

## Investigation of the Allelopathic Potential of *Alhagi Maurorum* on *Pisum Sativum* L.

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### Abstract

The current study evaluate the effect of aqueous extract from the shoot of *Alhagi maurorum* at different rates (0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15 %, w/v) on some physiological parameters of pea. The pot experiment revealed that *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract reduced all growth parameters of pea plant. Also, photosynthesis pigments, insoluble sugars, total carbohydrate, total protein and total phenolics were markedly reduced in response to treatment with aqueous Alhagi extract. On other hand, soluble sugars, soluble protein, proline and flavonoids increased upon treatment with Alhagi maurorum extract.

**Keywords:** Antioxidant enzymes, Flavonoid, Phenolic, Photosynthetic pigments, *Pisum sativum*, Proline.

### 1. Introduction

Plants create massive array of secondary metabolites that escape to the environment and affect the growth and development of neighboring plants and other organisms, a phenomenon known as "allelopathy" [1-2].

Plants can interact chemically together by releasing secondary metabolites (allelochemicals) into the growth environment [3-4]. These chemicals are products of the secondary metabolism and are non-nutritional primary metabolites [5-6] which are not necessary for development and reproduction of the allelopathic organism. The impact of allelochemicals compounds on germination, growth and development of plants is regulated by their complexity, interaction and concentration [7-8].

Allelochemicals are existing in all types of plants and tissues which most of them are totally or partially water-soluble which makes them easier to remove without additional surfactants [9-10], with small molecular weight, existing in different organs of some botanical species [11-12]. Which released in to environment from plant parts by a diversity of mechanisms, including root exudation, leaf leachates and volatilization, or through decomposition of plant remains [11]. Many studies have been generated to determine the inhibitory potential of different allelopathic crops and trees for weed management [13-16], so simply to synthetics herbicides without any remaining or toxic effects [17].

allelochemicals, germination, growth and development may be affected by disruption of numerous physiological processes including photosynthesis, respiration and altered in water status, enzymes activity and hormonal balance. Allelochemicals action on plants many biochemical reactions changed and finally affected on growth of target (receptor) plants [27-28]. In which rate of inhibition of allelochemicals on different plant species dependent on concentration of used plant aqueous extract [29].

[30] showed that by increasing concentrations of aqueous leaf extracts of *Andrographis paniculate* inhibited the seed germination, shoot length, root length and dry weight of wheat seedlings. At higher concentrations of *Calotropis procera* leaf extracts, a significant reduction in the growth of the test plants were recorded[31].

[32] reported that suppress of chlorophylls may decrease the photosynthesis process and substantially decrease all the metabolites such as, total sugars, soluble amino acids and proteins. Allelopathic stress of *Mentha piperita* L residual reduced the amount of chlorophylls and carotenoids in the rice seedlings [33].

Sugar contents formed by the plant during photosynthesis, are an essential component of plant nutrition. [34] observed that the pea seedlings treated with *Hyptissuaveolens* L. leachate led to decrease in the sugar contents when compared with the control plants. Allelopathic treatments led to a significantly decrease in the sugar content of the rice seedlings under highest concentration of *Mentha piperita* L. residual, with maximum 67.97 % in decrease as compared with control [33].

Amino acids are very important compounds in plant which considered as building blocks of proteins, and a variety of other functional compounds, also increase plant defend against pests, diseases and resist stresses [35], proline is one of the metabolic products that frequently accumulate in response to all variety of environmental stresses. [36] for both wheat and pea seedlings, found that different concentrations of *Euphorbia helioscopia* extract significantly increased the accumulation of amino acids. Protein compounds are a macro-molecule that participates in every aspect of plant growth and development. Proteins are involved in processes such as catalyzing chemical reactions (enzymes), facilitating membrane transport, intracellular

structure and energy generating reactions involving electron transport.

[33] reported that, a significant reduction in protein content was recorded in rice seedlings under allelopathic stress caused by *Mentha* residue. The proteins content of *Abelmoschus esculentus* L. was inhibited in all treatments of *Azadirachta indica* L. when compared to control plants [37].

This inhibitory characteristic is intervening with important physiological and metabolic process of plant conducive to shut off. On the other, allelochemicals activation growth and investigation resistance against several abiotic stresses [18] at low concentrations.

Field pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) is one of the oldest domesticated crops cultivated in the world for thousands of years before the tenth and ninth BC [19]. *Pisum sativum* includes both wild species (*P. fulvum* and *P. eratius*) and cultivated species (*P. abyssinicum*) native originally from the Mediterranean region, primarily in the Middle East [20]. Leguminous plants such as peas plants an economic crop, a major source of protein consumed by humans and animals, also necessary for agricultural systems because of their ability to fix nitrogen, thus provides a biological alternative to chemical fertilization [21]. *Alhagi maurorum* plant integratet of family leguminasae and native to north africa, the middle east and south east europe [22]. Moreover, *A. maurorum* distributed and appeared to have wide ecological extent in Egypt, it noted from Nile region, oasis, Mediterranean region, Eastern and Western Desert, Red sea Coast and Sinai, also in Saudi Arabia deserts [23]. *Alhagi* species contains many active constituents such as flavonoids, fatty acids, coumarins, sterols, vitamins, and alkaloids [24]. Phytochemical studies on *A. maurorum* show carbohydrates, tannins, unsaturated sterols, triterpenes, flavonoids, and flavanone glycosides [25]. [26] argued that the mixture of phenolic compounds was less inhibitory than individual phenolic compounds.

Phenolic compounds are considered as one of the biggest and widely dispersed groups of secondary metabolites in plants [38]. Biogenetically, phenolic compounds progress of two metabolic pathways: the shikimic acid pathway where, mainly, phenyl propanoids are formed and the acetic acid pathway, in which the main products are the simple phenol [39]. Most plants phenolic compounds are created through the phenyl propanoid pathway [40]. The fusion of both pathways leads to the making of flavonoids, the most abundant group of phenolic compounds in nature [39].

Flavonoid compounds are low molecular weight secondary metabolites that are produced by plants, with over 10,000 structural variants now reported [41-42]. their synthesis appears to be ubiquitous in plants and evolved early during land

plant evolution, aiding in plant protection and signaling [43-44]. Due to their physical and biochemical properties, flavonoids also are able to interact with many diverse targets in subcellular locations to elicit various activities in microbes, plants and animals [45-46]. They also play important roles in modulating the levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in plant tissues [47], and provide coloring to various tissues including flowers [48].

There is convincing evidence that allelopathic interaction between plants play a crucial role in natural as well as in manipulated ecosystems [49]. Studies of these interactions, especially those in natural ecosystem, provided the basic data for the science of allelopathy [50]. These data were eventually applied to understand the problems of plant-plant interaction and to exploit these improving the production of ecosystem, plant-plant interactions will be considered two main factors are complicated in this interaction: donor plant, which creates and emission the allelochemicals, and the extradite plant that is somehow critical to it. The main purposes of research on allelopathy include the application of the observed allelopathic effects to agricultural production, reduction of the input of chemical pesticides and consequent environmental pollution, and provision of effective methods for the sustainable development of agricultural production and ecological systems [51]. The technological advances made in allelopathy research in recent years have been created, analyzed, and developed by scientific establishments throughout the world, they present exciting and intellectually challenging problems which are solvable using modern techniques [52].

## 2. Materials and methods

The present work was conducted to evaluate the effect of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract upon growth and some metabolic activities in pure strain of pea (*Pisum sativum* L.).

### 2.1 Plant materials

Pea seeds (*Pisum sativum* L.) was kindly obtained from the Agricultural Research center, Ministry of Agriculture, Giza, Egypt. Wild plants as *Alhagi maurorum* was collected from the field in EL Qalyubiyah, Egypt). Take only shoot system of *A. maurorum* plant in which oven dried at 50 ° C after 10 days for constant weight, the plant shoot grounded to very fine powder in mixer and stored in glass jars until use.

### 2.2 Preparation of shoot extract

The shoot extract from the collected shoot of *Alhagi maurorum* was prepared by using powder form which refluxed in 70% alcohol (methanol) for 24 hours at room temperature. After reflux, the solution was filtered through Whatman filter paper No. 1 and the collected solution evaporated to

dryness at 50°C to recover dry powder, then completed to 100 ml distilled water, which was stored at 4°C till further use.

### 2.3 Greenhouse pot experiment

The pot experiment was carried out under natural conditions, in greenhouse of Botany Department, Faculty of science, Benha University.

Plastic pots (25 cm diameter X 30 cm depth) were filled with 10 Kg of a mixture of clay/sand (1:1, w/w). Calcium superphosphate (15.5 % P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and potassium sulphate (48 % K<sub>2</sub>O) as a source of phosphorus and potassium fertilization were added before sowing at a rate of 6.0 and 3.0 g/pot respectively. The pots were divided into 5 groups including the control and 4 concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15%, w/v). Each treatment has five replicates. Seeds of pea under investigation were surface sterilized with 1 % of sodium hypo-chloride for 5 min and washed thoroughly with several changes of sterile distilled water. They were then soaked overnight (12 hours) in either (i) distilled water or (ii) crude extract of *Alhagi maurorum* (0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15%, w/v). Ten seeds of each treatment were sown in each pot at 3 cm depths. After emergence, the seedlings were thinned to five healthy seedlings per pot. Pots were maintained in a greenhouse under natural conditions. Plant irrigated with tap water as needed to maintain an optimal soil moisture regime throughout the experiment.

### 2.4 Growth parameters

Growth measurements were carried out after 45-day of sowing. This period considered half for the cultivation of peas. At the end of period, five pots of each group were harvested, and their roots were washed thoroughly with running water to remove adhering soil particles. The plants were cut into roots, stems, leaves. The lengths of randomly roots, stems (cm/plant), as well as the number of leaves per plant and leaf area (cm<sup>2</sup>/plant) were measured. The fresh weight of root, stem and pods (g/plant) of pea were measured. After that, all samples were dried in an oven at 70°C to constant weight for dry weight (g/plant) and water content of both root and stem were measured at this period the dry tissues of pea plant organs were grounded into fine powder and kept under dry conditions for biochemical analyses.

### 2.5 Metabolic activities

#### 2.5.1 Extraction and determination of photosynthetic pigments

Total photosynthetic pigments were extracted and determination according to the method described by [53]. The absorbance measurements

were carried out on Perkin-Elmer spectrophotometer (Model 200-20 Double Beam) at wavelength 440.5, 644 and 662 nm.

The contents of chl a and chl b, as well as carotenoids respectively, were calculated using the following Equations for 100% acetone the formula adapted by [54]:

$$\text{Chlorophyll a} = 9.78 \times E_{662} - 0.99 \times E_{644} \quad \mu\text{g/ml}$$

$$\text{Chlorophyll b} = 21.4 \times E_{644} - 4.65 \times E_{662} \quad \mu\text{g/ml}$$

$$\text{Chlorophyll (a+b)} = 5.13 \times E_{662} + 20.41 \times E_{644} \quad \mu\text{g/ml}$$

$$\text{Carotenoids} = 4.69 \times E_{440.5} - 0.268 (\text{chl a} + \text{chl b}) \quad \mu\text{g/ml}$$

Where: E is the reading of the optical density at given wave length.

The concentrations of pigments were then expressed in mg/gm fresh weight. The results obtained from the above equations were expressed as  $\mu\text{g pigment ml}^{-1}$  extract, then calculated as mg pigment g<sup>-1</sup> fresh weight.

#### 2.5.2 Extraction and estimation of carbohydrates

Total water-soluble sugars were extracted by according to the method outlined by [55]. Reducing value of each sugar extract was determined according to the method adopted by [56]. The content of reducing sugar was determined from glucose standard curve and then calculated as mg sugar g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight. The non-reducing sugars were determined according to the method obtained by [57]. One milliliter of each sugar extract was hydrolyzed by 1ml of 7N HCl and heated in a boiling water bath for 15 min, cooled under running water. Neutralized by 1ml of 10 N NaOH and finally completed up to known volume of distilled water. Whereas the insoluble carbohydrates in the remaining dry residue were hydrolyzed with 0.2N H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in boiling water bath for one hour, cooled under running water and centrifuged at 5000 g for 15 min then the supernatant was completed up to known volume of distilled water [58]. The reducing values of the hydrolyzed samples were measured by Nelson's reaction.

#### 2.5.3 Extraction and determination of protein

Extraction of water soluble and insoluble proteins was carried out according to the method described by [59]. Protein determination was carried out according to the modified Folin-Lowry method adopted by [60]. The concentration of protein was determined using bovine serum albumin standard curve, then expressed as mg g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight.

### 2.5.4 Extraction and determination of proline

Free proline was determined according to [61]. The absorbance was recorded at 520 nm using toluene as a blank. The proline concentration was determined using a standard curve and calculated on a dry matter basis as mg proline 100 g<sup>-1</sup> dry matter.

### 2.5.5 Extraction and determination of phenolic compounds

Phenolic compounds were extracted according to the method outlined by [62]. The Folin-Ciocalteu phenol method [63] was used for phenolic aglycone determination. One ml of phenolic extract was mixed with one ml of 10 % Folin-Ciocalteu phenol reagent and one ml of 20 % anhydrous sodium carbonate, and then completed up to a known volume with distilled water. The absorbance of blue colour was measured after 30 minutes at wavelength 650 nm against a water reagent blank. The phenolic content was obtained from the standard curve of catechol, and then calculated as mg phenolic g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight. Subtraction of phenolic content after and before acid hydrolysis gave the content of phenolic glycosides.

### 2.5.6 Extraction and determination of flavonoids

Total flavonoid content was measured using aluminum chloride colorimetric assay [64]. The absorbance was measured immediately at 510 nm and the concentration of total flavonoids was calculated using standard curve of myricetin, then expressed as mg g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight.

On other hand, the treatments 0.01, 0.05 and 0.10 % (w/v) of the *A. maurorum* aqueous extract caused a significant decrease in root length estimated by 20.15 %, 43.28 % and 52.08 % respectively to control pea plants.

On the other hand, fresh and dry weights of root of pea plants also showed a marked reduction at different concentration of *Alhagi* shoot extract. The maximum reduction in fresh and dry weights of root were shown in plant treated with 0.10 and 0.15 % (w/v) *Alhagi* aqueous extract as their values were estimated by 61.66 % and 65 % in root dry weight and 56.94 % and 70.83 % in root fresh weight respectively as a compared to control plants.

Moreover, the results Data expressed in Fig (3) revealed that, treatment with different concentration of *A. maurorum* reduce number of leaves per plant, area of leaves per plant, fresh and dry weight of pods. The maximum reduction recorded at 0.15 % (w/v) of *Alhagi* aqueous extract, whereas number of leaves and leaf area decreased about 14 and 86 % respectively, as compared with untreated control plants. On the other hand, fresh and dry weight of pods decreased as compared with non-treated plant. The highest concentration of *Alhagi* aqueous extract 0.15 % (w/v) suppress all growth criteria in pisum

plants as compared with the non-treated plant. Generally, the effect of phenolic compounds on germination and early seedling growth may be stimulatory or inhibitory depending on the compound utilized, concentration, and the test plant [65].

[31] showed that root and shoot lengths of the test species affected by allelopathic stress caused by *Calotropis procera* leaf extracts and at higher concentrations of leaf extracts, a significant reduction in the fresh and dry weight of the test species was recorded except a cucumber which exhibited non-significant increase in its fresh and dry weight. Reduction in most vegetative growth parameters could be due to the reduction in the cell size which might be attributed to changes in osmotic cell enlargement dependent on solute accumulation, i.e., due to drastic changes in ion relationship [66].

## 3.1 Metabolic activities

The biochemical changes in pea plants, in response to the different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract were analyzed at the 45-day-old pea plants.

### 3.1.1 Photosynthetic pigment content

Data represented in Fig (4) revealed that, chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, chlorophyll a+b, carotenoids and total pigment contents were significantly reduced by increasing the applied concentration of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract level up to 0.15 % (w/v) as compared with untreated control plants.

### 3.1.2 Statical analysis

All experiments were conducted in a completely repeated and randomized design. The computer program SPSS (version 18) was used for statistical analyses of studied parameters. All the data are presented as mean ± SE and subjected to analysis by one-way ANOVA followed by Duncan's multiple range test at P<0.05. Where needed, data were transformed by log (x+1) before statistical analysis.

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1 Growth parameters

The changes in Growth parameters of 45-day-old *Pisum sativum* plants in response to different concentrations of *A. maurorum* aqueous extract at the rates: (0.01, 0.05, 0.10 or 0.15%; w/v) are given in Fig (1). The obtained results show that the measured growth parameters; shoot length, fresh and dry weights significantly decreased by increasing *A. maurorum* aqueous extract level, the maximum reduction was observed in the plant subjected to 0.15 % *Alhagi* concentration, as their values were estimated 57.21 % in shoot length,

70.73 % in fresh weight and 93.18 % in dry weight as compared with the un treated control plants. Also, results shown in Fig (2) revealed that the root parameters; root length, fresh and dry weights of roots of treated pea plants subjected to various levels of *A. maurorum* aqueous extract were significantly reduced as compared with control plants. The highest inhibitory effect of *A. maurorum* aqueous extract was recorded in plant treated with 0.15 % (w/v) where the rate of decreased was 71.56 % in root length as a compared to untreated pea plants.

The highest inhibitory effect of *Alhagi* on all photosynthetic pigments chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, chlorophyll a+b and carotenoids and hence total pigments were recorded in plant subjected to 0.15 % (w/v) *Alhagi* aqueous extract and as estimated by 58 %, 83.33 %, 66.9% and 56.72 % respectively, as compared with control plants. Our results showed that the decrease in chlorophyll b was more pronounced in than chlorophyll a, that in turn affect the Chl a+b ratio. Similarly, the carotenoids content was negatively affected as both Chl a and Chl b. In the present work, the reduction in total photosynthetic pigments in the pea leaf relative to control plant may be due to the accumulation of phenolic aglycone fraction that could interfere with the chlorophylls and carotenoids biosynthesis or their degradation [67]. On other hand, reduction of these pigments because of increasing in the leaf resistances to CO<sub>2</sub> transport when the plant put under biotic or abiotic stresses [68].

#### 4.1.1 Carbohydrate content

The pattern of changes in the amount of various carbohydrate fractions in the shoots of 45-day-old pea plant treated with different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract were shown in The d Data clearly in Fig (5) show that by increasing the concentration of *Alhagi* up to 0.15 % (w/v) lead to very little drop rate is almost negligible in total carbohydrates content to about 4.53 %, relative to the non- treated plant. This response was mainly due to a significant increase in soluble sugars contents over the control plants. In which amount of increasing in soluble sugars in treated pea plant under different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract 0.01, 0.05, 0.10 and 0.15 % (w/v) were 10.30, 15.88, 22.47 and 30.93 % respectively, as compared with control plants. On the other hand, the insoluble sugar contents markedly decreased by raising *Alhagi* aqueous extract concentrations. The maximum inhibition in insoluble sugar was 37.71 and 45.58 % at both 0.10 and 0.15 % (w/v) from *Alhagi* aqueous extract as compared with untreated plants. Decreasing in total carbohydrates reflect another reason for inhibition photosynthesis pigment in pea plants. [69-70] supported our result who reported

that, reduction in sugar content under osmotic stress may be lead to decrease of photosynthesis and photo assimilates in the aerial parts.

#### 4.1.2 Protein and proline contents

Data represented in Fig (6) clearly demonstrated that *A. maurorum* aqueous extract influences the protein content of *Pisum sativum* shoots. T the amount of total protein significantly decreased by raising *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract up to 0.15 % (w/v) that reached to 8.95 % as compared to their respective control. In which 0.01 % (w/v) from *Alhagi* aqueous extract has a slight undetectable decrease on pea plants the amount of decreasing was 2.19 % relative to those of the control plant. This response mainly due to a significant increase in the soluble protein contents over the control pea plants.

The amount of increasing in the soluble protein of pea plants treated with different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* extract 0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15 % (w/v) calculated by 17.5, 18.47, 28.34 and 33.44 % respectively to control pea plant. On the other hand, Insoluble protien in treated plant decreases by increasing *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract up to 0.15 % (w/v) that reached to 38.29% as compared to their respective non-treated pea plant.

The change in proline content of pea plant in response to treatment with different concentrations of *A. maurorum* aqueous extract is represented The data clearly in Fig (7). showed that a highly significant accumulation of proline under different concentrations of *A. maurorum* aqueous extract as compared to control plants. The maximum value was detected in plants treated with 0.15 % (w/v) *A. maurorum* aqueous extract which was calculated by 137 % as compared with the control plants. These results are in agreement with those obtained by [71] have reported that the leaf litter leachate of *Eucalyptus globulus* decreased the protein content in both root and shoot of finger millet. In addition, [72] demonstrated that free amino acid contents raising during germination because of combined activities of hydrolytic enzymes.

#### 4.1.3 Phenolic content

The data presented in Fig (8) showed that a highly significant increase in the phenolic aglycone content in pea shoots by increasing the *Alhagi* concentrations up to 0.15 % (w/v) that reached 82.97 %. In addition, the phenolic glycoside content was progressively decreased by raising the *Alhagi* concentrations up to 0.15% (w/v), in which reduced by about 93.29 %as compared to their respective control plant. This response reflected a lower significant depression of total phenolic content in pea shoots as compared with control plants, the amount of decreasing in total phenolics due to treatment with *Alhagi maurorum* concentrations

0.01, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15 % (w/v) are 8.1, 15.15, 27.47 and 28.48 % respectively, as compared with control plants. Similar results were also obtained in our earlier research on osmotic stress inhibits the total synthesis of phenolic compounds, it was shown previously in extracts from germinating seeds of *Vitis amurensis*[73].

#### 4.1.4 Flavonoids contents

Total flavonoids showed a marked accumulation in treated pea shoots under response to treatment with *Alhagi* aqueous extract. Our data Fig (9) showed that different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* aqueous extract caused a significant increase by about 50, 162, 281 and 337% for the concentrations 0.01, 0.05, 0.10 and 0.15 % (w/v)

respectively, as compared with their untreated pea plants. This results in agreement with the results obtained by [36] who reported that, total flavonoids showed a marked accumulation in response to treatment with *Euphorbia helioscopia* L. water extract. [74] have reported an up regulation of the flavonoid biosynthetic genes, because of NaCl stress. Moreover, [75] in *Ligustrum vulgare* leaves, as both water stress and sunlight irradiance led to a steep enhancement in the biosynthesis of flavonoids with an orthodihydroxy B-ring substitution. Recently, the enhancement in flavonoid biosynthesis was paralleled with the increase in glutathione-S-transferase, which is involved in the transport of flavonoids to the vacuole [76].

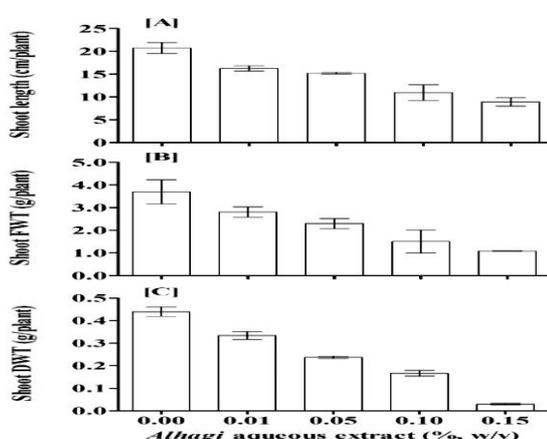


Fig (1) Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon shoot [A] length, [B] fresh weight, [C] dry weight of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.

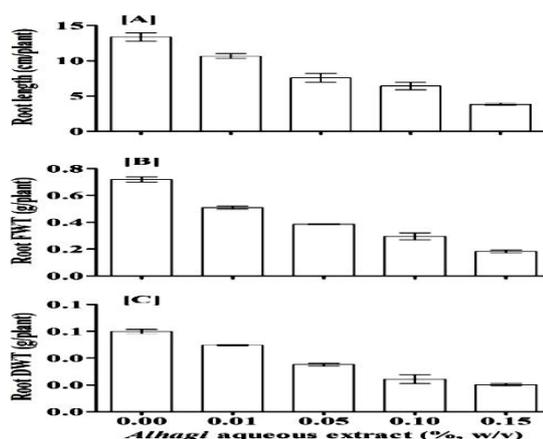


Fig (2) Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon root [A] length, [B] fresh weight, [C] dry weight of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.

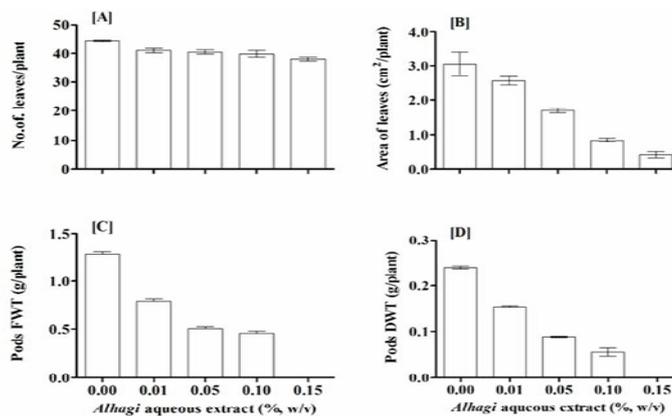


Fig (3) Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon [A] number of leaves, [B] leaf area, [C] pods fresh weight, [D] pods dry weight of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean ±SE, n=5.

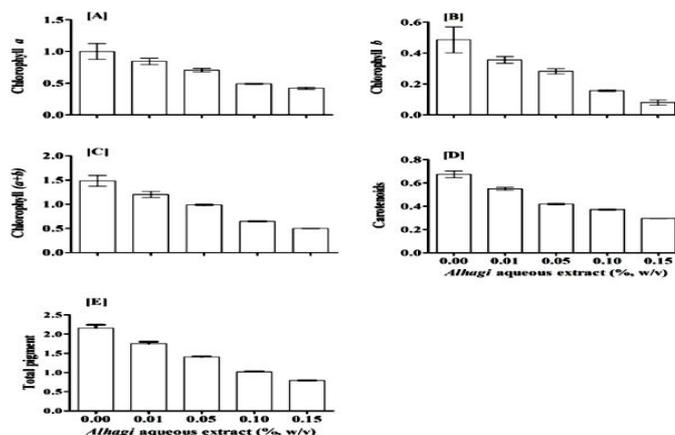
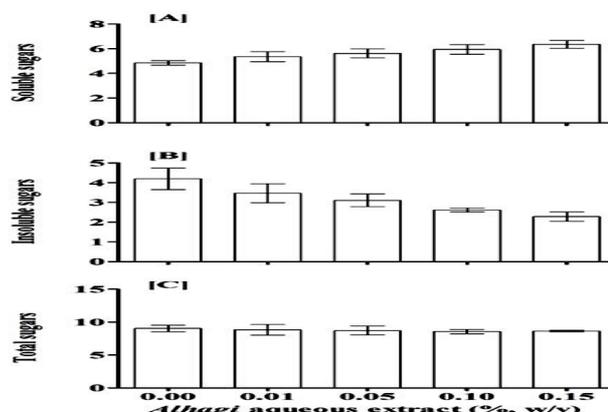
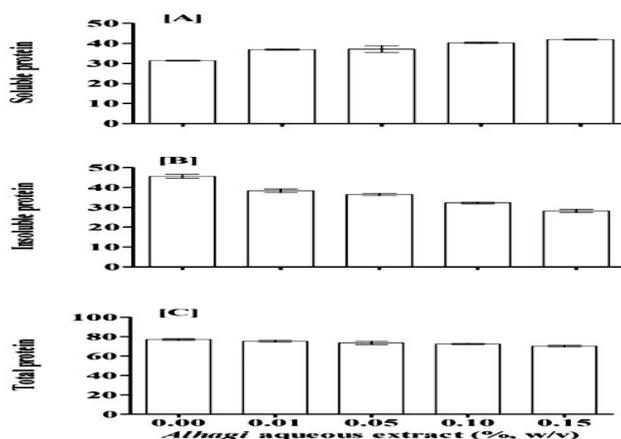


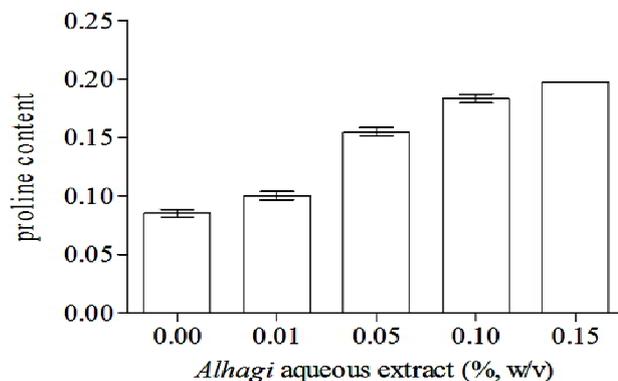
Fig (4) Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon photosynthetic pigments (mg g<sup>-1</sup> FWT) [A] chlorophyll a, [B] chlorophyll b, [C] chlorophyll (a+b), [D] carotenoids, [E] total pigment of 45-day-old peaplants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.



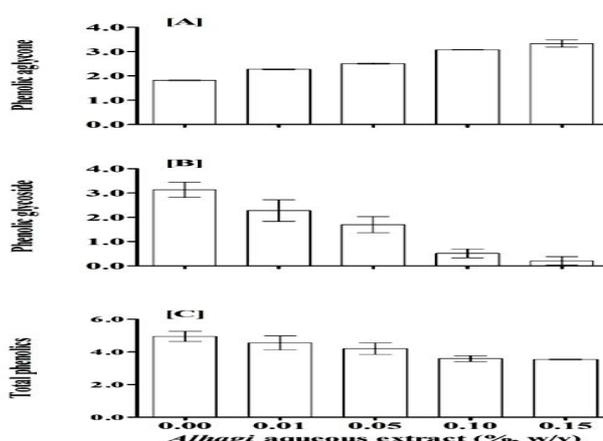
Fig(5) Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon carbohydrates (mg glucose g<sup>-1</sup> DWT) [A] soluble sugars, [B] insoluble sugars of 45-day-old peaplants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.



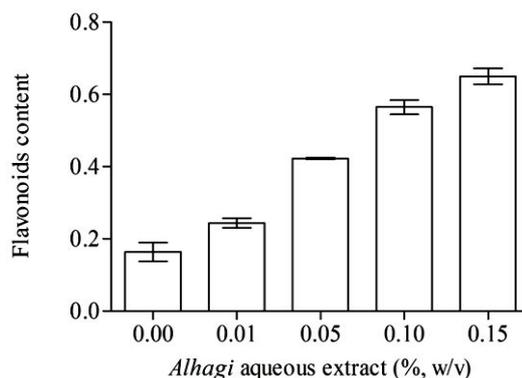
**Fig (6)** Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon shoot protein (mg g<sup>-1</sup> DWT) [A] soluble protein, [B] insoluble protein, [C] total protein of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.



**Fig(7)** Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon proline content (mg g<sup>-1</sup> FWT) of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.



**Fig (8)** Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon shoot phenolics (mg g<sup>-1</sup> DWT) [A] aglycones, [B] glycosides, [C] total phenolics of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.



**Fig (9)** Effect of different concentrations of *Alhagi maurorum* water extract upon flavonoids content (mg g<sup>-1</sup> DWT) of 45-day-old pea plants. The bars on each column showed standard error. Value= mean±SE, n=5.

### Conclusion

From the present results, it can conclude that allelopathic effects of the aqueous extract of the *A.maurorum* shoots suppresses germination and seedling growth of the target species (*Pisum sativum* L.). This inhibition was concentration- and species- dependent.

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