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## The influence of magnetic field on the growth of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) infected with *Fusarium oxysporum*

Rochmah Agustrina<sup>1</sup>, Endang Nurcahyani<sup>1</sup>, Eko Pramono<sup>2</sup>, Ika Listiana<sup>1</sup>, Eko Nastiti<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**— This Previous research suggests that magnetic field (MF) can enhance seedling vigor, growth, and the production of tomato plants. This study examines the influence of MF on the growth of tomato infected by *Fusarium oxysporum*, fungal pathogen that causes Fusarium wilt in tomatoes. This factorial study arranged in a stripe split plot design. Factors tested consists of long exposure to the MF, M (control; 7'48 "; 11'42" and 15'36 " ), how to infect fusarium, F (through soaking the seeds and by infecting fusarium through the stem at the age 28 days after sowing (das), and soaking the seeds, S (soaking and without soaking for 15 minutes before MF treatment). Each unit of experiment was repeated 3 times. Parameters measured were percentage of germination, growth rate based on plant height, and fresh weight. Observations were made on the plant until 42 das. Data were analyzed of variance followed by the least significant difference (LSD) test at  $\alpha = 1$  and 5%. The results showed that the interaction between MF and fusarium (MxF), fusarium and soaking (FxS), and MF, fusarium, and soaking (MxFxS) did not produce a different response on all parameters measured. Differences in response to the treatments derived from the treatment of MF (M), Fusarium (F), and the treatment interaction of the MF x soaking (MxS). The MF (M) and the interaction of MF and soaking (MxS) significantly effect on all parameters measured at each measurement. The treatment of Fusarium (F) significantly effect on germination percentage, and fresh weight at 7 das.

**Keywords**— magnetic field, fusarium, germination percentage, growth rate, fresh weight.

### I. INTRODUCTION

All living organisms on earth is influenced by factors that exist in the surrounding environment including the Earth's magnetic field, GMF. Thus, the influence of magnetic fields (MF) on the growth and development of plants can not be ignored. GMF is steadily acting on living systems, and is known to influence many biological processes (Kobayashi et al., 2004). Studies on the influence of magnetic fields (MF) in plants have long done (Pittman, 1963; Krylov and Tarakanova, 1960, Murphy, 1942). Although the literature contains research reports that are inconsistent (Harris et al., 2009) but a lot of the result of studies show convincing evidence that the magnetic field is able to increase the variety of phenomena of plant growth and development. Treatment of the MF is known to be able to increase the germination percentage of various types of plants (Mausavizadeh et al., 2013; Pourakbar and Hatami, 2012; Farashas et all, 2011; Aladjadjiyan et al., 2003), germination rate (Mausavizadeh et al., 2013; Vashist and Nagarajan, 2010; Criveanu, and Taralunga. 2006, and Podlesny et al., 2005)

growth rate of seedling (Mausavizadeh et al., 2013 and Agustrina et al., 2012), dry weight (Shine et al., 2011), nutrient content (Faqenabi et al., 2009 and Esitken and Turan, 2004), and production (De Souza et al., 2005).

An increase in the activity of enzymes during germination in plants (Mausavizadeh et al., 2013; Pourakbar and Hatami, 2012; Reddy et al, 2012; Vashist, and Nagarajan, 2010; and Atak et al., 2007) showed that magnetic field can influence the metabolic processes in cells that have an impact on improving the vigor and growth of plants (Agustrina et al., 2011). On tomatoes, magnetic field treatment in addition to increasing vigor also increases yield (De Souza et al., 2005). Studies above and many other studies show that the use of the magnetic field with a proper strength of MF energy and treatment can improve plant vigor and yield. However, it is unknown whether the increased vigor and crop yield due to the magnetic field treatment is also followed by the increase in resistance to disease. In this study observed the effect of the MF treatment on tomato plants infected by the pathogenic fungus that causes Fusarium wilt disease, *Fusarium oxysporum* (Novita 2011 and Sussana et. Al., 2010).

### II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Tomato seeds used were obtained from seed merchants with a germination rate of 95 %. Seeds to be treated immersion (S1), soaked in tap water for 15 minutes before being given a 0.2 mT MF treatment, while the untreated immersion (S0) directly exposed to a MF. MF treatment is given for 7'48 "(M1); 11'42" (M2) and 15'36 "(M3) and control (M0).

*Fusarium* monospore used for the treatment of infection *Fusarium* derived from *Fusarium* sp. isolate provided by IPB Culture collection. *Fusarium* infection through the roots is done by soaking the seeds that have been treated by MF in the suspension containing monospore *Fusarium* sp. with a density of  $1 \times 10^7$  for 12 hours. While *Fusarium* infection on the stem is done by injecting about 50 ml suspension of monospore *Fusarium* on tomato stems at the age of 28 days after sowing (das). All the seeds were treated fusarium planted in both sterile and non-sterile soil. The marking for the treatment of *Fusarium* are as follows. F0 = no infection *Fusarium* grown in sterile soil, F1 = no infection *Fusarium* grown in non-sterile soil, F2 = infection through seed soaking in monospore *Fusarium* suspension, grown in setrile soil, F3 = infection through seed soaking in monospore *Fusarium* suspension, grown in non-steriel soil,

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F4 = infection through the stem, grown in sterile soil and F5 = infection through the stem, grown in non-sterile soil. **Planting and maintenance of the plant following the planting and maintenance of tomato plants as is usually done by farmers. The plant responses to the treatments of MF, fassarium, and seed soaking was observed by measuring the percentage of seed germination, plant growth rate on plant height, fresh weight, and dry weight.**

### III. RESULTS

The growth response in this study was observed on all plants that survive from the results of treatment with Fusarium infection by soaking the seeds in Fusarium monospore suspension. Treatment MF (M) and Fusarium infections (F) causes the difference in the percentage of germination, as well as treatment of the interaction between the MF and immersion (MXS). The interaction between the MF and F (MXF); the interaction between the F and S (SXF); and the treatment of MF interaction, F, and S (MxFxS) did not result in any significant growth response.

Such as the results of previous studies (Agustrina et al., 2012; El Yazied et al., 2011, De Souza et al., 2005), treatment of MF affect the germination, growth rate, fresh weight, and dry weight (Figures 1 to 4 ). However, in this study MF treatment reduced the percentage of germination (Fig. 1a). Although the interaction of MxF not affect germination percentage, but the decline in the percentage of germination resulted in MF treatment in the study is thought to be due to the presence of F treatment especially in the treatment of F2 and F3, where the seeds for the treatment of F2 and F3 soaked before sowing. Seeding both in sterile soil (F2) or unsterile soil cause a decrease in the percentage of germination (Fig 1b). In the treatment of F4 and F5, the seeds have not been treated with F, so the percentage of germination at F4 and F5 is the response to treatment of MF and S only. Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) Theory.

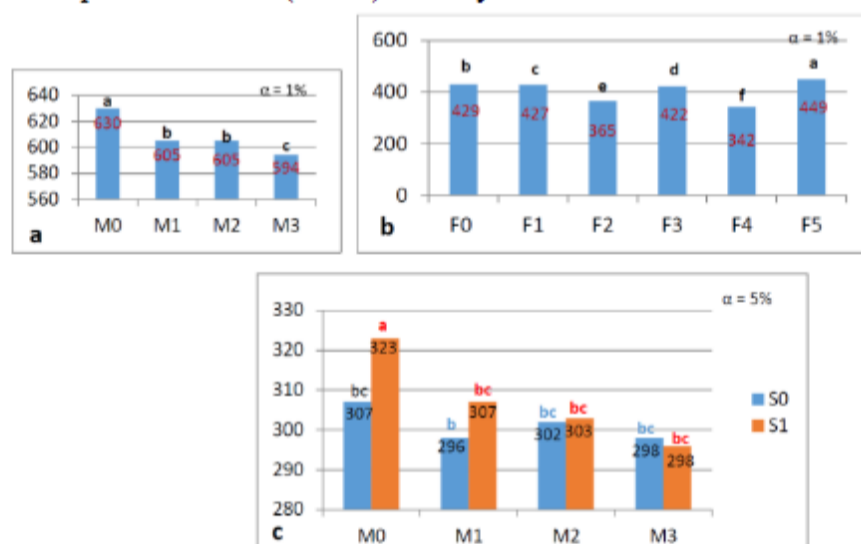


Fig 1. Germination percentage of seed (%) under MF treatment (a), treatment of fusarium infection (b), and interaction MF and Fusarium, MxF (c). M = MF exposure. M0 = control, M1 = 7'48", M2 = 11'42" and, M3 = 15'36". F = Fusarium infection. F0 = control, grown in sterile soil, F1 = control, grown in non-sterile soil, F2 = infection through seed soaking in monospore Fusarium suspension, grown in sterile soil, F3 = infection through seed soaking in monospore Fusarium suspension, grown in non-sterile soil, F4 = infection through the stem, grown in sterile soil, and F5 = infection through the stem, grown in non-sterile soil.

The response of the fresh weight at 7 das (Fig 3a.1 to 3a.3) in the treatment of MF, Fusarium infections (F), and immersion (S) showed the same response as the response percentage of germination above. At 7 das, MF treatment, Fusarium infections, and the interaction of treatment MxS cause differences in fresh weight of seedlings. However, for the fresh weight of seedlings, the treatment of MF and the interaction of MxS treatment showed similar results with previous studies that prove that the treatment of MF and seed immersion (S) increase the fresh weight of seedlings (Agustrina et al., 2012; El Yazied et al., 2011, De Souza et al., 2005). These results strengthening the suspicion that the treatment effect of MF in improving responses to the growth of tomato plants are able to survive against Fusarium infection has not disappeared, so the fresh weight of seedlings from seeds treated MF is greater than the control.

In this study, all treatments MF increase the growth rate as well as the interaction of treatment MxS on growth period 7-28 das, particularly in the treatment of MF exposure for 7'48". The results are consistent with results of other studies (Agustrina et al. 2012; El Yazied et al., 2011, De Souza et al., 2005) which proves that the MF and soaking treatment can improve the seedling growth.

Water plays an important role in the process of germination and cell enlargement. The MF affects the physical properties of water chemistry that lowers the surface tension and increases the viscosity of the water so it is more stable because molecular energy becomes lower and higher activation energy (Cai et al., 2009). MF treatment accelerate the rate of hydration into germ cells (Agustrina et al., 2011 and Shine et al., 2011). Soaking the seeds of tomatoes for 15 minutes before treatment (S1) exposure of MF resulted in germ cells hydrated earlier than treatment S0, meaning that the metabolism of germination in treatment S1 has been in progress when treated with MF and finally the treatment of MF accelerate the metabolism of ongoing growth (Agustrina et al., 2011). The results of measurements on the growth rate (Fig. 2a) and fresh weight (Fig. 3b) of tomato plants showed that the treatment of MF and immersion (S) can increase growth of tomato plants that can withstand the treatment of Fusarium infection.

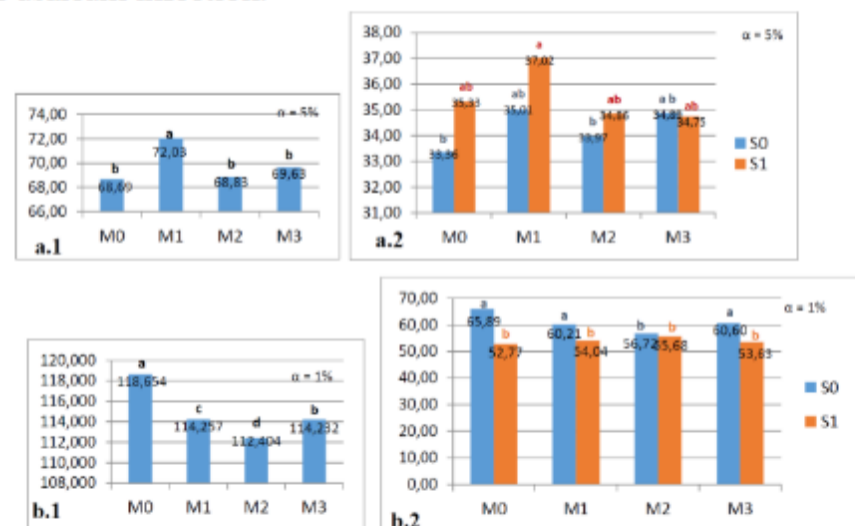


Fig. 2. The growth rate of the growth period 7-28 das (a) and 7-42 das (b) under MF treatment (a.1 and b.1) and interaction treatment of MxS (a.2 and b.2). M = MF exposure. M0 = control, M1 = 7'48", M2 = 11'42" and, M3 = 15'36". S = immersion. S0 = seeds without soaking, S1 = soaking the seeds for 15'. The unit measurement is  $\text{cm day}^{-1}$

The response rate of growth (Fig. 2b) and fresh weight (Fig 3a) in the growth period 7-42 das growth showed differences in the results with measurements on growth period 7-28 das.

Differences in the measurement result is believed to be due to changes in metabolism that is from metabolism process for the vegetative phase to the generative phase. At 42 das, tomato plants have already entered the generative phase. In the generative phase, the rate of plant growth slows as it enters the stationary growth phase.

In the generative phase, results of photosynthesis more used to establish food storage tissues rather than to the formation of vegetative tissues such as leaves and stems. Koelewijn (2004) generative phase. The process of change in the metabolism of the vegetative phase to the generative phase seems to be rapidly taking place in the S1 treatment where seeds are soaked before treated (Fig. 2b.2). Several studies showed treatment before MF increase crop production (Faqanabi et al., 2009; De Souza, et al., 2005; and Kordas et al., 2002). Of all the data obtained, Fusarium infection was not significant effect on the growth of tomatoes unless reduced the percentage of germination, seedling fresh weight (7 das). Fusarium infection in the plant stem at the age of 28 das does not affect the growth response, both on the growth rate (Fig. 2b) and the fresh weight (Fig 3c) in the period of plant growth 7-42 das.

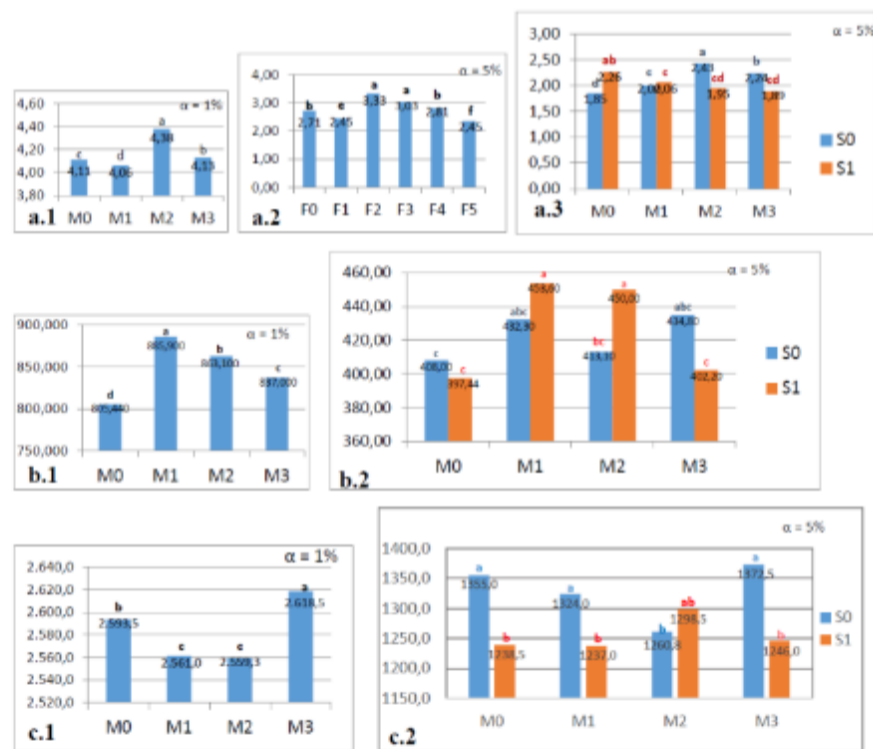


Fig. 3. Tomatoes fresh weight (gram) on 7 das (a) and 28 das (b), and 42 day(c) under MF treatment (a.1, b.1, dan c.1), Fusarium infection (a.2), and interaction treatment of MxS (a.3, b.2, and c.2). M = MF exposure. M0 = control, M1 = 7'48", M2 = 11'42" and, M3 = 15'36". S = immersion. S0 = seeds without soaking, S1 = soaking the seeds for 15'. F0 = control, grown in sterile soil, F1 = control, grown in non-sterile soil, F2 = infection through seed soaking in monospore Fusarium suspension, grown in sterile soil, F3 = infection through seed soaking in monospore Fusarium suspension, grown in non-sterile soil, F4 = infection through the stem, grown in sterile soil, and F5 = infection through the stem, grown in non-sterile soil.

Data reduction in germination percentage, fresh weight and growth rate above still can not be assured yet that the treatment of MF in this study enhance the growth and

resistance of tomato plants. The possibilities that can be drawn from these results are:

- Pathogenicity of Fusarium isolates used to get monospore Fusarium weak, so although soaking seeds by Fusarium monospore suspension reduced the percentage of germination and fresh weight statistically significant, but the decline is relatively small (4.7 to 14.92%, Fig. 1b, F0 to F3)
- Fusarium infection on the stem of the plant when the plant aged 28 das ineffective in causing Fusarium wilt disease.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Treatment of MF (M) on the seed infected with a suspension of Fusarium monospore by soaking the seeds do not increase the percentage of germination. Fusarium infection decreases the germination percentage, but there is no effect of the treatment interaction of MxS in the percentage of germination. MF treatment and the treatment interaction of MxS increase the growth rate and it is thought to increase the speed of change in metabolic processes of the vegetative phase to the generative phase. Because the entire observation was done on plants that survived from Fusarium infection, and of all the measured parameters indicate an increase in the growth response, then these results can provide guidance that MF may improve the growth of tomato plants that survived from the attack of Fusarium infection. However, further studies need to be done to ensure the above results and the increased resistance of plants against pathogen attack can be proven.

#### V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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