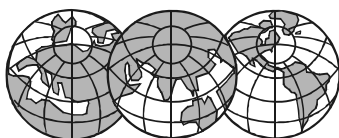


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CONTENTS

PAPERS

1. Possible Binding Sites for Indole acids stabilized water soluble Ag Nanoparticles: 451 - 458
An experimental and theoretical study
Jasmine A. Jacob, Sergej Naumov, Tulsi Mukherjee and Sudhir Kapoor
2. Fluorescence recovery after photobleaching studies on ATR kinase dynamics in live cells 459 - 465
Kirti Sinha, Nandini Rangaraj, Bh Muralikrishna and Veena K. Parnaik
3. Separation of inorganic cations on a hydrophobic stationary phase using perfluoroalkanesulfonic acid as the eluent additive in ion chromatography 466 - 471
Femi Earnestly, Lee Wah Lim, and Toyohide Takeuchi
4. Gamma Ray Modified Polyaniline/metal oxide Composite as NTC material 472 - 479
Sajeela Awasthi, Prerna Aggarwal, S.K. Tripathi, T.V. Singh, M.L. Singla, and Alok Srivastava
5. An extractive fermentor for in-situ fermentation with high-density extractants 480 - 485
László Kótai and Pradeep K. Sharma
6. Characterization of Abandoned Municipal Solid Waste Dumpsites for evaluating Phytoremediation Potential – A Case Study of Mumbai, India 486 - 494
Amita Dalvi, Satish A. Bhalerao, Shivani Dhage, Amar Supate and Rakesh Kumar
7. A comparative study of Direct and Water-mediated thione-thiol tautomerisation processes in 4-amino-1,2,4-triazole-5-thiones 495 - 503
Manisha Patni, Pooja Maheshwari, Raakhi Gupta, Neelima Gupta and Raj K. Bansal
8. A Kinetic and Mechanistic Study of Oxidation of Diethanolamine and Triethanolamine by Potassium Bromate in Perchloric acid medium catalysed by Rh(III) 504 - 512
Usha Kushwaha, Amita Singh, Anil Kumar and A.K. Singh
9. Application of topology in ring compounds and coordination compounds 513 - 519
A.Y.Desai, Deepa P, Harmeet K, C.B.Maurya, Shikha Roy and R.K. Patheja
10. Effect of cadmium on growth of rice (*Oryza sativa* L) cultivar soka originated from West Sumatra, Indonesia 520 - 525
Zulkarnain Chaidir, Rahmiana Zein, Abdi Dharma, Yunazar Manjang and Edison Munaf
11. Use of Mercuric Sulphide Semiconductor for removal of Rose Bengal 526 - 530
Rakshit Ameta, Shweta Sharma, R. K. Malkani and Suresh C. Ameta
12. Conventional and Microwave assisted synthesis and Antimicrobial activity of 2-amino-4 (5'-chloro thiophene-2'-yl)-6(4-dimethyl amino phenyl) pyrimidine 531 - 534
Mrunalini D.Kulkarni and Amit Dinde

CONTENTS

13. ^{13}C NMR spectral studies and Antimicrobial activities of some Trifluoromethyl-imines <i>Ganesamoorthy Thirunarayanan</i>	535 -541
14. Development of Photogalvanic Cell and its application in solar energy conversion and storage <i>K.R. Genwa and Kewal Singh</i>	542 - 549
SHORT COMMUNICATION	
15. Synthesis and conductivity studies of PEO-PVP blended solid polymer electrolytes <i>Angesh Chandra</i>	550 -553
REVIEW ARTICLES	
16. Macroporous Anionic interpenetrating polymer networks composite hydrogels and their interaction with Methylene Blue <i>Ecaterina Stela Dragan, Maria Valentina Dinu, and Diana Felicia Apopei</i>	554 - 575
17. A Review of high coordination compounds of Dioxouranium(VI) derived from Schiff bases of 4-Aminoantipyrine <i>Ram K. Agarwal, Surendra Prasad and Vimlesh Chand</i>	576 - 597
18. Determination of Copper in Sea Water by Spectrometric Techniques - A review <i>C.S.P. Iyer, P. Sreejisha and C.G. Chandra Bindu</i>	598 - 608
CONFERENCE ALERTS	609

Effect of cadmium on growth of rice (*Oryza sativa* L) cultivar sokaan originated from West Sumatra, Indonesia

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Abstract

Oriza sativa L sokaan rice is the most famous of rice in West Sumatra, Indonesia. Cadmium accumulation and toxicity in *Oriza sativa* L sokaan were characterized and identified. The low level of Cadmium concentration did not affect the growth of rice plant investigated, however the growth especially number of tiller increased at Cd level 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. Cd uptake by rice plant was found to be higher in root than in leaf and seed. This result indicated that root can be the first barrier of Cd uptake by rice plant.

Keywords: *Oriza sativa* L sokaan, cadmium, cadmium uptake, rice plant growth

Introduction

Pollution of the natural environment by heavy metals has become a serious problem in some industrialised countries. The release of large quantities of heavy metals from industries into the environment has resulted in a number of environmental problems^{1,2}.

Heavy metal such as lead, cadmium and cobalt from the anthropogenic sources, metal plating, mining operations and other industries are among the most common pollutants found in industrial effluents, and become an environmental problem of worldwide concern including Indonesia^{3,4}. For example the pollution of cadmium in

Nigata prefecture, Japan, in the middle 1950s was caused by the long-term consumption of rice and soybean contaminated with cadmium, which originated from mineral refinery factories⁵.

Currently, toxic effect of heavy metals on crop plants is receiving considerable attention⁶⁻¹⁰. Many studies have shown that plant crop species differ markedly in their ability to absorb heavy metals. Even within the same species, there are great genotypic differences in the effect of heavy metals on plant growth¹¹.

Hernandez et al.⁶ reported that exposure to cadmium could cause perturbations in various plant processes such as

plant growth and nitrogen assimilation.

The wide spread use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, especially phosphate fertilizers, has led to the cadmium contamination in soil and crops. Cadmium is strongly phytotoxic and causes growth inhibition and even plant death due to its detrimental effect on many physiological processes. After absorption and accumulation by crops, cadmium can enter into food chains and pose risks to human beings. Toxicity of cadmium also causes oxidative stress, which can take place possibly by generating reactive-oxygen species (ROS) such as superoxide radicals, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and hydroxyl radicals. These oxygen species cause lipid peroxidation, which is reflected by increased malondialdehyde (MDA) concentration ¹².

Rice is one of the most important crops in the world and the main staple food in Indonesia. Many studies have been conducted related to the effect of toxic heavy metals on photosynthesis, growth and yield of cultivated rice ^{13,17}. Unfortunately, there are very few reports on the effect on cadmium accumulation on growth of rice *Oryza sativa* L cultivar soka originated from West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

Reagents and equipment

All reagent used in the experiment i.e. CdCl₂, HNO₃, HClO₄, were of Analytical Grade and obtained from Wako, Japan. Deionized water was prepared in the laboratory. Metal concentration has been measured using Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometric (Rayleigh WFX 320 Beijing, China).

Soil and seed preparation

Soil samples were collected from surface layer (0-20 cm) of paddy field located in Sungai Sapih, Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. The soil samples were air-dried prior to use at the greenhouse pot experiment at Andalas University. The seed of rice (*Oriza Sativa* L) cultivar soka was collected from West Sumatra, Indonesia. Seeds were surface washed with deionized water three times.

Plant growth

Sterilized seeds were shaken with deionized water for 48 hours, then transferred to filter paper and allowed to grow for 4 weeks until 3-4-tiller stage. The seedling growth environment was controlled at room temperature 28-29°C. The tiller was then transferred into the pot experiment (20 x 30 x 22 cm) at the green house. Each pot was flooded with water up to 2 cm above surface of soil for 1 week to generate water logged conditions. Then cadmium solution of varied concentration and pH was added to the pot experiment up to 8 weeks.

Cadmium analysis

At harvest, the rice root, leaf and seed were collected. The collected samples were washed with deionized water several times. The sample was then dried at temperature 80°C, until constant weight was obtained. The sample was then were ground into fine powder. 1 g of each sample was taken into a digestion tube, then digested with 5 mL nitric acid and perchloric acid (3:1 v/v). The sample was boiled at 90°C till all the sample dissolved. The solution was filtered and then ultrapure water was added to the filtrate to make the volume up to 50 mL.

Results and Discussion

Effect of solution of pH on Oriza sativa L cultivar soka plant growth

The effect of pH on *Orizae sativa* L. cultivar soka is shown in Figure 1. As shown in Figure 1 on increasing pH of 15 μmol/L cadmium solution from 4.0 to 8.0, the plant died at pH higher than 7.5, as compared with blank and pH solution of 4.0. The yield response of plant growth to a variety of solutions of different pH was significantly different compared with control. Therefore, the plant growth and development appear to be pH solution dependent. At the constant solution of pH 4, the plant growth much depends on concentration of Cadmium. As show in Figure 2, the number of rice tillers from first week until seven weeks much depends on cadmium concentration. Table 1 shows that after 7 weeks of plant rice growth, the number of rice plant tillers reach maximum, ie. 22 at cadmium concentration 15 μmol/L and mostly died at cadmium concentration 20 μmol/L.



Fig. 1. Effect of solution of pH on *Oriza sativa* L cultivar sokan growth.
A = Control. Cadmium concentration added 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ at solution of pH 4.0 (B), 7.5 (C) and 8.0 (D)

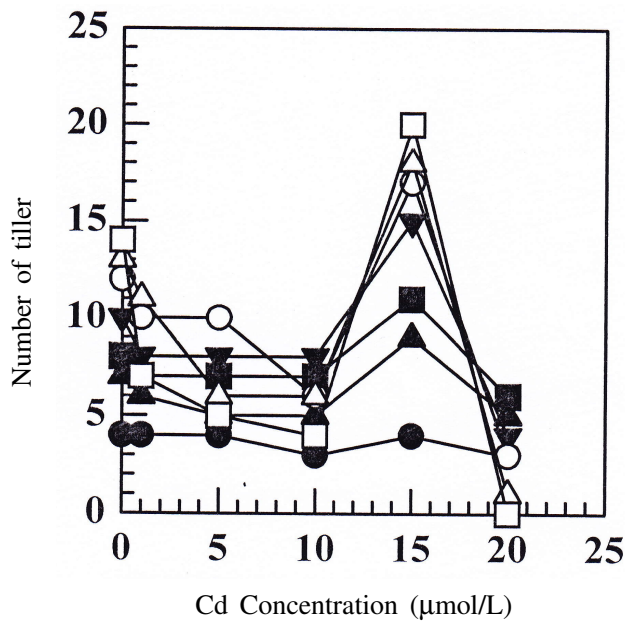


Fig. 2. Effect of Cadmium concentration on number of rice tillers of *Oriza sativa* L cultivar sokaan. Solution of pH = 4. ●= first week, ▲= 2nd week. ■ = 3rd week, ▼= 4th week, ○= 5th week, △= 6th week and □= 7th week.

Table 1: Effect of cadmium concentration on number of rice plant tiller at pH 4.0

[Cd] µmol/L	No. of Rice Tiller						
	1 st of Week	2 nd of Week	3 rd of Week	4 th of Week	5 th of Week	6 th of Week	7 th of Week
0	4	7	8	10	12	13	14
1	4	6	7	8	10	11	7
5	4	5	7	8	10	6	5
10	3	5	7	8	6	6	4
15	4	9	11	15	17	18	22
20	3	5	6	4	3	1	0

Cadmium can be directly taken from soil to the plant by efflux system. The mechanism of Cadmium detoxification in living cell plant exploit a variety processes, such as enzyme activity¹⁸, compartmentalization by chelation to sulfhydryl group compounds such as cysteine, reduced glutathione and phytochelatin¹⁹. Phytochelatin, synthesized from glutathione is effective chelator for Cadmium ion in plant²⁰. Phytochelatin is also known as sequester for cadmium by forming phytochelatin-cadmium complex.

Effect of Cadmium concentration on Cd uptake by *Oriza Sativa* L. cultivar sokaan

The main source of cadmium intake is rice, especially for rice eating countries such as Indonesia. Approximately 50% of the daily intake of Indonesian comes from rice²¹. Therefore Cadmium contaminates and accumulates in agricultural products such as rice through water and soil pollution if waste discharge is not properly treated. Further greater use of fertilizer containing Cadmium increases the cadmium content in plants especially rice. The joint FAO/WHO expert committee on food additives (JCEFA) has proposed a maximum level of 0.2 mg/kg cadmium in rice. Accumulation of Cd in rice plant growth could be through numerous functional groups namely, amino, thiol, carboxyl, sulphhydryl, carbonyl, hydroxide, imidazole and amide moieties¹⁸, which have been suggested as the possible functionalities groups responsible for the binding of metal ions. The effect of Cadmium concentration on Cd uptake by *Oriza sativa* L cultivar sokaan can be seen in Figure 3. As shown in Figure 3, Cadmium uptake by soil and rice root increases with increasing concentration of Cadmium, whereas the concentration of Cadmium on leaf and seed appears to be constant and slightly increases at concentration 15 µmol/L. Cadmium is highly soluble in the soil solution and can therefore easily transferred from soil to plant through root and accumulate therein. Figure 3 show that a first barrier against Cadmium uptake lies

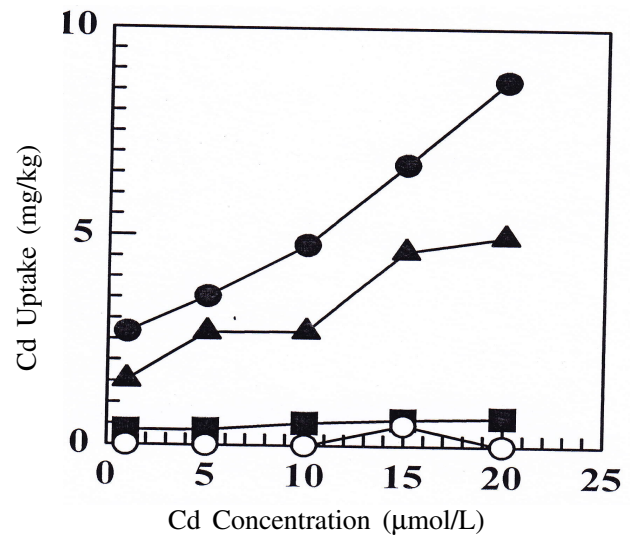


Fig. 3. Effect of Cadmium concentration on Cd uptake by *Oriza sativa* L cultivar sokaan. Solution of pH=4, ●= soil, ▲=root, ■ = leaf and ○=seed

mainly in root level. The root cell wall not only accumulates a high level of Cadmium but has to a certain extent an impact on Cadmium tolerance in other plants. This result is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Effect of cadmium concentration added on the soil water on the level of cadmium present in soil and rice plant at pH 4.0

[Cd] added $\mu\text{mol/L}$	Level of Cadmium present, mg/kg			
	Soil	Root	Leaf	Seed
1	2.67	1.52	0.35	nd
5	3.53	2.67	0.37	nd
10	4.77	2.70	0.53	nd
15	6.70	4.64	0.63	0.49
20	8.72	4.99	0.67	nd

0.49 mg/kg cadmium was detected on the rice seed when 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ was added into the soil. Moreover no cadmium has been detected at level 20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, because the rice plant died when high level concentration of cadmium was present in the soil.

Effect of solution of pH on Cadmium uptake

The effect of solution of pH of 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ Cadmium was investigated and the result can be seen in Figure 4. It is clear that pH of Cadmium solution could affect the cadmium uptake by soil, root, and leaf. Further more Cadmium content in the seed remains constant at pH 4.0 to 8.0. Munaf et al.²³ and Zein et al.²⁴ reported that the uptake capacities generally demonstrated a similar trend using no living cell of plant. The decreasing uptake of Cadmium ion by rice plant at pH higher than 4.0 may be attributed to the precipitation of insoluble cadmium species. The fact that the metals are present in their ionic state at a low pH (eg. 4.0) implies that the functional groups on the cell wall of the rice plant may also compete with other metals ion present in the soil. The data shows in Table 3 indicates that in solutions with pH from 4.0 to 8.0 cadmium concentration was decreased from soil, root, leaf and seed. Moreover at solution with pH 4.5, cadmium was found in seed at concentration 0.17 mg/kg. For most of the living cells, the sorption of heavy metals occurred due to enzyme activities. However the true mechanism of sorption process is still being investigated by many authors.

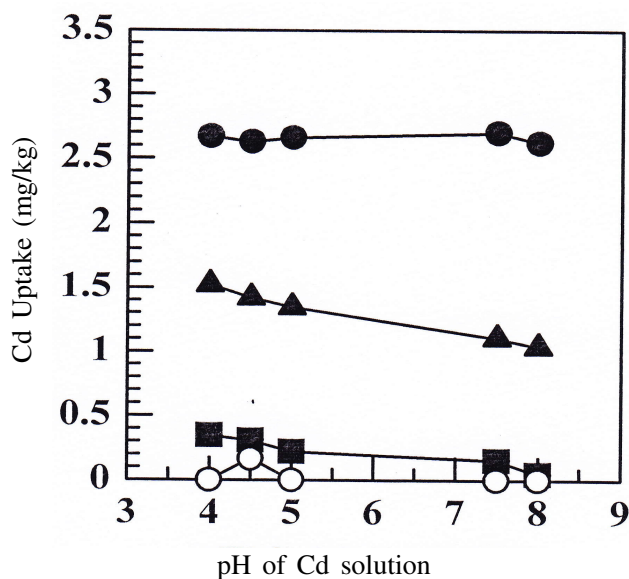


Fig. 4. Effect of pH of Cd solution on Cd uptake by *Oriza sativa L* cultivar soka. Cd concentration = 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, growth in 7 weeks, ● = soil, ▲ = root, ■ = leaf and ○ = seed

Effect of Cadmium concentration of chlorophyll content of Oriza Sativa L cultivar soka

The effect of Cadmium concentration on chlorophyll content of *Oriza Sativa L* cultivar soka is shown in Figure 5. In rice plant, the most apparent symptom of Cadmium toxicity is chlorosis of the leaves. When rice plant was treated with Cadmium concentration from 1 to 20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ for 7 weeks, chlorophyll content observed in leaf increased and become maximum at Cadmium level 15 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. At 20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ of Cadmium there was decrease in

Table 3: Effect of solution of pH on cadmium uptake by Oriza sativa, L cv soka. Cadmium concentration added 1 $\mu\text{mol/L}$

Solution of pH	Cadmium uptake, mg/kg			
	Soil	Root	Leaf	Seed
4.0	2.67	1.52	0.35	nd
4.5	2.63	1.42	0.31	0.17
5.0	2.66	1.35	0.22	nd
7.5	2.70	1.1	0.15	nd
8.0	2.62	1.06	0.48	nd

chlorophyll and proteins content in the leaf. Therefore it is clear that Cadmium could decrease the chlorophyll content in rice leaf.

Conclusions

The *Oryza sativa*. L cultivar sokaan investigated shows similar effect of cadmium toxicity as compared with other varieties of rice.

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