



THE EFFECT OF MECHANICAL AND CHEMICAL TREATMENTS ON SEEDCOAT IMPOSED DORMANCY IN MOTH BEAN.

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Abstract:

Five genotypes of moth bean were sown during 2016. The seeds after harvesting, threshing and processing were evaluated for their hardseededness dormancy. The findings of the present study indicate that concentrated sulphuric acid, hot water, sand scarification and hot air oven methods are effective for reducing hardseededness in moth bean. All the above mentioned treatments showed injuries effect to the seed embryo by increasing the dead seeds and abnormal seedlings except concentrated sulphuric acid treatment. In general concentrated sulphuric acid treatment for 60 seconds have been found most effective for breaking seeds coat dormancy and also significantly highest germination percentage compared to the above mentioned treatments under taken in the present investigation.

Keywords: Moth bean, dormancy, hard seed coat, germination, seedling vigour, field emergence.

INTRODUCTION

Seeds dormancy is defined as the state in which seeds are prevented from germination even under favorable conditions for germination. The impermeability of seed coat to water is typical example of exogenibility are known as hard seeds. This impermeability may be due to the presence of a cuticle and a well developed layer of palisade cells or both. Cutin deposits have been reported by Thronton (1968). The development of hard seeds has been reported to be influenced both by genotypic and environmental factors (Puri and Laudlaw, 1984). Most of the legume crop plants produce hard seeds to varying percentages. Most workers have found this trait to be highly heritable. However, the available literature does not clearly state the developmental stage in which the seed develops into hard seed. Hardseededness in moth bean creates problems in testing for germinability under laboratory conditions. Due to this state of affair there is great problem under field condition in securing uniform germination and good crop stand for maximum crop production. The present study was undertaken to evaluate the methods to overcome Hardseededness in moth bean.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Five genotypes of moth bean viz. No.- 88, MBS-27, Local-1, Local- 2 and Local-3 were used in the various phases of this study, produced in 2016. Hard seeds which did not imbibe water were sorted out from the normal seeds which imbibe water. To evolve a quick method for breaking hardseededness in five genotypes of moth bean, the hard seeds were treated by concentrated sulphuric acid (for 30 and 60 seconds), hot water (100°C for 120 and 180 seconds), sand scarification (100°C for 240 and 480 seconds) hot air oven (140°C for 15 and 30 seconds) and untreated (control). For germination test in laboratory, the germination medium used was rolled towels paper under controlled conditions (i.e. temperature at $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ constant and relative humidity 85%). The germination was tested in quadruplicate with 100 seeds in each replication. The germination count was taken on the 8th day and germination percentage was recorded on the basis of normal seedlings (ISTA,1985)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Moth bean tested for different methods of breaking the hardseededness are presented in

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Table 1. The overall comparisons of mean among and within genotypes and treatments for both normal seedling and hard seed percentage showed that concentrated sulphuric acid for 60 seconds was the most effective treatment for reducing hard seeds content. It was followed by hot water for 180 seconds sand scarification for 480 seconds hot water 120 seconds, hot air oven 30 seconds, sand scarification 240 seconds, concentrated sulphuric acid of 30 seconds and hot air over 15 seconds. All the treatments showed injurious effect by increasing the abnormal seedling except concentrated sulphuric acid for 60 seconds. There is no germination in control (untreated) seeds Duran and Tortosa (1985) has clearly explained the effect of concentrated sulphuric acid on seed coat of *Sinapsis aruensis* and conclude that it was the rapid desiccation produced by concentrated sulphuric acid and not its hydrolytic capacity which seems to cause fragmentation of integuments and thus allowing the passage of water to the embryo.

CONCLUSIONS:

The results obtained in the present investigation indicate that concentrated sulphuric acid treatment for 60 second has been found more effective for breaking hard seed coat dormancy in Moth bean. The result confirms the finding of Charjan and Tarar (1990), Sing and Tomer (1993) and Cherian et al. (2011).

Effectiveness of concentrated sulphuric acid, hot water and hot air oven treatment for breaking hardseededness was also reported in related crops by Borikar et al. (1985), Radhakrishnan et al. (1989), Rana

and Nautiyal. (1989), Tomer and Maguire. (1989), Verma and Singh. (1989), Charjan and Tarar. (1991), Singh and Tomer. (1993) and Cherian et al. (2011).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Authors are thankful to officers from forest department for providing the information of natural healers in the study area. We are also thankful to the Principal of R.K.T. College, Ulhasnagar for promoting to undertake such study and providing laboratory facilities.

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Table 1 Effect of different treatments on Germinability of Moth bean

| S.N. | Treatments | NO-88 | | | MBS-27 | | | Local- 1 | | | Local-2 | | | Local-3 | | |
|------|--------------------------------|-------|----|-----|--------|----|-----|----------|----|-----|---------|----|-----|---------|----|----|
| | | N | Ab | H | N | Ab | H | N | Ab | H | N | Ab | H | N | Ab | H |
| 1 | Control (Untreated hard seeds) | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 2 | Concentrated sulphuric acid | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (i) 30 seconds | 79 | 5 | 16 | 80 | 6 | 14 | 77 | 9 | 14 | 78 | 6 | 16 | 80 | 5 | 15 |
| | (ii) 60 seconds | 96 | 3 | 1 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 92 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 94 | 6 | 0 |
| 3 | Hot water treatment (100°C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (i) 120 seconds | 83 | 4 | 13 | 80 | 8 | 12 | 82 | 8 | 10 | 81 | 5 | 14 | 79 | 8 | 13 |
| | (ii) 180 seconds | 91 | 8 | 1 | 92 | 5 | 3 | 88 | 8 | 4 | 90 | 7 | 3 | 94 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | Sand Scarification (100°C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (i) 240 seconds | 74 | 8 | 18 | 72 | 8 | 20 | 70 | 8 | 22 | 75 | 5 | 20 | 71 | 8 | 21 |
| | (ii) 480 seconds | 85 | 10 | 5 | 89 | 6 | 5 | 87 | 7 | 6 | 86 | 10 | 4 | 89 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | Hot air oven (140°C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | (i) 15 seconds | 71 | 5 | 24 | 70 | 5 | 25 | 67 | 8 | 25 | 68 | 7 | 25 | 67 | 6 | 27 |
| | (ii) 30 seconds | 84 | 10 | 6 | 87 | 8 | 5 | 87 | 5 | 8 | 83 | 10 | 7 | 84 | 10 | 6 |

N- Normal Seedlings, Ab- Abnormal seedlings, H- Hard seeds.