 100  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral promoted the longest time required for the induction of anesthesia stages 1 ( $F = 18.925$ ;  $p = 0.0008$ ) and 2 ( $F = 15.358$ ;  $p = 0.008$ ) ( $3.26 \pm 0.03$  min and  $7.00 \pm 0.18$  min, respectively). The shortest times for the induction of anesthesia were observed at 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral. The recovery times were significantly higher for 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral compared to 100  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral ( $7.33 \pm 0.14$  min and  $5.11 \pm 0.60$  min, respectively) ( $F = 11.794$ ;  $p = 0.003$ ) (Figure 1d). The concentration of 150  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT and 100  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral induced longer sedation (stage 1) and anesthesia (stage 2) compared to the other EOAT and citral treatments. No differences were found for the induction of anesthesia stage 1 and stage 2 between the EOAT and citral. The recovery times were longer at 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral and 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  EOAT.

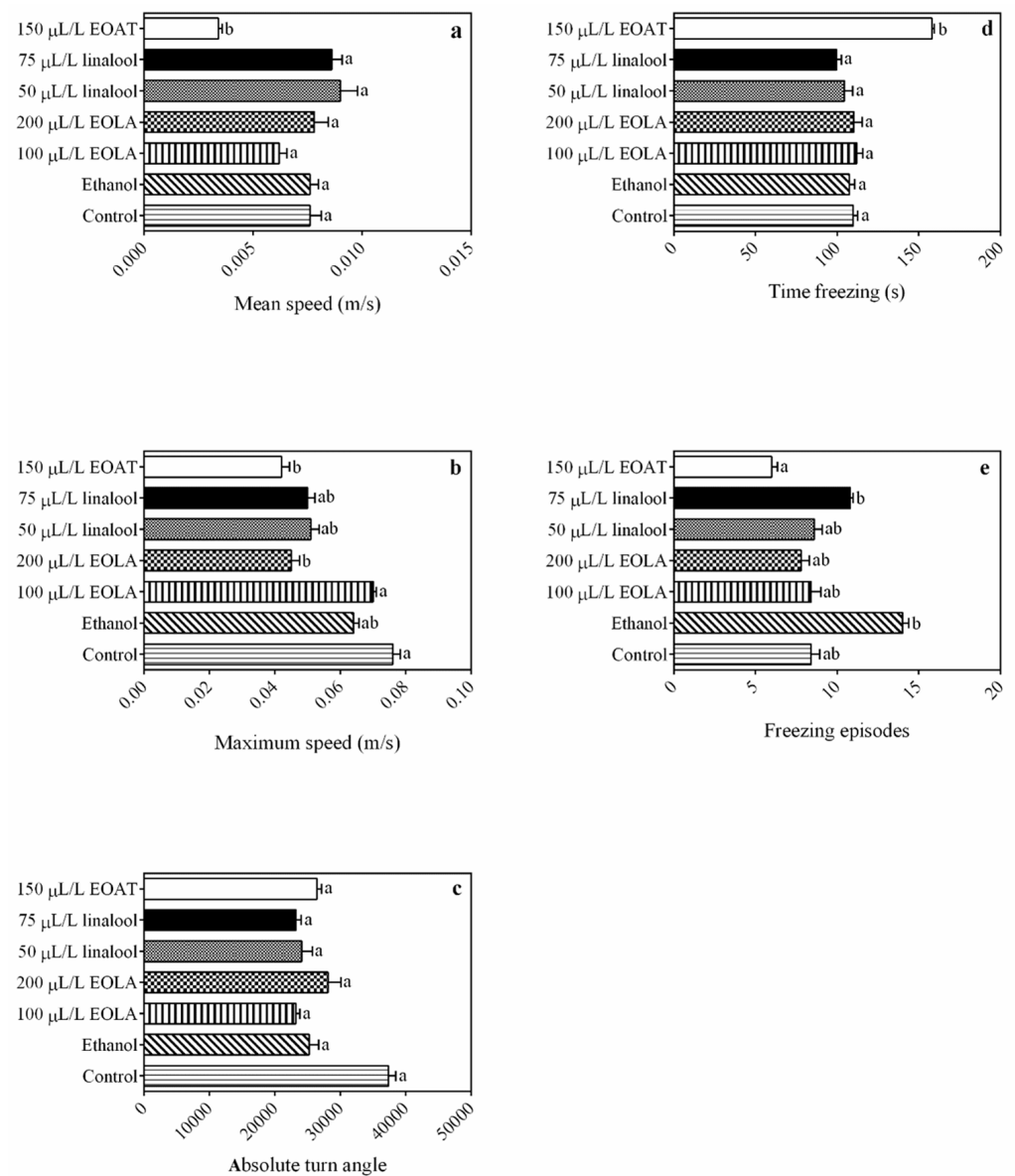
### 3.3. Locomotor Activity

EOAT resulted in the most distinct behavioral parameters in relation to swimming speed, line crossings, distance traveled, and freezing compared to the control groups. EOLA and linalool treatments resulted in locomotor activity that was similar to that of the control group, with the exception of the maximum speed observed at 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$ . Greater agitation and slight loss of equilibrium were observed for the ethanol group at the initial time. Linalool caused agitation of the animals throughout the time of exposure.

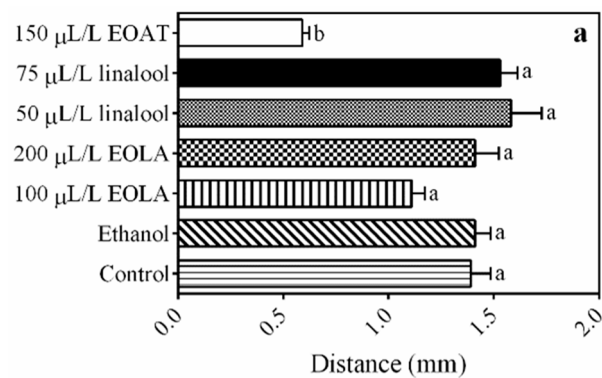
The concentration of 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT resulted in lower mean speed compared to the control group ( $F = 1.1583$ ;  $p = 0.006$ ) (Figure 2a). The values of maximum speed at 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT and 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA were significantly lower than those of the control ( $F = 6.096$ ;  $p = 0.001$ ) (Figure 2b). There were no significant differences in absolute turn angle between concentrations of EOs and major compounds in relation to the control and ethanol groups ( $F = 0.504$ ;  $p = 0.070$ ) (Figure 2c). The concentration of 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT resulted in a higher time of freezing compared to all other samples evaluated ( $F = 2.899$ ;  $p = 0.0007$ ) (Figure 2d), while freezing episodes showed no differences between treatments with EOs and major compounds compared to the control group. (Figure 2e).

The total distance that the amphipods travelled between each zone of the aquarium was significantly lower for those exposed to 150  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT when compared to the control groups ( $F = 1.161$ ;  $p = 0.011$ ) (Figure 3a). The number of crossings observed between the different tank zones was similar for the treatments with the addition of EOs or major compounds compared to the control group (Figure 3b).

Overall, there were no differences in the number of entries between zones in each treatment. The amphipods submitted to both concentrations of linalool showed a higher number of entries for the treatments with EOLA and ethanol when compared to the control group. Amphipods exposed to EOAT exhibited a decreased number of entries to all zones compared with those of the control (Figure 4). There were no preferences for different zones observed between all Eos and major compounds. The animals exposed to 50  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool, 75  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT, and 100 and 200  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA remained for a longer time at the bottom of the aquarium (zone B) than the control group did. In contrast, amphipods of the control and ethanol groups stayed for longer periods on the right side (zone C) but without differences between zones A and B for the ethanol group. In the control group, amphipods spent most of the time swimming in the upper zone (zone A) compared with the bottom zone (zone B).

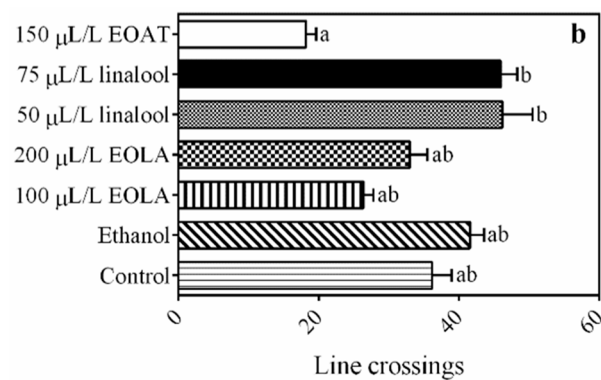


**Figure 2.** Locomotor parameters and comparison between immobility periods observed in *H. bonariensis* groups during behavioral trial. Mean speed (a). Maximum speed (b). Absolute turning angle (c). Time of freezing (d). Freezing episodes (e). Different letters on the right side of the bars indicate significant differences between anesthetic concentrations ( $p < 0.05$ ; by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's or Kruskal–Wallis tests;  $n = 5$  per group).

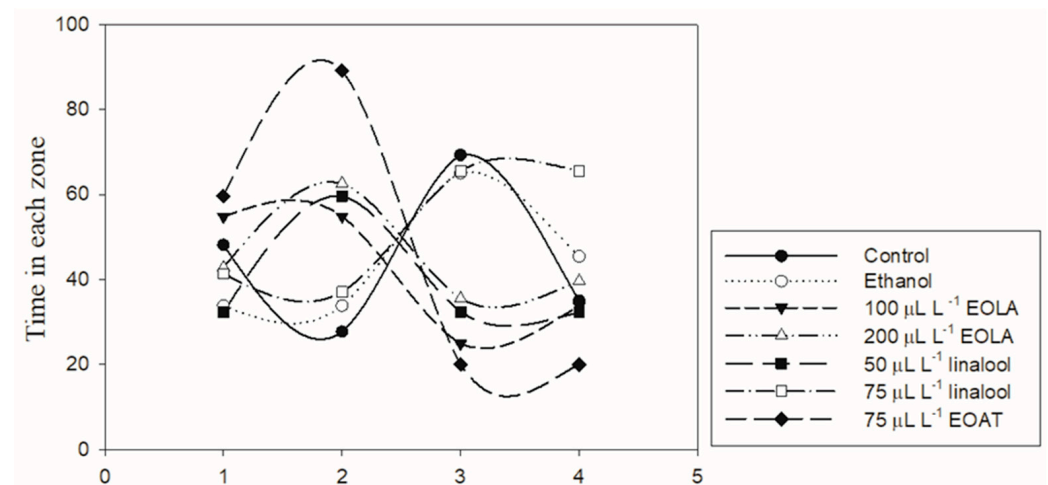


**Figure 3.** Cont.





**Figure 3.** Tank exploration of *H. bonariensis* exposed to control, ethanol, and 75 µL/L of *A. triphylla* EO (EOAT). Concentrations of 50 and 75 µL/L of linalool and 100 and 200 µL/L of *L. alba* EO (EOLA). Distance (a). Line crossings (b). Different letters indicate significant difference in length of stay at the aquarium zones between the different treatments ( $p < 0.05$ ; by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's or Kruskal–Wallis tests;  $n = 5$  per group).



**Figure 4.** Comparative analysis of the time spent in each zone of aquarium for the amphipod *H. bonariensis* during exposure to control, ethanol, and 75 µL/L of *A. triphylla* EO (EOAT). Concentrations of 50 and 75 µL/L of linalool and 100 and 200 µL/L of *L. alba* EO (EOLA).

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Anesthesia Induction and Recovery

Different compositions of EOs may result in distinct pharmacological effects during anesthesia. These differences in composition are influenced by environmental conditions, soil cultivation, collection season, genotypic variations, and extraction method [25]. In the present study, linalool and  $\beta$ -citral were identified as the primary constituents of EOLA and EOAT, representing 59.80% and 45.59%, respectively. The results demonstrated that linalool and citral alone were effective on the amphipods, *H. bonariensis*, as sedative and anesthetic substances. Additionally, EOAT and citral were equally successful in anesthesia induction, but EOLA was less efficient than linalool.

In this research, we found that the concentration of EOLA directly influenced the time required to induce anesthesia in *H. bonariensis*. The shrimp *L. vannamei* anesthetized with EOLA presented similar responses [21]. However, the time taken by the amphipod to recover from anesthesia was longer with the increased EOLA concentrations. Moreover, the higher EOLA concentration induced anesthesia faster but resulted in a toxic effect. The EOLA was more effective in terms of speed of anesthesia induction and recovery times for *H. bonariensis* than has been observed for *L. vannamei* and *F. paulensis* exposed to a similar concentration of 500 µL/L of EOLA (16 and 30 min, respectively) [21,26]. In general, small

crustaceans have a higher sensitivity to anesthesia due to greater gill surface area in relation to body size [10,27].

Linalool occurs naturally in two isomeric forms, which differ according to carbon 3 chirality, characterized by the levorotatory form (3R-(−)-linalool or licareol) and the dextrorotatory form (3S-(+)-linalool or coriandrol) [28,29]. According to some studies, S-(+)- and R-(−)- linalool presented biological differences [30,31]. Silva et al. [32] did not observe differences in the induction times for stage 2 of anesthesia for silver catfish *Rhamdia quelen* exposed to both isomers. In comparison with EOLA, linalool induces anesthesia and recovery with a longer time at a concentration of 200 µL/L. On the other hand, the concentration of 400 µL/L of linalool led to a faster recovery without causing mortality. Both linalool and EOLA induced anesthesia within the indicated time frame for crustaceans (3–5 min) [21,33]. However, linalool has been shown to be safer for use in studies with *H. bonariensis*.

The pharmacological action of EOs could be a direct effect of major compounds, interactions among active substances, or the synergistic activity between constituents [34]. Our results indicated that there was no significant difference in time to induce anesthesia between EOAT and citral. The concentrations of 150 µL/L of EOAT and 100 µL/L induced anesthesia at above the time range recommended (higher than 5 min). The mortality of the amphipods anesthetized with 100 or 200 µL/L of citral can be related to the longer time of exposure compared to those exposed at 400 µL/L of citral. Anesthesia with the citral chemotype of *L. alba* is not recommended for *R. quelen* because it caused a stressful condition [35]. These results support the hypothesis that the final effect of the EOAT is the result of the synergism of its different components.

#### 4.2. Locomotor Activity

Anesthetic substances may result in behavioral alterations, including locomotor performance, swimming velocity, reduction in complex or aggressive movements, and stimulation of the frequency of stationary behaviors [10,36–38]. The different methods that were used for the behavior assessment indicated that EOLA and linalool concentrations used in the locomotor experiment did not result in significant behavioral changes. However, parameters of speed, distance traveled, freezing behavior, and number of entries in the different zones of the aquarium showed changes in response to EOAT, mainly compared to the control group.

The reduction in mean velocity, maximum velocity, number of crossings, and distance traveled in the aquarium by amphipods exposed to EOAT was related to the increase in time without moving. The decrease in maximum velocity at 100 µL/L of EOLA and 75 µL/L of EOAT may be explained by the interaction on the  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) receptor complex [39] or the inhibition of locomotor activity due to depressive action on neuromuscular synapses, respectively [10]. Furthermore, recent studies have revealed the involvement between a GABA neurotransmitter and metabotropic glutamate receptors in the regulation of anxiolytic effects in invertebrates [13,40]. A decrease in the swimming velocity was also observed in *D. magna* exposed to clove oil [10] and *L. vannamei* anesthetized with *Cymbopogon citratus* EO [33].

The *Hyalella* genus is an essential part of the benthic macrofauna in aquatic environments [41–43]. Its population distribution is regulated mainly by the presence or absence of aquatic macrophytes in rivers or lakes [2]. Light stimuli in the eyes of amphipods are associated with escape behavior to avoid stressful or dangerous situations [44]. Thus, the presence of substrates or refuge structures determines the behavioral pattern of *H. bonariensis* in both natural and artificial environments. We observed that the addition of EOs can help prevent negative effects caused by the absence of a substrate in the laboratory or transport this species to other places. Moreover, this hypothesis is confirmed by the higher activity of the control group near the upper zone of the aquarium. The results suggest that the EOs prevent alterations in the natural tendency of the location or distribution of amphipods in the bottom of the aquarium.



In crustaceans, stress behavior results in increased aggressiveness and locomotor activity as a primary response. Chronic stress provokes an increase in metabolic consumption of energy by organisms, compromising health status, reproduction, foraging behavior, and the sociability of the animals [45–47]. Some amphipod species increase investment in essential behavior, such as mating behavior or food-intake rates, as a form of reducing the state of vulnerability and utilize a protective or defensive response to stressful experiences [13,48–50]. This type of behavior variation in amphipods influences other behaviors, such as swimming patterns and the response of escape from predators. These events can trigger consequences at the individual or population level, endangering energetic transference within important aquatic food webs in stream ecosystems [51–53].

The EOAT and EOLA induced anxiolytic behavior in zebrafish *Danio rerio* and *R. quelen* through an increase in swimming activity in the upper section of the tank, without altering locomotion [54]. Consistently, EOLA and 50  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool did not influence the swimming pattern of *H. bonariensis*, but EOAT was responsible for the reduced exploratory activity of amphipods in the present experiment. These results do not demonstrate the anxiolytic action of EOs on *H. bonariensis*, but further studies are needed to demonstrate if this effect is related to the protection of stress.

The evaluation of the effects of natural products on aquatic animals are important for reducing the impact of chemical products in aquaculture. As demonstrated in the current study, some of the products tested provoked mortality at some of the concentrations tested. The amphipod *H. bonariensis* proved to be an interesting model for testing natural products, complementing other aquatic organisms traditionally used in toxicological tests, such as zebrafish embryos [55,56].

## 5. Conclusions

In conclusion, our study provides information regarding the anesthetic action of EOs and two major EO compounds on the behavioral activity of the amphipod *H. bonariensis*. The concentrations of 250 or 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOLA; 100, 200, or 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of linalool; 150, 300, or 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of EOAT; and 400  $\mu\text{L/L}$  of citral were effective in the induction of sedation and anesthesia in *H. bonariensis*. Due to their toxic natures, EOA concentrations higher than 500  $\mu\text{L/L}$  and citral are not recommended as an anesthetic for this species. EOAT is recommended for behavioral and long-exposure tests and could also potentially be utilized in the transport, immobilization into laboratory analyses, or collection of these amphipods.

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