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A study on efficacy of homoeopathic medicine silicea terra 6x on growth of *Solanum lycopersicum*

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Abstract

Background: Agrohomoeopathy refers to use of homoeopathic remedies in agriculture, organic farming, and gardening, promoting a chemical free and safe approach to plant growth and production. This study evaluates the efficacy of the homoeopathic medicine Silicea Terra 6X on the germination, growth, and productivity of *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato). Experimental pots were divided into test groups treated with Silicea Terra 6X and control groups watered with plain water. Growth parameters such as germination rate, plant height, budding, flowering, and fruiting were observed. Results show delayed germination, stunted growth, and reduced branching in the test group compared to control. No flowering or fruiting was observed in both groups within the study duration. The findings suggest limited efficacy of Silicea Terra 6X under the conditions tested and highlight the need for further research using varying potencies and application methods.

Objectives: To identify the efficacy of Silicea Terra 6X in germination, growth, development and productivity of *Solanum lycopersicum*.

Keywords: Agrohomoeopathy, silicea terra 6X, *Solanum lycopersicum*, plant growth, homoeopathic medicine

Introduction

Agrohomoeopathy is a specialized branch of homoeopathy that employs potentised homoeopathic remedies to treat crops, plants, trees, and soil, aiming to restore their health by applying the principles of homoeopathic science [1]. Recent research indicates that such potentised remedies can modulate physiological processes in plants, including enzymatic activity, total sugar and protein levels, as well as chlorophyll content, thereby influencing overall plant growth and development [2]. Agrohomoeopathy as a formal discipline began following the pioneering work of Dr. Vaikunthanath das Kaviraj, author of the seminal book Homeopathy for farm and garden. His initial empirical application of Belladonna to treat apple trees affected by a severe bright red rust in Switzerland in 1986 marked a significant milestone in the development of homeopathic agriculture [1]. Silicea enhances plant cell wall strength and structural integrity, thereby improving resistance to drought and frost, reducing lodging potential, and bolstering the plant's natural defenses against pests and diseases, while also enabling the soil to retain substantial amounts of water and nutrients for prolonged periods [3]. Tomato is the most widely cultivated fruit vegetable and a rich source of vitamins A, B, C, K, and minerals including calcium, phosphorus, potassium, and iron; it also contains antioxidants such as lycopene, beta-carotene, chlorogenic acid, and naringenin[4].

Methods

Type of study - Plant study.

Materials and methods

The study was conducted at Dr. Hahnemann Homoeopathy Medical College, using six cement pots filled with locally sourced sand without added fertilizers. Three pots were treated with Silicea Terra 6X (1 gram trituration diluted in 1000 ml water) as the test group, and three pots were watered with plain water as controls. Tomato seeds were washed, dried, and sown in all pots. Parameters recorded included germination, plant height, budding, flowering, and fruiting over a period of 3-4 months.

Observing the growth and productivity

The measuring inch tape is used for measuring the plant growth height. The photograph is taken weekly once to observe the germination of seeds in the pots and the entire process growth and productivity [both control and test samples]. The measurement chart of the plant growth is made on weekly basis and the chart explores:

1. Germination time (number of days from sowing to sprouting).
2. Plant height measured in inches/centimetres at regular intervals.
3. Branches measured in number.
4. Time of Budding (appearance of first bud).
5. Time of flowering (appearance of first flower).

6. Time of fruiting (appearance of first pod).
7. Fruit ripening pattern and yield at the end of the study.

Soil

Homoeopathic medicines for plants can be applied either via soil for root uptake or by foliar spraying; however, soil application appears to be a particularly effective strategy for restoring soil balance and stability [5]. Pre soil test will be used for the growth of *Solanum lycopersicum*. The soil will be tested in the department of agriculture and farmers welfare, vasanthapuram, Namakkal (dt) Silicea terra 6x from Dr. Reckeweg & co. GmbH.

Plan of study

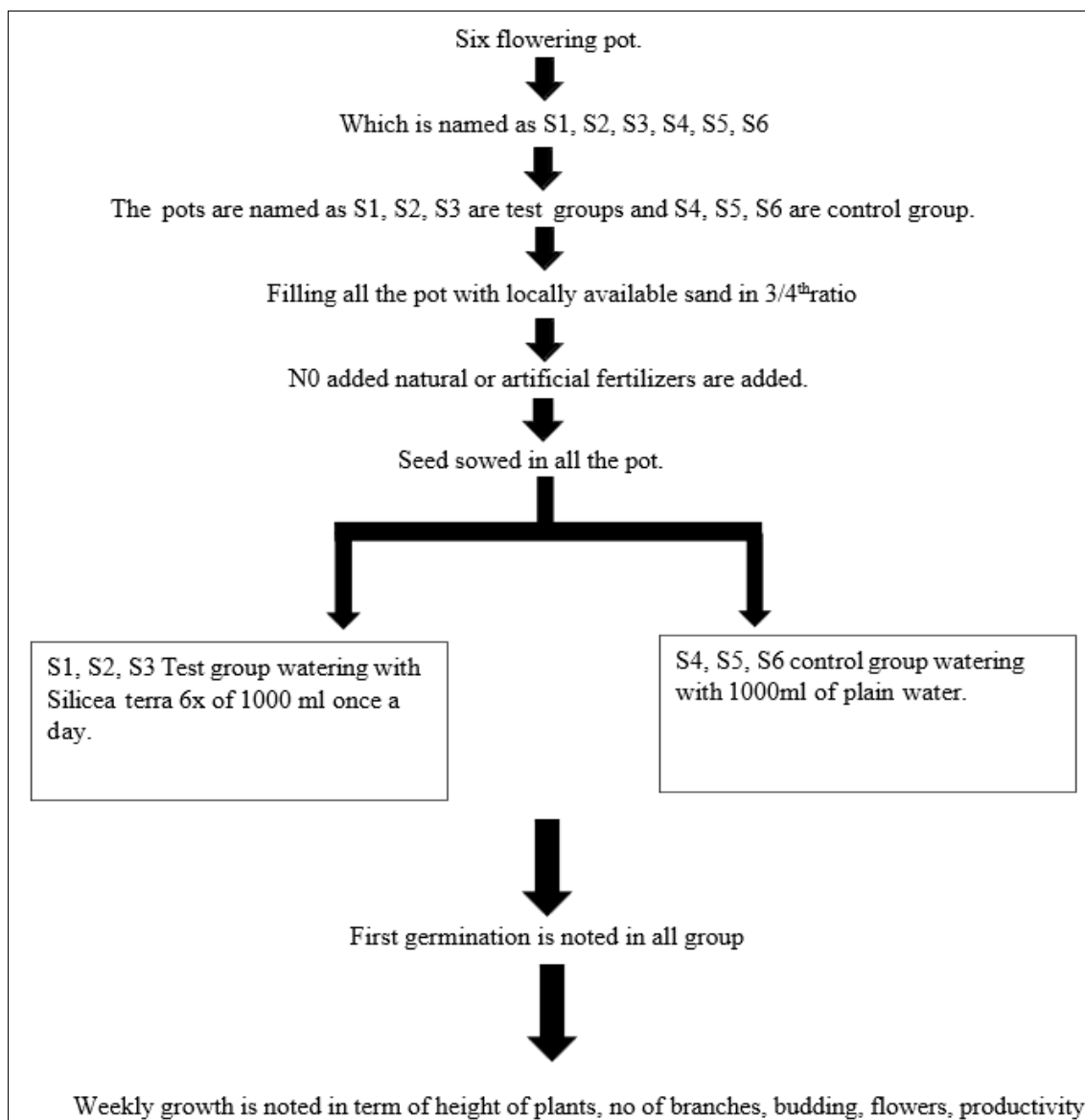


Table 1: Height in cm VS no of days

Sample/ Day	9	12	16	24	37	42	47	54	61	77	83	91	93
S1	0	0	1	1.5	2.8	3.5	4	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.9	5
S2	0	1	1.5	2.3	3.6	4.5	5	6	6	7.2	7.8	8	8
S3	0	0	1	1.8	2.6	4.8	6	7.3	7.5	8.1	8.4	8.5	8.5
S4	1	4	7	7	13	17.8	22	26.5	27	29	30.5	32	32.5
S5	1	3	5.7	8.2	10	11.5	12.5	13	14	14.7	15	17	17
S6	0	1	4.8	7.6	12.4	14.2	16	17.8	18.4	18.6	19	19.4	19.6

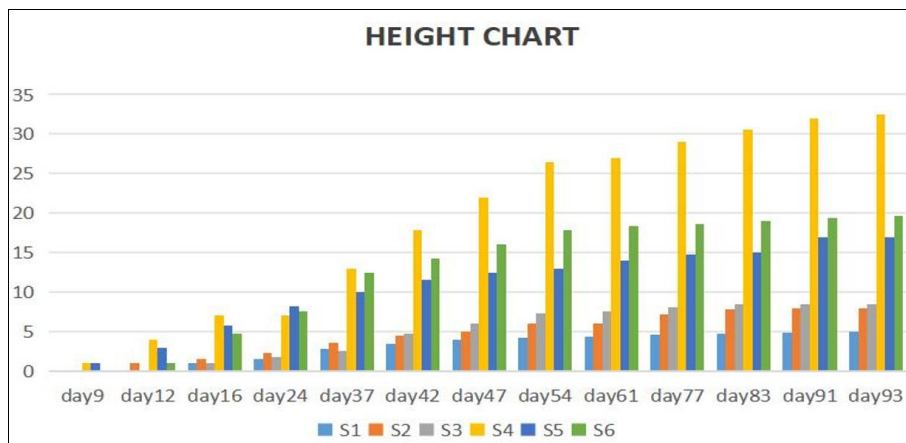


Chart 1: Height in cm VS no of days



Fig 1: Shows the pictures test and control pots after sowing



Fig 2: Shows pictures of Height variation

Results

Germination occurred slightly later in the test group than in controls, with fewer sprouts initially. The control group showed greater plant height and a higher number of branches compared to the test group. No buds, flowers, or fruits developed in either group during the study period. The

growth in the test group was comparatively stunted, with maximum height considerably less than the control group.

Discussion

This experimental study was carried out to evaluate the influence of Silicea terra 6x on the germination, growth, flowering of *Solanum lycopersicum*. Here germination, height, branches are higher efficient in control which is plain water than silicea 6x. In this study Silicea Terra 6X did not appear to enhance seed germination or overall plant growth compared to control groups; instead, treated plants exhibited stunted growth. This outcome could reflect a complex homeopathic regulatory effect rather than a straightforward stimulatory impact, as homeopathy aims to restore balance rather than directly accelerate growth. The absence of flowering and fruiting in both groups during the study period is likely due to environmental conditions, limited duration of observation, or other experimental variables, suggesting that longer-term studies are necessary to fully assess reproductive effects.

Conclusion

Silicea Terra 6X showed no significant growth stimulation on *Solanum lycopersicum* under the tested conditions. Germination was delayed, and growth was stunted compared to controls watered with plain water. Further studies with varying potencies and other homeopathic remedies are recommended to establish efficacy.

Conflict of Interest

Not available.

Financial Support

Not available.

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