

The leaves of *Ocimum suave* and the cloves of *Eugenia caryophyllata*, used as grain protectants in parts of Eastern Africa, yield essential oils that are repellent to the maize weevil *Sitophilus zeamais* in olfactometric assays. Eugenol, a common constituent of the two, has been found to be a potent repellent of the weevil. These results demonstrate a possible scientific rationale for the use of these plants as grain protectants by communities in East Africa.