

Effect of Different Substrate Supplements on Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus* spp.) Production

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Abstract To compare the effect of different agricultural wastes on growth and yield of mushroom production, three species of *Pleurotus* viz. *P. sajor-caju* (V₁), *P. ostreatus* (V₂), and *P. djmor* (V₃) were grown on three different substrates cotton waste (T₁), wheat straw (T₂) and paddy straw (T₃). The fastest spawn running, primordial initiation, harvesting stage, maximum number of fruiting bodies and maximum yield was observed in T₁ took minimum number of days T₃ showed maximum yield in 1st flush showing no significant differences with treatment T₁ whereas T₁ took maximum yield in 2nd flush and 3rd flush. *P. djmor* showed the highest percentage of dry matter (17.23%) and moisture content was found high in *P. sajor-caju* (87.37%). *P. ostreatus* and *P. sajor-caju* showed the maximum protein (27.23%) and fiber (26.28%) contents. The ash contents were found maximum *P. sajor-caju* (9.08%). The highest fat and carbohydrate contents were found in *Pleurotus djmor* (3.07%) and *P. djmor* (37.69) respectively.

Keywords Oyster Mushroom, Substrates Selection, Morphological Parameters, Nutrition Analysis

1. Introduction

This Mushrooms are fleshy, spore-bearing reproductive structures of fungi grown on organic substrates and for a long time, have played an important role as a human food due to its nutritional and medicinal properties [1]. Mushrooms are a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals and are known to have a broad range of uses both as food and medicine. A high nutritional values of oyster mushrooms has been reported with protein (25-50%), fat (2-5%), sugars (17-47%), mycocellulose (7-38%) and minerals (potassium, phosphorus, calcium, sodium) of about 8-12% [2]. Edible mushrooms are also rich in vitamins such as niacin, riboflavin, vitamin D, C, B1, B5 and B6 [3].

Oyster mushroom can be grown on various substrates including paddy straw, maize stalks/cobs, vegetable plant residues, bagasse etc. [4]. This has been reported to influence

its growth, yield and composition [5, 6]. However, an ideal substrate should contain nitrogen (supplement) and carbohydrates for rapid mushroom growth [7]. Oyster mushroom cultivation can play an important role in managing organic wastes whose disposal has become a problem. Malnutrition is a problem in developing countries and these wastes can be recycled into food and environment may be less endangered by pollution [8]. Many of mushrooms pose a range of metabolites of intense interest to pharmaceutical e.g. antitumour, immunomodulatory, antigenotoxic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, hypocholesterolaemic, antihypertensive, antiplatelet-aggregating, antihyperglycaemic, antimicrobial and antiviral activities (antitumour, immunomodulation agents, and hypocholesterol-aemic agents and food (e.g. flavor compound) industries [9]. Cultivated mushrooms have higher protein contents and minerals, low in fat and rich in vitamins B, vitamin D, vitamin K and sometimes vitamins A and C [10].

Pakistan is an agricultural country having 70% of its total population being pursued in agriculture directly or indirectly [11]. Agricultural waste material of wheat and paddy straw is reported to be about 11.0 and 3.2 million tonnes per annum respectively, which increased to about 19.27, 5.16 and 1.35 million tonnes of wheat, rice and maize straw during the year 1995-2000 respectively [12] that could be used for the cultivation of mushrooms. China is the major producer of oyster mushroom. The common method of cultivation of oyster mushroom in Zimbabwe is bag culture which requires bulk substrates. Tray cultivation has been used elsewhere with varying degree of success for the production of oyster and shiitake mushroom [13].

It is unfortunate that in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, mushrooms have not caught the imagination of the public at large scale to become an important food item, perhaps the reason for not being taken up widely is non availability of mushrooms at low prices and lack of knowledge [14]. There is an urgent need to develop diversified agriculture in the Pakistan. The present work was carried out with objectives to evaluate the effect of basal substrate supplement such as paddy and wheat straw with cotton waste on oyster

mushrooms production.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Substrates and Spawn Preparation

The study was conducted at Mushroom laboratory, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad during 2011-2012 for evaluation of three *Pleurotus* species viz. *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (V₁) *Pleurotus ostreatus* (V₂), and *Pleurotus djmor* (V₃) on three different substrates i.e. cotton waste (CW), paddy straw (PS) and wheat straw (WS). Species were maintained on Malt Extract Agar medium (MEA) which had following constituents; malt extract (20 gm), dextrose (20 gm), agar (20 gm), peptone (1 gm) and distilled water (1 liter). After autoclaving at 15 psi for 15 minutes, the pH of the medium was 6.5. Plugs of 5 mm diameter were cut from the periphery of the actively growing mycelial colony, transferred to fresh (MEA) agar plates and incubated at 25°C. Sorghum grains were boiled in water (300g/L) for 15 minutes, excess water was drained off, then calcium carbonate and gypsum (1.5% of each) added and mixed thoroughly. The grains were filled into 0.25l milk bottles which were then plugged with cotton wool, covered with an aluminum foil cap and autoclaved at 121°C (15 psi) for half an hour. When cooled, the grains were inoculated with 1 cm plugs from agar cultures or grain spawn of both strains of *Pleurotus* spp., and incubated at 25°C for two weeks.

2.2. Substrate Preparation

Substrates were soaked in water and 2 percent lime was mixed in cotton waste to maintain its pH. After soaking, the substrates were piled up and covered with polythen sheet. Substrates were allowed to ferment for 4 days. Substrates then spread on floor for evaporation of excess moisture and which was finally maintained at 70%. Substrates were filled in polypropylene bags (6×8) and bags mouths were loosely tied with rubber band.

2.3. Pasteurization

The bags were pasteurized, cooled for one day was inoculated with spawn at the rate of 10gm per bag. During spawn running the temperature in growth room was controlled between 22-26 °C for spawn running. The required humidity was maintained between 70-80 % by sprinkling water on the floor several times a day. During spawn running the temperature in growth room was controlled between 22-26 °C for spawn running. The required humidity was maintained between 70-80 % by sprinkling water on the floor several times a day.

2.4. Cropping and Watering

After completion of spawn running the temperature of growing room maintained between 16-25 °C. Fruit body was started as soon as the substrate was fully impregnated with mycelial growth. The humidity of the growing room was maintained between 80-90% by sprinkling water on floor and moisture requirements of the bags was accomplished by sprinkling water on them thrice a day using sprinkler. After the completion of previous step, later in case of cropping, moisture content of the substrate were visually checked daily. However, during the cropping period the bags were sprinkled with water twice a day.

2.5. Morphological Parameter

The data was collected and observations were made on the following parameters: Numbers of days taken for the completion of mycelial growth after spawning, time taken for primordia formation after the completion of mycelial growth, time taken to reach maturity stage after primordia formation, total number of fruit bodies, total number of flushes and yield of each bag and total yield (g) of the mushrooms were calculated after the completion of cropping period.

2.6. Chemical Analysis

Chemical study of mushroom for Moisture content (%), dry matter (%), crude protien (%), crude fiber (%), ash content (%), crude fat (%) and total carbohydrate (%) were analyzed according to standard method Helrich,, [15] by using the following formula;

$$\text{Moisture (\%)} = \frac{\text{Initial Wt. - final Wt.}}{\text{Wt. of sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Dry matter (\%)} = \frac{\text{Wt. of an oven dried sample}}{\text{Wt. of sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{N (\%)} = \frac{(\text{ml of acid} \times \text{acid N})}{\text{Wt. of sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Crude fiber (\%)} = \frac{\text{Wt. of an oven dried sample - Wt. of ash}}{\text{Wt. of sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Ash contsnt(\%)} = \frac{\text{Ash Wt.}}{\text{Wt. fresh sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Crude fat (\%)} = \frac{\text{Wt. of other extracts}}{\text{Wt. of sample}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Crude carbohydrate (\%)} = \{100 - (\text{crude protein} + \text{crude fat} + \text{crude fiber} + \text{crude ash})\}$$

2.7. Statistical Analysis

Both factorial and complete randomized design (CRD) were used to evaluate the growth of *Pleurotus* Spp. on different substrates. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) techniques was employed to test the overall significance of data while the least significance difference (LSD) test was used to compare the differences among varieties means [16].

3. Results

3.1. Spawn Running

Highly significant results were observed among treatments in terms of days taken for spawn running of three *Pleurotus* spp. (*P. sajor-caju*, *P. ostreatus* and *P. djmor*). These species behaved drastically on different growing media in completing their mycelial growth and treatment \times variety interaction was highly significant. T₁ took minimum number of days 16.20 ± 0.59 whereas treatments T₃ and T₂ showed same level of significance with number of days 18.33 ± 0.77 and 18.47 ± 0.55 respectively to complete mycelial growth but differ significantly from T₁. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took minimum number of days 16.27 ± 0.63 . Species *P. sajor-caju* and *P. djmor* showed same level of significance with 18.07 ± 0.69 and 18.67 ± 0.61 days respectively to complete mycelial growth but both differ significantly from *P. ostreatus* (Table 1). Among interaction studies, *P. ostreatus* was recorded best in terms of time taken (in days) for accomplishment of spawn running by taking minimum number of days 13.80 ± 0.37 while grown on T₁ (Fig 1A).

3.2. Emergence of Primordial

Treatments showed non-significant results in terms of days taken for emergence of primordia after completion of mycelial growth. T₁ took minimum number of days 4.20 ± 0.34 followed by T₂ and T₃ with 4.67 ± 0.30 and 4.73 ± 0.33 days respectively to reach primordia initiation. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took minimum number of days 3.73 ± 0.32 . *P. sajor-caju* and *P. djmor* showed same level of significance with 4.73 ± 0.32 and 5.13 ± 0.24 days respectively (Table 1) to complete emergence of primordia but both differ significantly from *P. ostreatus*. *P. ostreatus* was recorded best in terms of time taken (in days) for emergence of primordia by taking minimum number of days 2.80 ± 0.37 while grown on T₁ (Fig 1B).

3.3. Harvesting Stage

Pleurotus spp behaved significantly on different growing media to attain harvesting stage. T₁ took minimum number of days 2.60 ± 0.16 followed by T₂ and T₃ with 2.67 ± 0.21 and 2.87 ± 0.24 days respectively. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took minimum number of days 2.40 ± 0.19 and showed significant results with *P. djmor* which reached the harvesting stage in 3.07 ± 0.18 days after primordia initiation.

P. sajor-caju showed non-significant behavior with both *P. ostreatus* and *P. djmor* by taking 2.67 ± 0.21 days (Table 1C).

3.4. Fruiting Bodies

T₁ took maximum number of fruit bodies 4.33 ± 0.42 followed by T₂ and T₃ with the number of fruit bodies 3.80 ± 0.30 and 3.53 ± 0.24 respectively. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took maximum number of fruit bodies 4.93 ± 0.28 . Species *P. djmor* and *P. sajor-caju* showed same level of significance with number of fruit bodies, 3.53 ± 0.31 and 3.20 ± 0.22 respectively (Table 1) but both differ significantly from *P. ostreatus*. *P. ostreatus* was recorded best in terms of number of fruit bodies by taking a maximum of 6.00 ± 0.32 on T₁ respectively.

3.5. Yield of Mushroom in 1st Flush (g)

Treatments in the first flush showed significant difference in terms of yield. These *Pleurotus* spp. also behaved significantly on different growing media to produce 1st flush. Treatment \times variety interaction was highly significant. Among the treatments, T₃ took maximum yield 21.53 ± 0.83 g in 1st flush showing no significant differences with treatment T₁ which produced 21.40 ± 0.75 g. T₂ showed significant results from T₃ and T₁ by producing 19.80 ± 1.15 g in 1st flush. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took maximum yield 23.73 ± 0.56 g. *P. sajor-caju* and *P. djmor* showed same level of significance by yielding 19.60 ± 1.11 g and 19.40 ± 0.58 g respectively in 1st flush but both differ significantly from *P. ostreatus* (Table 1). Among interaction studies, both *P. ostreatus* grown on T₂ and *P. sajor-caju* (V₁) grown on T₃ were recorded best in terms of yield in 1st flush by producing 25.20 ± 1.11 and 25.20 ± 0.37 respectively (Fig 1E).

3.6. Yield of Mushroom in 2nd Flush (g)

In 2nd flush T₁ took maximum yield 14.73 ± 0.57 g in 2nd flush. T₃ and T₂ showed same level of significance by producing 9.93 ± 0.34 g and 9.13 ± 0.38 g in 2nd flush but both differ significantly from T₁. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took maximum yield 11.87 ± 0.81 g followed by *P. djmor* which yielded 11.47 ± 0.92 g having no significant differences with *P. ostreatus*. *P. sajor-caju* differs significantly from *P. ostreatus* and *P. djmor* by producing a lower yield of 10.47 ± 0.57 g in 2nd flush (Table 1). Among interaction studies, both *P. djmor* grown on T₁ and *P. ostreatus* grown on T₁ were recorded best in terms of yield in 2nd flush by producing 15.80 ± 1.16 g and 15.80 ± 0.49 g respectively (Fig 1F).

3.7. Yield of Mushroom in 3rd Flush (g)

Treatments showed highly significant results in terms of yield in 3rd flush. T₁ (took maximum yield 7.53 ± 0.70 g in 3rd

flush. T₃ and T₂ showed same level of significance by producing 4.60 ± 0.43 g and 4.00 ± 0.28 g in 3rd flush but both differ significantly from T₁. Among the species, *P. ostreatus* (took maximum yield 6.07 ± 0.61 g and showed significant results with *P. sajor-caju* which yielded 4.67 ± 0.42 g in 3rd flush. Specie *P. djmor* showed non-significant behavior with both *P. ostreatus* and *P. sajor-caju* by producing 5.40 ± 0.80 g in 3rd flush (Table 1). Among interaction studies, both *P. djmor* grown on T₁ and *P. ostreatus* grown on T₁ were recorded best in terms of yield in 3rd flush by producing 9.00 ± 1.26 g and 9.00 ± 0.45 g respectively (Fig 1G).

3.8. Total Yield (g)

In terms of total yield, a highly significant results were recorded in the treatments of *Pleurotus* spp. T₁ produced maximum yield of 41.27 ± 1.64 g followed by T₃ and T₂ with total yield of 35.87 ± 1.43 g and 32.87 ± 1.46 g respectively (Table 1). Among the species, *P. ostreatus* took maximum yield 41.60 ± 1.49 g. Species *P. sajor-caju* and *P. djmor* (showed same level of significance by yielding total of 34.60 ± 1.70 g and 33.80 ± 1.30 g respectively but both differ significantly from *P. ostreatus*. *P. ostreatus* was recorded best in terms of total yield (g) by taking a maximum of 49.00 ± 0.45 while grown on T₁ (Fig 1H).

3.9. Moisture Contents

The moisture content was found highest in *P. sajor-caju* (87.37%) followed by *P. ostreatus* (86.27%) and *P. djmor*

(82.77%). The variation in moisture content among different species of mushroom is highly significant (Fig 2A).

3.10. Dry Matter

P. djmor showed the highest percentage of dry matter (17.23%) whereas, the followed by *P. ostreatus* (13.73%) and *P. sajor-caju* (12.63%) respectively (Fig 2B).

3.11. Protein, Fiber, Ash, Fats and Carbohydrate Contents

Crude protein was found maximum in *P. ostreatus* (27.23%) and minimum in *P. djmor* (24.83%) and found in *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (25.24%) range between *P. ostreatus* and *P. sajor-caju* (Fig 2C). Fiber content data described that *Pleurotus sajor-caju* showed maximum fiber content (26.28%) followed by *P. ostreatus* (24.53%) and *Pleurotus djmor* (22.03%) respectively (Fig 2D). Ash contents in three varieties of oyster mushroom were found statistically highly significant (Fig 2C). The result showed that the ash content found highest in *P. sajor-caju* (9.08%) while in *P. ostreatus* the ash content was recorded minimum (6.76%) and the ash content of *P. djmor* (8.35%) found between *P. sajor-caju* and *P. ostreatus* (Fig 2E). The total fat content was found highest in *Pleurotus djmor* (3.07%) as compared to the other two as in *P. sajor-caju* found (2.47%) and in *P. ostreatus* (2.37%) respectively (Table 2). Results showed that the carbohydrate content found highest in *P. djmor* (37.69%) followed by *P. sajor-caju* (37.22%) and *P. ostreatus* (36.74%) respectively (Fig 2G).

Table 1. Morphological parameters of three varieties of Oyster mushroom grown under domestic conditions

Treatments	spawn running	primordia emergence	Harvesting stage	Fruiting bodies	1 st flush (g)	2 nd flush (g)	3 rd flush (g)	Total yield (g)
T ₁ (Cotton waste)	16.20±0.59 B	4.20±0.34A	2.60±0.16 A	4.33±0.42 A	21.40±0.75 A	14.73±0.57 A	7.53±0.70 A	41.27±1.64 A
T ₂ (Wheat straw)	18.47±0.55 A	4.67±0.30A	2.67±0.21 A	3.80±0.30 A	19.80±1.15 B	9.13±0.38 B	4.00±0.28 B	32.87±1.46 C
T ₃ (Paddy straw)	18.33±0.77 A	4.73±0.33A	2.87±0.24 A	3.53±0.24 A	21.53±0.83 A	9.93±0.34 B	4.60±0.43 B	35.87±1.43 B

Table 2. Chemical analysis of three varieties of Oyster mushroom grown under domestic conditions

Treatments	Moisture content (%)	Dry matter %	protein %	Fiber %	Ash %	fat %	Carbohydrate %
T ₁ (Cotton waste)	86.27 ±0.033A	13.73±0.03B	27.23±0.056A	24.53±0.264B	6.76±0.087C	2.37±0.251B	36.74 ±1.13A
T ₂ (Wheat straw)	87.37±0.088B	12.63±0.088C	25.24±0.055B	26.28±0.113A	9.08±0.046A	2.47±0.045B	37.22 ±1.23A
T ₃ (Paddy straw)	82.77±0.033C	17.23±0.033A	24.83±0.043C	22.03±0.062C	8.35±0.081B	3.07±0.061A	37.69 ±1.49A

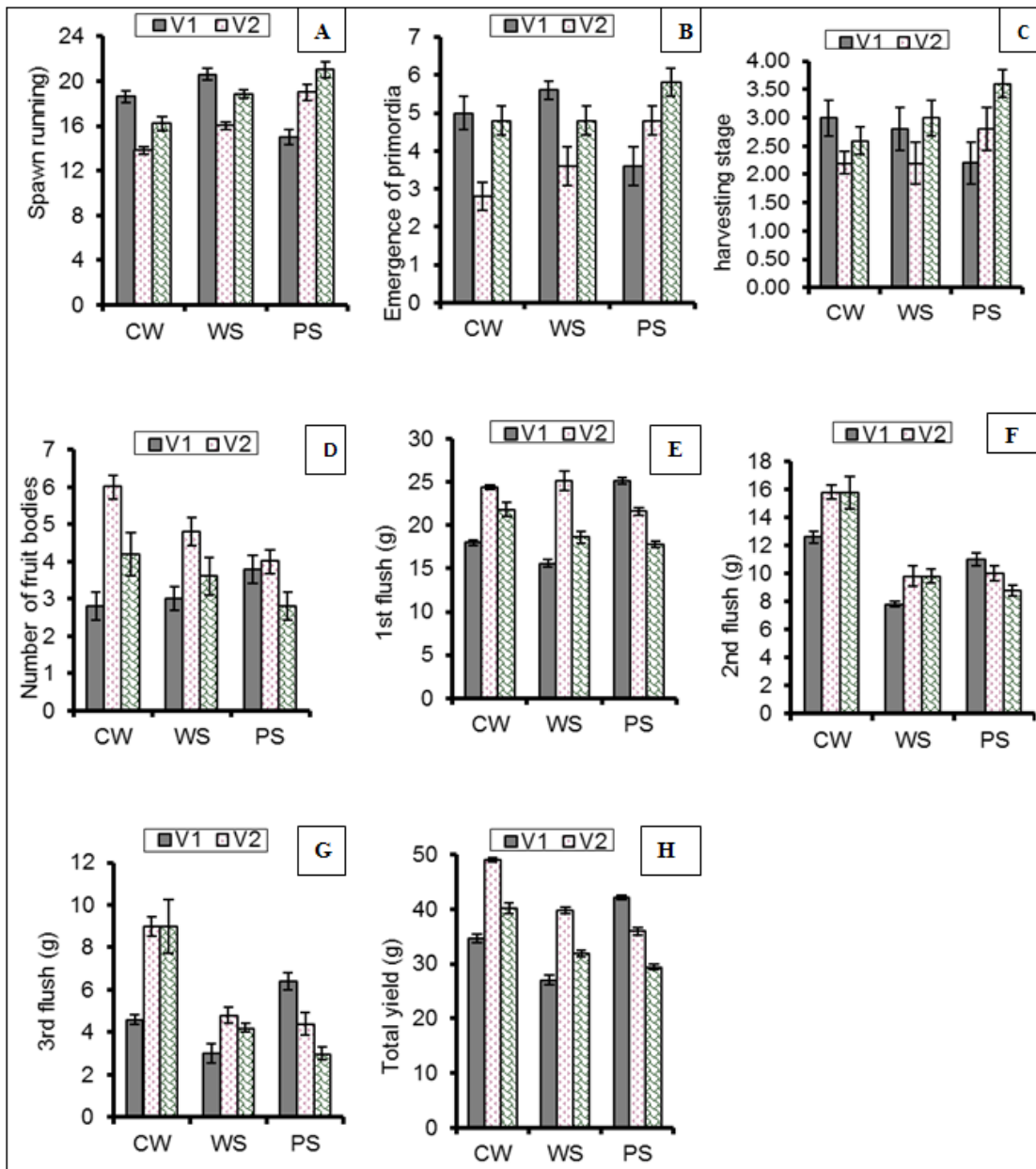


Figure 1. Effect of different substrate on growth parameters of Oyster Mushroom (*pleurotus* spp.)

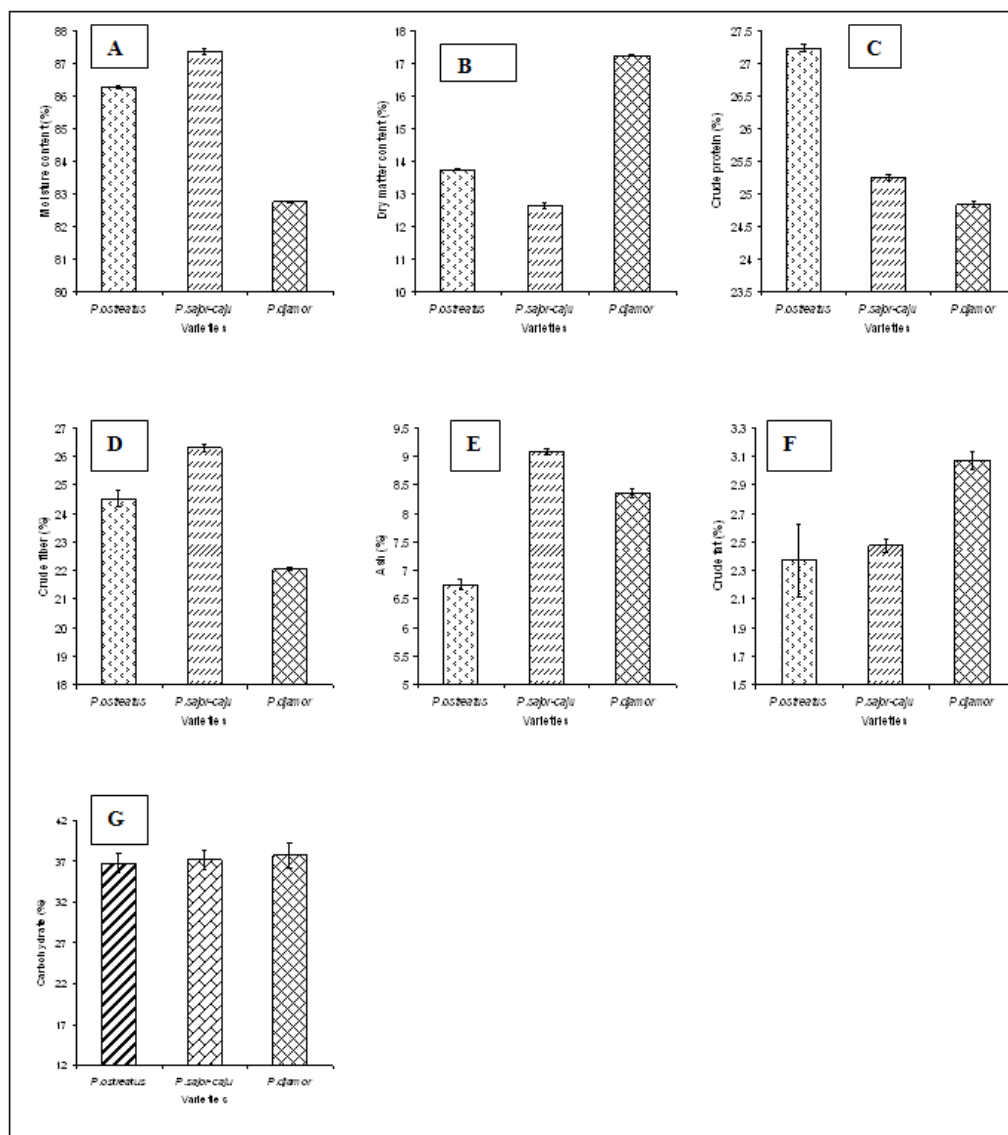


Figure 2. Chemical analysis of Oyster Mushroom (*pleurotus* spp.)

4. Discussion

The Various crop residues can be used in producing Oyster mushrooms either as main substrates or in combinations with supplements. The different strains of oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus spp.*) on cotton waste showed high production in the treatments. The mycelial growth in wet composts was improved when packed less density, possibly because of improved aeration. Most rapid colonization occurs within the temperature range 22-27°C. A wide range of organic waste materials have been proposed for mushroom cultivation. Wheat straw is one example and its 25% supplementation with olive mill effluent gives economic mushroom yield [17].

Mendez [18] grew *Pleurotus ostreatus* on maize straw and analyzed the mushroom fruiting bodies for three flushes for amino acid profile and nitrogen contents. They observed no significant effect of substrate for these attributes but nitrogen

contents of fruiting bodies increased from 4.13 gram to 5.74 gram in 1st to 3rd flush respectively. Weed plants such as *Lantana camara*, *Teohrosia purpurea*, *Cassia sophera*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Parthenium argentatum*, *Sida acuta* and *Leonotis* spp. encountered the problem of low yield on 2nd flush for these substrates but they suggested the addition of rice straw in the weed plants based substrate to overcome the problem [19]. This approach can overcome the problem of low yield in later flushes to great extent. Different methods of compost preparation and lime concentration has the maximum number of flushes and the highest yield (295g/1.5kg substrate) in *Pleurotus sajor-caju* obtained from wetting wheat straw + 2% lime concentration [20].

Crude protein was found maximum in *P. ostreatus* (27.23%) and minimum in *P. djmor* (24.83%) and found in *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (25.24%) range between *P. ostreatus* and *P. sajor-caju*. Materials rich in nitrogenous sources give good mushroom yield as given by the soybean. Materials like

coir pith, dried mango leaves, wood shavings, cotton waste, sugarcane baggass, coconut coir, water hyacinth, *Cassia sophera*, *Lantana camara*, *Leonitis* spp., groundnut haulms, pigeonpea stalks, sawdust and coffee husk etc. were utilized by many researchers for cultivation of mushroom [21, 6]. The artificial application of nitrogen rich source during the mycelial growth stage gives very good results regarding early primordial initiation. It can be concluded that a nitrogen rich source application during spawn running speeds up the fungal mycelium growth and gives early primordial emergence.

The large sized fruit bodies are considered to be of good quality and rated highly in mushroom production [22] but this as an inferior quality since such fruit bodies tend to break during packaging thereby reducing their quality [22]. Dundar [23] cultivated *Pleurotus ostreatus*, *Pleurotus eryngii* and *Pleurotus sajor-caju* on wheat stalk substrate. *Pleurotus eryngii*, *Pleurotus ostreatus* and *Pleurotus sajor-caju* took 85.27 days, 82.64 days and 67.46 days respectively. It was observed that strip opening, forming big holes, or half opening polypropylene bags result in higher yield and larger sporophores. There are many factors which affect the yield, compost preparation moisture level and temperature fluctuation cause low yield. When pH, moisture level and C/N ratio is best then maximum number of pinheads and mushrooms formed.

Baysal [24] investigated paper waste supplemented with rice husk, chicken manure and peat for *Pleurotus ostreatus* cultivation. Highest yield for fresh weight was recorded as 350.2 grams in the substrate containing 20% rice husk. Mushrooms are a potential source of total carbohydrates in the range of 42.62-66.78 g/100g and of protein in the range of 27.95-38.89 g/100g depending upon the species. Very low fat contents 1.34-6.45g/100g makes mushroom a best diet for people suffering from heart diseases [25]. Chang [9] cultivated *Agaricus officinalis* L. and obtained 6.7 kg/m² of yield from this substrate but when they added appropriate quantity of cotton seed hulls then the yield (fresh weight) increased from 6.7 kg/m² to 9.8 kg/m².

The fiber content in *P. djmor* (17.2%) was much higher than those in white and yellow winter mushrooms (*F. velutipes*) at 16.0% and 17.0%, respectively [26]. Oyster mushrooms have rich in fiber and low in fat contents this character is highly beneficial for heart patients. Bultosa [27] found the highest ash content in *P. sajor-caju* grown on bean straw and wheat straws and the lowest content was for *P. florida* grown on bean straw.

Oyster mushrooms have rich in fiber and low in fat contents this character is highly beneficial for heart patients. The study also indicates that the nutritional value of oyster mushroom differs but all species are healthful with abundant amount of fiber and protein and other essential nutrients. Mona [28] investigated nutritional analysis and enzyme activities of *Pleurotus ostreatus* cultivated on *citrus limonium* and *Carica papaya* wastes and they concluded that fruit bodies containing 26.0-31.5% digestible protein, 20.9-33.0% total soluble carbohydrates and 2.0-5.9% fat (on dry

basis). Several white rot fungi are edible mushrooms have been successfully cultivated at commercial level worldwide using lignocellulose wastes as substrates for their cultivation highest percentage of fat content [29].

Dundar [21] found that the carbohydrate values of *P. sajor-caju*, *P. ostreatus* and *P. eryngii* are 37.72, 37.87 and 39.85 (g/100 g dried matter) respectively. The carbohydrate content found in all varieties of oyster mushroom almost showed same result and variation in carbohydrate content is not statistically significant. The analysis shows that all three varieties of oyster mushroom contain excellent nutritional value for human and among three substrates cotton waste supplemented substrate was found excellent material for mushroom production. Protein, fiber and carbohydrates are essential nutrition components and deficiency of these components is serious issue especially in developing countries. So mushroom is essential food to maintain the malnutrition problem in such countries. Mushrooms have long been used as food or food flavoring material due to their unique flavor. Pakistan has a large edible mushroom potential and can become an important exporter of wild mushrooms. This work intended to assess the species which gives good production and high biological efficiency on commercial basis.

5. Conclusion

The study was conducted for evaluation of three *Pleurotus* species viz. *Pleurotus sajor-caju* (V₁) *Pleurotus ostreatus* (V₂), and *Pleurotus djmor* (V₃) on three different substrates i.e. cotton waste (CW), paddy straw (PS) and wheat straw (WS). Among all the treatments cotton waste was found most favourable for mushroom cultivation.

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