



The Influence of Heavy Metal Lead (Pb) on Seeds Generation, Seedling Growth of Cow-Pea (*Vigna Sinensis*)

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ABSTRACT: Plant growth mainly depends on the biotic and biotic factors. Heavy metal concentrations are the important factors that influence the crop and plant growth worldwide. The paper present regarding the influence of Pb on the generation of seed in the cow pea (*Vigna sinensis*). We analyzed the percentage of germinated seeds in different condition using (Pb(NO₃)₂) 10, 100, 1000, 10000 ppm with control condition. Analysis shows, decreased seed germination at increased concentration of Pb.

Keywords: Cow pea, Heavy metal, Germination, Concentration.

INTRODUCTION

Heavy metals as lead and zinc are naturally present in the environment their presence has gradually been increasing with the increase of industrialization and urbanization. Different levels of heavy metals contained in soil, water and air cause pollution after reaching certain concentrations metals are continuously released into the biosphere by naturally and by industrial, automobile activities etc.

Degradation of environment adversely affects germination growth and biodiversity of plants metals are of special interest with respect to the toxicological importance to human health, plants and animals. Lead is one of the best known heavy trace elements with a long history of toxicity .its exposure is becoming a great concern because of its toxic nature wide spread occurrence and long life in biological system. Lead can be founding batteries, ceramics, chemicals and fertilizer. Lead is also used in a number of products including gasoline paints pesticides, glass etc. Lead inhibition to germination and retardation of plant growth due to lead toxicity. The toxic effects are associated with inhibition of the enzymatic activity reduction of the intensity of photosynthesis and respiration.

The paper presents the result of a study concerning the influence of the different concentration of Pb on some physiological and morphological effects on cow- pea (*Vigna sinensis*).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

As a biological Material we used: Seeds of cow pea (*Vigna sinensis*). Five experimental variants have been prepared: A control variant (With distilled water in wide mouth glass bottles) four variant of heavy metal treatments. The heavy metal was used Pb as nitrate (Pb (NO₃)₂) in a concentration of 10 ppm, 100 ppm, 1000 ppm. 50 seeds of cow- pea in each solution were exposed for 48 hours and 60 hours for scoring average percent germination and shoot growth respectively each experiment was run in triplicates.

Average values for control was compared with various lead solutions and analyzed percentage of germination and growth respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result (Tables A and B) clearly indicate that Pb exert it effect during germination and seeding growth. Germination of cow- pea (*Vigna sinensis*) seeds in not affected up to 1000 ppm but shoot growth is unusual (line controls) up to100 PPM. It is evident from the results that different concentration of Pb affects differently in seed germination and growth. Present study revealed that high concentration of Pb adversely influenced the seed germination. High Pb concentration inhibits germination of seed respectively. When the concentration of metals exceeded certain levels, an abnormal germination was observed.

Table 1. Germination behaviors of seed following Exposure to Various Concentrations of Pb (NO₃)₂-Solution.

Seed type	Concentration of Pb(NO ₃) ₂ -Solution (ppm)			
	10	100	1000	10000
COW-PEA	NA	NA	NA	SR

Table 2. Shoot Lengths in Seeds exposed to Various Concentrations of Pb (NO₃)₂ Solution.

Seed type	Concentration of Pb (NO ₃) ₂ -Solution (ppm)			
	10	100	1000	10000
COW-PEA	NA	NA	SR	SR

NA- Not Affected, SR- Significant Reduction.

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