

Inhibitory activities of some plant extracts upon germination of lettuce

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Lettuce seed germination assay is widely used in the detection of allelochemicals, throughout the world. However, there are no previous reports on this type of study in Sri Lanka, hence the present study was carried out to detect several crude plant extracts for germination inhibitory activity. In this study, the normal lettuce seed germination assay was slightly modified to suit our needs and 16 crude plant extracts were screened. Our observations suggested that *Cardiospermum halicacabum* (Penela) has shown seed germination inhibitory activity which might be due to the presence of chemical constituents that could be used as a source of natural herbicides in the future. Even though other extracts have not inhibited the lettuce seed germination at a considerable level, the reduced root lengths observed for all the extracts except the water extract of leaves of *Ipomoea aquatica*, might increase the chance of desiccation in seedlings before establishment and delay growth. At the moment, further studies are carrying out to detect the possible allelopathic effect of the above crude plant extracts.