

Bioefficacy of plant extracts against *fusarium* species causing wilt in pulses

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ABSTRACT

In vitro efficacy of different plant extracts viz. Bitter guard, Turmeric, Garlic and Black pepper has been tested to control both fusarial species viz. *fusarium udum* (causing wilt in pigeonpea) and *fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* (causing wilt in chickpea). Both pathogenic fungi have been isolated from infected plant parts and identified on the basis of their morphological and cultural characteristics. Different concentration i.e. 5%, 10% and 15% of plant extracts are taken in the swot. All the plant extracts showed considerable diminution in the growth of pathogens. Growth of *fusarium udum* has been reduced by 15% concentration of turmeric (89.2%) followed by garlic (88.26%) and black pepper (82.22%). In case of *fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri*, 15% concentration of garlic, turmeric and black pepper reduced the growth upto 94.63%, 87.96% and 77.74% (at $p < 0.01$) respectively. From the above observations it can be postulated that growth of both the pathogens has been significantly reduced (at $p < 0.01$) by garlic and turmeric extracts followed by extract of black pepper. The bitter guard extract is found least effective against both the pathogens at all concentrations. In addition to this 10% concentration of garlic and turmeric is also found effective against both the pathogens.

Keywords: *growth, non-pollutive, pathogens, plant extracts.*

1. INTRODUCTION

From past many years a number of different chemical and synthetic compounds have been used against phytopathogens. Indiscriminate use of these chemicals has led to development of fungicide resistance [1, 2] and more importantly, environmental pollution, posing a potential risk to animal and human health [3]. Due to high cost and hazardous effect of used chemical pesticides from last thirty years, fresh plant extracts from plant parts became valuable to control pathogens [4, 5]. To control the pathogens, plant extracts have been used as antifungal agents. These extracts can be easily prepared by farmers [6].

The presence of antifungal compound is an important factor for disease control in higher plants [7]. These compounds are biodegradable and toxic to a considerable value for suppressing some plant diseases [8]. The pre harvest losses due to fungal diseases in world crop protection may reach up to 12% or even higher in developing countries [9, 10]. Modern agrochemical research influence the application of plant derived fungicides and it has enormous potential against microbial pathogens attack due to presence of secondary metabolites in plants [11].

The bioactivity of neem extracts has been attributed by various compounds such as nimbin, nimbidin and salannin and most important antifungal compound is azadirachtin [12]. Bitter cucumber contains an array of biologically active plant chemicals including triterpenes, proteins and steroids. The main compound in kaffir lime leaves is citronellal (65.4%) whereas the major constituents in essential oil of kaffir lime seeds are β -pinene (30.6%), limonene (29.2) and sabinene (22.6%) [13]. The inhibitory effect of fungal growth by kaffir lime leaf might be due to citronellal. The antifungal activity of garlic has been demonstrated by various agencies [14, 15]. Plant extracts prepared with cold water has strong antifungal activity with effective inhibition potential against pathogen.

The major setback in the control of *Fusarium udum* and *fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* in the study area has been low per *capita* income; with household poverty incidence among subsistence farmers, even though it is classified as high potential zone in terms of Agricultural productivity. This situation has hindered small-scale subsistence farmers acquiring synthetic chemicals to control fungal infection of pigeonpea and chickpea. This scenario, therefore, calls for alternative approaches to control of soil borne pathogens. The approach needs to be economically feasible and eco-friendly to increase yield of pigeonpea and chickpea. This study focused at evaluating the phytotoxic activity of locally available four extracts of bitter guard, turmeric, garlic and black pepper against radial growth of *Fusarium udum* and *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. ciceri*.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Soil samples and plant parts showing wilt characteristic has been collected from the field of pigeonpea and chickpea. The samples have been taken from Kalli paschim village, District Sarojini nagar, Lucknow in September, 2009. The plant parts are examined under microscope to confirm the presence of respective pathogen. First of all infected plant parts are cut into pieces (2-3 mm), then it is surface sterilized with 0.1% mercuric chloride solution for 30 seconds. The isolation has been made from roots as well as from the foliar parts of wilted pigeonpea and chickpea plants. The plant parts are washed three times with sterilized distilled water and transferred aseptically on Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) media. The inoculated plates has been incubated at room temperature ($27\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) and observations are made daily for emergence of culture. After the development of the fungal colonies stock cultures have been prepared using PDA in test tubes and stored in refrigerator at 4°C . Both wilt pathogens are isolated from infected pigeonpea and chickpea plants and identified as per the monograph and standard procedures.

A 50% w/v stock solution of Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) (Family Zingiberaceae), Black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) (Family Piperaceae), Garlic (*Allium sativum*) (Family Liliaceae) and Bitter guard (*Mimordica charantia*) (Family Mimodaceae) has been prepared in sterilized water and then passing it through muslin cloth and finally filtered through whatman filter paper. Different concentration i.e. 10%, 20% and 30% w/v are prepared by adding quantity of sterile water into the stock solution. The stock solution is heated up to $40-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 10 minutes to avoid contamination. To evade contamination and chemical alteration, the extract has also been stored at 4°C [16].

2.1 In vitro study

The activity of all four plants extract is tested against both the pathogen by poisoned food technique [17]. The 10, 20 and 30% conc. of plant extracts are mixed separately in 90ml. sterilized czapek-dox agar medium and poured into petriplates. In control plates, sterilized distilled water is added with czapek-dox agar medium in place of plant extract. Each treatment replicates three times. After solidification of the medium, 5mm. diameter plug from 7 days old colony of *fusarium udum* and *fusarium oxysporum f.sp. ciceri* is inoculated separately in the center of each petriplates and incubated at $25\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$. The colony diameter of both the pathogens has been measured after 7 days of incubation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is found from experiment that bitter guard extract inhibits the growth of *fusarium udum* up to 34.74%, 61.30% and 67.15% at 5%, 10% and 15% concentration respectively and R^2 value is found to be 0.880 (Figure 1a). The growth of *fusarium udum* has been reduced to 78.52% at 5% concentration, 82.22% at 10% concentration and 89.22% at 15% concentration with extract of turmeric while R^2 value is obtained 0.981 (Figure1b). In case of garlic extract, the percentage reduction in growth has been found to be 76.67%, 83.04% and 88.26% at 5%, 10% and 15% concentration accordingly (Figure 1c). R^2 value for these concentrations of garlic is found 0.996. Similarly black pepper reduced the growth of *fusarium udum* up to 65.19% at 5% concentration, 72.19% at 10% concentration and 82.22% at 15% concentration respectively and R^2 value has been found 0.989 (Figure 1d).

In case of *fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* growth of pathogen has been reduced by 61.70% at 5% , 66.11% at 10% and 69.26% at 15% concentration with extract of bittergourd with R^2 value of 0.99 (Figure 2a). On the other hand, with turmeric extract, the growth reduction is found 74.96%, 85.04% and 87.96% at 5%, 10% and 15% concentration respectively with R^2 value of 0.908 (Figure 2b) followed by reduction of 73.07% at 5% , 89.70% at 10% and 94.63% at 15% concentration with extract of garlic. Here the R^2 is found 0.910 (Figure 2c). Similarly black pepper reduced the growth up to 62.22% at 5%, 71.41% at 10% and 77.74% at 15% concentration with extract of Black pepper (Figure 2d). R^2 value for these concentrations of black pepper is obtained 0.98.

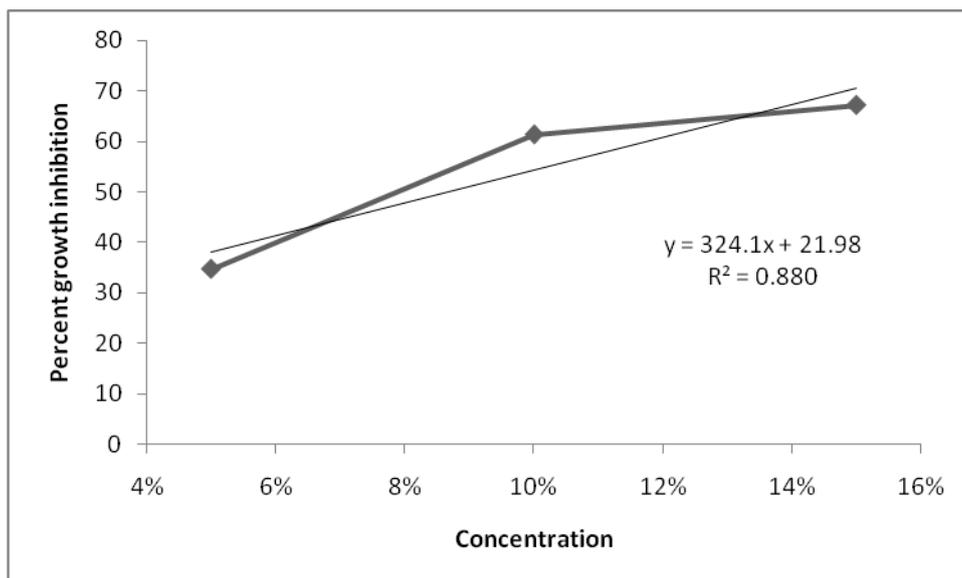


Fig. 1(a) Effect of different concentration of Bitter guard on growth of *Fusarium udum* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

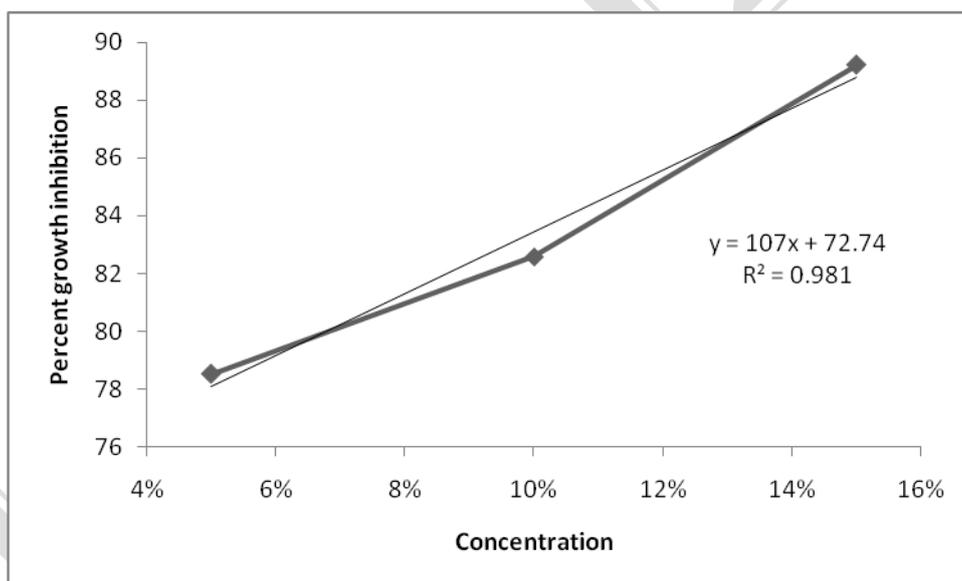


Fig. 1(b) Effect of different concentration of Turmeric on growth of *Fusarium udum* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

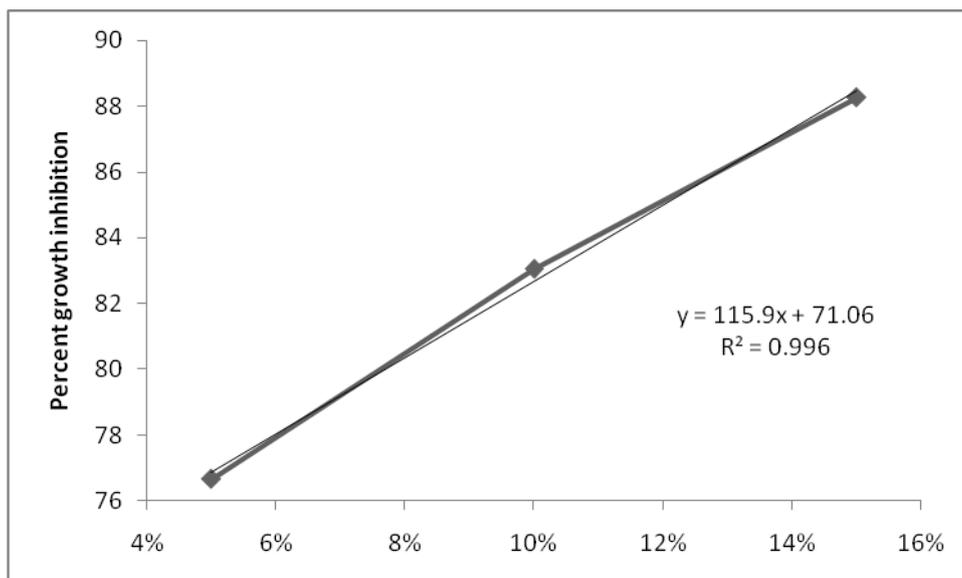


Fig. 1(c) Effect of different concentration of Garlic on growth of *Fusarium udum* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

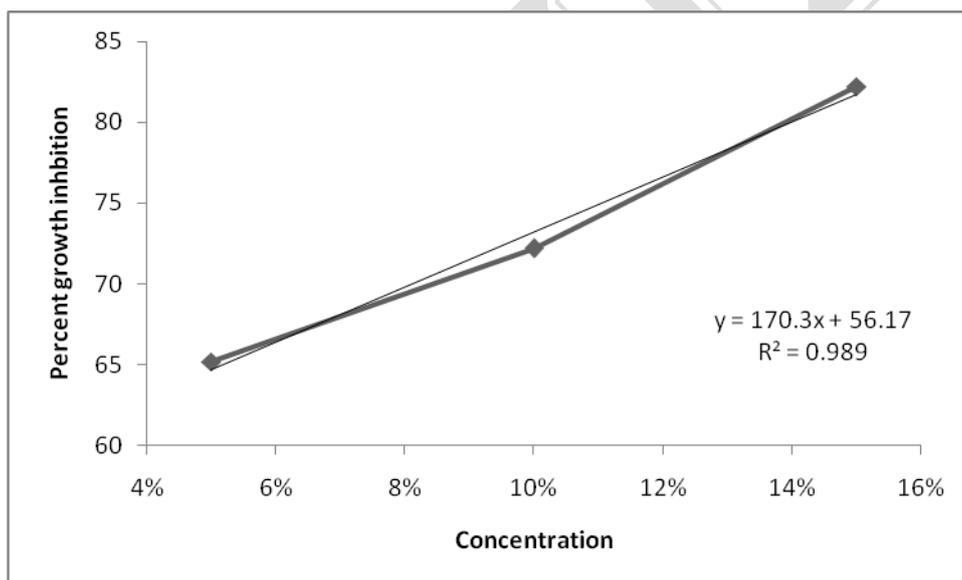


Fig. 1(d) Effect of different concentration of Black pepper on growth of *Fusarium udum* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

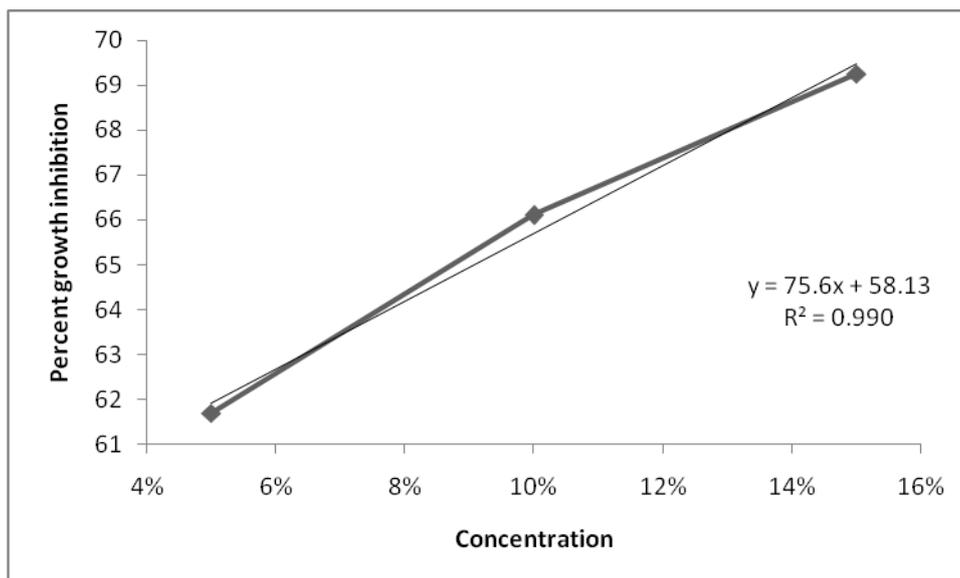


Fig. 2(a) Effect of different concentration of Bitter guard on growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

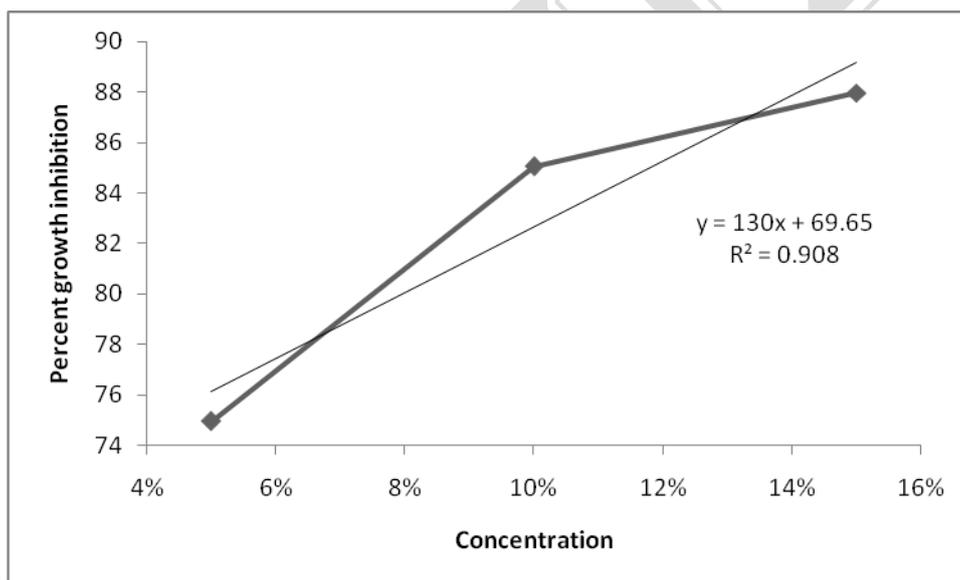


Fig. 2(b): Effect of different concentration of Turmeric on growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

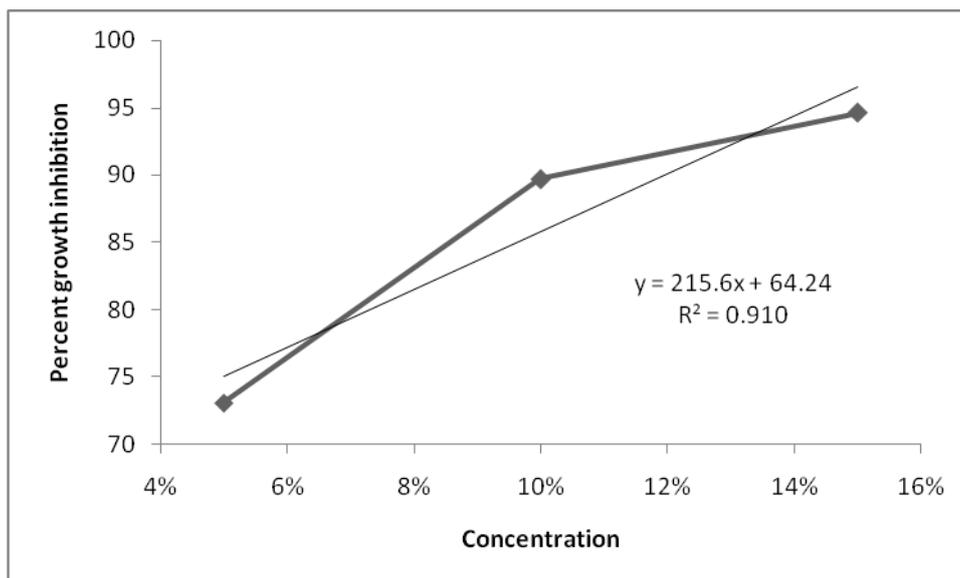


Fig. 2(c): Effect of different concentration of Garlic on growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

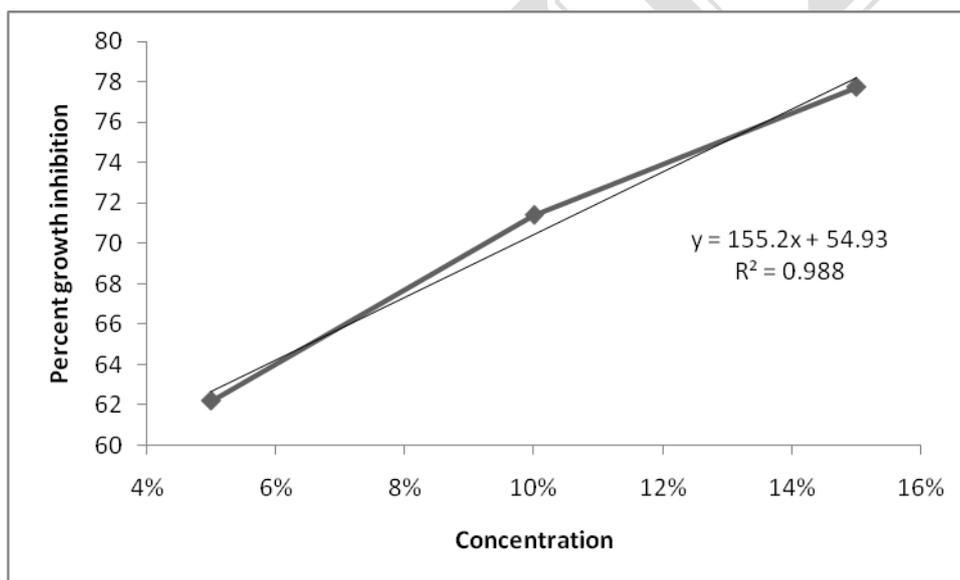


Fig. 2(d): Effect of different concentration of Black pepper on growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* Significant at $p < 0.01$ level according to Duncan's multiple Range test.

From the experimental analysis, it is found that growth of both the pathogens has been significantly ($p > 0.01$) reduced primarily by garlic and turmeric extracts followed by black pepper extract. The extract of bitter guard is found least effective against both the pathogens.

Uzma *et al.* (2008) tested antifungal activity of asafetida (*Ferula asafoetida*), black cumin seed (*Nigella sativa*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and mustard (*Brassica campestris*) oils against eight fungal species viz. *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium moniliformae*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium nivale*, *Fusarium semitectum*, *Alternaria alternate* and *Drechslera hawiensis* [18]. Bowers and Locke (2000) found that 10% aqueous emulsion of pepper, clove and cassia extracts reduced the growth of *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.chrysanthemii* (*Foc*) in soil by 99.9%, 97.5% and 96.1% after three days of incubation, while 5% aqueous emulsion of pepper extracts reduced the population densities of *Foc* by 99.9% [19].

During their study Hassanein *et al.* (2008) observed that 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% concentration of neem extract effectively suppressed the mycelial growth of both species *Alternaria solani* (causing early blight) and *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. lycopersici* (causing wilt disease) in tomato. 20% concentration of ethanol and ethyl acetate extracts of neem totally inhibited the growth of *Alternaria solani* at 52.44% to 62.77% [20].

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri, *Rhizactonia solani*, *Sclerotium rolfsii* and *Sclerotinia sclerotium* causing wilt and rot in *Cicer arietinum* controlled by leaf trunk and oil extracted from neem tree [21]. Different extracts from neem leaves were found to have inhibitory action against *Trichoderma viridae*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Pythium apanideratum* [22].

The mycelial growth inhibition rate increased with increasing plant extract concentration. At 100% aqueous neem leaf extract caused complete inhibition of spore germination of *Fusarium spp.* [23]. Babu Joseph [24] tested different concentration *i.e.* 5%, 10% , 15% and 20% extract of different plants *viz.*, *Artemessia annua*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Ocimum sanctum* and *Rheum emodi* and found significant reduction in growth of *fusarium solani f. sp. melongenae*. *Azadirchta indica* was found most effective at 20% concentration followed by *Rheum emodi*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Artemessia annua* and *Ocimum sanctum*.

Kalpna Bhatnagar [25] tested 17 plant species against *fusarium oxysporum f.sp.cumini* and found that datura and isabgul extract showed maximum inhibition. Neem, garlic and turmeric plant extract showed moderate effect. Garlic extract caused maximum inhibition of *fusarium moniliformae* [26].

The ethanolic extracts of kaffir lime leaves inhibited some strains of *salmonella* [27]. Crude ethanolic extracts of 10% concentration of kaffir lime leaf, 8-10% concentration of tobacco leaf and 6%, 8% and 10% concentration of bitter cucumber fruit effectively suppress the growth of *Aspergillus flavus* [28] . 5 and 10 g/100 ml. conc. of kaffir lime inhibit the spore germination of fungal species *viz.*, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Fusarium sp.* respectively [29].

Khalil [30] tested different concentrations *i.e.* 0.5%, 1% and 2% concentration of Garlic, Caway, Carnation, Half-bar, Neem and different antagonists *viz.*, *Trichoderma harrzianum* and *Trichoderma viride* and one fungicide Benomyl against *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.lycopersici* . Result showed that Garlic and caway effectively inhibited the growth of pathogen followed by Carnation, Half-bar and Neem. The cultural filtrate of the antagonists fungus *T. harzianum* was found to be more effective than *T.viride* to decreased the growth of fungal species but less than benomyl.

Neem extract inhibited the germination of *Fusarium moniliformae* in sorghum as reported by Rai [31]. The crude boiled and acetone extract of *Allium sativum* caused 100% inhibition of the mycelial growth of *Rhizactonia solani* [32].

Azadirchta indica and *Datura metel* plant extract showed higher fungitoxicity against *Fusarium oxysporum f.sp.ciceri* [16]. Chandra and Singh [33] described that plant extract of *Calotropis procera*, *Eucalyptus globulens*, *Jatropha multifida*, *Azadirchta indica*, *Allium sativum* significantly reduced the wilt incidence in *Cicer arietinum*. Mycelial growth of various fusarium species were inhibited by plant extracts of *Adhatoda vasica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Cinnamomum camphora* and *Ocimum sanctum* [34]; *Agave Americana*, *Cassia nodosa* [35] ; *Azadirchta indica* [36] ; *Azadirchta indica*, *Atropha belladonna*, *Calatropis procera*, *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, *Ailanthus excelsa* and *Lantana camera* [37].

4. CONCLUSION

It is concluded from above results that Turmeric significantly checked the growth of *Fusarium udum* by 89.22% followed by Garlic (88.26%) , Black pepper (82.22%) and Bitter gourd (67.15%) at 15% concentration (at $p < 0.01$) respectively, whereas in case of *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. ciceri* , 94.63% ,87.96%, 77.74% and 69.26% reduction in growth at 15% concentration with garlic, turmeric, black pepper and Bitter gourd extract has been recorded (at $p < 0.01$). Among plant extracts higher concentration of turmeric, garlic and black pepper effectively reduced the growth of *Fusarium udum* and *Fusarium oxysporum.f.sp.ciceri*. Turmeric, garlic and black pepper can be used in reducing the wilt incidence in pigeonpea and chickpea. From present study it is postulated that plant extract can be used as a viable option for natural pesticides.

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