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ACTION OF THE COMBINATION OF ALTERNARIA ALTERNATA AND NEOCHETINA EICHHORNIAE ON GROWTH PARAMETERS OF THE WATER HYACINTH IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Alternaria alternata and *Neochetina eichhornia* are pathogens of water hyacinth which is a major invasive weed on our water ways in the south of Benin. We tested these two agents in a controlled environment on association water hyacinth. The device is made of four treatments with seven replicates .The association is made of two pairs of *Neochetina eichhornia* and *Alternaria alternate* with different sporulations 10^6sp/ml, 10^7sp/ml, 10^8sp/ml, 10^9sp/ml, 10^{10}sp/ml, 10^{11}sp/ml et 10^{12}sp/ml on water hyacinth for twelve weeks and a few days. The average values of the significant parameters of growth at the of the experiment as the weight with sporulation of 10^{12}sp/ml and of two pairs of *Neochetina eichhoenia* 18.80±0.35; those of leaves are 1.12±0.21 and those of buds are 0.80±0.13. Thus A. *alternata* is a potential as an agent of bio control of water hyacinth with $block_7$ T4 treatment.

KEYWORDS: *Altern aria Alternata*, *Neochetina Eichhorniae*, Biocontrol, Water Hyacinth, Sporulation