

Effects of chemical herbicides and Datura leaves extract on the companion weed of two barley cultivars *Hordeum vulgare* L., the yield and its components

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ABSTRACT

A field experiment was carried out to find out the effect of some chemical herbicides (Crash and U46), and Datura leaves extract (4 leaf age) on the companion weed of two barley cultivars (IPA 265 and IPA 99) and the yield and components of these two cultivars. The results showed the superiority of the two weed spraying (T_1) and the extract (T_2) treatments by giving the best results, as they recorded the lowest number of weeds after 30 days of spraying with 2.83 and 10.17 plants m⁻². Besides, the highest control percentage was 96.11% and 86.27% for the two treatments, respectively, compared to the control treatment (T_3 ; weedy), which gave the highest number of weeds after spraying 73.50 plants m⁻², while the lowest control percentage of 0.00%. Moreover, T_1 was superior by giving the best grain yield of 1.99 ton ha^{-1} and the highest weight of 1000 grains (48.88 g) as well as the highest number of grains per spike (43.57 grain spike⁻¹). T_1 exhibited a significant difference with T_2 , which recorded a lower yield of 1.34 ton ha⁻¹ and weight of 1000 grains (46.78 g), as well as the number of grains (33.17 grain spike⁻¹) and a number of spikes (313.3 spike per m²). In comparison, the control treatment (T_3) recorded the lowest grain yield and the lowest weight of 1000 grains along with the lowest grain per spike, and the lowest number of spikes (1.00 ton ha⁻¹) as well as 36.72 g, 25.60 grain spike⁻¹ and 269.7 spikes m⁻², respectively. The two cultivars called IPA 99 and IPA 265, recorded a control percentage of 64.07% and 57.52%, respectively. There was a significant interaction in specific traits understudy for the two factors of the study, so that, T_1 and T_2 were superior with cultivars IPA 265 and IPA 99 by giving the best interaction in reducing the number of weeds after 30 days of spraying plant m⁻², coupled with the control percentage. Since, the cultivar IPA 99 and T_1 achieved the lowest number of weeds, i.e., 2.33 plant m⁻² and the best control percentage reached 96.79%. However, the cultivar IPA 265 and T_1 achieved the best grain yield of 2.113 ton ha⁻¹. It can be concluded from this that spraying barley weeds with Datura leaves extract eliminated the weed, gave good control percentages, and increased the yield of barley grains and their components, with results close to what was achieved by the addition of the two herbicides.

Keywords: Chemical herbicides, Datura leaves, Companion Weed, *Hordeum vulgare* L. Article type: Research Article.

INTRODUCTION

Barley, *Hordeum vulgare* L. is one of the important cereal crops cultivated in large areas in most parts of the world, which is one of the oldest cereal crops known in history and plays a vital role in the development of agriculture (Ullrich 2011). It can be used as food for humans after mixing it with wheat flour in a ratio of 1:3 for the hardness and consistency of the bread produced from its grains because it does not contain gluten and its bluish colour. Also, it is used as animal feed in the form of grains or green fodder or mixed with legume crops

Caspian Journal of Environmental Sciences, Vol. 20 No. 2 pp. 351-357 Received: Sep. 17, 2021 Revised: Nov. 09, 2021 Accepted: Feb. 26, 2022 © The Author(s) to improve the nutritional value of the resulting fodder and its uses in industrial fields. It ranks fourth after wheat, rice, and maize in terms of production and cultivated area. Barley is also used in the production of malt, which is black honey extracted from barley grains. This honey is characterized by its high nutritional value, with an estimated amount of calcium, so it is used as a primary food against polio rickets and is used in some baking and candy-making processes, vinegar, yeast, and the remaining grains is used as animal feed (Al-Younes 1993). The average grain yield of the barley crop per unit area is much lower than the world production rate. The average yield per dunum is estimated based on the cultivated area (387.8 kg) for winter 2020. A decrease of 0.5% was noted compared to the last season, which was estimated at 408.1 kg (Directorate General Agricultural Statistics 2020). The weed is among the most dangerous agricultural pests because it causes a loss in production due to its direct competition with the agricultural crop or its indirect effects. The weed competes with crop plants with high efficiency for the most critical growth requirements such as water, light, and nutrients, especially in the early stages of its growth. As a result of this competition, the growth of crops, especially barley, is weak, leading to a decrease in its yield by 15-20% (O'Donovan et al., 1985; Weston 2005; Anonymous 2019). Whereas Mahajan et al. (2020) found that the rate of yield decrease amounted to 43-70%, which resulted in increased harvest costs and poor grain quality. Therefore, appropriate and effective weed management strategies must be adopted, representing a significant challenge for crop producers since the beginning of cultivation (Suresha et al. 2015). Despite the efficiency of chemical herbicides in controlling the weed and its reflection on the yield and components, the damage caused by chemical herbicides from groundwater pollution is critical. Besides, the emergence of health problems due to the extensive and excessive chemical herbicides use and the long-term survival of herbicide residues in the soil led to many vital ecosystems in the long run. Thus, the phenomenon of Allelopathy in controlling the weed was invested, as the use of plant extracts, which are natural herbicides for the weed, has emerged. Identifying the allelopathic phenomenon in the weed has led to highlighting the possibility of exploiting it in the biological control of various agricultural pests. Intense efforts have been focused on the possibility of using various allelopathic extracts in the management of weed and inventing strategies for this purpose to reduce dependence on chemical herbicides harmful to the environment and health. Plus, the possibility of developing resistance to the weed and the emergence of strains resistant to herbicides. Based on the foregoing, many researchers began investigating weeds with high allelopathic effort as a first step to use allelopathic effort in controlling the weed. Several weed plants with high allelopathic effort were obtained as Datura plants; Jaber et al. 2019, indicated that Datura leaves contain the following compounds: alkaloids, condensed tannins, hydrolysable tannins, saponins, flavonoids, and steroids. These compounds have the ability to affect plants treated with them to different degrees. By conducting a comprehensive review on several studies in the field of Allelopathy, it can note that it has multiplied several times to continue its study by physiologists, plants, soils, weeds, and natural product chemists. The continued emergence of additional information about the mechanisms of the allelopathic compound's effect in terms of selectivity, secretion, persistence, and genetic regulation mechanisms constitutes a continuous challenge for botanists to develop modern strategies that enhance the protection of biodiversity (Cheng & Cheng 2015). Studies have indicated the presence of many weeds that showed an allelopathic effort in other crops that accompany them in the field or track them in agriculture. These weeds release allelopathic compounds to the environment by leaching, root exudates, the decomposition of plant residues by the action of microorganisms, and the method of volatilization. These compounds have inhibitory and stimulating effects on plants and microorganisms through their influence on many biological activities. Generally, the effects of allelopathic compounds depend on their nature and concentration, as some compounds cause inhibitory effects on seed germination and growth, while others cause stimulatory effects. However, Al- Chalabi (2003) indicated that using a mixture of 2,4-D + diclofop-methyl herbicide achieved the highest number of spikes of 314.7 spike m⁻², the highest weight of 1000 grains 34.8 g, and the highest grain yield of 4.415 ton ha⁻¹ for the wheat crop. Similarly, Marwat et al. 2005, mentioned that the treatments of herbicide mixtures gave the highest weight of 1000 grains compared to the weedy treatment. (Kaur et al., 2018) mentioned that the addition of Sulfusulfuron at a rate of 25 g ha⁻¹ with hand weeding treatment after 45 days of planting achieved the lowest number of weed plants m² and the highest control percentage % for the weed. Followed by the treatment of adding Clodinofop propargyl at a rate of 60 g ha⁻¹ with the hand weeding treatment after 45 days of planting compared to the weedy treatment, which recorded the highest number and the lowest control percentage of weed plants. Furthermore, Pala (2020) showed that spraying pinoxaden 50 g L⁻¹ EC 0.9 L h⁻¹ and 2,4-D 2-ethylehexyle ester 452.42 g L⁻¹ + Flurasulam 6.25 g L⁻¹ SE 0.5 L h^{-1} after emerging and mixing them led to a reduction in the number of narrow and broad-leaf weeds. It achieved the highest control percentage of 92% after 28 days of spraying, which increased barley yield. Hammood et al. 2020, indicated that the herbicides including Pallas (T_1) and Crash + U46 (T_2) recorded the lowest number of weed plants after 30 days of spraying, which were 1.44 and 1.67 plants m^{-2} respectively. The T₂ was superior by giving the highest control percentage of 93.28% compared to the control treatment T₃ (Weedy), which gave the highest number of weeds after spraying and the lowest control percentage of 21.56 plant m^{-2} and 0.00%, respectively. Treatment T_2 was superior by giving the best grain yield of 6.590 ton ha⁻¹, the highest weight of 1000 grains was 29.33 g, and the highest number of grains per spike was 52.02 grain spike⁻¹. It did not differ significantly from the treatment T_1 by giving the highest number of spikes m⁻² amounted to 491.1 and 480.0 spike m^{-2} for treatment T₁ and T₂ respectively, compared to the control treatment T₃, which gave the lowest grain yield and the lowest weight of 1000 seeds and the lowest grain per spike and the lowest number of spikes m⁻² amounted to 4.819 ton ha⁻¹ and 22.82 g and 43.27 grain spike⁻¹ and 378.8 spike m⁻² respectively, and they indicated that the cultivars did not show any response or competitive ability for the companion weed to the oats crop. Mahajan et al. 2020; Watson et al. 2006; ABARES (2019) pointed out that the cultivars of barley crops, which are more susceptible to weed competition, are among the essential elements in integrated weed management. In the same role, Mahajan et al. 2020, explained the difference of plants of these cultivars in the number of spikes per (100×35) cm² which ranged between 46 and 80 spikes, and grain yield (Mg ha⁻¹), which ranged between 2.5 and 4.3 Mg ha⁻¹.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A field experiment was carried out in the experimental field of the Department of Field Crops at the College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, the University of Baghdad, Iraq during the winter season 2020-2021. The experimental study aimed to compare the effect of chemical weed herbicides (Crash U46) and the Datura leaves extract (four leaves aged) accompanied with weeds of two barley cultivars, the yield, and components of these two cultivars. The experiment was carried out according to a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with the split-plot arrangement in three replicates. The main plots represented two cultivars of barley crop to evaluate the performance of these two cultivars under different weed densities, where the cultivars are IPA 265 and IPA 99. As for the sub-plots, it included the weed control treatments as follows:

1. A combination of Crash + U46, at a spraying rate of 1 L ha⁻¹ for each herbicide (T_1).

2. Datura leaves extract at a spraying rate of 15 L ha⁻¹ (T₂).

3. Weedy treatment, as the weeds were left to compete with the crop throughout the growing season (T_3) .

Extraction of allelopathic compounds

After taking the samples, the leaves (4 leaves aged) were dried, crushed, and analysed in the laboratories of the Ministry of Science and Technology using a German-made HPLC device (SYKAM) and according to the method of Eddine & Ridha (2017). Thus, the Datura leaves extract was prepared at a concentration of 5%, where the analysis results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The amount of phenolic acids measured in mg g ⁻¹ unit.		
Name	Total Phenolic Content (mg Gallic g ⁻¹)	
Datura plant (four leaves aged)	60.12	

The soil service operations were carried out, and the field was divided into three replicates. Both barley cultivars seeds were sown on 26/11/2020 at a seeding rate of 120 kg ha⁻¹ in rows with 20 cm distance between one row and another. Then, the experimental land was fertilized with triple phosphate fertilizer (P₂ O₅ 46%) at a rate of 100 kg ha⁻¹ before planting. Urea fertilizer (N 46%) was added at a rate of 200 kg N ha⁻¹ in three batches, the first batch was added at the beginning of the tillering stage, the second at the beginning of the elongation stage, and the third at the booting stage (Jaddoa & Saleh 2012). The two herbicides were sprayed after 45 days of planting on the shoot of crop and weed for each treatment using water as a spray solution of 200 L ha⁻¹, specifically at the beginning of the tillering stage. The spraying was carried out using a 16-liter knapsack sprayer

under a pressure of 2.8 kg cm⁻² for each experimental unit, according to the concentrations under study. The Datura leaves extract was sprayed at the same time as the two herbicides were sprayed.

The companion weed has been studied as follows:

1- Weed species and their density (plant m⁻²):

The weed species were identified, and their density was calculated before spraying and after 30 days of spraying by identifying and calculating the number of weeds per m^2 of the experimental unit.

2- The percentage of weed control:

It was calculated according to the following equations (Al-Chalabi 2003):

Control (%) = $\frac{\text{weed density in the comparison treat.} - \text{weed density in the control treat.}}{\text{weed density in the comparison treat}} \times 100$

The treatments effect on the yield and its components was studied as follows:

- 1-The number of spikes m⁻²
- 2-The number of grains spike⁻¹
- 3-The weight of 1000 grains (g)
- 4-Total grain yield (ton ha⁻¹):

After conducting the threshing process of the sample harvested from an area of one square meter, the straw was separated, and the grains were weighed, then the weight was converted to ton ha⁻¹ (AOAC 1975).

Statistical analysis

Data were collected and tabulated for the traits under study and then were statistically analysed according to the split-plot arrangement by RCBD design using the GEN STAT program. Then, the arithmetic averages of the treatments were compared using the least significant difference (LSD) with a probability level of 0.05 (Steel & Torrie 1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The effect of different treatments on the companion weed to barley

When identifying the weed species spread during the growing season, the number of weed species reached 14, including 13 broad leaves (Table 1). Among the weed species, Henbit deannettle, London roket, white goosefoet, and Button weed were the most prevalent among other weed species. At the same time, there were small numbers of Common sow thistle, Milk thistle, Wild carrot, Toothed medic, White top, Petty spurge, Wild beets, and Wort weed. In the case of the narrow-leaves weeds, including the Canary grass, the percentage was generally much lower compared to the broad-leaves ones. Table 3 indicates significant differences for the different treatments, as T_1 and T_2 achieved the lowest number of weeds after 30 days of spraying (2.83 and 10.17 plant m⁻² respectively). Besides, the highest control percentages were 96.11% and 86.27% for the two treatments respectively, compared to the control treatment (weedy), which gave the highest number of weeds and the lowest percentage of control (73.50 plant m⁻² and 0.00% respectively). Due to the herbicides effectiveness and the extracts used a difference in the number of weeds was also recorded before and after 30 days of spraying.

It is noticed from Table 3 that there are significant differences between the cultivars in the control percentage only, as the cultivar IPA 99 exceeded by giving the highest control percentage of 64.07%. In contrast, the cultivar IPA 265 recorded the lowest control percentage of 57.52%, while there were no significant differences for the other treatments. Table 4 shows significant differences in the yield and components for the control treatments and the barley cultivars used in the experiment.

The two cultivars did not differ significantly in the yield and component characteristics except for the number of spikes m⁻², where the cultivar IPA265 achieved the highest number of 383.3 spike m⁻², followed by the cultivar IPA99 recording 292.60 spike m⁻². However, T₁ was superior by giving the best grain yield (1.99 ton ha⁻¹) and the highest weight of 1000 grains (48.88 g) as well as the highest number of grains per spike (43.57 grain spike⁻¹) and the highest number of spikes per cubic meter (430.80 spike m⁻²), followed by T₂, which recorded the lowest yield of 1.34 ton ha⁻¹, the weight of 1000 grains (46.78 g), the number of grains (33.17 grain spike⁻¹), and the number of spikes (313.3 spike m⁻²). The superiority of T₁ is as a result of elevating the two components of the yield (the weight of 1000 grains and the number of grains per spike), which increased the total yield. Besides,

any increase in any crop component is only a reflection of the herbicide effectiveness in reducing the number of
weeds (Table 3), which allowed the crop to grow better and more efficiently exploit the growth requirements.
Table 2. Species of weed growing in the experimental land during the winter season 2020-2021.

English name	Scientific name	Family name	Туре	Life cycle	
Button weed	Malva rolundifolia L.	Malvaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Milk thistle	Silybum marianum (L) Gaertn	Campositeae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
White goosefoet	Chenopodium album L.	Chenopodiaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
London roket	Sisymbrium irio L.	Cruciferae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Petty spurge	Euphorbia peplus L.	Euphorbiaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Wild carrot	Daucus carota L	Umbellifereae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Wild beets	Beta vulgaris L.	Chenopodiaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Common sow thistle	Sonchus oleraceus L.	Campositeae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Henbit deannettle	Lamium amplexicauule L.	Labiatae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Wort weed	Euphorbia helioscopia L	Euphorbiaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Toothed medic	Medicago hispida L.	Fabaceae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
White top	Cardaria draba (L)Desv	Cruciferae	Broad-leaves	Annual	
Canary grass	Phalaris minor L.	Poaceae	Narrow-leaves	Annual	

Table 3. The effect of different treatments on the characteristics of weed.

Properties					
		Weed numbers plant m ⁻² Before spraying	Weed numbers plant m ⁻² after spraying	The control percentage (%)	
Treatments					
IPA 2	65	75.33	31.44	57.52	
IPA 9	99	76.44	26.22	64.07	
LSD: 0.	05	N.S	N.S	4.977	
T_1		78.33	2.83	96.11	
T_2		74.33	10.17	86.27	
T_3		75.00	73.50	0.00	
LSD: 0.	05	3.254	3.246	3.184	
	T_1	76.33	3.33	95.42	
IPA 265	T_2	75.00	17.00	77.13	
	T_3	74.67	74.00	0.00	
	T_1	80.33	2.33	96.79	
IPA 99	T_2	73.67	3.33	95.42	
	T ₃	75.33	73.00	0.00	
LSD: 0.	05	NS	5.570	4.468	

* Note: T_1 / Crash + U46 herbicide combination at a spraying rate of 1 L ha⁻¹ for each herbicide. T_2 / Datura have extract at a spraying rate of 15 L ha⁻¹ T_2 / weady treatment

leaves extract at a spraying rate of 15 L ha $^{\text{-}1}$. T_3 / weedy treatment.

Properties		Number of spike m ⁻²	Number of grains spike ⁻¹	Weight of 1000 grain (g)	Grain yield	
Treatments		_			ton ha ⁻¹	
IPA 265		383.3	32.82	46.09	1.5033	
IPA 9	99	292.6	35.40	42.17	1.3911	
L.S.D 0.	.05	16.28	N.S	N.S	N.S	
T_1		430.8	43.57	48.88	1.9933	
T_2		313.3	33.17	46.78	1.3483	
T_3		269.7	25.60	36.72	1.0000	
LSD: 0.	05	15.77	3.791	2.623	0.04856	
	T_1	480.0	43.93	49.60	2.1133	
IPA 265	T_2	358.3	29.47	49.13	1.3867	
	T_3	311.7	25.07	39.53	1.0100	
IPA 99	T_1	381.7	43.20	48.17	1.8733	
	T_2	268.3	36.87	44.43	1.3100	
	T_3	227.7	26.13	33.90	0.9900	
LSD: 0.05		NS	NS	NS	0.11881	

Table 4. The effect of different treatments on the yield and its components.

* Note: $T_1 / Crash + U46$ herbicide combination at a spraying rate of (1) L ha⁻¹ for each herbicide. $T_2 / Datura leaves extract at a spraying rate of (15) L ha⁻¹. <math>T_3 / weedy treatment$.

Furthermore, the lowest results of weedy treatment resulted from the weeds competing with the crop throughout the growing season on the basic growth requirements such as water, nutrients, and light. This competing contributed to restricting plant growth and decreasing the efficiency of the physiological processes within its tissues, especially the process of photosynthesis. Then, a reduced metabolic products and a decreased plant efficiency in the transfer of these products to the reproductive parts of the plant, resulted in a restriction in the number and capacity of sinks, and then a drop in the grain yield (Hammood et al. 2020). However, the cultivar IPA 265 recorded the highest number of spikes m⁻² because of its genetic nature or its response to environmental conditions. Tables 3 and 4 showed that there is a significant interaction in certain traits for the studied factors, so that, T₁ and T₂ exceeded with IPA 265 and IPA 99 by giving the best combination in reduced number of weeds after 30 days of spraying plant m^{-2} and the control percentage. Moreover, IPA 99 with T₁ achieved the lowest number of weeds (2.33 plant m⁻²) and the best control percentage (96.79%). The cultivar IPA 265 with T1 achieved the best grain yield (2.113 ton ha⁻¹). According to Tables 3 and 4, the close results between T_1 and T_2 indicate the role of plant extracts in reducing the number of companion weeds to the crop and their role in reduced environmental pollution. This may be due to the fact that the extract contains allopathic compounds (Table 1), which at high concentrations affect cell division, hormone biosynthesis, element absorption (Rizvi et al. 1992) and cell membrane permeability (Harper & Balke 1981). Photosynthesis, the mechanism of stomata opening and closing (Einhellig & Rasmussen 1979), as well as respiration and protein metabolism (Kruse et al. 2000) negatively affects weed growth and thus reduce their numbers. It can be concluded that the Datura leaves extract has given averages close to the effect of herbicides in reducing the number of weeds with a high control percentage. Even the presence of different varieties increased the yield and its components, confirming the role of integration between the effect of each cultivar, herbicides, and the Datura leaves extract in controlling the companion weed to the barley crop.

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Bibliographic information of this paper for citing:

Al-khaldy, R,A,A, Hammood, W,F, A. Safi, S,M 2022, Effects of chemical herbicides and Datura leaves extract on the companion weed of two barley cultivars *Hordeum vulgare* L., the yield and its components. Caspian Journal of Environmental Sciences, 20: 351-357.