



ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2022; 11(8): 1290-1293
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www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 05-05-2022

Accepted: 12-06-2022

P Trinadh

PG Scholar, Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

K Usha Kumari

Assistant Professor, Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

K Uma Jyothi

Dean of PG Studies, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

RV Sujatha

Associate Professor, Department of Genetics and plant breeding, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

M Paratpara Rao

Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural economics, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

V Sekhar

Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:

P Trinadh

PG Scholar, Department of Vegetable Science, College of Horticulture, Dr. YSR Horticultural University, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India

Effect of foliar application of growth regulators and micronutrients on growth, reproductive yield and yield attributes of ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis* L.)

P Trinadh, K Usha Kumari, K Uma Jyothi, RV Sujatha, M Paratpara Rao and V Sekhar

Abstract

A field experiment was carried out during *Rabi* season, 2021-2022, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh. The experiment was laid out in Factorial Randomized Block Design with single control in three replications. The first factor consists of six levels of growth regulators *viz.*, GA₃ 100 ppm (G₁), GA₃ 150 ppm (G₂), Naphthalene acetic acid 100 ppm (G₃), Naphthalene acetic acid 200 ppm (G₄), Ethrel 50 ppm (G₅), Ethrel 100 ppm (G₆) and the second factor consists of four levels of micronutrients *viz.*, ZnSO₄ 100 ppm (M₁), ZnSO₄ 200 ppm (M₂), Boron 100 ppm (M₃), Boron 200 ppm (M₄). Foliar application of GA₃ 100 ppm (G₁) had recorded the maximum values for growth and yield parameters. Ethrel 100 ppm had recorded the best values for reproductive parameters. In case of micronutrients, Boron 200 ppm (M₄) reported the maximum values for growth, reproductive and yield parameters. Among the treatment combinations, G₁M₄ - (GA₃ 100 ppm + Boron 200 ppm) found to be superior over other treatments.

Keywords: Ivy gourd, growth regulators, micro nutrients, GA₃ boron

Introduction

Ivy gourd (*Coccinia grandis* L.) is one of the cucurbitaceous vegetables grown in India. It belongs to family Cucurbitaceae and has chromosome number 2n = 24, native to India. The name coccinia is derived from the latin word *coccineous*, meaning scarlet color in their ripe fruits (Wanger *et al.*, 1999). It is also known as Indian gourd, dondakaya (Telugu), tondali (Hindi), kovaikkai (Tamil), Tondekai (Kannada), little gourd (English), scarlet gourd, bimba (Wasantwisut and Viriyapanich, 2003; Chun 200). The genus *Coccinia* has nearly 30 species confined to Tropical Africa but only one species *Coccinia grandis* (Syn. *Coccinia indica*) is extensively cultivated in India, Myanmar, Srilanka and Malaysia. In India, this is widely grown in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal.

The fruits of ivy gourd are good source of carbohydrates, protein and vitamin A and C. Fruits contain 92.3% water, 2% protein, 0.3% fat, 0.5% mineral matter, 3% fiber, 1.9% carbohydrates, 0.04% phosphorus and rich in minerals. The green immature fruits are used to prepare an array of delicious dishes like stir fries, stuffed curries, stews, pickles and salads whereas, leaves and stems are usually added to clear soup dishes. The tender shoots of the plant are used as pot herb. Root, stem, leaves are used to cure skin disease, bronchitis and diabetes. The various parts of the plants are used in the indigenous system of medicine in both ayurvedic and unani practices (Wasantwisut and Viriyapanich, 2003). In addition to that, the plant has been very popularly used since ancient times as an antidiabetic drug by physicians who practice ayurveda (Rebecca *et al.*, 2008).

Ivy gourd is a perennial, dieocious which male and female flowers grow separately, but can set fruits parthenocarpically. It is a climbing vine that may spread with support of a tree, shrub, fence or any supports. It is sensitive to shade and water logging condition. Ivy gourd produces profuse branching with tuberous roots, tendril simple and bifid. Ivy gourd is a dioecious plant, it can be propagated by seeds, stem cuttings and tuberous roots. But seed propagation is not in vogue due to its dioecious nature. In Andhra Pradesh ivy gourd is extensively cultivated in Godavari zone and has good commercial importance.

The availability of scientific literature for improvement of productivity of ivy gourd through application of growth regulators and micronutrients is very meager even though the crop had

high demand with lot of nutritional values. Hence the present investigation was aimed to know the influence of growth regulators and micronutrients on growth, reproductive and yield parameters of ivy gourd.

Material and Methods

A research trial was taken up during *Rabi* season of 2021-2022 at farmer field, Venkataramannagudem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. The experiment was laid out in Factorial randomized Block Design (FRBD) with single control in three replications in which the treatments comprised of two levels of GA₃ (100 and 150 ppm), NAA (100 and 200 ppm), Ethrel (50 and 100 ppm) and two levels of micronutrients *i.e* ZnSO₄ (100 and 200 ppm) and Boron (100 and 200 ppm) The experimental site was well prepared, cultural practices include training, pruning, weeding, irrigation, fertilizer application and plant protection measures were followed for the healthy growth of crop. The growth regulators, micronutrients and water as control were sprayed at 30, 45, 60 and 75 DAP. Data on growth, reproductive, yield and yield attributes were collected from five randomly selected plants from each treatment in each plot at appropriate stages.

Results and Discussion

The data on vegetative, reproductive and yield parameters are presented in Table showed that application of growth regulators and micronutrients significantly influence the growth and yield parameters of ivy gourd. In case of growth regulators GA₃ 100 ppm (G₁) recorded significantly the highest vine length (352.31 cm), number of nodes (40.52), internodal length (9.07 cm), number of primary branches (5.73), number of fruits per vine (448), fruit length (7.63 cm), fruit diameter (2.30 cm), fruit weight (15.45 g), yield per vine (6.92 kg) and yield per hectare (346.13 q). The increase in growth and yield characters in GA₃ treated plots might be due to its involvement in the process of cell division and cell elongation, thus might have helped in increasing the growth attributes of the plant. GA₃ also involves in accumulation of carbohydrates as the result of photosynthesis and efficient translocation of food reserves from source to sink resulting in increased yield and yield contributing characters. (Hussaini and Babu, 2004) [1]. These results are in conformity with the findings of Muhammad *et al.* (2013) [3] in bitter gourd,

Kumari *et al.* (2017) [2] in bottle gourd, Garg *et al.* (2020) in cucumber.

In case of micronutrients application, the maximum vine length (329.68 cm), number of nodes (38.73), internodal length (8.70 cm), number of primary branches (4.27), number of fruits per vine (427.50), fruit length (7.46 cm), fruit diameter (2.18 cm), fruit weight (15.17 g), yield per vine (6.35 kg) and yield per hectare (317.67 q) were recorded in treatment M₄ (Boron 200 ppm). This might be due to fact that Boron involve in protein metabolism, pectin synthesis, maintain correct water balance in the plant which might help in efficient absorption of nutrients from soil. These results are in accordance with Baraskar *et al.* (2018) [4] in okra. Sanjay *et al.* (2019) [5] in chilli.

Interaction between growth regulators and micronutrients spray was found significant with respect to growth and yield parameters. The treatment combination G₁M₄ (GA₃ 100 ppm + Boron 200 ppm) recorded the highest vine length (363.40 cm), number of nodes (44.89), internodal length (9.86 cm), number of primary branches (6.50), number of fruits per vine (473), fruit length (7.80 cm), fruit diameter (2.48 cm), fruit weight (16.46 g), yield per vine (7.47 kg), and yield per hectare (373.70 q) and highest benefit cost ratio (2.44:1) with gross return of Rs. 6,53,923/- per hectare. This might be due to synergistic influence of both growth regulators and micronutrients resulted in good growth and yield.

The plant growth hormones or regulators are the organic chemical compounds, which modify or regulate physiological processes in an appreciable amount in the plant when they are applied in minute quantities. Plant growth regulators are readily absorbed and move rapidly through the tissues, when applied to different plant parts and are specific in their action. The plant growth regulators improving physiological efficiency of the crops and greatly help in improvement of growth, yield and quality. Micronutrients are equally play an important role in plant growth equal to macronutrients. They perform specific functions which are much required for the development of plants. Which involved in many physiological functions and activates enzymes that are responsible for the synthesis of certain proteins, cellular functions in plants. As per the study revealed that, growth regulators and micronutrients showed positive impact on improving the growth and yield parameters.

Table 1: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on vine length, number of primary branches at 75 DAP

Growth regulators (G)	Vine length (cm) at 75 DAP					Number of primary branches at 75 DAP					
	Micronutrients (M)					Micronutrients (M)					
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	
G ₁	347.04	348.07	350.72	363.40	352.31	5.02	5.37	6.02	6.50	5.73	
G ₂	350.33	349.51	349.67	350.10	349.90	4.56	4.87	5.41	5.86	5.18	
G ₃	304.53	311.34	327.86	330.50	318.56	1.20	1.28	2.08	2.12	1.67	
G ₄	310.08	331.20	325.28	332.15	324.68	1.55	1.98	2.20	2.87	2.15	
G ₅	275.65	273.94	290.83	310.08	287.62	3.19	3.30	4.09	4.82	3.85	
G ₆	273.15	276.76	294.09	291.85	284.96	3.06	2.98	3.32	3.45	3.20	
Mean	310.13	315.14	323.07	329.68		3.10	3.30	3.85	4.27		
Control Mean						264.17					
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			
G	1.213		3.449			0.035		0.099			
M	0.990		2.816			0.029		0.081			
G x M	2.426		6.898			0.070		0.199			
Control Vs. Treatments	2.476		7.040			0.071		0.203			

Table 2: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on node at which first female flower appearance, Days taken for 1st female flower appearance

Growth regulators (G)	Node at which first female flower appearance					Days taken for 1 st female flower appearance					
	Micronutrients					Micronutrients (M)					
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	
G ₁	13.10	13.35	13.85	14.02	13.58	55.95	56.13	55.78	53.72	55.39	
G ₂	14.88	14.12	14.20	14.77	14.24	58.23	58.95	57.45	56.75	57.85	
G ₃	12.40	11.60	11.25	10.85	11.53	49.88	53.52	48.69	48.25	50.09	
G ₄	10.40	10.10	9.85	9.50	9.96	53.65	54.45	53.23	52.77	53.53	
G ₅	9.30	8.80	8.52	8.35	8.74	45.80	45.92	45.75	45.00	45.62	
G ₆	8.10	7.80	7.25	7.00	7.54	44.69	44.85	43.12	38.83	42.87	
Mean	11.36	11.08	11.04	10.94		51.37	52.30	50.67	49.22		
Control Mean						15.34					
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			
G	0.084		0.239			0.357		1.016			
M	0.069		0.195			0.292		0.829			
G x M	0.168		0.477			0.715		2.032			
Control Vs. Treatments	0.171		0.487			0.729		2.074			

Factor 1: Growth regulators

G₁: Gibberellic acid 100 ppm
 G₂: Gibberellic acid 150 ppm
 G₃: Naphthaleneacetic acid 100 ppm
 G₄: Naphthaleneacetic acid 200 ppm
 G₅: Ethrel 50 ppm
 G₆: Ethrel 100 ppm

Factor 2: Micronutrients

M₁: ZnSO₄ 100 ppm
 M₂: ZnSO₄ 200 ppm
 M₃: Boron 100 ppm
 M₄: Boron 200 ppm

Table 3: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on Days taken for 50% flowering, Fruiset percentage (%)

Growth regulators (G)	Days taken for 50% flowering					Fruit set percentage (%)					
	Micronutrients (M)					Micronutrients (M)					
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	
G ₁	59.15	59.33	58.98	58.45	58.98	87.90	84.72	88.12	91.42	89.14	
G ₂	61.43	62.15	60.65	59.95	61.05	84.88	89.12	86.23	89.92	86.43	
G ₃	53.18	54.80	51.99	51.55	52.88	82.22	83.40	87.45	86.90	86.24	
G ₄	56.95	57.75	56.53	56.07	56.83	85.89	87.92	86.45	86.25	86.63	
G ₅	48.00	48.12	47.95	47.20	47.82	85.42	86.56	85.56	90.08	86.90	
G ₆	46.89	47.05	45.32	40.83	45.02	86.50	88.14	88.42	92.88	88.98	
Mean	54.27	54.87	53.57	52.34		85.46	86.64	87.04	91.24		
Control Mean						63.74					
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			
G	0.445		1.265			0.629		1.790			
M	0.363		1.033			0.514		1.461			
G x M	0.890		2.530			1.259		3.580			
Control Vs. Treatments	0.908		2.582			1.285		3.653			

Table 4: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on number of fruits, fruit weight

Growth regulators (G)	Number of fruits					Fruit weight (g)					
	Micronutrients (M)					Micronutrients (M)					
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	
G ₁	433.00	447.00	439.00	473.00	448.00	14.76	14.78	15.80	16.46	15.45	
G ₂	410.00	399.00	407.00	431.00	411.75	14.58	15.38	14.80	14.90	14.91	
G ₃	381.00	383.00	391.00	407.00	390.50	14.18	14.26	14.86	14.95	14.56	
G ₄	389.00	407.00	415.00	431.00	420.00	14.35	14.58	14.90	15.10	14.73	
G ₅	427.00	423.00	428.00	424.00	430.75	14.12	14.25	14.62	14.80	14.45	
G ₆	448.00	467.00	475.00	399.00	433.00	14.05	14.20	14.08	14.83	14.29	
Mean	414.66	421.00	425.83	427.50		14.34	14.58	14.84	15.17		
Control Mean						319.00					
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			
G	3.286		9.345			0.108		0.307			
M	2.683		7.630			0.088		0.250			
G x M	6.573		18.690			0.216		0.613			
Control Vs. Treatments	6.708		19.075			0.220		0.626			

Factor 1: Growth regulators

G₁: Gibberellic acid 100 ppm
 G₂: Gibberellic acid 150 ppm
 G₃: Naphthaleneacetic acid 100 ppm
 G₄: Naphthaleneacetic acid 200 ppm
 G₅: Ethrel 50 ppm
 G₆: Ethrel 100 ppm

Factor 2: Micronutrients

M₁: ZnSO₄ 100 ppm
 M₂: ZnSO₄ 200 ppm
 M₃: Boron 100 ppm
 M₄: Boron 200 ppm

Table 5: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on number of fruit length, fruit diameter

Growth regulators (G)	Fruit length (cm)					Fruit diameter (cm)					
	Micronutrients (M)					Micronutrients (M)					
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	
G ₁	7.64	7.35	7.73	7.8	7.63	2.19	2.20	2.33	2.48	2.30	
G ₂	7.42	7.39	7.44	7.51	7.44	2.10	2.03	2.15	2.30	2.14	
G ₃	6.81	7.1	7.14	7.57	7.16	2.10	2.00	2.03	2.13	2.07	
G ₄	7.34	7.3	7.35	7.38	7.34	2.05	2.11	2.18	2.10	2.11	
G ₅	6.56	7.11	7.14	7.16	6.99	1.90	1.95	2.18	2.01	2.01	
G ₆	6.73	7.21	7.23	7.34	7.13	2.00	2.11	2.00	2.05	2.04	
Mean	7.1	7.24	7.34	7.46		2.06	2.07	2.14	2.18		
Control Mean						6.90					
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			
G	0.045		0.127			0.016		0.046			
M	0.036		0.104			0.013		0.038			
G x M	0.089		0.254			0.033		0.092			
Control Vs. Treatments	0.091		0.259			0.033		0.094			

Table 6: Effect of growth regulators and micronutrients on number of yield per vine, yield per hectare

Growth regulators (G)	Yield per vine (kg)					Yield per hectare (q)				
	Micronutrients (M)					Micronutrients (M)				
	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	Mean
G ₁	6.60	6.49	7.13	7.47	6.92	329.90	324.50	356.40	373.70	346.13
G ₂	5.82	6.26	6.11	6.38	6.14	290.90	312.90	305.50	318.90	307.05
G ₃	5.50	5.70	5.87	6.06	5.78	274.80	285.00	293.70	303.20	289.18
G ₄	6.62	5.91	6.32	6.30	6.07	287.30	295.70	316.00	315.10	303.53
G ₅	5.75	6.08	6.64	5.97	6.16	297.20	303.90	332.20	298.60	307.98
G ₆	5.94	6.77	5.85	5.93	6.29	331.10	338.70	292.30	296.50	314.65
Mean	6.04	6.20	6.32	6.35		301.87	310.12	316.02	317.67	
Control Mean	6.49					227.00				
Factors	S.Em±		C.D (0.05)			S.Em±		C.D (0.05)		
G	0.080		0.227			2.036		5.790		
M	0.065		0.185			1.663		4.728		
G x M	0.160		0.454			4.073		11.580		
Control Vs. Treatments	0.163		0.463			4.157		11.819		

Factor 1: Growth regulators

G₁: Gibberellic acid 100 ppm
 G₂: Gibberellic acid 150 ppm
 G₃: Naphthaleneacetic acid 100 ppm
 G₄: Naphthaleneacetic acid 200 ppm
 G₅: Ethrel 50 ppm
 G₆: Ethrel 100 ppm

Factor 2: Micronutrients

M₁: ZnSO₄ 100 ppm
 M₂: ZnSO₄ 200 ppm
 M₃: Boron 100 ppm
 M₄: Boron 200 ppm

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