

# Insect spray chemical can kill coronavirus: UK study

August 26 2020

---



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

A chemical used in insect repellent can kill the strain of coronavirus that causes COVID-19, according to a preliminary study by Britain's defense laboratory published on Wednesday.

Scientists at the Defense Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) found that Citriodiol, the [active ingredient](#) in repellents such as Mosi-guard, had anti-viral properties if mixed with the virus in the liquid phase and on a test surface.

"Mixing a virus suspension with Mosi-guard spray or selected constituent components resulted in a reduction in SARS-CoV-2," said the study.

At a high concentration, "Mosi-guard gave a significant decrease... resulting in no recoverable virus," it added.

Citriodiol is made from oil in the leaves and twigs of the eucalyptus citriodora tree, which is found in Asia, South America and Africa, and is already known to kill other types of coronavirus.

The work has not been externally peer-reviewed, with the Ministry of Defense saying it was intended to act "as the foundation for other scientific bodies who are researching the virus and possible solutions".

"DSTL is hopeful that the findings in this research can be used as a springboard for other organizations to expand and develop the research, as well as to confirm the findings in this publication," it said.

Britain's Defense Secretary Ben Wallace in May said the country's armed forces were being given the [insect repellent](#) to offer potential protection against the coronavirus.

He said a Citriodiol-based spray had been given to personnel after the Surgeon General advised it would "do no harm" and should be used as a precautionary "additional layer of protection" against exposure to the [virus](#).

Citation: Insect spray chemical can kill coronavirus: UK study (2020, August 26) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-08-insect-chemical-coronavirus-uk.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.