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**PHYSIOLOGICAL AND ANATOMICAL
STUDIES ON WATER HYACINTH PLANT.**

By

**AMIRA MAHMOUD ABD EL-MONEEM
HEGAZI**

B.Sc. in Agricultural Science
(Horticulture)

Faculty of Agric., Ain Shams Univ., 1992

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in

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(Plant Physiology)**

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Ain shams University

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✓✓✓
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Approval Sheet

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ABSTRACT

AMIRA MAHMOUD ABD EL-MONEEM HEGAZI.
Physiological and Anatomical Studies on Water Hyacinth
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Water hyacinth plant infesting the River Nile and some water canals in Egypt were subjected to physiological and anatomical studies. The seasonal studies (winter, spring and summer seasons) on this aqueous noxious weed treated with low unharmed doses of 2,4-D (25, 50 and 100 ppm) aimed to gather information on some growth morphological parameters: plant size (water displacement technique), specific weight and buoyancy, leaf number based on plastochronic scale through the different growth seasons. Leaf area (total blade area, mean leaf blade area and green area of inflated stalks) critical developmental studies were performed over new fields through positional sequential studies. Portional studies revealed the priority of leaf blade, than leaf stalk, ending with connecting isthmus. Exo-application of 2,4-D (the growth substance) induced elongation in the sub-bulbous region, proportionable with concentration. High concentration induced senescence of mother plant and new rosette production. Phytomass studies played an important role in growth studies of:

Percentages of: fresh weight, water content, dry weight on the different bases of: TFM, TDM, and PFM. This gave more elucidation to the internal behaviour of growth parameters of the plant portions.

Salinity tolerance studies revealed that concentration of 38912 ppm induced several damage within 24h. The lethal level was between 6.0-8.0% of sea water. In WW (1766.4 ppm) water hyacinth survived without toxicity. Heavy metals studies: there was low accumulation rate in plants kept in SW but was high in WW and NW treatments. Water hyacinth exhibit wide range of tolerance to heavy metals, suggesting biological infiltration.

The need of anatomical information in water hyacinth is a must. The root tip zonation of the fibrous root was: long root cap region, naked

region (free of root hairs), finally the lateral root region. The three regioned cortex has plenty aerenchyma, the xylem is reduced to tracheids. L.S. reveals the columnar root cap with a special collumellogen. Internally the solid structure of the primary meristems is aereated by large lysigenous cavities. The L.S., in a lateral root, discovered that in this early stage of development, the calyptra covers the whole root structure as a socket. The rhizome has the anatomical features of a monocot stele. The outer lining three region cortex had a middle aerating region. The closed vascular bundles are scattered within a compact ground parenchymatous tissue having many ergastic sacs storing raphides and tannins. The leaf stomata prevail more in the upper than the lower epidermal layers. Few cases of sunken guard cells on the upper and raised guard cells on the lower epidermal one. The leaf is isobilateral leaf. The reversed vascular bundles support theory of a false blade (is stalk extension). The spongy tissue has chloro-aerenchyma. The bundle sheath are large parenchyma free of chloroplasts. The bulbous portion of the leaf stalk has large air cavities formed by a special arrangement of vertical cellular portions, with triple joints alternating upwards with special three armed (bricke) cells.

The isthmus connects the blade to the bulbous stalk. The lack of mechanical tough tissue helps much the phototactic response of the region. There was some longitudinal extensional response differing with 2,4-D concentrations.

The leaf stipule is unique lying on the abaxial side. Two epidermal layers enclose one plane of simple vascular bundle embedded in a simple almost one layered mesophyll. No cuticle was detected. Diaphragms are one layered cellular structures having narrow tri or quadri-cellular spaces. They extend within the air channels of stem and leaves may be for regulating internal somatic aereation.

Key words: Water hyacinth - Growth regulators - Morphological and anatomical response.

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CONTENTS

	Page
1-INTRODUCTION.....	1
2-REVIEW OF LITERATURE	
2.1. Physiological studies.....	4
2.2. Developmental studies	5
2.3. Growth regulating studies.....	6
2.4. Heavy metals studies	9
2.5. Salinity studies	10
2.6. Anatomical studies	10
3-MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1. Site of experimentation	22
3.2. Seasonal studies	22
3.3. Experimental procedure	24
3.4. Utilization procedure of 2,4-D	25
3.5. Endohormonal studies	27
3.6. Heavy metals studies	33
3.7. Salinity tolerance	33
3.8. Anatomical studies.....	34
3.9. Statistical analysis	34
4-RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1. Physiological studies	
4.1.1. Exogrowth regulating studies (Seasonal studies)	
4.1.1.1. The plant size	36
4.1.1.2. The Specific Weight and Buoyancy	39
4.1.1.3. The leaf number	42
4.1.1.3.1. Accumulative count studies	43
4.1.1.3.2. Developmental leaf number	45
4.1.1.3.3. The plastochron studies	54

. Seasonal performance	54
. Plastochron age	56
. Plastochron period	57
4.1.1.4. The leaf area	60
4.1.1.4.1. Total leaf blade area	60
4.1.1.4.2. The mean leaf blade area /plant	62
4.1.1.4.3. Green area of inflated leaf stalk..	64
4.1.2. Developmental studies	
4.1.2.1. The lengths of leaf portions in the total sequential leaves	66
4.1.2.2. Extra elongation of the leaf stalks	70
4.1.2.3. The isthmus in the leaves of S3	74
-Description of isthmus	74
-Growth studies	76
-Sequential response to 2,4-D application.....	80
-Mode of growth in the isthmus	82
-Marking technique	82
-Activity in sequential leaves	83
4.1.2.4. Variation in the developmental activities of TFM with 2,4-D treatments	87
4.1.3. Phytomass studies	92
4.1.3.1. Fresh weight on TFM basis (Total Fresh Mass).....	94
4.1.3.2. Free water content on TFM basis	103
4.1.3.3. Dry weight on TFM basis	111
4.1.3.4. Dry weight on TDM basis (Total Dry Mass)	117
4.1.3.5. Dry weight on PFM basis (Portional Fresh Mass).....	123
4.1.4. Endogenous Phytohormones Studies	
4.1.4.1. Seasonal effect.....	131
4.1.4.2. Different waters effect (NW, WW, SW)	134
4.1.4.3. Effect of 2,4-D.....	137
4.1.5. Salinity tolerance	142
4.1.6. Studies on heavy metals	145

4.2. Anatomical studies	
4.2.1. The plant habit.....	148
4.2.2. Root studies	148
4.2.2.1. Root tip zonation	148
4.2.2.2. Roots anatomy	151
4.2.2.2.1. Primary body of the fibrous root.....	151
4.2.2.2.2. Successive basipetal anatomy	153
4.2.2.2.3. Tissue differentiation of the root tip..	158
4.2.2.2.4. Development of the lateral root	161
4.2.2.2.4.1. Early stages of initiation...	161
4.2.2.2.4.2. Anatomical structure	162
4.2.3. Stem studies.....	165
4.2.3.1. The dermal tissue	165
4.2.3.2. The cortex	165
4.2.3.3. The stele.....	167
4.2.4. leaf studies	171
4.2.4.1. The leaf blade.....	171
4.2.4.1.1. The dermal tissue system.....	171
4.2.4.1.2. The ground tissue system.....	173
4.2.4.1.3. The vascular tissue system...	177
4.2.4.2. The leaf stalk.....	177
4.2.4.2.1. The bulbous portion.....	178
4.2.4.2.2. The isthmus.....	181
4.2.4.3. The stipule.....	186
 5-SUMMARY	187
 6-REFERENCES	197
 7-APPENDIX	206
 8-ARABIC SUMMARY	