

EFFECT OF WATER TDS, ON THE GROWTH OF PLANT (*Phaseolus vulgaris*)

ABSTRACT

Water is the major constituent of life for the growth of animals and flora species. Water is available around the world with different Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) levels and minerals. On the basis of TDS, the hardness and softness of water are determined. (Underground water and oceanic water are found to have higher TDS than fresh water.)

Aim: To understand the effect of TDS on the growth of plant.

Objective: A study was conducted on the basis of the TDS of water to observe the effect of TDS on the growth of *phaseolus vulgaris* (kidney bean) plants and to check whether the water TDS is responsible for the growth of the plants or not.

Method: Water of different TDS levels was collected from Gwalior district (Gwalior, Gwalior fresh water Takenpur, and distilled water). Water has different TDS levels ranging from 95ppm (Parts Per Million), 750ppm, 2000ppm, distilled water with 0ppm TDS, and acidic distilled water (pH 3.5–4, by adding HCl acid). The kidney beans (*phaseolus vulgaris*) were purchased from a local mart and sowed into the washed sand with a neutral pH of 7, and the growth was observed under sunlight. (Each pot containing 7 beans).

Result: The result of the experiment was positive as required, as the water TDS level affects the growth of plants. It has been observed that distilled water with a TDS of 0 ppm shows almost no growth, but a TDS of 750 ppm shows the maximum growth. Therefore, it has been concluded that TDS is also responsible for the growth of plants, and this practice can be done on a large scale also for the best result of growth.

Keywords: *Phaseolus vulgaris*, Total dissolved solids (TDS), Parts Per Million(ppm), HCl acid, Growth.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In India agriculture (farming) is one of the basic practices of the nation. Farming is one of the major constituents in building the economy of the country. Farming is backbone of India in terms of economy. It provides employment prospect to the agricultural and non-agricultural laborers [1]. It also plays an important role in importing and exporting goods in international trade. *Phaseolus vulgaris* also call as kidney beans in India with vernacular name “rajma” (rajmah). Growing kidney beans is also a popular crop in India, in the state of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, west Bengal, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh (major kidney beans producing states in country).

So, for the enhancement of growth of different crops, research is conducted on the basis of TDS (total dissolved solids) level of water, collected from different areas of Gwalior division (Gwalior {fresh water} Gwalior city, Takenpur, and distilled water). Common kidney bean (Rajma) is used for observing the primary growth of the plant. Kidney beans are sowed in washed sand with a neutral pH 7, so as to clearly observe the effect of TDS of water on the plant. Five different TDS of water were used, 95ppm (Parts Per Million) [Gwalior, fresh water], 750

ppm (Gwalior city), 2000 ppm (Takenpur), 0ppm (distilled water), 0ppm with HCl acid (water pH 3.5-4). Growth was observed and it is found that water from Gwalior city of TDS 750ppm shown best growth, While the distilled water of TDS 0ppm and its acidic modification shows almost no growth in the meantime.

2. HYPOTHESIS.

It is predicted that, after watering *phaseolus vulgaris* (kidney bean) plant with water of different TDS, the growth must vary depending upon the TDS of water {without fertilizers}, because of presence of solids, salts and minerals in it. Presence of solids, salts and minerals varies the TDS of water. The result is positive as required and TDS level shows its effect on the growth of plant. 0ppm TDS and its acidic modification shows no growth while other shows positive growth rate.

3. TDS

TDS is an abbreviation for **TOTAL DISSOLVE SOLIDS** or **SALTS**. These are compounds inorganic in nature that are found in water such as heavy metals, salts and some traces of organic compounds. Among of all these substances some are essential in nature and some are harmful for health. These are the solids refer to as extremely small dissolved particles in surface water such as Nitrate, Sodium, Potassium Chloride, Phosphates and Calcium [2]. Turbidity, water temperature, and dissolved oxygen (DO) levels can all be impacted by high amounts of total suspended particles. Because the suspended particles absorb more heat and use up more oxygen, the water may heat up more quickly as a result, which may be harmful to aquatic life. By decreasing light transfer, higher amounts of solids also hinder the photosynthesis of aquatic plants. Too much or too little TDS might restrict the growth of aquatic plants [3].

4. METHOD

4.1 PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENT

Prior to the experiment, the growth rate of *Phaseolus vulgaris* (kidney beans)[4] was compared against that of *Coriandrum sativum* [5](cilantro leave) to determine which would grow faster. Using two pots filled with cotton, in one pot five kidney beans were sowed and five coriander seed in another pot. Both were left under sunlight to check which would attain shoot earlier till first leaf growth. Coriander was found to attain shoot in 5 days but it does not show any further height growth, it grows at very low height. Whereas on the other hand, kidney beans it grows in 10-11days and shows a promising height as it over took the coriander shoot after one and a half week (approximately 10-12 days), after the seeds were sown.

“Hence it was decided to use the common beans for this experiment.”

4.2 EQUIPMENT

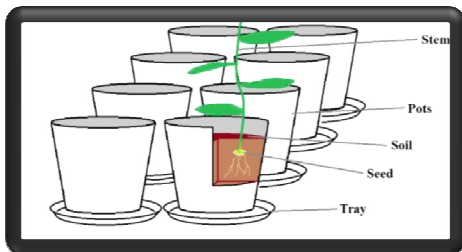
- Five plastic flower pot, for planting the beans.
- Five regular filter paper so as to prevent sand from leaking out if the flower pot.
- Washed and de-contaminated sand.
- Kidney beans (freshly packed {mfg. date}, organic) [purchased from local mart].
- Water of different TDS collected from Gwalior division.
- Distilled water (single distilled water)
- Sterile water container, for storage of water.
- HCl acid for making acidic water.
- Scale for measuring height.

[Idea from the Indian gardening website [How to Grow Rajma Plant | Growing Kidney Beans in Pots \(indiagardening.com\)](http://indiagardening.com)](6)

4.3 PROCEDURE

- 1) Collect the sand and wash it with a running water and let it dry
- 2) Place the filter paper in the bottom of pot so as to prevent drainage of sand from the flower pot.
- 3) Now fill all the five-flower pot 75% with the washed sand.
- 4) Place the flower pot under the sunlight.
- 5) Now sow five kidney beans in each of the respective flower pot.
- 6) Mark the flower pot with numbers (1,2,3,4,5), and the TDS unit in ppm, so as to easily distinguish between them.
 - a) First pot was labelled 0ppm,
 - b) Second pot was labelled acidic with 0ppm,
 - c) Third pot was labelled with 95ppm,
 - d) Fourth pot was labelled with 750ppm,
 - e) And the fifth pot was labelled 2000ppm.
- 7) For making acidic water, in distilled water of TDS 0ppm, hydrochloric acid (HCl) was added drop by drop till it's pH appeared in between somewhere of 3.5-4 on pH strip.
- 8) Using water of different TDS, sprinkle water with the help of sprayer in each pot, 3-5 times a day.
- 9) Observe the growth of the plant under sunlight.
- 10) After observing first leaf, remove the plants from the sand and measure its heights using scale after sticking it on to the white sheet.
- 11) Repeat the above experiment five times so as to get the accuracy in the result.

4.4 DIAGRAMS



4.5 RISK ASSESMENT

- The usage of concentrated Hydrochloric acid is required for this experiment. If HCl acid comes into touch with skin, it is corrosive and irritating, and it can cause burns. When handling acid and watering the plants, use a lab coat, protective goggles, and rubber gloves, and put them in a sealed container when not in use.

| 3ND PLANTATION | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|
| TDS LEVEL | SEED 1 | SEED 2 | SEED 3 | SEED 4 | SEED 5 | SEED 6 | SEED 7 | average growth |
| 95PPM | 11.2cm | N/A | 10.30cm | 09.80cm | 09.7cm | 10.5cm | N/A | 10.30cm |
| 750PPM | 15.5cm | N/A | 15.6cm | N/A | 15.8cm | 15.5cm | N/A | 15.60cm |
| 2000PPM | N/A | 13.8cm | N/A | N/A | N/A | 14.6cm | 14.8cm | 14.40cm |
| OPPM | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| OPPM (3.5-4pH) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

In the above set of experiment, we have planted 7 seeds of *phaselous vulgaris* in each pot and around 60% of the seeds are germinated in the sample of 95ppm, 750ppm and 2000ppm, while in case of 0ppm and acidic 0ppm (3.5-4pH) no comparative growth is observed (one or two seeds just popped).

From the above set of experiment of all three-plantation average height is also calculated and the table is as follows:

| WATER TDS | 1ST PLANTATION (avg) | 2ND PLANTATION (avg) | 3RD PLANTATION (avg) | AVERAGE PLANTATION | MEAN TIME |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 95PPM | 09.40cm | 09.40cm | 10.30cm | 09.70cm | 9DAYS |
| 750PPM | 14.80cm | 15.30cm | 15.60cm | 15.23cm | 9DAYS |
| 2000PPM | 14.20cm | 14.16cm | 14.40cm | 14.21cm | 9DAYS |
| OPPM | no growth | no growth | no growth | 00.00cm | 9DAYS |
| OPPM(3.5-4pH) | no growth | no growth | no growth | 00.00cm | 9DAYS |

6. DISCUSSION.

The idea of study was done on the idea that we drink water which contain different minerals and they are measured in terms of TDS (Total Dissolved Solid). So as we know that plants are grown with the help of water as excess amount of water suppresses the growth of plant and is termed as water stress [7]. Study is been conducted on the saline stress which affects the growth of plant in different parameter and they have shown a big concern in the field to control it, as it is leading to land loss for farming [8]. Different researches has been done in the field against polluted water effect on the growth of plants but no one has ever shown a

concern related to the topic of water TDS. Effect of TDS is also been observed on the aquatic Organisms [9] and specifically on the growth of phytoplankton [10] in different studies.

7. CONCLUSION

The aforementioned studies were conducted to determine the part that water TDS plays an important role in plant growth. As can be seen from the above table, TDS has an impact on plant growth. And we can use this parameter in the field of agriculture.

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