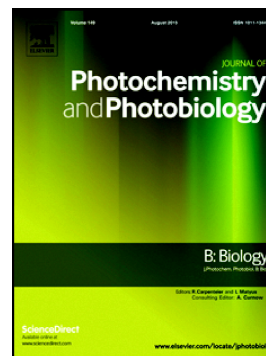


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Mucilage characterization, biochemicals and enzymatic activities of laser irradiated***Lagenaria siceraria* seedlings****Mazhar Abbas^a, M. Arshad^b, Numrah Nisar^c, Jan Nisar^d, Abdul Ghaffar^e, Arif Nazir^f, M.****Asif Tahir^g and Munawar Iqbal^{f,*}**^aInstitute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan^bJhang-Campus, University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Lahore, Pakistan^cDepartment of Environmental Sciences, Lahore College for Women University Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan^dNational Centre of Excellence in Physical Chemistry, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan^eDepartment of Applied Chemistry and Biochemistry, Government College University, Faisalabad, Pakistan^gDepartment of Chemistry, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan^fDepartment of Chemistry, The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan

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Abstract

Laser stimulation effect on *L. siceraria* seed mucilage, biochemicals and enzymatic activities during early growth stages were investigated. The laser density power of 1mW/cm² for 3 and 5 minutes (min) treatments were performed and various responses i.e., seed mucilage, biochemical and enzymatic activities were studied. Laser treatment of *L. siceraria* seeds enhanced the biochemical as well as the enzymatic activities. TPC (total phenolic contents), TFC (total flavonoids contents), TSS (total soluble sugar), reducing sugar, proline contents, total soluble protein and nitrogen contents were recorded higher in laser treated groups versus control. Mucilage from *L. siceraria* seed coat was also characterized. The pre-sowing seeds were treated with laser radiation for 3 and 5 min. TPC, TFC, proline contents, total soluble protein and nitrogenous compounds contents, ascorbic acid contents were recorded higher at 3 min. The laser irradiation effect on TSS, hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), malondialdehyde (MDA) was insignificant versus control. The SOD (superoxide dismutase) and POD (peroxidase), AMY (amylase), CAT (catalase) activities were recorded higher for 5 min laser treatment. Results revealed that He-Ne continuous wave-laser pre-sowing seed irradiation affected the seed coat mucilage, biochemical

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