

## **EFFECT OF SOME PLANT EXTRACTS ON CONTROLLING SUGAR BEET DAMPING-OFF AND ROOT ROT DISEASES CASUED BY *Rhizoctonia Solani* KÜHN .**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*In vitro*, The effect of six plant originated extracts had been studied on reducing the linear growth of *Rhizoctonia solani* Kuhn, the causal pathogen of damping-off and root rot disease of sugar beet plants. Under greenhouse and field conditions, the effect of improving the number of survived seedling and root rot was also studied. Extracts of *Ammi visnaga* (Picktooth) (seeds), *Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd. (*Bougainvillea*) were superior than the other materials in reducing the pre-and post emergence damping-off and root rot of sugar beet as well as the disease severity. The rest materials were less effective in decreasing the disease incidence. At the same time, increasing the concentration of the tested materials significantly reduced the linear growth of *R. solani*. However, the fungicide Rizolex T. 50 was more effective than plant the extracts. Plant extracts were more effective and increased morphological characters, plant height and Leaf area per plant, also increasing the yield components, total soluble solids (TSS), sucrose percent in root and sugar purity. Chemical components within seeds of *A. visnaga* were fractionated into three fractions. These fractions in addition to Khellin (active component in seeds) showed that fraction (3) and Khellin were the only ones which have the capability to check the fungal growth of the pathogen, also visnagin and Khellin are the chemical components responsible for inhibitory effect of seeds of *A. visnaga* against sugar beet infecting fungi. The fungicide Rizolex T.50 was used for comparative studies in controlling these diseases.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris* L.) has become one of the most economically important crops in Egypt . This crop is liable to be attacked by certain soil-borne pathogens at all stages of growth causing pre-and post-emergence damping-off, as well as various degrees of root-rots. *Rhizoctonia solani*. was considered among the most destructive diseases affecting yield crop in Egypt (El-Abyad *et al.*, 1992 ; El-Kazzaz *et al.*, 1999 ; El- Kholi 2000 and El-Kazzaz *et al.*, 2003 ).

The present work aimed to study the effect of certain plant extracts on controlling sugar beet damping-off and root rot disease caused by *Rhizoctonia solani*.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Plant extracts :** Different plant parts (Roots, Leaves and Seeds) of Six higher plant species from 6 different plant families namely, *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. (Fenugreek), *Ammi visnaga* L. (Pick tooth), *Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. (Liquarice), *Eucalyptus globulus* Labill. (Blue gume), *Bougainvillea*

### **Gouda M. I.**

*spectabilis*. Willd. (Bougainvillea) and *Salix purpurea* L. (Purpurea willow) were selected for the present study. These plants were identified according to the taxonomic characters described by Chiej (1988) as well as by the help of Dept. Weeds Res., Field Crops Res. Institute, ARC, Cairo

**Preparation of plant extracts :** According to Mangamma and Sreeramulu (1991), fresh plant materials were collected, washed with running tap water, then with distilled water and left in air to dry at room temperature. The dried plant materials were ground into fine powder. The powder was extracted using ethyl alcohol and acetone (1:1 v/v). One hundred grams from the finally prepared powder of plant parts were soaked in 200 ml of the solvent and shaken for 48 h. then blended for 5 minutes and filtrated through anhydrous sodium sulfate by using Wattman No.1 filter papers. The solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude extract was stored in amber bottles and kept in refrigerator at  $(5 \pm 1) ^\circ\text{C}$  until needed.

**In vitro experiment :** Plant extracts mixed with melted PDA just before solidification at  $48-50 ^\circ\text{C}$  at the required concentrations (1000, 1500 and 2000 ppm) for plant extracts and poured into Petri dishes (9 cm in diameter). In another treatment, fungicide namely Rizolex T-50 was incorporated into PDA by the same method mentioned before. Check treatment was PDA without any additives. Plates were inoculated at the center with culture discs (5 mm in diameter) of fungal growth of *R. solani* and incubated at  $28^\circ\text{C}$ . Radial growth of *R. solani* was determined by measuring colony diameter in each of four replicate plates. Percentage of reduction in colony diameter was calculated for each treatment.

**Preparation of the inoculum :** Glass bottles of 500 ml capacity containing 190 gm clean moistened sand and 10 gm corn meal were autoclaved for 30 minutes at 1.5 atm., then inoculated with the tested fungus and incubated at  $28-30^\circ\text{C}$  for 15 days. Sterilized-35 cm diameter clay pots were used in this experiment. Pots were filled with sterilized sandy-loam soil (1:2 w/w). Pot soil was infested with the fungal inoculum at the rate of 2% of the soil weight. Infested soil was mixed thoroughly and moistened with water every other day for one week before planting to ensure the distribution and uniformity of the pathogen.

**Greenhouse experiments :** Plant extracts were evaluated for their efficiency against damping-off and root-rot diseases caused by *R. solani* under greenhouse conditions. Seeds were soaked into a concentration of 2000 ppm of each of the plant extracts under study for 8 hours before planting. Sterilized-35 cm diameter clay pots were used in this experiment. Pots were filled with sterilized sandy-loam soil (1:2 w/w). Potted soil was infested with the fungal inoculum at the rate of 2 % of the soil weight. Infested soil was mixed thoroughly and moistened with water every other day for one week before planting to ensure the distribution and uniformity of the pathogen. Sugar beet seeds of Kawmera cv. were surface sterilized by immersing in 3 % sodium hypochlorite solution for 3 minutes, followed by

ethanol 70 % for 2 minutes, then insed in three changes of sterilized water. Seeds were cultivated in *R. solani* -infested soil (15 seeds/pot). In another treatment, seeds of the same sugar beet cultivar were treated with Rizolex T-50 at the rate recommended dose (2.5 Kg), then sown in infested soil. Three replicate pots (No.35) were used and uninfested soil acted as control. Disease readings were taken 15, 45 & 150 days after planting for seed rotting pre, post emergence damping-off and root rot respectively. Root yield per plant and yield losses due to infection were also estimated at harvest time (150 days of planting). Yield component i.e. total soluble solids (TSS) , sucrose percent and sugar purity were also estimated. TSS was estimated in fresh roots using the manual refractometer according to Mc Ginnis 1982. Sucrose percent was estimated according to A. O. A. C. , 1990. Purity percent was calculated by dividing the sucrose percent by TSS. Also plant height, leaf area and leaf dry weight were estimated after 150 days of planting. Leaf area (mm<sup>2</sup>) was determined using LI-3100 area meter.

**Chemical fractionation of seeds of *A.visnaga*:** To evaluate chemical extracts from *A.visnaga* seeds versus the major sugar beet root pathogens, the powdered *A.visnaga* seeds were extracted in a soxhlet apparatus with diethyl-ether. The ether extract was concentrated and kept in a refrigerator for few days. The upper green oily layer was removed (fraction I) by filtration with suction. The fat was removed by dissolving in petroleum ether (fractions II). Methyl alcohol was used to solve the remaining solid product from the last step (fraction III). This extract contains the active substance within the seeds known as visnagin. The remaining purified crystals are the active ingredient known as khellin.

**Field experiments:** These experiments were performed in the experimental farm which had a back history of heavy infestation at Sakha Res. Stn.(Kafr El-Sheikh) in two successive seasons i.e. 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Randomized complete block design with three replicate plots each of 10.5 m<sup>2</sup> .Evaluation of pre and post emergence damping- off was taken after 15 and 45 days of planting respectively. Root rots were estimated and recorded along with the yield per plot at harvest time (about 200 days of planting). Disease readings were taken and recorded as percentage of infection and disease severity at harvest, according to the 1-10 grades of Grainger scale (Grainger 1949)

**Statistical analysis :** Duncan's multiple range test (DMRT) used Irristat Michigan State Univ., USA,1993.

## **Results**

Results shown in Tables (1) and illustrated Fig. (1) indicate that all experimented materials were positively effective in reducing the linear growth *R. solani*, in general. The effect was obviously increased by increasing the concentration of plant extracts from 1000 to 2000 ppm. The obtained data show that the extracts from seeds of *A. visnaga* (pick tooth)

followed in retarding the linear growth of the pathogen after the fungicide, Rizolex T50. On the contrary, the extract of *S. purpurea* (purpurea willow) leaves and *E. globulus* (blue gum) leaves, showed the least effective in this respect.

Table (1): Effect of certain plant extracts on linear growth of *R. solani*

Plant extracts	Concentrations						Mean	
	1000 ppm		1500 ppm		2000 ppm		L.G.	R.
	L.G.	R.	L.G.	R.	L.G.	R.	L.G.	R.
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	8.92 b	0.87	8.85 b	1.67	8.47 c	5.89	8.74	2.89
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (leaves)	7.68 d	14.67	6.45 c	28.33	5.65 d	37.22	6.59	26.74
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	6.62 e	26.44	6.13 d	31.89	5.43 e	39.67	6.06	32.66
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	9.00 a	0.00	9.00 a	0.00	8.97 a	0.33	8.99	0.11
5- <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> Willd.	8.77 c	2.55	6.03 e	33.00	4.65 f	48.33	6.48	27.96
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (seeds)	5.62 f	37.55	3.48 f	61.33	2.95 g	67.22	4.02	61.18
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	9.00 a	0.00	8.82 b	1.89	8.63 b	4.11	8.82	0.98
8- Rizolex T-50	0.60 g	93.33	0.60 g	93.33	0.60 h	93.33	0.60	93.33
9- Control	9.00 a	0.00	9.00 a	0.00	9.00 a	0.00	9.00	0.00

Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at 5% level by DMRT.

L.G. = Fungal linear growth (cm).

R. = reduction in colony diameter %.

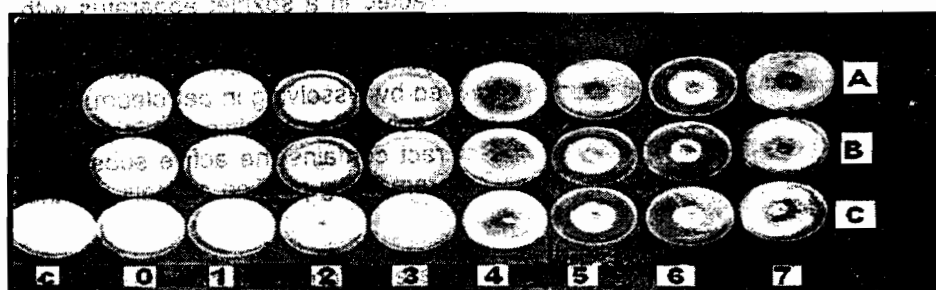


Fig.1: Effect of the tested Plant extracts on linear growth of *R. solani* in PDA-plates at the concentration of 1000 (A), 1500 (B), 2000 ppm. (C). 1- *T. Foenum-graecum*. 2- *A. visnaga* (leaves). 3- *G. glabra*. 4- *E. globules*. 5- *B. spectabilis*. 6- *A. visnaga* (Seeds). 7- *S. purpurea*.

**Greenhouse experiments :** Pot experiments were carried out in order to find out the effect of plant extracts on the disease incidence of sugar beet damping-off and root rot caused by *R. solani*. Weight of roots as well as the yield components expressed as percentages of the total soluble solids (TSS)& sucrose, purity degree of sucrose and sugar losses due to the effect of root infection was studied.

Data presented in Table (2) show that all tested plant extracts have significant effect in improving the number of survived seedlings due to controlling the pre-& post-emergence damping off. Extracts of *A.visnaga*

(seeds) followed by *B. spectabilis* & *G. glabra* and *A. visnaga* (leaves) were highly effective in reducing damping-off and root rot as well as the severity of rot diseases of sugar beet. The rest materials were less effective in decreasing the disease incidence, generally. Similar results were obtained from both seasons of experimentation.

Parameters of plant growth were studied in the same two growing seasons and data are shown in Table (3). Results indicate that all plant extracts improved plant growth expressed as plant height, leaf area, and leaf dry weight. However, *A. visnaga* and *B. spectabilis*, in particular were as effective as Rhizolex T.50 in enhancing the plant growth comparable to the other matters. This is correct in both seasons of experimentation.

Root fresh weight was found to be increased by decreasing the disease incidence of root rot incited by *R. solani* due to treating beet seeds with any of the tested plant extracts (Table, 4). *Ammi visnaga* seed or leaf extracts caused the highest degree of increasing leaf dry weight, total soluble sugars (TSS), sucrose percent in roots and sugar purity in general. While, *S. purpurea* & *T. foenum-graecum* Which showed the highest degree of infection to roots and disease severity were the least effective in this respect

**Table 2: Effect of plant extracts used for soaking seeds on the incidence of sugar beet damping-off, root rot and disease severity caused by *R. solani*, greenhouse, during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons .**

Treatment	Damping-off		Surviving plants %	Root rot		Healthy plants %
	pre-emergence %	Post-emergence %		Disease incidence %	Disease severity %	
2002 – 2003 season						
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	59.26 e	14.81d	23.22d	33.33c	2.00c	66.67d
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. ( leaves )	33.37d	22.22e	44.11e	0.00a	0.00a	100.00f
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	33.35d	22.22e	44.44e	22.22b	1.00b	84.46e
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	74.08f	14.78d	14.74c	66.67d	3.67d	33.33c
5- <i>Bougainvilleae spectabilis</i> willd.	40.74d	7.41c	48.15e	22.22b	1.67bc	84.45e
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. ( Seeds )	18.85c	11.11c	70.37f	0.00a	0.00a	100.00g
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	77.79f	14.81d	7.37b	77.78e	3.50d	22.22b
8- Rizolex T-50.	0.00 a	7.41 c	96.30 h	0.00 a	0.00 a	100.00 h
9- Control : Infested	92.59g	3.67b	3.67a	82.22f	9.17 e	11.11a
10- Control : Uninfested	0.00 a	0.00 a	100.00 h	0.00 a	0.00 a	100.00 f
2003-2004 season						
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	62.94e	11.11c	25.92c	22.22b	2.00c	84.45e
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. ( Leaves )	40.74d	14.81cd	44.44d	0.00a	0.67ab	100.00f
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	29.63c	22.22e	11.11ab	33.33c	1.33bc	66.67d
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	81.48g	11.11c	25.92c	44.45d	4.33e	55.55c
5- <i>Bougainvilleae spectabilis</i> willd.	40.74d	22.22e	48.15de	42.44d	1.33bc	55.55c
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. ( Seeds )	14.81bc	14.81cd	70.37f	0.00a	0.33a	100.00f
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	74.08f	18.89d	7.41a	84.45e	3.33d	15.55b
8- Rizolex T-50.	0.00 a	14.81cd	85.52 e	0.00 a	0.00 a	100.00f
9- Control : Infested	85.19g	3.67b	14.81b	88.89f	6.67f	11.11 a
10- Control : Uninfested	0.00 a	0.00 a	100.00 g	0.00a	0.00 a	100.00 f

Mean followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMART

**Table (3): Effect of plant extracts on parameters of plant growth of sugar beet plants, in greenhouse, during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons .**

Treatment	2002-2003 season			2003-2004 seasons		
	Plant height (cm)	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Dry weight (g)	Plant height (cm)	Leaf area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Dry weight (g)
1 - <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	45.33 d	886.09 d	9.73 f	50.87 c	857.30 f	10.83 e
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. ( leaves )	66.33 a	1300.21 a	14.73 a	59.67 a	1225.43 a	13.17 a
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	38.67 d	1013.73b	11.63cd	34.33 f	1117.13 c	11.50 d
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	46.67 c	993.37 c	10.87 d	50.87 c	1049.34 d	10.23 f
5- <i>Boughoinvillae spectabilis</i> willd.	47.67 c	989.58 c	11.87 c	46.33 d	1068.24 d	11.57 d
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L.( Seeds)	56.33 b	1248.85 a	13.60 b	53.67 bc	1174.42 b	12.50 bc
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	38.33 d	750.34 e	9.87 e	34.00 f	884.30 e	10.73 ef
8- Rizolex T-50.	55.67 b	1075.09 b	11.73 c	55.33 b	1073.18 d	12.20 c
9- Control : Infested	39.67 d	710.90 ef	8.70 ef	32.67 g	705.83g	8.27 g
10- Control : Uninfested	44.67 c	906.05 d	9.86 e	39.33 e	908.47 e	10.10 f

Mean followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT.

**Effect of chemical fractions of *A. visnaga* seeds on the growth of *R. solani*:** This study was carried out to find out the chemical fraction of seeds of *A. visnaga* responsible for its effectiveness on the causal pathogen of root rot disease. Major chemical components of seeds of *A. visnaga* were fractionated into three fractions by three solvents as described under Material & Methods. Fraction No. IV containing khellin was not evaluated for its effect on the growth of root infecting fungi because of the tinny amount that could be obtained throughout the extraction process. Hence, commercial khellin (Sigma) was experimented as a reference to the extracted fractions for their effectiveness in retarding the growth of fungi under study.

Data presented in Table (5) indicated that neither diethyl-ether nor petroleum-ether extract affected the growth of fungi under study at any of the concentrations used. Methyl alcohol fraction, however effectively inhibited growth of *R. solani* at all concentrations (efficiency from 13.33 to 21.11 %). Results also show that the commercial khellin was highly active in reducing the linear growth of *R. solani*. Its effect has been increased gradually by increasing the concentration in PDA from 1000 to 2000 ppm.

**Effect of plant extracts and oils on sugar beet root rot incidence :** Different plant extracts were studied for their effect on root rot of sugar beet under natural infection at the Farm of Sakha in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons.

Data presented in Table (6) reveal that plant extracts of *A. visnaga* & *B. spectabilis* were superior than the other materials in reducing the root rot of sugar beet as well as the disease severity in both seasons of experimentation. The yield per plot was found also to be increased due to treatment with these materials. *G. glabra*, was found to be effective in decreasing the disease incidence 0.63 %, but caused an increase in the disease severity 3.67 %. Rizolex T 50 caused the least level of infection and disease severity if compared with the other treatments. The yield per plot in *A. visnaga* (seeds) treatment exceeded the yield 74.00 % obtained from the Rizolex T plots 70.02 % in 2003-2004.

**Table 4 . Effect of plant extracts on root rot, root weight/plant percentage of total soluble solids (TSS), percentage of sucrose, purity and losses (%) in yield and sucrose of sugar beet root rot under artificial infestation with *R. solani*, under greenhouse, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons**

Treatment	Root rot		Root weight/plant		TSS		Sucrose %		Purity %		Losses %	
	Disease incidence	Disease severity	Infected	Healthy	Infected	Healthy	Infected	Healthy	Infected	Healthy	Yield	Sucrose
<b>2002-2003 seasons</b>												
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	33.33c	2.00c	0.833 g	1.082 e	14.00 cd	18.53 b	12.60 b	14.73 c	90.00	79.49	23.01	14.46
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (leaves)	0.00a	0.00a	1.327 bc	1.428 ab	17.13 b	18.33 bc	14.53 a	15.80 a	84.82	86.20	7.07	8.03
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	22.22b	1.00b	1.160 c	1.320 c	14.67 c	19.00 a	10.80 c	15.40 b	73.61	81.05	12.12	29.87
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	66.67d	3.67d	1.082 e	1.275 d	10.20 e	18.00 c	8.50 d	15.20 b	68.62	89.61	15.14	44.09
5- <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	22.22b	1.67bc	1.115 d	1.347 bc	13.40 d	16.40 e	10.27cd	13.73 d	76.64	83.72	17.22	25.20
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (Seeds)	0.00a	0.00a	1.437 ab	1.453 a	17.73 a	18.20 bc	14.67 a	15.20 b	82.74	83.52	1.10	3.49
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	77.78e	3.50d	0.972 f	1.373 b	13.27 d	17.53 d	8.47 d	14.27 cd	63.82	81.40	29.21	40.64
8- Rizolex T-50.	0.00 a	0.00 a	1.502 a	1.502 a	17.80 a	18.27 a	14.60 a	14.73 c	79.91	80.62	0.10	0.88
9- Control : Infested	82.22f	9.17 e	0.617 e	1.239 e	10.00 e	17.60 c	5.13 e	15.20b	51.30	86.36	50.20	66.25
10- Control : Uninfested	0.00 a	0.00 a	1.239 b	1.239 e	17.60ab	17.60 c	15.20 a	15.20b	86.36	86.36	0.00	0.00
<b>2003-2004 seasons</b>												
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	22.22b	2.00c	0.866 e	1.120 de	16.20 c	19.53 a	14.00 bc	15.20 c	86.42	77.82	22.68	7.89
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (leaves)	0.00a	0.67ab	1.260 b	1.368 b	19.40 a	19.87 a	14.27 bc	15.53 bc	73.56	77.77	9.09	8.11
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	33.33c	1.33bc	1.163 c	1.208 c	14.47 d	18.60 bc	12.80 c	14.53 d	82.46	78.12	11.08	11.91
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> labill.	44.45d	4.33e	1.015 d	1.132 d	12.00 de	17.93 cd	9.04 d	15.47 bc	78.33	86.28	10.33	39.24
5- <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> .	42.44d	1.33bc	1.172 c	1.277 c	11.53 de	17.60 cd	8.60 de	14.63 d	74.58	83.13	8.22	41.22
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (Seeds)	0.00a	0.33a	1.435 a	1.478 a	18.40 b	18.40 c	15.07 a	16.53 a	81.90	89.84	2.91	8.83
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	84.45e	3.33d	0.807 e	1.108 e	10.00 f	17.20 e	7.53 e	13.47 e	75.3	38.31	27.17	44.09
8- Rizolex T-50.	0.00 a	0.00 a	1.399 ab	1.435 a	18.93 a	19.00 a	15.80 a	16.47 a	83.56	86.68	2.50	4.06
9- Control : Infested	88.89f	6.67f	0.607 f	1.358 b	9.80 g	19.00 a	6.40 f	14.73cd	65.31	77.52	55.30	56.55
10- Control : Uninfested	0.00a	0.00 a	1.358 b	1.358 b	19.00 a	19.00 a	14.73 b	14.73cd	77.52	77.52	0.00	0.00

Mean followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT.

Table 5: Effect of chemical fractions of *A. visnaga* seed, on linear growth of *R. solani*.

Fungi	Chemical fraction & (concentrations ppm)												Control
	Di ethyl-ether			Petroleum-ether			Methyl alochol			Khellin			
	1000 ppm	1500 ppm	2000 ppm	1000 ppm	1500 ppm	2000 ppm	1000 ppm	1500 ppm	2000 ppm	1000 ppm	1500 ppm	2000 ppm	
L.G	9.00a	9.00a	9.00a	9.00a	9.00a	9.00a	7.80b	7.50c	7.10d	6.00b	3.40c	2.5d	9.00a
E.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.33	16.66	21.11	33.33	62.22	72.22	0.00

Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT  
 L.G =Fungal linear growth (Cm). E = efficiency in reducing colony diameter%.

Table (6): Effect of plant extracts on root rot disease under field conditions, Sakha,2002-2003 and 2003-2004 seasons.

Treatment	2002-2003			2003-2004 season		
	Root rot		Yield/plot (kg)	Root rot		Yield/plot (kg)
	Disease incidence %	Disease severity		Disease incidence %	Disease severity	
1- <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	4.68 g	2.33 d	42.00 d	2.63 d	2.00 e	50.00 de
2- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (leaves)	1.24 c	1.67 c	52.00 c	0.57 b	0.67 bcd	56.00 cd
3- <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> L.	0.63 b	3.67 e	52.00 c	0.01 a	0.33 ab	46.00 ef
4- <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill.	1.32 c	3.33 e	60.00 ab	1.49 c	1.00 d	48.00 d
5- <i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> Willd.	0.58 b	1.67 c	54.00 bc	0.00 a	0.01 a	60.00 bc
6- <i>Ammi visnaga</i> L. (Seeds)	0.00 a	0.01 a	64.00 a	0.01 a	0.01 a	74.00 a
7- <i>Salix purpurea</i> L.	3.19 f	2.50 d	40.00 de	3.61 d	2.67 f	42.00 f
8- Rizolex T-50 *	0.63 b	0.20 a	64.00 a	0.65 b	0.50 bc	70.02 ab
9- Control	8.05 h	3.67 e	36.00 e	9.32 e	3.67 g	34.00 g

Means followed by the same letter are not significantly different at the 5% level by DMRT.

## DISCUSSION

Trials were conducted to study the possibility of controlling sugar beet damping-off and root rot by extracts from some medicinal and aromatic plant parts. PDA treated with plant extracts inhibited growth of the fungal isolates under study. Extracts could successfully reduce damping off and root rots of sugar beet in the greenhouse and field. Yield per plot was also significantly increased due to these applications. Seed extract from *Ammi visnaga* (tooth pick plant) was shown to be superior to all materials in suppressing damping off and root rots in greenhouse and field. Its positive effect against sugar beet root disease reflects, in turn on the root yield, whereas, it improved the yield potentiality comparable to the untreated control.

Parameters of plant growth were enhanced due to these treatments. Increasing in total soluble sugars (TSS) and sugar purity in roots due to these applications were observed. This result causes, in turn an improve to the sugar quality within the roots. These results are consistent with those



obtained by other investigators who found an antimicrobial activity of some plant extracts against many of pathogens in vitro Mc Cutcheon *et al.*, (1994) and Navarro *et al.*, (1996). Some higher plant extracts have an allelopathic effect on some diseases on other plant hosts as previous investigators have reported El-Shoraky (1998); Fahmy & Mahmoud, (2001) and Gouda, (2001).

Based on the obtained results, extracts from seeds of tooth picks (*ammi visnaga*) is recommended to use in controlling the major pathogens of the root rot of sugar beet. This extract offers an excellent source of biologically active natural product through its allelopathic effect. Allelopathy, as defined by Rice, (1984) and El-Kazzaz *et al.*, (2003) is any direct or indirect beneficial or harmful effect of one organism (including plant or microorganism) through release of chemicals into the environment. English name of this medicinal plant is Pick-tooth, Tooth-pick and Bishop's weed. It is grown mainly in the Nile region and unknown chemical compounds having synergistic effect on the in some other countries. Seeds of this medicinal plant are available and cheap in local market. Active constituents that have the allelopathic effect of *A. visnaga* seeds according to Batanouny, *et al.*, (1999) are the furanochromones comprising 0.3-1.2 % khellin, 0.05-0.3 % visnagin. Present study showed the high activity of methyl extract (containing the visnagin fraction) as well as the commercial substance of khellin in retarding the radial growth of root pathogens. This confirms and explains the active role of visnagin and khellin in reducing the seedling damping-off and root rot of sugar beet. Positive effect of the toxic substances in extracts of seeds of *A. visnaga* (and other higher plant extracts used in this study) may be attributed to the known and pathogen. Besides, they may affect the populations of soil microflora around the host roots which may cause, in turn a rise of antagonistic and biological agents. Therefore, the author recommends, in the time being to soak seed of sugar beet with extract of *A. visnaga* for 8 h before planting (need further study for reasonable means of application). It is worth mentioning that using other means of disease control rather than fungicides is strongly encouraged by the government to decrease environmental pollution caused by chemical fungicides.

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**Gouda M. I.**

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تأثير بعض المستخلصات النباتية على مقاومة موت البادرات و عفن جذور بنجر  
السكر المتسبب عن فطر *Rhizoctonia solani* Kühn.  
مصطفى إبراهيم جودة  
معهد بحوث امراض النباتات - مركز البحوث الزراعية - الجيزة - مصر

اُدت معاملة الفطر *Rhizoctonia solani* المسبب لامراض سقوط البادرات و عفن الجذور في بنجر السكر على الاطباق في المعمل بواسطة ستة مستخلصات نباتية الى انخفاض ملموس للنمو القطرى للفطر . وتحت ظروف الصوبة والحقل زاد عدد البادرات السليمة و قلت نسبة الإصابة بعفن الجذور عند معاملة البذور بتلك المركبات وقد تفوقت كل من مستخلصات بذور الخلة وأوراق الجهنمية في تقليل تساقط البادرات (قبل وبعد الإنبات) وأعفان الجذور وكذلك الشدة المرضية عنه بالنسبة لباقي المواد المختبرة، حيث كانت أقل تأثيراً في تقليل نسبة الإصابة وإيضاً أدى استخدام تلك المستخلصات الى تحسين ملموس في الصفات المورفولوجية للنبات وإيضاً زيادة في مكونات المحصول ونسبة السكر والنقاوة وقد تم استخلاص المركبات الكيميائية لبذور الخلة ووجد ان الخليين هو المسئول الرئيسى وأيضاً الفيسناجين عن التأثير التثبيطى لبذور الخلة ضد إصابة البنجر بالفطر الممرض، وقد استخدم المبيد الفطرى Rizolex T. 50 للمقارنة بين تأثيره وتأثير تلك المستخلصات المختبرة في قدرتها على مقاومة امراض البادرات و عفن الجذور المتسبب عن هذا الفطر .