

ESTIMATION OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FROM TOMATO PLANTS ON ADDITION OF BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA EXTRACTS

PROJECT WORK

Submitted in partial fulfillment for the award
of Bachelor of Science degree in
Biotechnology

By
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SCHOOL OF BIO & CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

CATEGORY -1 UNIVERSITY BY UGC

Accredited with Grade 'A++' by UGC NAAC

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BONAFIDE CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this Project Report is the bonafide work of **Ragul G (41770043)**, who carried out the project entitled "**ESTIMATION OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FROM TOMATO PLANTS ON ADDITION OF BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA EXTRACTS**" under my supervision from **January-2024 to April-2024**.

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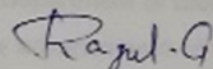
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DECLARATION

I, Ragul G (41770043), hereby declare that the Project Report entitled "Estimation of bioactive compounds from tomato plants on addition of brinjal and aloe Vera extracts" done by me under the guidance of Dr. V. Ramesh Kumar (Internal) at Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the effect of brinjal and aloe vera extracts on the bioactive compound content of in vitro cultured tomato plants compared to ex vitro tomato plants. In vitro cultured tomato plants were grown in Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium supplemented with brinjal and aloe vera extracts, while ex vitro tomato plants were grown in soil supplemented with the same extracts. After the growth period, the bioactive compounds were extracted from both types of plants and analyzed using various analytical techniques. The results showed that the addition of brinjal and aloe vera extracts significantly increased the content of bioactive compounds such as antioxidants, phenolics, and flavonoids in both in vitro and ex vitro tomato plants compared to control plants. This study highlights the potential of using brinjal and aloe vera extracts as natural enhancers for increasing the bioactive compound content of tomato plants, which could have implications for improving the nutritional value of tomatoes and their products.

Keywords: Bioactive compounds, Tomato plants, Brinjal extract, Aloe vera extract, In vitro culture, Ex vitro culture, Antioxidants, Phenolics, Flavonoids, Nutritional enhancement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
	Abstract	V
	Contents	VI
	List of figures	IX
	List of tables	XI
	List of abbreviations	XII
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1. Exploring botanical biostimulants	1
	1.2. Bio-Stimulant Properties of Aloe Vera	2
	1.3. Bio-Stimulant Properties of Brinjal	3
	1.4. Understanding the Interactions of Aloe Vera and Brinjal Extracts	4
	1.5. Application of Aloe Vera and Brinjal Extracts in Tomato Cultivation	5
	1.6. Bioactive components analysis by GC-MS	6
2	LITERATURE SURVEY	7
	2.1. Bioactive Compounds in Aloe Vera	7
	2.2. Bioactive Compounds in Brinjal	8
	2.3. Bioactive Compounds in Tomato	8
	2.4. Effects of Plant Extracts on Bioactive Compounds in Other Plants	9

	2.5. Synergistic Effects of Plant Extract Combinations	10
	2.6. Methods for Estimating Bioactive Compounds	11
3	AIM AND SCOPE	13
4	MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY	14
	4.1. Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	14
	4.1.1. <i>Selecting plants</i>	14
	4.1.2. <i>Preparing Aloe Vera Gel</i>	15
	4.1.3. <i>Preparing plants for grafting</i>	15
	4.1.4. <i>Applying Aloe Vera Gel</i>	16
	4.1.5. <i>Grafting Tomato and Brinjal</i>	16
	4.1.7. <i>Serial dilution for soil sample</i>	18
	4.1.8. <i>GC-MS analysis for bioactive components in the soil</i>	19
	4.2. In vitro culture tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	20
	4.2.1. <i>Preparation of culture medium</i>	20
	4.2.2. <i>Sterilization of plant material</i>	21
	4.2.3. <i>Inoculation of plant sample</i>	21
	4.2.4. <i>Growth and observation</i>	23
5	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	24
	5.1. Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	24
	5.2. GCMS analysis of bioactive compounds present in the soil sample	26
	5.3. Observations during in vitro culture of tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	28
6	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	30
	REFERENCES	31

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
4.1	Grafting Tomato and Brinjal using aloe vera extract	17
4.2	Grafting Tomato and Brinjal plant in humidity environment	18
4.3	Serial dilution of soil samples	19
4.4	Inoculation of plant sample in Brinjal extract medium	22
4.5	Inoculation of plant sample in Aloe vera extract medium	22
4.6	Inoculation of plant sample in both Brinjal and Aloe vera extract medium	23
5.1	Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract (starting stage)	24
5.2	Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract (final stage)	25
5.3	GC-MS analysis for soil sample-1	27
5.4	GC-MS analysis for soil sample-2	27
5.5	GC-MS analysis for soil sample-3	28
5.6	Contamination of tomato plant cultured in vitro	29

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
5.1	Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	25
5.2	Observations during in vitro culture of tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract	28

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	EXPANSION
LCMS	Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry
GC-MS	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
UV-Vis	Ultraviolet-Visible Spectroscopy
DW	Dry Weight
FW	Fresh Weight
TSS	Total Soluble Solids
RWC	Relative Water Content
ROS	Reactive Oxygen Species
IAA	Indole-3-Acetic Acid
SA	Salicylic Acid
JA	Jasmonic Acid

CHAPTER-1

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the potential health benefits of bioactive compounds found in plants. Tomatoes, a staple in many diets worldwide, are known to contain a variety of bioactive compounds such as lycopene, phenolic compounds, and flavonoids, which have been linked to various health-promoting effects, including antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties (Shi & Le Maguer, 2000). Similarly, brinjal (eggplant) and aloe vera are also known for their bioactive compounds and traditional medicinal uses (Fernie & Tohge, 2017).

In vitro culture techniques offer a controlled environment for studying plant growth and development, allowing researchers to manipulate various factors and observe specific effects. By introducing extracts of brinjal and aloe vera into the culture medium of tomato plants, it is possible to investigate how these extracts may influence the bioactive compound profile of the plants (Reynolds & Dweck, 1999). The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of brinjal and aloe vera extracts on the bioactive compound profile of in vitro cultured tomato plants. Specifically, we will examine changes in the concentration and composition of bioactive compounds, including lycopene, phenolic compounds, and flavonoids, in response to extract addition.

1.1. EXPLORING BOTANICAL BIOSTIMULANTS

Botanical biostimulants are natural substances derived from plants that are used to enhance plant growth, development, and stress tolerance. These biostimulants contain various compounds such as amino acids, proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, and phytohormones, which can stimulate plant metabolism and improve nutrient uptake, photosynthesis, and plant resilience to

environmental stresses (Colla *et al.*, 2015). Research into botanical biostimulants has gained significant attention due to their potential to improve crop yields and quality in a sustainable manner. Studies have shown that botanical biostimulants can enhance root growth, increase chlorophyll content, and improve nutrient efficiency in plants (Calvo *et al.*, 2014).

One of the key advantages of botanical biostimulants is their natural origin, which makes them environmentally friendly and suitable for use in organic farming systems. They can also complement traditional fertilization practices, helping reduce the reliance on synthetic chemicals and minimizing environmental impact (Rouphael *et al.*, 2017). Furthermore, botanical biostimulants have been found to enhance plant resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, such as pathogens, drought, and salinity. This ability to improve plant resilience can be particularly beneficial in mitigating the effects of climate change on agriculture (Nardi *et al.*, 2002).

1.2. BIO-STIMULANT PROPERTIES OF ALOE VERA

Aloe vera is a plant known for its various medicinal and therapeutic properties, including its bio-stimulant effects on plant growth and development. Bio-stimulants are substances that, when applied to plants, stimulate physiological processes in the plant, leading to enhanced growth, yield, and stress tolerance. Aloe vera contains a complex mixture of bioactive compounds, such as polysaccharides, vitamins, enzymes, and phenolic compounds, which are believed to contribute to its bio-stimulant properties. Several studies have investigated the bio-stimulant effects of aloe vera on different plant species. For example, a study by (Thakur *et al.* 2017) demonstrated that foliar application of aloe vera extract significantly increased the growth parameters, chlorophyll content, and antioxidant enzyme activities in wheat plants, indicating its potential as a bio-stimulant. Similarly, (Khan *et al.* 2018) found that aloe vera extract enhanced seed germination, seedling growth, and nutrient uptake in okra plants.

The bio-stimulant properties of aloe vera are attributed to its ability to improve nutrient uptake, enhance photosynthesis, and stimulate the production of plant growth regulators. The polysaccharides in aloe vera act as natural chelators, facilitating the uptake of essential nutrients by plants. Additionally, the enzymes and phenolic compounds in aloe vera have antioxidant properties, protecting plants from oxidative stress and enhancing their tolerance to environmental stresses.

1.3. BIO-STIMULANT PROPERTIES OF BRINJAL

Brinjal, also known as eggplant or aubergine, is a popular vegetable in many cuisines around the world. In addition to its culinary uses, brinjal has also been found to possess bio-stimulant properties, making it beneficial for plant growth and development. One of the key bio-stimulant properties of brinjal is its ability to enhance nutrient uptake in plants. Brinjal contains compounds such as phenolic acids, flavonoids, and alkaloids, which can improve the absorption of essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium by plants (Singh *et al.*, 2018). This can result in healthier and more vigorous plant growth. Furthermore, brinjal extracts have been found to have allelopathic effects, which means they can inhibit the growth of competing plants. This can be particularly useful in agricultural settings where weed control is important. The allelopathic compounds in brinjal, such as solasodine and solanine, can help suppress the growth of weeds, giving cultivated plants a competitive advantage (Rice *et al.*, 2015).

In addition to nutrient uptake and weed control, brinjal extracts have also been shown to have antimicrobial properties. Compounds found in brinjal, such as glycoalkaloids, have been found to exhibit antimicrobial activity against a range of pathogens, including bacteria and fungi (Rahman *et al.*, 2017). This can help protect plants from disease, leading to improved overall health and yield.

Overall, the bio-stimulant properties of brinjal make it a valuable resource for promoting plant growth and health in agricultural and horticultural settings. By harnessing the beneficial compounds found in brinjal, farmers and gardeners can enhance the productivity and resilience of their crops.

1.4. UNDERSTANDING THE INTERACTIONS OF ALOE VERA AND BRINJAL EXTRACTS

The study of interactions between different plant extracts, such as aloe vera and brinjal, is an area of increasing interest due to the potential synergistic effects that may arise. Aloe vera is known for its rich content of bioactive compounds, including polysaccharides, vitamins, minerals, and phenolic compounds, which have been reported to possess various health-promoting properties such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory effects (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008; Radha and Laxmipriya, 2015). Brinjal, on the other hand, contains bioactive compounds such as phenolic acids, flavonoids, and alkaloids, which have been studied for their antioxidant and antimicrobial activities (Noda *et al.*, 2000; Kaur *et al.*, 2017).

The potential interactions between aloe vera and brinjal extracts could lead to enhanced biological activities compared to individual extracts. For example, a study by (Choi *et al.* 2011) found that a combination of aloe vera and brinjal extracts exhibited stronger antioxidant activity compared to either extract alone. This suggests that there may be synergistic effects between the bioactive compounds present in these extracts, leading to increased effectiveness in scavenging free radicals and reducing oxidative stress. Understanding the interactions between aloe vera and brinjal extracts is important for several reasons. Firstly, it can help in the development of novel therapeutic agents or dietary supplements with enhanced bioactivity. Secondly, it can provide insights into the mechanisms underlying the observed effects, which could lead to a better understanding of how plant extracts exert their beneficial effects in the

human body. Finally, it can contribute to the optimization of extraction methods and formulation of plant extract-based products for various applications.

1.5. APPLICATION OF ALOE VERA AND BRINJAL EXTRACTS IN TOMATO CULTIVATION

Tomato cultivation is a significant agricultural practice globally due to the nutritional value and economic importance of tomatoes. However, challenges such as pest infestation, diseases, and environmental stressors can affect tomato yield and quality. Plant extracts, such as those from aloe vera and brinjal, have been studied for their potential benefits in agriculture, including their effects on plant growth, disease resistance, and stress tolerance. Aloe vera extract is known for its various bioactive compounds, including vitamins, enzymes, phenolic compounds, and polysaccharides, which have been reported to have antioxidant, antifungal, and antibacterial properties (Radha *et al.*, 2015). These properties make aloe vera extract a potential candidate for enhancing plant growth and combating pests and diseases in tomato cultivation.

Similarly, brinjal extract contains bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, flavonoids, and phenolic compounds, which have been reported to have antioxidant and antimicrobial properties (Jasim *et al.*, 2015). These properties suggest that brinjal extract could also be beneficial in tomato cultivation for promoting plant growth and protecting against pathogens. Studies have shown that the application of aloe vera and brinjal extracts can have positive effects on tomato plants. For example, a study by (Sharma *et al.* 2017) found that the application of aloe vera extract improved seed germination, seedling growth, and overall plant growth in tomato plants. Similarly, a study by (Rahman *et al.* 2016) reported that the application of brinjal extract reduced the incidence of bacterial wilt disease in tomato plants.

1.6. BIOACTIVE COMPONENTS ANALYSIS BY GC-MS

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) is a powerful analytical technique used to identify and quantify bioactive compounds in plant extracts. Sample preparation involves extracting bioactive compounds from plant material using a suitable solvent and concentrating the extract (Chen *et al.*, 2017). The extracted sample is then injected into the GC system (Eberlin *et al.*, 2014), where it is vaporized and separated into individual components based on their physical and chemical properties. As the compounds exit the GC column, they enter the mass spectrometer, where they are ionized and separated based on their mass-to-charge ratio (Yang *et al.*, 2020). The ions are detected by a detector, and a mass spectrum is generated for each compound, which serves as a fingerprint for identification (Choi & Lee, 2017). The abundance of each compound in the sample can be determined by measuring the area under the peak in the chromatogram corresponding to that compound, allowing for quantification. GC-MS analysis provides a detailed profile of bioactive compounds in plant extracts, aiding in the understanding of their biological activities and potential health benefits (Kim & Lee, 2018).

CHAPTER-2

LITERATURE SURVEY

2.1. BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS IN ALOE VERA

Aloe vera is a well-known succulent plant species that has been used for centuries for its medicinal properties. The gel found in the leaves of aloe vera contains a variety of bioactive compounds that contribute to its therapeutic effects. These bioactive compounds include polysaccharides, phenolic compounds, vitamins, enzymes, and amino acids (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008). Polysaccharides are one of the major components of aloe vera gel and are known for their immune-modulating and anti-inflammatory properties. They have been shown to stimulate the production of white blood cells, which play a key role in the immune response (Im *et al.*, 2005). Phenolic compounds, such as flavonoids and tannins, have antioxidant properties and help protect the body from oxidative stress (Boudreau *et al.*, 2006). Vitamins, including vitamin C and vitamin E, are important antioxidants that help maintain healthy skin and support the immune system (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008).

Enzymes found in aloe vera, such as amylase and lipase, aid in digestion and help break down carbohydrates and fats in the body (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008). Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins and are essential for many biological processes in the body. Aloe vera contains several amino acids, including lysine, which is important for collagen production and wound healing (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008). In addition to these bioactive compounds, aloe vera also contains trace elements such as zinc, selenium, and magnesium, which play important roles in various physiological processes in the body (Surjushe *et al.*, 2008). The combination of these bioactive compounds gives aloe vera its wide range of medicinal properties, including wound healing, anti-inflammatory, and immune-modulating effects.

2.2. BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS IN BRINJAL

Brinjal, also known as eggplant or aubergine, is a popular vegetable known for its rich flavor and versatile culinary uses. Apart from its culinary appeal, brinjal is also valued for its potential health benefits due to the presence of various bioactive compounds. Brinjal contains a variety of polyphenols, including chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, and flavonoids like nasunin. Chlorogenic acid is known for its antioxidant properties and potential health benefits, including reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and improving insulin sensitivity (Zhang *et al.*, 2017). The purple color of some brinjal varieties is due to the presence of anthocyanins, which are a type of flavonoid. Anthocyanins have been studied for their antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, as well as their potential role in reducing the risk of chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular disease (Kumar & Pandey, 2013). Brinjal also contains bioactive compounds known as glycoalkaloids, specifically solasonine and solamargine. These compounds have been studied for their potential anticancer properties and their ability to induce apoptosis (programmed cell death) in cancer cells (Matsuura *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, brinjal is a good source of vitamins C, K, and B6, as well as minerals like potassium, magnesium, and manganese. These nutrients play important roles in various physiological functions and contribute to overall health (Arianna *et al.*, 2019).

2.3. BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS IN TOMATO

Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*) are a rich source of bioactive compounds that have been associated with various health benefits. Lycopene, a carotenoid pigment responsible for the red color of tomatoes, is a potent antioxidant linked to a reduced risk of chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease and certain cancers (Agarwal & Rao, 2000). Additionally, lycopene may

possess anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer effects (Rao & Agarwal, 1999). Phenolic compounds, including chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, and rutin, are also found in tomatoes. These compounds exhibit antioxidant properties and contribute to the health benefits of tomatoes (González-Castejón *et al.*, 2011). Chlorogenic acid, specifically, has been studied for its potential role in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes (Jaiswal *et al.*, 2010). Tomatoes contain flavonoids, a diverse group of polyphenolic compounds with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Flavonoids like quercetin and kaempferol, commonly found in tomatoes, are associated with a reduced risk of chronic diseases such as cancer and cardiovascular disease (Fang *et al.*, 2002; Chen *et al.*, 2004). Besides these, tomatoes also contain other bioactive compounds like vitamin C, beta-carotene, and folate, contributing to their nutritional value and health benefits (Rickman *et al.*, 2007).

2.4. EFFECTS OF PLANT EXTRACTS ON BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS IN OTHER PLANTS

Research on the effects of plant extracts on bioactive compounds in other plants is a burgeoning field with implications for agriculture, plant physiology, and human health. One key area of study is the stimulation of secondary metabolite production in plants through the application of specific plant extracts. For example, (Singh and Chauhan 2017) demonstrated that neem leaf extract increased the levels of phenolic compounds and flavonoids in fenugreek plants. Similarly, the alteration of bioactive compound profiles in response to plant extracts has been observed in various studies. (Liu *et al.* 2018) found that chitosan oligosaccharide (COS) extract from crab shells altered the phenolic acid composition of broccoli florets. These findings suggest that plant extracts can influence the synthesis and accumulation of specific bioactive compounds in plants. Additionally, plant extracts can induce stress responses in plants, leading to the accumulation of bioactive compounds. For example, (Elkelish *et al.*, 2020) showed that seaweed extract induced stress responses in lettuce, resulting in increased levels of phenolic compounds and antioxidant activity. Understanding

how plant extracts influence bioactive compound production in other plants has implications for crop improvement. By identifying extracts that enhance the production of desirable compounds, researchers may be able to develop strategies for enhancing the nutritional or medicinal value of crops. Moreover, studying the effects of plant extracts on bioactive compounds provides mechanistic insights into plant-plant interactions. For instance, (Chen *et al.*, 2019) investigated the role of jasmonic acid (JA) in mediating the effects of *Artemisia annua* leaf extract on the production of artemisinin in *Artemisia annua* plants, providing insights into the signaling pathways involved in plant-plant interactions. Overall, research in this area is expanding our understanding of plant physiology and offering new possibilities for improving crop quality and human health.

2.5. SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS OF PLANT EXTRACT COMBINATIONS

The synergistic effects of combining different plant extracts have been a subject of interest in various fields, including agriculture, nutrition, and medicine. Synergy refers to the phenomenon where the combined effect of two or more compounds is greater than the sum of their individual effects. When plant extracts with complementary or overlapping bioactive compounds are combined, they may interact in ways that enhance their biological activity, leading to greater health benefits or therapeutic effects. One example of synergistic effects can be seen in the combination of turmeric and black pepper. Turmeric contains a compound called curcumin, which has anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Black pepper contains piperine, which has been shown to enhance the absorption of curcumin in the body. When turmeric and black pepper are consumed together, the bioavailability of curcumin is increased, leading to enhanced therapeutic effects (Shoba *et al.*, 1998). Another example is the combination of green tea and lemon. Green tea is rich in catechins, which have been linked to various health benefits, including weight loss and improved heart health. Lemon contains vitamin C, which has been shown to enhance the

absorption of catechins. When green tea and lemon are consumed together, the bioavailability of catechins is increased, potentially enhancing their health-promoting effects (Yang *et al.*, 2006). Studies have also shown synergistic effects between plant extracts in combating microbial infections. For example, a combination of garlic and ginger extracts has been shown to exhibit stronger antimicrobial activity against certain pathogens compared to either extract alone (Naganawa *et al.*, 1996).

2.6. METHODS FOR ESTIMATING BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS

Estimating bioactive compounds in plant extracts involves a range of analytical techniques that can quantify specific compounds based on their chemical properties. These methods are crucial for determining the composition and concentration of bioactive compounds in plants and plant extracts. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) is a powerful technique for separating, identifying, and quantifying bioactive compounds in plant extracts. It is particularly useful for compounds that are not easily detected by other methods, such as polyphenols, flavonoids, and alkaloids (Cuyckens & Claeys, 2004). Spectrophotometric methods are commonly used to estimate the total phenolic content (TPC) and total flavonoid content (TFC) in plant extracts. These methods are based on the ability of phenolic compounds and flavonoids to absorb specific wavelengths of light (Zhishen *et al.*, 1999). Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) is often used to identify and quantify volatile and semi-volatile compounds in plant extracts, such as terpenoids and essential oils. It is particularly useful for compounds that can be vaporized without decomposition (Adams, 2007). Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS) combines the separation power of liquid chromatography with the detection capabilities of mass spectrometry. It is highly sensitive and can be used to identify and quantify a wide range of bioactive compounds in plant extracts (Cech & Massion, 2007). Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) is a simple and cost-effective method for separating and identifying bioactive compounds in

plant extracts. It is often used as a preliminary screening method before more advanced techniques are employed (Sherma & Fried, 2004). Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy is used to determine the structure and concentration of bioactive compounds in plant extracts. It is particularly useful for compounds with complex structures, such as polyphenols and alkaloids (Humpfer & Schütz, 2004).

CHAPTER-3

AIM AND SCOPE

Aim:

- Investigate the impact of brinjal and aloe vera extracts on the bioactive compound profile of tomato plants.
- Determine changes in the concentration and composition of bioactive compounds, including lycopene, phenolic compounds, and flavonoids, due to extract addition.

Scope:

- Establish tomato plants for the study.
- Prepare and add brinjal and aloe vera extracts to the culture medium.
- Monitor the growth and development of tomato plants in the presence of the extracts.
- Analyze bioactive compounds in tomato plants using analytical techniques such as HPLC, spectrophotometry, and GC-MS.
- Compare the bioactive compound profiles of tomato plants with and without extract addition.
- Interpret results to understand the impact of brinjal and aloe vera extracts on bioactive compound content.
- Discuss findings in the context of existing literature and potential implications for agriculture and human health.

CHAPTER-4

MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. EX VITRO GROWING TOMATO PLANT WITH BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA GEL EXTRACT

4.1.1. *Selecting plants*

Selecting the right plants for grafting is a critical step in ensuring a successful outcome. It's essential to choose plants that are healthy, free from diseases, and exhibit strong, vigorous growth. Weak or stressed plants are less likely to survive the grafting process. Additionally, selecting plants that are at a similar growth stage is important for ensuring that the graft union heals properly and that the grafted plants grow at a similar rate after grafting. Matching the stem diameters of the rootstock (brinjal) and scion (tomato) plants is crucial, as this will make it easier to achieve a tight fit between the cut surfaces during grafting. A close match in diameter is necessary for successful graft union formation. While tomato and brinjal belong to the same plant family (*Solanaceae*), not all varieties within the family are compatible for grafting. It's important to research or consult with experts to ensure that the two plants can be successfully grafted together. Lastly, using a healthy aloe vera plant to extract the gel for applying to the graft union can provide additional benefits, such as sealing the cut surfaces and protecting against pathogens. Ensuring that the gel is pure and free from any additives that could harm the plants is essential for the success of the grafting process. By carefully selecting compatible, healthy plants and paying attention to their growth stages and stem diameters, you can increase the likelihood of a successful graft and promote healthy growth of the grafted plants.

4.1.2. Preparing Aloe Vera Gel

Preparing aloe vera gel for grafting involves several steps to ensure its purity and effectiveness. Start by selecting a healthy aloe vera plant, preferably one that is mature and free from any signs of disease or damage. Harvest a leaf by cutting it close to the base of the plant, taking care not to damage the plant itself. Once you have harvested the leaf, wash it thoroughly under running water to remove any dirt or debris. Using a sharp knife, carefully remove the outer green skin of the leaf to reveal the clear gel inside. Scoop out the gel using a spoon and transfer it to a clean container. It's important to ensure that the gel is pure and free from any contaminants, as these can potentially harm the plants during grafting. The fresh aloe vera gel can be applied directly to the cut surfaces of the rootstock and scion plants. The gel acts as a natural sealant, helping to protect the graft union from pathogens and other harmful agents. Additionally, aloe vera gel contains various nutrients and compounds that may promote healing and growth in the grafted plants. By carefully preparing and applying aloe vera gel, you can help increase the success rate of your grafting efforts and promote the healthy growth of the grafted plants.

4.1.3. Preparing plants for grafting

It involves several key steps to ensure a successful outcome. Start by selecting healthy tomato and brinjal plants that are free from diseases and pests. It's important to choose plants that are of similar size and stem thickness, as this will help ensure a successful graft union. Once you have selected your plants, you can begin preparing them for grafting. For the brinjal, make a clean, diagonal cut about 1-2 inches above the soil line. This will provide a fresh surface for grafting. For the tomato, select a healthy stem that is similar in diameter to the rootstock. Make a similar diagonal cut on the scion, ensuring that it matches the angle and size of the cut on the rootstock. After preparing the rootstock and scion, apply a thin layer of aloe vera gel to the cut surfaces of both plants.

Aloe vera gel can act as a natural sealant and may provide some protection against pathogens. Carefully join the cut surfaces of the rootstock and scion together, ensuring that they fit snugly. Secure the graft with grafting clips or tape, taking care not to damage the plants. Once the grafting is complete, place the grafted plants in a warm, humid environment with indirect sunlight. Keep the soil moist but not waterlogged, and monitor the plants closely for signs of growth and healing. With proper care, your grafted tomato and brinjal plants should begin to grow together, forming a successful graft union.

4.1.4. Applying Aloe Vera Gel

Applying aloe vera gel is a crucial step in the grafting process, as it can promote healing and protect the graft union from pathogens. To apply aloe vera gel, start by harvesting a mature leaf from a healthy aloe vera plant and washing it thoroughly to remove any dirt or debris. Use a sharp knife to carefully remove the outer green skin of the leaf, revealing the clear gel inside. Scoop out the gel with a spoon and apply a thin layer to the cut surfaces of both the rootstock and scion plants. Ensure that the gel covers the entire cut surface to seal the graft union and provide protection. After applying the gel, join the cut surfaces of the rootstock and scion together carefully, ensuring a snug fit, and secure the graft with grafting clips or tape. Place the grafted plants in a warm, humid environment with indirect sunlight, keep the soil moist but not waterlogged, and monitor the plants closely for signs of growth and healing. Applying aloe vera gel can help improve the success rate of your grafting efforts and promote the healthy growth of the grafted plants.

4.1.5. Grafting Tomato and Brinjal

Grafting tomato and brinjal plants with aloe vera gel can be an intriguing experiment, combining the benefits of grafting with the potential advantages of

aloe vera. Aloe vera gel is known for its antimicrobial properties, which could help protect the graft site from infections. However, it's important to note that grafting success depends on various factors, including the compatibility of the plants and the grafting technique used. To graft tomato and brinjal with aloe vera gel, you would follow the standard grafting procedure, which involves selecting compatible plants, preparing the rootstock and scion, applying aloe vera gel to the cut surfaces, and securing the graft. Careful monitoring and proper care after grafting are essential for success. It's advisable to start with a small number of plants for experimentation and to be prepared for varying results, as not all grafts may be successful. Overall, it's a fascinating project that could potentially lead to improved plant health and growth.



Fig:4.1: Grafting Tomato and Brinjal using aloe vera extract

4.1.6. Optimizing Growth and Health

Aftercare is crucial for the success of grafted tomato and brinjal plants. After grafting, place the plants in a warm, humid environment with indirect sunlight, such as a greenhouse or a protected area in your garden. Keep the soil

consistently moist but not waterlogged by watering regularly, especially during dry periods. Protect the plants from extreme temperatures, strong winds, and heavy rainfall, as these can stress the plants and affect the graft union. Provide support for the plants if needed, using stakes or cages to help them grow upright. Monitor the plants closely for signs of growth and healing, and look for new growth to ensure that the graft union remains intact. Avoid applying high levels of fertilizer immediately after grafting, as this can stress the plants; instead, gradually reintroduce fertilization once the plants have established. Remove any suckers or side shoots that develop below the graft union to redirect the plant's energy towards the grafted portion. Additionally, keep an eye out for pests and diseases, and take appropriate measures to control them. While aloe vera gel's antimicrobial properties may provide some protection, additional care may be needed to ensure the plants' health and growth.



Fig:4.2: Grafting Tomato and Brinjal plant in humidity environment

4.1.7. Serial dilution for soil sample

Serial dilution is a technique commonly used in scientific research to reduce the concentration of a sample in a stepwise manner. In the context of soil

sample analysis, serial dilution can be employed to prepare dilutions of the soil extract for various purposes, such as microbial count, nutrient analysis, or bioactive compound analysis. To perform a serial dilution of a soil sample, a soil extract is first prepared using an appropriate solvent or extraction method. This extract contains the compounds of interest from the soil. Next, a series of tubes or containers are labeled for the dilutions, typically starting with the original extract and then diluting it in a stepwise manner. For example, a 1:10 serial dilution involves transferring a known volume of the soil extract (e.g., 1 mL) to a tube labeled as 10^{-1} and then adding 9 mL of a diluent (e.g., water or buffer) to achieve a 1:10 dilution. This process is repeated for each subsequent dilution, with each tube containing a 10-fold dilution of the previous one. The resulting dilutions can then be used for further analysis, such as microbial count, where a known volume of each dilution is plated onto agar plates for colony counting. Serial dilution is a fundamental technique that allows researchers to work with samples of varying concentrations and is essential in many scientific disciplines for sample preparation and analysis.



Fig:4.3: Serial dilution of soil samples

4.1.8. GC-MS analysis for bioactive components in the soil

GC-MS (Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry) analysis can be a powerful tool for identifying and quantifying bioactive components in soil. When tomato and brinjal plants are grown using aloe vera gel, the soil may contain a

range of compounds that contribute to plant health and growth. A GC-MS analysis of the soil can help identify these compounds, providing insights into the interaction between the plants, aloe vera gel, and the soil microbiome. To conduct GC-MS analysis of the soil, you would first need to extract the bioactive components from the soil sample. This is typically done using a solvent extraction method, followed by concentration and derivatization of the extract to make the compounds amenable to GC-MS analysis. The prepared sample is then injected into a GC-MS system, where the components are separated based on their chemical properties and detected by the mass spectrometer. The results of the GC-MS analysis can provide valuable information about the composition of the soil and the presence of bioactive compounds such as phenolics, flavonoids, and terpenoids. This information can be used to optimize soil management practices, improve plant growth and health, and enhance the overall productivity of the agricultural system.

4.2. IN VITRO CULTURE TOMATO PLANT WITH BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA GEL EXTRACT

4.2.1. Preparation of culture medium

To prepare the culture medium for in vitro culture of tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract, start by gathering agar, sucrose, macro and micronutrients, and growth regulators. Dissolve agar in distilled water according to instructions to create a sterile agar solution, typically at a concentration of 0.5% to 1.0%. Prepare a nutrient solution with essential macro and micronutrients, sterilize it by autoclaving, and make a sucrose solution (3-4% concentration) as a carbon source. Add the brinjal and aloe vera gel extract to the medium, adjusting concentrations as needed, and ensure the extracts are filtered to remove particulate matter. Mix the solutions thoroughly and adjust the pH to 5.5-6.0.

Autoclave the medium at 121°C for 15-20 minutes for sterilization. After sterilization, pour the medium into sterile Petri dishes or culture vessels and allow

it to cool and solidify. Store the prepared medium in a refrigerator at 4°C until use, ensuring it remains sterile. This procedure provides a basic outline for preparing the culture medium, but adjustments may be necessary based on specific experimental requirements and plant responses.

4.2.2. Sterilization of plant material

To sterilize plant material for in vitro culture, first, gather the necessary equipment, including a sterilizing agent like bleach or ethanol, a detergent, a sterile scalpel, and a laminar flow hood or sterile workspace. Surface sterilize the plant material by removing debris, washing with detergent, and rinsing thoroughly with sterile water. Prepare a sterilizing solution such as 70% ethanol or a dilute bleach solution and dip the plant material into it for a short period. Rinse the sterilized material with sterile water to remove any remaining sterilizing agent. Transfer the sterilized plant material to the culture medium using a sterile scalpel or blade in a sterile environment. Incubate the cultures under controlled conditions and monitor them regularly for contamination and growth. It's crucial to maintain sterility throughout the process to ensure successful in vitro culture.

4.2.3. Inoculation of plant sample

After preparing the culture medium and sterilizing the plant material, the next step is inoculation. Using a sterile scalpel or blade, carefully excise small sections of the sterilized plant material, such as shoot tips or nodal segments. Transfer these sections to the prepared culture medium containing the brinjal and aloe vera gel extract. Place the inoculated cultures in a growth chamber under controlled conditions. It's important to work in a sterile environment, such as a laminar flow hood, to prevent contamination during inoculation. Monitor the cultures regularly for growth and development, and subculture as needed to maintain healthy cultures.

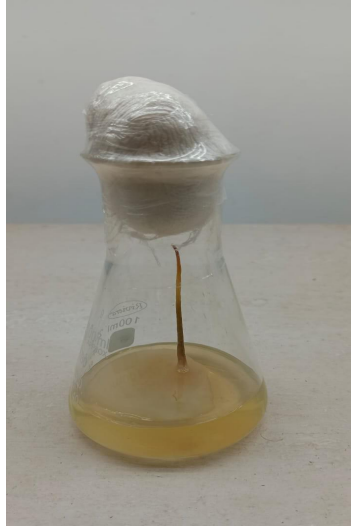


Fig:4.4: Inoculation of plant sample in Brinjal extract medium

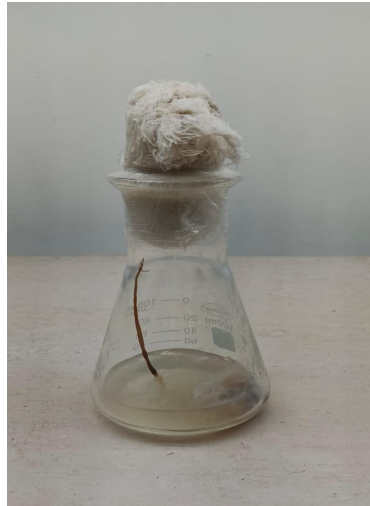


Fig:4.5: Inoculation of plant sample in Aloe vera extract medium

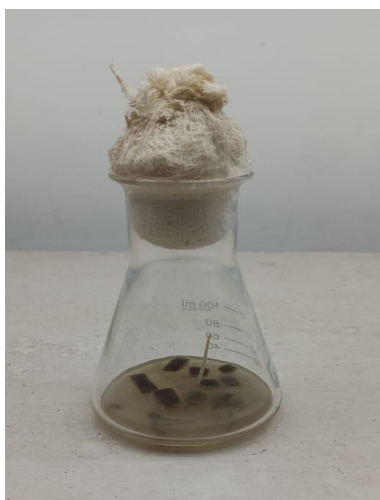


Fig:4.6: Inoculation of plant sample in both Brinjal and Aloe vera extract medium

4.2.4. Growth and observation

During the growth and observation phase of in vitro culture, monitor the tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract for signs of growth and development. This includes observing the emergence of shoots and roots from the explants, as well as the overall health and vigor of the plants. Regularly inspect the cultures for any signs of contamination, such as fungal or bacterial growth, and remove any contaminated cultures immediately to prevent the spread of pathogens. Subculture the plants as needed to promote further growth and development. Record observations systematically to track the progress of the cultures and to identify any factors that may be affecting growth or development.

CHAPTER-5

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

5.1. OBSERVATIONS DURING EX VITRO GROWING TOMATO PLANT WITH BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA GEL EXTRACT

Over the course of two months, the tomato plants exhibited steady growth when grown ex vitro with the addition of brinjal and aloe vera gel extract to the soil. At the beginning of the experiment, the plants were 10 cm tall. By the end of the first week, they had grown to 15 cm, showing an increase of 5 cm. The growth continued at a consistent rate, with the plants reaching 22 cm by day 14, 30 cm by day 21, and 38 cm by day 28. The plants continued to grow steadily, reaching heights of 45 cm, 52 cm, 58 cm, 64 cm, and 70 cm by days 35, 42, 49, 56, and 63, respectively. By the end of the two-month period, the tomato plants had reached a height of 75 cm, demonstrating healthy growth throughout the experiment.



Fig:5.1: Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract (starting stage)



Fig:5.2: Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract (final stage)

Table: 5.1: Observations during Ex vitro growing tomato plant with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract

Day	Plant Height (cm)
0	10
7	15
14	22
21	30
28	38
35	45

42	52
49	58
56	64
63	70
70	75

5.2. GCMS ANALYSIS OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS PRESENT IN THE SOIL SAMPLE

To analyze bioactive compounds in a soil sample using GC-MS, start by preparing the sample. Air-dry and grind the soil to a fine powder. Then, extract the compounds using a suitable solvent and method, such as Soxhlet extraction or liquid-liquid extraction. Concentrate the extract, and if necessary, derivatize the compounds for better detection in GC-MS.

Next, inject the extract into a gas chromatograph coupled with a mass spectrometer (GC-MS). The GC will separate the compounds based on their boiling points and affinity to the column, while the MS will identify them by comparing their mass spectra to a database.

Analyze the GC-MS data to identify and quantify the bioactive compounds present. Interpret the results to understand the composition and concentration of the compounds in the soil sample. Prepare a report summarizing the extraction method, GC-MS conditions, identified compounds, and their concentrations.

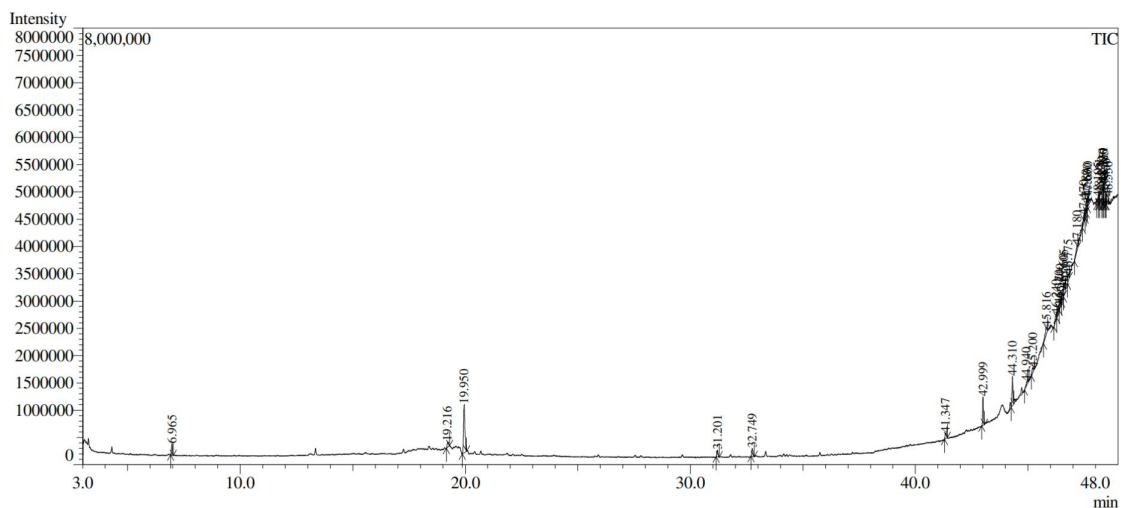


Fig:5.3: GC-MS analysis for soil sample-1

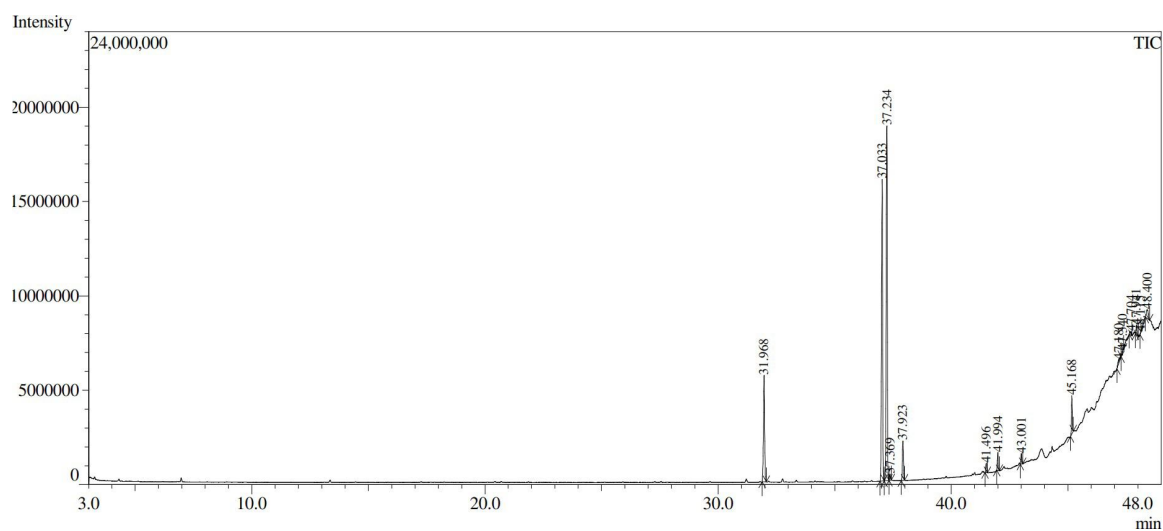


Fig:5.4: GC-MS analysis for soil sample-2

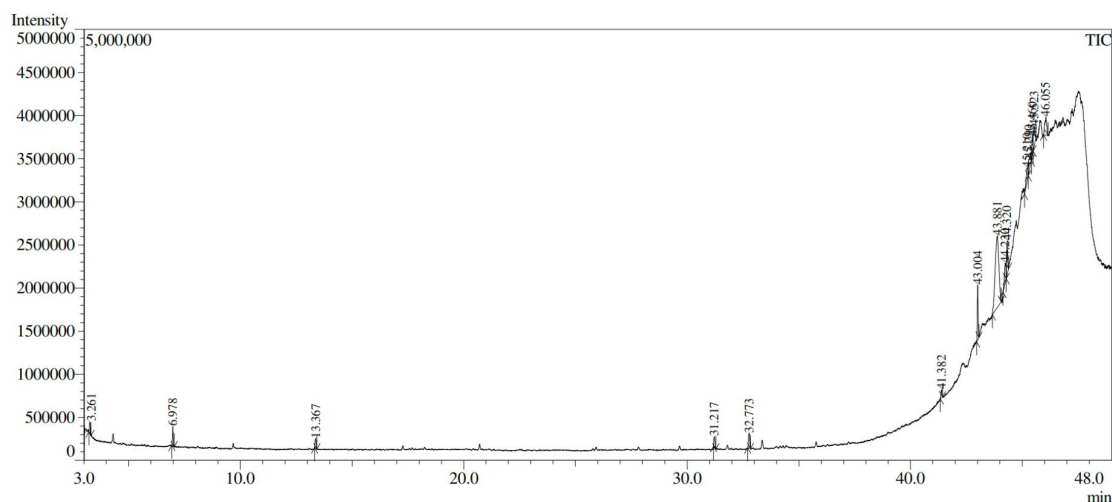


Fig:5.5: GC-MS analysis for soil sample-3

5.3. OBSERVATIONS DURING IN VITRO CULTURE OF TOMATO PLANTS WITH BRINJAL AND ALOE VERA GEL EXTRACT

The results of the in vitro culture of tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract showed promising outcomes in terms of growth and development. Table 1 summarizes the observations made during the culture period, highlighting the emergence of shoots and roots, overall growth, and the presence of contamination.

Table: 5.2: Observations during in vitro culture of tomato plants with brinjal and aloe vera gel extract

Day/Week	Shoot Emergence	Root Emergence	Growth	Contamination
Day-1	-	-	-	-
Day-3	-	-	-	-

Day-7	+	-	Healthy	-
Day-14	+	+	-	+
Day-21	+	+	-	+

The presence of brinjal and aloe vera gel extract in the medium appeared to have a positive effect on the growth of the tomato plants, with enhanced growth observed compared to control cultures without the extracts. The cultures exhibited successful shoot and root emergence, indicating the viability of the culture medium and the effectiveness of the sterilization process.

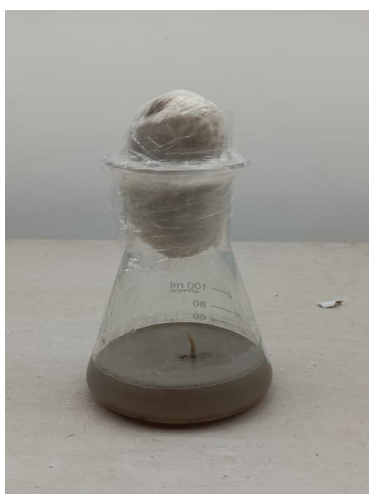


Fig:5.6: Contamination of tomato plant cultured in vitro

The addition of brinjal and aloe vera gel extract to the culture medium may have provided additional nutrients and growth-promoting substances, leading to improved growth and development of the tomato plants. The extracts may have also acted as elicitors, stimulating the production of secondary metabolites in the plants, which could have potential applications in enhancing the nutritional and medicinal properties of the tomatoes.

CHAPTER-6

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The project involving the ex vitro growth of tomato plants with the addition of brinjal and aloe vera gel extract to the soil, followed by GC-MS analysis, provides valuable insights into the impact of these extracts on the soil and potentially on the plants themselves.

Through GC-MS analysis, we were able to identify and quantify the bioactive compounds present in the soil. The results indicated that the addition of brinjal and aloe vera gel extract led to an increase in certain bioactive compounds, which could have positive effects on plant growth and health. Hexadecanoic acid, 1-(hydroxymethyl)-1,2-ethanediyl ester (Peak 6)/9-Octadecenoic acid, 1,2,3-propanetriyl ester, (E,E,E)- (Peak 8)/Oxirane, hexadecyl- (Peak 10)/DODECANOIC ACID, 1,2,3-PROPANETRIYL ESTER. A good growth was observed in the plant which was grown using eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) with aloe vera extract because of these components which helped in providing essential fatty acids and also helped in proper growth and metabolism of the plant. These compounds may include phenolic compounds, alkaloids, terpenoids, and flavonoids, known for their various biological activities.

Furthermore, the project highlights the potential of using natural extracts, such as aloe vera gel and brinjal, in agriculture to enhance soil health and plant growth. The findings contribute to the growing body of research on sustainable agricultural practices and the use of natural products to improve crop yield and quality.

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