

Role of a Zolla Pinnata R.Br. On Alteration of Physicochemical and Elemental Content of Soil

Rosa Priyadarshini, Atia Arzoo, Bhagyeswari Behera

Abstract: Now a day's the toxic waste of soil and water by chemical fertilizer is a major problem, which leads to negative effect on crop production. Application of organic fertilizers is the only alternative approach to get better soil quality and future agricultural productivity. In this study, *Azolla pinnata* R.Br was taken as experimental plant and collected from *Azolla* tank of CUTM garden, dried and grinded into its powdered form and soil samples were collected from a garden of Centurion University of Technology and Management, BBSR, Odisha at depths of 15-30 cm. and elemental analysis was done by using X-Ray Fluorescence. A number of elements/compound was found to be present in both plant and soil sample. Among those, Silicon dioxide the initial soil was 67.203% and in final after 15 days of treatment it was found to be the value was decreased that was 53.21%. (Table-2) In this present study Ca found in initial soil was 4.236%. After 15 days study, Ca found in treated soil sample was found to be increased to 6.758%. (Table-2) In case of minor elements V_2O_5 , Cr_2O_3 , NiO, CuO, ZnO, etc. are present in both plant and soil sample. Like CuO, SrO was also found to be increased from 32.9 to 158.5ppm in final soil sample after treated with *Azolla pinnata*. It can be concluded that after mixing with *Azolla pinnata* R.Br on soil, the fertility potency was increased.

Key words: Soil, *Azolla pinnata*, Biofertilizer, Elemental analysis.

I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental pollution with toxic metals has increased tremendously after growth of industrialization Voegelan *et al.*, 2003¹. The primary sources of environmental pollution includes mining, industrialization, urbanization, burning of fossil fuels and smelting of metalliferous ores, municipal wastes, fertilizers, pesticides and sewage. Now a day's the contamination of soil and water by chemical fertilizer is a significant problem, which leads to changes of both soil and water characteristics. Adverse effects are observed with the use of chemical fertilizers on long term soil fertility and soil productivity Kannaiyan, 1997². In this regard, recent efforts have been directed more towards the production of 'nutrient rich high quality food' for sustainable living with special emphasis on bio-safety.

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To improve the soil organic carbon for enhancing the soil quality and increase in agriculture productivity, organic manures especially bio-fertilizers is one of the practice to ensure good yield of cultivated crops. It was reported that, the organic nitrogen content of the soil increased significantly due to continuous application of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. by Kannaiyan and Kalidurai in 1995³. Significant increase in nitrogen content has been reported in wet land rice by applying *Azolla* spp. as the green manure Galal, 1997⁴. So in this study *Azolla pinnata* R.Br fern. was used as biofertilizer to show the impact of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. on garden soil.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

Collection of Soil samples: Soil samples were collected randomly from the field of Centurion University campus below depths of 15-30 cm using stainless steel soil auger. Soil samples were taken in polythene bags then tagged and labeled for easy identification. The soil samples were collected from the different zone of campus and air dried in sunlight for one day. The samples were oven dried at 105⁰ C until constant weight was recorded. Then these soil samples were packed in a clean labelled bag and preserved for further analysis Saeed and Refiqui, 1980⁵.

Collection of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.: *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. were collected from *Azolla* tank of CUTM garden. The collected *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. were washed and dried and grinded into its powdered form.

Analysis of different elemental content present in soil samples:

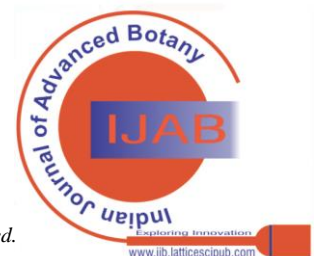
The soil samples were dried and grounded into its simplest form. 0.5g to 2g of soil samples were taken and elemental analysis was done by using X-Ray Fluorescence.

Statistical analysis and presentation of data:

For this experiment triplicate data were taken and data were analysed in the given figure by taking means of three independent experiment. The data were analyzed statistically and standard errors of mean (SEM) were given wherever required.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The elementary analysis of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br, garden soil and garden soil treated with *Azolla* were done by using X-Ray Fluorescence and both the results were compared.



Elemental analysis of Azolla pinnata R.Br.

In this study, the major elements like SiO₂, P₂O₅, SO₃, Cl, K₂O, CaO, TiO₂, MnO, Fe₂O₃, ZnO, Eu₂O₃ in percentage and minor elements like V₂O₅, NiO, CuO, As₂O₃, Br, SrO, PbO in ppm and are found to be present in *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. The element like Cl, K₂O, CaO, V₂O₅ and CuO were found to be present in higher amount than the other compound.

Elemental analysis of initial (garden soil) and final (garden soil treated with Azolla) soil sample:

Elemental analysis was done by XRF method the following compounds were found to be present in garden soil and treated soil.

The major element like Al₂O₃, SiO₂, P₂O₅, K₂O, CaO, TiO₂, MnO, Fe₂O₃, ZrO₂, SO₃, Cl, ZnO, Eu₂O₃ was found in initial garden soil and the concentration of the compound like P₂O₅, K₂O, CaO, TiO₂, MnO was found to be increased in 15 days of final soil sample which was treated with *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.. Silicon dioxide also known as silica is a natural compound is the earth's most abundant materials. Before treatment of soil by for plant growth the initial soil was 67.203% and in final after 15 days of treatment it was found to be the value was decreased that was 53.21%. (Table-2). In industry, CaO is to treat acidic soil and to make porcelain and glass, bleaching power, caustic soda, mortar and cement. In this present study Ca found in initial soil was 4.236%. After 15 days study, Ca found in treated soil sample was found to be increased to 6.758%. (Table-2) In case of minor element V₂O₅, Cr₂O₃, NiO, CuO, ZnO, Ga₂O₃, As₂O₃, Rb₂O, SrO, Y₂O₃, Nb₂O₅, SnO₂, Eu₂O₃, IrO₂, PbO, ThO₂, CO₂, Re these are present in soil sample. The deficiency in Cu lead to affects growth and metabolism in plant specially respiration and photosynthesis. In this present study, CuO found in initial soil was 336.8ppm. and in final after 15 days of treatment with *Azolla pinnata*, the value was found to be increased to 407.4ppm (Table-3). Like CuO, SrO was also found to be increased from 32.9 to 158.5ppm in final soil sample after treated with *Azolla pinnata*.

Some metals like iron, copper, zinc are essential for plants animals. The Availability of some metals such as copper, zinc iron manganese molybdenum, nickel and copper varies and such metals are important micro nutrients Arzoo and Satapathy, 2017⁶. From a report, it was found that nickel had a significant stimulating effect on growth of horse gram, when grown in upto 20mg/kg of nickel treated soil Arzoo *et al.*, 2014⁷. From the evident it was found that growing azolla is not only use full as a biofertilizer for both N and K is its utility as human feed also used as mosquito repellent Sing, 1977⁸. It was also observed that Azolla as a thick rug on rice field can suppress the weeds of crop field. Singh, 2000⁹.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this present study, it was observed that when a very small quantity of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. was added to the soil, the status of soil in relation to its nutritional content was found to be enhanced. *Azolla* has been known to influence the soil health as well as helps in maintaining the soil microflora including nitrogen fixing bacteria which inhabits symbiotically for sustainable agriculture production. It has tremendous potential to enrich the soil

organic matter. From the result of this investigation, it is concluded that *Azolla pinnata* R.Br. can be a potent organic fertilizer for nutritive crop production.

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Table-1 Different Elements/compounds present in *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.

Elements/Compounds	Unit	Concentration
SiO ₂	%	8.141±0.0073
P ₂ O ₅	%	4.919±0.0057
SO ₃	%	3.720±0.0058
Cl	%	20.49±0.0065
K ₂ O	%	17.410±0.0057
CaO	%	37.624±0.0063
TiO ₂	%	0.622±0.0043
MnO	%	1.461±0.0052
Fe ₂ O ₃	%	5.159±0.0067
ZnO	%	0.3302±0.2199
Eu ₂ O ₃	%	0.143±0.06
ZrO ₂	%	0.006±0.001
Elements/Compounds	Unit	Concentration
V ₂ O ₅	ppm	571.1±2.82
NiO	ppm	202.5±1.82
CuO	ppm	479.3±2.08
As ₂ O ₃	ppm	21.2±0.08
Br	ppm	386.2±1.22
SrO	ppm	323.8±1.46
PbO	Ppm	23.8±0.06
CO ₂	Ppm	0.0±0.00



Table-2 Major Elements/compounds present in garden soil and garden soil treated with *azolla pinnata*:-

Elements/compounds	Unit	Initial concentration	Final concentration
Al ₂ O ₃	%	16.850±0.005	15.645±0.0291
SiO ₂	%	67.203±0.003	53.21±0.065
P ₂ O ₅	%	1.026±0.004	2.830±0.005
K ₂ O	%	2.261±0.004	3.071±0.004
CaO	%	4.236±0.003	6.758±0.004
TiO ₂	%	0.535±0.003	0.72±0.055
MnO	%	0.134±0.003	1.194±0.002
Fe ₂ O ₃	%	5.204±0.003	5.081±0.007
ZrO ₂	%	0.124±0.003	0.108±0.002
SO ₃	%	0.00	0.149±0.003
Cl	%	0.00	0.114±0.003
ZnO	%	0.00	0.008±0.001
Eu ₂ O ₃	%	0.00	0.004±0.001

Table-3 Minor Elements/compounds present in final soil by application of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br and garden soil(initial):-

Compound/elements	unit	Initial concentration	Final concentration
V ₂ O ₅	ppm	662.3±2.426	581.0±1.125
Cr ₂ O ₃	ppm	2.271±0.089	2.081±0.024
NiO	ppm	553.0±1.324	371.6±0.28
CuO	ppm	336.8±1.286	407.4±1.65
ZnO	ppm	193.9±0.82	150.3±0.63
Ga ₂ O ₃	ppm	74.6±0.68	51.5±0.08
As ₂ O ₃	ppm	102.2±1.28	61.2±0.05
Rb ₂ O	ppm	147.8±1.42	140.4±1.23
SrO	ppm	32.9±0.86	158.5±1.59
Y ₂ O ₃	ppm	13.4±0.08	11.3±0.61
Nb ₂ O ₅	ppm	136.8±1.24	73.5±0.53
SnO ₂	ppm	132.6±0.98	103.7±1.29
Eu ₂ O ₃	ppm	37.6±0.82	35.6±1.49
IrO ₂	ppm	95.4±1.38	48.6±0.02
PbO	ppm	673.4±1.42	330.1±1.70
ThO ₂	ppm	48.9±0.64	43.5±0.58
CO ₂	ppm	7.1±0.08	3.318±0.025
Re	ppm	35.4±0.62	17.6±0.63

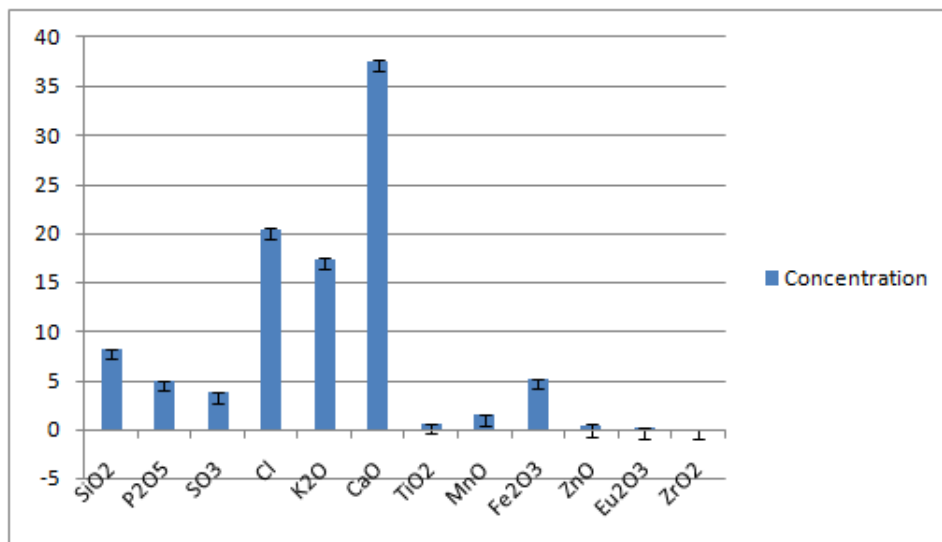


Fig 1: Diffrenet major elements present in *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.

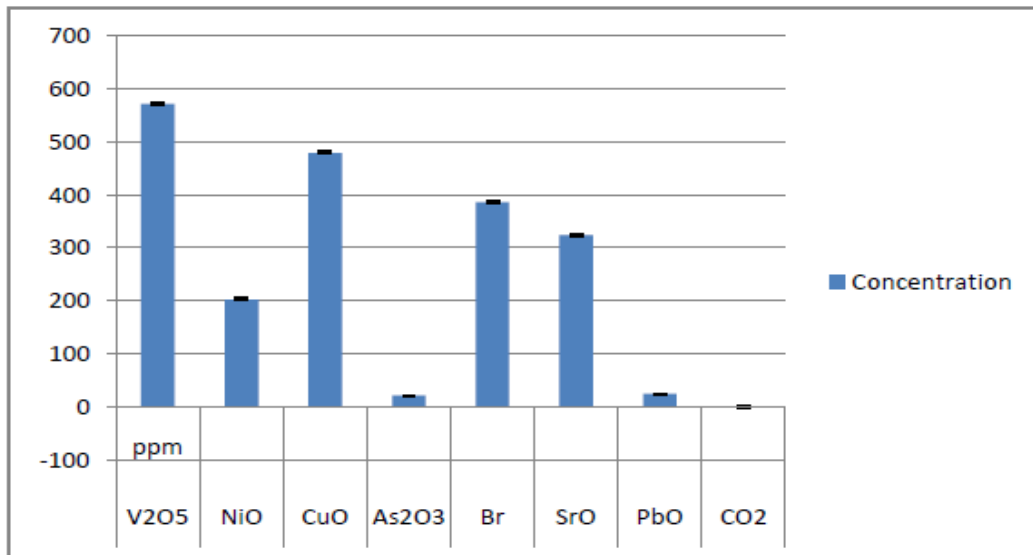


Fig 2: Diffrenet minor elements present in *Azolla pinnata* R.Br.

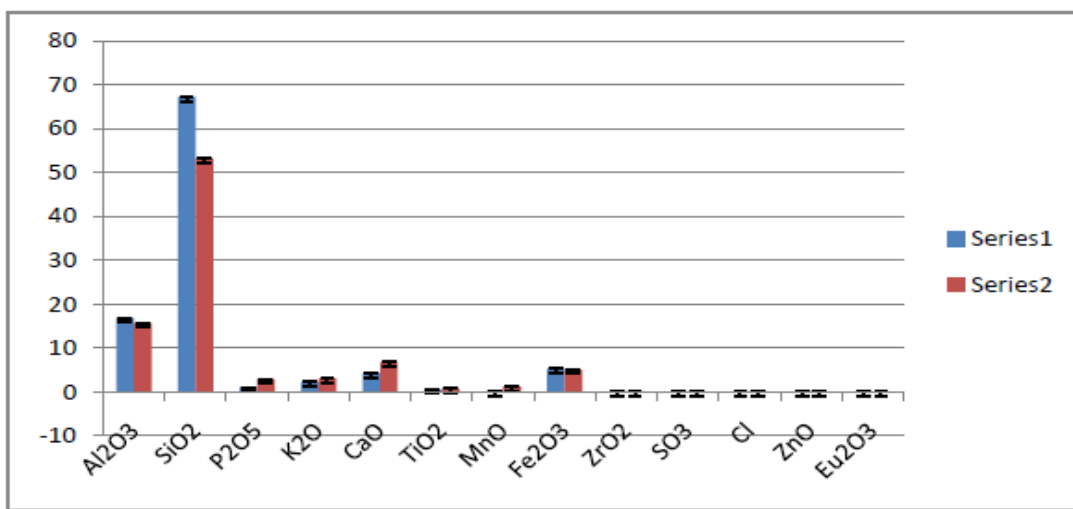


Fig 3: Major Elements present in garden soil and garden soil treated with *azolla pinnata*:-

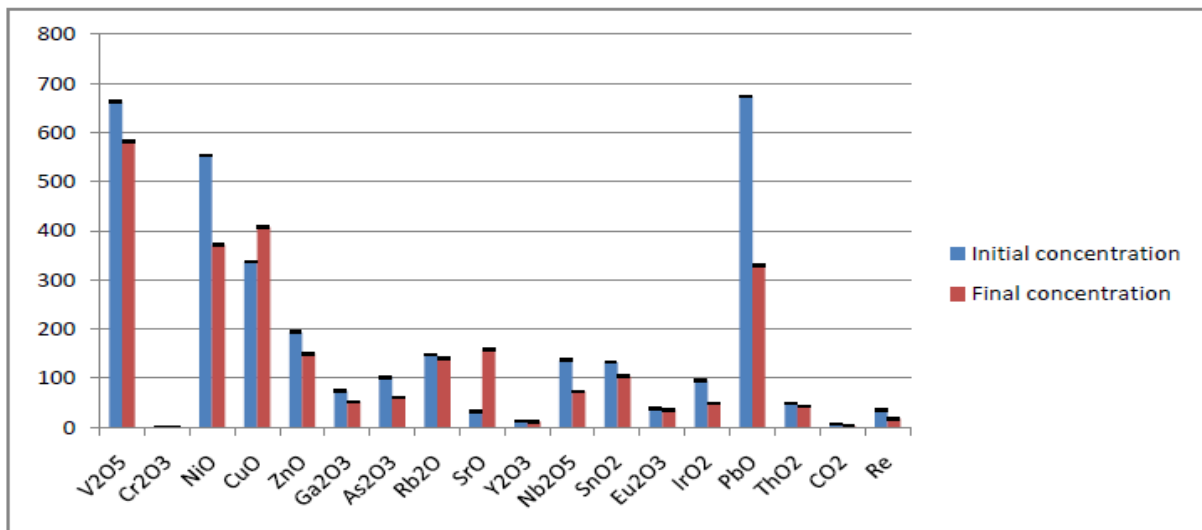


Fig 4: Minor Elements/compounds present in final soil by application of *Azolla pinnata* R.Br and garden soil (initial):-