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Effect of Low Density Magnetic Field Generated by Helmholtz Coil on α -amylase Activity and Antibiotic Sensitivity of *B.cereus*

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ABSTRACT: In recent years different forms of magnetic field systems have been applied to study their either harmful or useful effects on eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells and their industrial as well as medical potentials. To observe the possible effects of static magnetic field on *B.cereus* antibiotic susceptibility, growth rate and α -amylase activity a pair of Helmholtz coils supplied with DC power were designed to generate uniform low-density magnetic field varying from 1mT to 3mT. For antibiotic susceptibility test, Ampicillin, Penicillin, Tetracycline, Gentamicin, and chloramphenicol were used. Growth curve of each microorganism was plotted at 600nm. α -amylase activity of *B.cereus* was carried out using Dinitrosalicylic acid method. *B.cereus* which was resistant to Penicillin and Ampicillin became sensitive under 1.5mT and 2mT magnetic field. Under these densities, exponential phase of microorganism increased in contrast to control. The α -amylase activity of *B.cereus* decreased under 1.5mT.

KEYWORDS: Helmholtz coil, Static Magnetic Field, Antibiotics, α -amylase, *Bacillus cereus*

I. INTRODUCTION

Living things, particularly human beings are being exposed to various types of magnetic fields due to unavoidable application of modern life advanced technological tools such as cell phones, computers, and household appliances.(1-2) In recent years interest in research about the effects of magnetic fields on living systems has been raised.the effects in different fields such as cancer research, waste water treatment, antibiotic sensitivity, drug delivery, and sterilization have been studied. (3-7)

The magnetic field could have several biological effects on ion transportation, DNA synthesis and transcription. DNA repair acceleration by stimulation of heat shock protein synthesis. Bacterial cell wall, antibiotic resistance mechanism as well as enzymatic activity.(8-11).Several studies have been carried out on prokaryotic and eukaryotic microorganism by using different magnetic and electromagnetic field effects basically depend on magnetic intensity and exposure time. It has been suggested that earth's geomagnetic field also could interfere analysis of results. (12)

It has been revealed that bacteria can have stress response to magnetic field (Perez et. al. 2010).It has also been reported that the magnetic field can change morphological characteristics of bacteria and also causes mutation in *S.typhimurium*.(13-14)

Antibiotic resistant bacteria which can cause major infectious diseases and death in human are becoming great danger for human health. There have been several studies on antibiotic resistance and growth rate of bacteria to understand either positive or negative effects (15).

Several experiments have been carried out to study the effect of magnetic field on different enzymes for instance catalase, cellulase, cytochrome oxidase but α -amylase is poorly studied.(16-17).

In this study we aim to analyze the effect of low density magnetic field(10,15 and 20 Gauss) on growth curve , antibiotic sensitivity and α -amylase activity of *B.cereus*.

**II. MATERIALS AND METHODS****A. Helmholtz Coil**

The magnetic field generating system consisted of a pair of Helmholtz coils, DC power supply 24V, ammeter, voltmeter, ohmmeter and gauss-meter. Radius of cores was 12 cm made from pure iron, number of turn was 144 in each coils with wire diameter of 1 mm. Resistance of each coil was $13.5 \pm 0.2 \Omega$, total resistance of coils system after serial attachment of coils measured by ohmmeter and calculated by using the values of voltmeter and ammeter according to Ohm theory. Distance between the coils was equal to their radius. The frequency was 0. And magnetic field flux values was varied between 1-3mT. Coil is placed inside incubator. Target group was placed at zero point ($x=0$) of coil system inside of incubator perpendicular to central axis of coils. Control group placed inside incubator in absence of coils.

B. Antibiotic susceptibility test

Antibiotic susceptibility test was performed using Mueller-Hinton Agar medium according to Kirby-Bauer Disk Diffusion technique. Ampicillin (10 μ g), penicillin (10 μ g), Gentamicin (10 μ g), chloramphenicol (30 μ g), tetracycline (10 μ g), antibiotic discs used. The control group was incubated at 37 ° C for 24 hours. The study group was exposed to 10g, 15g and 20g magnetic fields under the same incubation conditions as the control group. At the end of the incubation results were compared.

C. Growth curve

For the growth curve, the organism was inoculated to LB medium and incubated at 37 ° C. OD values were taken at 600nm at every 2 hours from both control and study groups.

Effect on amylase enzyme activity

Bacillus cereus was inoculated in 1% starch media ($K_2HPO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$: 0.26, KH_2PO_4 : 0.8 g, $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$: 0.41 g, $CaSO_4 \cdot H_2O$: 0.1, $NaMoO_4$: 0.0039 g, $FeSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$: 0.005 g, $(NH_4)_2SO_4$: 0.3 g) and incubated at 37 ° C without magnetic field effect. The extracellular enzyme solutions were obtained by centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 10 min using centrifuge. The supernatant obtained was collected and used as enzyme source. The supernatant was divided into 3 control groups and 3 study groups. The samples which contain enzyme were mixed with 1% starch substrate. The test group incubated at 37 ° C for 30 minutes in the magnetic field. Control group was excluded from the magnetic field under the same conditions. The enzyme activity at the end of the incubation was measured spectrophotometrically (546nm) using 3, 5-dinitrosalicylic acid (DNSA) method and the enzyme activity was calculated by absorbance values.

III. RESULTS

Under various magnetic field antibiotic susceptibility test on *Bacillus cereus* indicated various effects. There was no effect on the sensitivity of the magnetic field to Gentamicin. The activity of chloramphenicol antibiotic was increased under the magnetic field and the maximum effect was determined at 15G. The tetracycline sensitivity of *Bacillus cereus* was not changed at 10G but increased at 15G and 20G. The most noticeable effect of the magnetic field was seen in the Ampicillin and penicillin antibiotic susceptibility. However *Bacillus cereus* was resistant to penicillin, became sensitive at 10G and 15G values. There is no effect at 20G. While the control group was resistant to amp, it became sensitive at 10G, 15G, 20G. (Figure 1).

Growth curve of *Bacillus cereus* influenced under 10 and 15 Gauss but no significant effect was observed at 20 G. (Fig 2, 3 and 4). Under the magnetic field α -amylase enzyme activity produced by *Bacillus cereus* showed lower activity comparing to the control group. Enzyme activity decreased by 5% at 10G, 18% at 15G, and 5% at 20G. (Figure 5).

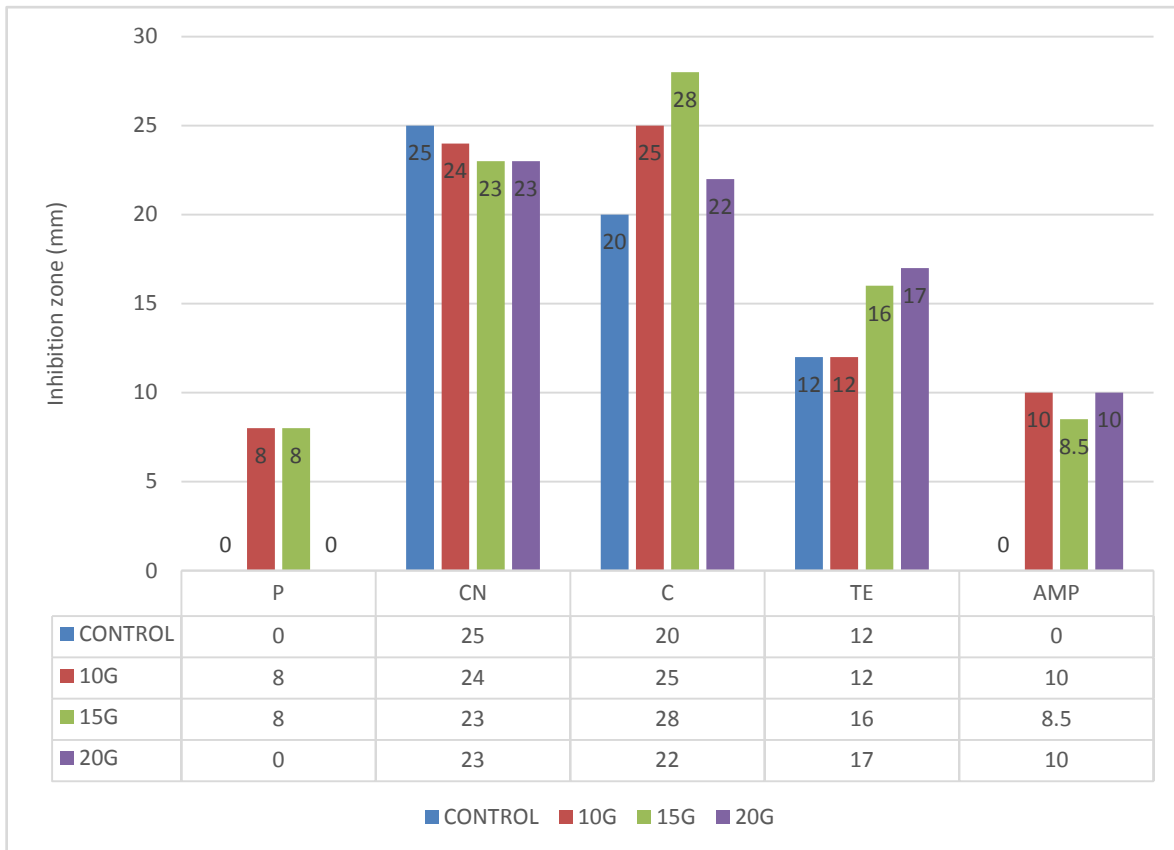


Fig.1. Effect of magnetic field on antibiotic susceptibility of *B.cereus* at 10,15 and 20 GaussAMP:Ampicillin(10µg), P: penicillin (10µg), CN: Gentamicin(10 µg), C:chloramphenicol(30 µg), TE:tetracycline(10 µg)

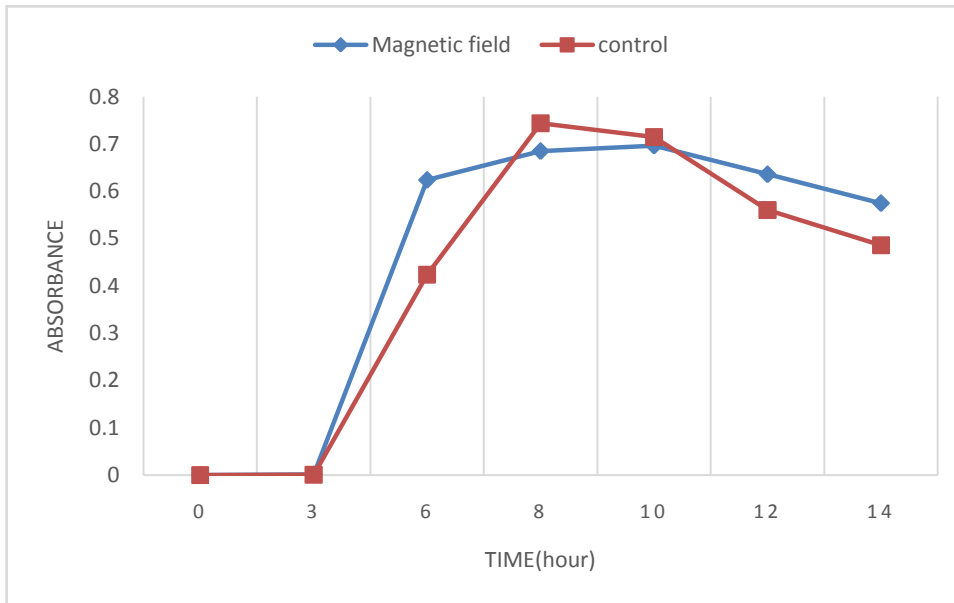


Fig.2. *Bacillus cereus* growth curve at 10 Gauss

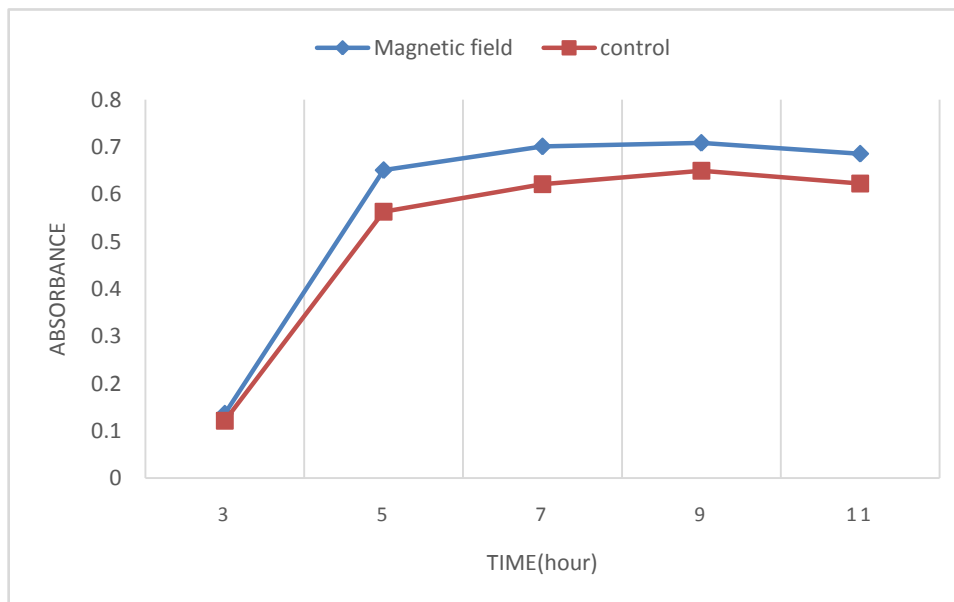


Fig.3. *Bacillus cereus* growth curve at 15 Gauss

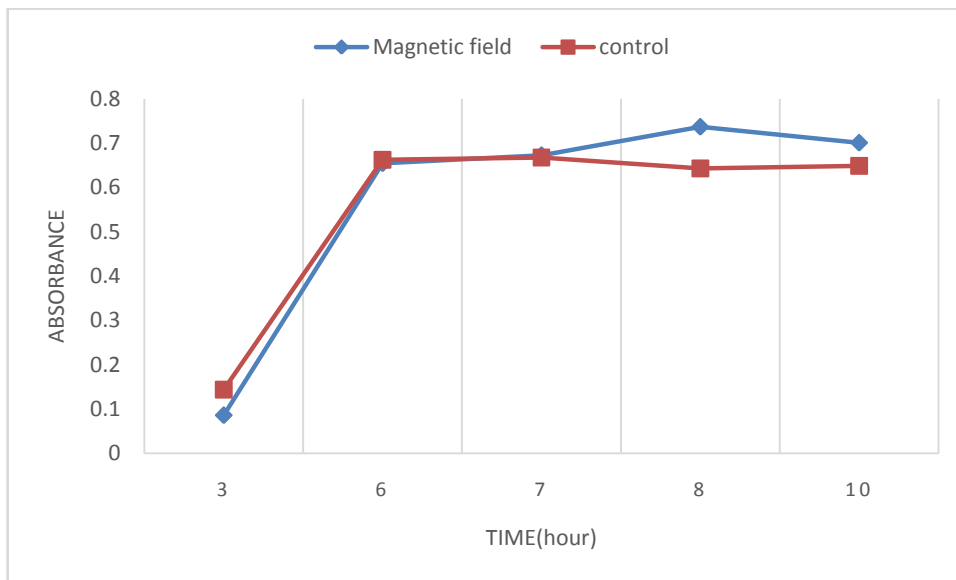


Fig.4. *Bacillus cereus* growth curve at 20 Gauss

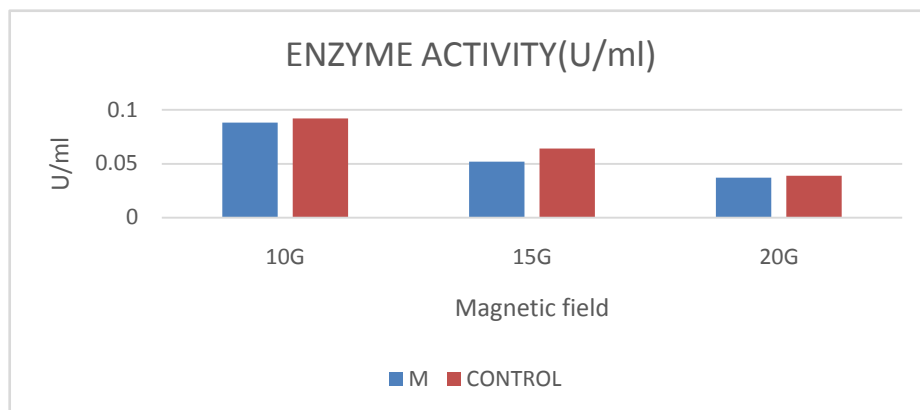


Fig.5. α -amylase activity under 10,15 and 20 Gauss.

**IV. DISCUSSION**

The effect of magnetic field on bacterial antibiotic resistance and growth rate has long been studied. However the effects are variable based on type of microorganism and magnetic field as well as exposure time.

Khaled A *et al.* showed that low static magnetic field ranging from 30 to 80 G increased growth rate of *B.subtilis* and decreased *E.coli* and *S.aureus* growth rate. (18). While another study reported that SMF ranging 0.5 to 4 T has no significant effect on growth rate and antibiotic sensitivity of *E.coli* and *S.aureus* (19).

It has been revealed that SMF increases the activity of gentamicin against biofilm forming *P.aeruginosa* which is limited to 5G-20G (20).

Jihen *et al* reported that 200mT exposure increased sensitivity of *Salmonella* Hadar against gentamicin but no effect was seen in other antibiotics.

Fouad Houssein Kamel *et al.* also observed increased antibiotic resistance to Gentamycin, Ceftazidium, Tetracycline, Chloramphenicol, Rifampicin, Ceftriaxone after exposure of 400, 800, 1200 and 1600 Gauss magnetic field after 2, 4, 6, 8 and 24 hours (21).

In another study Ceon *et al.* (2005) found that static magnetic field increased antibiotic resistance of *E. coli*. (22). According to study done by Marion *et al.* that *E.coli* showed increased antibiotic resistance after exposure of magnetic field. We observed significant changes in antibiotic resistance of ampicillin and penicillin at 10G and 15G SMF exposure but no effect was observed in gentamicin. In contrast, Segatore *et al.* tested kanamycin, amikacin, ampicillin, cefazolin, ceftazidime, ceftriaxone, moxalactam, and levofloxacin antibiotics on *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*. But no significant difference found in growth and antibiotic susceptibility between exposed and unexposed groups (23). In our study 10G and 15G were more effective on *B. cereus* and seems to have increased the growth rate after 10 hours exposure but no significant effect was observed in 20G exposure.

Other studies showed different results according to intensity and exposure time of magnetic field. *E.coli* and *P.putida* exposed to 17mT SMF in different time intervals and inhibitory effect was seen on growth rate and it was reversible after exposure. SMF also caused increased dehydrogenase activity and ATP levels (24). ELF EMF application altered growth rate negatively in both gram negative and gram positive strains after exposure of 1mT magnetic field after 3 hours in comparison to control group. (Ayse Inhan-Garip *et al.*).

There are few studies which analyzed the effect of magnetic field on α -amylase activity, however the results are not conclusive. Shaoyi *et al.* reported that α -amylase activity increases considerably under 0.15T, 0.30T and 0.45T SMF exposure. They also found a change in kinetic parameters and α -amylase secondary confirmation. (25).

Our results showed that α -amylase activity was decreased significantly under 15G SMF. It has been reported that the activity of purified α -amylase which was immobilized onto chitosan increased by 19.53% under 0.15 T SMF exposure. (26).

M.Rochalska *et al.* reported that subjecting seeds of *Triticum aestivum* and *T.dicocuni* to 5mT alternating magnetic field lowered α -amylase activity by 21.7 % and 40.5 % respectively. Another study reported 50% increase in activity of α -amylase under 50Hz, 0.5mT (27). In conclusion, we suggest that further studies should be done to having profound understanding of effect of magnetic field on α -amylase activity.

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