

Studies on Effectiveness and Efficiency of Gamma Rays, Ethyl Methane Sulphonate and Sodium Azide in Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek)

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(Received: 01 September 2023; Revised: 25 September 2023; Accepted: 07 October 2023; Published: 15 October 2023)
(Published by Research Trend)

ABSTRACT: In the present study, dry seeds of two mungbean varieties viz., WGG-42 and LGG-460 were treated with different doses/ concentrations of gamma rays (200 Gy, 300 Gy, 400 Gy, 500 Gy and 600 Gy), ethyl methane sulphonate (0.2%, 0.3%, 0.4%, 0.5% and 0.6%) and sodium azide (1 mM, 2 mM and 3 mM) to study the mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency of gamma rays, ethyl methane sulphonate and sodium azide in induction of chlorophyll mutations in M₂ generation. Three types of chlorophyll mutants viz., albina, xantha and chlorina were observed in M₂ generation and occurrence of chlorina was found to be the most frequent in all the mutagen treated populations of both the varieties. The frequency of chlorophyll mutations increased with the increase in dose/concentration of mutagens in both the genotypes, but EMS treatments showed the highest frequency of chlorophyll mutations than gamma rays and SA treatments. The results indicated that the values of mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency gradually decreased with increases in dose/concentration of mutagens. The EMS treatments were found to be more effective and efficient in inducing chlorophyll mutants than gamma rays and sodium azide in both the varieties. Thus, it is concluded that the lower doses/concentrations of mutagens are more useful to induce different type of chlorophyll mutants in mungbean.

Keywords: Gamma rays, EMS, SA, chlorophyll mutants, effectiveness and efficiency, M₂, mungbean.

INTRODUCTION

Mungbean [*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek] (2n=22) is one of the important pulse crop grown extensively in both tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Although numbers of varieties have been recommended for cultivation, the productivity is still low which may be attributed to narrow genetic base of the varieties resulting in low yield potential and susceptibility to biotic and abiotic stresses. Hence, there is an immediate need to improve the productivity of mungbean through breeding high yielding varieties coupled with tolerant to biotic and abiotic stresses. Existence of adequate genetic variability is a prerequisite for the genetic improvement of any crop. Induced mutations have been used to generate genetic variability and have been successfully utilized to improve yield and yield components of various crops. Many physical and chemical mutagens have been used for induction of useful mutants in a number of crops. Induction of chlorophyll mutations in general is considered as a measure to assess the effectiveness of various mutagens (Awnindra and Singh 2007; Lavanya *et al.*, 2022). The usefulness of any mutagen in plant breeding depends not only on its effectiveness but also upon its efficiency. Mutagenic effectiveness is a measure of the frequency of mutations induced by unit mutagen dose, whereas mutagenic efficiency is the measure of proportion of mutations in relation to undesirable

changes like lethality, sterility and meiotic aberrations *etc.* The frequency of induced chlorophyll mutations has been considered a reliable index for estimating the potency of mutagens due to the ease of their detection and greater accuracy in scoring (Gustafsson, 1940) and chlorophyll mutations although not useful for plant breeding purpose, may be used to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of mutagens in order to select suitable mutagen at appropriate concentration so as to use them in applied mutagenesis programme (Navdeep *et al.*, 2021). Hence, the present investigation was undertaken to study the frequency and spectrum of chlorophyll mutations along with the mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency of different doses of gamma rays, EMS and SA treatments in mungbean.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Dry seeds of two mungbean genotypes viz., WGG-42 and LGG-460 administered with mutagenic treatments of gamma rays (200 Gy, 300 Gy, 400 Gy, 500 Gy and 600 Gy), ethyl methane sulphonate (0.2%, 0.3%, 0.4%, 0.5% and 0.6%) and sodium azide (1 mM, 2 mM and 3 mM). Dry seeds were irradiated with gamma rays at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay For chemical treatment, seeds were pre-soaked for 6 h in water initially. Then, the seeds were immersed for 6 h in the requisite concentration of mutagens ethyl methane sulphonate and sodium azide with intermittent shaking. The whole treatment was carried out at a room

temperature of 23±1°C for 6 h. Treated seeds were thoroughly washed with running water to bleach out the residual chemicals and then dried on blotting paper after treatment. The treated seeds along with controls were sown in the field in a Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications to raise the M₁ generation. Data on biological abnormalities such as injury, lethality and sterility were recorded in M₁ generation. The M₂ generation was raised from individual M₁ plants following plant to progeny method in Compact Family Block Design (CFBD) with two replications. Standard agronomic package of practices were followed to raise the crop. Observation on different types of chlorophyll mutations in each treatment were recorded daily from emergence of seedlings to 15th days after sowing and were classified in accordance with the system of Gustafsson (1940).

The frequency of chlorophyll mutations was estimated as follows.

$$\text{Mutation frequency (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of mutants}}{\text{Total number of M}_2 \text{ plants}} \times 100$$

The effectiveness and efficiency of the mutagens were worked out by using the formulae as suggested by Konzak *et al.* (1965).

$$\text{Mutagenic effectiveness (\%)} = \frac{M_p \times 100}{\text{Gy or T} \times \text{C}}$$

Where,

M_p - Chlorophyll mutation frequency on M₂ plant basis

Gy - Dose of gamma radiation

T - Duration of mutagenic treatment

C - Concentration of mutagen

Mutagenic efficiency (%) = $\frac{M_p / I \times 100}{M_p / S \times 100}$

Mp/ I × 100

Mp/ S × 100

Where,

Mp - Chlorophyll mutation frequency on M₂ plant basis

L - Percentage of lethality *i.e.*, percentage of reduction in survival of seedlings on 30th day

I - Percentage of injury *i.e.*, percentage of height reduction of seedlings on 30th day

S - Percentage of sterility *i.e.*, percentage of reduction in pollen fertility

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The frequency of induced chlorophyll mutations in M₂ generation has been considered a reliable index for estimating the potency of mutagens due to the ease of their detection and greater accuracy in scoring (Gustafsson, 1940) and the chlorophyll mutation serves not only as a measure for evaluating effectiveness and efficiency of mutagens, but also as indicators to predict the size of vital factor mutations.

In the present study, the frequency and spectrum of chlorophyll mutants were observed in M₂ generation and are presented in Table 1 and 2 for WGG-42 and LGG-460, respectively. In WGG-42 variety (Table 1), the chlorophyll mutation frequency in gamma rays treatments varied from 1.030% (200 Gy) to 1.806% (600 Gy). Likewise, the mutation frequency of EMS treatments varied from 1.142% (0.2%) to 2.926% (0.6%). Similarly, the mutation frequency of SA

treatments varied from 0.765% (1 mM) to 1.496% (2 mM). In LGG-460 variety (Table 2), the highest frequency of chlorophyll mutations was observed at 600 Gy (1.640%) and lowest frequency was observed at 200 Gy (1.209%) of gamma rays. As far as EMS treatments concerned, the highest frequency was observed at 0.6% (2.824%) and lowest frequency was observed at 0.2% (1.333%). Similarly, in SA treatments the highest frequency was observed at 3 mM (1.311%) and lowest frequency was observed at 1 mM (0.732%). While such mutations were not observed in control populations.

In the present investigation, the frequency of chlorophyll mutations increased with parallel increase in dose/concentration of gamma rays, EMS and SA treatments in both the genotypes (Tamilzharasi *et al.*, 2019; Navdeep *et al.*, 2021). Wani *et al.* (2011); Rukesh *et al.* (2017); Mahto *et al.* (2018) were also observed similar types of chlorophyll mutations in mungbean. The frequency of chlorophyll mutations were higher in EMS treatments followed by gamma rays treatments and SA treatments in both the genotypes. The variety WGG-42 appeared to produce a higher number of chlorophyll mutations than LGG-460 variety. In the present study, both the genotypes of mungbean were found to respond to the mutagenic treatments differently. Arulselvi *et al.* (2016); Rukesh *et al.* (2017); Lavanya *et al.* (2022) were also found varietal differences in the expression of chlorophyll mutation frequency similar to the observations made in the present investigation. The observed differential response to mutagenic treatments specifically with regard to chlorophyll mutation frequency might be due to alteration of genes concerned with the development and expression of chlorophyll.

A wide spectrum of chlorophyll mutations were observed in mutagen treated populations of both the varieties in M₂ generation and is presented in Table 1 and 2. Such chlorophyll mutations were not observed in the controls of both the varieties. The spectrum of chlorophyll mutations was determined as the relative proportion of different types of mutations to the total number of chlorophyll mutations. In this study, three types of chlorophyll mutations were observed in both the genotypes (Fig. 1 and 2). They are namely, albina, xantha and chlorina with variable frequency. In WGG-42 variety (Table 1), chlorina was the most frequent mutation isolated in all the treatments, followed by xantha. Whereas, albina was isolated in all the treatments except 400 Gy of gamma rays, 0.2% of EMS and 2 mM of SA. In LGG-460 variety (Table 2), chlorina type of mutants had the highest frequency among chlorophyll mutations in all the treatments followed by xantha and albina with some exceptions. These findings were in accordance with Sanjai *et al.* (2014); Rukesh *et al.* (2017); Navdeep *et al.*, 2021) who also reported three types of chlorophyll mutations and among which chlorina was the highest proportion in their studies using gamma rays. Similarly, Wani *et al.* (2011); Vairam *et al.* (2014); Digbijaya *et al.* (2019) also observed chlorina and xantha in all the treatments of gamma rays and EMS at higher proportions.

The effectiveness and efficiency of different treatments of the three mutagens (Gamma rays, EMS and SA) in both the mungbean genotypes *viz.*, WGG-42 and LGG-460 were calculated following the methods suggested by Konzak *et al.* (1965). In the present study, effectiveness of mutagenic treatments in both the varieties differed considerably. The mutagenic effectiveness showed a trend, which was inversely proportional to the increasing dose/concentrations of mutagens in both the genotypes and the same pattern was also found in mutagenic efficiency. The effectiveness and efficiency of different treatments of the three mutagens in WGG-42 was presented in the Table 3. In WGG-42, the highest effectiveness was observed at 200 Gy (0.005) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 600 Gy (0.002) of gamma rays. Similarly, in EMS treatments the highest effectiveness was observed at 0.2% (0.952) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 0.6% (0.813). Whereas, in SA treatments the highest effectiveness was observed at 1 mM (0.127) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 3 mM (0.068). In LGG-460 variety (Table 4), the highest effectiveness was observed at 200 Gy (0.006) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 500 Gy and 600 Gy (0.003) of gamma rays. Similarly, in EMS treatments the highest effectiveness was observed at 0.2% (1.111) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 0.6% (0.784). Whereas, the SA treatments concerned, the highest effectiveness was observed at 1 mM (0.122) and the lowest effectiveness was observed at 3 mM (0.073). EMS was found to be most effective mutagen than gamma rays and SA. Mutagenic efficiency varies depending upon the criteria selected. The lethality, injury and sterility were the highest when higher doses of mutagenic treatments were used. Mutagenic efficiency analyzed based on lethality, in WGG-42 variety (Table 3), the highest

efficiency was observed at 200 Gy (0.037) of gamma rays, 0.5% (0.057) of EMS and 2 mM (0.020) of SA. In LGG-460 variety (Table 4), the highest efficiency was observed at 200 Gy (0.072) of gamma rays, 0.2% (0.068) of EMS and 3 mM (0.016) of SA. When efficiency was analyzed based on injury, in WGG-42 variety (Table 3), the highest efficiency was found at 200 Gy (0.214) of gamma rays, 0.2% (0.160) of EMS and 1 mM (0.092) of SA. In LGG-460 variety (Table 4), the highest efficiency was found at 200 Gy (0.298) of gamma rays, 0.2% (0.180) of EMS and 1 mM (0.056) of SA. When analysis was based on sterility, in WGG-42 variety (Table 3), the highest efficiency was found at 200 Gy (0.128) of gamma rays, 0.2% (0.165) of EMS and 1 mM (0.105) of SA. In LGG-460 variety (Table 4), the highest efficiency was observed at 200 Gy (0.180) of gamma rays, 0.2% (0.218) of EMS and 1 mM (0.176) of SA.

In the present investigation, mutagenic efficiency decreased with the increasing dose/concentration of the mutagens with respect to injury, lethality, sterility in both the varieties. This was also reported by Sweta (2014); Rukesh *et al.* (2017); Mahto *et al.* (2018); Das and Arjun (2020); Vasudevan *et al.* (2023) in mungbean. The higher efficiency obtained at lower and intermediate doses of mutagens might be due to the fact that the lethality, injury, sterility *etc.* increases with mutagen concentration at a rate faster than the frequency of mutations (Blixt, 1964). In the present study, EMS was found to be most effective and efficient mutagen than gamma rays and SA. Effectiveness and efficiency of mutagens had also been worked out by Kuldeep and Singh (2013); Mishra and Singh (2014); Goyal *et al.* (2019) and reported that EMS was found to be more effective and efficient than gamma rays in mungbean.

Table 1: Frequency and spectrum of chlorophyll mutations in M₂ generation of WGG-42.

| Treatments | Total number of seedlings examined | Types of chlorophyll mutants | | | Total number of chlorophyll mutants | Relative percentage (Frequency) of chlorophyll mutants | | | Chlorophyll mutation frequency (%) | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--------|----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | | Albina | Xantha | Chlorina | | Albina | Xantha | Chlorina | | |
| Control | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gamma rays | 200 Gy | 1650 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 0.182 | 0.303 | 0.545 | 1.030 |
| | 300 Gy | 1768 | 6 | 3 | 14 | 23 | 0.339 | 0.170 | 0.792 | 1.301 |
| | 400 Gy | 1700 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 0.000 | 0.471 | 1.000 | 1.471 |
| | 500 Gy | 1668 | 5 | 4 | 18 | 27 | 0.300 | 0.240 | 1.079 | 1.619 |
| | 600 Gy | 1550 | 9 | 7 | 12 | 28 | 0.581 | 0.452 | 0.774 | 1.806 |
| EMS | 0.2% | 1664 | 0 | 8 | 11 | 19 | 0.000 | 0.480 | 0.661 | 1.142 |
| | 0.3% | 1602 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 27 | 0.250 | 0.437 | 0.999 | 1.685 |
| | 0.4% | 1350 | 5 | 6 | 19 | 30 | 0.370 | 0.444 | 1.407 | 2.222 |
| | 0.5% | 1050 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 28 | 0.286 | 0.762 | 1.619 | 2.667 |
| | 0.6% | 1196 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 35 | 0.753 | 0.920 | 1.254 | 2.926 |
| SA | 1 mM | 1700 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 0.235 | 0.176 | 0.353 | 0.765 |
| | 2 mM | 936 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 0.000 | 0.641 | 0.855 | 1.496 |
| | 3 mM | 1300 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 0.231 | 0.462 | 0.538 | 1.231 |

Table 2: Frequency and spectrum of chlorophyll mutations in M₂ generation of LGG-460.

| Treatments | Total number of seedlings examined | Types of chlorophyll mutants | | | Total number of chlorophyll mutants | Relative percentage (Frequency) of chlorophyll mutants | | | Chlorophyll mutation frequency (%) | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------------------|--|--------|----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | | Albina | Xantha | Chlorina | | Albina | Xantha | Chlorina | | |
| Control | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gamma rays | 200 Gy | 1820 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 22 | 0.275 | 0.385 | 0.549 | 1.209 |
| | 300 Gy | 1650 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 23 | 0.121 | 0.364 | 0.909 | 1.394 |
| | 400 Gy | 1716 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 26 | 0.233 | 0.466 | 0.816 | 1.515 |
| | 500 Gy | 1750 | 8 | 0 | 20 | 28 | 0.457 | 0.000 | 1.143 | 1.600 |
| | 600 Gy | 1768 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 29 | 0.283 | 0.396 | 0.962 | 1.640 |
| EMS | 0.2% | 1500 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 0.267 | 0.467 | 0.600 | 1.333 |
| | 0.3% | 1136 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 21 | 0.264 | 0.528 | 1.056 | 1.849 |
| | 0.4% | 1610 | 9 | 0 | 22 | 31 | 0.559 | 0.000 | 1.366 | 1.925 |
| | 0.5% | 1398 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 33 | 0.429 | 0.572 | 1.359 | 2.361 |
| | 0.6% | 1204 | 3 | 11 | 20 | 34 | 0.249 | 0.914 | 1.661 | 2.824 |
| SA | 1 mM | 1502 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 0.000 | 0.400 | 0.333 | 0.732 |
| | 2 mM | 1464 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 0.273 | 0.205 | 0.410 | 0.888 |
| | 3 mM | 1144 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 0.262 | 0.437 | 0.612 | 1.311 |

Table 3: Mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency based on chlorophyll mutants in M₂ generation of WGG-42.

| Treatments | % Survival reduction at 30 th day (L) | % Height reduction at 30 th day (I) | % Pollen fertility reduction (S) | Chlorophyll mutation frequency (%) (Mc) | Mutagenic effectiveness (%) $\frac{Mc}{Gy (or) T \times C}$ | Mutagenic efficiency (%) | | | |
|----------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| | | | | | | $\frac{Mc}{L}$ | $\frac{Mc}{I}$ | $\frac{Mc}{S}$ | |
| Control | | | | | | | | | |
| Gamma rays | 200 Gy | 27.87 | 4.82 | 8.05 | 1.030 | 0.005 | 0.037 | 0.214 | 0.128 |
| | 300 Gy | 46.15 | 10.73 | 13.08 | 1.301 | 0.004 | 0.028 | 0.121 | 0.099 |
| | 400 Gy | 57.62 | 13.23 | 16.19 | 1.471 | 0.003 | 0.026 | 0.111 | 0.091 |
| | 500 Gy | 77.48 | 18.12 | 19.85 | 1.619 | 0.003 | 0.021 | 0.089 | 0.082 |
| | 600 Gy | 89.86 | 24.60 | 23.57 | 1.806 | 0.002 | 0.020 | 0.073 | 0.077 |
| EMS | 0.2% | 29.02 | 7.12 | 6.92 | 1.142 | 0.952 | 0.039 | 0.160 | 0.165 |
| | 0.3% | 33.71 | 13.73 | 13.51 | 1.685 | 0.936 | 0.050 | 0.123 | 0.125 |
| | 0.4% | 43.64 | 18.72 | 19.92 | 2.222 | 0.926 | 0.051 | 0.119 | 0.106 |
| | 0.5% | 47.13 | 29.76 | 25.57 | 2.667 | 0.889 | 0.057 | 0.090 | 0.104 |
| | 0.6% | 79.02 | 36.27 | 30.26 | 2.926 | 0.813 | 0.037 | 0.081 | 0.100 |
| SA | 1 mM | 41.71 | 8.33 | 7.27 | 0.765 | 0.127 | 0.018 | 0.092 | 0.105 |
| | 2 mM | 73.08 | 21.93 | 18.62 | 1.496 | 0.125 | 0.020 | 0.068 | 0.080 |
| | 3 mM | 86.15 | 33.70 | 25.97 | 1.231 | 0.068 | 0.014 | 0.037 | 0.047 |

L: Lethality; I: Injury; S: Sterility; Gy: Dose of gamma radiation; T: Duration of mutagenic treatment; C: Concentration of mutagen

Table 4: Mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency based on chlorophyll mutants in M₂ generation of LGG-460.

| Treatments | % Survival reduction at 30 th day (L) | % Height reduction at 30 th day (I) | % Pollen fertility reduction (S) | Chlorophyll mutation frequency (%) (Mc) | Mutagenic effectiveness (%) $\frac{Mc}{Gy (or) T \times C}$ | Mutagenic efficiency (%) | | | |
|----------------|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| | | | | | | $\frac{Mc}{L}$ | $\frac{Mc}{I}$ | $\frac{Mc}{S}$ | |
| Control | | | | | | | | | |
| Gamma rays | 200 Gy | 16.74 | 4.05 | 6.73 | 1.209 | 0.006 | 0.072 | 0.298 | 0.180 |
| | 300 Gy | 22.94 | 10.51 | 13.66 | 1.394 | 0.005 | 0.061 | 0.133 | 0.102 |
| | 400 Gy | 37.18 | 12.17 | 19.94 | 1.515 | 0.004 | 0.041 | 0.125 | 0.076 |
| | 500 Gy | 55.42 | 14.08 | 23.23 | 1.600 | 0.003 | 0.029 | 0.114 | 0.069 |
| | 600 Gy | 69.32 | 20.60 | 28.85 | 1.640 | 0.003 | 0.024 | 0.080 | 0.057 |
| EMS | 0.2% | 19.66 | 7.42 | 6.13 | 1.333 | 1.111 | 0.068 | 0.180 | 0.218 |
| | 0.3% | 30.05 | 13.57 | 10.88 | 1.849 | 1.027 | 0.062 | 0.136 | 0.170 |
| | 0.4% | 47.15 | 19.89 | 15.39 | 1.925 | 0.802 | 0.041 | 0.097 | 0.125 |
| | 0.5% | 60.27 | 28.43 | 22.40 | 2.361 | 0.787 | 0.039 | 0.083 | 0.105 |
| | 0.6% | 76.51 | 36.08 | 28.03 | 2.824 | 0.784 | 0.037 | 0.078 | 0.101 |
| SA | 1 mM | 56.82 | 13.04 | 4.17 | 0.732 | 0.122 | 0.013 | 0.056 | 0.176 |
| | 2 mM | 77.35 | 20.01 | 14.75 | 0.888 | 0.074 | 0.011 | 0.044 | 0.060 |
| | 3 mM | 81.91 | 33.23 | 23.17 | 1.311 | 0.073 | 0.016 | 0.039 | 0.057 |

L: Lethality; I: Injury; S: Sterility; Gy: Dose of gamma radiation; T: Duration of mutagenic treatment; C: Concentration of mutagen

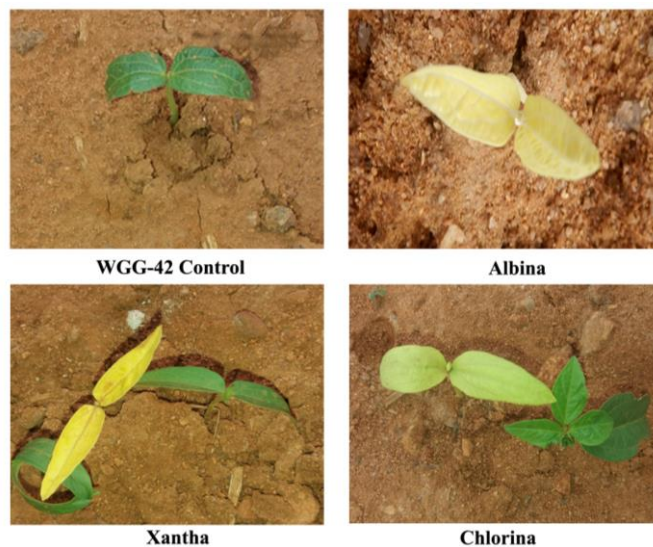


Fig. 1. Chlorophyll mutants observed in M₂ generation of WGG-42.

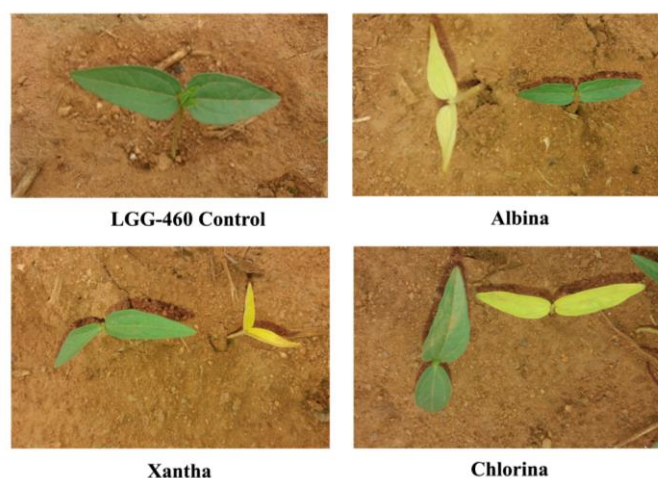


Fig. 2. Chlorophyll mutants observed in M₂ generation of LGG-460.

CONCLUSIONS

From the results of the present study, it can be inferred that the frequency of chlorophyll mutations increased with the increase in dose/concentration of mutagens in both the genotypes, but EMS treatments showed the highest frequency of chlorophyll mutations than gamma rays and SA treatments. Mutagenic effectiveness and efficiency gradually decreased with increases in dose/concentration of mutagens. It was also inferred from the present study, EMS treatments were found to be more effective and efficient in inducing chlorophyll mutants than gamma rays and SA treatments in both the varieties *viz.*, WGG-42 and LGG-460. These results suggest that high mutation rates could be obtained with lower/moderate dose/concentration of mutagens in mungbean.

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How to cite this article: S. Sofia, D. M. Reddy, K.H.P. Reddy, P. Latha, B. Ravindra Reddy and M. Sreevalli Devi (2023). Studies on Effectiveness and Efficiency of Gamma Rays, Ethyl Methane Sulphonate and Sodium Azide in Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* (L.) Wilczek). *Biological Forum – An International Journal*, 15(10): 1299-1304.