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Thermal Imaging and Disease Detection in Patharchatta Plant

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Abstract: Plant diseases cause significant agricultural losses, affecting both crop yield and quality. Early detection is crucial for effective disease management. This study explores thermal imaging as a non-invasive method for identifying plant stress in Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata). Two cases were analyzed: wilting due to dehydration and black spot disease from overwatering.Thermal thresholds of 16°C (early stress) and 18°C (critical damage) were experimentally identified, particularly in fungal-infected Patharchatta plants.A thermal image-based classification model was developed to support detection, achieving over 91% accuracy.The findings demonstrate that thermal imaging is a promising, real-time toolfor early disease detection, enabling proactive plant health management.

Keywords: Thermal Imaging, Plant Disease Detection, Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata), Early Stress Detection, Wilting, Black Spot Disease, Plant Stress Monitoring, Temperature Threshold, CNN-based Classification, Real-time Monitoring

I. INTRODUCTION

Traditional disease detection methods are slow, often identifying problems only after significant damage has occurred. This study examines thermal imaging as a real-time, non-invasive alternative for early plant disease detection. By capturing infrared radiation, thermal imaging can highlight temperature variations linked to plant stress, offering a faster and more efficient approach than conventional methods. The study specifically focuses on its application in Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata), a medicinal plant that is relatively underexplored in the context of thermal imaging-based disease detectionin this domain.

Plant diseases can spread in three main ways: through trade (when plants or seeds are moved), by *environmental* forces like weather and wind, or through insects and animals that carry pathogens. To control the spread of diseases, farmers need to detect them early. The methods used to prevent and treat diseases depend on the type of crop and how the disease affects it.

To better understand plant stress and disease, it's important to analyze symptoms, severity, and other key factors. The data gathered from disease analysis can help farmers make quick management decisions. Identifying diseases early can also improve the overall management of crops.

Traditional methods of disease detection have limitations, so modern technologies like machine vision and remote sensing are now being used to identify plant diseases more accurately and reliably.Thermal remote sensing translates heat patterns on plant surfaces into visual thermal imagery. These images can be captured using handheld cameras or thermal sensors attached to drones (UAVs) or satellites.

This study aims to fill knowledge gaps about how thermal imaging techniques can be used to detect plant diseases.

II. ABOUT PATHARCHATTA PLANT

The Patharchatta plant, also called Bryophyllumpinnatum, is a succulent herb known for its many medicinal properties. It is often called the "Mother of Thousands" or "Life Plant." This plant has a long history in traditional medicine, especially in Ayurveda, where it is highly valued for its healing benefits. The Patharchatta plant, also known as Kalanchoe pinnata, is a type of succulent plant that belongs to the Crassulaceae family. It is native to Madagascar and is famous for its ability to grow in dry conditions. The plant has thick, fleshy leaves and can store water in them, which helps it survive in tough environments. Patharchatta is sometimes called the "Chandelier Plant" because of how its leaves grow in a unique, layered pattern that can resemble a chandelier.

The Patharchatta plant possesses impressive nutritional and healing qualities due to its rich bioactive profile.It contains a variety of vitamins, minerals, and bioactive compounds that make it beneficial for health. Patharchatta is famous for its anti-inflammatory, pain-relieving, and infection-fighting properties. These qualities make it a useful natural remedy for issues like kidney stones, respiratory problems, and skin conditions.

A. Key Features:
1) Flowers: It produces small, bell-shaped flowers that are typically pink or orange.
2) Leaves: The plant has large, green, and thick leaves that can sometimes have a red or purple tint around the edges.
3) Growth: Patharchatta can grow as a small bush or ground cover and can even grow up to 1 meter tall under the right conditions.

B. Nutritional value of plant

The Patharchatta plant, also known as Bryophyllumpinnatum, is a rich source of many nutrients and bioactive compounds. These nutrients play a big role in its medicinal benefits. Here's a simple overview of its nutritional profile in the table below:

NUTRIENT	VALUE PER (100g)
Fibre	6.02 g
Carbohydrates	72.92 g
Protein	5.38 g
Iron	0.18 mg
Fat & Oils	1.28 g
Copper	0.03 mg
Cadmium	0.23 mg
Potassium	3.49 g
Zinc	0.26 mg
Nickel	0.08 mg
Sodium	0.32 mg
Calcium	4.99 g
Lead	0.03 mg

Table 1: Nutritional profile of Patharchatta plant

C. Health Benefits of the Patharchatta Plant

The Patharchatta plant, also known as Kalanchoe pinnatum or "Life Plant", is a medicinal plant used in traditional medicine for its various health benefits. Here are some of its key advantages:
1) Anti-inflammatory Properties: Patharchatta has strong anti-inflammatory effects, which can help in reducing inflammation in the body. It is often used to treat conditions like arthritis and other inflammatory disorders.
2) Supports Respiratory Health: Patharchatta isa common remedy for many respiratory diseases. It is known to ease out problems of asthma, bronchitis, and coughing fits. This planthelpsto expel mucus and alleviate respiratory congestion.
3) Healing Wounds:Patharchatta is known for its ability to speed up the healing process of wounds, cuts, and burns. The leaves can be applied topically to the affected area to promote faster healing and reduce infection.
4) Treats Kidney Stones:It is one of the major traditional applications of Patharchatta, where it is used in treating kidney stones. It is said to break the stones into smaller pieces and ease the pain associated with them. It also prevents new stones from being formed in the kidneys.
5) Improves Immunity:The plant has been proven to have immune-boosting properties, giving the body the strength to fight against infections. It is often ingested as a tea or in another form to strengthen the body's defence system.
6) Antioxidant Properties:Patharchatta contains compounds that can be used as antioxidants that neutralize harmful free radicals in the body. This way, the body is protected from oxidative stress and the development of chronic diseases.
7) Relieves Pain:Sometimes it is used as a pain reliever because of its analgesic effects. Headaches, joint pains, or mild types of pain can be relieved through its use.

8) Detoxification of Liver:Traditional uses of Patharchatta involve its detoxifying effect on the liver and its ability to contribute towards the health of the liver. Its impact is believed to clean up the liver by removing harmful elements from the body.
9) Anti-diabetic Activity: Patharchatta has been known to balance the blood sugar level and can thus be of benefit to the diabetic population. It could aid in reducing blood sugar spiking and improve the working of insulin.
10) Digestive Health:Patharchatta also enhances digestion. It is beneficial for patients suffering from indigestion, constipation, and bloating. The leaves are applied in herbal formulations to aid digestion.
11) Aids in Skin Conditions: Patharchatta is also used for skin problems like acne, eczema, and other inflammatory skin diseases. It has anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties, so it reduces skin irritation and infection.

D. How to Use Patharchatta:

1) Tea:The most common method of using Patharchatta for health benefits, especially in cases of respiratory or digestive problems, is by boiling the leaves in water and drinking it.
2) Topical Application:The fresh leaves can be crushed and applied to wounds or inflamed areas to hasten the healing process.
3) Juice:Juice of the plant is sometimes taken for kidney stones or liver detoxification purposes.

E. Healing Properties of Patharchatta Plant

The Patharchatta plant is known for its powerful healing properties, with each of its benefits playing a key role in improving health.

1) Anti-inflammatory Benefits:The leaves of Patharchatta are known for their strong anti-inflammatory effects, which can help reduce body inflammation. These properties may ease symptoms of conditions like arthritis and digestive issues.
2) Antioxidant Benefits:Rich in antioxidants, the Patharchatta plant helps strengthen the immune system. These antioxidants protect the body from harmful free radicals, boosting immunity and promoting overall health.
3) Antimicrobial Effects:Patharchatta also has antimicrobial properties, making it useful for treating various skin problems. Its leaves or gel can offer relief from burns, cuts, insect bites, and rashes.
4) Pain Relief:The plant has natural analgesic properties that can help alleviate pain, particularly from burns. The compounds in Patharchatta may reduce pain and discomfort.

In conclusion, the Patharchatta plant is a valuable natural remedy due to its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, and pain-relieving effects, making it beneficial for various health conditions.

F. Diseases, Their Cause, Symptoms And Prevention In Patharchatta Plant

Kalanchoe pinnata, also known as Patharchatta or Chandelier Plant, is a succulent that belongs to the Crassulaceae family. Like other succulents, it can get various diseases. Here's a simple summary of common diseases, their causes, and symptoms for Kalanchoe pinnata:

1) *Powdery Mildew*
- *Cause*: Fungi (Oidium or Erysiphe species). High humidity and moderate temperatures (15-25°C or 59-77°F) create the perfect conditions for this disease.
- *Symptoms*: White, powdery spots on the leaves, flowers, and stems. This can cause leaves to yellow, distort, and eventually fall off.

2) *Leaf Spot Disease*
- *Cause*: Fungi or bacteria (like Alternaria or Pseudomonas). High humidity and warm temperatures (21-30°C or 70-85°F) encourage this disease.
- *Symptoms*: Dark brown or black spots with yellow edges on the leaves. Over time, the leaves may shrivel, die, and fall off.

3) *Root Rot*
- *Cause*: Fungi (Fusarium, Pythium), usually caused by overwatering or poor drainage. Excess humidity and cool temperatures (below 20°C or 68°F) make the soil stay wet longer, helping fungi grow.
- *Symptoms*: Stunted growth, wilting, yellow leaves, and roots that are brown, mushy, and smelly. The plant may die if the rot is severe.

4) *Bacterial Soft Rot*
- *Cause*: Bacteria (Erwinia) grow in warm and damp conditions (20-30°C or 68-86°F).
- *Symptoms*: Soft, water-soaked spots that turn brown or black, with a foul smell. This often affects the stem or leaves.

5) Aphid Infestation

- *Cause*: Aphids, small insects that suck sap from the plant. They thrive in warm, dry conditions (20-27°C or 68-81°F).
- *Symptoms*: Leaves may curl, become deformed, or yellow. Sticky honeydew from aphids can attract black Mold, further harming the plant.

6) Viral Diseases

- *Cause*: Viruses like Cucumber Mosaic Virus or Tobacco Mosaic Virus. Stress can make the virus worse, but it isn't directly caused by humidity or temperature.
- *Symptoms*: Yellowing or discoloured leaves, slow growth, and distorted plant shapes. Leaves may show mosaic patterns or dead spots.

7) Mealybugs

- *Cause*: Mealybugs, insects that suck sap, prefer warm temperatures (18-28°C or 64-82°F) and high humidity.
- *Symptoms*: Cotton-like masses on the stems and leaves. Leaves may yellow, drop off, and the plant may weaken.

8) Frost Damage

- Symptoms: The leaves may become soft, mushy, or start turning black/brown at the edges.
- Cause: Prolonged exposure to cold or frost.

Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata) is valued for its medicinal properties but is vulnerable to powdery mildew, root rot, bacterial infections, and aphid infestations. These diseases impact plant health and medicinal quality. Detecting stress early can prevent disease spread and preserve its therapeutic benefits

a) Prevention and Treatment:

- Watering: Water the plant carefully and ensure it drains well to avoid root rot. Kalanchoe prefers dry conditions and shouldn't sit in water.
- Pruning: Remove infected or damaged leaves to stop diseases from spreading.
- Fungicides: Use fungicides for fungal diseases like powdery mildew and leaf spot.
- Pesticides: Use insecticidal soap or neem oil to control aphids and mealybugs.
- Good Air Circulation: Make sure the plant has good air circulation to prevent fungal growth. Avoid overcrowding in pots.
- Avoid Over-fertilizing: Too much fertilizer can stress the plant and make it more prone to disease. By following these tips and treating problems early, you can keep your Kalanchoe pinnata healthy.
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III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

A. Thermal Imaging:

Thermal imaging detects heat emitted by objects and converts it into visible images. It captures the infrared radiation, which emanates from all objects based upon their temperature. The infrared radiation is emitted more highly by warmer objects. So, in thermal imaging, these heat patterns are brought out as different colours on a screen to help identify temperature differences on surfaces. In agriculture, thermal imaging is used to monitor plant health, detect diseases, and assess stress by visualizing temperature changes on plant leaves or soil, which may indicate issues like infection, dehydration, or nutrient deficiencies.

1) Thermal imaging is useful for four main reasons:

- *It doesn't need light:*Thermal imaging works without sunlight or any extra lights, so it can be used both during the day and at night.
- *It detects hot and cold areas*:This technology can find areas that are warmer or cooler than others, helping to spot problems like disease or stress in plants.
- *It sees through fog and smoke:* Thermal imaging can detect objects even when there’s fog or smoke, which regular cameras might struggle with.
- *It works in real-time from a distance:* Thermal imaging allows you to see temperature changes right away, without needing to touch or get close to the plants. This helps monitor plant health quickly and easily.

Thermal imaging is based on detection of infrared radiation, or heat, from all objects whose temperature is higher than the absolute zero (-273°C). Infrared radiation, which is the invisible light in the spectrum, has wavelengths ranging between 0.75 to 100 micrometres (µm). This range includes different types of infrareds, such as near-infrared (0.75 to 2.5 µm), short-wave infrared (1.4–3 µm), medium-infrared (3 to 8 µm), and long-wave infrared (above 8 µm). These categories are based on how well the atmosphere lets infrared radiation pass through.

Thermal imaging systems detect infrared radiation, typically with wavelengths in the intermediate range.It all depends on the emissivity, or how an object emits or absorbs heat. Thermal cameras capture that infrared radiation and turn it into an electric signal that appears as a colour image, black and white with colour gradations to the observer reflecting temperature differences.

The main benefit of using thermal imaging is that it is non-invasive and does not have to be in contact with the object. It's a simple and fast technique to monitor temperature changes in a very short period.

2) Techniques of thermal imaging used for plant disease detection:

Thermal imaging is a helpful tool for finding plant diseases because it can detect temperature changes in plants that we can't see with the naked eye. Here's how it works and why it's good for detecting plant diseases:

- *Temperature Changes*:Healthy plants have a stable temperature, but when they get sick, their temperature can change. For example, diseases can stress plants, causing them to release heat differently. Thermal imaging can spot these small temperature changes, even before you see visible signs like wilting or discoloration.
- *Non-invasive:*Thermal imaging doesn't require touching the plants, making it a safe way to check plant health. It allows you to detect problems without harming the plants.
- *Early Detection*: Thermal imaging can find temperature changes early, which means you can spot diseases before they spread. This helps farmers act quickly to protect crops and avoid using too many chemicals.
- *Detecting Water Stress and Infections*:Many diseases affect how water moves in plants. For example, fungal infections can block water flow, causing the plant to have uneven heat. Thermal imaging can show these hot or cold spots on the plant’s surface, which may indicate disease.
- *Efficiency and Speed:*Thermal imaging can cover large areas quickly. Drones or flying cameras can be used to scan big fields, saving time and effort compared to checking plants by hand.
- *Identifying Specific Diseases:*Thermal imaging can sometimes help identify different types of plant diseases. Each disease can cause a unique temperature pattern, which helps diagnose the problem more accurately.

Thus, thermal imaging provides a rapid, efficient, and non-invasive approachto detect plant diseases early. It helps farmers find and fix problems before they spread, protecting crops and reducing the need for chemicals.

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3) Things which suggest the detection of disease in a thermal image:

When taking thermal images of your plants, you can look for certain indicators that suggest the presence of disease. Plants often exhibit physiological stress due to diseases, which can affect their temperature patterns. Here's how you can assess thermal images to detect potential plant diseases:

a) Changes in Leaf Temperature:

Healthy plants typically have consistent and uniform temperature distribution across their leaves.

Infected or stressed plants may show localized temperature variations due to altered transpiration rates, which can be influenced by the disease.

b) Hot Spots and Cold Spots:

Hot spots on thermal images can indicate areas where the plant is stressed, possibly due to a pathogen affecting the plant's vascular system, leading to poor water transport and increased temperatures.

Cold spots could be due to areas where the disease has caused damage to the plant's surface, leading to reduced metabolic activity or lack of transpiration.

c) Abnormal Temperature Patterns:

Fungal infections and certain bacterial diseases can cause localized temperature differences, as they often block or damage plant tissues, leading to restricted transpiration and altered heat dissipation.

Water stress caused by root rot or vascular wilt diseases may also cause uneven thermal patterns, as the plant may not be able to regulate temperature efficiently.

d) Dehydration and Wilting:

Wilting plants or those suffering from water stress (caused by disease) often exhibit higher thermal readings as a result of poor water retention and evapotranspiration. These plants might not cool down as efficiently as healthy plants.

Leaf curling or yellowing associated with disease may lead to less evaporation and consequently higher leaf temperatures.

e) Tracking Over Time:

Regular thermal imaging of the same plant over time can help identify patterns. If temperature readings become consistently higher or lower than normal, this may indicate disease progression.

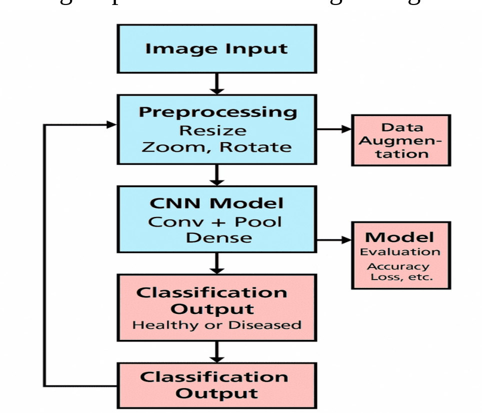
For example, powdery mildew or other fungal infections might first appear in localized areas of the plant, showing increased temperatures, and later spread, showing a larger impact on the thermal signature.

f) Combining Thermal Imaging with Visual Inspection:

Thermal imaging alone may not provide all the details about a plant's health. It should be combined with a visual inspection to confirm the presence of lesions, discoloration, or other visible symptoms of disease.

B. CNN-Based Model Prototype For Disease Detection

This section introduces a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)-based model developed for the detection of plant diseases using thermal images captured from Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata) plants. The model is trained to distinguish between healthy and diseased plants based on thermal patterns, supporting early diagnosis and stress detection.The CNN model was built using 3 convolutional layers with ReLU activation, followed by max-pooling layers and a dense output layer with Softmax activation. The model was trained for 30 epochs using Adam optimizer (learning rate = 0.001) with categorical cross-entropy loss. Batch size was set to 32. The dataset included more than100 images split 80/20 for training/testing.



1) *Working Of Plant Disease Detection Model (Using Thermal Images)*

a) *Image Input*
- A thermal image of a plant leaf(data set collected in section 6)
- The dataset consisted of more than 100 images, divided into 80% training and 20% testing. The CNN was trained for 50 epochs using Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.001.
- Thermal image shows heat distribution — useful to detect stress/disease patterns.

b) *Preprocessing*
- Image is resized (e.g., 224x224 pixels).
- Normalization: Pixel values scaled (0 to 1).
- Optional: Convert to grayscale or enhance contrast if thermal intensity is important.
- Goal: Make all images uniform for training/prediction.

c) *Data Augmentation (optional but recommended during training)*
- Flip, rotate, zoom, brightness change to create variety.
- This helps model learn better from fewer images.
- Only done during training phase, not prediction.

d) *Feeding to CNN Model*
- Processed image is passed into a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN).
- CNN works in layers:
  - Conv Layer: Extracts features like shapes, patterns.
  - ReLU: Adds non-linearity.
  - Pooling Layer: Reduces size, keeps important info.
  - Dense (Fully Connected Layer): Final decision-making.

e) *Model Output (Prediction Layer)*
- After passing through layers, model gives probability for each class.
  - Example: Healthy – 10%, Black Spots – 85%, Wilted – 5%
- Highest probability is selected as prediction.

f) *Display Result*
- Prediction shown to user via GUI (Streamlit, Flask, etc).
- Optional: Show confidence level (e.g., 85% sure leaf has black spots).

2) *Software & Libraries used*
- Programming Language: Python 3.9
- Development Environment: Jupyter Notebook (Anaconda)
- Libraries Used:
  - TensorFlow and Keras: For CNN model building and training
  - OpenCV: For image preprocessing
  - Matplotlib and Seaborn: For plotting confusion matrix and heatmaps
  - NumPy, Pandas: For data manipulation and analysis\

This diagram illustrates the layered structure of the CNN model used in detecting plant diseases. The convolutional layers extract patterns such as stress indicators from thermal images, while fully connected layers help in classification. This hierarchical design ensures accurate detection of plant health conditions.

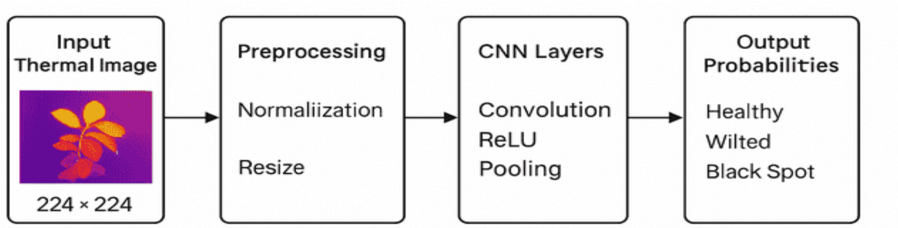


Figure 1: model architecture diagram

3) Statistical Analysis and results

After plant disease is detected and classified, the effectiveness of the suggested methodology is evaluated by using parameters like accuracy, sensitivity, and specificity (in terms of TP, TN, FP, FN).

Accuracy: Accuracy is the percentage of correct predictions out of all predictions. The accuracy can be determined by using the equation .

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{Tp + Tn}{Tp + Fp + Tn + Fn}$$

Sensitivity: Sensitivity is a metric that evaluates the capacity of a model to predict reliably positive cases, or true positives. The sensitivity can be determined by using the equation .

$$\text{Sensitivity} = \frac{Tp}{Tp + Fn}$$

Specificity: Specificity is the ability of a model to predict the true negatives correctly for each category. The specificity can be determined by using the equation .

$$\text{Specificity} = \frac{Tn}{Tn + Fp}$$

Where,

True Positive (TP): The test accurately detects the disease of the leaf and what type of disease is affected.

False Positive (FP): The test incorrectly detects the leaf as having disease, but the leaf is a healthy leaf.

True Negative (TN): The test correctly detects the leaf is affected by any disease, and the leaf has been affected by disease.

False Negative (FN): The test inaccurately detects that the leaf does not have disease, but the leaf has disease.

Metric	Value
Accuracy	91.3%
Precision	89.5%
Recall	92.7%
F1-Score	91.0%

Table 2: Output Parameters

	Predicted: Healthy	Predicted: Wilted	Predicted: Black Spot
Actual: Healthy	26	2	0
Actual: Wilted	1	28	1
Actual: Black Spot	0	2	27

Table 3:A confusion matrix was generated to analyze the classification capability

The confusion matrix evaluates the model's performance, showing high classification accuracy for diseased leaves. Each cell represents correctly predicted cases and misclassified instances, highlighting the model's efficiency in disease detection.

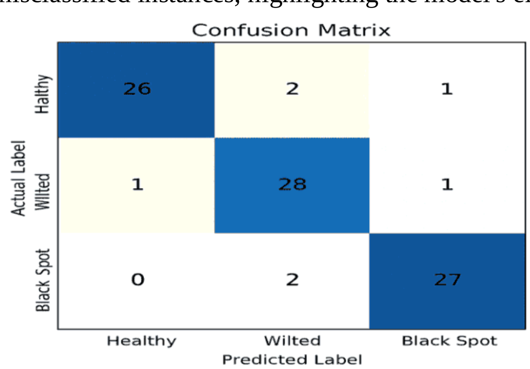


Figure 2: Test Set Confusion Metrix

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Plant A Temp (°C)	Plant B Temp (°C)	Condition
15.4	15.3	Healthy
15.7	15.5	Healthy
16.2	15.8	Early Stress
16.6	16.0	Early Stress
17.0	16.3	Early Stress
17.5	16.6	Stress
18.2	16.9	Critical (Plant A) / Moderate (Plant B)
18.6	17.2	Critical (Plant A) / Moderate (Plant B)
18.9	17.7	Critical (Plant A) / Moderate (Plant B)

Table 4:Temperature Readings and Conditions

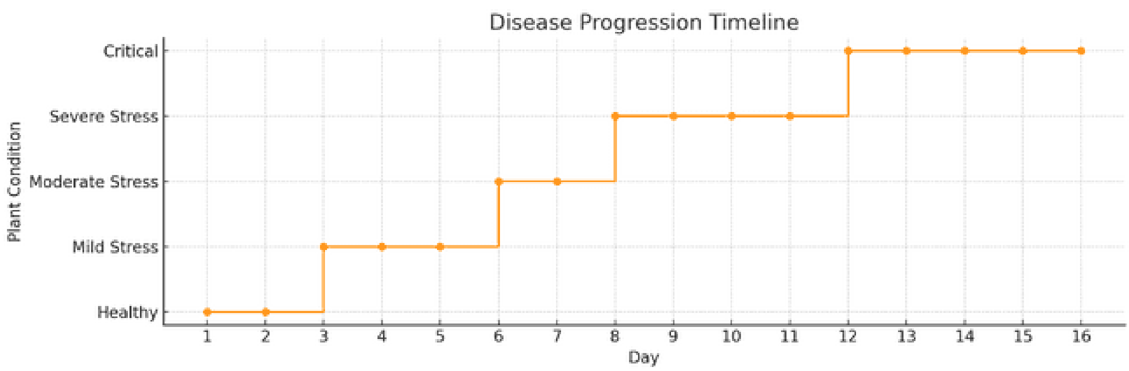


Figure 3: Disease Progression Timeline

Condition	Avg. Temp (Plant A)	Avg. Temp (Plant B)
Healthy	15.55°C	15.4°C
Early Stress	16.6°C	16.0°C
Moderate Stress	17.85°C	16.85°C
Critical	18.9°C	Not known

Table 5: Average Temperature Under Different Conditions

This figure demonstrates the gradual progression of stress in Plant B compared to the critical temperature threshold exceeded by Plant A. It reinforces the importance of thermal thresholds (16°C - 18°C) in disease prediction.

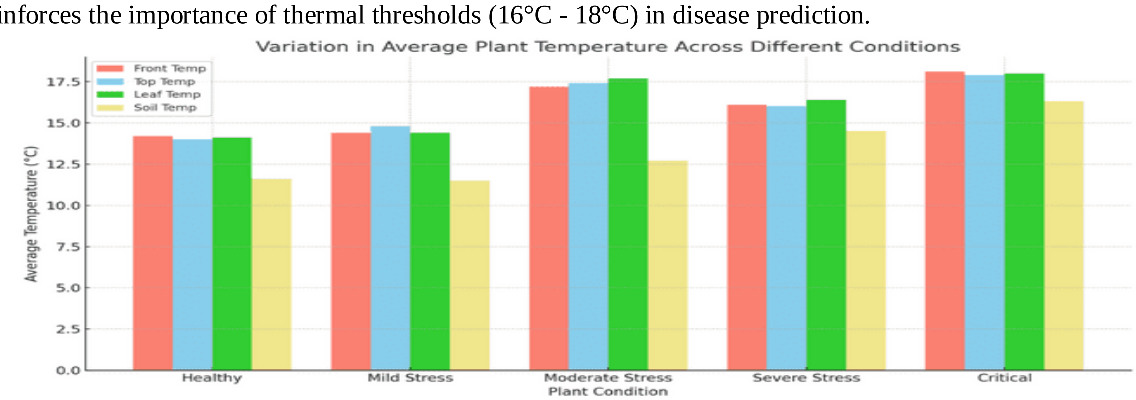


Figure 4: Average Plant Temperature Under Different Conditions

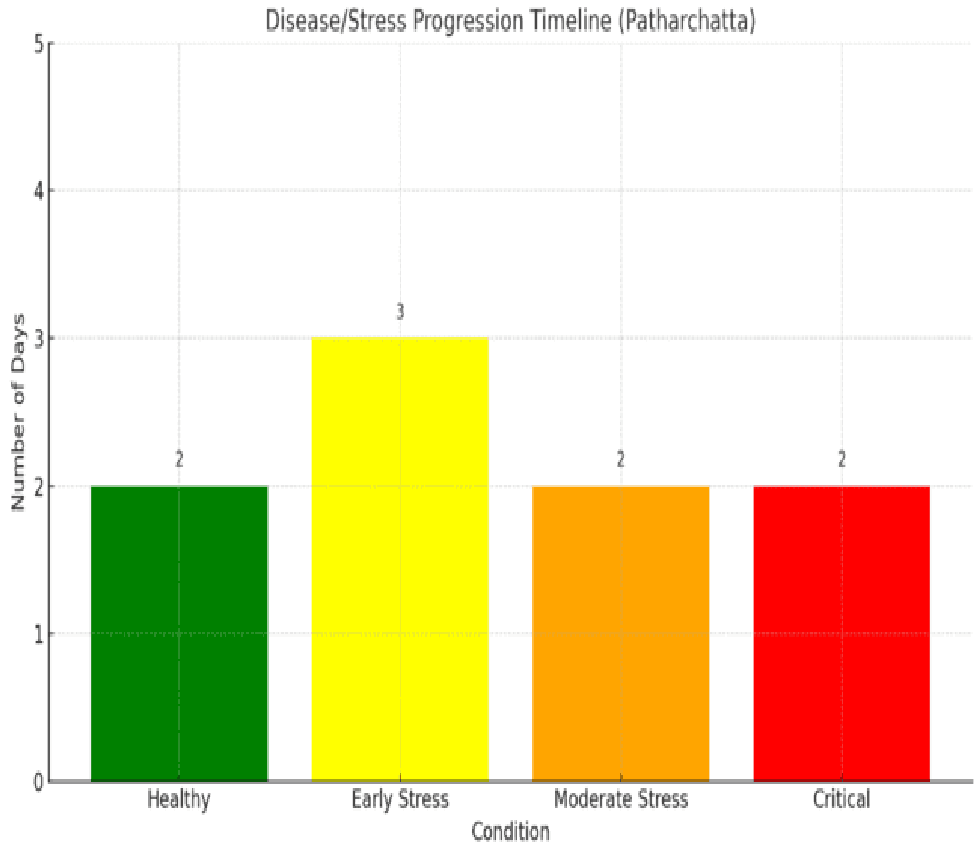


Figure 5: stress progression timeline

4) *Advantages OfThe Model*

- Detects early disease symptoms before visual signs
- Non-invasive, image-based diagnosis
- Effective in low-light and foggy conditions
- Can be deployed on low-cost devices (e.g., Raspberry Pi with thermal camera)

Conclusion

Plant infection can be inferred when consistent abnormalities are observed in the temperature patterns compared to healthy plants. These patterns may include unusual hot or cold spots, uneven temperature distribution, or changes over time. Regular monitoring and comparison with healthy controls will help you identify diseases early.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL METHODOLOGY

Thermal imaging is an effective tool for monitoring plant health by detecting infrared radiation emitted by plants. In this study, thermal imaging was used to analyse temperature variations in two Patharchatta plants (Bryophyllumpinnatum) over a 16-day period to understand how temperature changes correlate with plant diseases. The objective was to identify early disease symptoms based on thermal variations before visible signs appeared.

The experiment was conducted under controlled environmental conditions to monitor plant responses to two specific stress conditions: water deprivation (wilting disease) and excessive watering (black spot disease caused by fungal infection).

A. *Thermal Imaging in Plant Health Monitoring*

Thermal imaging is based on the principle that all objects emit infrared radiation proportional to their temperature. A thermal camera captures this radiation and converts it into a thermal image, where temperature variations appear as different colour intensities.

In healthy plants, transpiration helps regulate temperature, resulting in even heat distribution across the leaf surface. However, in diseased plants, physiological stress alters transpiration, causing hot spots (higher temperature regions) or cold spots (lower temperature regions) depending on the nature of the disease.

This study aimed to:

1) Measure temperature variations in plants experiencing water stress or fungal infections.
2) Correlate temperature changes with plant health conditions.
3) Analyse thermal patterns to detect early signs of disease.

A FLIR thermal imaging camera (testo 872) was used to capture images of the plants daily. The recorded temperature data was compared over time to monitor disease progression.

- Device Used: *Testo 872 Infrared Thermal Camera*
- Resolution: 320 × 240 pixels
- Thermal Sensitivity (NETD): < 0.06°C
- Temperature Range: -30°C to +650°C
- Imaging Mode: Thermal + Visual Overlay
- The Testo 872 was used to capture daily thermal images of both healthy and infected Patharchatta plants across a 15-day span. The camera's high sensitivity enabled early detection of temperature fluctuations indicating stress or disease.

B. Disease Identification

Two major cases were studied:

1) *Wilting Disease (Plant 1)*– This plant was deprived of water, leading to progressive dehydration. The thermal images showed increased temperature in the leaves due to reduced transpiration.
2) *Black Spot Disease (Plant 2)*– Excessive watering caused fungal infection, leading to black spots on the leaves. Thermal imaging revealed cooler regions corresponding to the infected areas.

Both cases were monitored closely to assess disease progression and recovery after implementing corrective measures.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULT

The following thermal images represent the temperature variations recorded during the experiment, conducted at Bikaner Technical University during cold weather conditions. The plants were exposed to different environmental settings, and their temperatures were measured using thermal imaging technology to analyse stress levels and disease progression.

1) Thermal Imaging and Temperature Readings:

The thermal images display temperature variations across the plant surfaces, providing insights into their health conditions. The temperatures recorded on the images indicate how environmental factors influenced plant stress.

2) Experimental Setup:

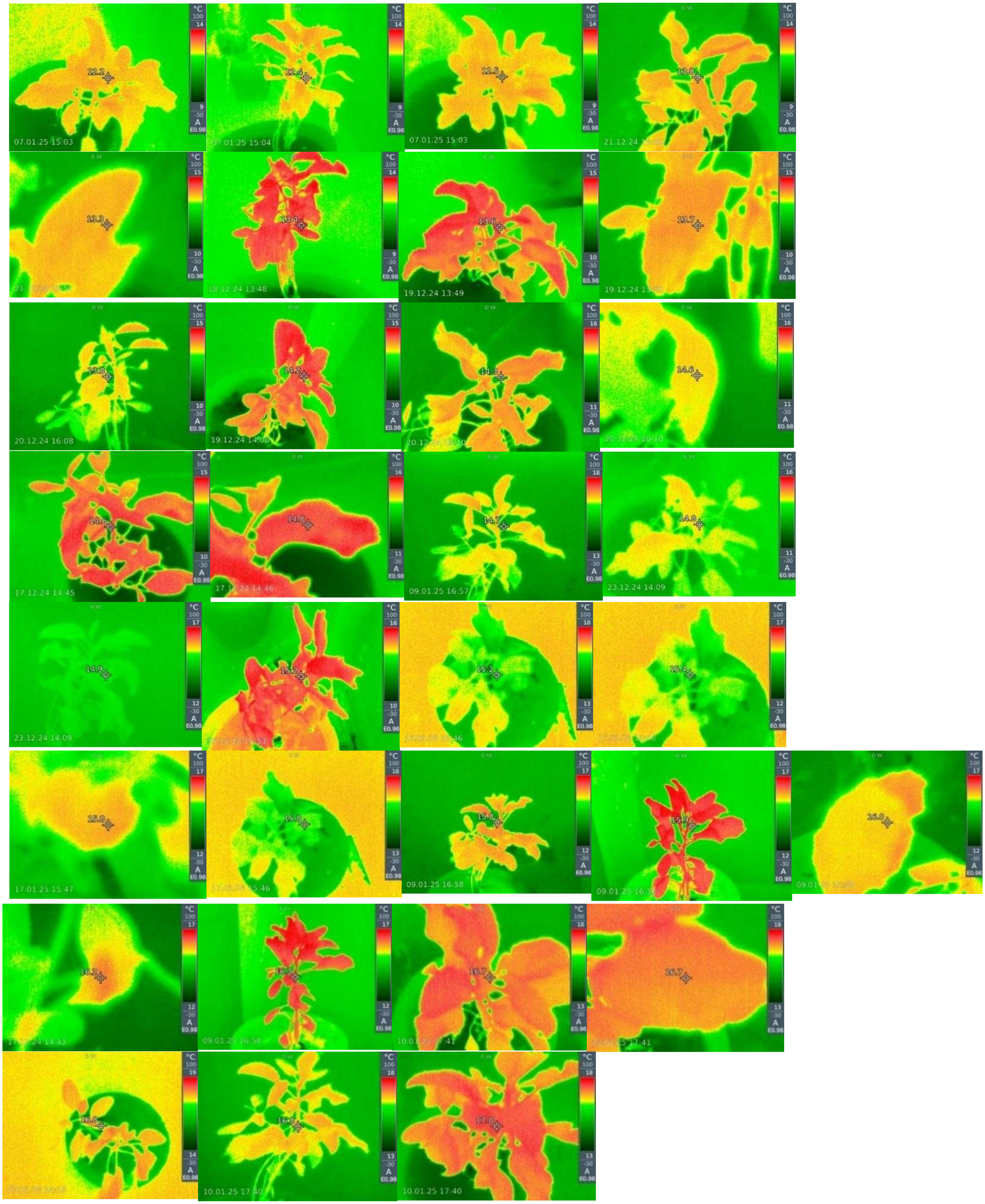
The plants were kept in Bikaner, where the weather was cold, leading to naturally lower ambient temperatures.

- One plant was placed in dry soil outdoors, where its temperature ranged between 16.9°C and 17.7°C. The lower part of the plant started drying, while the upper leaves remained green.
- The second plant was kept indoors in a closed room with excessive watering. It developed black spots, and its temperature rose above 18°C, leading to plant death due to excessive moisture stress.

3) Key Findings from Thermal Analysis:

- The plant started showing signs of infection when its temperature exceeded 16°C.
- A temperature above 18°C indicated severe plant stress, leading to complete deterioration.
- Thermal imaging effectively detected these changes, allowing for early disease identification before visible symptoms appeared.

The results confirm that thermal imaging is a reliable method for tracking plant health, especially under varying environmental conditions. The study highlights the importance of temperature monitoring in diagnosing plant diseases at an early stage.



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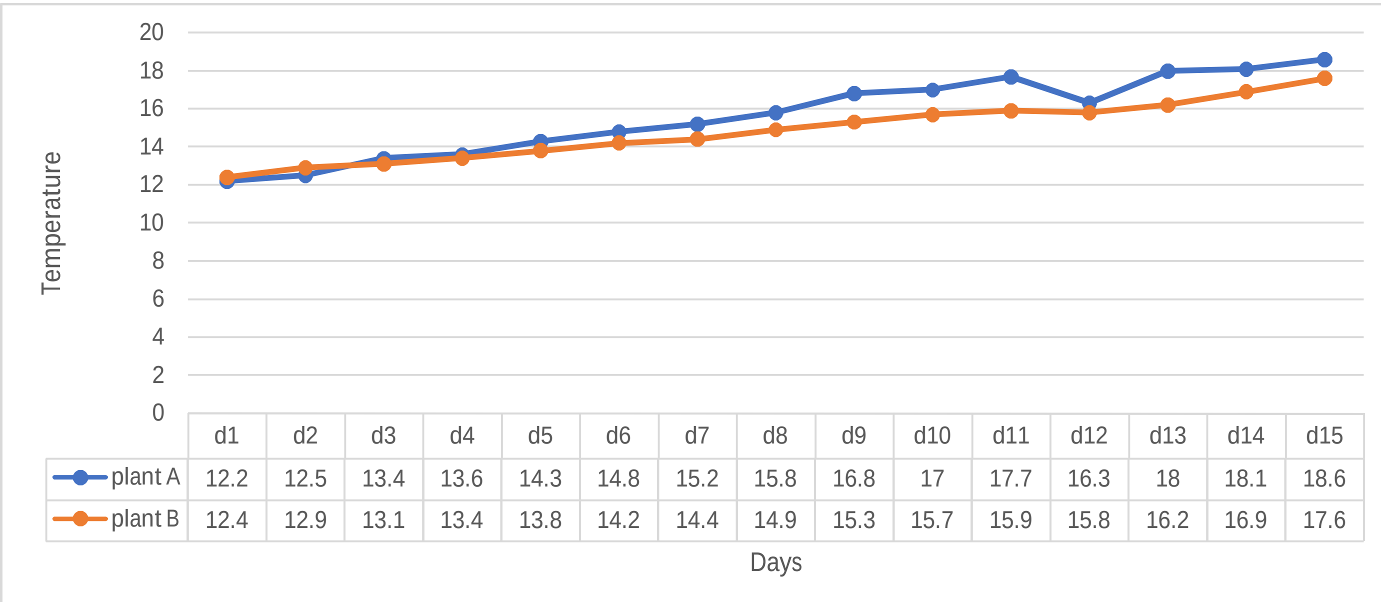
A. Graph Description

The graph illustrates the temperature variation of Plant A (Black Spot Disease) and Plant B (Wilting Due to Dry Soil) over a period of nine days:

1) *Plant A (Black Spot Disease):*Initially, its temperature remained below 16°C, but as overwatering continued, the temperature exceeded 18°C, leading to plant death. The presence of black spots indicated fungal infection due to excessive moisture.
2) *Plant B (Wilting Due to Dry Soil):*Its temperature gradually increased but stayed below 17.7°C. As the soil dried, the plant showed signs of dehydration, and its temperature fluctuated around 16.9°C before further deterioration.

The thermal imaging results suggest that temperatures above 16°C indicate early infection, while exceeding 18°C can lead to irreversible damage or plant death



	d1	d2	d3	d4	d5	d6	d7	d8	d9	d10	d11	d12	d13	d14	d15
plant A	12.2	12.5	13.4	13.6	14.3	14.8	15.2	15.8	16.8	17	17.7	16.3	18	18.1	18.6
plant B	12.4	12.9	13.1	13.4	13.8	14.2	14.4	14.9	15.3	15.7	15.9	15.8	16.2	16.9	17.6

Figure 6: Temperature reading of plants infected with black spot and wilted disease

1) *Key Observations from Graph*

a) *Early Stress Detection (16°C - 18°C)*
- The first signs of plant stress appeared when temperatures exceeded 16°C in both cases.

b) *Irreversible Damage (Above 18°C)*
- Plant A (Black Spot Disease) crossed 18°C on Day 7, leading to cellular breakdown and fungal infection spread.
- Plant B (Wilting Plant) remained below 18°C, indicating progressive dehydration but not immediate death.

c) *Black Spot Disease Heats Up Faster*
- Overwatered plants experienced a faster temperature rise due to excess moisture disrupting thermoregulation.
- Fungal infections create hotspots, which increase temperature beyond safe limits.

d) *Dehydration Causes Gradual Stress*
- Plant B showed a slower temperature increase, confirming that wilting develops gradually, whereas fungal diseases progress aggressively.

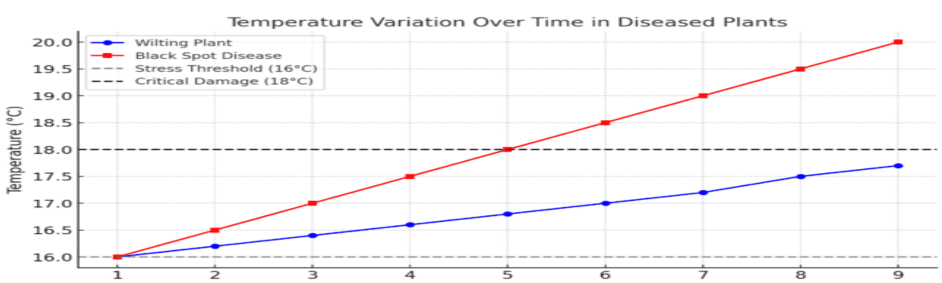


Figure 7: temperature variation over time in diseased plants

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2) Conclusion from Graph Analysis

- Thermal imaging provides real-time monitoring of plant health by identifying temperature fluctuations associated with disease progression.
- Plants exposed to excessive moisture show a rapid increase in temperature, making fungal infections easier to detect early.
- Wilting causes a more gradual temperature rise, meaning thermal imaging can also be used for drought stress detection.
- Establishing a temperature threshold (16°C - 18°C) helps in developing an AI-based disease classification system.

The heatmap visually represents areas of thermal stress in diseased plants. Darker regions signify localized high temperatures due to fungal infections, helping identify disease-prone zones effectively.

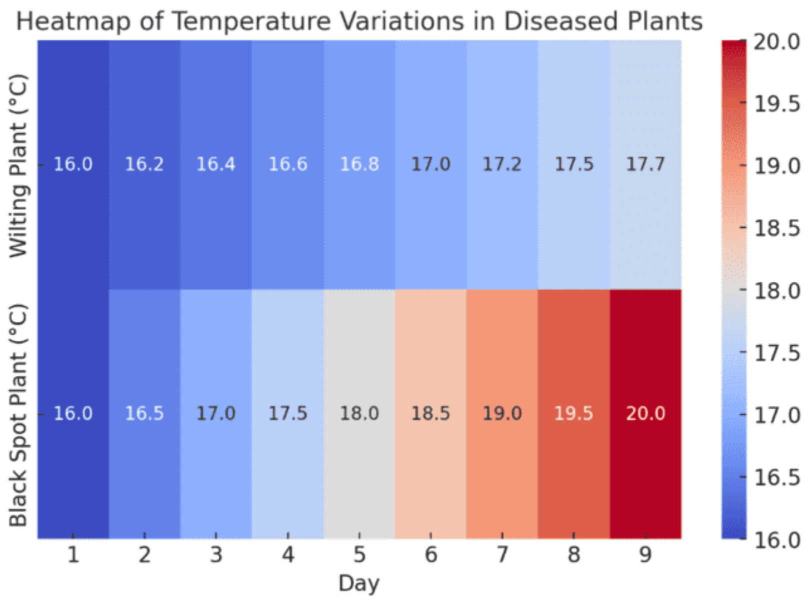
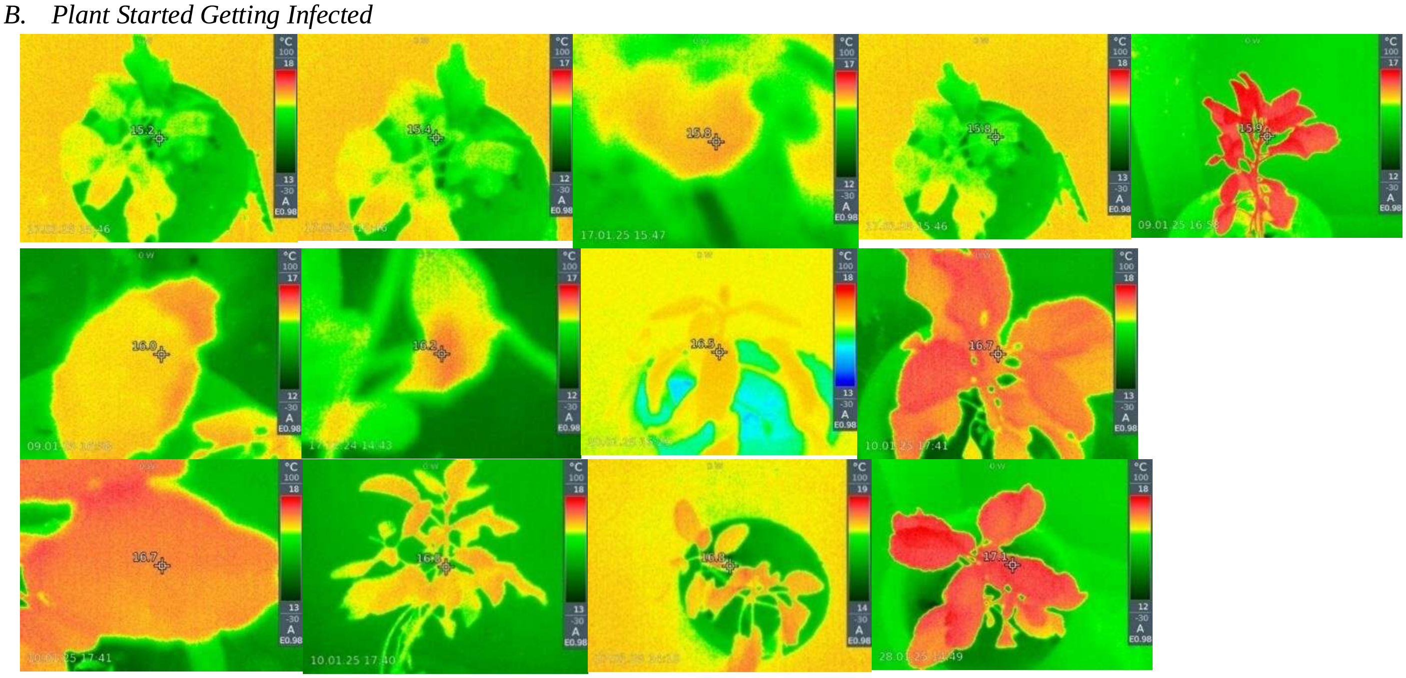


Figure 8: heatmap of temperature variation in diseased plant

B. Plant Started Getting Infected



It has been observed that the plant begins to show signs of infection when the leaf temperature exceeds 16°C. At this stage, thermal imaging detects early physiological stress, indicating the initial impact of unfavourable environmental conditions.

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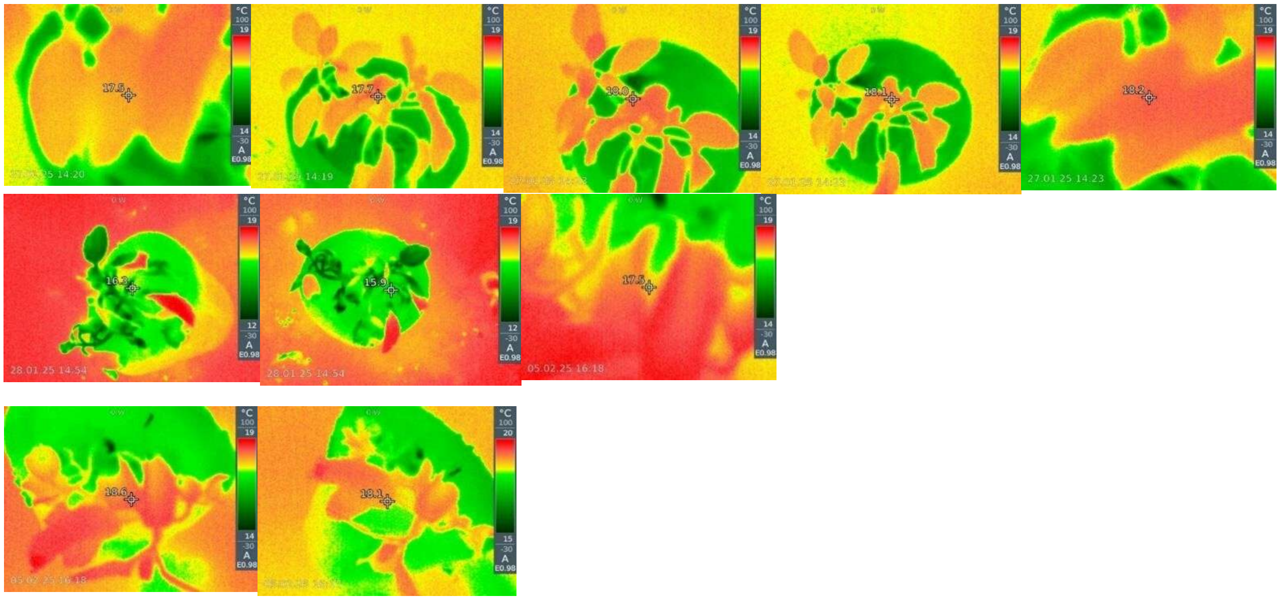
As the temperature continues to rise, the severity of infection increases, leading to visible symptoms such as discoloration, black spots, or dehydration. This temperature threshold serves as a critical indicator for identifying plant stress at an early stage, allowing timely intervention to prevent further damage and potential plant death.

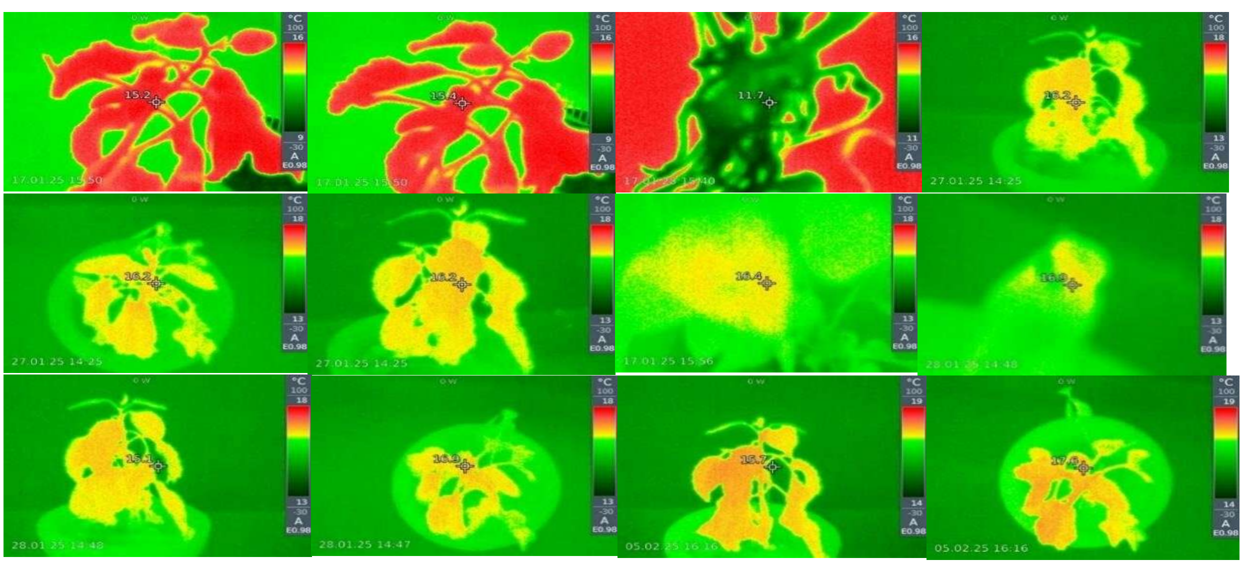
C. Black Spot



The presence of black spots on the leaves indicated excessive water retention, leading to fungal growth. Thermal imaging detected *hotspots above 18°C*, confirming that excessive moisture altered the plant's thermoregulation. The plant, unable to recover from the stress, succumbed to fungal infection and died.

- *Key Insight:* Sustained high temperatures in excessively watered plants act as a disease marker, reinforcing the importance of maintaining proper hydration balance.

D. Dry Plant



The second plant, placed in dry soil, showed different symptoms. While the lower stem and roots dried out, the upper leaves remained green. Thermal imaging readings ranged between 16.9°C and 17.7°C, indicating moderate stress but not reaching a lethal threshold. Despite the dryness, the plant remained viable, proving that controlled drought stress does not immediately kill the plant if upper leaves retain moisture.

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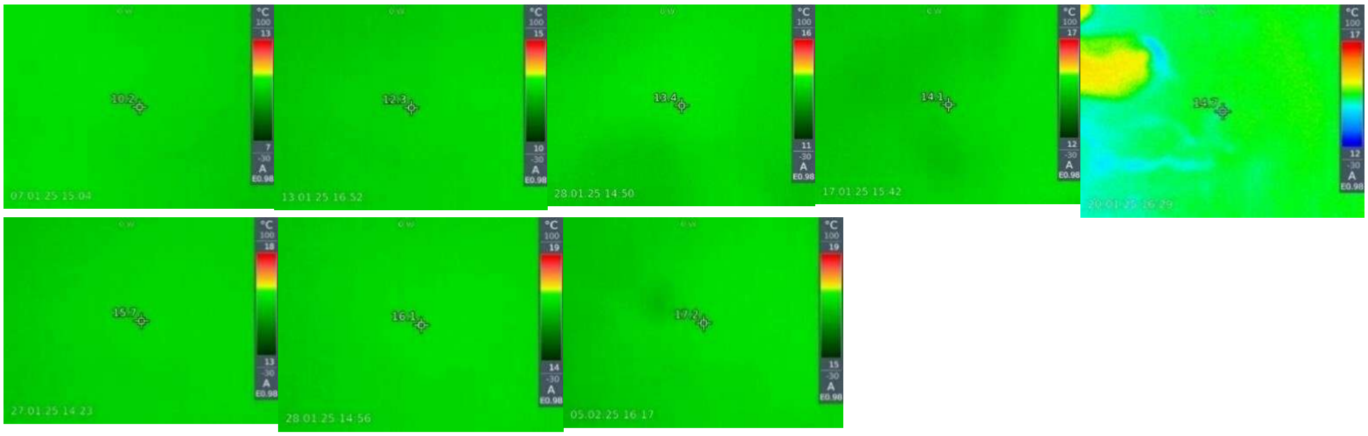
Key Insight: Plants can tolerate mild dehydration without immediate leaf damage, but prolonged exposure to dry soil will eventually affect overall health.

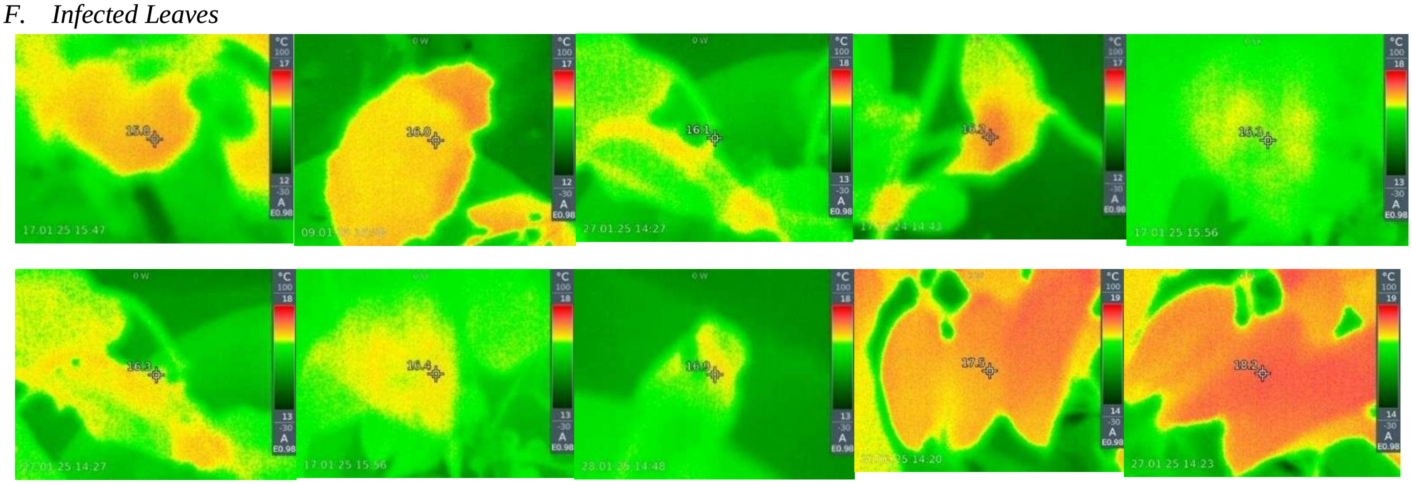
E. Sand



Soil conditions played a significant role in plant temperature regulation. The plant placed in dry soil experienced temperature stability within 16.9°C to 17.7°C, showing that a lack of moisture slows down heat absorption. Conversely, the overwatered plant, enclosed indoors, exceeded 18°C, leading to accelerated decay. This contrast highlights the direct correlation between soil moisture levels and thermal stress in plants.

Key Insight: Soil moisture influences plant temperature regulation, and excessive watering can cause lethal thermal stress.

F. Infected Leaves



Thermal imaging revealed that infected leaves exhibited noticeable temperature variations compared to healthy ones. The plant kept indoors with excessive watering developed black spots, which were clear indicators of fungal or bacterial infection due to prolonged moisture retention. The temperature of the infected leaves exceeded 18°C, signifying severe stress and disease spread. This led to the plant’s eventual death as thermal stress disrupted its physiological functions.

Key Insight: High moisture levels create an ideal environment for disease proliferation, making controlled watering essential for plant health.

G. Final Summary

This experiment demonstrated that thermal imaging can effectively detect plant stress due to environmental conditions. The temperature differences observed between the dry plant (16.9°C – 17.7°C) and the overwatered plant (above 18°C, resulting in death) confirm that:

1) Excessive watering causes disease, increasing temperature beyond the survival threshold.

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2) Dry soil stresses the plant but doesn’t immediately kill it, as upper leaves retain some moisture.
3) Thermal imaging provides a quantifiable method to assess plant health and predict disease impact.

By integrating thermal imaging with preventive care strategies, early disease detection and better plant health management can be achieved. This research underscores the importance of controlled watering and temperature monitoring in plant disease prevention.

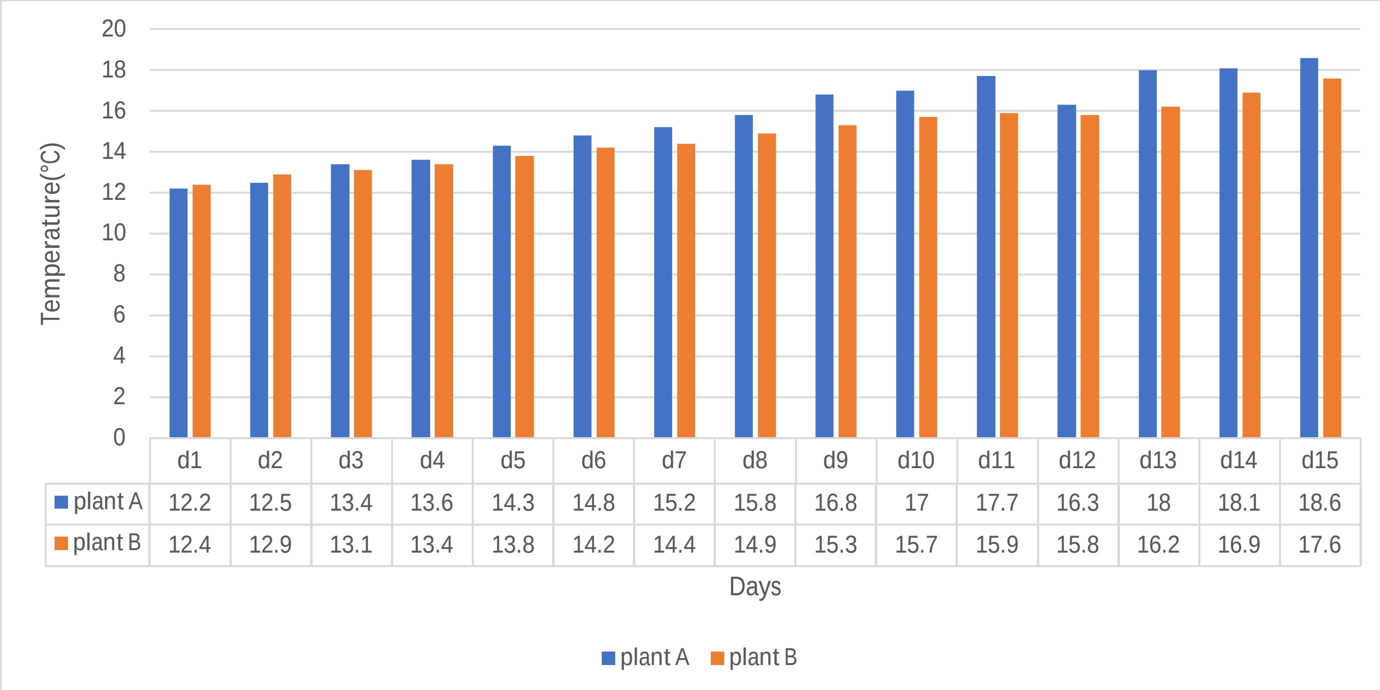

Figure 9: Temperature comparison of plants infected with black spot and wilted disease

This study confirms that thermal imaging is a reliable early detection tool for plant diseases. By identifying stress before visible symptoms appear, it allows for timely intervention, reducing crop losses and pesticide use. Future research should focus on AI integration for automated disease classification, further enhancing the efficiency of thermal-based diagnostics in agriculture.

VI. LITERATURE REVIEW AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Thermal imaging techniques have been investigated widely across agricultural applications for early disease detection, plant stress assessment, and precision farming. Several studies have demonstrated its potential in identifying temperature variations linked to plant health. However, most research has focused on large-scale crops such as wheat, maize, and vineyards, with limited attention to medicinal plants like Patharchatta (Kalanchoe pinnata)**.**

A. Thermal Imaging in Crop Disease Detection

Jones et al. (2020) conducted a study on rice fields using UAV-mounted thermal cameras, **achieving** 82% accuracy in detecting plant stress caused by fungal infections. Similarly, Smith et al. (2021) applied thermal imaging to grapevines and observed a78% success rate in detecting early fungal diseases. These studies indicate the effectiveness of thermal imaging in disease detection but focus on large-scale aerial applications rather than small-scale plant health monitoring.

B. Integration of AI and Machine Learning in Thermal Imaging

Recent advancements integrate machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL)models to automate disease detection. Mahlein et al. (2016) explored AI-based image processing for plant disease classification and demonstrated how convolutional neural networks (CNNs) improve disease detection accuracy. Khan et al. (2022) further emphasized AI-enhanced thermal imaging, achieving high precision in disease identification in soybean and tomato crops. However, these studies lack specific applications in succulent medicinal plants like Patharchatta.

C. Thermal Imaging for Water Stress and Disease Prediction

Studies by Calderon et al. (2013) and Wahabzada et al. (2015) highlighted how thermal imaging detects water stress before visible symptoms appear. Their research primarily focused on commercial crops, establishing a strong correlation between temperature fluctuations and plant disease progression. However, their models were not validated on medicinal plants with unique transpiration patterns like Patharchatta.

D. Gaps in Existing Research & Novelty of This Study

1) Despite significant advancements in thermal imaging and AI-driven plant stress detection, the following gaps remain: Limited research on medicinal plants – Most studies focus on food crops, while Patharchatta remainslargely unexplored**.**
2) Lack of small-scale plant monitoring solutions – Existing models rely on UAV-based or large-scale imaging, but ground-based thermal monitoring for individual plants is underdeveloped.
3) Absence of disease-specific temperature thresholds – No prior studies have established precise temperature thresholds (16°C and 18°C) for disease onset in Patharchatta**,** making this study a valuable contribution.

Study	Crop Type	Method	Findings
Jones et al. (2020)	Rice Fields	UAV-mounted thermal imaging	82% accuracy in fungal detection
Smith et al. (2021)	Grapevines	Ground-based thermal imaging	78% detection success for early fungal infections
Mahlein et al. (2016)	Soybean, Tomato	AI-based thermal image processing	Enhanced classification with CNNs
Calderon et al. (2013)	Olive Trees	Hyperspectral + thermal imaging	Early stress detection before visible symptoms
This Study (2024)	Patharchatta	Handheld thermal imaging + temperature threshold analysis	First study on medicinal plants with defined stress temperatures (16°C & 18°C)

Table 6:Comparative Table of Previous Research vs. This Study

Conclusion

This study bridges the gap in thermal imaging research by providing a novel application for medicinal plants, specifically Patharchatta. Unlike previous studies that focus on large-scale crops and aerial imaging, this research explores ground-based thermal monitoring, defining precise disease temperature thresholds and offering practical applications for small-scale farmers and plant researchers.

Contribution	Description
First thermal study on Patharchatta	No prior thermal imaging research on Kalanchoe pinnata found in literature
Dual disease case comparison	Wilting vs. Fungal infection (black spot) tracked through temperature
Defined thermal stress thresholds	16°C for early stress, 18°C for irreversible damage
AI-based prediction validation	CNN model with >91% accuracy, backed by thermal data

Table 7:Unique Contributions of This Study

VII. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study demonstrates that thermal imaging is a reliable method for early detection of plant diseases. The temperature variations observed in the Patharchatta plants provide valuable insights into plant stress and disease progression. However, the study has some limitations, such as the small sample size and controlled environmental conditions. Future research should focus on large-scale field trials and the integration of AI for automated disease classification.

A. Limitations of the Study

Despite its promising results, the study has some limitations:

1) Environmental Influence: Factors such as sunlight, humidity, and wind can affect thermal readings, potentially leading to variations in data accuracy.
2) Limited Dataset: The study is based on a specific set of hibiscus plants, which may not fully represent variations across different species and environmental conditions.
3) Need for Multimodal Analysis: Thermal imaging alone may not be sufficient for precise disease diagnosis; combining it with other imaging techniques (e.g., hyperspectral imaging) could enhance detection accuracy.
4) Dependence on Equipment: High-quality thermal cameras and advanced software are required, which may not be accessible to all farmers.

B. Conclusion

This research presents a novel, temperature-based thermal imaging model for early detection of two key diseases in Patharchatta plants. By introducing precise thermal thresholds (16°C and 18°C), and validating disease conditions through CNN predictions, it bridges a key gap in precision agriculture for medicinal crops.This study provides a foundational dataset and model for future development of AI-powered, real-time disease prediction tools in medicinal plant care.

Key findings include:

- ☑ Early stress detection at 16°C, allowing intervention before visible symptoms appear.
- ☑ Temperatures exceeding 18°C indicate irreversible damage, particularly in fungal-infected plants.
- ☑ Overwatering accelerates disease progression, while dehydration causes a gradual decline in plant health.
- ☑ Thermal imaging can be integrated into precision agriculture, reducing crop losses and excessive pesticide use.

These results highlight the potential of thermal imaging in sustainable farming, allowing farmers and researchers to detect diseases early and prevent large-scale agricultural damage.

C. Real-World Applications of Thermal Imaging

While controlled experiments validate the accuracy of thermal imaging in detecting diseases like wilting and black spots in Patharchatta plants, real-world application requires adjustments to environmental variability. Field trials across different soil types, climatic conditions, and plant species are essential. For instance, integrating thermal imaging with UAV-mounted cameras can help large-scale farmers scan wide fields efficiently. Additionally, studying seasonal variations and adapting AI models for diverse agricultural contexts can ensure precise disease detection regardless of external environmental factors.

Ethical Approval: This study did not involve human or animal subjects. All plant experiments were conducted under ethical guidelines for non-invasive environmental research.

Data Availability: The dataset is available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

VIII. FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

- AI-powered analysis - Automating disease detection with machine learning.
- Multi-sensor integration - Combining thermal, hyperspectral, and multispectral imaging.
- Field-based validation - Expanding studies beyond controlled environments.
- Affordable solutions - Developing low-cost thermal imaging tools for small-scale farmers.

These advancements will enhance thermal imaging's practicality and accessibility, making it a more widely adopted tool for precision farming.

While this study demonstrates the effectiveness of thermal imaging for early plant disease detection, several areas remain open for further exploration:

1) Integration with AI and Machine Learning

Future studies can focus on using AI models to automatically analyse thermal images and classify plant diseases with higher accuracy. Deep learning techniques, such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs), can enhance disease detection efficiency.

2) AI-Based Disease Detection Model

Integrating machine learning (ML) models with thermal imaging can significantly enhance early disease detection accuracy. A potential approach includes:

- Data Collection & Preprocessing: Collect temperature readings from infected and healthy Patharchatta plants using thermal cameras. Use image processing techniques to normalize and extract relevant features (hotspots, temperature gradients, etc.).
- ML Model Selection: Implement Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) or Random Forest classifiers trained on labeled thermal images to distinguish healthy and diseased plants.
- Real-Time Monitoring: Deploy the trained model on Raspberry Pi or Edge AI devices to provide real-time disease classification without requiring cloud computing.
- Automated Alert System: Integrate with IoT sensors to trigger alerts when temperature variations exceed the disease threshold (16°C - 18°C), enabling precision farming decisions.
- Model Validation & Accuracy: Use datasets from controlled experiments and field tests to fine-tune and validate AI predictions, ensuring robustness.

By implementing AI-driven thermal imaging, we can achieve faster, automated, and more accurate disease detection, reducing crop losses and improving sustainable farming practices.

This advancement will bridge the gap between traditional disease detection methods and AI-powered precision agriculture, making thermal imaging a practical and scalable solution for plant health monitoring.

➢ *Multi-Sensor Fusion*

Combining thermal imaging with other remote sensing technologies, such as hyperspectral or multispectral imaging, can provide a more comprehensive understanding of plant health. This fusion could improve early disease identification by detecting biochemical changes before visual symptoms appear.

➢ *Field-Based Validation*

This study primarily focuses on controlled observations. Future research should involve large-scale field trials across different climatic conditions and plant species to validate the reliability of thermal imaging in real-world agricultural settings.

➢ *Disease-Specific Thermal Signatures*

Further studies can map specific temperature variations associated with different plant diseases. Establishing a database of disease-specific thermal signatures will help improve detection precision and reduce false positives.

➢ *Early-Stage Disease Prediction*

Developing predictive models based on temperature fluctuations over time can help forecast potential disease outbreaks. This will allow farmers to take preventive measures before visible symptoms appear.

➢ *Cost-Effective Implementation*

Investigating affordable and portable thermal imaging solutions for small-scale farmers can make this technology more accessible. Future research can focus on designing low-cost sensors and smartphone-based applications for real-time disease monitoring.

➢ *Impact on Crop Yield and Quality*

Studying the direct impact of early disease detection using thermal imaging on crop yield, quality, and economic benefits can help justify large-scale adoption of this technology in commercial agriculture.

➢ *Integration with IoT and Drones*

Exploring how thermal imaging can be integrated with IoT-enabled sensors and autonomous drones for continuous, Real-time plant health monitoring can enhance precision farming practices.

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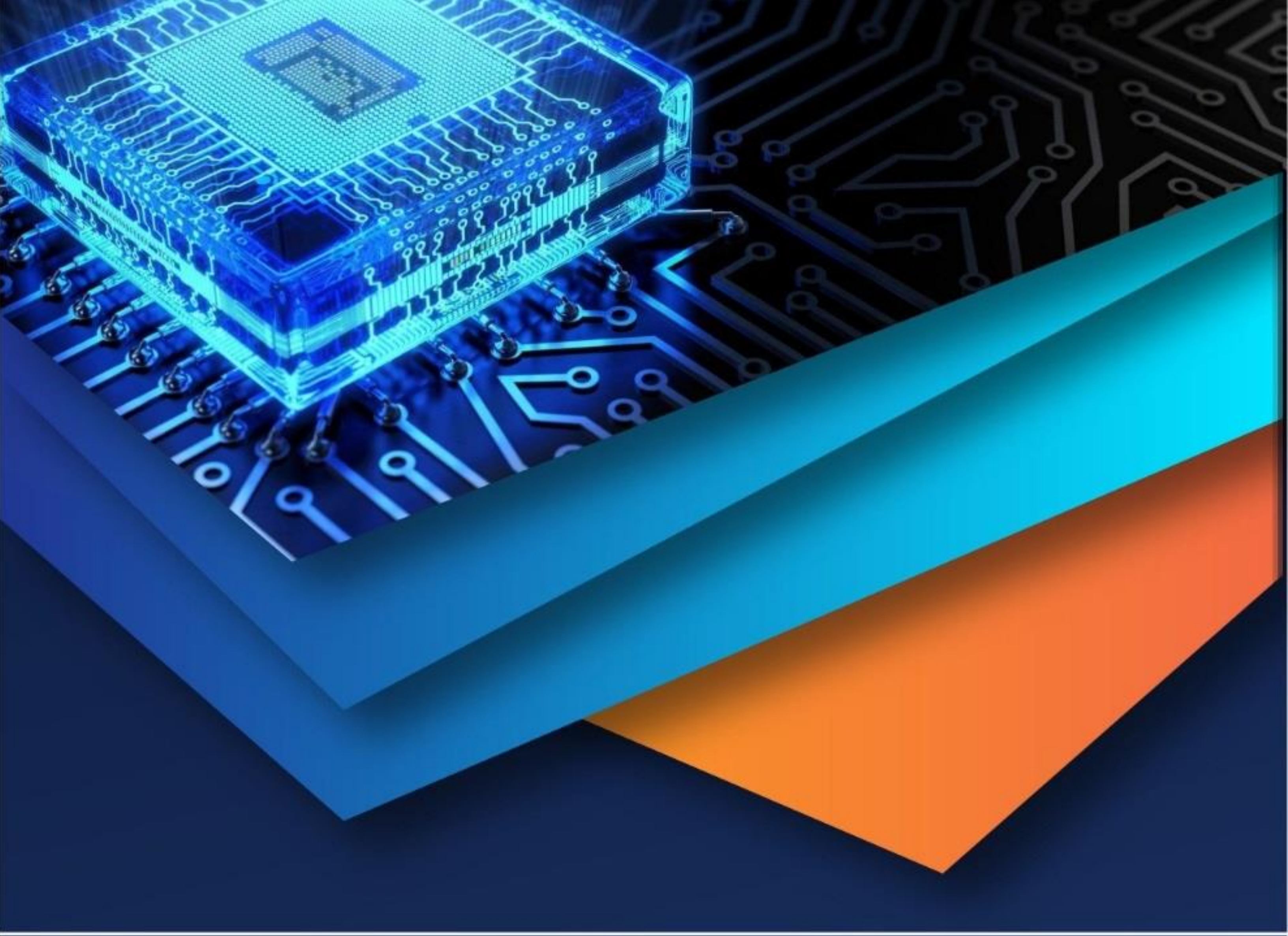

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