

The effect of effective microorganisms on the growth and the nutrient content of tomato transplants

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Introduction

- Effective microorganisms (EM) technology was first developed in the 1970's.
- EM is a mixture, containing primarily lactic acid bacteria, photosynthetic bacteria, and yeast, maintained at pH 3.5.
- EM suppress the incidence of pests and diseases, solubilize minerals, conserve energy, increase photosynthetic efficiency, and fix biological nitrogen.

PROBLEM → Elongated, low quality tomato variety 'Valve' transplants.

AIM → The purpose of this investigation was to assess the influence of effective microorganisms on the growth and nutrient content of tomato transplants.

Materials and Methods

Experimental site and time:

Estonian Crop Research Institute greenhouses, Winter of 2014

Substrate:

Peat-based mixture fertilized with Peat Care 11-25-24 (2 kg m⁻³), magnesium sulphate (0.5 kg m⁻³) and mixed with dolomite lime (7 kg m⁻³).

Treatments:

Item	EM treatment	Control
Seeds soaking 0.5 hour	EM 1:500 solution	Water
Substrate treatment	EM 1:500 solution	Water
3 true leaf stage spraying	EM 1:1000 solution	Water
1 week later	EM 1:1000 solution	Water
1 week later	EM 1:1000 solution	Water
1 week later	EM 1:1000 solution	Water

Replications and experimental design:

Randomized block design, plot size 6 plants, 4 replications, experiment repeated 2 times.

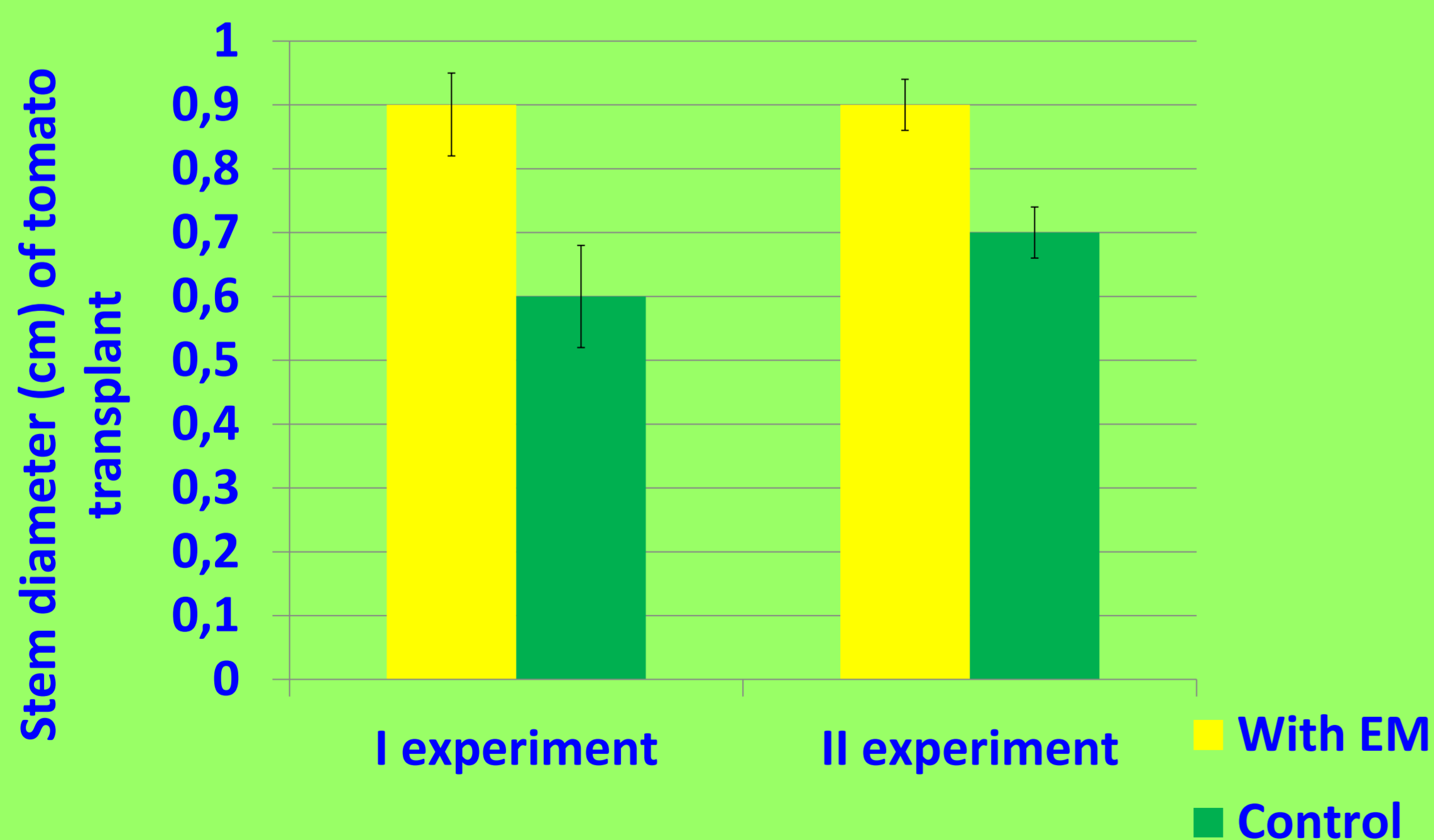
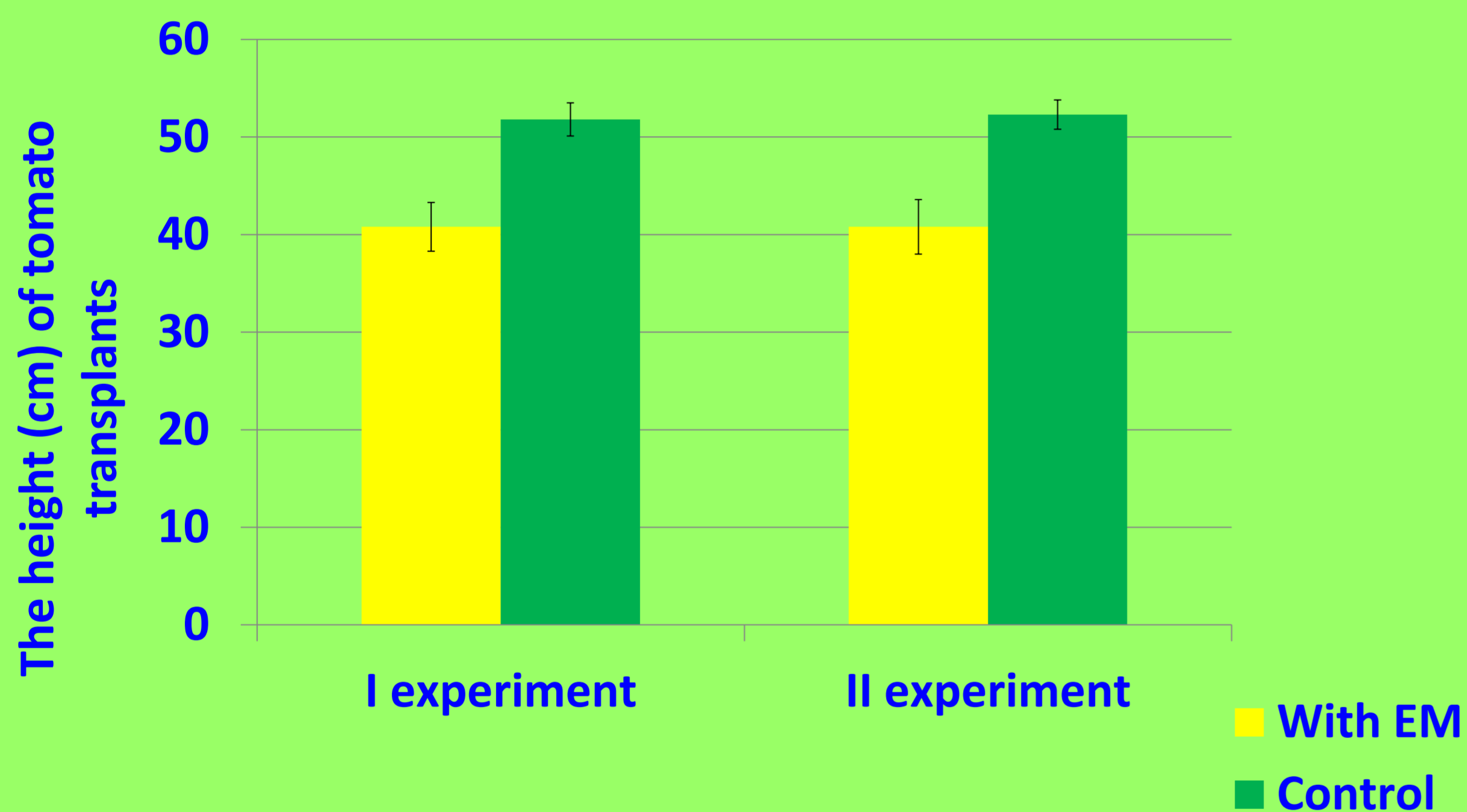
Laboratory analyses:

N, P, K, Ca, Mg content

Statistics:

ANOVA by Excel 2010, comparison of means by Fisher LSD test

Results



Results

Table:

The contents of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium in tomato transplants dry matter (%).

	N	P	K	Ca	Mg
EM treatment	4.0 ***	0.73 *	5.0 **	2.3 **	0.68 *
Control	2.9	0.60	3.7	1.9	0.60



Figure:

The picture of tomato transplants: on the left – EM treatment, on the right – Control treatment

Conclusion:

Tomato transplants stay compact, have thicker stems and contain more nutrients in EM treatment.

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