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# Changes in Biochemical Constituents and Enzymatic Activity of Moth Bean Seeds due to Infection of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*

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## ABSTRACT

Among pulses, moth bean seed contains a good amount of proteins, minerals (P, Fe, Ca, Mg, Zn), and vitamins (retinol, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, pyridoxal phosphate, ascorbic acid, and folate). The present study was carried out on changes in biochemical constituents and enzymatic activity in moth bean seeds due to natural infection of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* (XAP). The infected seed samples have significantly low moisture, crude fiber, crude fat, crude protein, and total ash content while increased carbohydrate content as compared to healthy seed samples. Enzymatic activity (Cellulase, Peroxidase, and Polyphenol oxidase) was also significantly higher in infected seeds as compared to healthy seeds. Thus, the infection of XAP causes a loss in the nutritional quality of moth bean seeds.

**Key words:** *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*, Biochemical constituents, Enzymatic activity, Moth bean seeds

In the rural and arid places of Rajasthan (India), Moth bean [*Vigna aconitifolia* (Jacq.) Marechal] is the main source of protein and calories. The Moth bean is a rich source of carbohydrates, protein, essential minerals, and vitamins and provides nutritional security to vegetarians in the arid region [1]. Raw and uncooked moth bean seeds provide energy similar to cereals. Moth bean is a good source of minerals namely calcium, iron and zinc, and vitamins which are beneficial for health [2-3]. Moth bean can be also used as green manure or forage in summer, helping to produce stocker cattle or as store food in the southern Great Plains [4]. Many bacterial and fungal species are responsible for various diseases in legume plants, but the most severe seed-borne bacterial disease is caused by *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* (XAP), resulting in a decrease in the yield [5]. In hot areas, XAP is a dangerous threat, causing common bacterial blight, and responsible for maximum loss [6]. However, the primary association of *X.*

*axonopodis* as a causal organism for causing disease has been observed in *Phaseolus vulgaris* (common bean) with some other bean crops viz. *Vigna aconitifolia* (moth bean), *V. radiata* (mung bean), *Phaseolus lunatus* (lima bean), and *Lablab purpureus* (lablab bean), which indicated the large host range of the pathogen [7-8].

Bacterial pathogens are responsible for the transmission of periodic as well as persistent diseases in plants [9]. *Xanthomonas* after entry into plants increase their number and disperse in all plant organs via the xylem, consuming nutrients from the cells of plants and resulting in death [10]. Seeds are also affected by a pathogenic infection resulting in the production of different proteolytic, lipolytic, and pectolytic enzymes in the infected seeds, and the content of protein-lipid and carbohydrate are affected. Peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase enzymes are also activated by the contact of host and parasite [11-12]. In the present study, changes in biochemical constituents and enzymatic activity of moth bean seeds due to infection of XAP have been investigated.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

To study the impact of infestation on biochemical constituents and enzymatic activity of moth bean seeds three seed samples of moth bean containing natural infection of *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* (XAP) having a percent incidence of 71.25% ac no. M1215, 70.0% ac no. M1155, and 69.5% ac no. M1136 on semi-selective XCP<sub>1</sub> medium were selected and used in triplicates Healthy seed samples having ac. nos. M1109, M1175, and M1228 were used as control.

*Analysis of biochemical constituents*

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Biochemical constituents of moth bean seeds were analyzed and calculated in percentage using standard methods of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists [13]. For the measurement of moisture and ash weight difference method was employed. For crude fat estimation, crude ether extract of moisture-free dry material was used. The solvent extraction method was used for the preparation of crude ether extract in the Soxhlet continuous extraction apparatus. Acid-alkali wash method was used for the calculation of the total fiber content of moisture-free and fat-free seed samples. The Kjeldahl method was used for the estimation of crude protein content. The carbohydrate content was calculated by the difference method [14].

#### Enzymatic activity

The change in activities of peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, and cellulase enzymes was estimated by colorimetric methods [15]. Incubation of a few moth bean seeds using the standard blotter method was done for one week. Then incubated seeds (300 mg) were macerated in 0.1M concentrated (3 ml) phosphate buffer solution (pH 6.5). Centrifugation of the homogenous mixture was done for 15 min at 10000 rpm and 4°C. The supernatant was used to study the enzymatic assay [16]. When enzyme (0.2 ml) and O- dianisidine solution (0.1 ml) (1 mg/ml in methanol) was added to phosphate (0.1 M) buffer of pH 6.5 in a cuvette, the reaction started. The temperature of the mixture was maintained at 28-30°C, then the cuvette containing the mixture was placed in a spectrophotometer (at wavelength 430nm). Then H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (0.2 ml, 0.2 M) was added to the mixture. The time and initial absorbance A<sub>0</sub> were measured and recorded. Then values of

absorbance were recorded again and again up to 3 min after every 30s duration. A graph was made for values of absorbance concerning time. The activity of enzyme peroxidase was represented in the form of OD (optical density) per unit time per mg seed weight.

For poly phenol oxidase enzyme activity, prepared the catechol solution by taking 0.01 catechol in 0.1 M PO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> buffer, pH 6.0. 0.1 ml of enzyme extract was added to 3 ml catechol solution. Due to oxidation of catechol change in colour was observed and recorded again and again up to 5 min at 495 nm at a fixed interval of every 30s. A graph was made for values of absorbance w.r.t. time. The activity of enzyme polyphenol oxidase was represented in the form of an increase in OD (optical density) per unit time per mg seed weight.

For the estimation of enzyme activity of cellulase enzyme, 1 ml of enzyme extract was added to 0.5 ml of 0.1 M acetate buffer. Equilibrated this mixture at the temperature of 30°C. 1.5 ml carboxymethyl cellulose was added to the above reaction mixture and then incubated at 30°C for 2 hours. Then the reaction mixture was allowed to cool and absorbance was recorded (560 nm). A graph was made for values of cellulase activity of the unknown sample. The activity of enzymes was represented in the form of equivalent of n moles glucose, which was released in 1 h.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study, changes in moisture, fiber, fat, protein, ash, and carbohydrates due to infection of *X. axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* were investigated in seeds of moth bean (Table 1).

Table 1 Effect on biochemical constituents of moth bean seeds due to natural infection of *X. axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*

Sample accession No.	Biochemical constituents						
	Moisture (%)	Crude fiber (%)	Crude fat (%)	Crude protein (%)	Ash (%)	Total carbohydrate (%)	
Check (Healthy seed samples)							
M1109	R <sub>1</sub>	12.57	3.57	0.70	23.18	2.87	60.35
	R <sub>2</sub>	12.62	3.35	0.75	23.22	2.79	60.69
	R <sub>3</sub>	12.53	3.21	0.69	23.20	2.82	60.85
M1175	R <sub>1</sub>	12.09	3.67	0.71	23.29	2.75	60.81
	R <sub>2</sub>	12.15	3.85	0.68	23.34	2.72	60.63
	R <sub>3</sub>	12.4	3.77	0.67	23.36	2.80	60.25
M1228	R <sub>1</sub>	12.60	3.47	0.71	23.17	2.69	60.67
	R <sub>2</sub>	12.65	3.49	0.72	23.27	2.74	60.50
	R <sub>3</sub>	12.51	3.53	0.70	23.32	2.77	60.42
Mean	12.46	3.55	0.70	23.26	2.77	60.57	
SD	0.21	0.19	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.21	
Infected seed samples							
M1136	R <sub>1</sub>	10.80	2.98	0.36	21.65	2.01	64.27
	R <sub>2</sub>	10.95	3.10	0.33	21.75	1.99	64.45
	R <sub>3</sub>	10.01	3.17	0.39	20.89	2.02	64.52
M1155	R <sub>1</sub>	10.81	2.75	0.39	20.80	2.01	64.42
	R <sub>2</sub>	10.90	2.69	0.31	21.05	1.98	64.19
	R <sub>3</sub>	10.01	2.55	0.42	20.95	1.96	64.32
M1215	R <sub>1</sub>	10.08	2.80	0.40	22.15	1.95	64.75
	R <sub>2</sub>	10.12	2.69	0.35	21.23	2.02	64.71
	R <sub>3</sub>	10.22	2.99	0.29	21.33	2.11	64.13
Mean	10.43	2.86	0.36	21.31	2.01	64.42	
SD	0.42	0.21	0.04	0.45	0.05	0.22	
Difference (2-1)	-2.02	-0.69	-0.34	-1.95	-0.77	3.84	
SEd	0.15	0.09	0.02	0.15	0.02	0.09	
t value	13.08	7.11	20.70	12.70	31.98	-38.56	
p	*0.00	*0.00	*0.00	*0.00	*0.00	*0.00	

SD – Standard deviation; SEd–Standard error of difference

\*P is less than 0.01 therefore difference between test seed samples and infected seed samples is significant for all characters at 1%

### Biochemical constituents

The mean moisture content was 12.57, 12.21, and 12.59% in the healthy seed samples (ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228) respectively while the moisture content of infected seed samples was 10.59, 10.57, and 10.14% of infected seed samples (ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215) respectively. The mean moisture content in healthy seed samples (check) was 12.46% whereas the mean moisture content of infected seed samples was lower to be 10.43% and significant at 1% ( $P \geq 0.01$ ) (Table 1). Similarly lowering of moisture content was also reported in some other research regarding different bacterial pathogens viz. *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *apii* [17] and *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* [18] causing disease in ajwain and lentils respectively. Earlier it has been reported that swinging in the moisture content of seed detected in the pre-harvested state was proved as the main factor with regards to deterioration and it was involved in the reduction of seed germination of vigor [19-20]. The reason behind the sensitivity of seeds for variation in moisture content is directly connected to the composition of seed, especially for soybean, it is involved in two main processes viz. lipid peroxidation and protein degradation [21-23].

The crude fiber content was 3.08, 2.66, and 2.83% in infected seed samples (ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215) respectively whereas the crude fiber content values were 3.38, 3.76, and 3.50% of healthy seed samples (ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228) respectively. The mean crude fiber content of healthy seed samples (check) was 3.55% whereas in infected seed samples the value was 2.86%. The infected seed samples had lower crude fiber content ( $P \geq 0.01$ ) when compared with a check (Table 1). Complex organic material hydrolysis could also be responsible for lowering the fiber content in the infected plants. Similar results were found when *Parthenium* spp. had an infection of *X. campestris* pv. *parthenii* [24].

The crude fat content was 0.36, 0.37, and 0.35 % in infected seed samples (with ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215) respectively whereas the crude fat contents of healthy seed samples were 0.71, 0.69, and 0.71% with ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228 respectively. The mean crude fat content of healthy seed samples (in check) was 0.70% whereas in infected seed samples the value was lower to be 0.36% ( $P \geq 0.01$ ). Reduction of fat content in asymptomatic seeds of sunflower having an infection of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringe* has been reported [25].

The crude protein content was 21.43, 20.93, and 21.57% in infected seed samples (ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215) respectively whereas the crude protein content values were 23.2, 23.33, and 23.25% in 3 healthy seed samples (ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228) respectively. The mean crude protein content of infected seed samples (21.31%) was significantly (1% level) lower than healthy seed samples (23.26%) (Table 1).

The ash content of infected seed samples (ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215) was 2.01, 1.98, and 2.03%, respectively. In the case of healthy seed samples (ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228) the ash content was 2.83, 2.76, and 2.73% respectively. The mean ash content of infected seed samples (2.01%) was significantly (1% level) lower than healthy seed samples (in check) (2.77%) (Table 1). Similar results were found in soybean, pea, and bean seeds which had a natural infection of two fungi viz. *Fusarium moniliforme* and *Aspergillus parasiticus* [26].

The carbohydrate content was 64.41, 64.31, and 64.53% of infected seed samples (ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215 respectively) whereas the carbohydrate content values were

60.63, 60.56, and 60.53% in 3 healthy seed samples (ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228 respectively). The mean carbohydrate content of infected seed samples (64.42%) was significantly higher than healthy seed samples (in check) (60.57%) (Table 1).

Lowering of protein, crude fiber, and fat was observed in seeds of cowpea having natural infection of *Colletotrichum destructivum* and pathogen consume the nutrition as metabolic carbon for obtaining energy and amino acids for increasing protoplasm and nitrogen are necessary elements for the reproduction and growth of these fungi [27]. The infected cowpea seeds showed a lowering in phosphorus, calcium, carbohydrate, protein, crude fiber, ash, and lipid and an elevation in the sodium, iron, potassium, magnesium, zinc, and phosphorus accumulation [28].

### Enzymatic activity

The mean peroxidase activity in healthy samples seed (in check) was 0.42  $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds whereas in infected seed samples the value was 1.33  $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds. So, the difference of 0.90  $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds in peroxidase activity was found statistically significant at 1% ( $P \geq 0.01$ ). As compared to the check all the infected seed samples had higher peroxidase activity values (Table 2), it has been found that peroxidase enzymes were the reason for the formation of the high amount of hydrogen peroxide and superoxide anions (free radicals) in infected tissues of the plants [29]. In diseased seed samples, the mean peroxidase value was found to be significantly higher than in asymptomatic seed samples. Similar results were also found in diseased plants of cotton infected with *X. campestris* pv. *malvacearum* with a decrease in peroxidase level [30].

The mean polyphenol oxidase activity in healthy seed samples (in check) (0.272  $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds) was significantly lower than the mean polyphenol oxidase activity of infected seeds. It has been proved that polyphenol oxidase is a nuclear coding protein, containing copper in its structure, and catalyses the hydroxylation of phenols into quinines [31]. In diseased seeds of ajwain infected with *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *apii*, the activity of enzyme polyphenol oxidase was found higher than the mean value of healthy samples of seeds. These findings correspond to the work of Chitoor [32] and Shivalingaiah and Umesha [33]. Due to the effect of the pathogen on enzymatic activities of peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase, the metabolic activity of the plant was also changed due to the mutual interaction of pathogen and host [34-35]. It was also noted that when plants were attacked by their compatible pathogen, the amount of ROS (reactive oxygen species) viz. hydroperoxyl radicals, superoxide, and hydrogen peroxide increased significantly [36].

The mean cellulase activity was 0.583, 0.577, and 0.568 mM glucose released/h in infected seed samples having ac. no. M1136, M1155, and M1215 respectively were 0.576 mM glucose released/h whereas the mean cellulase activity in healthy seed samples (samples ac. no. M1109, M1175, and M1228 respectively) was 0.225 mM glucose released/h. So, the difference in cellulase activity was found significant at 1% ( $P \geq 0.01$ ).

Changes in cellulolytic and pectinolytic enzyme activity during pathogenesis have been reported by various workers [37-38]. Due to infection by various pathogens, a significant increase in the activities of enzymes viz. peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase was reported [39-41]. Similar work was also done for the detection of *P. syringae* pv. *apii* on enzymatic activity and profiling of nutritional value and essential oil of ajwain seeds [17].

Table 2 Changes in enzymatic activity of moth bean seeds infected with *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*

Sample accession No		Enzymatic activity		
		Peroxidase ( $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds)	Polyphenol oxidase ( $\Delta$ OD/min/mg seeds)	Cellulase (m Mole glucose released/h)
Check (Healthy seed samples)				
M1109	R <sub>1</sub>	0.416	0.273	0.219
	R <sub>2</sub>	0.407	0.261	0.223
	R <sub>3</sub>	0.422	0.269	0.231
M1175	R <sub>1</sub>	0.425	0.276	0.217
	R <sub>2</sub>	0.427	0.266	0.227
	R <sub>3</sub>	0.419	0.271	0.229
M1215	R <sub>1</sub>	0.428	0.274	0.225
	R <sub>2</sub>	0.424	0.278	0.228
	R <sub>3</sub>	0.431	0.281	0.222
Mean		0.422	0.272	0.225
SD		0.007	0	0.004
Infected seed samples				
M1136	R <sub>1</sub>	1.329	1.15	0.575
	R <sub>2</sub>	1.378	1.176	0.581
	R <sub>3</sub>	1.393	1.181	0.593
M1155	R <sub>1</sub>	1.292	1.167	0.569
	R <sub>2</sub>	1.351	1.148	0.577
	R <sub>3</sub>	1.286	1.169	0.586
M1215	R <sub>1</sub>	1.316	1.144	0.564
	R <sub>2</sub>	1.289	1.159	0.561
	R <sub>3</sub>	1.304	1.177	0.58
Mean		1.326	1.163	0.576
SD		0.04	0.01	0.01
Difference (2-1)		0.904	0.891	0.352
SEd		0.013	0.005	0.003
t value		-67.41	-177.52	-93.17
p		*0.00	*0.00	*0.00

SD – Standard deviation; SEd–Standard error of difference

\*P is less than 0.01 therefore difference between test seed samples and infected seed samples is significant for all characters at 1%

## CONCLUSION

Natural infection of seed samples of moth bean with *X. axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* caused a significant lowering of moisture, crude fiber, crude fat, crude protein, and ash content. The enzymatic activity viz. peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase, and cellulase in naturally infected seeds of moth bean infected with *X. axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli* were significantly higher than healthy (check) seed samples. Thus, infection of *X. axonopodis*

pv. *phaseoli* cause a loss in the nutritional quality of moth bean seeds.

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