

Original Research Paper

# Phytomanagement of Heavy Metal Lead by Fodder Grass *Lasiurus scindicus* in Polluted Soil and Water of Dravyawati River

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**Abstract:** Soil and water pollution with heavy metals is a worldwide issue and is still unresolved. Phytoremediation is a new and rising technology that applies plants for cleanup lightly contaminated soils and water. *Lasiurus scindicus* have been chosen in this work for decontaminating soil and water from heavy metal (lead). This plant was grown in contaminated soil and water over a 105 day pot trial period. Accrue ment of the heavy metal was studied after 45, 65, 85 and 105 days in leaves and roots by AAS. It was observed that high accumulation level of lead in root after 45 and 65 days. The results conclude that the *Lasiurus scindicus* has phytoremediation potentiality and could be used in restoring soil polluted with Lead.

**Keywords:** Phytoremediation, Accrue ment, Metal, AAS

## Introduction

The escalation of industrial, agricultural and activities has increased the risk of soil and water pollution by potentially toxic elements. India is having 2.45% of land and 4% of the water resources of the world with 16% of world population. As the rapid industrial growth is increasing day by day, the rate of generation of waste water and waste soil is also enhancing simultaneously. Most of the research and analysis have shown that the availability of fresh water and soil is reduced on one side and generation of waste water and soil is increasing on another side. Various industries discharged toxic heavy metals directly into the environment. In the industrial area RIICO, Jaipur, many of the chemical and dyes, textile industries are situated. For the treatment of waste water and waste soil collected over their different conventional method of treatment is also regulated, but most of the heavy metal cannot be destroyed by this degradation method (Henry, 2012). Contamination of soil and water by Lead occurs through irrigation with wastewater, disposal of solid wastes, including sewage waste and industrial activity (Aransiola *et al.*, 2013). Heavy metals have shown to very adverse effects on plant growth and soil that leading to decrease in plant productivity (Roy *et al.*, 2005). Soil and water pollution can have a big serious issue for ecosystems because,

through the assimilation of these toxic elements by plants, heavy metals adversely effect on plants and animal health (Wuana and Okieimen, 2011). Great efforts have been made to develop strategies for the remediation of this pollution using plants that can decontaminate the soil and water.

Mostly concern heavy metals are Chromium, Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Copper and Nickel in the environment. Cadmium (Cd) and lead (Pb) heavy metals have high concern because of their highly toxicity and adverse effect on plant functions. Lead is not a require nutrient for plants, most of lead is very easily taken up by plants from the soil and cumulated in root, because only a small amount was transferred to the shoots by roots (Patra *et al.*, 2004). Pb toxicity leads to low the germination, growth of plant, length, dry mass of shoots and roots (Subhashini and Swamy, 2013).

The main problems of ecosystems are increasing with the advancement in new technology. The increased level of lead and other heavy metals, e.g., chromium, lead, cadmium and mercury, in the local water stream is a big problem to ecosystem.

## Health Effects

Lead has been reported as a potential carcinogen in the EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). Inhalation and ingestion are the two modes of exposure and the effects

of both are the same. When lead enters in the body parts (brain), which may lead to poisoning or even death. The gastrointestinal tract, central nervous system and kidneys, are also affected by the presence of lead. Children exposed to lead are at high risk for impaired development, growth and mental impairment, with children under the age of six being at a more significant risk. Adults, when exposed to lead usually low experience reaction time, loss of memory, nausea, insomnia and weakness of the joints.

Methods of environmental reversion of metal-polluted soils using a green technology have a magnetic increasing interest since it was proposed (Chaney, 1983). It is a technology for regenerating metal polluted soils. So, phytoremediation as a remediation method of polluted soils with cost-effective and very few side effects than physical and chemical approaches (Raskin and Ensley, 2000; Nascimento and Xing, 2006). Phytoextraction appears to be the most bright technique that has received increase getting attention as a green technology for remediation, heavy metals polluted soils (McGrath *et al.*, 2002). It was reported that more than 400 plant species have been recognized to have the potential for soil and water remediation (Robinson *et al.*, 2009). In this study, we aimed at studying the use of *Lasiurus scindicus* in phytoremediation of soils contaminated with toxic heavy metal lead. Accumulate is largely associated with the availability of metals in soils and water. Some of the plant species are available, which can grow on metal contaminated soils. The Poaceae family grasses are very much studied in the last decade and known to be metal tolerant if they grow on polluted soil and water. The use of green plants as a phytoremediation is a prosperous option, with very minimum negative effects on the soil, have the advantage of removing metals from the soil and is a 50-80% low cost method comparing with classical

methods. The presence of heavy metals in soil has generally synergistic effects on the accumulation of heavy metals in plants, while the macronutrients have, in most of the cases, incompatible effects on the potentiality of heavy metals by grasses.

## Materials and Methods

The experiment was carried out for 105 days pot trial method. Plastic pots of 7×25×11 cm with double bottoms were used for the experiment. Experiment set up in two ways: Dilution of contaminated soil and dilution of contaminated water. Different dilution of uncontaminated soil (80, 60, 40 and 20%) was put into each of the pots (Fig. 2). Initially taken four samples from different sites, but only in two sites found high concentrations of lead in soil and water samples. So experiment done with two sites in the Jaipur industrial area.

### Sampling Site Description

Jaipur (Longitude: 95° 24' E; latitude: 27°18' N) is a city located in the central part of the Rajasthan is undergoing rapid urbanization and industrialization. Almost in all parts of Jaipur city and adjacent areas, a large number of industries have come up during last two decades. Such area includes Vishwakarma, Sudershanpura, Bais Godown, Jhotwara, Malviya, Sanganer, Sitapura industrial areas, etc., which play a major role in polluting different water resources. Sitapura industrial area was selected for the sampling of research work.

### Sample Collection

Polluted water sample in plastic bottles and polluted soil in plastic bags were collected from different Sitapura industrial areas near (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Collection of water and soil samples



Fig. 2. Sowing of seeds in different concentration of soil and water

The composition of contaminated soil pH was 9.1-9.5 and nutritional substances included: Potassium - 168-180 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, phosphate - 16-15 mg g<sup>-1</sup>, Cu 0.26-0.12 ppm, Mn 4.22-3.22 ppm, Fe- 4.55-3.22 ppm.

The composition of contaminated water pH was 7.17-7.76, Na-13.04-14.78 meq L<sup>-1</sup>, Ca- 5.80-6.00 meq L<sup>-1</sup>, Mg-5.82-6.16. Each pot with soil contained 10 g of *Lasiurus scindicus* seeds. Uncontaminated soil was used for growing control plants. Since humidity is the main factor in the growth of plants and the necessary physiological processes, grass plants were watered every 3 days. Those grown in the contaminated soil were watered with different dilution (80, 60, 40 and 20%) of polluted water while plants grown in the normal soil were watered with contaminated water. The maintained temperature was 22-24°C and the lighting was natural. The experiment lasted 105 days. Firstly uprooted in 45 days than every after 20 days were rooted, *Lasiurus scindicus* prepared for analysis and then analysed. The material was mineralised in the MNIT institute Jaipur; the AAS analysis was carried out at the Department of Material and Research science. Heavy metal lead was identified by a using atomic absorption spectrometer in a flame mode.

Plants were separated into root and leaves and were oven dried at 110°C. Soil samples were also oven dried at 110°C. 2 gram of each sample were acid digested using HCL and HNO<sub>3</sub> (10:3). The samples were kept on a hot plate. After removing from hot plate the solution was cooled and the sample was filtered using Whatman 42 filter paper in 100 mL cylinder up to 50 mL so that 50 mL of each sample was prepared. Water samples were directly subjected to analysis. For the presence of heavy metals in soil and water were tested in MNIT institute Jaipur, presented in table.

## Results and Discussion

*Lasiurus scindicus* (Sewan grass) species were selected for the present study. *Lasiurus scindicus* is a perennial grass that can live up to 20 years. It is a bushy, multi-branched desert grass with ascending to erect wiry stems, height up to 1-1.6 m. Leaves are alternate with a thin leaf-blade. The inflorescence is a silky, 10 cm long bearing hairy spikelets. Fruit is a caryopsis. *Lasiurus scindicus* is the most common grass in north India. Sewan grass is popular in dry areas of North Africa, Sudan and Sahelian regions, East Africa and Asia. It is majorly growing in the Rajasthan desert area. It is very rich in protein, so use this species use as a fodder. Optimal growth conditions are annual rainfall below 250 mm on alluvial or light sandy soils with a pH of 8.5. It is highly tolerable of drought, but should be protected from wind in the early stages of plant. This species is grown in the area adjoining the industries where industrial effluents contaminated with heavy metals is coming to the field so that the present research is undertaken to study the phytotoxic effects of lead on growth parameters and its phytoremediation through *Lasiurus scindicus* grass.

In the present study the results of phytoremediation experiments (where *Lasiurus scindicus* seeds are showing in industrial polluted soil and water) indicate a significant recovery of phytotoxicity induced by lead insignificant level. AAS studies also confirm that lead has been absorbed by *Lasiurus scindicus* where the accumulation is primarily in roots as compared to leaves and this makes useful *Lasiurus scindicus* for phytostabilization significant that lead is accumulated more roots and is low translocated through the vascular system (Table 1 to 3). Thus *Lasiurus scindicus* shows as a powerful phytoremediator plant for lead that makes the soil less toxic.

Table 1. Presence of lead in polluted soil and water in industrial area, Jaipur

Heavy metal	Site I		Site II	
	Soil (mg/kg)	Water (ppm)	Soil (mg/kg)	Water (ppm)
Lead	4.28	0.682	5.82	0.721

Table 2. Absorption of lead in plant different soil concentration of industrial area, Jaipur

Different conc. of soil	45 Days Lead (ppm)		65 Days Lead (ppm)		85 Days Lead (ppm)		105 Days Lead (ppm)	
	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf
Site-1								
80%WS +20%NS	0.434	0.423	0.774	0.543	0.779	0.548	0.881	0.520
60%WS +40%NS	0.323	0.226	0.684	0.329	0.691	0.410	0.695	0.413
40%WS +60%NS	0.212	0.135	0.323	0.145	0.328	0.152	0.331	0.154
20%WS +80%NS	0.012	0.052	0.017	0.002	0.110	0.010	0.112	0.012
Control	0.007	0.002	0.008	0.005	0.008	0.006	0.005	0.003
Site- 2								
80%WS +20%NS	0.710	0.512	0.941	0.642	0.943	0.645	0.945	0.649
60%WS +40%NS	0.512	0.214	0.609	0.441	0.610	0.442	0.613	0.446
40%WS +60%NS	0.503	0.014	0.510	0.309	0.511	0.312	0.512	0.318
20%WS +80%NS	0.359	0.009	0.443	0.145	0.445	0.148	0.446	0.150
Control	0.008	0.003	0.006	0.003	0.005	0.002	0.003	0.001

WS = Waste Soil, NS = Normal Soil

Table 3. Absorption of Lead in plant different water concentration of industrial area, Jaipur

Different conc. of water	45 Days Lead (ppm)		65 Days Lead (ppm)		85 Days Lead (ppm)		105 Days Lead (ppm)	
	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf	Root	Leaf
Site-1								
80%WW +20%NW	0.212	0.125	0.510	0.277	0.515	0.279	0.520	0.281
60%WW +40%NW	0.123	0.092	0.512	0.308	0.519	0.310	0.522	0.311
40%WW +60%NW	0.052	0.072	0.211	0.012	0.213	0.018	0.215	0.020
20%WW +80%NW	0.024	0.042	0.178	0.005	0.179	0.010	0.181	0.011
Control	0.004	0.002	0.006	0.001	0.007	0.001	0.003	0.001
Site- 2								
80%WW +20%NW	0.509	0.321	0.721	0.523	0.723	0.525	0.725	0.529
60%WW +40%NW	0.423	0.112	0.623	0.329	0.625	0.331	0.629	0.335
40%WW +60%NW	0.314	0.062	0.607	0.334	0.608	0.335	0.610	0.339
20%WW +80%NW	0.129	0.002	0.321	0.015	0.323	0.019	0.325	0.022
Control	0.005	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.001

WW = Waste Water, NW = Normal Water

As a result, phytotoxicity of lead on growth parameters has been drastically decreased. The mechanisms behind this hyperaccumulation and detoxification include chelation to organic acids (Nehnevajova *et al.*, 2005) or proteins (Oven *et al.*, 2002; Martens *et al.*, 1996) or it may be due to its larger biomass apart from the stronger metal uptake ability. The fact that *Lasiurus Scindicus* can live some 50 years. Thus, the present study shows that the *Lasiurus Scindicus* grass may be used as potential phytoremediator plant at industrial sites contaminated with lead and try to make this species an efficient, enduring, low cost and long term remedial option for phytoremediation.

The chemistry of metal accumulation with soil is the most criterion to the phytoremediation concept. Soil pH affects metal bioavailability as well as metal accumulate by the roots (Brown *et al.*, 1995). Sanders (1983)

reported that the higher availability of heavy metals in soil that decreases pH within the pH of normal agricultural soils. The higher pH values of soils could have signified for a low transfer of heavy metals from contaminated soil to plants. Chaney and Giordano (1977) reported that soils with high Cation Exchange Capacity (CECs) could absorb large amounts of heavy metals than soil with low CEC.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the present work:

- Lead causes negative effects on growth and metabolism of *Lasiurus scindicus*. This is observed from the 105 days experiment work
- *Lasiurus scindicus* is more receptive to lead toxicity

- A significant result was found that lead accumulation in *Lasiurus scindicus* (mostly in its roots) confirming its potentiality as a phytoremediator and due to polluted soil pH high amount of lead accumulated in root compare to leaf. Therefore accumulation is stabilized in root.

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## Author's Contributions

**Parul Sharma:** Participated in all experiments, coordinated data analysis and contributed to the writing of the manuscript.

**Sonali Pandey:** Designed the research plan.

## Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved.

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