

# Effect of Foliar Applied Tryptophan on Tuberose Plants for Decreasing the Harmful Effect of Some Heavy Metals Pollution in the Irrigation Water (A) Effect of Cadmium Treatments

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## ABSTRACT

The present study was carried-out at Antoniadis Research Branch, Horticultural Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center (ARC), Alexandria, Egypt during two successive seasons of 2018 and 2019. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effects of irrigation water contaminated with cadmium on the growth of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants and the possibility of using tryptophan spray treatments to overcome the effects of cadmium pollution. Corms of *Polianthes tuberosa* were planted individually in plastic pots (20 cm diameter) filled with 5 kg of sandy soil. The Cadmium contaminated irrigation water treatments were 0, 100, 200 and 300 mg/L were applied. The plants were also monthly sprayed by tryptophan at concentrations of 0, 250 and 500 mg/L.

The results showed that for vegetative growth parameters there was no significant difference in the interaction between cadmium polluted water of irrigation and foliar spray by tryptophan, while a significant reduction was observed in all parameters after irrigation with cadmium polluted water and a significant increase in vegetative growth parameters was observed after 500 mg/L tryptophan application. For chlorophyll and carbohydrate content, the highest significant value was obtained in plants irrigated with tap water and sprayed with 250 mg/L tryptophan while the highest significant level of cadmium content in leaves and corms was obtained due treatment by 300 mg/L cadmium without application of tryptophan.

**Key words:** *Polianthes tuberosa*, cadmium, tryptophan.

## INTRODUCTION

Tuberose (*Polianthes tuberosa* L.), a member of the Agavaceae family native to Mexico, has long been cherished for the aromatic oils extracted from its fragrant white flowers (Trueblood, 1973). It has recently gained popularity as a cut flower and in number of countries including Kenya, India and Mexico it is grown commercially for export to the USA, Europe and Japan. Tuberose inflorescences (spikes) bear 10-20 pairs of florets which open acropetally. Commercially, spikes 60-90 cm long are harvested when two or three of the basal florets are open. Less than 50% of the buds normally open after harvest and florets and buds usually abscond after only few days in the vase. Postharvest performance is worse in tuberose which has been shipped to distant markets. Since tuberose originated from the sub-tropics, this loss of quality might be due to chilling injury induced by exposure to low but non-freezing temperatures during marketing. Alternatively, it might be the result of postharvest desiccation, or improper temperature management.

Ramaih *et al.* (2003) confirmed that tryptophan is the major precursor of Indol Acetic Acid (IAA) in most organisms. Plants produce IAA from tryptophan through indole-3-pyruvic acid (Mashiguchi *et al.*, 2011) and (Won, 2011). IAA is also produced from tryptophan through indole-3-acetaldoxime in Arabidopsis (Satoko *et al.*, 2009). El-Bassiouny (2005) demonstrated that tryptophan

and nicotinamide increased IAA, Geberellic acid (GA3), cytokinens, and decreased abscisic acid (ABA) in wheat. Nicotinamide is a stress induced compound to provide defense mechanism against a specific stress. Wyszowska (1999) and El-Bassiouny (2005) observed an increase in some minerals K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup> and Mg<sup>2+</sup> in wheat plant tissues by tryptophan treatment.

In this study *Polianthes tuberosa* was selected due to its characteristics as non-edible plant, cut flowers and it has many uses in landscaping, therefore the objective of this study is to determine the potential of *Polianthes tuberosa* in removing heavy metals from the soil affected with contaminated irrigation water and to investigate the ability of *Polianthes tuberosa* in removing heavy metals.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried-out at Antoniadis Research Branch, Horticultural Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center (ARC), Alexandria, Egypt during the two successive seasons of 2018 and 2019, respectively.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2018 and 2019 in the first and second seasons, respectively, Tuberose (*Polianthes tuberosa*, L. cv. "Double") corms with average diameter of 3.8 cm and 70.0 g fresh weight were obtained from a commercial nursery in Alexandria and planted individually in plastic pots (20 cm diameter) filled with 5 kg of sandy soil. The chemical constituents of the soil were measured as

described by Jackson (1958) and the results obtained are shown in Table (1).

On 15<sup>th</sup> of May (in both seasons), the contaminated irrigation water treatments were initiated. Four concentrations of cadmium acetate [Cd (CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O] 0, 100, 200 and 300 mg/L were applied. The plants were irrigated three times per week; at the end of the experiment every plant received about (120) liters per pot of contaminated water in Table (2). In both seasons, the plants were received by monthly spraying from 15<sup>th</sup> June till 15<sup>th</sup> September in both seasons. The plants were also sprayed with tryptophan at concentrations of 0, 250 and 500 mg/L. Control plants were sprayed with tap water. On 30<sup>th</sup> of October in the both seasons, the plants were harvested.

In both seasons, all plants received NPK chemical fertilization using fertilizer (Milagro Aminoleaf 20-20-20) at the rate of 3 g/ pot. Fertilization was repeated every 30 days throughout the growing season (from 20<sup>th</sup> of May till 20<sup>th</sup> of October). In addition, weeds were removed manually upon emergence.

#### Data recorded:

##### (1) Vegetative growth parameters:

Plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaves dry weight per plant (g), leaves area (cm<sup>2</sup>) according to Koller (1972), flower number per spike, flower dry weight (g), spike dry weight (g), rachis length (cm), corm diameter (cm), corm dry weight (g) and number new cormlets were also measured.

##### (2) Chemical analysis determination:

- Total chlorophyll content was determined as a SPAD from the fresh leaves of plants for the different treatments under the experiment at the end of the season using Minolta (chlorophyll meter) SPAD 502 according to Yadava (1986).
- Total carbohydrate percentage in the leaves was determined according to Dubios *et al.* (1956).
- Proline content (mg/g) in the leaves was determined according to Bates *et al.* (1973).
- Determination of cadmium content. Plant samples were divided into leaves stem and roots. They were then dried at 72°C in an oven until completely dried. The dried plant samples were ground to powder. The dried samples were then digested for extraction of cadmium, using the method described by Piper (1947) method and the concentration of heavy metal was determined using an atomic absorption spectrophotometer.
- Available cadmium in soil samples were extracted by DPTA solution according to Lindsay and Norvell (1978) and determined by Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry.

- Transfer factor (TF) is given by the relation: the ratio of the concentration of metal in the shoots to the concentration of metal in the soil (Chen *et al.*, 2004). Indicates to the efficiency of any plant to transfer any metal from soil to the aerial parts.

The experimental design was split plot with three replicates. Each replicate contained three plants. The main plot was cadmium polluted water concentration, while the subplot was tryptophan treatments. Data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) using the SAS program, SAS Institute (SAS Institute, 2002). The Means of the individual factors and their interactions were compared by L.S.D test at 5% level of probability according to Snedecor and Cochran (1989).

## RESULTS

### 3.1. Vegetative growth:

#### 3.1.1. Leaves parameters

Data presented in Table (3) Showed that, in both seasons, irrigation water polluted with cadmium decreased the leaves parameters of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants. Plants irrigated with tap water (control) had the highest mean values of plant height (92.62 and 93.51 cm), number of leaves per plant (90.53 and 91.42), leaves dry weight (22.01 and 22.23 g) and leaves area (1296.70 and 1309.28 cm<sup>2</sup>) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Moreover, raising the cadmium concentration caused steady significant reductions in leaves parameters, with the highest concentration (300 mg/L) giving significantly the shortest plants mean values of plant height (76.31 and 78.55 cm), number of leaves per plant (74.22 and 76.46), leaves dry weight (18.05 and 18.59 g) and leaves area (1068.43 and 1099.74 cm<sup>2</sup>) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Leaves parameters was also significantly affected by spraying the plants with tryptophan. In both seasons, leaves parameters increased gradually when the tryptophan concentration was raised from 0 mg/L (control) to 500 mg/L. Accordingly, it can be seen from the data in Table (3) that *Polianthes tuberosa* plants sprayed with 500 mg/L tryptophan were significantly mean values of plant height (84.43 and 85.59 cm), number of leaves per plant (82.34 and 83.50), leaves dry weight (20.02 and 20.30 g) and leaves area (1182.08 and 1198.29 cm<sup>2</sup>) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Regarding the interaction between of irrigation with cadmium polluted water and tryptophan treatments on leaves parameter of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants, the results recorded in the two seasons show that, the highest values were obtained in the plants irrigated with tap water (control) and sprayed with tryptophan at 500 mg/L with mean values of plant height (94.72 and 95.52 cm),

**Table 1: The chemical properties of the used sandy soil for the two successive seasons 2018 and 2019.**

Season	pH	EC ds/m	Cations (meq/l)				Anions (meq/l)		
			Ca <sup>++</sup>	Mg <sup>++</sup>	Na <sup>+</sup>	K <sup>+</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Cl <sup>-</sup>	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>
2018	7.93	1.55	4.4	3.6	6.5	1.3	3.6	6.7	2.4
2019	7.91	1.52	4.2	3.1	6.3	1.2	3.3	6.5	2.2

**Table 2: Total amount of the water used for each plant (l/pot) in each treatment during the growing two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Field Capacity (%)	Months of first and second seasons						
	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
100 %	17.00	18.00	20.00	23.00	22.00	20.00	120.00

**Table 3: Means of plant height (cm), number of leaves per plant, leaves dry weight (g) and leaves area (cm<sup>2</sup>) of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd× T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Plant height (cm)		Number of leaves per plant		Leaves dry weight (g)		Leaves area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
0	0	90.42	91.18	88.33	89.09	21.48	21.67	1265.88	1276.61
	250	92.72	93.85	90.63	91.76	22.04	22.32	1298.12	1313.95
	500	94.72	95.52	92.63	93.43	22.53	22.72	1326.12	1337.28
Mean (Cd)		92.62	93.51	90.53	91.42	22.01	22.23	1296.70	1309.28
100	0	82.62	83.74	80.53	81.65	19.58	19.86	1156.68	1172.36
	250	83.83	84.30	81.74	82.21	19.88	19.99	1173.71	1180.20
	500	86.49	86.63	84.40	84.54	20.53	20.56	1210.95	1212.83
Mean (Cd)		84.31	84.89	82.22	82.80	19.99	20.13	1180.44	1188.46
200	0	76.39	78.96	74.30	76.87	18.07	18.69	1069.50	1105.49
	250	78.84	80.85	76.75	78.76	18.67	19.15	1103.76	1131.95
	500	80.05	81.52	77.96	79.43	18.96	19.32	1120.79	1141.28
Mean (Cd)		78.42	80.44	76.33	78.35	18.56	19.05	1098.01	1126.24
300	0	76.18	78.41	74.09	76.32	18.02	18.56	1066.52	1097.74
	250	76.30	78.55	74.21	76.46	18.05	18.60	1068.29	1099.70
	500	76.46	78.70	74.37	76.61	18.09	18.63	1070.48	1101.80
Mean (Cd)		76.31	78.55	74.22	76.46	18.05	18.59	1068.43	1099.74
Mean (T)	0	81.40	83.07	79.31	80.98	19.28	19.69	1139.64	1163.05
	250	82.92	84.38	80.83	82.29	19.66	20.01	1160.97	1181.45
	500	84.43	85.59	82.34	83.50	20.02	20.30	1182.08	1198.29
L.S.D. at 0.05	Cd	1.46	1.61	1.46	1.61	0.35	0.39	20.48	22.56
	T	0.78	0.67	0.78	0.67	0.19	0.11	10.99	9.41
	Cd * T	0.90	0.77	0.90	0.77	0.22	0.18	12.63	10.81

number of leaves per plant (92.63 and 93.43), leaves dry weight (22.53 and 22.72 g) and leaves area (1326.12 and 1337.28 cm<sup>2</sup>) in the first and second seasons, respectively. On the other hand, the shortest plants with mean values of plant height (76.18 and 78.41 cm), number of leaves per plant (74.09 and 76.32), leaves dry weight (18.02 and 18.56 g) and leaves area (1066.52 and 1097.74 cm<sup>2</sup>) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were resulted when the plants were irrigated using the highest cadmium concentration (300 mg/L) without tryptophan treatment. It can also be seen from the data presented in Table (3) that in many cases, spraying the plants with tryptophan reduced the

undesirable effect of contaminated water with cadmium.

### 3.1.1. Flowering parameters

Data presented in Table (4) showed that, in both seasons, irrigation water polluted with cadmium decreased the flowering parameters of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants. Plants irrigated with tap water (control) had the highest mean values of number of flower number per spike (25.65 and 25.89), flower dry weight (6.20 and 6.26 g), spike dry weight (7.82 and 7.88 g) and rachis length (23.72 and 23.93 cm) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Moreover, raising the cadmium concentration caused steady significant reductions in flowering

parameter, with the highest concentration (300 mg/L) giving significantly the smallest flowers mean values of number of flowers per spike (21.13 and 21.75), flower dry weight (5.11 and 5.26 g), spike dry weight (6.73 and 6.88 g) and rachis length (19.93 and 20.45 cm) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Flowering parameters was also significantly affected by spraying the plants with tryptophan. In both seasons, plant height increased gradually when the tryptophan concentration was raised from 0 mg/L (control) to 500 mg/L. Accordingly, it can be seen from the data in Table (4) that *Polianthes tuberosa* plants sprayed with 500 mg/L tryptophan were significantly mean values of number of flowers per spike (23.38 and 23.70), flower dry weight (5.65 and 5.73 g), spike dry weight (7.28 and 7.35 g) and rachis length (21.82 and 22.09 cm) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Regarding the interaction between of irrigation with cadmium polluted water and tryptophan treatments on flowering parameters of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants, the results recorded in the two seasons showed that, the highest values were obtained in the plants irrigated with tap water and sprayed with tryptophan at 500 mg/L with mean values of number of flowers per spike (26.23 and

26.45), flower dry weight (6.34 and 6.40 g), spike dry weight (7.98 and 8.02 g) and rachis length (24.21 and 24.39 cm) in the first and second seasons, respectively. On the other hand, the smallest plants with mean values of number of flowers per spike (21.09 and 21.71), flower dry weight (5.10 and 5.25 g), spike dry weight (6.72 and 6.87 g) and rachis length (19.90 and 20.42 cm) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were resulted in when the plants were irrigated using the highest cadmium concentration (300 mg/L) without tryptophan treatment. It can also been seen from the data presented in Table (4) that in many cases, spraying the plants with tryptophan reduced the undesirable effect of polluted water with cadmium.

### 3.1.2. Corm parameters

The data recorded for the corm parameters of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants in the two seasons Table (5) showed that irrigation with cadmium polluted water decreased corm parameter, compared to that of plants irrigated with tap water (control). In both seasons, plants irrigated with tap water had the thickest corm, with mean corm diameter (5.50 and 5.56 cm), corm dry weight (33.02 and 33.35 g) and number new cormlets (14.67 and 14.81) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

**Table 4: Means of flower number per spike, flower dry weight (g), spike dry weight (g) and rachis length (cm) of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd × T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Flower number per spike		Flower dry weight (g)		Spike dry weight (g)		Rachis length (cm)	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
000	0	25.04	25.25	6.05	6.11	7.67	7.73	23.21	23.39
	250	25.68	25.99	6.21	6.29	7.83	7.91	23.74	24.01
	500	26.23	26.45	6.34	6.40	7.98	8.02	24.21	24.39
Mean (Cd)		25.65	25.89	6.20	6.26	7.82	7.88	23.72	23.93
100	0	22.88	23.19	5.53	5.61	7.15	7.23	21.40	21.66
	250	23.21	23.34	5.61	5.64	7.23	7.26	21.68	21.79
	500	23.95	23.99	5.79	5.80	7.42	7.42	22.30	22.33
Mean (Cd)		23.34	23.50	5.64	5.68	7.26	7.30	21.79	21.92
200	0	21.15	21.87	5.11	5.29	6.74	6.91	19.96	20.55
	250	21.83	22.39	5.28	5.42	6.90	7.04	20.53	20.99
	500	22.17	22.57	5.36	5.46	6.98	7.09	20.81	21.15
Mean (Cd)		21.71	22.27	5.25	5.39	6.87	7.01	20.43	20.89
300	0	21.09	21.71	5.10	5.25	6.72	6.87	19.90	20.42
	250	21.13	21.75	5.11	5.26	6.73	6.88	19.93	20.46
	500	21.19	21.79	5.12	5.27	6.75	6.89	19.97	20.49
Mean (Cd)		21.13	21.75	5.11	5.26	6.73	6.88	19.93	20.45
Mean (T)	0	22.54	23.00	5.44	5.56	7.07	7.18	21.11	21.50
	250	22.96	23.36	5.55	5.65	7.17	7.27	21.47	21.81
	500	23.38	23.70	5.65	5.73	7.28	7.35	21.82	22.09
L.S.D. at 0.05	Cd	0.40	0.44	0.09	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.34	0.37
	T	0.21	0.18	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.18	0.15
	Cd * T	0.24	0.21	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.20	0.17

**Table 5: Means of corm diameter (cm), corm dry weight (g) and number new cormlets of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd × T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Corm diameter (cm)		Corm dry weight (g)		Number new cormlets	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
000	0	5.36	5.41	32.22	32.50	14.32	14.42
	250	5.50	5.59	33.06	33.49	14.69	14.87
	500	5.64	5.68	33.80	34.08	15.02	15.15
Mean (Cd)		5.50	5.56	33.02	33.35	14.67	14.81
100	0	4.89	4.96	29.38	29.78	13.05	13.23
	250	4.97	4.99	29.82	29.99	13.25	13.32
	500	5.13	5.13	30.79	30.84	13.68	13.71
Mean (Cd)		4.99	5.02	29.99	30.20	13.32	13.42
200	0	4.51	4.66	27.12	28.04	12.04	12.46
	250	4.66	4.78	28.01	28.73	12.44	12.76
	500	4.73	4.83	28.44	28.99	12.64	12.87
Mean (Cd)		4.63	4.75	27.85	28.58	12.37	12.69
300	0	4.50	4.63	27.03	27.84	12.01	12.37
	250	4.51	4.64	27.07	27.89	12.03	12.39
	500	4.52	4.65	27.13	27.95	12.05	12.42
Mean (Cd)		4.51	4.64	27.07	27.89	12.03	12.39
Mean (T)	0	4.81	4.91	28.93	29.54	12.85	13.12
	250	4.91	5.00	29.49	30.02	13.10	13.33
	500	5.00	5.07	30.04	30.46	13.34	13.53
L.S.D. at 0.05	Cd	0.08	0.09	0.53	0.58	0.23	0.26
	T	0.04	0.03	0.29	0.24	0.12	0.10
	Cd * T	0.05	0.04	0.33	0.27	0.14	0.12

Raising the cadmium concentration in irrigation water caused a steady reduction in corm parameter. This reduction in corm parameter was significant (compared to the control), even at the highest cadmium concentration (300 mg/L), which gave corm diameter (4.51 and 4.64 cm), corm dry weight (27.07 and 27.89 g), and number new cormlets (12.03 and 12.39) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

In contrast to the effect of cadmium treatments, tryptophan treatments improved corm parameters of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants, compared to the control. Moreover, plants sprayed with 500 mg/L tryptophan had significantly mean corm diameter (5.00 and 5.07 cm), corm dry weight (30.04 and 30.46 g), and number new cormlets (13.34 and 13.53) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Regarding the interaction between of irrigation with cadmium polluted water and tryptophan treatments on corm parameter of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants, the results recorded for the two seasons Table (5) showed that significant differences were detected between the values obtained from plants receiving the different treatment combinations. The highest values mean corm diameter (5.64 and 5.68 cm), corm dry weight

(33.80 and 34.08 g), and number new cormlets (15.02 and 15.15) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were obtained in the plants irrigated with tap water and sprayed with tryptophan at 500 mg/L. On the other hand, the thinnest values mean corm diameter (4.50 and 4.63 cm), corm dry weight (27.03 and 27.84 g), and number new cormlets (12.01 and 12.37) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were obtained in the plants irrigated using the highest cadmium concentration 300 mg/L without tryptophan treatment. It can also be seen from the data presented in Table (5) that in many cases, spraying the plants with tryptophan reduced the undesirable effect of contaminated water with cadmium.

### 3.2. Chemical constituents

#### 3.2.1. Plant chemical analysis

The results presented in Table (6) showed that the highest content of total chlorophyll was obtained in plant irrigated with tap water (43.07 and 43.49 SPAD) and total carbohydrate (23.05 and 24.28%) in the first and second seasons, respectively, while highest proline content (2.51 and 2.47 mg/g) were obtained in the plants irrigated with cadmium water at 300 mg/L. Raising the cadmium concentration in irrigation water resulted in steady significant

reductions in the total chlorophyll and carbohydrates content, which reached its lowest value mean total chlorophyll (35.49 and 36.53 SPAD) and total carbohydrate (18.81 and 20.40 %) in the first and second seasons, respectively, in plants receiving the highest cadmium concentration 300 mg/L. While, proline content (1.35 and 1.39 mg/g) were obtained in the plants irrigated with tap water.

The results of leaf chemical analysis Table (6) also showed that tryptophan treatments had clear effect on the leaf chemical analysis. The recorded mean values highest mean total chlorophyll (39.26 and 39.80 SPAD) and total carbohydrate (20.92 and 22.22 %) in the first and second seasons, respectively, in plants sprayed with tryptophan at 250 mg/L. While, highest proline content (2.01 and 2.04 mg/g) were obtained in plants sprayed without tryptophan.

Regarding the interaction between of irrigation using water polluted with cadmium and tryptophan treatments, the data presented in Table (6) showed that the highest total chlorophyll contents (44.05 and 44.42 SPAD) and total carbohydrate (23.59 and 24.80 %) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were found in leaves of plants irrigated with tap water and sprayed with tryptophan at 250 mg/L. While, proline content (2.52 and 2.50 mg/g)

were resulted in when the plants were irrigated using the highest cadmium concentration (300 mg/L) without tryptophan treatment.

### 3.2.2. Cadmium content in leaves and corm (mg/L)

The data resulting from plant parts chemical analysis Table (7) showed that, the cadmium content (mg/L) in the dried plant parts of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants was raised steadily with raising the cadmium concentration in the irrigation water. The lowest mean cadmium content in leaves (0.024 and 0.029 mg/L) and cadmium content in corm (0.093 and 0.109 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were found in leaves of plants irrigated with tap water, whereas the highest mean values cadmium content in leaves (0.197 and 0.216 mg/L) and cadmium content in corm (0.607 and 0.662 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively, was found in plants irrigated with water containing the highest cadmium concentration 300 mg/L.

Concerning the effect of tryptophan treatments on the cadmium content in plant parts, the data recorded in the two seasons Table (7) showed that only one tryptophan treatment 500 mg/L caused a significant decrease in mean values of cadmium content in leaves (0.068 and 0.078 mg/L) and

**Table 6: Means of chemical constituents characteristics of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd×T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Chlorophyll content (SPAD)		Carbohydrates content (%)		Proline content (mg/g d.w.)	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
000	0	42.05	42.41	22.48	23.68	1.40	1.43
	250	44.05	44.42	23.59	24.80	1.27	1.33
	500	43.12	43.64	23.08	24.37	1.38	1.41
Mean (Cd)		43.07	43.49	23.05	24.28	1.35	1.39
100	0	38.42	39.02	20.45	21.74	1.86	1.91
	250	40.22	40.29	21.46	22.49	1.82	1.84
	500	38.98	39.20	20.77	21.89	1.83	1.85
Mean (Cd)		39.20	39.50	20.89	22.04	1.83	1.86
200	0	35.52	36.72	18.83	20.50	2.28	2.33
	250	37.23	37.91	19.79	21.16	2.23	2.29
	500	36.66	37.60	19.48	21.02	2.27	2.30
Mean (Cd)		36.47	37.41	19.36	20.89	2.26	2.30
300	0	35.43	36.46	18.78	20.36	2.52	2.50
	250	35.56	36.60	18.86	20.44	2.50	2.46
	500	35.49	36.53	18.81	20.40	2.51	2.47
Mean (Cd)		35.49	36.53	18.81	20.40	2.51	2.47
Mean (T)	0	37.85	38.65	20.13	21.57	2.01	2.04
	250	39.26	39.80	20.92	22.22	1.95	1.98
	500	38.56	39.24	20.53	21.92	1.99	2.00
L.S.D. at 0.05	Cd	0.67	0.76	0.37	0.43	0.05	0.04
	T	0.36	0.30	0.20	0.17	0.02	0.02
	Cd * T	0.41	0.34	0.23	0.19	0.02	0.02

**Table 7: Means of chemical constituents characteristics of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd×T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Cadmium content in leaves (mg/L)		Cadmium content in corm (mg/L)	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019
000	0	0.033	0.048	0.137	0.166
	250	0.026	0.025	0.102	0.110
	500	0.013	0.016	0.041	0.051
Mean (Cd)		0.024	0.029	0.093	0.109
100	0	0.104	0.101	0.338	0.329
	250	0.063	0.066	0.217	0.228
	500	0.035	0.045	0.129	0.175
Mean (Cd)		0.067	0.070	0.228	0.244
200	0	0.130	0.139	0.414	0.439
	250	0.118	0.121	0.377	0.383
	500	0.076	0.089	0.256	0.293
Mean (Cd)		0.108	0.116	0.349	0.371
300	0	0.249	0.278	0.757	0.841
	250	0.195	0.208	0.600	0.638
	500	0.148	0.163	0.466	0.508
Mean (Cd)		0.197	0.216	0.607	0.662
Mean (T)	0	0.129	0.141	0.411	0.443
	250	0.100	0.105	0.324	0.339
	500	0.068	0.078	0.223	0.256
L.S.D. at 0.05	Cd	0.004	0.004	0.009	0.014
	T	0.001	0.003	0.005	0.008
	Cd * T	0.006	0.003	0.006	0.007

cadmium content in corm (0.223 and 0.256 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively, compared to that of control plants had the highest cadmium content in leaves (0.129 and 0.141 mg/L) and cadmium content in corm (0.607 and 0.662 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Concerning the interaction between of irrigation using water contaminated with cadmium and tryptophan treatments on the cadmium content in plant parts. The results in Table (7) showed that the lowest mean values of cadmium content in leaves (0.013 and 0.016 mg/L) and cadmium content in corm (0.041 and 0.051 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were obtained in the plant parts irrigated with tap water and sprayed with tryptophan at 500 mg/L. On the other hand, the highest cadmium content was obtained in the plant parts of irrigated with cadmium water at 300 mg/L and receiving no tryptophan treatment in leaves (0.249 and 0.278 mg/L) and cadmium content in corm (0.757 and 0.841 mg/L) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

### 3.3. Transfer factor (TF) of heavy metals

Transfer factor (TF) indicates the efficiency of plants to transfer metals from root to the aerial parts.

#### 3.3.1. Cadmium content in soil samples (mg/L)

Data in Table (8) showed that the lowest average of cadmium content was observed in soil cultured by untreated plants, while the highest average of cadmium content was observed in soil after the treatment 300 mg/L cadmium and 0 mg/L tryptophan.

#### 3.3.2. Transfer factor to leaves and corm

From the data presented in Table (9), it can be seen that the transfer factor in the dried plant parts of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants was increased steadily with raising the cadmium concentration in the irrigation water. Accordingly, the highest cadmium value in leaves (1.554 and 1.538) and in corm (4.782 and 4.705) was found in plants irrigated with water containing cadmium concentration 300 mg/L, whereas the lowest value in leaves (0.293 and 0.307) and in corm (1.073 and 1.124) was found in plants irrigated with tap water (control).

The results in Table (9) also showed that the transfer factor in the dried plant parts was reduced steadily with raising tryptophan concentration. Accordingly, the highest cadmium value in leaves (1.252 and 1.228) and in corm (4.048 and 3.873)

was recorded in the control plants, whereas plants sprayed with the highest tryptophan concentration 500 mg/L had the lowest cadmium value in leaves (0.486 and 0.498) and in corm (1.600 and 1.642) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

**Table 8: Average of cadmium content in soil samples as influenced by cadmium concentrations in water irrigation and foliar application of tryptophan on *Polianthes tuberosa* in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Cadmium content in soil (mg/L)			
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018		2019	
		Before	After	Before	After
0	0	0.033	0.068	0.042	0.086
	250	0.047	0.095	0.054	0.109
	500	0.050	0.107	0.057	0.117
100	0	0.045	0.092	0.052	0.107
	250	0.053	0.109	0.063	0.128
	500	0.063	0.128	0.074	0.147
200	0	0.051	0.104	0.058	0.115
	250	0.060	0.123	0.067	0.136
	500	0.069	0.139	0.076	0.154
300	0	0.057	0.116	0.064	0.126
	250	0.064	0.129	0.071	0.145
	500	0.073	0.147	0.081	0.167

**Table 9: Means of transfer factor to leaves, stem and roots of *Polianthes tuberosa* plants as influenced by cadmium (Cd), tryptophan (T) and their combinations (Cd × T) in the two seasons of 2018 and 2019.**

Treatments		Transfer factor to leaves (TFL)		Transfer factor to corm (TFS)	
Cadmium (mg/L)	Tryptophan (mg/L)	2018	2019	2018	2019
		000	0	0.485	0.558
250	0.273		0.229	1.073	1.009
500	0.121		0.136	0.383	0.435
Mean (Cd)		0.293	0.307	1.156	1.124
100	0	1.130	0.943	3.673	3.074
	250	0.577	0.515	1.990	1.781
	500	0.273	0.306	1.007	1.190
Mean (Cd)		0.660	0.588	2.223	2.015
200	0	1.250	1.208	3.980	3.817
	250	0.959	0.889	3.065	2.816
	500	0.546	0.577	1.841	1.902
Mean (Cd)		0.918	0.891	2.962	2.845
300	0	2.146	2.206	6.525	6.674
	250	1.511	1.434	4.651	4.400
	500	1.006	0.976	3.170	3.041
Mean (Cd)		1.554	1.538	4.782	4.705
Mean (T)	0	1.252	1.228	4.048	3.873
	250	0.830	0.766	2.694	2.501
	500	0.486	0.498	1.600	1.642

## DISCUSSION

This study revealed that at high heavy-metal concentrations, the plant height was significantly reduced, and the biomass was decreased. The root growth was more sensitive than other parameters, as roots rapidly absorbed water and had higher accumulations of heavy metal elements. The results presented by this study were in agreement with earlier reports on other plants, such as aquatic plant *Wolffia arrhiza* (Piotrowska *et al.*, 2010), barley *Hordeum vulgare* (Tiryakioglu *et al.*, 2006) and *Typha angustifolia* (Bah *et al.*, 2011) and *Jatropha curcas* (El-Shanhorey and Emam, 2016). Cadmium has been shown to cause many morphological, physiological and biochemical changes in plants, such as growth inhibition, and water imbalance (Benavides *et al.*, 2005).

The physiological responses, photosynthetic function, can be ascribed to the different effects of physico-chemical properties of heavy metals on the integrity and function of the photochemical apparatus of plant seedling fronds, as well as the impact on the chlorophyll concentrations in the leaves. The photosynthesis rate, CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rate, and stomatal conductance in response to cadmium heavy metal have been well documented (Chen *et al.*, 2012). The maintenance of an intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is concomitant with the leaf CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rate and reflected photosynthesis function of seedling in the different heavy metal-spiked soils. The chlorophyll and carotenoid contents played a central role in the energy manifestation of green plant. Any significant alteration of their contents possibly resulted in a marked effect on the entire metabolism of the plant (Piotrowska *et al.*, 2010). In this study, cadmium resulted in a significant reduction in the chlorophyll contents, possibly due to the inhibition of chlorophyll biosynthesis or a breakdown of pigments and their precursors (Agrawal and Mishra, 2009). cadmium might replace the central Mg from chlorophyll molecules and thereby reduce the photosynthetic light-harvesting ability of plant (Agrawal and Mishra, 2009).

In the present study, cadmium exposure significantly decreased photosynthetic pigments concentrations in comparison with control plants. Reduction in photosynthetic pigments by excess cadmium has been reported by some author i.e. Abdel-Latif (2008). Decreased chlorophyll content associated with heavy metal stress may be the result of inhibition of the enzymes responsible for chlorophyll biosynthesis. In addition, Cadmium-induced decrement in chlorophyll content was attributed to impairment in the supply of magnesium and iron to the leaves (Greger and Ogren, 1991). Alternatively, cadmium may substitute magnesium in chlorophyll molecules (Kupper *et al.*, 1998).

Proline, an amino acid is well known to get accumulated in wide variety of organisms ranging from bacteria to higher plants on exposure to abiotic stress (Saradhi *et al.*, 1993). Plants have been shown proline accumulation under environmental stress (Ahmad and Jhon, 2005; Ahmad *et al.*, 2006; Ahmad *et al.*, 2008). It has been often suggested that proline accumulation may contribute to osmotic adjustment at the cellular level and enzyme protection stabilizing the structure of macromolecules and organelles. Increase in proline content may be either due to de novo synthesis or decreased degradation or both (Kasai *et al.*, 1998). Proline accumulation in shoots of *B. juncea*, *Triticum aestivum* and *Vigna radiata* in response to Cd<sup>2+</sup> toxicity has been demonstrated by Dhir *et al.*, (2004). Similar results of increasing proline content by Cd<sup>2+</sup> was also reported by Zengin and Munzuroglu, (2006) in sunflower.

Concerning treatments, at a preliminary stage, one should note that the transfer factor (TF) of most treatments is lower than one for cadmium; which means that the physiological need of the plant for this element is rather limited. Translocation from roots to shoots via a number of physiological processes, including metal unloading into root xylem cells, long-distance carrying from the xylem to the shoots and metal reabsorption, by leaf mesophyll cells, from the xylem stream. Once the cadmium has been unloaded into the xylem vessels, the metals are carried to the shoots by the transpiration stream (Blaylock and Huang, 2000).

The role of tryptophan is well known: it has an indirect role on the growth via its influence on auxin synthesis. Phillips, (1971) reported that alternative routes of IAA synthesis exist in plants, all starting from tryptophan. Thus, when tryptophan was supplied to some plant tissues IAA was formed. Moursy *et al.*, (1988) established callus lines of *Datura stramonium* L. and found that phenylalanine and ornithine increased both fresh and dry weights compared with the control. Moreover, there have been reports that foliar application of amino acids (Lysine, ornithine, salicylic acid and tryptophan) enhanced the vegetative growth and chemical constituents (Talaat and Youssef, 2002) on basil plants, (Talaat, 2005) on *Pelargonium graveolens* L. and (Talaat *et al.*, 2005) on *Catharanthus roseus* L.

For the effect of tryptophan it is observed that there is a significant increase in all vegetative parameters, chlorophyll content, carbohydrate percentage, significant decrease in cadmium content in leaves. This may be due to that application of tryptophan with any of the concentrations of cadmium led to a statistically decrease in the uptake of cadmium. This decrease in uptake of cadmium in the presence of tryptophan resulted in the formation of citric acid-cadmium complexes that inhibited the uptake (Chen *et al.*, 2003). The decrease in

cadmium uptake helped to overcome the negative effects of cadmium on the previous studied parameters. These results are in agreement with those mentioned by (Talebi *et al.*, 2014) on *Gazania* plants and (Jaafari and Hadavi, 2012) on *Ocimum basilicum* L. In addition to, we can use *Senecio cineraria* plants as cadmium phytoremediation and if we want to use *Senecio cineraria* as an ornamental plant and the irrigation water is contaminated with cadmium we can spray the plants to overcome the negative effect of cadmium (El-Shanhorey and EL-Sayed, 2017).

### CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of heavy metals increase in the environment from year to year. Therefore decontamination of heavy metal-contaminated water and soils is very important for maintenance of environmental health and ecological restoration. Phytoremediation is a new cleanup concept that involves the use of plants to clean or stabilize contaminated environments. Phytoremediation of metals is the most effective plant-based method to remove pollutants from contaminated areas. This green technology can be applied to remediate the polluted soils without creating any destructive effect of soil structure. Some specific plants have been proven to have noticeable potential to absorb toxic heavy metals.

Phytoremediation of contaminated water and soil with heavy metals using non-edible plant like *Polianthes tuberosa* offers an environmental friendly and cost-effective method for remediating the polluted soil. The *Polianthes tuberosa* was found to be able to efficiently remove the heavy metals such as cadmium.

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### الملخص العربي

تأثير الرش بالتربتوفان على نباتات التبروز لتقليل الأثر الضار لبعض التلوث بالمعادن الثقيلة في ماء الري. (أ) تأثير معاملات الكادميوم.

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تم إجراء هذه الدراسة في فرع البحوث بأنطونيداس، معهد بحوث البساتين، مركز البحوث الزراعية - الإسكندرية، مصر خلال الموسمين المتتاليين ٢٠١٨ و ٢٠١٩. وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم آثار الري بالمياه الملوثة بالكادميوم على نمو نباتات التبروز المزروعة في تربة رملية، كذلك إمكانية استخدام الرش بالتربتوفان للتغلب على الآثار الضارة للكادميوم. ولتحقيق ذلك زرعت أبصال التبروز بشكل فردي في أصص بلاستيكية (قطرها ٢٠ سم) مملوءة ٥ كجم من التربة الرملية. وكانت معاملات مياه الري الملوثة بأربعة تراكيزات من الكادميوم وهي صفر، ١٠٠، ٢٠٠، ٣٠٠ ملليجرام/لتر. بينما تم رش النباتات شهريا بالتربتوفان باستخدام ثلاث تراكيزات هي صفر، ٢٥٠ و ٥٠٠ ملليجرام/لتر في كلا الموسمين.

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن هناك اختلاف كبير في التفاعل بين ري النباتات بتركيزات مختلفة من الكادميوم ورش النباتات بالتربتوفان. وقد وجد انخفاض كبير في كافة معاملات الري بالماء الملوثة بالكادميوم وكذلك لوجظ زيادة كبيرة في معدلات النمو الخضري بعد الرش ٥٠٠ ملليجرام/لتر تربتوفان. تم الحصول على أعلى قيمة من محتوى الكلوروفيل والكربوهيدرات من النباتات المروية بماء الصنبور والرش بتركيز ٢٥٠ ملليجرام/لتر تربتوفان في حين أن أعلى تركيز من الكادميوم في الأوراق والكورمات من خلال الري بالماء الملوثة كان بتركيز ٣٠٠ ملليجرام/لتر من الكادميوم بدون الرش بالتربتوفان.