

Phytotoxic effects of *Melia azedarach* L. (meliaceae) fruit extract on weeds and crops

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Resumen

In our continuous search for bioactive products obtained from plants with agrochemical prospects, the extract of *Melia azedarach* L. Fruits was tested for the phytotoxicity against weeds and crops. In a paper disk assay, this extract inhibited the seed germination of *Avena saliva* L., *Brassica napus* L., *Chenopodium album* L., *Lactuca sativa* L. and *Sorghum halepense* L. (Pers) and the 50% germination inhibitory doses (GID50) were 0.27, 16.5, 2.88, 7.85 and 1.31 mg/ml, respectively. *Melia* fruit extract also inhibited the seedling growth and 50% growth inhibitory doses (GrID50) were 0.59, 1.86, 5.59, 3.98 and 1.03 mg/ml, respectively. The effects of crushed *M. azedarach* fruit material mixed with the soil were examined on germination, radicle and shoot length of *A. sativa* and *S. halepense* in assay for 30 days. A GID 50 of 0.56 and 3.51 % (w/w) was determined for *A. sativa* and *S. halepense*, respectively, while 10 % (w/w) concentration completely inhibited the root and shoot length in both species. These results indicate that phytotoxic compounds are present in *M. azedarach* fruits.

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