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Research Article

ROLE OF BACTERIA AND THEIR EFFECT ON (*JUNIPERUS PHOENICEA*) AS A MODEL MEDICINAL PLANTS IN AL-JABAL AL- AKHDAR REGIN

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Abstract:

Since photosynthesis is the primary process through which light energy absorbed and converted into organic matter, thus, plant chlorophyll pigment (forms A and B) plays an essential role in the progression absorbed solar energy and synthesis of organic matter in a plant. Therefore, this paper aims at the extent to which the optical activity of chlorophyll molecules monitored and methods (non-destructive and destructive) for quantification of chlorophyll content in plants. These methods using to estimate the effect of different stress factors (abiotic, biotic, and xenobiotic) on the efficiency of photosynthesis and bio-productivity on the yield of different varieties. Besides, these methods used to analyze the visual activity of chlorophyll and/ or as well as to evaluate the interaction of weed species with different agricultural practices (mineral nutrition, herbicide treatment, etc.), in addition to studying various aspects of the environmental physiology of weeds and their effect on crop harvesting. Drought stress is one of the most important factors affecting plant growth. Plant growth under drought stress can promote applying microbial pollination, such as using plant growth-promoting roots bacteria. This research carried as a factorial experiment in a completely randomized design.

*The first step involved bio-fertilizer (A) and control (without bio-fertilizers). The results indicated that the level of treated bacterial inoculation had the highest effect in increasing photosynthetic pigments ($p < 0.01$). While the lowest amount of photosynthetic dyes were recorded under treatment A. Highest and lowest shoot fresh. Weight belonged to the coefficients respectively ($p < 0.01$). The results indicated that using the bio-fertilizer separately had a more positive effect on nutrient absorption than *Juniperus phoenicea*. Overall, the results indicate that growth-promoting bacteria such as bio-fertilizers have a greater effect on growth, photosynthetic pigments, and nutrient absorption than *Juniperus Phoenicia*. Using a microbial inoculation in agriculture increases plant productivity and resistance to diseases and other influences for instance stress, drought, and nutrient deficiencies.*

Key words: *Juniperus phoenicea, Green plant, Microbial isolates, Medicinal plants, pigments and Chlorophyll.*

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INTRODUCTION:

The main problems of dry and semi-arid rangelands are drought and lack of water that affect plant growth and development. Note that the majority of rangelands in the world are located in those regions the effect of drought stress on plants of these regions is of great importance (Zandi Esfahan and Azarnivand, 2012). Drought stress is the most an important environmental factor that reduces plant growth and, vegetation production (Nazar et al., 2015; Sagdeghi and Rostami, 2016), an increase in temperature and a sharp decrease in the water available to plants are the most significant factors behind reducing vegetation cover (Nazar et al., 2015).

Water scarcity is a constraining factor for plant growth, germination and seed development and lowers plant productivity over the world (Yan, 2015). At present, Microorganisms have been used as a type of biological fertilizer as they work to repair and develop the soil ecosystem (Zahir et al., 2004; Nadeem et al., 2014). Also, bio-fertilizers provide the nutrients for plants, it also assists increase soil biodiversity (Delshade, 2015). The most important types of biological fertilizers used are bacteria, fungi and materials derived from their activity. This type of fertilizer is called yield-enhancing fertilizer (Zahir et al., 2004; Nadeem et al., 2014).

The mechanism of the plant growth-promoting bacteria has not been fully understood to increase the plant growth but the bacteria are capable of producing some growth-promoting hormones especially a variety of cytokinin, gibberellic acid and auxin, fixing nitrogen, and phosphorus (Vacheron et al., 2013). *Azotobacter* spp. and *Pseudomonas* spp. are the most important bacteria that increase soil mineral elements, with the production of matters regulating growth and they affect development and yield of plants (Zahir et al., 2004; Hayat et al., 2010). The use of bio-fertilizers such as nitrogen fixation bacteria of the genus *Azotobacter* and bacteria dissolving phosphate such as *Pseudomonas*, provide nutrients needed by the plant such as nitrogen and phosphorus and thus improves plant growth and yield in addition to increasing useful soil microorganisms' population (Arancon et al., 2004). It should note that the effect of growth-

promoting bacteria depends on the yield of the host plant and soil environment furthermore, the inherent capabilities of bacteria (Nadeem et al., 2014). However, growth-promoting bacteria play a great role in maintaining soil fertility and improving the plant growth and development, however, some concerns have also reported in some studies (eg. Saharan and Nehra, 2011; Vacheron et al., 2013). For example, cyanide production is a feature known to *Pseudomonas* (Martínez-Viveros et al., 2010). Indeed cyanide, as an environmental controller, can increase growth, on the other hand, it hurts plant growth (Martínez-Viveros et al., 2010).

Also, the bacterium production of auxin in low concentration increased plant growth and at high concentration, it reduced plant growth (Pattin and Glyc, 2002; Vacheron et al., 2013). Although growth-promoting bacteria are very effective in plant growth and development, certain bacterial species may specifically reduce growth and a negative role may occur under certain conditions. Therefore, it is essential to select the appropriate varieties to obtain maximum plant yield (Nadeem et al., 2014). *Avena sativa* L. (family Gramineae) is a type of cereal grain grown for its seeds. It is suitable for human consumption and livestock feed (Abbaszadeh et al., 2008).

MATERIALS:

1.1. Plant material:

The Samples of *Juniperus phoenicea* were collected from the Al Jabal Al Akhdar region (Aslanta region), (sample 1= plant with microbial inoculation (biofertilizer) growing naturally, sample 2= plant without (microbial isolates).

1.2. Chemicals:

1, 1-Diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH), ethanol, methanol, and acetone provided by Sigma and Merck. Ascorbic Acid, Folin-Ciocalteu Reagent, Ferric Chloride, Monobasic Hydrogen Phosphate, Potassium ferricyanide, Dibasic Monobasic Phosphate, Trichloroacetic Acid, Sodium Carbonate, Anhydrous Sodium Sulfate and Pyrogallol.

Results:

1. The morphological results are shown in table (1) below. Sample (1) indicates the highest average value for plant height and stem diameter.. They were 222.67 cm and 16.42 cm, respectively.

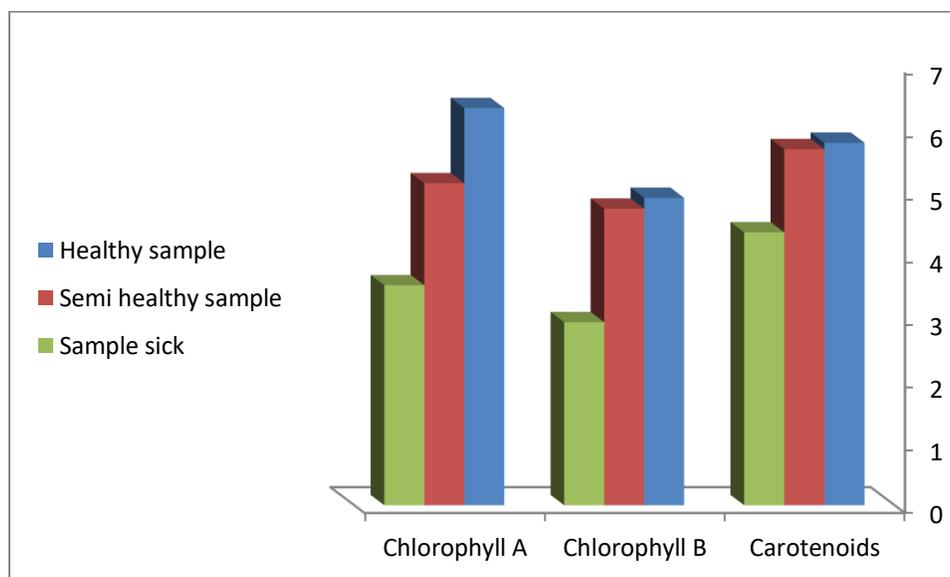
Table (1): Growth from where plant height (cm), stem diameter (cm), and dry leaf weight (mg) of *J. phoenicea* L. in EL-Gabal EL-Ahkdar area.

Sample Name	Plant height (cm)		Stem diameter (cm)		Leaf dry weight (mg)	
	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)	Mean	(SD)
Healthy sample	222.67	(21.35)	16.42	(5.90)	3.0234	(0.19)
Semi healthy sample	216.55	(17.93)	11.22	(3.14)	3.2058	(0.23)
Sample sick	214.23	(23.47)	9.89	(2.05)	3.8240	(0.11)

2. The results acquired from this study as exposed in the table (2) report that the healthy sample includes a high amount of chlorophyll A, chlorophyll B and carotenoids as compared with the semi-healthy sample and Sample disease.

Table(2): Estimation of photosynthetic pigments of *J. phoenicea* L. leaves in EL-Gabal EL-Ahkdar area

Sample	Chlorophyll A (mg/ml)	Chlorophyll B (mg/ml)	Carotenoids (mg/ml)
Healthy sample	5.7708	4.894	6.323
Semi healthy sample	5.670	4.721	5.126
Sample sick	4.346	2.915	3.503

**Fig. (1) Estimation of photosynthetic pigments of *J. phoenicea* L. leaves in EL-Gabal EL-Ahkdar area**

2.3. Growth characteristics of *J. phoenicea*:

The study samples separated into several varied trees, based on the exterior appearance with three replicates

for each tree to reveal the quantitative and morphological differences.

2.4. Determination of pigments photosynthetic:

Photosynthetic pigments were obtained from the known fresh weight of leaves in 85% aqueous acetone to a specific concentration for spectroscopic measurements. Photosynthetic pigments (chlorophyll a, b and carotenoids) described by a spectrophotometric method Metzner et al. (1965). The pigment extract measured against a blank of pure 85% aqueous acetone at three wavelengths 452.5, 644 and 663 nm. Taking into account, the dilution factor, it was possible to determine the concentration of chromosomal fractions (chlorophenol A, B and carotenoids) in mg / mL utilizing the following equations:

Chlorophyll a = $10.3 E_{663} - 0.918 E_{644}$ = mg/ml
 Chlorophyll b = $19.7 E_{644} - 3.87 E_{663}$ = mg/ml
 Charotenoids = $4.2 E_{452.5}$ = mg/ml
 Finally, pigments parts calculated as mg/g fresh matter.

$$+ \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0.0264 \text{ chl. a} \\ 0.4260 \text{ chl. b} \end{array} \right.$$

2.5. The Estimation of microbial number:

2.5.1. Nutrient Agar medium

23 g of nutrient agar medium were dissolved in 1-litre ml distilled water and then sterilized by autoclaving at 15 lbs pressure (121°C) for 15 min.

2.5.2. Sample preparation:

2.5.2.1. Plant:

leaves (brown and green) were collected from *Juniperus phoenicea*. 2 grams of each part was put in a test tube containing 8 ml of distilled water and shaken for 30 seconds. 1 ml of the sample was put in a petri dish and then poured by nutrient agar medium under sterile conditions and incubated at 37.5°C for three days. Total number of microbial colonies of each plate was estimated.

2.5.2.2. Soil:

Two samples collected from sifting soil. 1 gram of each sample from different sites (under the sieve and above the sieve) was added to a test tube containing 9 ml of distilled water and shaken for 30 seconds. 1 ml of each sample was put in a petri dish and then set up the nutrient agar medium incubated at 37.5 °C for three days. The total number of microbial colonies of each plate was estimated.

2.5.3. pure Culture:

A single bacterial colony from each culture was streaked on nutrient agar medium and incubated at 37.5 ° C for three days.

2.5.4. Gram stain

Differential stains (Gram stain) conducted to confirm that the bacteria were gram-negative and rod shaped. Smears from single colonies grown on EMB at 37 °C and 44.5°C were prepared and covered with Crystal violet for 1 min and then covered by Iodine for 1 min to make CV-I complex after that, the decolorized agent (70% ethanol) washed on the slide to remove the CV-I complex in the thin layer of peptidoglycan of gram-negative bacteria. Drops of safranin added for a half minute. The slide then washed in the distilled water and dried with filter paper after that the samples examined by the microscope using an oil immersion lens. In summary, gram-positive cells retain the dye and remain purple, Gram-negative cells did not retain the dye; they were colourless until counterstained with a red dye (pink cells).

2.5.5. Endospore staining:

A thin film of a bacterial colony was made on a slide in a ring of distilled water. The film was air-dried and stained with malachite green for 4-5 minutes using a flame. The smear was rinsed quickly with water and stained with safranin solution for 30 seconds. The slide was washed with water and allowed to dry. On microscopy, green spores appeared and cells were pink. (Abualdhab and Gorani, 1983).

2.5.6. Motility test:

The test was applied to identify the motile and immobile bacteria using a suspension. A little immersion oil was applied around the edge of the slide and then using a wire loop a small ring of culture was transferred to a clean dry covered slip. The slide was then turned over the cap so that the drop was in the centre of the socket and the slide was pressed down gently and lightly so that the oil held the cap in place. The slide was turned over quickly and smoothly and the farm drop was placed in a hanging drop shape, and the preparation was quickly checked. It is important to identify between Brownian motion (the continuous excitation of a very small particle suspended in a liquid called unbalanced effects with the particles of the surrounding fluid) or one-way drift due to the slice being slightly tilted and true motion. (Abualdhab and Gorani, 1983).



CONCLUSION:

The results indicated that individual growth-promoting bacteria had a higher effect on increased plant growth, photosynthesis and nutrient absorption in the root of *Juniperus phoenicea*, compared to the combined use of growth-promoting bacteria. Moreover, it was observed that the growth-promoting bacteria under irrigation conditions had a role in mitigating the effects of drought stress. The results of the study concluded that growth-promoting bacteria can be used in the restoration and improvement of pastures, but it must be taken into account that the effect of bio-fertilizers depends on the type of plant, climate and soil condition. However, an important question is to what extent root bacteria can enhance plant resistance to the effects of drought. This matter needs more research to know the suitable strains for each region and plant, Given that growth-promoting root bacteria, include a wide range of soil microorganisms. Therefore, a more comprehensive and rigorous survey and study in this area are recommended. The current study was divided into two types of experiments, one of which is using microbial isolates as an important type of fertilization and the other without adding microorganism. Since drought stress is one of the most important factors causing plant growth decline, the present study was conducted

to study the effect of growth-promoting bacteria on growth and photopigments under drought stress *Juniperus phoenicea*. To investigate the effect of microorganisms on root nutrient uptake in *Juniperus phoenicea* under drought stress. The role and efficiency of microorganisms in providing plants with the nutrients it needs and increasing growth.

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