

Original Research Article

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## Management of Fusarium Wilt of Pigeonpea by Selected Essential Oils and *T. viride*

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### ABSTRACT

The antifungal effects of few selected essential oils and *Trichoderma viride* have been investigated *in vivo* conditions against *Fusarium udum*, the causal agent of *Fusarium* wilt of Pigeonpea. The treatments included Eucalyptus oil, Neem oil, Castor oil, *Trichoderma viride* each at 5% and other treatments were each of selected essential oils 5% in combination with *Trichoderma viride* 5% concentration. The treatment was given as seed treatment. An untreated replication served as control. Among the tested treatments, least incidence of disease was seen in plants treated with Castor oil + *Trichoderma viride* (22%) followed by Neem oil + *T. viride* (25%), Eucalyptus oil + *Trichoderma viride* (30.33%). The remaining plants were considerably more affected. Similarly the treatments also had shown good effects on plant growth parameters (height and number of branches). The average height readings of plants was recorded highest in Castor oil + *Trichoderma viride* (156.30cm) followed by Neem oil + *Trichoderma viride* (150.16cm), Eucalyptus oil + *Trichoderma viride* (144.90cm).

#### Keywords

Pigeonpea, Neem oil, Eucalyptus oil, Castor oil, *Trichoderma viride*

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### Introduction

Pulses popularly known as “Poor man’s meat” and “Rich man’s vegetable” are the important source of protein, vitamins, minerals as well as essential amino acid content contributes significantly to the nutritional security of the world (Singh *et al.*, 2015). Among pulses, Pigeonpea [*Cajanus cajan* L. Millsp.] is second most important pulse in India only

after Chick pea. Pigeonpea is adiploid ( $2n = 22$ ). India ranks first in its production and contributes to 90% of global Pigeonpea (Mespogu *et al.*, 2012).

It is the most important *Kharif* pulse crop and is popular among the Indian farmers especially in view with its suitability under dry land conditions and its adaptability in mixed/inter cropping systems. It also improves soil

fertility through nitrogen fixation as well as from the leaf fall and recycling of the nutrients.

Pigeonpea is affected by wide range of diseases by many agents among which Fusarium wilt caused by *Fusarium udum* is most important as it can cause up to 90% of losses in case of severe infection (Datta *et al.*, 2013). Plants usually show wilt symptoms around 4-6 weeks after sowing. The primary symptoms are loss of turgidity in leaves and slight inter vein clearing. The foliage shows slight chlorosis and sometimes becomes bright yellow before wilting. The wilting is seen all of a sudden that includes drooping of leaves. The characteristic internal symptom of wilt is the browning of the xylem vessels from the root system to the stems. Cross or longitudinal sections of the wilted plants show brown to black discoloration of xylem vessels. *Fusarium* is typically facultative saprophytic in nature and can survive as mycelium and chlamydospores in seed, soil or infected crop residues, buried in the soil for upto 5-6 years (Haware *et al.*, 1982).

Among beneficial biological agents, *Trichoderma viride*, is a filamentous fungi which have attracted attention because of their multi prong action against various plant pathogens (Harman *et al.*, 2004). *Trichoderma viride* is considered to be one of the most promising microbes for biological control for possessing different mechanisms of action against plant pathology. It shows the inhibitory activities and antagonistic effect against the fungus (Naglot *et al.*, 2015). In Neem oil, salanin and nimbin are the major active potential bioactive compounds. It is compatible and can reduce disease incidence with *Trichoderma viride* (Bagwan, 2010). The major constituents of Eucalyptus oil are monoterpene  $\alpha$ -pinene (73.0%), *p*-cymene (54.2%) and  $\gamma$ -terpinene (43.8%). It has the anti-microbial effect and highest growth

inhibition capacity (Sartorelli *et al.*, 2007). Castor oil mainly consists of Ricinolic acid (85-95%) that has good anti-bacterial and antifungal activity (Javaid *et al.*, 2015). Considering these properties of above mentioned oils and biological agent, they are taken up to check their efficacy in management of *Fusarium udum* causing wilt in Pigeonpea.

## Materials and Methods

### Study site

The present study was carried out in the Department of plant pathology site located at central field of SHUATS, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, during 2018. The experiment was done during *kharif* season using Randomized Block Design having 8 treatments including a control and 3 replications each with a plot size of 2×2 m.

### Seed treatment

Pigeonpea seeds were taken in separate conical flasks and then three types of essential oils viz., Neem oil, Castor oil, Eucalyptus oil and one bio-agent viz. *Trichoderma viride* were taken in 5% concentrations accordingly and poured. For combinations, oil and *T. viride* were taken 5% each. The flasks were shaken by hand for 5 minutes until the seeds were saturated. In control, seeds were planted with no treatments (Hashem *et al.*, 2010).

### Isolation of pathogen

The pathogen *Fusarium udum* was isolated from the infected Pigeonpea plants showing typical symptoms of the disease (Fig. 2). The part of collar or stem region showing typical symptoms of the disease was cut into small pieces. These pieces were surface sterilized with 0.1 % mercuric chloride solution for 30 seconds. These were then washed thoroughly

in sterile water thrice to remove traces of mercuric chloride and then transferred aseptically to sterilized potato dextrose agar (PDA) plates. They were incubated at  $27\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  and checked on 24 hour basis for the growth of the fungus. Later, the bit of fungal growth was transferred to PDA slants. The pure culture of the fungus was obtained by further growing the culture and following hyphal tip culture under aseptic conditions (Rangaswamy, 1972). The pathogen was confirmed by observing the morphological features of colony and spore characteristics (Fig. 1).

## Results and Discussion

### Evaluation of different treatments on plant growth parameters of Pigeonpea

The readings for plant growth parameters include height and numbers of branches were taken on 30, 60 and 90 DAS. It was observed that plant growth parameters were good with treatments in combination with *Trichoderma viride* rather than individually. The essential oils have some antifungal properties, so the treatments showed their action in the *in vivo* experiment. In the present experiment the combination of essential oil and *T. viride* proved to be more effective than the single treatment. The experiment showed that T<sub>7</sub>Castor oil + *T. viride* gave the best result in turns of height, maximum number of branches and also give maximum inhibition of pathogen. At 90 DAS, the data showed maximum height of 156.30 cm and 14.33 branches in T<sub>7</sub> treatment followed by T<sub>5</sub> height of 150.16 cm and 13.66 branches, T<sub>6</sub> height of 144.90 cm and 13 branches (Fig. 3 and Table 1).

Similar findings were given by Zote *et al.*, (2007) who studied the management of wilt (*F. oxysporum* f.sp. *ciceri*) of Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) by integrating a biological control

agent *T. viride*, three fungicides (Thiram, Carbendazim and Captan) and four oil cakes (Groundnut, Cotton, Neem and Castor bean). However, soil/seed application of *T. viride* was the most effective recording the lowest wilt incidence (19.04 to 33.33%) and maximum seed germination (86.73 to 90.00%) followed by soil application of oil cakes Neem and Castor bean, which recorded 86.60 and 85.40% seed germination and 38.09 and 47.60% wilt incidence and 61.91 and 52.40% wilt reduction, respectively.

### Evaluation of different treatments on plant disease incidence

The data for disease incidence was also parallelly taken with growth parameters at 30, 60 and 90 DAS. Similarly, the essential oils in combination of *T. viride* yielded higher inhibitory effect on disease incidence (Fig. 4 and Table 2).

The data of 90 DAS shows the maximum reduction of disease incidence being recorded in treatment T<sub>7</sub> Castor oil + *Trichoderma viride* (22%) followed by T<sub>5</sub> Neem oil + *Trichoderma viride* (25%) followed by the T<sub>6</sub> Eucalyptus oil + *Trichoderma viride* (30.33%), T<sub>1</sub> *Trichoderma viride* (33.33%), T<sub>2</sub> Neem oil (38.66%), T<sub>3</sub> Eucalyptus oil (39%) and T<sub>4</sub> Castor oil (55%), while T<sub>0</sub> Control had the maximum disease incidence i.e. 70%.

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(2015) who landed an experiment against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. Sp. *lycopersici* (FOL) which is a highly destructive pathogen in both green house and field conditions.

**Table.1** Effect of treatments on plant growth

Treatments	30 DAS		60 DAS		90 DAS	
	Height	Branches	Height	Branches	Height	Branches
<b>Control(T<sub>0</sub>)</b>	17.33	1	77.01	4	115.03	7.33
<b><i>Trichoderma viride</i> (T<sub>1</sub>)</b>	22.96	3	102.46	6.66	132.93	12.33
<b>Neem oil (T<sub>2</sub>)</b>	22.13	2.66	96.73	5.66	127.90	11.33
<b>Eucalyptus oil (T<sub>3</sub>)</b>	21	2	93.96	5.33	125.10	10.66
<b>Castor oil (T<sub>4</sub>)</b>	20.66	1.66	92.10	4.33	118.66	8.66
<b>Neem oil+ <i>T. viride</i> (T<sub>5</sub>)</b>	25	3.66	116.01	8	150.16	13.66
<b>Eucalyptus oil+<i>T.viride</i> (T<sub>6</sub>)</b>	23.66	3.33	107.93	7.33	144.90	13
<b>Castor oil +<i>T. viride</i> (T<sub>7</sub>)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>124.23</b>	<b>8.33</b>	<b>156.30</b>	<b>14.33</b>
<b>F test</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>SEd(+)</b>	<b>1.824</b>	<b>0.489</b>	<b>0.489</b>	<b>0.6713</b>	<b>0.6713</b>	<b>0.549</b>
<b>CD (0.05)</b>	<b>3.916</b>	<b>1.053</b>	<b>1.053</b>	<b>1.433</b>	<b>1.433</b>	<b>1.179</b>

**Table.2** Effects of treatments on disease incidence of Pigeonpea

Treatments	30 DAS	60 DAS	90 DAS
<b>T<sub>0</sub></b>	25%	48.66%	70%
<b>T<sub>1</sub></b>	12.33%	21.66%	33.33%
<b>T<sub>2</sub></b>	12.66%	23.33%	38.66%
<b>T<sub>3</sub></b>	14.33%	24.66%	39%
<b>T<sub>4</sub></b>	21%	32%	55%
<b>T<sub>5</sub></b>	9%	15%	25%
<b>T<sub>6</sub></b>	12.33%	21%	30.33%
<b>T<sub>7</sub></b>	<b>6.66%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>F test</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>SE.d(+)</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>3.15</b>
<b>CD (0.05)</b>	<b>2.761</b>	<b>1.721</b>	<b>3.908</b>

**Fig.1** Microscopic view of *F. udum*



**Fig.2** Plant affected by *F. udum*



**Fig.3** Growth parameters of Pigeonpea

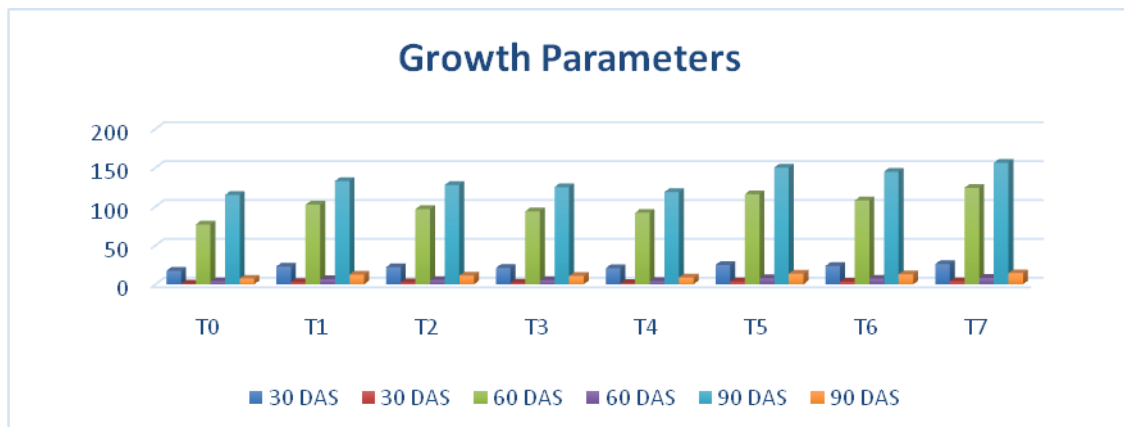
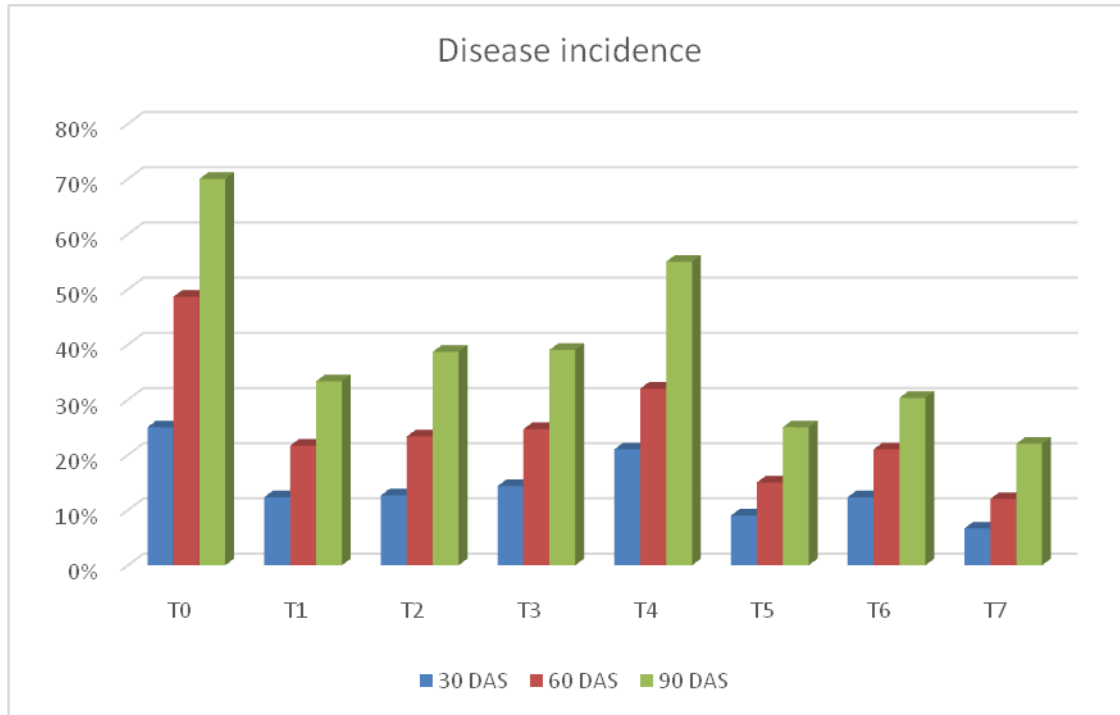


Fig.4 Effect of disease incidence



They reported that bio-agent *Trichoderma viride* + Neem oil cake or fungicide Bavistin + Neem oil cake were found equal in management of the disease.

The integrated disease management strategies should be chosen to maintain plant health. These strategies include minimum use of chemicals for checking pathogen population, encouragement of beneficial biological agents and use of various botanicals for reduction of pathogen population, modification of cultural practices and use of resistant varieties. These strategies help in checking the growth of pathogen and simultaneously causing no damage to the environment and non-targeted organism.

The present study concludes that Castor oil when combined with *Trichoderma viride* with 5% each provides maximum inhibitory effect among the selected treatments followed by Neem oil + *T. viride* 5% each against *Fusarium udum*. It has also shown good

effects on growth parameters of Pigeonpea making it a reliable eco-friendly management option against *Fusarium udum* causing wilt in Pigeonpea.

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