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Effect of mutagens on emergence, plant survival and pollen sterility in safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.)

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Abstract

The present investigation was undertaken to study the effect of mutagens on emergence, plant survival and pollen sterility in PBNS-12 variety of safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius* L.) in M₁ generation. The seeds of safflower variety PBNS-12 were treated with different doses of gamma rays *viz.*, 100 Gy, 200 Gy, 300 Gy, 400 Gy, 500 Gy and different concentration of EMS *viz.*, 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.4% and their combination treatments. The observations were recorded on emergence percentage, plant survival percentage and pollen sterility percentage in M₁ generation. Results revealed the significant effects of mutagens tested. In the present study, the seed emergence and plant survival rate decreased with increased in doses/ concentrations both in gamma rays and EMS and their combination treatments. The pollen sterility rate increased with an increase in dose /concentrations of both gamma rays and EMS and their combinations treatments in M₁ generation.

Keywords: EMS, gamma rays, plant survival, emergence, pollen sterility

Introduction

Among the oilseeds, Safflower (Carthamus tinctorius L.) is one of the important and oldest oil yielding crops cultivated around the world for centuries, mainly as a source of edible oil and dyes. In India it is most commonly known as kardai in Marathi and kusum in Hindi. It is a member of the compositae /Asteraceae family. There are 25 species in genus Carthamus out of which only *Carthamus tinctorius* L (2n=24) is cultivated. It is a drought tolerant crop grown in heavy soils under receeding soil moisture conditions (Pushavalli et. al., 2017)^[13]. Safflower is being grown in over 60 countries, among which India, China, Mexico, USA, Ethiopia, Argentina and Australia are the major growing countries. In India, it is mainly grown in Maharashtra, Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, etc. Maharashtra and Karnataka are the two most important safflower growing states accounting for 72 and 23 per cent of area and 63 and 35 per cent of production, respectively (Pattar and Patil, 2020)^[12]. Genetic variability is the basic requirement for genetic improvement of any crop. Induced mutagenesis is an effective and potential method to create variability in a crop (Kumari et. al., 2016)^[10]. Both physical and chemical mutagens can be used to induce mutations in crop plants and subsequent improvement can be done through selection. Among physical mutagens, gamma rays directly penetrate the plant tissue and are partially ionizing. In case of chemical mutagens, EMS (Ethyl Methane Sulphonate) is reported as the highly effective and powerful mutagen compared to other mutagenic agents and typically produces only point mutations (Hajara, 1979 and Kumari et. al., 2016)^[6, 10]. Seed germination, seedling growth, pollen sterility and chromosomal aberration are some of the commonly used criteria for studying mutagenic sensitivity in plants (Lal *et.al.*, 2009 and Sangle *et.al.*, 2011)^[11,17]. The present study was conducted to understand the immediate effects of mutagenesis on safflower in terms of emergence, plant survival and pollen sterility in order to select most beneficial dose / concentration of mutagen.

Material and Methods

The field experiment was conducted on experimental field at AICRP on Safflower, VNMKV, Parbhani during *rabi* 2019-20 in M₁ generation. The experimental material consisted of PBNS-12 variety of safflower, which was procured from the Safflower Breeder, AICRP on safflower, VNMKV, Parbhani. This variety is recommended for cultivation in India. The seeds of safflower were got treated with gamma rays (Co⁶⁰) doses of 100 Gy, 200 Gy, 300 Gy, 400 Gy and 500 Gy at Nuclear and Agriculture Division, B.A.R.C., Trombay, Mumbai.

For chemical mutagen treatment the uniform 200 pure dry seeds of variety PBNS-12 were presoaked in distilled water for 3 hours and then dipped in enough mutagenic solution of different concentrations (0.1%, 0.2%, 0.3% and 0.4% EMS) and duration. Chemical mutagenic treatment was carried out in a shaker at 200 rpm at $25+2^{\circ}$ C for 18 hours. Gamma irradiated seeds were also combined treated with EMS at 200 Gy + 0.1% EMS, 200 Gy + 0.2% EMS, 300 Gy + 0.1% EMS and 300 Gy + 0.2% EMS respectively. The dry but unirradiated and seeds soaked in distilled water served as control in case of both the mutagenic treatments. A detailed account of treatments is tabulated as under.

Mutagens						
Physical (gamma rays)	Chemical (EMS)	Combined treatment				
100 Gy	0.1%	200 Gy + 0.1% EMS				
200 Gy	0.2%	200 Gy + 0.2% EMS				
300 Gy	0.3%	300 Gy + 0.1% EMS				
400 Gy	0.4%	300 Gy + 0.2% EMS				
500 Gy	-	-				

Raising the M₁ generation

To raise the M_1 generation the above treated seeds of each of the treatments were sown during *rabi* 2019-20 at AICRP on Safflower, VNMKV, Parbhani by dibbling method with a spacing of 45x 20 cm² in simple RBD design with control in three replications. All the recommended agronomical practices and fertilizer dose was given.

The treated seed was space planted in M_1 generation and individual M_1 surviving plants were selfed by nylon nets bags before initiation of flowering. From each plant, first form three capsule was selfed and selfed capsule of an individual was threshed and seeds of each plant were kept separately for raising M_2 generation.

Observation of M1 generation in the field

1. Emergence (%): The emergence of cotyledonary leaves above the ground surface was taken as indication of germination. The observations were recorded after 10th, 12th and 15th days of sowing and were reported in percentage. Emergence percentage was calculated by using the following formula:

Emergence (%) =
$$\frac{\text{Total no. of seeds emerged}}{\text{Total no. of seeds sown}} \times 100$$

2. Plant Survival (%): Seedlings survived on 30th days after sowing were counted. Survival percentage was calculated by using the following formula:

Survival (%) = $\frac{\text{Total no. of seedling survived}}{\text{Total no. of seeds emerged}} \times 100$

3. Pollen sterility (%): Pollen sterility was determined in ten randomly selected plants in each treatment (in each plant five flowers were randomly selected by straining the pollen with 2 percent acetocarmine solution. Pollen grains stained fully were regarded as viable (fertile) while unstained, partially stained and shriveled ones as sterile. The count were converted to percentage and averaged out. The pollen sterility percentage was calculated by using the following formula: No. of unstained/ partially stained/

Pollen sterility % = $\frac{\text{Shriveled ones pollen grains observed}}{\text{Total no. of pollen grains}} X 100$

Result and Discussion

Emergence percentage

The effect of different dosages of gamma rays, ethyl methane sulphonate (EMS) and their combinations on seed emergence in PBNS-12 variety of Safflower were studied during M_1 generation and obtained results are presented in Table 1.

The results revealed the significant effects of different dosages of mutagen on seed emergence for all the mutagens tested. The seed emergence percentage of PBNS-12 was reduced in all the mutagenic treatments as compared to control. The highest emergence percentage (83.4%) was observed in 0.1% EMS concentration followed by 100 Gy (80.4%) dose of gamma rays treatment. The maximum reduction of seed emergence per cent was observed in 500 Gy dose of gamma rays followed by 300Gy +0.2% EMS dose of combination treatment. The lowest emergence percentage (17.6%) was recorded at 500 Gy dose of gamma rays followed by 300 Gy + 0.2% EMS (29.6%) dose of combination treatment.

Inhibition of emergence is taken as an indication of degree of radio sensitivity and the extent of genetic as well as physiological damage caused by the mutagen. In the present investigation the seed emergence rate decreased with increased in doses/ concentrations both in physical and chemical mutagenic treatments. Similar types of results have been reported by Boureima *et. al.* (2009)^[2] in African sesame, Kharade *et. al.* (2016)^[8] in groundnut, Kumari *et. al.* (2016)^[10] in sesame, Bhoite *et. al.* (2019)^[11] in soybean, Sandhiya *et. al.* (2020)^[16] in sesame and Emrani *et. al.* (2011)^[5] in *B. napus.*

Plant survival percentage

Observations on survival percent was made on 30 days after sowing. The number of plants survived of variety PBNS-12 in M_1 generation was recorded and converted to percentage. The plant survival percentage has been presented in Table 1. The plant survival percentage of PBNS-12 was reduced in all the mutagenic treatment as compared to control. The maximum plant survival 78.15% was recorded at 100 Gy dose of gamma rays followed by 0.1% EMS (75.30%) and 200 Gy +0.1% EMS (74%) doses/ concentrations of mutagenic treatments.

The maximum reduction of plant survival percentage was recorded in gamma rays followed by combination and EMS treatments respectively.

The lowest plant survival percentage (1%) was recorded at 500 Gy dose of gamma rays followed by 300 Gy+ 0.2% EMS (14.55%), 0.4% EMS (24.45%) and 200 Gy+ 0.2% EMS (30.67%) doses/ concentrations of mutagenic treatments. In the present investigation the plant survival rate decreased with an increase in doses /concentrations of both physical and chemical and their combinations mutagenic treatments over control in M₁ generation. Similar types of results have been reported by Boureima *et. al.* (2009) ^[2] in African sesame, Satpute and kothekar (1996) ^[18] in safflower, Bhoite *et. al.* (2019) ^[1] in soybean, Singh *et. al.* (2018) ^[19] in sesame, Kumar *et. al.* (2010) ^[9] in sunflower and Diouf *et. al.* (2010) ^[4] in sesame.

Pollen Sterility percentage

The effect of different dosages of gamma rays, ethyl methane sulphonate (EMS) and their combinations on pollen fertility in PBNS-12 variety of Safflower were studied during M_1 generations and obtained pollen sterility percentage results are presented in Table 1.

In the present study, the pollen sterility percentage of PBNS-12 was increased in all the mutagenic treatment as compared to control. Similaraly, Deshpande and Malode (2015) reported that the pollen fertility percentage was decreased in all the mutagenic treatments over control in Linseed. The maximum pollen sterility percentage (4.97%) was recorded at 300 Gy + 0.2% EMS dose of combination treatment followed by 400 Gy (4.72%), 300 Gy + 0.1% EMS (4.64%) and 0.4% EMS

(4.49%) doses/concentrations of mutagenic treatments.

In the present investigation, it was observed that the pollen sterility rate increased with an increase in dose /concentrations of both physical and chemical and their combinations mutagenic treatments in M_1 generation. Singh *et. al.* (2018) ^[19] reported that the pollen fertility percent was decreased with the increasing dose of gamma rays singally and in combination treatments in sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.). Also the results are in agreement with the work done by kumari *et. al.* (2016) ^[10] in sesame, Saha and Paul (2017) in sesame, Kumar *et.al.* (2010) ^[9] in sunflower, Rampure *et. al.* (2017) ^[14] in safflower and Kavithamani *et. al.* (2008) ^[7] in soybean.

Table 1: Effect of different mutagens on emergence	e, plant survival and pollen ste	erility in M ₁ generation of sat	fflower variety PBNS-12

Sr. No.	Treatments	Emergence %	Plant Survival%	Pollen sterility %
1	100 Gy	80.40	78.15	2.45
2	200 Gy	70.40	69.23	2.70
3	300 Gy	68.20	65.06	3.71
4	400 Gy	62.80	60.86	4.72
5	500 Gy	17.60	01.00	-
6	0.1% EMS	83.40	75.30	2.54
7	0.2% EMS	73.60	72.41	3.45
8	0.3% EMS	65.20	49.61	3.92
9	0.4% EMS	61.60	24.45	4.49
10	200 Gy + 0.1% EMS	78.80	74.00	3.39
11	200 Gy + 0.2% EMS	59.60	30.67	3.65
12	300 Gy + 0.1% EMS	63.30	54.38	4.64
13	300 Gy + 0.2% EMS	29.60	14.55	4.97
14	Dry Control	90.40	89.13	0.35
15	Wet Control	88.40	87.95	0.29

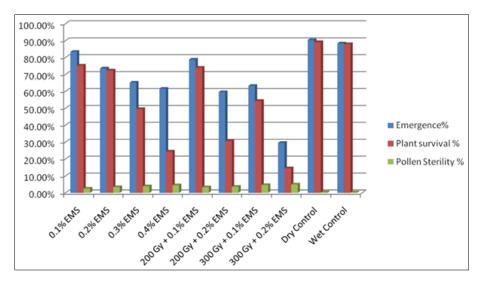


Fig 1: Effect of different mutagens on emergence, plant survival and pollen sterility in M1 generation of safflower variety PBNS-12

Conclusion

It was concluded from the present study that the seed emergence percent, plant survival percent and pollen fertility was decreased with an increase in dose/concentrations of both physical, chemical and their combinations mutagenic treatments over control in M_1 generation.

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