

## DIVERSITY OF ARBUSCULAR MYCORRHIZAL FUNGI ASSOCIATED WITH SOME PLANTS FROM JABALPUR REGION OF MADHYAPRADESH INDIA

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### ABSTRACT

An investigation was carried out to study AM fungi association with five different plant species viz, *Euphorbia hirta*, *Lantana camara*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Datura metel* and *Xanthium strumarium* collected from different sites of Jabalpur. Fungal species extracted from the roots of these plants assessed for identification of these spores, extracted from the sediments of the root region of these plants. All the five species of AM fungi viz, *Glomus mosseae*, *Acaulospora laevis*, *Acaulospora scrobiculata*, *Sclerocystis* spp., *Glomus fasciculatum* and some unknown species were found frequently attached to these plants. Two of the five AM fungi *Glomus mosseae* and *Acaulospora laevis*,

were identified from *Xanthium strumarium*, three AM fungi viz., *Glomus mosseae*, *Acaulospora laevis*, and *Sclerocystis* spp., were associated with *Lantana camara* and *Achyranthes aspera*. AM fungi in % colonization in roots were studied in which highest % colonization were associated with *Lantana camara* species that accounts to 83% and lowest % colonization in *Achyranthes aspera* 34%. *Glomus* species was dominant in all the species of plants studied.

**KEYWORDS:** AM fungi, Plant species, Root colonization and Jabalpur region.

### INTRODUCTION

Arbuscular mycorrhizae fungi are coming to study in the phylum Glomeromycota.<sup>[1]</sup> They are obligate symbionts that are forming interactions with about 80% of plant species.<sup>[2]</sup> AM associations one of the most frequent symbiosis found having broad association and are

frequently occurred having cosmopolitan distribution.<sup>[3,4]</sup> Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi improves the plant to access the limited soil minerals like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in exchange for the photosynthetic products. Mycorrhiza enhances soil structure<sup>[6]</sup> and promote plant growth<sup>[5]</sup> which allow ecosystem to be in stable state.<sup>[7]</sup> *Lantana camara* proved to be beneficial and are reported, having high content of N and P, which is mineralized rapidly from the organic material. Colonization of mycorrhizal fungi is very important in the region where soil is degraded because of having low nutrient availability. Furthermore, AM fungi produce extraradical hyphae that release glomalin, that is a glycoprotein, helps in improving soil structure.<sup>[8]</sup> Studies on the activity and association of AM fungi help in understanding the ecological importance of AM fungal association. Moreover, there is growing evidence that the diversity and distribution of AM fungi is related to plant community structure and ecosystem function.<sup>[9]</sup>

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **Collection of soils and root samples**

Roots and soil samples were collected from the rhizosphere of plants growing in that area. From different sites plants were selected. Samples to be collected randomly and pooled and then homogenised. Before processing, the samples were allowed to remove stones, coarse roots and other litter, collected from each sample. Soil samples were air dried and stored at 4°C for further experiments.

### **Preparation of roots and assessment of AM fungi**

Roots were collected and washed with tap water and were allowed to cut approximately one centimeter. Roots were then cleaned with ten percent NaOH at ninety degree centigrade for many hours depending on the characteristics of root. These roots were again cleaned with tap water and then bleached in drops of alkaline H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> before acidification for 2 to 4 times. After acidification they are then stained with 1% HCl, and were then stained with Black Faber Castell stamp pad ink.<sup>[10]</sup> After some time roots were mounted on the slide for observation under microscope to identify AM fungal structures. The estimation of AM and fungal colonization were done by the magnified intersection method.<sup>[11]</sup>

### **Spore analysis**

For analysis of spore twenty five gram of soil was taken and extracted by the method of wet sieving and decanting,<sup>[13]</sup> The spores that were isolated are then picked out with the help of needle and then to be added 1-2 drops of polyvinyl alcohol-lactoglycerol and then identified

under microscope.<sup>[12]</sup> The taxonomic identification of spores was based upon colour, size and ornamentation.

### Determination of soil characters

Soil characteristics were determined by taking 10 g of soil and then dissolved in 50 ml distilled water and stirred for 30 min. after that kept for 10-15 hours. Measurement of the electrical conductivity, soil pH were determined using conductivity meter and a digital Ph meter. The Organic Carbon was estimated by using Walkley-Black method<sup>[14]</sup> The soil available Nitrogen was estimated by Black (1982).<sup>[15]</sup> Available Phosphorus of soil was determined using Jackson (1978) method.<sup>[16]</sup>

## RESULTS

### Physico-chemical characteristics of the 5 different sites of Jabalpur

The pH of all the samples was approximately acidic and significantly higher in soils from Bhedaghat and Gaurighat region. The electrical conductivity was significantly higher in the soil collected from shaktinagar area. The organic Carbon (%) was significantly higher in Gaurighat soil. Available Nitrogen was higher in Bhedaghat soil and available Phosphorus was highest in soil collected from Madanmahl area.

**Table No. 1: Physico-chemical characteristics of the 5 different sites of Jabalpur.**

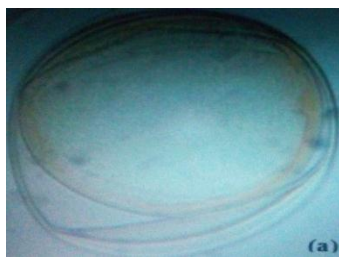
Plant species	Different sites of Jabalpur	Ph	Electrical conductivity	Organic carbon	Nitrogen Kg/Ha	Phosphorus Kg/Ha	Potassium Kg/Ha	Percentage Root infection
Euphorbia hirta	Bhedaghat	7.10	0.32	0.66	303	9.40	143	71%
Lantana camara	Gaurighat	7.10	0.45	0.86	132	7.68	162	83%
Achyranthes aspera	Tilwara ghat	6.85	0.42	0.43	229	5.9	157	34%
Datura metel	Madan mahal	6.90	0.55	0.55	307	12.28	232	60%
Xanthium strumarium	Shaktinagar	6.92	0.71	0.71	210	5.8	230	39.10%

The extent of colonisation was highest in Gaurighat site ranged to 83% followed by Bhedaghat 71%, Madanmahal site 60% and lowest root infect colonisation was in Tilwara ghat site that accounts to 34%.

In the roots fungal hyphae penetrate that are characterised by the presence of an appressorium. The different AM fungal structures *viz.*, intra radical hyphae, hyphal coils, micro-sclerotia and inter or intra cellular vesicles were observed.

### AM Fungal Diversity

An investigation was carried out to study AM fungi association with five different plant species *viz.*, *Euphorbia hirta*, *Lantana camara*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Datura metel* and *Xanthium strumarium* collected from different sites of Jabalpur. A total of five different AM fungal spore morphotypes were identified based on their spore morphology. They included two species in *Acaulospora* (*Acaulospora laevis* and *A. scrobiculata*), one species in *Sclerocystis* spp., and two species in *Glomus* (*Glomus mosseae* and *Glomus fasciculatum*) and some unknown species.



(a) *Acaulospora laevis*



(b) *Glomus diaphanum*



(c) *Glomus fasciculatum*



(d) *Sclerocystis*



(e) Unknown species



(f) *Glomus mosseae*



(g) Unknown species



(h) *A. scrobiculata*

(a) *Acaulospora laevis* (b) *Glomus diaphanum* (c) *Glomus fasciculatum* (d) *Sclerocystis* (e) Unknown species (f) *Glomus mosseae* (g) Unknown species (h) *A. scrobiculata*

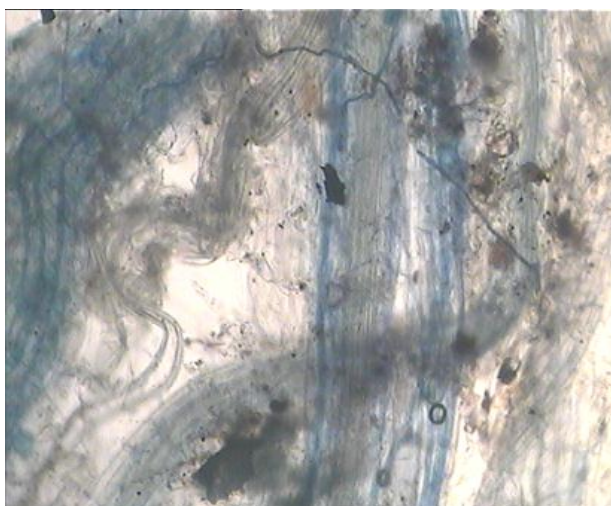
**Figure No. 1:** Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal spores isolated from the rhizosphere soils of the study area.

**Table No. 2: Arbuscular mycorrhizal association in the angiospermic plants of the study area.**

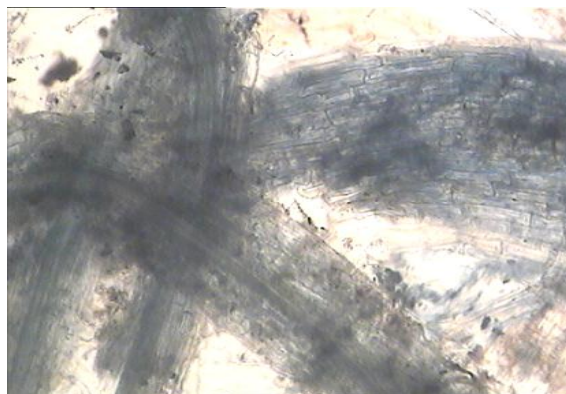
Family	Plant name	Habit	AM fungal species
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Herb	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Acaulospora laevis</i> , <i>A.scrobiculata</i> , <i>Sclerocystis spp.</i> , <i>Glomus fasciculatum</i>
Verbenaceae	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Herb	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Acaulospora laevis</i> , <i>Sclerocystis spp</i>
Amaranthaceae	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Herb	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Acaulospora laevis</i> , <i>Sclerocystis spp</i>
Solanaceae	<i>Datura metel</i>	Herb	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Acaulospora laevis</i> , <i>A.scrobiculata</i> , <i>Sclerocystis spp.</i> , <i>Glomus fasciculatum</i> , Unknown species
Asteraceae	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Herb	<i>Glomus mosseae</i> , <i>Acaulospora laevis</i>



**Fungal colonization in the roots of *Euphorbia hirta*.**



***Lantana camara***



*Datura metel.*



Fungal colonization in the roots of *Xanthium strumarium*



*Achyranthes aspera*

**Figure No. 2:** Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal colonization in the roots of the plants in the study area.

## DISCUSSIONS

The level of AM infection differed among the plants to be studied. Heavy root Infection was recorded in *Lantana camara* (83%), *Euphorbia hirta* (71%) and lowest root infection by these AM fungal species were studied in *Achyranthes aspera* collected from the site of

Tilwara ghat. *Glomus* was the dominant genus with two species namely *Glomus mosseae* and *Glomus fasciculatum* followed by *Acaulospora* (*Acaulospora laevis*, *Acaulospora scrobiculata*). The results are found in accordance with the previous results of many researchers.<sup>[17,18,19]</sup> Pattern of spores of *Glomus* might cause the dominance of this genus. Spores of *Glomus* are borne in clusters and hence they sporulate more frequently.

## CONCLUSION

From the study, it can be concluded that the studied plants survive due to the AM fungal associations. *Glomus* was the dominant genus found in the study area.

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