

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Effect of neem (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss) leachates on germination and seedling growth of weeds

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INTRODUCTION

Weeds reduce yield and quality of associated crops through interference i.e. competing for resources (water, nutrient, space and light) (8). The -certain weeds release allelochemicals into the environment, which have direct or indirect harmful effects on crop plants (14,16,17). Hence, herbicides are used to control the weeds. The use & herbicides to control weeds is not sustainable over long period of time (13). Although use of herbicides provides effective weed control, but causes environmental pollution and health hazards. Therefore, scientists are emphasizing now to use natural products with herbicidal properties (15). Natural products represent a vast repository of materials and compounds with evolved biological activity, including phytotoxicity. Some of these compounds may be used directly or as templates for herbicides and many individual phytotoxins and crude preparations have weed management potential (4,6,8,12).

Azadirachta indica A. Juss is a store-house of numerous bioactive compounds with a vast array of pesticidal activity. Although numerous reviews and reports are available on the activity of neem against

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