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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# EFFECT OF IMIDACLOPRID ON THE ACTIVITIES OF SOME ENZYMES OF CABBAGE (*BRASSICA OLERACEA* L. VAR. *CAPITATA*) LEAF

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### ABSTRACT

The variation in the activity of the three antioxidant enzymes catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase in cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *capitata*) leaf induced by foliar application of imidacloprid was evaluated. Studies carried out upto 35 days after application (DAA) of the insecticide indicated that there was a continuous increase in the activity of catalase with increasing dose and also with elapse of time. In case of peroxidase the activity was found to remain higher at normal and double of normal doses over control throughout the duration of study and the difference with control reached maximum on 7<sup>th</sup> DAA. Polyphenol oxidase activity at double dose showed to remain higher than that of control and normal doses all through the period of investigation, the difference being maximum on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> DAA.

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## INTRODUCTION

Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *capitata*), one of the most popular and oldest cultivated winter vegetables in India, is rich in carbohydrate, protein, minerals and vitamins like A, B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub> and C. The cultivated types of cabbage differ in size, shape, texture and colour of head. It grows well under varied soil conditions and in a relatively cool moist climate. The crop is affected by a number of insect pests and fungal diseases and so demands application of different pesticides for its protection and also for getting desired yield.

While controlling the pest infestation, these pesticides enter into the plant system and affect the physiological and biochemical activities of the plants (Jood *et al.*, 1995 and Kaur *et al.*, 2011). Various studies have revealed that the quantitative formation of different biomolecules and activity of some enzymes of the crop plants are affected due to application of pesticides (Bhattacharya *et al.*, 2001; Saladin *et al.*, 2003 and Kaur *et al.*, 2011). It was observed that profenofos while applied foliarly increased the activity of polyphenol oxidase and acid phosphatase along with adversely affecting peroxidase

activity (Habiba *et al.*, 1992). Ribulose biphosphate carboxylase activity of *Solanum tuberosum* exhibited a higher value due to deltamethrin than control (Fidalgo *et al.*, 1993). Trichloroacetate showed reduction in germination and biomass production of oat, chinese cabbage and lettuce significantly, whereas it increased activities of enzymes superoxide dimutase, catalase, peroxidase and glutathione reductase significantly at its lowest concentration (Radetski *et al.*, 2000).

Imidacloprid (N-[1-[(6-chloro-3-pyridyl) methyl]-4,5-dihydroimidazol-2-yl] nitramide), a systemic insecticide of neonicotinoids family, is widely used as soil and foliar applied one on cereals including rice and maize, potato, vegetables, fruits, cotton etc and also for seed treatment (Daraghmeah *et al.*, 2007). In the present study the effect of imidacloprid on the activity of three enzymes namely catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase in cabbage leaf during a course of time after its application are being reported.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The field study of the present experiment was conducted at the Instructional Farm and the laboratory study at Department of

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Biochemistry of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Cooch Behar, West Bengal (India). The experimental design was randomized block design (RBD) with 3 treatments and 7 replications for each treatment. Imidacloprid was applied only once during the course of study.

#### Chemicals and instruments

The chemicals and reagents used in the study were of Sigma Aldrich Inc, USA; Merck Specialities Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, India and SRL Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, India. Water used was double distilled. The ultracentrifuge used was Sorvall RC-90 of ThermoFisher Scientific, USA and centrifuge was R-8C Laboratory Centrifuge of Remi Motors Ltd, Mumbai, India; the UV-VIS spectrophotometer was Lambda 25 of Perkin Elmer India Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai, India.

#### Field study: cultivation and pesticide application

Three weeks old cabbage (variety Golden Acre) seedlings were collected locally and transplanted in the prepared plots of size 3m x 3m at a spacing of 45 cm x 60 cm. Recommended dose of 150:100:100 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N:P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O fertilizers were applied in the form of urea, single super phosphate and muriate of potash respectively to each plot following standard practices. Three treatment doses of imidacloprid (A-One 17.8% SL) at the rates of control (T<sub>1</sub>: 0), recommended (T<sub>2</sub>: 0.075 L ha<sup>-1</sup>) and double of the recommended dose (T<sub>3</sub>: 0.150 L ha<sup>-1</sup>) were applied once at the time of head formation.

#### Sampling

Leaf samples were collected from each replicate plot of all the treatments on 1, 7, 14, 21, 28 and 35 DAA of the pesticide. All the samples were collected from the field and brought to the laboratory under cold condition (around 4°C) and analyzed to determine the activity of catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase using fresh leaves as soon as possible.

#### Laboratory study: enzyme assay

The enzyme catalase was assayed by the method of Sadasivam and Manickam (1996) with some modifications. Briefly, 0.2 g of fresh cabbage leaf was crushed with 2 mL of M/150 phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and centrifuged at 4°C at 10,000 rpm for 30 minutes and the supernatant was used as enzyme source. In a cuvette 2.3 mL of above phosphate buffer, 0.2 mL of enzyme extract and 0.5 mL of 0.2 M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were taken. The rate of change of its absorbance was recorded at 240 nm at 30 seconds interval for 5 minutes in a UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The catalase activity was expressed as “ΔA<sub>240</sub> min<sup>-1</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> fresh weight”, where ΔA<sub>240</sub> represents the change in absorbance at 240 nm.

The method of Sadasivam and Manickam (1996) was employed for extraction of the enzyme peroxidase. Briefly, 0.2 g of fresh cabbage leaves were crushed with 2 mL of 0.1M phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), centrifuged at 10,000 rpm at 4°C for 30 minutes and the supernatant was used as enzyme source. The activity of peroxidase was assayed by the method of Neog *et al.* (2004). The assay mixture containing 2.5 mL of 0.1 M

phosphate buffer (pH 6.5), 0.2 mL of enzyme extract and 0.1 mL of *o*-dianisidine (1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> in methanol) was incubated at 28°C in a water bath for 2 minutes. The reaction was started by adding 0.2 mL of 0.2 M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Rate of change in absorbance was recorded at 430 nm at 30 seconds interval for 5 minutes in a UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The enzyme activity was expressed as “ΔA<sub>430</sub> min<sup>-1</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> fresh weight”, where ΔA<sub>430</sub> represents the change in absorbance at 430 nm.

The assay of the enzyme polyphenol oxidase was done by the method of Mayer *et al.* (1965). Briefly, 0.2 g of leaf was finely cut and crushed with 2 mL phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 6.6). The homogenate was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 30 minutes and the supernatant was used as enzyme source. The enzyme activity was assayed using pyrogallol as substrate. The assay mixture was prepared by taking 100 μL enzyme extract, 2.4 mL of the above phosphate buffer and 0.5 mL 0.05 M pyrogallol and the decrease in the rate of absorbance was recorded at 495 nm at 30 seconds interval for 5 minutes in a UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The enzyme activity was expressed as “ΔA<sub>495</sub> min<sup>-1</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> fresh weight”, where ΔA<sub>495</sub> represents the change in absorbance at 495 nm.

#### Statistical analyses

The data obtained from the laboratory experiments were subjected to statistical analyses by the ANOVA method and the computation and statistical analyses were done in Microsoft Excel-2007 and SPSS software version 17.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Catalase activity

The results of catalase (ΔA<sub>240</sub> min<sup>-1</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) activity of cabbage leaf on different days after application of imidacloprid are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1 (A). On the 1<sup>st</sup> DAA the T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> treatments recorded catalase activity in terms of change in absorbance (ΔA<sub>240</sub>) to be 0.32 ± 0.07, 0.38 ± 0.10 and 0.39 ± 0.07 min<sup>-1</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> respectively. The enzymatic activity increased on the 7<sup>th</sup> DAA to an extent of 34.38%, 36.84% and 41.03% for the treatment doses T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> respectively. It is noteworthy that the enzyme activity of the two treatments (T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub>) remained higher than the control (T<sub>1</sub>) dose all through the period of study. Catalase activity of T<sub>3</sub> dose was significantly higher than T<sub>1</sub> during most part of the investigation. Maximum increase in activity was observed on 21<sup>st</sup> DAA to 75.00, 55.26 and 58.97 percent respectively for T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> doses.

Among the very few number of works done earlier it was observed that significant increase in activity of catalase took place in oat, chinese cabbage and lettuce at lowest concentration of trichloroacetate (TCA) applied (Radetski *et al.*, 2000). An enhancement in the activity in bean and onion, inhibition in okra and non-consistency in guar by methyl parathion took place (Shirashyad *et al.*, 2009).

**Table 1** Effect of imidacloprid on catalase activity\* ( $\Delta A_{240} \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) in cabbage

Treatment	Days after application (DAA)					
	1	7	14	21	28	35
Control (T <sub>1</sub> )	0.32 ± 0.07	0.43 ± 0.05 (+34.38) <sup>#</sup>	0.41 ± 0.10 (+28.13)	0.56 ± 0.04 (+75.00)	0.49 ± 0.06 (+53.13)	0.53 ± 0.21 (+65.63)
0.075 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>2</sub> )	0.38 ± 0.10	0.52 ± 0.09 (+36.84)	0.43 ± 0.10 (+13.16)	0.59 ± 0.07 (+55.26)	0.51 ± 0.09 (+34.21)	0.59 ± 0.05 (+55.26)
0.150 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>3</sub> )	0.39 ± 0.07	0.55 ± 0.10 (+41.03)	0.47 ± 0.11 (+20.51)	0.62 ± 0.05 (+58.97)	0.56 ± 0.07 (+43.59)	0.62 ± 0.05 (+58.97)
SEm(±)	0.016	0.019	0.015	0.015	0.023	0.047
CD at 5%	0.049	0.058	0.045	0.046	0.072	0.144

\* Mean ± S.D. of 7 replicates. <sup>#</sup> Figures in parentheses indicate percent increase (+) / decrease (-) with respect to 1<sup>st</sup> DAA.

**Table 2** Effect of imidacloprid on peroxidase activity\* ( $\Delta A_{430} \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) in cabbage

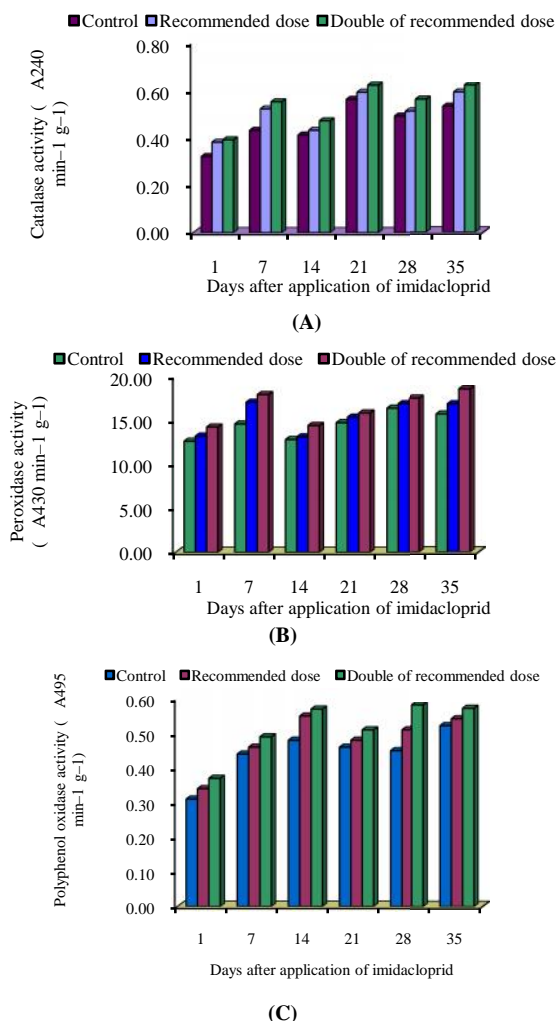
Treatment	Days after application (DAA)					
	1	7	14	21	28	35
Control (T <sub>1</sub> )	12.66 ± 1.72	14.63 ± 1.29 (+15.56) <sup>#</sup>	12.85 ± 1.74 (+1.50)	14.77 ± 2.63 (+16.67)	16.42 ± 2.26 (+29.70)	15.73 ± 1.27 (+24.25)
0.075 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>2</sub> )	13.24 ± 1.11	17.09 ± 1.07 (+29.08)	13.15 ± 2.84 (-0.68)	15.40 ± 2.93 (+16.31)	16.93 ± 2.57 (+27.87)	16.90 ± 2.91 (+27.64)
0.150 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>3</sub> )	14.27 ± 2.37	17.97 ± 2.43 (+25.93)	14.45 ± 2.12 (+1.26)	15.87 ± 1.43 (+11.21)	17.54 ± 3.27 (+22.92)	18.59 ± 2.38 (+30.27)
SEm(±)	0.447	0.660	0.340	0.396	0.343	0.968
CD at 5%	1.377	2.034	1.047	1.221	1.057	2.982

\* Mean ± S.D. of 7 replicates. <sup>#</sup> Figures in parentheses indicate percent increase (+) / decrease (-) with respect to 1<sup>st</sup> DAA.

**Table 3** Effect of imidacloprid on polyphenol oxidase activity\* ( $\Delta A_{495} \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) in cabbage

Treatment	Days after application (DAA)					
	1	7	14	21	28	35
Control (T <sub>1</sub> )	0.31 ± 0.06	0.44 ± 0.06 (+41.94) <sup>#</sup>	0.48 ± 0.08 (+54.84)	0.46 ± 0.07 (+48.39)	0.45 ± 0.11 (+45.16)	0.52 ± 0.11 (+67.74)
0.075 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>2</sub> )	0.34 ± 0.07	0.46 ± 0.04 (+35.29)	0.55 ± 0.09 (+61.76)	0.48 ± 0.07 (+41.18)	0.51 ± 0.11 (+50.00)	0.54 ± 0.10 (+58.82)
0.150 L ha <sup>-1</sup> (T <sub>3</sub> )	0.37 ± 0.09	0.49 ± 0.08 (+32.43)	0.57 ± 0.07 (+54.05)	0.51 ± 0.08 (+37.84)	0.58 ± 0.07 (+56.76)	0.57 ± 0.11 (+54.05)
SEm(±)	0.009	0.019	0.020	0.023	0.024	0.037
CD at 5%	0.029	0.057	0.063	0.071	0.073	0.113

\* Mean ± S.D. of 7 replicates. <sup>#</sup> Figures in parentheses indicate percent increase (+) / decrease (-) with respect to 1<sup>st</sup> DAA.



**Figure 1** Change in activity of (A) catalase, (B) peroxidase and (C) polyphenol oxidase enzymes of cabbage due to imidacloprid

In the present investigation also increase in activity of catalase due to application of imidacloprid was observed all throughout the period of study. Double dose showed higher activity than normal as well as control. Therefore, it may be mentioned that the results of the present investigation followed similar trend with some of the earlier findings.

**Peroxidase activity**

The results of peroxidase ( $\Delta A_{430} \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) activity of cabbage leaf on different days after application of imidacloprid are given in Table 2 and Figure 1 (B). On the 1<sup>st</sup> DAA, the T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> treatments recorded peroxidase activity in terms of change in absorbance ( $\Delta A_{430}$ ) to be  $12.66 \pm 1.72$ ,  $13.24 \pm 1.11$  and  $14.27 \pm 2.37 \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  respectively. The activity of T<sub>3</sub> dose remained higher than T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> doses all through the period of study (T<sub>3</sub> remaining significantly higher over T<sub>1</sub> on most days of analysis) and the difference with control reached maximum on 7<sup>th</sup> DAA.

In some earlier studies, higher activity of peroxidase on chilli by hexaconazole (Mareeswari *et al.*, 2003); highly significant stimulation in its activity with increasing dose of chlorpyrifos and malathion in tomato and brinjal (Nasrabadi *et al.*, 2011) and an increase in peroxidase activity of B.T. cotton by imidacloprid (Kaur *et al.*, 2011) were observed. Here also higher activity of the enzyme was recorded by the two treatments T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> over control throughout the duration of study. So it can be said that the peroxidase activity gets increased with increasing the concentration of imidacloprid which is supportive of the earlier results.



### Polyphenol oxidase activity

The results of polyphenol oxidase ( $\Delta A_{495} \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$ ) activity of cabbage leaf on different days after application of imidacloprid are given in Table 3 and Figure 1 (C). On the 1<sup>st</sup> DAA the T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> treatments recorded polyphenol oxidase activity in terms of change in absorbance ( $\Delta A_{495}$ ) to be  $0.31 \pm 0.06$ ,  $0.34 \pm 0.07$  and  $0.37 \pm 0.09 \text{ min}^{-1} \text{ g}^{-1}$  respectively. The activity of the dose T<sub>3</sub> remained higher than that of T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> doses all through the period of investigation (T<sub>3</sub> remaining significantly higher over T<sub>1</sub> on most of the days of analysis), the difference being maximum on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> DAA.

Among works done earlier Mareeswari *et al.* (2003) observed increase in activity of polyphenol oxidase by hexaconazole on chilli and Nasrabadi *et al.* (2011) also observed highly significant stimulation in the activity of the enzyme with increasing dose of chlorpyrifos and malathion in tomato and brinjal. The present study also revealed higher activity of the enzyme at normal and double doses over control all along the course of investigation.

### CONCLUSION

In most of the earlier investigations the activity of different enzymes were measured on a single day after application of a pesticide. But in the present experiment the activities of three enzymes namely catalase, peroxidase and polyphenol oxidase were quantified at different time intervals upto 35 DAA. So the results of the present study show a trend in the rate of activity of the enzymes under consideration during the course of study. Furthermore, the activity of the three enzymes remained higher all through the period of study at higher dose of the insecticide than the lower ones. So it can be concluded that with increasing xenobiotic stress the activity of the above antioxidant enzymes are stimulated in order to protect the plants from the deleterious effects of the free radicals or reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated during the stress.

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