



Thematic section: Biochemical Research.

Full Paper

Subsection: Physiology and Biochemistry of Plants.

The Reference Object Identifier – ROI-jbc-C/21-2-4-15

The Digital Object Identifier – DOI: 10.37952/ROI-jbc-C/21-2-4-15

Received 22 October 2021; Accepted 25 October 2021

Physiological and biochemical characteristics of shoots triticale in NaCl-stress in the light of statistical methods

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Keywords: shoots of triticale (*Triticosecale*), NaCl-stress, physiological and biochemical characteristics, cluster analysis, principal component analysis (PCA), correlation analysis.

Abstract

The application of methods of cluster analysis, principal component analysis (PCA) and correlation analysis for processing data on alterations in the physiological and biochemical characteristics of triticale shoots made it possible to come to a number of conclusions that differ from the currently accepted ideas about the role of such antioxidant enzymes as catalase and guaiacol-peroxidase, as well as ascorbic acid in providing processes of adaptation of shoots to short-term NaCl-stress. The application of principal component analysis made it possible for the first time to note the importance of redox processes for such an indicator as water content. This conclusion is consistent with the positive values between the water content with electron transport (0.69), carbonic anhydrase activity (0.84), and lipid peroxidation (LPO) (0.69). It has been shown that the content of glutathione is closely related to the process of photosynthesis. The positive values of the correlation coefficients in pairs: glutathione – the intensity of photosynthesis (0.90) and glutathione – Rubisco (0.69) also confirm this point of view. It was found that guaiacol peroxidase can be (indirectly) associated with the presence of pigments, which is reflected in high values of the mutual correlation coefficients with the content of chlorophyll (0.84) and carotenoids (0.72). At the same time, under the experimental conditions, the enzyme is the most effective of those studied for the utilization of hydrogen peroxide ($r = -0.73$). The formation of a primary cluster between catalase and LPO can be interpreted as a direct relationship between the activity of this enzyme and membrane damage rather than membrane protection. Similar conclusions can be drawn with the PCA method and correlation analysis: $r = 0.94$ (catalase – LPO). The application of cluster analysis also suggests the importance of ascorbic acid for maintaining water exchange during the adaptation of triticale shoots to the action of short-term NaCl-stress. The same conclusion can be drawn when analyzing the data by PCA and correlation analysis: $r = 0.81$ (ascorbate – proline), $r = 0.79$ (ascorbate – stomatal conductance), $r = 0.79$ (ascorbate – transpiration).

For citation: Viktor V. Ivanishchev. Physiological and biochemical parameters of triticale shoots under NaCl-stress in the light of PCA method. *Butlerov Communications C.* **2021.** Vol.2. No.4. Id.15. DOI: 10.37952/ROI-jbc-C/21-2-4-15

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