

**EFFECT OF 2-CHLORO 4, 6-BIS - (ETHYLAMINO)—
S - TRIAZINE (SIMAZINE) ON SOIL MICROBIAL
ACTIVITY AND NITRIFICATION IN AN ALLUVIAL
SOIL**

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2 - chloro-4, 6-bis-(ethylamino) - s - triazine (simazine) is a biologically active compound in that it is known to inhibit photosynthesis. Simazine is commonly used as a selective herbicide in crops such as citrus, coffee, maize etc.

Investigations reported in this paper were carried out to examine the influence of Simazine (10 ppm) on soil microbial activity and nitrification of added ammonium ions in an alluvial soil of pH 6.5 over a period of 12 weeks.

Results indicate that simazine increased soil microbial activity (shown by increased CO_2 production) from the initiation of the experiment. This effect was observed over a period of 8 weeks. Nitrification was found to be inhibited by Simazine over a period of 6 weeks.