

PRESOWING SEED TREATMENT FOR *HOLARRHENA ANTIDYSENTERICA* L. UNDER OPTIMUM GROWING CONDITIONS

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Holarrhena antidysenterica L., popularly known as "Indrajav" is a medicinal plant belonging to the family Apocynaceae. It is distributed throughout India up to an altitude of 4,000 ft. The root bark of this species is preferred by Indian tribes in ailments like anemia, epilepsy, stomach pain, cholera, diarrhea, skin disease, etc. (Kavitha *et.al.*, 2004) and the seeds of this plant are also used as an antidiabetic remedy in traditional medicine (Wahab and Yousuf, 2004). It is mentioned that, by end of this century about twenty thousand plants used in traditional medicine as healing agents and some sixty thousand higher plant species may become extinct from this planet (Mahekar and Yadav, 2006). As the utilization of this for medicinal purpose require destructive sampling it required direct attention for conservation (Pawar and Patil, 2008).

Somashekhar and Sharma (2002) reported that *Holarrhena antidysenterica* had 80 percent germination in 7 to 10 days in soil, clay, and sand and manure mixed media. An attempt was made to ascertain a pre-sowing treatment for *H. antidysenterica* sown in cocopit media and under controlled mist chamber conditions. A total of five presowing seed treatments were adopted with control viz. 24 and 48 hours water soaking, 24 hours water soaking followed by 50 and 100 ppm. Concentration of GA₃ solution surprisingly seeds in all treatments produced hundred percent germinants with homogeneous seedling quality. This indicates that seeds sown without any treatment in coco pit media under controlled condition can produce better germination (Fig. 1 and 2).



FIG. 1: Newly germinated seed of *H.antidysenterica*



FIG. 2: Seedling of *H.antidysenterica*

LITERATURE CITED

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