

# Effects of Different Basil Hydrosol Doses on the Germination and Shoot and Root Lengths of Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*) Seeds

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) have allelopathic effects on seed germination, root and shoot length due to the chemicals included in their extracts or essential oils. In this study, the changes in the germination rate, and shoot and root length of basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa*) seeds exposed to different concentrations of basil hydrosol have been investigated. **Material and Methods:** The treatments included distilled water (control), tap water and different concentrations of basil hydrosol (0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2 ml). The study was conducted with a randomized complete block design with 3 replications. Twenty seeds of each species were placed on a filter paper in Petri dishes. For each treatment, 2 ml test solution (distilled water or tap water or hydrosols) was applied to each replicate. All the experiments were carried out at  $29 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ , dark photoperiod using a drying oven under laboratory conditions. **Results:** All the basil and quinoa seeds were successfully germinated within 3 to 7 days. Following the treatments, the root and shoot lengths changed from 0.10 to 1.24 cm and 0.53 to 2.15 cm, respectively for the basil and from 0.32 to 3.59 cm and 0.63 to 1.97 cm for the quinoa. **Conclusion:** Increasing the applied dosage of basil hydrosol significantly decreased the seed germination rate and shoot and root length. In particular, 2 ml hydrosol prevented seed germination by more than 50% in basil.

**Keywords:** Hydrosol, Essential Oil, Quinoa, Basil, Germination, Shoot and Root Lengths.

## INTRODUCTION

In agricultural farms, chemical herbicides are generally used to control weeds and decrease the harmful effects of insecticides. However, application of these chemicals has harmful side effects on the environment. Therefore, natural compounds are preferred to replace these chemicals to protect the environment.<sup>1</sup> Many medicinal and aromatic plants have the potential to be used as a bio herbicide due their natural components constituting essential oil. Essential oils are obtained using different methods for their aromatic and volatile liquids extracted from plant materials. One of the simplest, oldest and primitive methods used for this purpose

is hydro distillation, which is mostly preferred by small scale producers of essential oils.

In contrast to Essential oils, there has been only limited research on hydrosols, which are usually treated as waste products despite their extraordinary potential for use in skin care, cosmetics, cooking and flavorings, and in medicine.<sup>2</sup> They include a certain amount of essential oil molecules and they give solutions their scent and biological features.<sup>3,4,5</sup> The plant species selected in this study, namely *Ocimum basilicum* (sweet basil) and *Chenopodium quinoa* (quinoa), are commonly used by local people for medicinal purposes or as a nutrient. The former is

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used for the treatment of dry mouth and dental complaints, diarrhea, chronic dysentery, and respiratory disorders. It is also effective in the treatment of fungal diseases and stomach discomfort and plays a significant role in medicine with its antitussive, diuretic, anthelmintic, tranquilizer and expectorant properties.<sup>6,7</sup> Quinoa is native food plant of high nutritional value grown in the Andean region used as a food for humans and animals dating back to the Incas and earlier cultures.<sup>8</sup> This study investigated the effects of hydrosol obtained from basil on the seed germination and shoot and root length of *Ocimum basilicum* and *Chenopodium quinoa*.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Plant materials and extraction

Hydrosols of basil (*Ocimum basilicum* leaves) were prepared by the hydro distillation method using a Neo Clevenger-type apparatus. The plant materials were collected in a field experiment and quinoa seeds were obtained from a farmer in 2016. After grinding 15 g samples, the hydrosol was prepared was extracted by hydro distillation for 3 h. 50 ml hydrosol was collected over the 3-hour period and placed in flasks to be kept in refrigerator until use.

### Seed germination and shoot and root length

From each species of *Ocimum basilicum* and *Chenopodium quinoa*, 20 seeds were placed on filter paper in Petri dishes to be germinated. For both species, six treatment groups each having three Petri dishes were formed as follows: Control (only pure water), tap water, 0.5 ml hydrosol and 1.5 ml pure water, 1 ml hydrosol and 1 ml pure water, 1.5 ml hydrosol and 0.5 ml pure water, and 2 ml hydrosol. Thus, each Petri dish contained 2 ml solution. Hydrosol was applied to the plants for 15 days and the germination rates (number germinated seeds/day) and root and shoot lengths (cm) were determined.

### Statistical analysis

This study was organized in a completely randomized design. Statistical evaluation was performed using SPSS version 23 and the means were compared by Duncan's multiple range test as a post-hoc analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Hydrosol extracted from basil was applied to the basil and quinoa samples. The seeds were germinated within 3 to 7 days. When germination stopped (after 15 days), the plants were assessed in terms of shoot and root lengths. According to the results, basil hydrosol had a greater effect on the germination of basil plant compared

to quinoa. Furthermore, basil hydrosol had a significantly higher effect on the germination of basil and quinoa plant compared to tap and distilled water treatments.

### Number of germination seed and germination percentage

The germination of 2 plant seeds was significantly inhibited by all doses of basil hydrosol. The maximum germination was observed in the control and tap water groups, followed by 0.5 ml hydrosol, and the minimum germination was seen in 2 ml hydrosol treatment for both plant materials (Table 1). At 2 ml hydrosol, basil seeds showed more reduction in germination rate compared to quinoa seeds. The seeds of basil and quinoa were successfully germinated at all hydrosol doses, but their germination was more inhibited compared to the control group. Table 1 presents the reduction in the germination percentage by hydrosol dose.

### Shoot length

Concerning the results on shoot length (Table 2), as the hydrosol concentration increased, the shoot length generally decreased except the 1.5 ml hydrosol application in quinoa. The shoot length of both basil and quinoa samples differed depending on the treatment they received and was in the following descending order: tap water > control > 0.5 ml hydrosol > 1.0 ml hydrosol

**Table 1: Germination Percentage of Basil and Quinoa in Different Hydrosol Doses (HD: Hydrosol).**

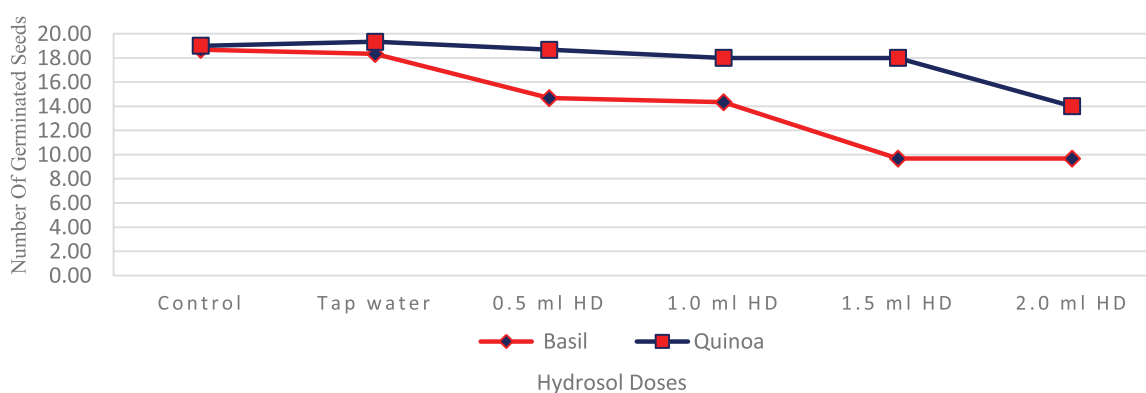
Doses	Basil	Quinoa
Control	93.33 <sup>a</sup>	95.00 <sup>a</sup>
Tap water	91.67 <sup>a</sup>	96.67 <sup>a</sup>
0.5 ml HD	73.33 <sup>ab</sup>	93.33 <sup>a</sup>
1.0 ml HD	71.67 <sup>ab</sup>	90.00 <sup>a</sup>
1.5 ml HD	48.33 <sup>b</sup>	90.00 <sup>a</sup>
2.0 ml HD	48.33 <sup>b</sup>	70.00 <sup>b</sup>

Different letters at each column indicate significant differences at 5% probability level by Duncan's multiple range test

**Table 2: Shoot Length of Basil and Quinoa in Different Hydrosol Doses (HD: Hydrosol).**

Doses	Basil	Quinoa
Control	1.83 <sup>a</sup>	1.80 <sup>ab</sup>
Tap water	2.15 <sup>a</sup>	1.85 <sup>a</sup>
0.5 ml HD	1.64 <sup>a</sup>	1.97 <sup>a</sup>
1.0 ml HD	1.57 <sup>a</sup>	1.43 <sup>ab</sup>
1.5 ml HD	0.69 <sup>b</sup>	1.13 <sup>ab</sup>
2.0 ml HD	0.53 <sup>b</sup>	0.63 <sup>b</sup>

Different letters at each column indicate significant differences at 5% probability level by Duncan's multiple range test



**Figure 1: The effects of the different hydrosol concentrations on seed germination (HD: Hydrosol).**

> 1.5 ml hydrosol > 2 ml hydrosol. The highest reduction in the shoot length (0.53 cm) was obtained from the 2 ml hydrosol concentration in quinoa and the longest shoots were observed following control treatments both in basil (2.15 cm) and quinoa (2.40 cm). Considering different hydrosol concentrations, the highest germination rate was obtained from quinoa at 0.5 ml and the lowest value was determined from basil at 1.5 and 2 ml.

### Root lenght

Table 3 shows the impact of basil hydrosol on the root length of the plant samples. With the increasing dose of hydrosol, the root length significantly decreased. For basil, the longest root was achieved at 1.25 cm following the control application and the shortest root was 0.10 cm, which was obtained from the 2 ml hydrosol treatment. Quinoa was found to be more resistant to hydrosol and had a longer root length (0.32 cm) than basil after the application of the highest hydrosol dose. The root length of the plants was obtained in the following order depending on the treatment: tap water > control > 0.5 ml hydrosol > 1.0 ml hydrosol > 1.5 ml hydrosol > 2 ml hydrosol for basil and tap water > control > 0.5 hydrosol > 1.5 hydrosol > 1.0 hydrosol > hydrosol 2 for quinoa.

**Table 3: Root Lenght of Basil and Quinoa in Different Hydrosol Doses (HD: Hydrosol).**

Doses	Basil	Quinoa
Control	1.24 <sup>a</sup>	3.59 <sup>a</sup>
Tap water	0.97 <sup>ab</sup>	2.64 <sup>ab</sup>
0.5 ml HD	0.90 <sup>ab</sup>	2.49 <sup>ab</sup>
1.0 ml HD	0.77 <sup>b</sup>	1.27 <sup>bc</sup>
1.5 ml HD	0.36 <sup>c</sup>	1.22 <sup>bc</sup>
2.0 ml HD	0.10 <sup>c</sup>	0.32 <sup>c</sup>

Different letters at each column indicate significant differences at 5% probability level by Duncan's multiple range test

In the literature, researchers have reported that the growth of wheat, maize, and cotton is much less affected by the hydrosol of *Ipomea carnea* leaves than water and cotton is also not significantly affected by the hydrosol of other plant materials such as *Ipomea carnea* flowers and *Lantana carnea* leaves).<sup>9</sup> It has also been determined that extracts obtained from rhizomes with roots and aerial part of *Angelica* L. species *Angelica archangelica* influence the seed germination and initial plant growth of *Linum usitatissimum* L., *Raphanus sativus* L., *Cucumis sativus* L., and *Brassica oleracea* L.<sup>10</sup>

### CONCLUSION

A notable finding of the present study is that hydrosol significantly inhibited the germination of the two plant species under laboratory conditions. The germination rates and shoot and root lengths of both plant species were found to be lower following hydrosol applications compared to tap and distilled water treatments. Furthermore, when the results of hydrosol applications were compared, the minimum values were obtained from the highest concentration (2 ml) and the maximum values were observed in the lowest concentration (0.5 ml). Lastly, in all hydrosol treatments, the results obtained from quinoa were better compared to basil; therefore, it can be concluded that quinoa is more resistant to basil hydrosol.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Nil

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

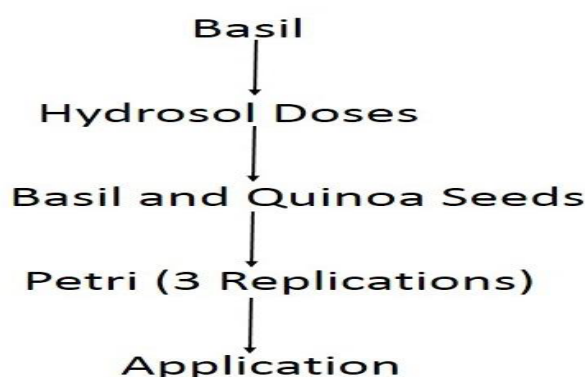
## ABBREVIATIONS USED

h: Hour; SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Science; HD: Hydrosol.

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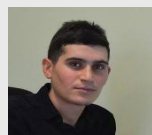
## PICTORIAL ABSTRACT



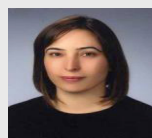
## SUMMARY

- All basil hydrosol doses significantly inhibited the germination rates and shoot and root length of both plant species.
- There was a gradual decrease in the germination rates and shoot and root lengths with rising doses of basil hydrosol doses.
- The highest doses (2 ml) have shown low germination rates and shoot and root lengths of both plant species.
- The quinoa seeds are rather resistant to basil hydrosol compared to the basil seeds.

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