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Enhanced Imazethapyr Activity on Jimsonweed using natural Additives

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Identifying natural additives for agrochemicals is a primary research objective. Thus, the adjuvant activity of Fennel oil, Black seed oil, Rosewater, and Frankincense was evaluated at 0.5 and 1% (v/v) concentrations to enhance imazethapyr activity against jimsonweed (*Datura stramonium* L.). The dose-response curves showed that at the measured concentrations, all additives were physiologically inactive. When the additives were added to the spray solution, a substantial increase in imazethapyr activity was observed. Among the additives, only Black seed oil significantly impacted imazethapyr activity when the concentration was increased. Imazethapyr activity was increased up to 4.61-fold when fennel oil at 1% (v/v) was added. At the same time, it was increased up to 4.5 times with the addition of Frankincense at 1% (v/v) depending on the fresh weight of jimsonweed. This research established that the additives tested had a significant adjuvant effect on imazethapyr activity on jimsonweed. As a consequence, they may be ideal for development as an adjuvant based on oil.

Keywords: additive, Frankincense, Rosewater, Jimsonweed, imazethapyr activity

INTRODUCTION

An adjuvant is described as a substance that, when introduced to a spray solution enhances or alters a herbicide's activity (Cabanne 2000, Khayatnezhad and Gholamin 2020, Hou, Li et al. 2021, Ma, Ji et al. 2021). Adjuvants are classified according to their functional characteristics into five categories: extenders drift retardants, stickers, penetrants, and wetters. Chemically, the latter may be classified as mineral or vegetable (Somerville 2011, Gholamin and Khayatnezhad 2020, Bi, Dan et al. 2021, Peng, Khayatnezhad et al. 2021, Tao, Cui et al. 2021). Even though some reports indicate that vegetable oils are less efficient than mineral oils (Huang, Wang et al. 2021, Radmanesh 2021, Rodríguez 2021), in light of environmental issues, using vegetable oils appears to be a viable alternative to mineral oils (Izadi-Darbandi, Aliverdi et al. 2013, Gholamin and Khayatnezhad 2020) due to several benefits

such as biodegradability and renewable resources (Müller, Brancq et al. 2002, Hewitt 2021, Huma, Lin et al. 2021, Kabir, Arefin et al. 2021). It has been observed that extracts of medicinal plants' essential oils exhibit adjuvant action at low concentrations (Gholamin and Khayatnezhad 2020, Ren and Khayatnezhad 2021, Zhu, Saadati et al. 2021) and have herbicidal effects at higher concentrations (Cabanne 2000, Li, Mu et al. 2021).

The advantage of oil adjuvants is usually thought to be linked to their ability to (1) prolong the drying timeframe of spray droplets throughout their fly time prior to affecting the leaves, (2) avert bouncing off after affecting the leaves, (3) decrease the contact angle of the droplet with the surface of the leaf and thus enhance their spreading on the surface of the leaf, and (4) delay cryst formation (Si, Gao et al. 2020, Khayatnezhad and Gholamin 2021, Ma,

Khayatnezhad et al. 2021). A critical component of all agrochemical studies is identifying chemicals with adjuvant characteristics that increase herbicide action (Khayatnezhad and Gholamin 2020, Huang, Wang et al. 2021). As a result, we performed a series of dose-response pot trials to evaluate the effect of Fennel oil, Blackseed oil, Rosewater, and Frankincense as an oil-based adjuvant on imazethapyr activity against jimsonweed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In November 2019, seeds of jimsonweed were gathered from plants in the meadows of Qazvin and kept in the dark at room temperature for future usage. Bioassays were performed from June through September 2013 in a greenhouse on Mashhad's Ferdowsi University campus. Seeds were cleaned daily for seven days at a rate of one hour to eliminate seed germination inhibitors (Andersen 1968). Then, they were sterilized topically for 10 minutes with a 5 % (v/v) sodium hypochlorite solution and washed twice with distilled water. Around 25 seeds were planted in two-liter plastic pots (0.5 cm depth) with a combination of sand, clay loam soil, and peat (1:1:1 v:v:v). The pots were watered three times a week throughout cultivation. The seedlings were trimmed twice to four uniform plants per pot and treated twice with a solution of 3 g water-soluble N:P:K (20:20:20) fertilizer in 20 mL of water.

The experimental design was factorial, with imazethapyr doses (including 0, 4.69, 9.38, 18.75, 37.5, and 75 g active ingredient of imazethapyr ha⁻¹) and additives (including Black seed oil (*Nigella sativa* L.), Fennel Oil (*Foeniculum vulgare* L.), Frankincense (an aromatic gum resin obtained from *Olibanum* (*Boswellia sacra* Flueck.), The herbicide dosages used were 0%, 6%, 12%, 25%, 50%, and 100% of the indicated rate. Pursuit® (imazethapyr 10% SL, BASF, Germany) was utilized in its commercial formulation. Alkylaryl polyglycol ether (Zarnegaran Pars Company, Karaj, Iran) was used only to emulsify the components in spray solution (95% material + 5% emulsifier). An earlier investigation demonstrated that this emulsifier did not affect the action of some herbicides at the concentrations employed (Mohassel, Aliverdi et al. 2010, Gholamin and Khayatnezhad 2021, Guo, She et al. 2021). Zardband Co. in Iran provided the crude additives. The treatments were sprayed at a rate of 180 L ha⁻¹ at a pressure of 200 kPa utilizing a calibrated moving boom sprayer (Matabi 121030 Super Agro 20 L; Agratech Services-Crop

Spraying Equipment, Rossendale, UK) equipped with an 8002 flat-fan nozzle. The biomass of the experimental units was collected three weeks after spraying, and the weights of fresh and dried shoots were calculated. The data were transformed into individual plants and submitted to a non-linear regression analysis utilizing Ritz and Streibig's (2005) logarithmic logistic dose-response model:

$$Y = C + \{D - C / 1 + \exp[B(\log X - \log E)]\} \quad (1)$$

where Y represents the response (dry weight), C represents the lower limit, D represents the higher limit, B represents the slope of the graph, E represents the dosage needed to produce a response midway between the limits, and X is the herbicide dose. The dose-response curves were analyzed using the free and open-source statistical program R2.6.2, which included the DRC statistical addition package. The correctness of the preceding model and parameter comparisons were determined using the F-test for lack of fit at a 5% level of significance. As a result, when model 1 was evaluated, no substantial lack of fit was found; therefore, the model was satisfactory. The ED¹⁰, ED⁵⁰, and ED⁹⁰ values (herbicide dosage required to control jimsonweed by 10%, 50%, and 90%, respectively) were determined.

The relative potency (R), defined as the horizontal displacement between two curves (Radmanesh 2021, Rodríguez 2021), was computed as follows:

$$R = ED_{50a} / ED_{50b}; R \leq 1 \leq R \quad (2)$$

ED_{50a} is used to treat 'a' and ED_{50b} is used to treat 'b.' If R < 1, the therapy of 'a' is more effective than the treatment of 'b,' and if R > 1, the opposite is true.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dose-response graphs for imazethapyr treatment of jimsonweed in the presence of additives are presented in Figure 1. The logistic model parameters and the respective potencies of the additives evaluated on imazethapyr effectiveness in jimsonweed are listed in Table 1. Jimsonweed dose-response graphs to imazethapyr combined with each additive were substantially comparable, as shown by the same slope (b), and therefore may be regarded parallel. This implies that the additives were inert biologically at the concentrations tested.

Table 1 shows the results for ED₁₀ (6.47 and 7.50 g a.i. imazethapyr ha⁻¹), ED₅₀ (18.08 and 19.01 g a.i. imazethapyr ha⁻¹), and ED₉₀ (50.48 and 43.54 g a.i. imazethapyr ha⁻¹) based on both fresh and dry weights of jimsonweed. Every one of these values dropped substantially in the inclusion of all additives. When the additives were added to the spray solution, the relative potency figures differed substantially from 1, suggesting a considerable increase in imazethapyr activity. The imazethapyr activity of jimsonweed was increased up to 4.61-fold by adding 1% (v/v) fennel oil. Nonetheless, when Frankincense was added at 1% (v/v) to the fresh weight of jimsonweed, it was increased up to 4.50-fold. According to the fresh weight of jimsonweed, the following additions may be ordered as per their effectiveness in increasing imazethapyr activity: At 0.5 % and 1% (v/v), respectively, fennel oil (R = 3.24 and 4.61) > Frankincense (R = 3.15 and 4.59) > Rosewater (R = 2.79 and 4.04) > Blackseed oil (R = 2.06 and 3.44).

As seen in Table 1, the dry weight data followed a nearly identical pattern to the fresh weight data, albeit with a small variation. We do not understand why these observed disparities exist. According to the dry weight of jimsonweed, the following additions were rated according to their ability to increase imazethapyr activity: When applied at a concentration of 0.5 % (v/v), fennel (R = 4.28) > Frankincense (R = 3.17) > Black seed (R = 2.24) > Rosewater (R = 2.16). However, they were rated as follows at 1% (v/v): Frankincense oil (R = 4.50) > Black seed oil (R = 3.58) >

Rosewater (R = 2.92) > Fennel oil (R = 3.22) > There are no data on the impact of the tested additives as an adjuvant for herbicides, however Cabanne (2000) reported that introducing pine essential oil to spray solution at a concentration of 0.5 % (v/v) increased the activity of clodinafop-propargyl by up to 5- to 6-fold. Izadi-Darbandi, Aliverdi et al. (2013) have described the effect of some vegetable oils on the action of certain gramaticides against wild oat. They discovered a negative connection between the effectiveness of vegetable oils and their unsaturated/saturated fatty acid ratio. Additionally, vegetable oils are efficient adjuvants for various post-emergence herbicides (Nalewaja, Praczyk et al. 1995, Karasakal, Khayatnezhad et al. 2020, Khayatnezhad and Nasehi 2021).

The causes for the increase in imazethapyr activity may be attributed to many variables previously stated. Although raising the concentration of the tested additives improved the effectiveness of imazethapyr quantitatively (Table 1), the results collected showed that increasing the concentration of Blackseed oil had a substantial impact on imazethapyr activity when compared to other additives. Previously, researchers found a significant concentration impact for rapeseed oil, as their effects on phenmedipham (Muller et al., 2002)(Cheng, Hong et al. 2021, Wang, Shang et al. 2021, Zheng, Zhao et al. 2021, Zhu, Liu et al. 2021) and glyphosate (Gauvrit et al., 2007) absorption and activity was lower at 0.1 % (v/v) than at 1% (v/v).

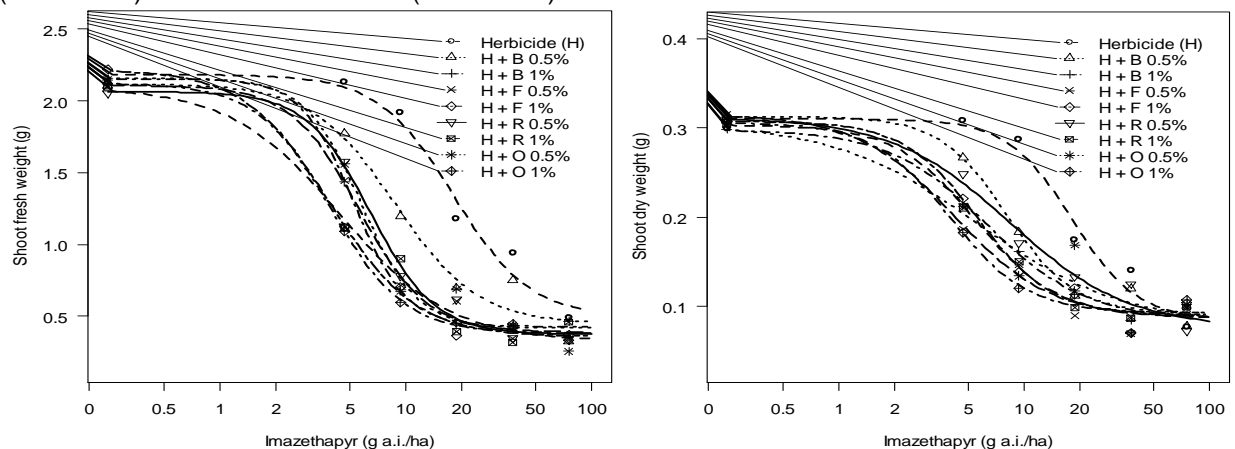


Figure 1: Dose-response curves of the shoot fresh weight (left) and shoot dry weight (right) of jimsonweed treated with imazethapyr in the presence of the additives at two concentrations of 0.5% and 1% (v/v). Black seed oil, Fennel oil, Rosewater (the essential oil of rose impregnated with water), and Olibanum gum resin (called Frankincense) are shortened to B, F, R, and O, respectively. The data points of each treatment were averaged over four plants per pot.

Table 1: Estimated parameters for the response curves of jimsonweed treated with imazethapyr in the presence of two concentrations of the additive

Treatments		Shoot fresh weight								
Additive	Concentration (% v/v)	Slope	ED ₁₀ (g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	ED ₅₀ (g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	ED ₉₀ (g a.i. ha ⁻¹)	R				
None	-	2.14 (0.66)	6.47 (1.57)	18.08 (3.37)	50.48 (3.21)	1.00				
Blackseed oil	0.5	1.94 (1.12)	2.82 (0.90)	8.75 (1.32)	27.10 (1.71)	2.06 (0.49) *	1.00			
	1	3.07 (0.83)	2.56 (0.54)	5.25 (0.46)	10.73 (2.31)	3.44 (0.71) ***	1.66 (0.29) **			
Fennel oil	0.5	2.38 (0.75)	2.22 (0.67)	5.58 (0.60)	14.02 (4.44)	3.24 (0.69) **		1.00		
	1	1.88 (1.22)	1.23 (0.61)	3.92 (0.61)	12.56 (4.45)	4.61 (1.12) **		1.42 (0.27) ^{ns}		
Rosewater	0.5	2.51 (0.72)	2.70 (0.69)	6.47 (0.70)	15.49 (4.52)	2.79 (0.60) **			1.00	
	1	2.47 (0.44)	1.00 (0.52)	4.43 (0.80)	19.56 (8.53)	4.08 (4.08) **			1.46 (0.30) ^{ns}	
Frankincense	0.5	2.87 (1.05)	2.67 (0.73)	5.74 (0.54)	12.33 (3.90)	3.15 (0.65) **				1.00
	1	2.18 (0.99)	1.44 (0.81)	3.93 (0.61)	10.75 (4.16)	4.59 (1.11) **				1.45 (0.26) ^{ns}
		Shoot dry weight								
None	-	2.50 (1.12)	7.50 (2.19)	19.01 (3.97)	43.54 (4.83)	1.00				
Blackseed oil	0.5	2.41 (0.87)	3.23 (1.13)	8.06 (1.26)	20.07 (7.59)	2.24 (0.60) *	1.00			
	1	1.63 (0.62)	1.64 (0.90)	5.30 (1.43)	24.26 (4.21)	3.58 (0.91) *	1.52 (0.35) *			
Fennel oil	0.5	1.65 (0.72)	1.12 (0.77)	5.60 (0.98)	15.88 (8.56)	4.28 (1.37) *		1.00		
	1	2.16 (0.86)	2.03 (0.87)	4.22 (0.94)	15.44 (6.80)	3.22 (0.89) *		1.32 (0.21) ^{ns}		
Rosewater	0.5	1.37 (0.67)	1.69 (0.04)	8.33 (2.81)	41.40 (3.37)	2.16 (0.87) *			1.00	
	1	2.01 (0.73)	1.84 (0.83)	6.51 (1.01)	16.43 (6.98)	2.92 (0.94) *			1.27 (0.58) ^{ns}	
Frankincense	0.5	1.20 (0.60)	0.77 (0.06)	5.68 (2.11)	41.63 (4.06)	3.17 (1.37) *				1.00
	1	2.09 (1.21)	1.40 (0.04)	4.01 (0.87)	11.46 (6.08)	4.50 (1.39) *				1.41 (0.61) ^{ns}

R is the relative potency, $R = ED_{50} / ED_{50}$, showing horizontal displacement between curves. Standard errors are in parentheses.
 * - Statistical significance ($P \leq 0.05$); ** - Highly statistical significant ($P \leq 0.01$); *** - Very highly statistical significant ($P \leq 0.001$); ns - No statistical significant.

CONCLUSION

Since the primary obstacle to diffusing a hydrophilic herbicide such as imazethapyr into leaf tissue is the hydrophobic cuticle, oil-based adjuvants are most effective with them (Gholamin and Khayatnezhad 2020, Sun, Lin et al. 2021, Zhang, Khayatnezhad et al. 2021). On the other side, a movement toward ecologically friendly adjuvants (specifically, away from mineral oil-based adjuvants and toward vegetable oil-based adjuvants) has emerged (Zollinger 2000, Khayatnezhad and Gholamin 2021, Ma, Khayatnezhad et al. 2021, Zheng, Zhao et al. 2021), owing to their biodegradability and renewable nature. Thus, it is important to search for novel essential oils with adjuvant characteristics to enhance the effectiveness of foliar-applied herbicides (Cheng, Hong et al. 2021, Wang, Shang et al. 2021, Zheng, Zhao et al. 2021, Zhu, Liu et al. 2021). This is a simple way to decrease the risk of herbicide-related ill effects by decreasing the herbicide dosage required to control appropriate weeds (Karasakal, Khayatnezhad et al. 2020, Xu, Ouyang et al. 2021, Yin, Khayatnezhad et al. 2021). According to the results of this research, black seed oil, fennel oil, Frankincense, and rosewater all shown significant adjuvant effects for imazethapyr against jimsonweed and therefore may be appropriate for development and testing as an oil-based adjuvant (Jia, Khayatnezhad et al. 2020, Sun and Khayatnezhad 2021). It is questioned if these chemicals may jeopardize crop selectivity. Additional fieldwork is needed to address this issue.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declared that present study was performed in absence of any conflict of interest.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Mani Alizadeh conducted, planned, Analyzed the data, wrote manuscript and interpreted the results and involved in manuscript preparation. All authors read and approved the final version.

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