

**(*Tagetes Patula* L.)**  
**Cd, Al Zn**

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**Growth performance of marigold (*Tagetes Patula* L.)  
at conditions of soil contamination with Cd, Al and Zn**

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**SUMMARY**

- Cultivation of food crops on soils contaminated with heavy metals may cause a serious risk for human and animal health. The ornamental plants can be a good alternative for polluted areas.

- Marigold is an attractive flower species, appropriate for growing in open fields. The aim of this study was to determine the influence of heavy metals Cd, Al and Zn on growth and development of marigold (*Tagetes patula* L.). The plants (cv. 'Janie Primrose') were grown in containers at greenhouse conditions. The metals were introduced into the soil in the form of salt solutions at final concentrations corresponding to maximum permissible concentration (MPC) for the country, lower and higher than it.

- Height and width of the plants and root length and diameter were measured. It was established that at soil substrates contaminated with any of the tested Cd and Al concentrations (soil pH 6.2) and with Zn at levels below and at MPC, plant height and width were not affected, in

Zn

Cd, Al Zn

Cd Al, Zn

Cu, Zn, Fe, Mn, Mo, Ni and Co

- comparison to controls grown on non-contaminated substrate.

- Variations in the timing of bud formation and flowering were not noticed. Plants treated with Zn exceeding MPC died in the stage of flowering.

At all concentrations of Cd, Al and Zn, changes of root system were observed. They appeared as reduction of the length of the central root and enhanced growth of elongated lateral roots.

- The obtained results suggested that, at applied cultivation conditions, the investigated marigold cultivar is tolerant to high levels of Al and Cd, but is highly sensitive to Zn exceeding MPC.

**Key words:** Marigold, heavy metals, cadmium, aluminum, zinc

## INTRODUCTION

- Soil pollution with heavy metals is one of nowadays environmental problems related to urbanization. In most cases the contaminated areas are in vicinity to industrial sites, highways, mines, fuel processing enterprises and others.

- The accumulation of heavy metals in the soils is dangerous for the agricultural production due to unfavorable effects on crop quality and yield, life of the soil microorganisms and on food safety for humans and animals.

- In physiological concentrations some heavy metals such as Cu, Zn, Fe, Mn, Mo, Ni and Co play important functions as trace elements and enzyme cofactors, but at elevated levels may cause

(Nagajyoti et al., 2010)

Pb, Cr, Hg, Cd, Zn, Ni, Cu, Co, Mn, As, Fe (Nagajyoti et al., 2010).

140 000 ha (McGrath, 1998).

ha, ( ) 43 660 0.7%

Zn As (Dinev et al., 2008). 7 985 ha 5 Pb, Cd, Cu, Zn Cd

(Cakmak and Marshner, 1993; Sanita di Toppi and Gabbrielli, 1999).

irreversible metabolic disturbances and death of the plant (Nagajyoti et al., 2010).

Cadmium, Zn, Pb, Cr and Hg are the main pollutants of the environment, especially in areas with increased human activity. Contamination with high doses of these heavy metals, as well as with Ni, Cu, Co, Mn, As and Fe are considered as particularly harmful (Nagajyoti et al., 2010).

In Western Europe the areas polluted with heavy metals are about 140 000 ha (McGrath, 1998). In Bulgaria the soils contaminated with heavy metals and metalloids exceeding maximum permissible concentrations (MPC) amounted to 43 660 ha, which represents 0.7% of the agricultural territory of the country. About 8000 ha are contaminated with more than 5 times MPC, mainly Pb, Cd, Cu, Zn and As (Dinev et al., 2008).

High levels of Zn and Cd in the soil can cause serious physiological disorders, violations of normal metabolic functions in the plant and may lead to phenotypic changes (Cakmak and Marshner, 1993; Sanita di Toppi and Gabbrielli, 1999).

Studies have shown that the phytotoxicity of these two metals is commonly expressed in retarded growth and development, metabolic disruption and stimulation of adverse processes related to induction of oxidative

(Cakmak and Marshner, 1993; Prasad et al., 1999).

Cd

Ca, Mg, K, P  
(Das et al., 1997).

Cd

(Lux et al., 2001).

Zn –  
150 – 300 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> (Warne et al., 2008).

Zn

(Choi et al., 1996; Ebbs and Kochian, 1997; Fontes and Cox, 1998)

Zn

(Ebbs and Kochian, 1997).

Al

( pH 5.5).

stress (Cakmak and Marshner, 1993; Prasad et al., 1999). High Cd levels in the soil can prevent the uptake of Ca, Mg, K, P and water (Das et al., 1997).

The excess of Cd inhibits the growth and development of roots and the aerial parts of the plant, which can even be lethal (Lux et al., 2001)

In some contaminated soils significantly high concentrations of Zn (in range from 150 to 300 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>) have been detected (Warne et al., 2008). High levels of Zn suppress various metabolic processes, negatively affect the growth and stimulate early senescence. Zinc toxicity in plants restricts the growth of roots and above-ground organs (Choi et al., 1996; Ebbs and Kochian, 1997; Fontes and Cox, 1998), and leads to chlorosis of young leaves which, at prolonged exposure to this contaminant may spread toward the older leaves (Ebbs and Kochian, 1997).

Typical for Al phytotoxicity is that it is expressed on plants growing in acidic soils (pH below 5.5). The detrimental influence occurs primarily in the root system, but the damage can affect also the stems, leaves and flowers. Significant genotype related differences in the tolerance and sensitivity of agricultural crops to high Al levels have been

<p>Al (Berzonsky, 1992; Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).</p>	<p>established (Berzonsky, 1992; Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).</p>
<p>Al</p> <p>(Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).</p>	<p>The toxic effect of Al is accompanied with oxidative stress, decrease of photosynthetic activity, negative deviations in the metabolic processes in the roots and impeded absorption of water and nutrients (Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).</p>
<p>(Salt et al., 1995; McGrath, 1996; Susarla et al., 2002; Nagajyoti et al., 2010).</p>	<p>Cultivation of plants not used by humans and animals food is an option to mitigate the problem with the use of contaminated areas and to reduce the risk in environmental aspect. Phytoremediation, by growing plants that are able to accumulate heavy metals and detoxify them by transformation into harmless for the plant compounds, is an efficient approach for restoration and utilization of polluted soils (Salt et al., 1995; McGrath, 1996; Susarla et al., 2002; Nagajyoti et al., 2010).</p>
	<p>The ornamental plants can be suitable for landscaping of polluted with heavy metals areas. However, limited information is available about the effect of heavy metals on the life cycle of flowers and their tolerance to elevated levels of contamination. The possibility for growing annual flowers in polluted soils has not been satisfactory researched.</p> <p>Marigold (<i>Tagetes patula</i> L.) is an attractive ornamental species</p>





Zn  
Cd, Al  
(*Tagetes patula* L.).

Cumulatively the studies indicate that the plant behavior under heavy metal stress is to a large extent dependent on the genotype, the levels of heavy metals in the soil and the ability of the plants to acquire and detoxify these chemical elements.

The aim of this study was to explore the influence of the heavy metals Cd, Al and Zn on the growth and development of marigold (*Tagetes patula* L.).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

(*Tagetes patula* L.), 'Janie Primrose'.  
1:1.  
350 g, pH 6.2, 0.49 mS.cm<sup>-1</sup>  
20  
Al, Cd Zn  
- 100 ml  
CdSO<sub>4</sub> - 1, 2 ( ), 50, 100 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>,  
( ), 100, 200 500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>,  
I<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> - 5, 10

The experiments were carried out in the Institute of Ornamental Plants (IOP), Sofia with marigold (*Tagetes patula* L.), cv. 'Janie Primrose'. The seeds were sown in a substrate consisting of soil and peat in ratio 1:1. After the appearance of the first true leaf the plants were transferred in pots, each containing 350 g of the substrate with pH 6.2 and conductivity 0.49 mS.cm<sup>-1</sup>. Twenty days after the transfer the plants were treated with a range of concentrations of heavy metals. The metals Al, Cd and Zn were introduced into the soil mixture in the form of solutions of sulfate salts. For achieving final concentrations of the salts in the substrate corresponding to the MPC, lower and higher than it, 100 ml of stock solutions were used. The final concentrations were as follows: CdSO<sub>4</sub> - 1, 2 (MPC), 50, 100 and 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> soil; Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>



ZnSO<sub>4</sub> – 100, 250 ( ), 3500,  
7000 27500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>.

21-22

19-20 ;

25-27 ,  
19-23 .

70% ,

ml .

200

40

2

10

Microsoft Office Excel.

- 5.10 (MPC) 100, 200 and 500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> soil and ZnSO<sub>4</sub> - 100, 250 (MPC), 3500, 7000 and 27500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> soil. The pots were placed in plastic greenhouse at air temperature during vegetative stage 21-22° C and soil temperature 19-20° C; during bud formation and flowering the air temperature was 25°-27° C and soil temperature was 19°-23° C. The relative air humidity in the greenhouse was maintained around 70% for the entire period of the experiment, under natural photoperiod for the months from April to July. The plants were watered regularly with 200 ml water per pot. Control plants were grown at the same conditions but were not treated with heavy metals.

The effect of heavy metals on the growth and development of marigold was estimated by the biometrical indexes length and width of the plant and length and diameter of roots. Information on the influence of the metals on the occurrence of phenological phases bud formation and flowering was collected by visual observations. The ornamental qualities of the plants were also visually evaluated.

The presented data were collected 40 days post treatments. The values in the graphs are means of two independent experiments each consisting of 10 replicates per variant of treatment. Data processing was performed

1, 4 5  
(±SD)

with Microsoft Office Excel. Vertical lines on the bars in Figures 1, 4 and 5 show the standard deviation (±SD).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study the influence of Al, Cd and Zn on growth and development of marigold (*Tagetes patula*) was tested with cv. 'Janie Primrose' grown on soil substrate in which the heavy metals were introduced in the forms of  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ ,  $\text{CdSO}_4$  and  $\text{ZnSO}_4$ . The behavior of plants in contaminated soils was compared to not-treated control, and to the effect of concentrations of the metals corresponding to MPC.

It was found that 40 days after the treatment, the height and width of plants, in reference to non-treated control, were not significantly changed at Zn concentrations below MPC ( $100 \text{ mg.kg}^{-1}$ ) and equal to MPC ( $250 \text{ mg.kg}^{-1}$ ) (Fig. 1, 2 B, C).

(*Tagetes patula*),  
'Janie Primrose'  
,  
 $\text{ZnSO}_4$ .  
 $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ ,  $\text{CdSO}_4$   
40  
Zn ( $100 \text{ mg.kg}^{-1}$ )  
( $250 \text{ mg.kg}^{-1}$ ),  
(. 1, 2 , ).

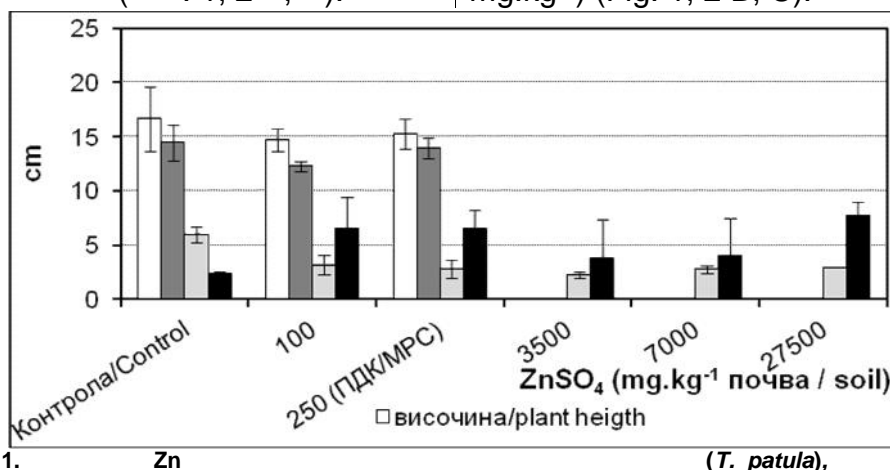
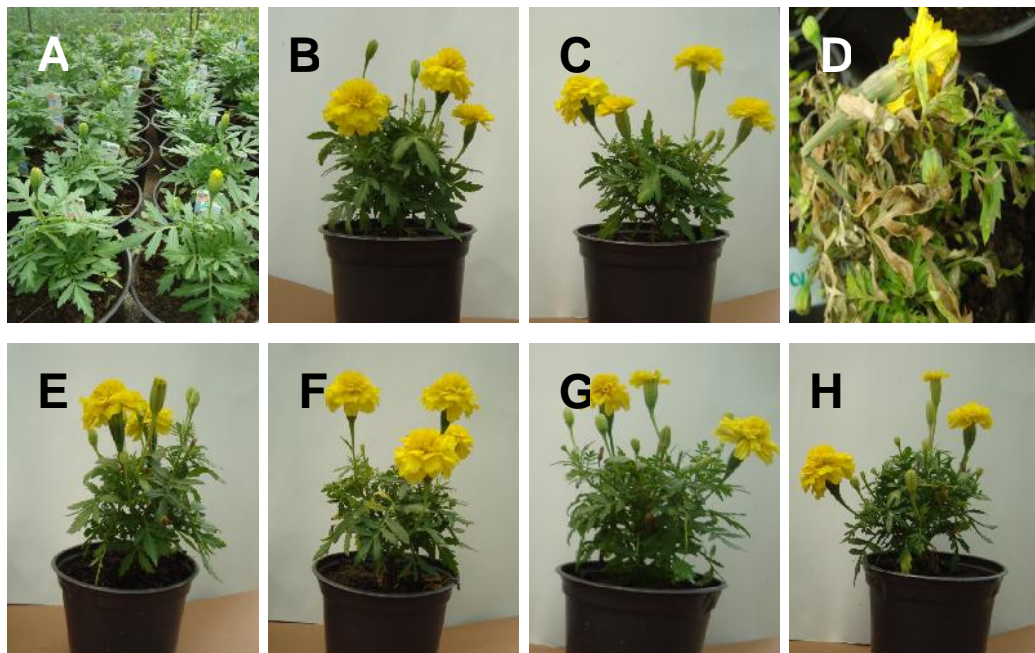


Fig. 1. Effect of Zn on growth parameters of marigold (*T. patula*), cv. 'Janie Primrose'

Zn 14, 28 110

When the soil was polluted with Zn  
dozes 14, 28 and 110 times higher  
than MPC the plants died in the  
stage of flowering (Fig. 2 D).

( . 2 D).



. 2.

Zn, Cd Al

*T. patula*, 'Janie Primrose'.

(A) phase of bud formation; (B) control – non-treated; (C) 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> ZnSO<sub>4</sub> - MPC; (D) 3500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> ZnSO<sub>4</sub>; (E) 2 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> CdSO<sub>4</sub> - MPC; (F) 50 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> CdSO<sub>4</sub>; (G) 10 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> - MPC; (H) 100 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. B - F – stage of flowering.

Fig. 2. Growth performance in the stages of bud formation and flowering of marigold (*T. patula*), cv. 'Janie Primrose' exposed to treatments with Zn, Cd and Al.

(A) phase of bud formation; (B) control – non-treated; (C) 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> ZnSO<sub>4</sub> - MPC; (D) 3500 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> ZnSO<sub>4</sub>; (E) 2 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> CdSO<sub>4</sub> - MPC; (F) 50 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> CdSO<sub>4</sub>; (G) 10 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub> - MPC; (H) 100 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>. Images B - F – stage of flowering.

Zn

An effect of Zn was established on  
the development of root system.  
- Treatments with any tested  
concentration of this metal led to  
- significant increase of root diameter  
- and well pronounced shortening of  
the central root. Enhanced growth of  
the lateral roots in length exceeding  
that of the control was observed  
(Fig. 1, 3 A, B).

( . 1, 3 , ).

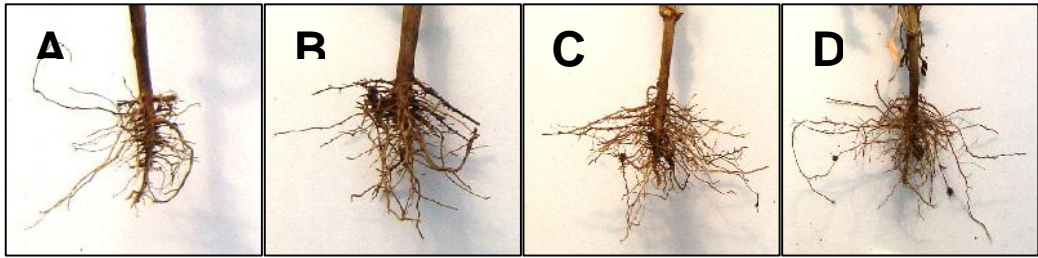


Fig. 3. Influence of MPC of Zn, Cd and Al on root growth of marigold (*T. patula*), cv. 'Janie Primrose' (A) control – non-treated; (B) 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> ZnSO<sub>4</sub>; (C) 2 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> CdSO<sub>4</sub>; (D) 10 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>.

CdSO<sub>4</sub>,  
 1-250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>)  
 ( . 2 B, E, F, 4).  
 Cd,  
 ( . 3 A, C, 4).

At CdSO<sub>4</sub> in concentrations ranging from 1 to 250 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>, including lower and over MPC, an influence of the metal on the width and height of treated plants, in comparison to control, was not found (Fig. 2 B, E, F, 4). In response to Cd, an increase of root system diameter due to development of a number of elongated but thinner lateral roots was recorded. Strongly expressed shortening of the central root was established (Fig. 3 A, C, 4).

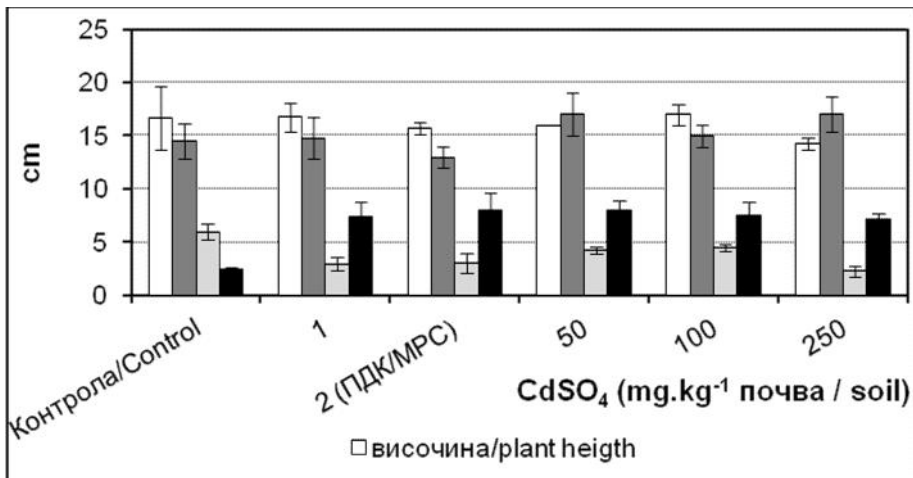


Fig. 4. Effect of Cd on growth parameters of marigold (*T. patula*), cv. 'Janie Primrose'

Cd Zn,  
 $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ ,  
 100 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup>  
 Al  
 2  
 2  
 ( . 2 H, 5).  
 ( . 3 A, D, 5).

In similarity to the plants grown on substrate contaminated with Cd and Zn, in presence of  $Al_2(SO_4)_3$ , irrespective on the concentration applied, the plant height remained unchanged (Fig. 2 G, 5). Slight reduction of plant width was measured at Al concentration of 100 mg.kg<sup>-1</sup> (Fig. 2 H, 5). It was found that, in comparison to non-treated control, at Al doses lower, equal to MPC and much higher than it, the root length decreased approximately 2 folds and the root diameter increased more than 2 folds (Fig. 3 A, D, 5).

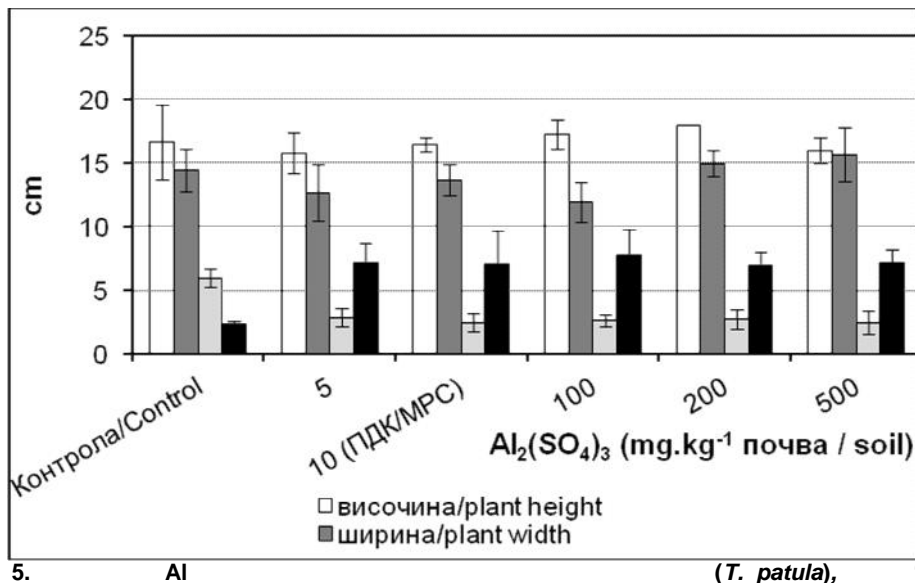


Fig. 5. Effect of Al on growth parameters of marigold (*T. patula*), cv. 'Janie Primrose'

In vegetative stage the application of all tested metals in doses below and at MPC resulted in stimulation of plant growth.

Al

At condition of acidic soils the negative impact of Al toxicity occurs mainly on the roots. It is expressed in decrease of root length due to inhibition of cell division in root meristem and suppression of cell elongation.

Due to impeded uptake of water and nutrients, provoked by unfavorable interactions of Al with other compounds in the soil, the roots usually become thinner and show browning (Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).

(Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).

Ca<sup>2+</sup>

It has been suggested that the addition of Ca<sup>2+</sup> can alleviate the harmful effects of Al (Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010). Our experiments were conducted with soil substrate with pH 6.2 which, at least partially, may explain the lack of negative effect of Al on the root system and aerial parts of the plant, even at metal levels much over MPC.

(Meriño-Gergichevich et al., 2010).

pH 6.2,

Al

The reduction of the length of the central root in presence of Al appeared also in presence of Cd and Zn. Therefore the established in our experiments characteristic morphology and growth of the root system of marigold at soil contamination with each of the three heavy metals suggests a similarity in the response of this plant to the applied stress. For other crops, exposed to elevated levels of Cd and Pb, morphological changes and growth of roots in

Cd Zn.

Cd PI

(Filippenko, 2001).

- horizontal direction are described
- as metal-induced negative gravitropism (Filippenko, 2001).

- The well expressed shortening of the central root and the elongation of the lateral roots might be eventually considered as a mechanism of adaptation to conditions of potentially hampered by the heavy metals access to and acquisition of mineral elements from the soil. The elucidation of this process, however, requires additional studies.

- In comparison to control plants, no influence of Cd and Al was detected on the onset and duration of bud formation and of the flowering period. Stem branching, the number of flowers and the ornamental quality of marigold plants appeared unaffected by the applied heavy metals (Fig. 2 A, B, C, E-H).

( Fig. 2 , B, C, E- ).

Zn,

( Fig. 2 D).

Zn

- An exception was the treatment with Zn in concentrations exceeding MPC, at which the plants died during flowering (Fig. 2 D). Zinc doses below MPC did not cause disturbance of phenophases and deterioration of ornamental value (Fig. 2 A, C).

( Fig. 2 , C).

Cd, Al Zn

- Interesting event was the observed growth stimulation in the vegetative stage, established at contamination with Cd, Zn and Al concentrations below and same as MPC. Similar effect of low doses

Pb, Zn Cu  
*T. patula*,  
 'Roodkapje', *A. houstonianum*  
*Callistephus sinensis*, 'Royal  
 Red Ball',

(Ivanova et al.,  
 2006, 2007).  
*T. patula*, 'Roodkapje' (Ivanova  
 et al., 2007).

*Helianthus annuus*  
 -  
 Zn (Chakravarty et al., 1992).

'Janie Primrose',  
 Zn  
 .  
 -

(Choi et al., 1996).  
*Zinnia merylandica*,  
 'Zahara Yellow',

Cd  
 25  
 Cd  
 ( -  
 -  
 ) (Milusheva et al., 2015).

Cd, Zn Al. E Z.

of Pb, Zn and Cu has been recorded in *T. patula*, cv. 'Roodkapje', *A. houstonianum* and *Callistephus sinensis*, cv. 'Royal Red Ball', where the treatments resulted in enhanced vegetative growth and increased number of flowers (Ivanova et al., 2006, 2007). Slight Zn toxicity was observed in *T. patula*, cv. 'Roodkapje' (Ivanova et al., 2007). In other plants, e.g., *Helianthus annuus*, a weak cytotoxic effect of elevated levels of Zn has been also described (Chakravarty et al., 1992). In our experiments with marigold cv. 'Janie Primrose', Zn in doses exceeding MPC was highly toxic and plants died in a phase of flowering. In studies with other marigold varieties zinc toxicity appearing in limited growth of roots and above-ground organs has been observed (Choi et al., 1996).

In *Zinnia marylandica*, cv. 'Zahara Yellow', subjected to Cd stress, at concentrations of the metal exceeding more than 25 times MPC, horizontal growth of the stems (resembling negative gravitropism) was established (Milusheva et al., 2015).

The observed in current experiments horizontal growth of lateral roots suggests some similarity of the reaction of marigold to Cd, Zn and Al.

Experiments with *Z. elegans*



*elegans*

5-10

Cd

grown in pots with soil containing Cd at levels 5-10 times higher than MPC have shown inhibition of seed germination, reduction of stem and root length, decrease of the number of leaves and lower content of plastid pigments (Thamayanthi et al., 2011).

(Thamayanthi et al., 2011).

The existing information soundly indicates species and cultivar specificity of plant response to the type of heavy metal and degree of soil pollution. To determine the tolerance, sensitivity or resistance, studies with each individual genotype, including ornamental crops, is necessary.

### CONCLUSIONS

*Tagetes patula*,  
Primrose'

( 6.2)

Zn,

Al

'Janie

Cd Al

Cd, Zn

Cd Al,

*Tagetes patula*, cv. 'Janie Primrose' shows tolerance to elevated levels of Cd and Al (pH of soil substrate 6.2) and is highly sensitive to concentrations of Zn, exceeding MPC. Cadmium, Zn and Al exert similar effect on the root system appearing in a shortening of the length of the central root and enhanced growth of lateral roots considerably exceeding the length of lateral roots of non-treated plants. The ornamental quality of marigold, the timing and occurrence of bud formation and flowering were not negatively affected by applied Cd and Al concentrations and at Zn levels not higher than MPC.

Zn -  
 ,  
 -  
 -  
 e Cd, Zn  
 Al ( Al pH 6.2)

The results give us reason to assume that the investigated marigold cultivar is suitable for cultivation at the applied conditions of soil contamination with the established in this study harmless doses of Cd, Zn and Al.

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„ ” – 2.22%, 3,7.

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(Pandey et al., 2009).

(Kumar et al., 2007).

-

(Pelkonen, 2005).

(Kanchanapoom et al., 2011; Saifullah et al., 2010),

(Arzate-Fernández et al., 2007; Pari et al., 2011; Skori et al., 2014).

*in vitro*

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,

-

(Chang et al., 2000; Pandey et al., 2009; Lian et al., 2002).

“Poli “– 2.22% with average number of newly formed bulbs 3.7.

**Key words:** *Lillium*, *in vitro* culture, sterilization, multiplication

## INTRODUCTION

- Lilies (*Lilium*) are one of the main species used in flower production around the world. That's due to the following factors – high ornamental value of the blossoms, high rehydration capacity after prolonged transportation, long life of the cut flowers in water and good economic efficiency for cultivation (Pandey et al., 2009). In terms of cut flowers production, Lilies (*Lilium*) takes the seventh place in the world (Kumar et al., 2007).

In recent years, the method for tissue cultures has proven as being most efficient and suitable for species of the *Lilium* genus (Pelkonen, 2005). This method is used for creation of high quality seedlings (Kanchanapoom et al., 2011; Saifullah et al., 2010), as well as for maintaining germplasm of endangered and endemic species (Arzate-Fernández et al., 2007; Pari et al., 2011; Skori et al., 2014).

*in vitro* Different plant materials are used for introduction in *in vitro* cultures – seeds, stem cuttings, bulbs. However one of the most widely used explants is the bulb scales (Chang et al., 2000; Pandey et al., 2009; Lian et al., 2002).

The purpose of this research

o  
*Lilium*,  
*in vitro*.

(3  
5 ).

*Lilium rhodopaeum* Delip  
*albanicum* Griseb

*Lilium*  
*rhodopaeum* Delip  
*albanicum* Griseb

*Lilium martagon* L.

“ ” “ ”  
“ ” “ ” “ ”

*in vitro*

:  
( )  
70%)

4

1.

- is to assess the natural generative  
- potential of *Lilium*. Test material  
- being used involves 3 wild species  
native to Bulgaria's Flora and 5  
Bulgarian varieties of *Lilium* placed  
in in vitro conditions.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

- The plant material used in the  
- research includes *Lilium* bulb  
- scales taken from 3 wild species  
native to Bulgaria's Flora and 5  
Bulgarian varieties. The wilds  
species are as follows: *Lilium*  
*rhodopaeum* Delip and *Lilium*  
*albanicum* Griseb are endangered  
endemic species local to the  
Balkans and are included in the  
Red Data Book of the Republic of  
Bulgaria. Their blossoms are  
colored in yellow. *Lilium martagon*  
L. is not a protect species and its  
blossoms are colored in pink-red.

- The other five *Lilium* varieties  
- are part of Asian hybrids group.  
- “Andros” and “Negovan” are  
interspecies, while “Marina”, “Poli”  
and “Ana Maria” are intraspecies  
hybrids.

- Two sterilizing agents are  
tested for the introduction of the  
plant material in *in vitro* conditions—  
Mercuric Chloride (HgCl<sub>2</sub>) and  
Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) (in  
the form of commercial bleach  
containing 4% active Chlorine) with  
additional usage of 70% ethanol  
and triple wash with sterile water.

- Four types of surface  
sterilization of the bulb scales are  
tested, represented in Table 1.

1.

**Table 1. Variants of sterilization of bulb scales *Lilium***

Variant	70% CH <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>5</sub>	HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 %	NaOCl 1%	H <sub>2</sub> O Sterile H <sub>2</sub> O
/ Variant 1	1min	3 min	-	3x15
/ Variant 2	1min	10min	-	3x15
/ Variant 3	1min	-	3 min	3x15
/ Variant 4	1min	-	10min	3x15

S (Murashige and Skoog 1962) 6g/l<sup>-1</sup> 30g/l<sup>-1</sup> pH – 5.7.

– 22 °C,  
16:8 ( : )  
30µmol.m<sup>-2</sup> .s<sup>-1</sup>.

: MK%=NxA/100,  
N –

(Tsvetkov, 1998)

± SE

t  
GraphPad Prizm.

- The sterilizing explants are placed in culture medium containing MS (salts and vitamins) (Murashige and Skoog, 1962), agar 6g/l<sup>-1</sup> and sucrose 30g/l<sup>-1</sup> at pH – 5.7.

- The plants are grown in cultivation facilities at 22 °C, photoperiod of 16:8 (day: night hours) and Illuminance of 30µmol.m<sup>-2</sup> .s<sup>-1</sup>.

- The following indicators are reported: number of infected and sterile explants, number of sterile and vital explants, and number of newly formed bulbs.

- The multiplication factor is calculated using the following formula: MK%=NxA/100,

- where N is number of newly formed bulbs (cuttings), A is percentage of multiplied plants. (Tsvetkov, 1998)

- The diagrams represent average values ± SE from two separate independent experiments, with ten repetitions per variant. The authenticity of the data is analyzed through t test using the GraphPad Prizm software.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research shows that most effective sterilizing agent is the Mercuric Chloride, applied at 0,1% concentration over a period of 3 minutes on the plant explants (Variant 1).

- If it is applied for a longer period,
- higher numbers of sterile explants
- are produced, but they are not vital
- for further growth. (Tables 2 and 3).

Destruction of explants likely due to the phytotoxic effect of HgCl<sub>2</sub>. (Singh and Tiwari, 1998, Pandey et al. 2009).

The experiments involving usage of Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl-1%) in the form of commercial bleach do not show better results: a greater number of non-sterile explants in the short-term treatment and reduction of the vital sterile explants during extended treatment periods.

Within the wild varieties of Liliium, the highest number of sterile explants is received from *Lilium rhodopaeum* -18. (Table 2). From the Bulgarian varieties of Liliium, best results are obtained from Ana-Maria variety – 19 (Table 3).

, -  
 HgCl<sub>2</sub> - 0,1%  
 3  
 . - . 1. -  
 -  
 ,  
 -  
 ( 2 3).  
 ,  
 HgCl<sub>2</sub>.(Singh and Tiwari,  
 1998; Pandey et al., 2009).  
 (NaOCl-1%)  
 -  
 HgCl<sub>2</sub>.  
 -  
 .  
 -  
*rhodopaeum* – 18 (  
*Lilium*  
 2).  
 -  
 -  
 - 19 ( 3).



## 2.

-

**Table 2. Sterilization at lilies – Wilds species**

Variant	I	/ I reporting	II	/ II reporting	Live sterile explants number
	(5	/ 5 days)	(14	/ 14 days)	
	Infected / Number	Sterile / Number	Infected / Number	Sterile / Number	
<i>LILIUM RHODOPAEUM</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	2	28	12	18	18
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	0	30	5	25	10
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	13	17	22	8	8
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	5	25	9	21	10
<i>LILIUM ALBANICUM</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	5	25	15	15	15
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	0	30	10	20	13
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	17	13	21	9	9
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	8	22	12	18	11
<i>LILIUM MARTAGON</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	11	19	13	17	16
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	2	28	15	15	13
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	11	17	21	9	8
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	1	29	9	21	10

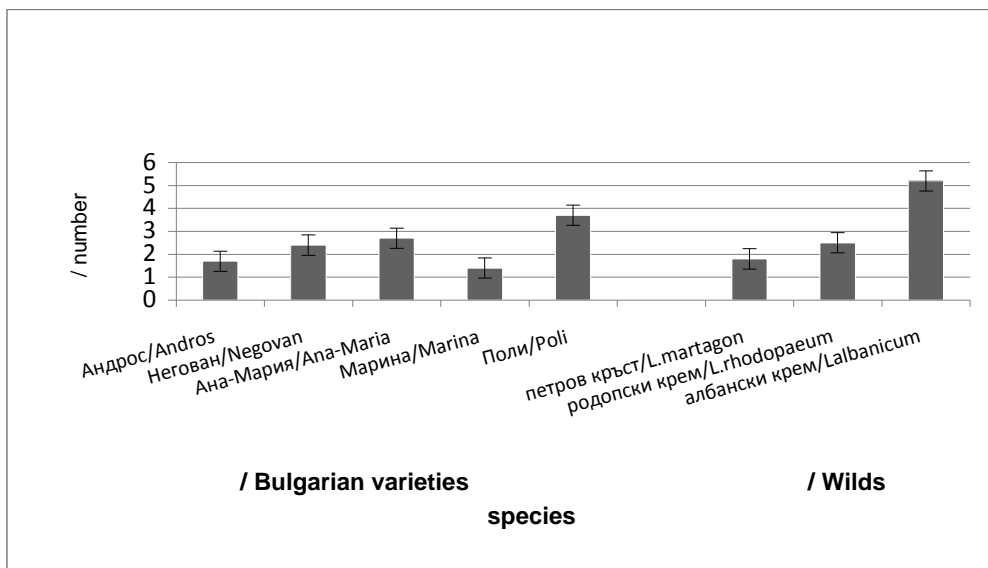
## 3.

-

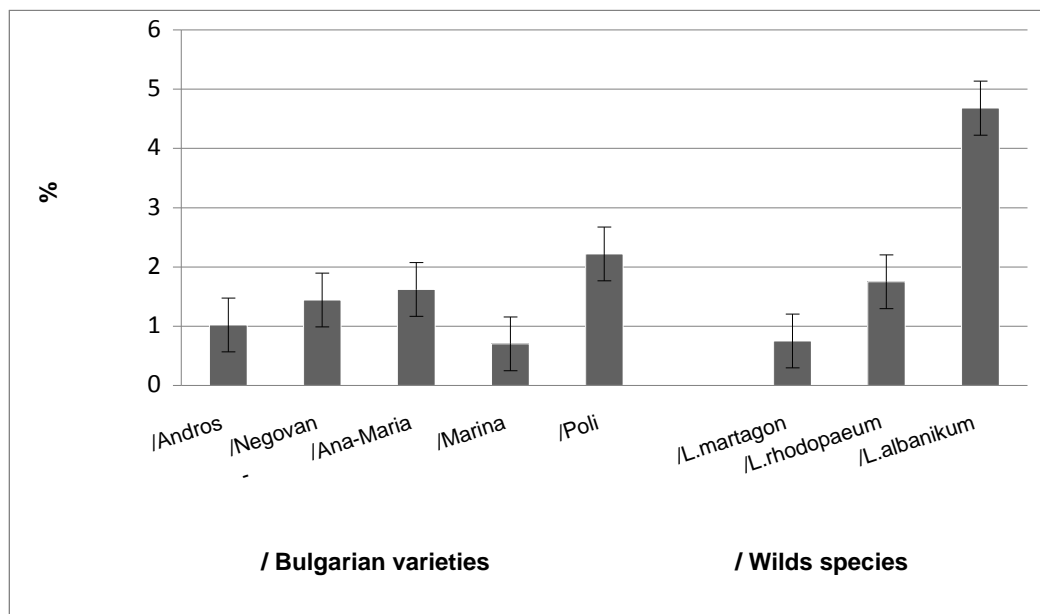
**Table 3. Sterilization at lilies – Bulgarian varieties**

Variant	I	/ I reporting	II	/ II reporting	Live sterile explants number
	(5	/ 5 days)	(14	/ 14 days)	
	Infected / Number	Sterile / Number	Infected / Number	Sterile / Number	
<i>/ANDROS</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	9	20	12	18	18
.2/ HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	2	28	16	14	9
.3/ NaOCl 1 % -3min/	18	12	21	8	8
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	5	25	12	18	10
<i>/NEGOVAN</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	10	20	15	15	15
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	0	30	17	13	9
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	16	14	26	4	4
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	10	20	15	15	9
<i>/MARINA</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	9	21	13	17	17
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	3	27	18	12	10
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	12	18	23	7	7
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	5	25	14	16	8
<i>/POLI</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	15	15	17	13	13
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	6	24	18	12	10
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	19	11	25	5	5
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	7	23	11	19	10
<i>/ANA MARIA</i>					
.1 / HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -3min/	10	20	11	19	19
.2/HgCl <sub>2</sub> 0.1 % -10min/	5	25	15	15	9
.3/NaOCl 1 % -3min/	14	16	22	8	8
.4/ NaOCl 1 % -10min/	6	24	14	16	11





. 1.  
**Fig. 1. Number of newly formed bulbs of *Lilium***



. 2.  
**Fig. 2. Multiplication coefficient of *Lilium***

## CONCLUSIONS

The research shows the following results:

1. ,  
- -  
- -  
- -  
0,1%
2. 3 . ( . 1);  
*Lilium rhodopaeum*  
- -  
;
3. ,  
- -  
*Lilium  
albanicum Griseb* – 4.68%
4. 5.2;  
- -  
„ ” – 2.22%,  
3,7.

1. The highest number of sterile and vital explants is obtained with the usage of HgCl<sub>2</sub> as sterilizing agent, applied at 0,1% concentration over a period of 3 minutes on the plant explants. (Variant 1);
2. The highest number of sterile and vital explants is observed in *Lilium Rhodopaeum* and „Ana Maria“ variety;
3. Within the wild species, the highest multiplication coefficient is determined in *Lilium albanicum Griseb* – 4.68% with average number of newly formed bulbs 5.2;
4. Within the Bulgarian varieties of *Lilium*, the highest multiplication coefficient is determined in “Poli” variety – 2.22% with average number of newly formed bulbs 3.7

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## **(*Gladiolus* L.)**

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### **Effect of planting dates and methods of growing on propagation coefficient in gladiolus**

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#### **SUMMARY**

An experiment was carried out to study the effect of planting dates and methods of growing in a polyethylene greenhouse and field on propagation coefficient of corms and cormels produced by plant. The *Gladiolus* cv. Rose Supreme, cv. White Prosperity and cv. Her Majesty corms were planted in a polyethylene greenhouse and in the field on 6 various dates with a regular interval of 15 days i.e. (February 25, March 10, March 25, April 10, April 25 and May 10) as on the first three dates they were planted in a polyethylene greenhouse and on the last three dates in the field.

Planting dates had a significant effect on the propagation coefficient and the number of cormels formed from mother corm of gladiolus cv. Rose supreme. The best results of propagation coefficient were obtained from gladiolus planted on 25.IV and 10.IV, respectively 2.52 pcs. and 2.02 pcs. by mother corm. The largest number of cormels formed by corm was obtained from those planted on 10.IV and 25.IV respectively 68.90 pcs. and 63.16 pcs.

Planting dates of gladiolus cv. White Prosperity and cv. Her Majesty didn't significantly affect the propagation

	–	Rose Supreme,	White
Prosperity		Her Majesty.	6
15	(25 III, 10	, 25	, 10
	, 25	10	)
		Rose Supreme	
			25.IV
10.IV	2.52	2.02	..
	– 10.IV	25.IV	
68.90	63.16		
		White Prosperity	
Her Majesty			

0.39 . 0.25 .

White Prosperity

10.IV, 25. IV 10.V,  
 ., 30.25 . 23.33 .,  
 Her Majesty

(10.IV) – 65.63 .,  
 (25.II, 10.III, 25.III) –  
 53.52 ., 52.08 . 41.08 .

coefficient from mother corm.

- The variation between the highest and the lowest rate was respectively 0.39 pcs. and 0.25 pcs.

- Unlike the propagation coefficient, the number of cormels formed by a mother corm of gladiolus cv White Prosperity and cv. Her Majesty was affected by the planting dates. The best results from the first cultivar were obtained in the field on 10.IV, 25.IV and 10.V respectively 38.12 pcs., 30.25 pcs. and 23.33 pcs.

- Whereas the best results from the second cultivar were obtained in the field on the first date /10.IV/ – 65.63 pcs. followed by three dates in polyethylene greenhouse 25.II, 10.III and 25.II, respectively 53.52 pcs., 52.08 pcs., and 41.08 pcs.

- **Key words:** gladiolus, propagation coefficient, corm, cormel, planting dates and methods of growing

### INTRODUCTION

(Jenkins, 1963, Jenkins et al., 1970.).

60

100

(Larson, 1992).

(Khan et

- The gladiolus is a very attractive flower and is the object of great consumer demand. To satisfy customer demand, it is important that the gladiolus flower be available all year round. Gladiolus spikes take 60 to 100 days after planting to be harvested depending upon the cultivars and time of year (Jenkins, 1963; Jenkins et al. 1970). These corms and cormels are the chief means of gladiolus propagation (Larson, 1992).

- The date of planting plays an important role in regulating the growth and quality of the gladiolus (Khan et al. 2008.; Dod et al.,

al., 2008; Dod et al., 1989; Saleem et al., 2013.).	1989; Saleem et al., 2013).
(Zubair et al., 2006).	Vegetative growth and the quality of gladiolus is improved by proper planting times, leading to greater satisfaction of consumers' demands (Zubair et al., 2006).
(Ahmad et al., 2011). Talia and Traversa (1986)	Planting schedule varies because of differences in photoperiods, temperatures and light intensity (Ahmad I. et al., 2011). Talia and Traversa (1986) mentioned that better size gladiolus corms were obtained from February and March plantings.
(Mukhopadhyay and Banker, 1981). Ahmad et al., 2011)	Maximum spikes per plant were obtained from April to May plantings while highest number of corms per plant in tuberosa was obtained from March and April plantings (Mukhopadhyay and Banker, 1981). The growth and yield of gladiolus, like other plants, depend on proper planting time (Ahmad I. et al., 2011).
Ivanova & Dimitrov, (2015)	The earlier planting date had a positive effect on the formation of higher corm yield in both cv. 'Iva' and cv. 'Ekaterina' with 7.16 pcs./m <sup>2</sup> and 6.23 pcs./m <sup>2</sup> , respectively, vs. the later planting date (Ivanova and Dimitrov, 2015).
	This study investigates the effect of methods of growing and the timing of planting dates on propagation coefficient of corms and cormels produced by the gladiolus plant.



Supreme, White Prosperity  
Majesty. – Rose Her

6 15 (25  
,10 , 25 ,10  
, 25 10 ),

3 , 3m<sup>2</sup>,

25 ./m<sup>2</sup>,  
10/12 m,  
10-12 m,  
25 m.

– 2.1%, pH  
6.5.

50 – 0,1%+  
0,15% + 58 – 0,1% 20

:  
/m<sup>2</sup>,  
( , 1998).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The research on the effect of planting dates and methods of growing in a polyethylene greenhouse and field on propagation coefficient of corms and cormels produced by plants was carried out at the Institute of ornamental plants–Sofia. Three cultivars of gladiolus–cv. Rose Supreme, cv. White Prosperity and cv. Her Majesty were tested. Corms were planted in a polyethylene greenhouse and in the field on 6 various dates with a regular interval of 15 days (i.e. February 25, March 10, March 25, April 10, April 25 and May 10). On the first three dates they were planted in a polyethylene greenhouse and on the last three dates in the field.

The tests were performed with second size corms, 25 pieces per square meter in three replications, planted in a 3 m<sup>2</sup> plot at a depth of 10-12 cm.

The trial took place on alluvial-meadow soil ( in H<sub>2</sub>O – 6.5) with humus content of 2.1 %.

Before planting, cormels were treated with hot water solution of fungicides and insecticides for 20 minutes.

The following variables were recorded: number of formed corms/m<sup>2</sup>, number cormels formed by a mother corm (Lidanski, 1998). The propagation coefficient was calculated by the following formula:

$$R = \frac{M}{m}$$

: –  
; m –  
; R –

- where: – number of formed  
- corms; m – number of planted  
- corms; R – propagation coefficient

- The biometric indexes were  
- recorded on all tagged plants in each  
- replication. The data were processed  
- statistically (IBMSPSSStatistics 19).

(IBMSPSSStatistics 19).

- The gladioli were grown  
- according to the technology for the  
- production of gladiolus cut flower in  
- the open (Bistrichanov et al., 2012).

( . 2008).

- The selection of planting  
- dates was in compliance with the  
- culture's requirements for the soil  
- temperature. Planting began after  
- the soil reached the temperature  
- of 10 C consistently.

- Purging of corms was done  
- manually, after yellowing 2/3rd of  
- the foliage, corms were dried,  
- cleaned and sorted in fractions:  
- the first size – over 14 cm in  
- diameter, second size- from 12 to  
- 14 cm, third size – 10-12 cm, fourth  
- size – 8-10 cm, fifth size – 6-8 cm  
- and cormels less than 6 cm.

10 .  
,  
2/3  
,  
,  
14 m,  
12-14 m, 10-12 m,  
8-10, 6-8 m  
6 cm.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Greenhouse conditions

- The best propagation results  
- for growing cv. Rose Supreme  
- under greenhouse conditions were  
- obtained from the first planting  
- date 25.II – 145 corms, while the  
- next two dates 10.III and 25.III  
- were respectively less productive  
- with 18.62% and 24.83%  
- compared to the first date (Fig. 1).

Supreme -  
(145 .)

25.II,  
- 10.III 25.III

- 18.62%  
24.83%

( .1).

9 .

51.69% 53.21%

11% - 12 .

8 . (6.77%)

1.38% ( .2).

Rose Supreme

26.21 .

18.63 . 16.06

10.15

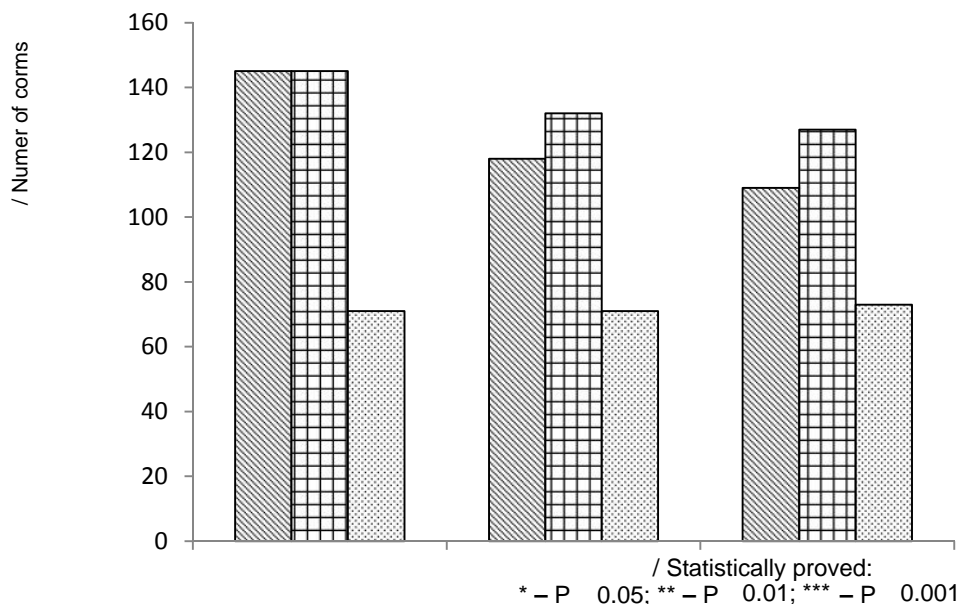
(P 0.05) ( .3).

The difference in the number of corms between the second and third planting date is 9 pcs. and it is not statistically proved.

In the production of gladiolus, not only the total number of formed corms is important but also the number of first and second size corms, which are used for planting for cut flowers.

The number of formed corms of the first and second sizes in this cultivar ranges from 51.69% to 53.21% on the first three planting dates. The largest number of second size corms were the product of the latest date - 12 pcs. or 11% of all, followed by the second date – 8 pcs. (6.77%) and the smallest number – first date with 2pcs. or 1.38% (Fig. 2).

The largest number of cormels in cultivar Rose Supreme were formed from the first planting date – an average of 26.21 pcs. from one mother corm,. This was followed by the third and second date – respectively 18.63 pcs. and 16.06 pcs., the difference between the planting dates with the lowest and highest number of formed cormels is 10.15 pcs. This result is statistically significant (P 0.05) (Fig. 3).



.1.

**Fig. 1. Number of corms formed on different planting dates on of greenhouses conditions**

Rose Supreme  
- (25.II) – 1.93  
0.36 . 0.48 .

White Prosperity  
- 145 .  
8.96%  
12.41%

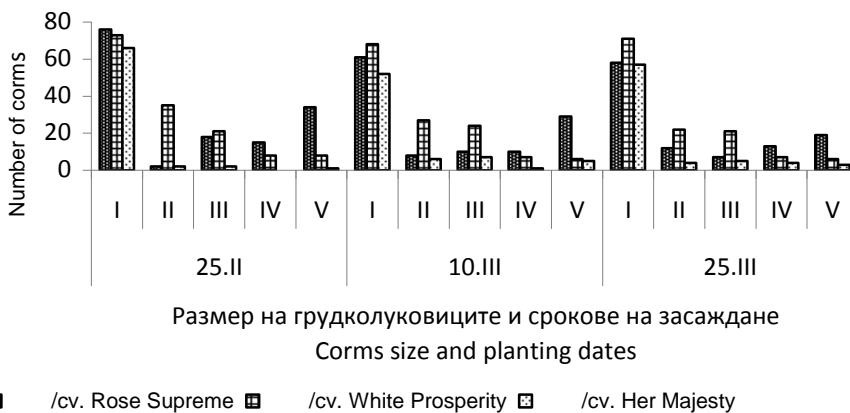
The results show that highest propagation coefficient of corms in cultivar Rose Supreme is obtained from the first date (25.II) – 1.93 pcs., While the second and third date are respectively less productive with 0.36 pcs. and 0.48 pcs. These differences are minimal and unproven compared to the difference between these later dates and the first date.

The largest number of formed corms were obtained from the first planting date in cultivar White Prosperity – 145 pcs., while on the second and third date their number was less – respectively 8.96% and 12.41% and statistically insignificant (Fig. 1)

( . 1).  
 55.91%  
 24.14%  
 27 . 22 . ( . 2).

Like the previous cultivar, in this one the number of formed corms first size range from 50.34% to 55.91%.

The largest number second size corms are formed from the first planting date – 35 pcs. (or 24.14% of all), followed by the second and third respectively – 27 pcs. and 22 pcs. (Fig. 2).



/ Statistically proved:  
 \* – P 0.05; \*\* – P 0.01; \*\*\* – P 0.001

. 2.

**Fig. 2. Formed corms in different size compared to planting dates on greenhouses conditions**

-  
 -  
 -  
 17.10  
 3.5  
 4.98 . ( . 3)

The greatest number formed corms by a mother corms is from the first planting date – an average of 17.10 pcs., while the second and third date their number is less by 3.5 pcs. and 4.98 pcs. a statistically insignificant difference (Fig. 3)

The best results for the

	White Prosperity	-	
	-	-	
	- 1.93	.,	
1.76	.	1.69	.
	3-		
0.17%		0.24%	-
(	.	1).	
	Her Majesty		
0.66 %		2	.(
		.	1).
		- 92.95%	
		78.08%	
73.24%.			
		2,81%	8,41%
		(	. 2).
	Her Majesty		
		-	
		25.11	53.52
		0.72	.
12.48	.	-	
		(	. 3).
	Her Majesty		

propagation coefficient in cultivar White Prosperity were obtained from the first planting date – 1.93 pcs., followed by the second and third date respectively 1.76 pcs. and 1.69 pcs. The difference in propagation coefficient between the 3 planting dates is insignificant (it is not statistically proved) and in this cultivar gladiolus and ranges from 0.17% to 0.24% (Fig. 1).

The difference in the number of formed corms in cultivar Her Majesty from the three planting date is minimal – 0.66% or 2 pcs. (Fig. 1). The corms which are mainly formed are first size, and their percentage in the first date of planting is very high – 92.95%, while the third and the second date have a lower proportion of first size corms – respectively 78.08% and 73.24%.

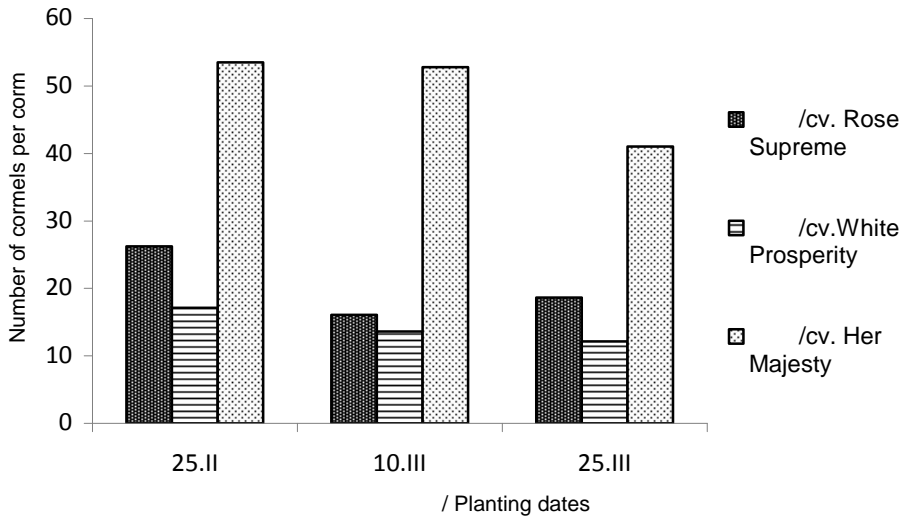
The number of second size corms on the planting dates ranges from 2.81% to 8.41% (Fig. 2).

The largest number of cormels formed by a mother corm in cultivar Her Majesty are obtained from the first planting date 25.11—an average of 53.52 pcs., The difference in the number of formed cormels between the first and second date is very small - only 0.72 pcs. and 12.48 pcs. fewer than the third date (Fig. 3).

The highest rate of propagation coefficient in cultivar Her Majesty was obtained from the latest planting date – 0.97 pc. and

- 0.97 .  
- 0.02 .

the difference between the other two dates is very small and statistically insignificant - 0.02 pc.



/ Statistically proved:  
\* - P 0.05; \*\* - P 0.01; \*\*\* - P 0.001

. 3.

**Fig. 3. Number of cormels formed by a mother corm compared to planting dates on greenhouses conditions**

(  
Supreme -  
25.IV,  
169 .,  
10.05% 46.74%,  
(P 0.01)  
( . 4).

**FIELD CONDITIONS**

The best results of propagation coefficient in field conditions in cultivar Rose Supreme were obtained from the second planting date 25.IV. From which date, 169 pcs. of corms were formed, while the first and third date decreased respectively by/to? 10.05% and 46.74%, a statistically significant difference (P 0.01) in the between the second and third planting date (Fig. 4).

The number of formed corms

- 105 .,  
 - - 31 .  
 ( P 0.01).  
 1 .( .5).  
 -  
 -  
 68.90 .,  
 ' 5.74 .  
 ( )  
 45,03 .  
 (P 0.01) ( .6).  
 -  
 Rose Supreme  
 2.25 . 2.02 .,  
 1.05 .  
 0.82 . (P 0.01).  
 -  
 White Prosperity  
 -  
 10.IV,  
 4.49% 8.97%  
 ,  
 ( .4).

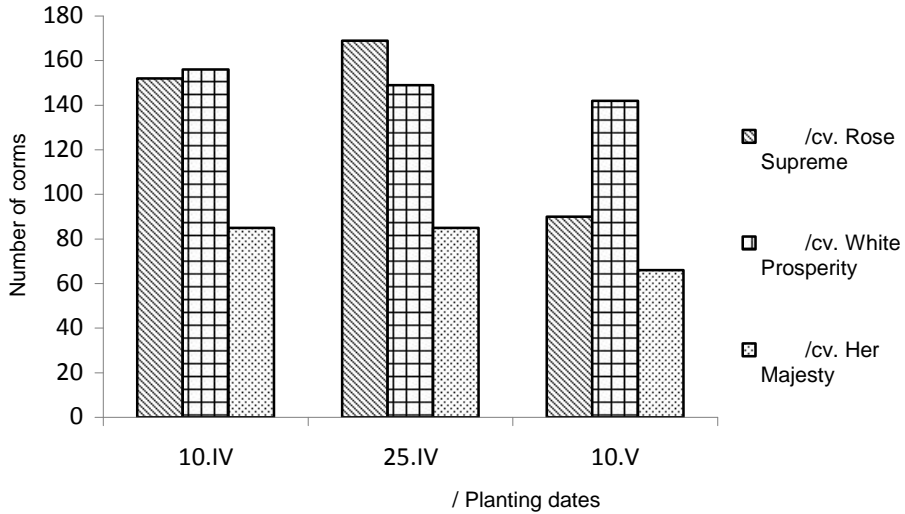
of the first size is equal between the first two planting dates – 105 pcs., but the number from the third date is considerably smaller – 31 pcs., a statistically significant difference (P 0.01). The difference in the number of corms of the second size between the first and second date is only 1 pcs. (Fig. 5).

The largest number of cormels by a mother corm was from the first planting date in field – an average of 68.90 pcs., followed by the second date in which were formed 5.74 pcs. cormels feqwe (not proven), while the latest planting date their number decreased to average of 45.03 pcs. This is significantly different, compared to the first period, proven. at (P 0.01) (Fig. 6).

The highest propagation coefficient of corms in cultivar Rose Supreme were obtained from the first two planting dates respectively 2.25 pcs. and 2.02 pcs., while the third date was lower by 1.05 pcs. compared to the first date and 0.82 pcs. compared to the second date (P 0.01).

The largest number of cormels were formed from planting date 10.IV in cultivar White Prosperity, which exceeds the number of formed cormels from the next two dates with 4.49% and 8.97%, respectively statistically not proved (Fig. 4).

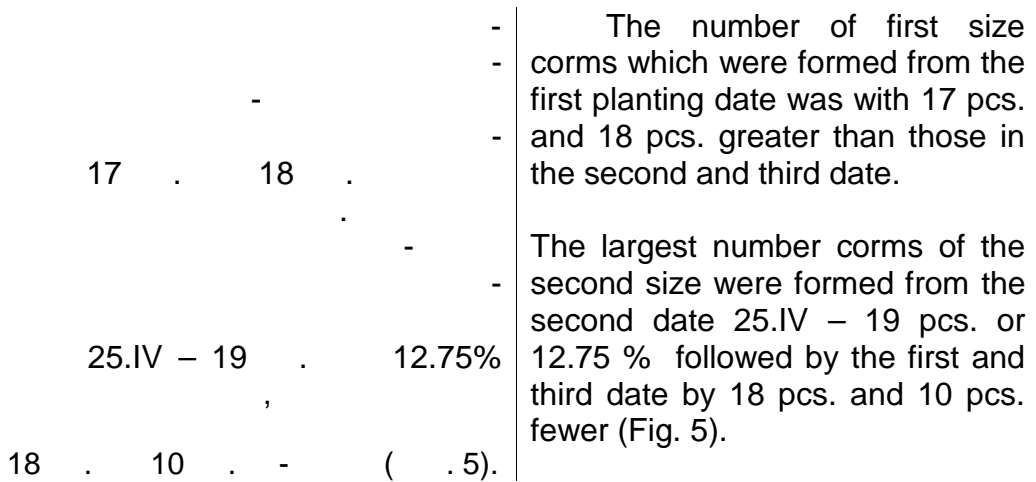




/ Statistically proved:  
 \* - P 0.05; \*\* - P 0.01; \*\*\* - P 0.001

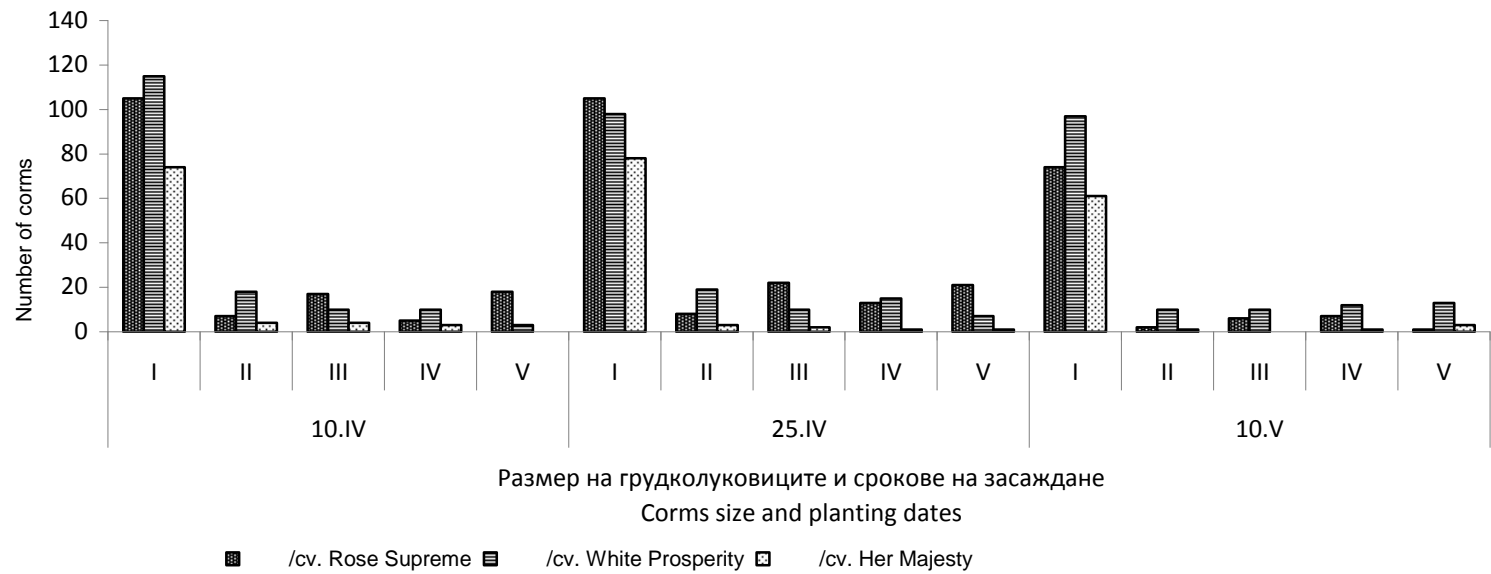
. 4.

**Fig. 4. Number of corms formed on different planting dates on of field conditions**



The number of first size corms which were formed from the first planting date was with 17 pcs. and 18 pcs. greater than those in the second and third date.

The largest number corms of the second size were formed from the second date 25.IV – 19 pcs. or 12.75 % followed by the first and third date by 18 pcs. and 10 pcs. fewer (Fig. 5).



/ Statistically proved:  
 \* – P 0.05; \*\* – P 0.01; \*\*\* – P 0.001

. 5.  
**Fig. 5. Formed corms in different size compared to planting dates on field conditions**

-

38.12

20.65% 38.8% ( .6).

-

White Prosperity

10.IV – 2.08

0.19

Her Majesty

10.V – 22.35% ( .4).

25.04 – 78

4 17

4,71% 1,52% ( .5).

65.63

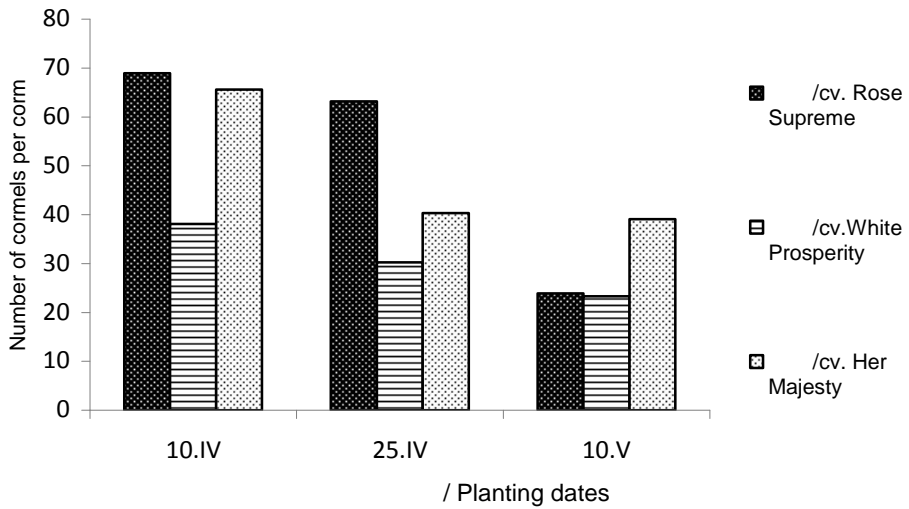
26.52 ( .6).

The largest number of cormels formed by a mother corm on the first planting date is an average of 38.12 pcs., while the number on the second and third date decreases by 20.65% and 38.8% (it is not statistically proved) (Fig. 6).

The highest propagation coefficient of corms in cultivar White Prosperity under field conditions was obtained from the planting date 10.IV – 2.08 pcs., and the difference between the second and third date is very small and unproven respectively – 0.09 pcs. and 0.19 pcs..

Equal number of corms were formed in cultivar Her Majesty from the first two planting date in the field, and from the last date 10.V this number is lower by 22.35% (Fig. 4). The largest number of corms of the first size were formed from planting date 25.IV 78 pcs., while from the first and last date the number decreased by 4 pcs. and 17 pcs. The number of corms of the second size in the three planting dates ranges from 1.52% to 4.71% (Fig. 5)

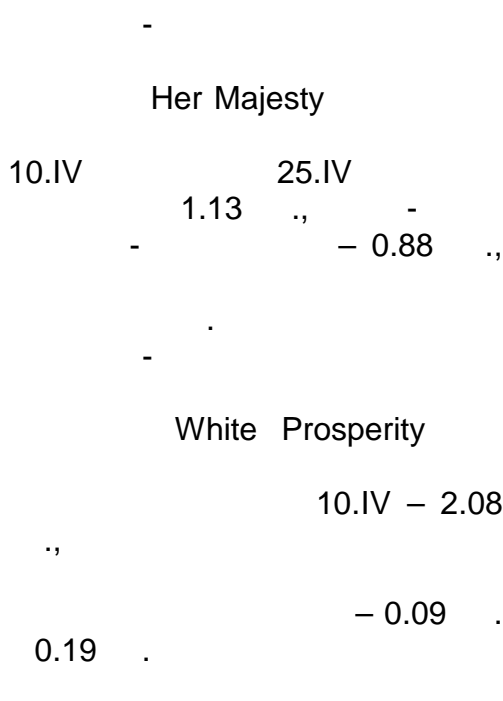
The highest number of cormels formed by a mother corm on the earliest date is an average of 65.63 pcs., while the number from the next two dates the number is lower, respectively 25.27 pcs. and 26.52 pcs. (it is not statistically proved) (Fig. 6).



/ Statistically proved:  
 \* - P 0.05; \*\* - P 0.01; \*\*\* - P 0.001

. 6.

**Fig. 6. Number of corms formed by a mother corm compared to planting dates on field conditions**



The highest propagation coefficient of corms in cultivar Her Majesty under field conditions was obtained from the first and second date 10.IV 25.IV – 1.13 pcs. and was lowest from the latest date – 0.88 pcs., the difference is minor and unproven.

The highest propagation coefficient of corms in cultivar White Prosperity under field conditions was obtained from the planting date 10.IV – 2.08 pcs., and the difference between the second and third date is very small and unproven respectively – 0.09 pcs. and 0.19 pcs.





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