



## Allelopathic effect of *Leucaena leucocephala* on Pansy (*Viola tricolor* L.)

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**Abstract:** The present study on allelopathic effect of *L. leucocephala* on pansy (*V. tricolor* L.) both laboratory and nursery conditions were undertaken. *Leucaena* which significantly reduced the seed germination in all treatments at 2% (43%), 3% (42%) and 4% (40%) over Control (Distilled water), except in treatment at 1% (55%) where germination was found to be maximum over Control (Distilled water), this result shows the stimulatory effect on germination at 1% concentration of leaf leachate under laboratory condition. *Leucaena* soil in combination with Field soil showed stimulatory effect on the growth parameters in Pansy. Highest germination percentage (82%), fresh shoot weight (2.82g), fresh root weight (0.22g), dry shoot weight (0.50g), dry root weight (0.05g), vigor index (99.36) were recorded in treatment amended with soil 50% *Leucaena* soil and 50% Field soil and inhibitory effect was seen in pansy when amended into with 100% *Leucaena* soil under nursery condition. From this study it appears that *Leucaena* produces allelopathic substrates, increase in concentration exhibit adverse effect on germination and growth parameters. Hence it is suggested that pansy could be affected economically but this tree can very well adapt to diversified soil condition.

**Keywords:** Allelopathy, *Leucaena*, Leachates, Pansy

### INTRODUCTION

Allelopathy is derived from the Greek words “Allelon” which means each other and “Pathos” means to suffer i.e. the injurious effect of one upon another. Allelopathy is an interference mechanism, in which living or dead plants release allelochemicals into the environment exerting an effect (mostly negative) on soil and other plants. Allelopathic interactions influence the growth, survival, and reproduction of associated plants. Allelopathy is defined as the direct or indirect harmful or beneficial effects of one plant on another through the release of certain chemical compounds into the environment (Ashrafi *et al.*, 2008). Allelopathy has traditionally been considered only the negative chemical warfare of one organism upon another (Bansal, 1994). Allelopathic is the active or passive effects of chemicals released into the environment, which influences the releaser, itself or other organs (Chou, 1986; Hale and Orcutt, 1987; Miller, 1983). Allelochemicals are a subset of secondary metabolites not required for metabolism (growth and development) of the allelopathic organism. However, known sites of action for some allelochemicals include cell division, pollen germination, nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, and specific enzyme function. Allelopathic inhibition is complex and can involve the interaction of different classes of chemicals, such as phenolic compounds, flavonoids, terpenoids, alkaloids, steroids, carbohydrates, and amino acids, with mixtures of different

compounds sometimes having a greater allelopathic effect than individual compounds alone. Allelopathic chemical can also be conveyed by trees and affect seed germination, root growth, shoot growth, stem growth, symbiotic effectiveness, microorganism-based soil transformations, pathological infections, insect injury scope and scale, and environmental stress impacts. Phenolic allelochemicals often adversely affect the membrane stability, respiration and oxidative status of plant cells (Einhellig, 2004; Weir *et al.*, 2004; Gniazdowska and Bogatek, 2005; Li *et al.*, 2010). Mimosine is known to inhibit the activities of iron-containing enzymes, some of which are important antioxidant enzymes in plant cells, e.g. catalase and peroxidase (Andrade *et al.*, 2008). Pansy is a commercially important floricultural crop for the landscape, but information about the effects of environmental conditions on plant growth and development is limited. *V. tricolor* belongs to the family Violaceae. Pansies are fragrant and edible blooms are desirable in gardens, it was cultivated by the Greeks for herbal medicinal use and much later inspired William Shakespeare to write of romance. Pansy is employed in treating frequent and painful urination in conditions such as cystitis (Tang *et al.*, 2010). Being *Leucaena* a legume tree it has the potential of improving depleted soil through biological nitrogen fixation (Brewbaker, 1987) and thus for this merit consideration for integration in Agroforestry system. Keeping in view of the importance the study was a preliminary investigation made

to test for the possible allelopathic effect of *L. leucocephala* on pansy.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation was carried out at laboratory and nursery of School of Forestry and Environment, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Allahabad during the period of November 2014 to February 2015. The experimental materials for the study consisted of the leaves of *L. leucocephala* and soil samples from beneath the *L. leucocephala* plantation at research farm of School of Forestry and Environment, Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture Technology and Sciences, Allahabad. The selected plant for the study is pansy (*V. tricolor* L.), seeds were procured from the nearby market, for study the effect of aqueous leachates on the growth performance of pansy (*V. tricolor*) under laboratory conditions. Some fresh healthy leaves of *Leucaena* were collected from the *Leucaena* plantation (8 year old). All the fresh leaves were air dried under a shade for four days. After drying, the leaves were grinded and passed through a mesh sieve to remove any unwanted plant residue that was visible. The aqueous leachate was prepared by soaking the leaves (50g) in 1L distilled water at 25°C room temperature for 24 hours. Firstly the crude leachate was filtered through four layers of cotton cloth and then through a Whatman No. 1 filter paper. The filtrate is identified as full-strength leaf leachate and further diluted with distilled water to get T<sub>1</sub> -1%, T<sub>2</sub> -2%, T<sub>3</sub> - 3% and T<sub>4</sub> -4% concentrations. Distilled water will be served as control i.e., 0% -T<sub>0</sub>. Five treatments (4 concentrations of leaf extract and 1 control) were replicated four times and 10 seeds for each replication were uniformly placed in petridishes separately for each treatment containing doubled layered Whatman No.1 filter paper. The experiment was designed in Completely randomized design (CRD). The petridishes were water daily with the respective extracts to maintain moisture for proper germination. On 30<sup>th</sup> days germination %, shoot length (cm), root length (cm), fresh shoot weight(g), fresh root weight (g), dry shoot weight(g), dry root weight(g), vigour index were observed as given by Abdul and Anderson, 1973. In case of nursery condition the effect *L. leucocephala* on the growth performance of pansy (*V. tri-*

*color*), soil samples were collected from *L. leucocephala* plantation (8 year old). Unwanted impurities like weed, rocks were removed in order to get a fine textured soil. The field soil was collected randomly from the field where there was no vegetation. Various soil mixtures were prepared and filled in the polypots of size 25×20cm. Soil samples were prepared in concentrations of 100% field soil (i.e. control)-T<sub>0</sub>, 25% field soil and 75% *L. leucocephala* soil - T<sub>1</sub>, 50% field soil and 50% *L. leucocephala* soil - T<sub>2</sub>, 75% field soil and 25% *L. leucocephala* soil - T<sub>3</sub> and 100% *L. leucocephala* soil- T<sub>4</sub>. The treatments were arranged in Randomized Block Design were replicated 4 times and 10 polypot for each replication (1 seed was sown in each polypot) separately for each treatment were placed uniformly. The polypots were watered as per the requirements to maintain moisture for proper germination and healthy seedling growth, germination %, shoot length (cm) were recorded at 15, 30, 45, 60 days interval, root length (cm), fresh shoot weight (g), fresh root weight (g), dry shoot weight (g), dry root weight (g), vigour index were observed at 60 days following the standard methods (Abdul and Anderson, 1973). Floral observation like number of flowers, fresh flowers weight (g), dry flower weight (g) were also recorded at 60 days. The data observed were subjected to statistical analysis as for the methods detailed by Gomez and Gomez (1984).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result obtained during the present course of investigation was carried out to visualize a significant influence *Leucaena* on pansy (*V. tricolor* L.) both under laboratory and nursery conditions.

**Under laboratory condition:** The effect of leaf extract of *Leucaena* was determined on various parameters of Pansy under laboratory condition. The seed germination was initiated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of sowing and its speed accelerated thereafter. The process of seed germination ceased on the 10<sup>th</sup> day. The germination percentage significantly varied in all the treatments over control. Among the five treatments, the maximum germination % were recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (55%) followed by T<sub>0</sub> control (45%), T<sub>2</sub> (43%), T<sub>3</sub> (43%). Minimum germination were recorded in T<sub>4</sub> (40%). The leaf extract of *Leucaena* has significant influence on the germina-

**Table 1.** Effect *L. leucocephala* leaf extracts on pansy under the laboratory condition.

Treatment	Germination %	Shoot length (cm)	Root length (cm)	Fresh shoot weight (g)	Fresh root weight (g)	Dry shoot weight (g)	Dry root weight (g)	Vigour index
T <sub>0</sub>	45	3.17	1.76	0.045	0.007	0.020	0.007	49.665
T <sub>1</sub>	55	3.93	1.80	0.047	0.009	0.027	0.008	60.685
T <sub>2</sub>	43	2.69	1.49	0.040	0.006	0.019	0.006	49.285
T <sub>3</sub>	42	2.71	1.60	0.030	0.005	0.015	0.005	46.415
T <sub>4</sub>	40	2.05	1.20	0.028	0.005	0.015	0.002	44.435
F test	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
SE.d (±)	4.564	0.382	0.166	0.002	0.006	0.002	0.003	4.314
CD at 5%	9.324	0.798	0.385	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.006	9.182

**Table 2.** Effect *L. leucocephala* on the growth performance of Pansy under nursery condition.

Treatment	Germination %	Shoot length (cm)				Root length (cm)
		15 DAS	30 DAS	45 DAS	60 DAS	
T <sub>0</sub>	67	3.92	5.33	6.79	7.86	9.21
T <sub>1</sub>	62	4.02	5.13	6.45	7.64	9.12
T <sub>2</sub>	82	4.12	5.35	6.86	8.09	9.70
T <sub>3</sub>	70	3.91	5.35	6.85	8.00	9.22
T <sub>4</sub>	60	3.72	4.77	6.43	7.65	9.07
F test	S	NS	S	S	S	S
SE.d (±)	4.472	—	0.183	0.127	0.140	0.185
CD at 5%	9.744	—	0.398	0.276	0.34	0.403

**Table 2. (a)** Effect *L. leucocephala* on the growth performance of Pansy under nursery condition.

Treatment	Fresh shoot weight (g)	Fresh root weight (g)	Dry shoot weight (g)	Dry root weight (g)	Vigour index
T <sub>0</sub>	2.73	0.19	0.44	0.045	84.71
T <sub>1</sub>	2.65	0.17	0.38	0.042	80.29
T <sub>2</sub>	2.82	0.22	0.50	0.055	99.36
T <sub>3</sub>	2.77	0.20	0.47	0.050	86.89
T <sub>4</sub>	2.37	0.15	0.35	0.039	79.44
F test	S	S	S	S	S
SE.d (±)	0.117	0.014	0.042	0.005	4.362
CD at 5%	0.254	0.030	0.092	0.008	9.504

**Table 3.** Effect *L. leucocephala* on the growth performance on Pansy flower under nursery condition.

Treatment	Number of flowers	Fresh weight of flowers (g)	Dry weight of flowers (g)
T <sub>0</sub>	1.58	3.43	1.65
T <sub>1</sub>	1.48	3.40	1.45
T <sub>2</sub>	2.00	3.90	2.45
T <sub>3</sub>	1.68	3.75	1.98
T <sub>4</sub>	1.38	3.18	1.18
F test	S	S	S
SE.d (±)	0.370	0.102	0.086
CD at 5%	0.170	0.223	0.187

tion percentage of Pansy. The aqueous leaf extract in T<sub>1</sub> was found to have stimulatory and in T<sub>4</sub> inhibitory effect on seed germination. Similar result also reported in case of aqueous leaf extract of *Populus* significantly influenced the germination of Wheat, seedling growth was stimulated at lower concentration (Nandal and Dhillon, 2007). In case of plant height increased with number of days from starting the work with seed, thus maximized on the 30<sup>th</sup> day under laboratory condition. Maximum shoot length were recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (3.93) - 10% concentration followed by T<sub>0</sub>(3.17) Control, T<sub>3</sub>(2.72)- 30%, T<sub>2</sub>(2.69). Minimum shoot length were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(2.05). As far as the shoot length is concerned, the leaf extract of *Leucaena* shows significant results out of all the treatments, the highest stimulatory effect were observed in T<sub>1</sub> and highest inhibitory effect in T<sub>4</sub>. In case of the length of root, maximum root length were recorded in T<sub>1</sub>(1.80) followed by T<sub>0</sub> (1.70), T<sub>3</sub>(1.60), T<sub>2</sub>(1.49). Minimum root length were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(1.20). Maximum fresh shoot weight were recorded in T<sub>1</sub>(0.047) followed by T<sub>0</sub>(0.045), T<sub>2</sub> (0.040), T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub>(0.028) with 3% concentration and 4 % concentration respectively. Maximum fresh root weight were recorded in T<sub>1</sub>(0.009) followed by T<sub>0</sub>

(0.007), T<sub>2</sub> (0.006). Minimum fresh root weight were recorded in T<sub>3</sub>(0.005) and in T<sub>4</sub>(0.005). Maximum dry shoot weight were recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (0.027) followed by T<sub>0</sub> (0.020) then T<sub>2</sub>(0.017). Minimum dry shoot weight in both T<sub>3</sub>(0.015) and T<sub>4</sub>(0.015). The maximum dry root weight were recorded in T<sub>1</sub>(0.008) treatment with 1% followed by T<sub>0</sub>(0.007), T<sub>2</sub> (0.006). Minimum dry root weight recorded in T<sub>3</sub>(0.005) and in T<sub>4</sub>(0.002). Vigour Index were recorded in T<sub>1</sub> (60.685) followed by T<sub>0</sub>(49.665), T<sub>2</sub> (49.285), T<sub>3</sub> (46.415) (Table 1). Minimum vigour index were recorded at T<sub>4</sub>(44.435). Similar findings were also reported in case of the growth parameters including shoot length, root length, fresh shoot weight, fresh root weight and vigour index where the maximum stimulatory effect with 1% treatment that followed the same trend as like germination with respect to germination, seedling growth, and seedling vigour. Growth parameters indicating shoot length and root length were significantly influenced by the leaf leachates of *Subabul*, (Zhu et al., 2005). Allelochemicals inhibit germination and seedling growth, probably by affecting the cell division and elongation process that are very important at this stage or by interfering with enzymes involved in the mobilization of nutrients necessary for germination. In case of dry matter (dry shoot weight and dry root weight) were also evaluated, same findings were also observed in case of *Leucaena* allelopathic effect on *Z. mays* (Prasad, 2012). Leslie (1996) states that certain plant species or their residues selectively inhibit the development of particular crop.

**Under nursery condition:** The study revealed that there was significant effect on germination percentage in all the treatments over control. Maximum germination % were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(82%) followed by T<sub>3</sub> (70%), T<sub>0</sub>(67%) and Minimum germination % were recorded at T<sub>1</sub>(62%) and in T<sub>4</sub>(60%). Lower germina-

tion percentage and allelopathic inhibition may be due to Leucaena leaf contained several other chemical constituents such as coumaric acid, squalene and polyphenol, mimosine and other compounds induced inhibition on the germination and seedling growth (Ferguson and Rathinasabapathi, 2009). In general the plant height increased with the number of days. The shoot length of pansy under nursery condition were taken at an interval of 15 DAS, 30DAS, 45DAS and 60 DAS. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day, shoot length of pansy were found to be non-significant. On the 30<sup>th</sup> day, maximum shoot length were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(5.35) followed by T<sub>3</sub> (5.41), T<sub>0</sub>(5.33) and T<sub>1</sub>(5.13). Minimum were in T<sub>4</sub>(4.77). On the 45<sup>th</sup> day, maximum shoot length were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(6.86) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(6.85), T<sub>0</sub>(6.79) and T<sub>1</sub>(6.45). Minimum were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(6.43). On the 60<sup>th</sup> day maximum shoot length were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(8.09) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(8.00), T<sub>0</sub>(7.86) and T<sub>1</sub>(7.67). Minimum were recorded at T<sub>4</sub>(7.65). As far as the shoot length is concerned, the soil of Leucaena in combination with the field soil shows significant results. The length of the shoot kept on increasing with respect to number of days. Highest Root length recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(9.70) significantly different from other treatments followed by T<sub>3</sub>(9.22), T<sub>0</sub>(9.21) and T<sub>1</sub>(9.12). Minimum root length were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(9.07). Maximum fresh shoot weight recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(2.82) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(2.77), T<sub>0</sub>(2.73) and T<sub>1</sub>(2.65). Minimum fresh shoot weight were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(2.37). Maximum fresh root weight were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(0.22) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(0.20), T<sub>0</sub>(0.19) and T<sub>1</sub>(0.17). Minimum fresh root weight were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(0.15). Maximum dry shoot weight were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(0.50) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(0.47), T<sub>0</sub>(0.44). Minimum dry shoot weight was recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(0.35). Maximum dry root weight were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(0.055) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(0.50), T<sub>0</sub>(0.45) and T<sub>1</sub>(0.42). Minimum dry root weight were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(0.39). Highest vigour index were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(99.36) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(86.89), T<sub>0</sub>(84.71) and T<sub>1</sub>(80.29). Lowest vigour index were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(79.44) (Tables 2 and 2 a), the reduction in seedling growth and biomass may be due to imbalances in water uptake or osmotic balances of the tissues because of allelochemical toxicity (Blum *et al.*, 1999; Prasad and Mahto, 2015) and Plants root tip growth nearly inhibited to escape from allelochemicals absorption (Chon *et al.*, 2002).

**Floral parameters:** Maximum number of flowers were observed in T<sub>2</sub> (2.00) followed by T<sub>3</sub>(1.68) then T<sub>0</sub> (1.58) and T<sub>1</sub>(1.48). Minimum number of flowers were observed in T<sub>4</sub> (1.38). Maximum flower fresh weight were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(3.90) followed by T<sub>3</sub> (3.75), T<sub>0</sub>(3.43) and T<sub>1</sub>(3.40). Minimum flower fresh weight were recorded in T<sub>4</sub> (3.18). Maximum flower dry weight were recorded in T<sub>2</sub>(2.45) followed by T<sub>3</sub> (1.98), T<sub>0</sub>(1.65) and T<sub>1</sub>(1.45). Minimum flower dry weight were recorded in T<sub>4</sub>(1.18) (Table 3). This may be due to chemical like phenols, terpenoids and alka-

loids and their derivatives are potential inhibitor of seedling growth (Gniazowska and Bogatek, 2005).

## Conclusion

The present study revealed that *L. leucocephala* leaf leachates affect the germination and growth performance of Pansy (*V. tricolor*) with compared to Control. Lower concentration of Leucaena leaf leachates in T<sub>1</sub>-1% concentration treatment on Pansy resulted to be significant and has stimulatory effect on growth and dry matter and higher concentration T<sub>4</sub> of 4% concentration were found to be inhibitory. Furthermore, under the nursery condition, there has been clear indication that maximum stimulatory effect was their when soil amended with 50% Leucaena soil and 50% Field soil (T<sub>2</sub>) and inhibitory effect was observed in Pansy when amended into soil with 100% Leucaena Soil (T<sub>4</sub>). Although the findings are preliminary, its recommended to carry out long term field study in Pansy.

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