ABSTRACT

There are approximately 2,50,000 species of plants worldwide. Of those, about 8000 species behave as weeds. Weeds are troublesome in many ways. Primarily, they reduce crop yield by competing for water, light, soil nutrients, and space. Other problems associated with weeds in agriculture include reduced crop quality by contaminating the product. Billions of dollars have been invested in research and a variety of methods are available to control weeds, including mechanical, chemical, biological, cultural control. Allelopathic strategies aim at reducing environmental pollution and maintaining ecological balance especially soil fauna and flora through reduced use of chemical herbicides or substituting them with natural products. Allelopathy is new science, which indicates inhibitory or stimulatory biochemical interactions between the two plant spp. The allelopathic effects of weeds on crop plants have been intensively studied since 1970. It is likely that in the near future allelopathy will be used in crop protection, agroforestry and agrohorticulture practices in developed and developing countries. In India, weeds alone are responsible for about one-third loss in crop production. The research and development in allelopathy is of extreme urgency for the improvement of agriculture, forestry and the global environment. At present the research on allelopathy is being carried out in more than 85 countries. In India, the research in this field took a great speed after 1950. Presently the allelopathy research work is mainly focused on identification of allelochemicals, their mode of action and ecological significance. After analyzing the same along with other problems and need for research in allelopathy, an attempt have been made in the present study to analyzing interaction between weed and edible oil crops grown in study area.