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OUTCOME OF GA3 IN SHADY AREA ON PLANT GROWTH, YIELD AND QUALITY ATTRIBUTES OF TOMATO (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.)

M A Halim*[1] , Sheikh Shawkat Zamil[2], Ayesha Akhtar[3], Kh. Ashraf-Uz-Zaman [2], Mohammad Nazrul Islam[4],M K B Uddin[5] ,M S uddin[6]

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Abstract

This study was conducted at house hold garden with somewhat shady area of Eagle Residential Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207. The experiment consisted of one tomato variety- Ratan, five levels of gibberellic acid (GA3- 20 ppm, 40 ppm, 60 ppm, 80 ppm and 100 ppm) arranged in randomized block design with three replications and six treatments (T_0- Control, T_1- 20 ppm GA3, T_2- 40 ppm GA3, T_3- 60 ppm GA3, T_4- 80 ppm GA3, T_5- 100 ppm) GA3. Application of GA3 @ 100 ppm showed an increased plant height, number of leaves, number of fruits,fruit weight, ascorbic acid and total soluble solids among the different treatments of gibberellic acid.

Key words: Gibberellic acid(GA3), ppm.

Introduction

Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill.) belongs to family solanaceae having chromosome number (2n=24). It is a self pollinated crop and Peru-Ecuador region is considered to be the centre of origin. Tomato was introduced by the Portuguese. Tomato is cultivated in tropics and subtropics of the world. Tomato farming is gaining popularity in all the 16 districts under Rajshahi division particularly in the vast tract of Barind area and expected to earn at least Taka 35 crore from the production during the current season(Haque 2009). Tomato is one of the most highly praised vegetables consumed widely and it is a major source of vitamins and minerals. It is one of the most popular salad vegetables and is taken with great relish. Tomato has a significant role inhuman nutrition because of its rich source of lycopene, minerals and vitamins such as ascorbic acid and ß-carotene which are anti-oxidants and promote good health. Plant growth regulators (PGRs) are extensively used in horticultural crops to enhance plant growth and improve yield by increasing fruit number, fruit set and size. Plant growth regulators like promoters, inhibitors or retardants play a key role in controlling internal mechanisms of plant growth by interacting with key metabolic processes such as, nucleic acid metabolism and protein synthesis. Use of plant growth regulators (PGR's) might be a useful alternative to increase crop production. Recently, there has been global realization of the important role of PGR's in increasing crop yield. GAs constitute a group of plant hormones that control developmental processes such as germination, shoot elongation, tuber formation, flowering, and fruit set and growth in diverse species. The most widely available plant growth regulator is GA3 or gibberellic acid, which induces stem and internode elongation, seed germination, enzyme production during germination and fruit setting and growth (Davies *et al.* 1995). Gibberellic acid is an important growth regulator that may have many uses to modify the growth, yield and yield contributing characters of plant (Rafeeker *et al.* 2002). Regarding these things, the present investigations to find out the effect of gibberellic acid on growth quality and yield of tomato.

Materials And Methods

This study was conducted at house hold garden with somewhat shady area of Eagle Residential Building, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207. The experiment consisted of one tomato variety- Ratan, five levels of gibberellic acid (GA3- 20 ppm, 40 ppm, 60 ppm, 80 ppm and 100 ppm) arranged in randomized block design with three replications and six treatments (T0- Control, T1- 20 ppm GA3, T2- 40 ppm GA3, T3- 60 ppm GA3, T4- 80 ppm GA3, T5- 100 ppm) of GA3. The required weight of the PGRs was taken using electronic sensitive balance and solution was prepared by dissolving in 1 mg L^{-1} . The solution was poured into hand-held sprayer and was directly sprayed on the plants three times at 20,

*Corresponding Authors Email: ibiotsau@gmail.com.
[1] Assistant professor, Department of Biotechnology, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka-1207.
[2,4] Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University,Dhaka-1207.
[3] Department of Entomology, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University,Dhaka-1207.
[4] Department of Animal Production and Management, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University,Dhaka-1207.
[6] Department of Agricultural Science,Chowara Adarsha Degree College,Comilla.
[7] Department of Computer Science and Engineering, East West University, Dhaka.

40 and 60 days after transplanting. Spraying was performed early in the morning to avoid rapid drying of the spray solution, due to transpiration. All the recommended cultural practices were followed during the conduction of the experiment. Data were collected from selected plants in the rows. The collected data includes average plant height (cm), average number of leaves, average number of fruits, average fresh fruit weight (kg), ascorbic acid (mg/100g), total soluble solids (°Brix). The data was analyzed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) and mean separation was carried out at 5% probability level.

Results And Discussion

Plant height (cm)

Maximum plant height was found in T5 (31.0 cm) at 20 DAT and minimum was found in T0 (15.5 cm), at 40 DAT maximum was found in T5 (46.3 cm) and minimum was found in T0 (31.4 cm). At 60 DAT maximum plant height was found in T5 (50.3 cm) and minimum was found in T0 (36.0 cm). Almost similar result was observed by Sittu and Adelekha (1999), Wu *et al.* (1983) and Khan *et al.* (2006) in tomato.

Table 1. Growth characters

Treatments	Plant Height (cm)			Number of Leaves		
	20 DAT	40 DAT	60 DAT	20 DAT	40 DAT	60 DAT
T_0	15.5	31.4	36.0	18	33	38
T_1	18.3	34.0	40.2	22	35	42
T_2	21.2	35.3	41.2	24	37	43
T_3	25.0	40.2	45.2	25	44	45
T_4	27.2	42.0	47.2	27	45	47
T_5	31.0	46.3	50.3	29	50	52

Number of leaves

Maximum number of leaves was found in T5 (29.0) at 20 DAT and minimum was found in T0 (18.0), at 40 DAT maximum number of leaves was found in T5 (50.0) and minimum was found in T0 (33). At 60 DAT maximum number of leaves was found in T5 (52) and minimum was found in T0 (38). Somewhere about similar result was observed by Gabal *et al.* (1999) in tomato and Kannan *et al.* (2009) in paprika.

Number of fruits

Maximum number fruits was found in T5 (38.26) and minimum was found in T0 (17.25). Similar result was found by Uddain *et al.* (2009). Similar result was found by Adlakha and Verma (1964), Uddain *et al.* (2009) and Mehta and Mathi (1975).

Fresh fruit weight

Maximum fresh fruit weight (kg/plant) was found in T5 (1.52 kg) and minimum fresh fruit weight was found in T0 (0.90 kg). Almost similar result was found by Kaushik *et al.* (1974) and Uddain *et al.* (2009).

Table 2. Yield Characters

Treatments	Number of fruits/plant	Fresh fruit weight (kg/plant)
T_0	12.2	0.90
T_1	15.3	1.25
T_2	24.0	1.36
T_3	28.6	1.40
T_4	27.2	1.45
T_5	29.5	1.52

Ascorbic acid

Maximum ascorbic acid (mg/100gm) was found in T5 (1.80 mg/100gm) and minimum ascorbic acid was found in T0 (1.05 mg/100gm). Almost similar results were found by Chaudhary *et al.* (2006) and Ouzounidou *et al.* (2010).

Table 3 : Quality Characters Treatments

Treatments	Ascorbic acid (mg/100gm)	Total Soluble Solid (°Brix)
T_0	1.05	3.30
T_1	1.23	3.75
T_2	1.40	3.82
T_3	153	3.87
T_4	1.70	3.80
T_5	1.80	4.10

Total Soluble Solid (TSS)

Maximum TSS (□Brix) was found in T5 (4.10) and minimum TSS was found in T0 (3.30). Close upon similar results were found by Gelmesa *et al.* (2012) and Graham and Ballesteros (2006) in tomato.

Conclusion

On the basis of experiment, it is concluded that, gibberellic acid had significant influence on growth, quality and yield of tomato, particularly the treatment with the application of GA3 @ 100 ppm. Application of GA3 @ 100 ppm showed an increased plant height, number of leaves, number of fruits, fruit weight, ascorbic acid and total soluble solids among the different treatments of gibberellic acid.

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