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Influence of paclobutrazol on dry matter production and yield attributes of pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp) under Konkan condition

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted to study the influence of paclobutrazol on physiological aspects of pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp) under konkan conditions during *Kharif* 2015-16 seasons. Plant growth regulators at different concentration were applied through foliar spray at 30, 40 and 60 DAS. The experiment consisted of thirteen treatment laid out in randomized block design with three replications comprising paclobutrazol (50, 75, 100, 125, 150 ppm) treatment imposed at 30, 40 and 60 DAS. Among the treatments soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS recorded significant difference on dry matter production and yield parameter as compared to other treatments. Dry matter accumulation in leaves differed significantly between the treatments at all the stages, except 30DAS. Among the treatments, the dry weight increased with paclobutrazol treatments as compared to control. Yield and yield parameters such as number of pods per plant, weight of pods per plant and 100 grain weights showed significant differences among the treatments at harvest, which were significantly influenced by paclobutrazol treatments. The maximum yield and yield attributes were noticed in soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS. All the paclobutrazol treatments increased the harvest index and yield per ha. Soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS showed maximum harvest index and yield per ha compared to other treatments and control.

Keywords: yield parameters, paclobutrazol, pigeonpea.

Introduction

Pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan*(L.) Millsp) is an important pulse crop of India which is originated in Africa. It is primarily cultivated in semi-arid tropics of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra states. It is a versatile crop and is ideally suited for drought prone areas. India is largest producer of pigeonpea constituting 75 per cent of world production. The production of tur in India is approximately 2.76 million tonnes (Anonymous 2013-14) [1]. Among the several constraints attributed for low yield in pulses, vegetative biomass uncertain with growth habit is considered as one of the major constraints in improving yield. Besides this, there are various constraints in pulses production as indeterminate growth habit, instability in performance, poor response to inputs etc. Particularly in recent year PGR (growth retardants) viz. paclobutrazol is widely tried in improving HI and yield through manipulating the vegetative growth also. Hence the present investigation was carried out with the objective to study the effect of paclobutrazol on dry matter production and yield attribute in pigeonpea.

Material and Methods

The experiment was conducted at the research farm of Department of Agricultural Botany, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra State, during *Kharif* 2015-16 season. The selection of the site was considered on the basis of suitability of the land for cultivation of pigeonpea. The soil of the experimental site was lateritic type. The experimental material for the study consisted of one variety of Pigeonpea i.e. Konkan Tur-1. The seeds of this variety were collected from Research farm, Department of Agril. Botany, College of Agriculture, Dapoli. The experiment comprised of single variety of pigeonpea laid out in randomized block design with three replications, provided with thirteen treatments of single growth retardant i.e. paclobutrazol, at different concentrations. The plot size was 3 × 2.70 m. Seeds of pigeonpea were sown at spacing of 60 cm between rows and 45 cm between

plants. Sowing was done in June, 2015. About 2-3 seeds were dibbled at each hill. To retain only one healthy seedling per hill, thinning was done ten days after sowing. Two weeding's were done at 20 days interval after sowing. For recording the growth observations, five plants were selected randomly in each plot. These five plants were tagged with aluminium foil. The below mentioned observations were recorded at an interval of 30 days starting, from 30 days after sowing and were continued up to harvest.

Results and Discussion

The present investigation was carried out with the central objective to study the effect of paclobutrazol on the dry matter production and yield attribute. The main constraint ascribed for low harvest index in pigeonpea are improper translocation of photo assimilate, reduced availability of photo-assimilates at the time of seed set and excessive vegetative growth, which leads to lower yield. The harvesting index of pigeonpea is estimated upto 20 per cent for Konkan region.

Plant growth regulators are known to regulate metabolism in the plant. Paclobutrazol coded as PP333, is recently introduced among other growth retardants, which counteract the gibberellin biosynthesis. The chemical was first used in England in 1978, followed by different European countries, including U.S.A. in 1982. However, in India, utility of this chemical was first reported on commercial scale for introduction of early and regular cropping in Alphonso mango by Burondkar *et al.* (1991) [3].

Dry Matter Accumulation and Partitioning

Dry matter is the end result of assimilates from source organs via a transport path to the sink organs. The potential growth rate and potential capacity to accumulate assimilates has been shown to be an important parameter that quantitatively reflects the sink strength of an organ (Kashid, 2008) [12].

In present study, dry matter accumulation in the leaf increased up to 150 DAS and slightly declined thereafter till harvest in all the treatments including control. This could be due to the translocation of stored photo-assimilates towards the development of reproductive organs and senescence. In general, the leaf dry weight was significantly higher in T₁₁ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS) due to beneficial effect of the growth retardant paclobutrazol on leaf development. Wasnik and Bagga (1996) [22] reported that the application of mepiquat chloride increased leaf dry weight in chickpea. Similarly, Nakul (2001) [14] reported that leaf dry weight was significantly higher with the application of lihocin (1000 ppm and 500 ppm) in safflower. Also observed significant increase in leaf dry weight with foliar application of paclobutrazol @ 100 ppm in pigeonpea crop by (Sul, 2012) [19].

The stem which is the main translocation organ of the photo-assimilates, has great influence on the production of total dry matter Kashid (2008) [12]. The stem dry weight increased significantly due to application of paclobutrazol. It is further seen from the data that value for these parameter was more in T₁₁ *i.e.* soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50ppm at 40 DAS at 60, 90, and 120 days as compared to control. At harvest, stem dry weight decreased slightly may be due to translocation of photo assimilates towards reproductive parts. Similar observations were also made in chickpea by Prabhakar (2002) [15], who reported increased stem dry weight due to application of lihocin (500 ppm) and mepiquat chloride (500 ppm) as compared to control. Similarly, Hanchinmath (2005) [8] reported that foliar application lihocin (1000 ppm)

and mepiquat chloride (1000 ppm) increased stem dry weight as compared to control in cluster bean.

The data pertaining to total dry weight per plant indicated that, it increased continuously from 30 DAS to harvest. At later stages of the crop growth, the dry matter accumulation followed decreasing trend, which could be attributed to reduce source activity leading to lesser dry matter accumulation in leaf and stem. The application of paclobutrazol significantly increased the TDM and it was found more in T₁₁ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS) and the least TDM was found in T₁₃ *i.e.* control. Jeyakumar and Thangaraj (1996) [10] reported that, application of growth retardant increases RUBP carboxylase enzyme activity, photosynthesis and dry matter partitioning in groundnut. The present data also indicated that the total dry matter was significantly higher in paclobutrazol treatments as compared to control, which could be attributed to higher leaf area, leaf dry weight, stem dry weight that have contributed to higher dry matter accumulation in reproductive parts.

The enhanced dry weight of reproductive parts by growth retardant may be due to increased translocation of assimilates from leaf and stem to the reproductive parts viz. weight of dry pod (97.00 g) T₁₁ over the other treatment. The results of present investigation are in conformity with the results obtained by other workers in various crops viz. Mungbean and chickpea, (Singh *et al.*, 1993 and Braret *et al.*, 1992) [18] Chickpea, (Prabhakar, 2002) [15]; clusterbean; (Hanchinmath 2005) [8]; safflower (Nukul, 2001) and pigeonpea (Sul, 2012) [19] and (Jagadhane, 2014) [9]. Thus, it could be concluded that, the plant growth retardant had exerted profound influence on the production of dry matter. The amount of total dry matter (TDM) produced is an indication of the overall efficiency of the utilization of resources and better light interception.

Yield and Yield Parameters

The yield of crop plants is attributed to total assimilation achieved during the growing season and the way it is partitioned between the desired storage structures and rest of the plant. The growth retardants are capable of redistribution of dry matter in the plant there by bringing about improvement in yield (Chetti, 1991 and Chandrababu *et al.* 1995) [6].

In present study, T₁₁ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS), recorded significantly higher number of pods per plant, weight of pods per plant, 100 seed weight over the control. The increased pod yield per plant may be attributed to corresponding increase in pod weight per plant and 100seed weight. Significant increase in number of pods, number of seeds, seed size and yield per plant in chickpea due to application of cycocel (chlormequat) at 50 per cent flowering stage, was also reported by Arora *et al.* (1998) [2], and in rice reported by Bindu and Sankaran, (1998) [4] whereas Wagale, (2008) [21] found significant increase in yield and yield contributing characters in rice.

The increase in the yield (kg/ ha⁻¹) due to paclobutrazol (T₁₁) could also attributed to higher dry matter production and its distribution to reproductive parts, increased chlorophyll stability index, higher SLW, SLA, number of pods per plant, weight of pods per plant and 100seed weight. This could have been also supported due to its reduction in plant height which was found to be useful in increasing the efficiency of translocation of food material towards seed filling. Thus, yield per hectare found more in T₁₁ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS), similarly harvest index

was highest in T₁₁ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS), followed by T₅ (foliar application of paclobutrazol @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS), T₁₂ (soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS) and T₇ (foliar application of paclobutrazol @ 75 ppm at 30 and 60 DAS). Similar results were also recorded by Koli (2008) [13] who observed maximum yield as compare to control in rice due to application of paclobutrazol at 750 ppm. Sul (2012) [19] also reported increase pod yield with the soil application of paclobutrazol @ 100 ppm in pigeonpea, Setia *et al.* (1995), also observed increased yield with application of paclobutrazol at 5, 10 and 20 g ml⁻¹ concentrations.

Whipker and McCall (2000) [23] also reported increased in bud count in sunflower, due to paclobutrazol drenches CCC @ 2 or 4 mg, per plant. Dambeet *et al.* (2007) reported highest dry pod yield with 1500 ppm concentration registered significantly highest dry pod yield (35.19 q ha⁻¹), kernel yield (26.25 q ha⁻¹) and harvest index (42.60%) over the control in groundnut. Similar result in other pulse crops viz. groundnut with CCC (Kalyankaret *et al.* 2007), in rice with CCC (Wagale *et al.* 2008) [21], lentil with CCC (Setia Neelam, 2009) [16] and in pigeonpea by Sul (2012) [19] and Udensi (2013) [20].

Table 1: Effect of paclobutrazol on mean stem dry weight (g plant⁻¹) at different growth stages in Pigeon pea

Treatments	Mean stem dry weight (g plant ⁻¹)				
	30 (DAS)	60 (DAS)	90 (DAS)	120 (DAS)	At Harvest
T ₁ FA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 30 DAS	3.569	8.068	30.390	41.201	75.03
T ₂ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30 DAS	3.588	8.742	30.470	41.328	76.43
T ₃ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30 DAS	3.479	7.872	30.438	40.104	78.17
T ₄ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30 DAS	3.409	7.506	30.690	38.414	76.93
T ₅ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS	3.550	8.644	31.681	39.849	74.80
T ₆ FA of PBZ @ 50ppm at 30+60 DAS	3.539	9.167	30.129	39.874	72.76
T ₇ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30+60 DAS	3.536	9.022	29.708	41.007	71.98
T ₈ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30+60 DAS	3.514	7.596	31.232	41.384	78.94
T ₉ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30+60 DAS	3.440	8.377	30.356	41.001	77.59
T ₁₀ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30+60 DAS	3.451	8.881	31.046	41.987	74.32
T ₁₁ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS	3.506	9.490	34.533	43.811	80.72
T ₁₂ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS	3.416	9.283	32.597	43.551	80.49
T ₁₃ (Control)	3.528	9.039	27.513	37.030	71.17
MEAN	3.501	8.59	30.82	40.81	76.10
S.E±	0.193	0.163	0.643	0.216	1.381
CD at 5%	NS	0.477	1.878	0.631	4.032

Table 2: Effect of paclobutrazol on mean leaf dry weight (g plant⁻¹) at different growth stages in Pigeonpea

Treatment	Mean leaf dry weight (g plant ⁻¹)				
	30 (DAS)	60 (DAS)	90 (DAS)	120 (DAS)	At Harvest
T ₁ FA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 30 DAS	1.63	3.139	10.174	21.592	8.784
T ₂ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30 DAS	1.65	3.152	10.491	21.584	8.827
T ₃ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30 DAS	1.55	3.144	9.854	22.394	9.814
T ₄ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30 DAS	1.49	3.381	10.878	22.333	9.390
T ₅ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS	1.60	2.923	10.244	22.164	8.766
T ₆ FA of PBZ @ 50ppm at 30+60 DAS	1.59	2.943	10.489	21.228	10.159
T ₇ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30+60 DAS	1.59	2.737	9.798	20.056	9.209
T ₈ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30+60 DAS	1.57	2.828	9.550	21.798	10.169
T ₉ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30+60 DAS	1.51	3.512	9.289	19.954	9.870
T ₁₀ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30+60 DAS	1.55	3.394	10.141	20.819	7.826
T ₁₁ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS	1.57	3.602	11.342	23.537	10.454
T ₁₂ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS	1.50	3.431	11.247	23.229	10.349
T ₁₃ (Control)	1.58	2.732	8.000	17.589	6.691
MEAN	1.56	3.147	10.115	21.406	9.254
S.E±	0.132	0.175	0.202	0.129	0.202
CD at 5%	NS	0.512	0.590	0.377	0.591

Table 3: Effect of paclobutrazol on mean total dry weight (g plant⁻¹) at different growth stages in Pigeonpea

Treatments	Mean total dry weight (g plant ⁻¹)				
	30 (DAS)	60 (DAS)	90 (DAS)	120 (DAS)	At Harvest
T ₁ FA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 30 DAS	4.944	11.496	40.564	62.200	83.813
T ₂ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30 DAS	4.999	11.894	40.961	62.489	85.260
T ₃ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30 DAS	4.806	11.017	40.292	62.729	87.987
T ₄ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30 DAS	4.707	10.887	41.568	61.477	87.280
T ₅ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS	4.944	11.568	41.926	61.309	83.568
T ₆ FA of PBZ @ 50ppm at 30+60 DAS	4.918	12.769	41.376	60.991	88.548
T ₇ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30+60 DAS	4.910	11.870	39.506	60.951	81.192
T ₈ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30+60 DAS	4.820	10.423	40.782	62.992	82.150
T ₉ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30+60 DAS	4.767	11.889	39.644	60.956	87.458

T ₁₀ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30+60 DAS	4.803	12.276	41.187	61.640	84.771
T ₁₁ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS	4.813	12.921	45.876	65.884	90.652
T ₁₂ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS	4.752	12.394	43.086	64.379	89.110
T ₁₃ (Control)	4.821	11.771	35.513	54.997	77.860
MEAN	4.846	11.782	40.944	61.768	85.357
S.E±	0.222	0.263	0.670	0.242	1.381
CD at 5%	NS	0.768	1.957	0.709	4.033

Table 4: Effect of paclobutrazol on yield attributes in Pigeonpea

Treatments	No. of pods per plant	Wt. of pod (gm)	100 grains wt. (gm)
T ₁ FA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 30 DAS	225.67	67.90	8.71
T ₂ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30 DAS	227.33	66.93	8.34
T ₃ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30 DAS	239.00	77.00	9.10
T ₄ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30 DAS	235.33	67.73	8.61
T ₅ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS	255.67	79.17	9.47
T ₆ FA of PBZ @ 50ppm at 30+60 DAS	278.33	77.07	8.89
T ₇ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30+60 DAS	229.33	67.91	8.52
T ₈ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30+60 DAS	234.33	83.05	9.42
T ₉ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30+60 DAS	239.33	81.10	9.22
T ₁₀ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30+60 DAS	244.33	66.97	8.41
T ₁₁ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS	283.67	97.00	9.93
T ₁₂ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS	247.00	91.57	9.62
T ₁₃ (Control)	216.67	62.44	8.20
MEAN	242.76	75.83	8.95
S.E±	0.371	0.239	0.018
CD at 5%	1.084	0.698	0.053

Table 5: Effect of paclobutrazol on Yield/ha (kg) and harvest index (%) attributes in Pigeonpea

Treatments	Yield/ha (Kg)	Harvest index (%)
T ₁ FA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 30 DAS	277.00	23.69
T ₂ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30 DAS	166.17	21.95
T ₃ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30 DAS	294.65	23.79
T ₄ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30 DAS	193.63	21.88
T ₅ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30 DAS	302.39	25.18
T ₆ FA of PBZ @ 50ppm at 30+60 DAS	296.38	24.78
T ₇ FA of PBZ @ 75 ppm at 30+60 DAS	296.71	25.10
T ₈ FA of PBZ @ 100 ppm at 30+60 DAS	302.39	23.61
T ₉ FA of PBZ @ 125 ppm at 30+60 DAS	317.70	24.11
T ₁₀ FA of PBZ @ 150 ppm at 30+60 DAS	289.44	24.32
T ₁₁ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 40 DAS	329.84	25.60
T ₁₂ SA of PBZ @ 50 ppm at 60 DAS	304.12	25.16
T ₁₃ (Control)	106.27	20.96
MEAN	267.43	23.857
S.E±	1.458	0.535
CD at 5%	4.258	1.562

Conclusion

From the present investigations, amongst all paclobutrazol treatments tried, soil application of paclobutrazol @ 50 ppm at 40DAS significantly shortened the growth period and enhanced the dry matter production, yield and yield attributes with maximum harvest index of the pigeonpea crop under Konkan condition. Thus, this study encourages taking up for further research on use of paclobutrazol for boosting up yield in pulse crop like pigeonpea. Hence, this present investigations open wide scope for evaluation of paclobutrazol in pulse crop.

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