

### Study of MWCNTs effects on growth rate, germination and morphological characteristics of two *Salvia* species seedlings, *Salvia sclarea* and *Salvia macrosiphon*

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**Abstract.** In order to study of MWCNTs on morphological characteristics of *Salvia sclarea* and *Salvia macrosiphon* seeds, different concentrations of MWCNTs, 0, 20, 60, 80, 200 µg/ml were prepared, then with completely randomized design experiment, 10 seeds of *Salvia sclarea* and *Salvia macrosiphon* were placed on filter papers in petri dishes in sterile in vitro conditions, in different concentrations and 4 replication. After 12 days rate and percentages of germination, shoot and root length, dry and wet weight were measured. Results showed that treatment of 80 µg/ml MWCNTs ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) was maximum in germination percentage, germination rate, seedling length and dry weight, while comparing two species on seedling length showed that in *S. sclarea* concentration of 80 µg/ml MWCNTs was maximum but in *S. macrosiphon* concentrations of 60, 80 and 200 µg/ml MWCNTs had same value and high effect. Comparing of two *Salvia* species in wet weight showed that in *S. sclarea* treatment of 80 µg/ml MWCNTs had highest effect while in *S. macrosiphon* concentrations of 0 and 80 µg/ml MWCNTs had highest effect with same value.

**Keywords:** *Salvia sclarea*, *Salvia macrosiphon*, MWCNTs, Germination

#### INTRODUCTION

*Salvia* is an important genus of the Lamiaceae family that includes more than 700 species which are spread throughout the world (Ewans, 1996). *Salvia* species called Maryam-Goli in Persian (Mozaffarian, 1996) has been famous for its medicinal properties since ancient times. Most of *Salvia* species are commonly, utilized for their essential oils in the foods, medicines and perfumery industries (Goren et al., 200; Ulubelen 1998). *Salvia sclarea* L. belonging to the family is also popularly known as 'Clary Sage'. The plants are 60-100 cm high with large hairy leaves and small blue, white or purple flowers. The plant is native to Mediterranean countries, southern France, Italy and Morocco, and is one of the most important plants cultivated worldwide as a source of essential oils and other perfumery products [Dzamic. et al 2008].

*Salvia macrosiphon* Boiss. is a quite-abundant and polymorphic plant in Iran and Afghanistan. It is a

perennial, herbaceous, strongly aromatic, lemon-scented and pale yellowish green plant. Its stems are few to several from a woody root stock, up to 60 cm, erect, sturdy, quadrangular, below glandular pilose, above with a dense indumentum of short glandular hairs and sessile oil globules [Rechinger 1986].

New discoveries in nanotechnology provided knowledge and technological platforms for a number of applications in medical science, aerospace, electronics and defense industries. It is demonstrated that multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) can activate growth of tomato plants and affect the expression of genes that are essential for cell division and plant development. [Khodakovskaya, et al. 2013]. Rao and Srivastana [2014] demonstrated that MWCNTs effects on Wheat, Corn, Peanut and Garlic increase size and number of leaves and biomass. It is showed that cotton seedlings had highest growth in 60 µg/ml MWCNTs treatment [Nalwade, et al. 2013]. Tiwari, et al. [2013]

introduced 20µg/ml MWCNTs concentration can hasten water absorbance and seedlings growth. In this research with respect to application of two species of *Salvia*; *S.sclarea* and *S.macrosiphon* in pharmacology, agriculture and perfume industry, we studied MWCNTs effects on germination, seedling length, shoot and root length, dry weight and wet weight of *S.sclarea* and *S.macrosiphon*.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHOD SOLUBILIZATION OF MWCNTS**

MWCNTs of diameter 10-20 nm and length 3-8 µm were purchased from USNANO, USA. CNTs were made water soluble using H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>+HNO<sub>3</sub>(3:2 by volume for 24 h [Rao. et.al,1996]. Excess of acids were removed and black mass washed with distilled water several times till it was neutral. Repeated adding of water and evaporation under boiling water bath removed all traces of acids. Acid free final wash was tested using Griess reagent [Roy.et.al,1994]. The black mass was vacuum dried and subjected to analysis. CNTs became water soluble after sonication [Huang.et.al,2002].

#### **IN-VIVO TECHNIQUE**

Seeds were surface sterilized in 70% ethanol for 1 minute, then rinsed three times with sterile distilled water, then in 10% sodium hypochlorite solution and then rinsed three times with sterile distilled water; then placed on wetted Whatman No. 3 filter paper discs (Cerabolini et al., 2004) in Petri dishes containing 0 (control), 20, 60, 80 and 200 µg/ml of MWCNTs. For each accession, seeds were allocated to four replicate Petri dishes, each containing 10 seeds in a completely randomized design. Seeds were incubated for 12 days in a germination chamber in the following environmental regime: 16/8 h

light/dark cycle at 25±1°C. All Petri dishes were sealed to prevent from desiccating with parafilm and to ensure no systematic influences due to position within the chamber re-randomizing of Petri dishes was done every other day (Yang et al., 1999). Seeds with at least two millimeters radicle emergence were recorded daily as 'germinated'.

#### **DATA ANALYSIS**

Statistic analysis was carried out with SPSS software, version 16. It was used Tukey and Scheffe assay in 5% level for mean comparison.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION GERMINATION PERCENTAGE**

Highest germination percentage in *S.sclarea* was 51% relevant to 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration. According to Tukey and Sheffeh analysis, treatments of 200 and 80µg/ml MWCNTs stand in one group with same value and 0, 60 µg/ml MWCNTs treatments stand in another group and 60 µg/ml MWCNTs treatment stand in one another group (fig.1). In *S.macrosiphon* germination percentage is stood at highest level with 80µg/ml MWCNTs and then 0, 200 and 60 µg/ml MWCNTs and at the end 20 µg/ml MWCNTs (fig.2).

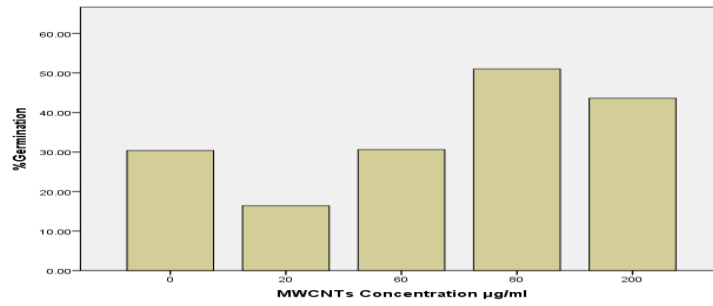


Figure 1. Germination percentage of *S. sclarea* seeds in different MWCNTs concentrations

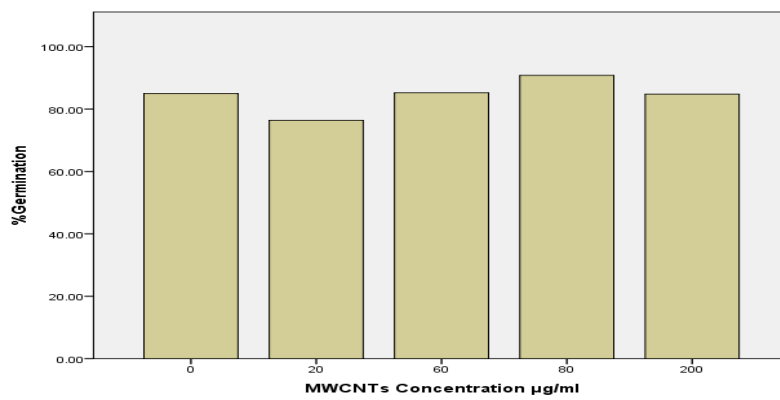


Figure 2. Germination percentage of *S. macrosiphon* seeds in different MWCNTs concentrations

**GERMINATION RATE**

Germination rate in *S. sclarea* in 80 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration was highest and then 0 and 20 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration and at the end is stood

200 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration (fig.3). descending order of germination rate in *S. macrosiphon* was 80, 200, 0, 60 and 20 µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations (fig.4).

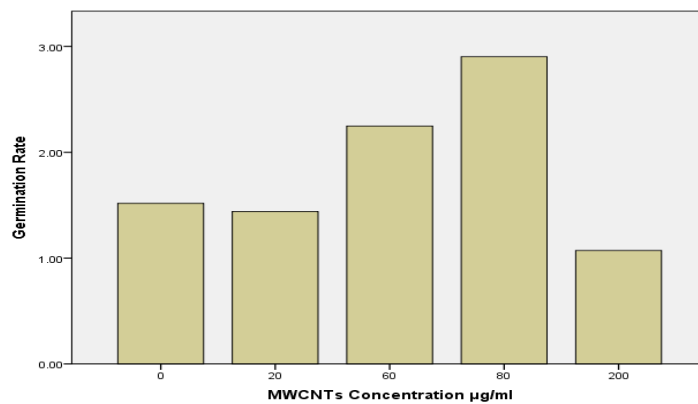


Figure 3. Germination rate of *S. sclarea* seeds in different MWCNTs concentrations

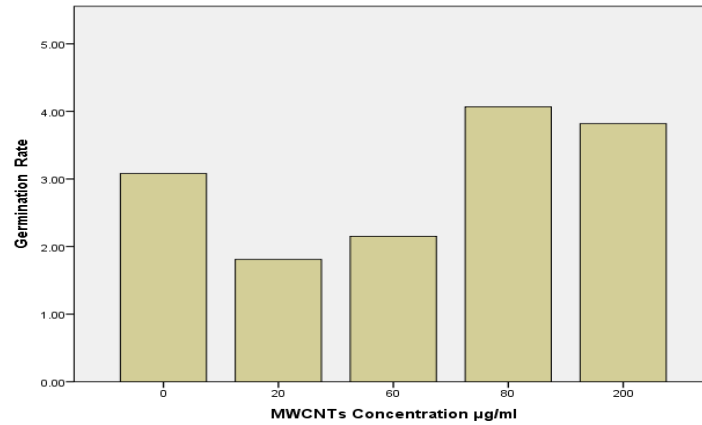


Figure 4. Germination rate of *S. macrosiphon* seeds in different MWCNTs concentrations

**SEEDLING LENGTH**

Maximum seedling length in *S. sclarea* was relevant to 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration, then control(0) and then 60 and 200 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration

and finally 20µg/ml MWCNTs concentration (fig.5) while in *S. macrosiphon* 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration was maximum and other concentrations were stood in next group with same value(fig.6).

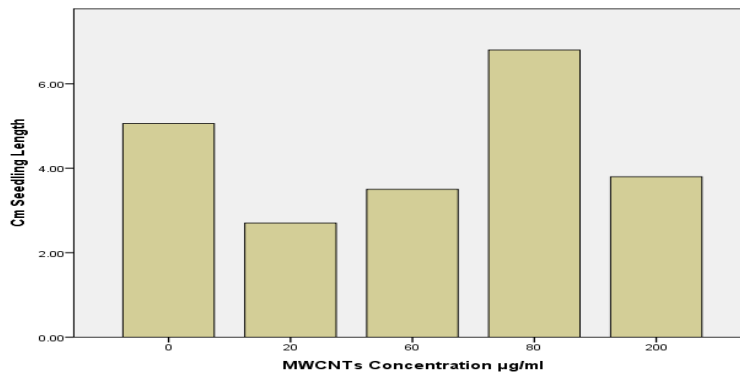


Figure 5. total seedling length of *S. sclarea* in different MWCNTs concentrations

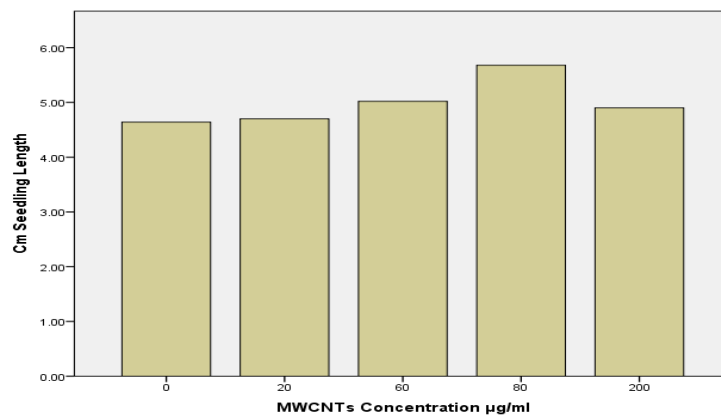


Figure 6. total seedling length of *S. macrosiphon* in different MWCNTs concentrations

**SHOOT LENGTH**

Data analysis from shoot length measurement of *S. sclarea* displayed that 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration had maximum effect , then 60,200µg/ml MWCNTs concentration and at the end

0 and 20 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration had same value (fig.7) while in *S. macrosiphon* 200,80, 60µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations were maximum with same value and then 0and 20 µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations were stood in next group with same value (fig.8).

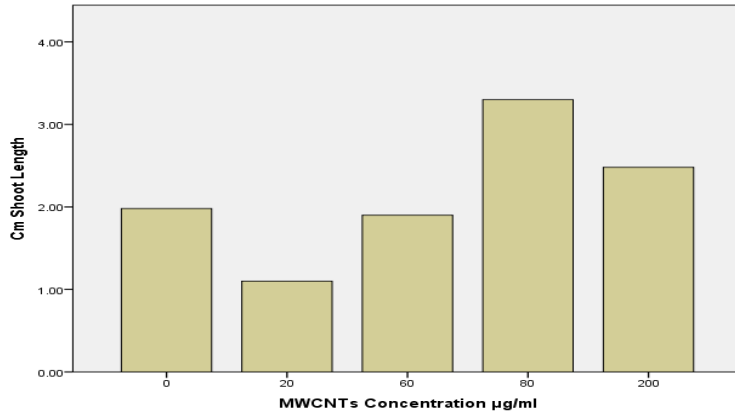


Figure 7. Shoot length of *S. sclarea* seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

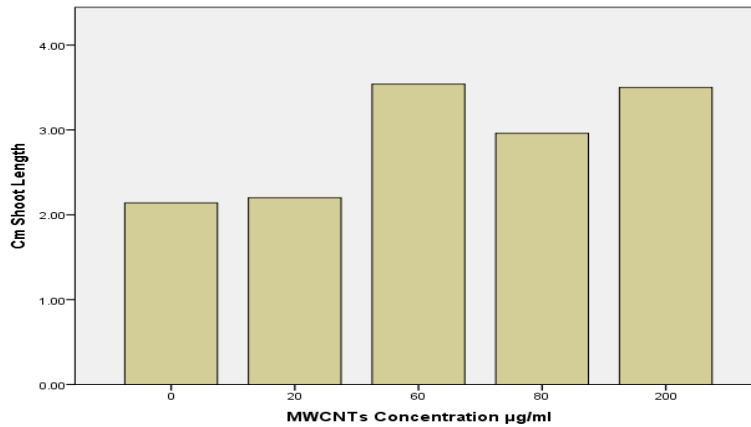


Figure 8. Shoot length of *S. macrosiphon* seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

**ROOT LENGTH**

0 and 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations had maximum effect on root length in *S. sclarea* whereas 200,20, 60µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations stand in

other group with less and same effects (fig.9) but in *S. macrosiphon* 0,20,80µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations had maximum effect and 200 and 60µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations had less effects with same value (fig.10).

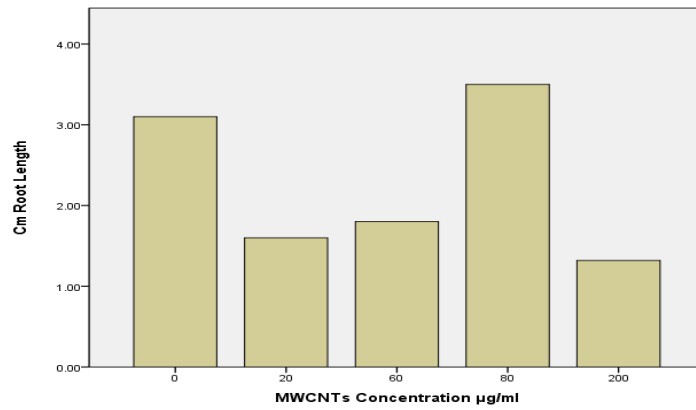


Figure .9. Root length of S.sclarea seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

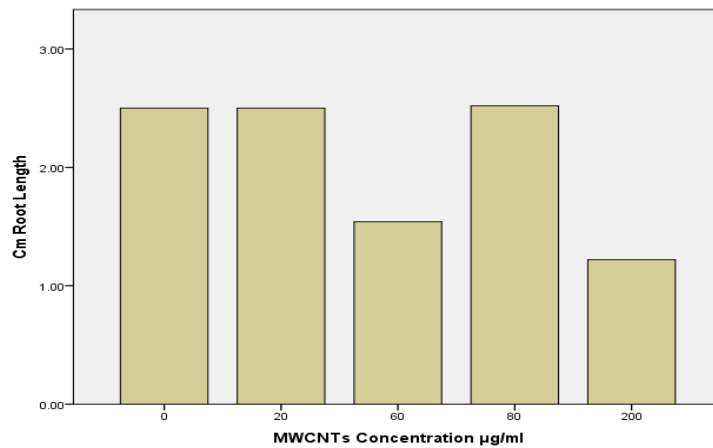


Figure 10. Root length of S.macrosiphon seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations Wet weight

Results of wet weight of S.sclarea seedlings displayed that 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration had maximum effect , then 60,20 and 0 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration and at the end was 200 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration (fig.11) while in S.

macrosiphon 0,80, µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations had maximum effect with same value then were 200,20, 60µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations with same value (fig.12).

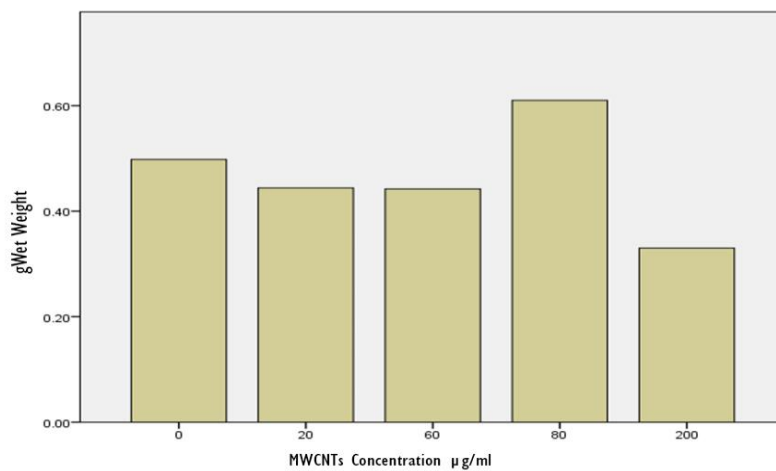


Figure 11. Wet weight of S.sclarea seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

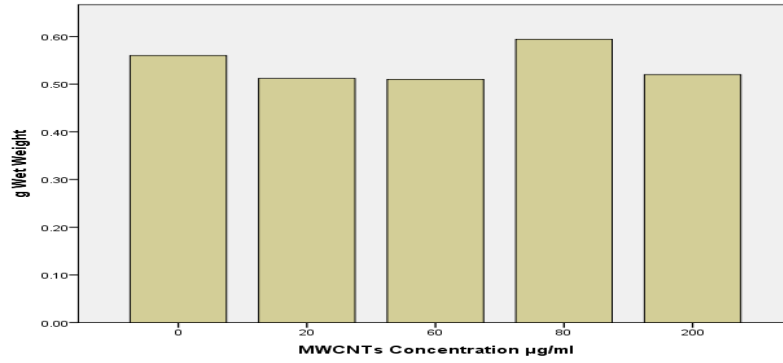


Figure 12. Wet weight of *S. macrosiphon* seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

**DRY WEIGHT**

Comparing of dry weight of *S. sclarea* seedlings displayed that 80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration had maximum effect then 60,20 and µg/ml MWCNTs concentration and at the end stood 0

and 200 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration (fig.13),also in *S. macrosiphon* ,80µg/ml MWCNTs concentration had maximum effect and at end were 0,200,20, 60µg/ml MWCNTs concentrations with same value (fig.14).

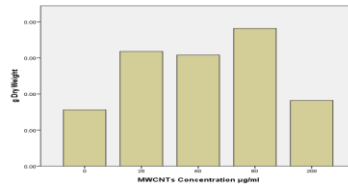


Figure 13. Dry weight of *S. sclarea* seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

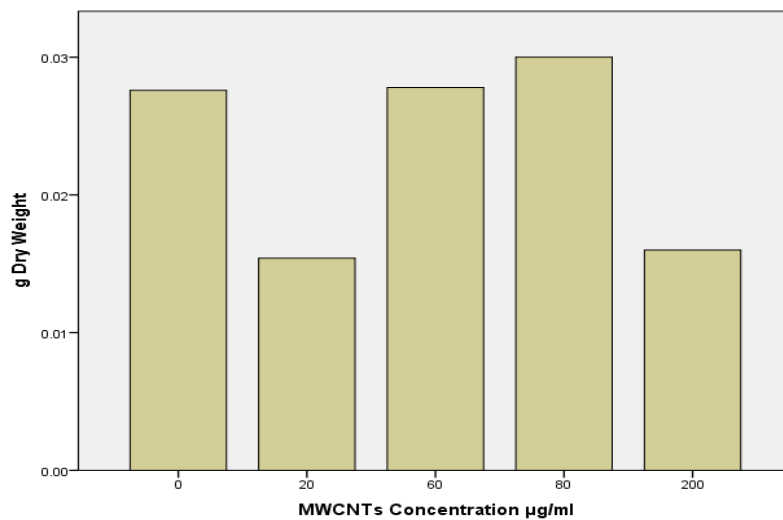


Figure 14. Dry weight of *S. macrosiphon* seedlings in different MWCNTs concentrations

## CONCLUSION

MWCNTs induce unknown changes in root and leaf gene expression of tomato specially upstream regulation of stresses genes that induced with pathogens and induced aqua channel gene of *LeAqp2* [Vaiseman, et.al.2006]. Carbon nanotubes (CNT) also can intracellularly traffic through different cellular barriers and deliver biomolecules into living cells [Fouad ,et.al.2008]. In this research regard to importance of nanotubes effect on plants growth, we examine MWCNTs effects on percentage and rate of *S.sclarea* and *S.macrosiphon* germination, seedling length, shoot length , root length, wet weight and dry weight. Effect of different concentrations of MWCNTs on germination percentage of *S.sclarea* and *S.macrosiphon* displayed that 80 µg/ml MWCNTs has significant effect in two species. also maximum effect on germination rate was 80 µg/ml MWCNTs and also at seedling total length was 80 µg/ml MWCNTs. Measuring of shoot length demonstrated that maximum effect in *S.sclarea* was 80 µg/ml MWCNTs and in *S.macrosiphon* was 60,80 and 200 µg/ml MWCNTs with same value. Coparing of root length displayed that maximum effect in *S.sclarea* was 0 and 80 µg/ml MWCNTs while in *S.macrosiphon* was 0 ,20 and 80 µg/ml MWCNTs. Treatment of MWCNTs on wet weight of *S.sclarea* demonstrated that 80 µg/ml MWCNTs concentration was maximum effect while in *S.macrosiphon* 80 and 0 µg/ml MWCNTs had maximum effect with same value. Comparing of dry weight in two species displayed that maximum effect was 80 µg/ml MWCNTs.

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