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The role of N-glycosylation of proteins in the cell wall formation processes of *Linum usitatissimum* L

Nadezhda N. Ibragimova, Irina A. Larskaya, and Evgenia O. Fedina*⁺

Laboratory of Plant Glycobiology. Kazan Institute of Biochemistry – Subdivision of FRC Kazan SC of RAS. Lobachevsky St., 2/31. Kazan, 420111. Tatarstan Republic. Russia. Phone: +7 (843) 231-90-69. E-mail: solo_nika@mail.ru

*Supervising author; ⁺Corresponding author

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Abstract

The level of N-glycosylation proteins at different stages of cell wall formation was studied in flax stems. The xylem and phloem parts of the stem containing fibers enriched with secondary cell wall (XYL), tertiary cell wall at early (MID) and late (BOT) thickening stages were used as samples. To detect glycoproteins from MID, BOT, XYL samples the protein fractions were obtained by treating tissue homogenates with lithium salts (2 M LiCl) and calcium salts (0.2 M CaCl₂) followed by the use of standard kits for obtaining glycoproteins from complex protein mixtures with concavalin A lectin (CONA) as an affinity matrix. The obtained glycoproteins were isofocused on gel strips with an immobilized pH gradient (pH 3-10, 7 cm long). The separation of proteins in the second direction (by molecular weight) were carried out using an electrode buffer containing 25 mM Tris-HCl, 192 mM glycine, 0.1% DSD-Na. To assess the contribution of N-glycosylation of proteins to the formation of the flax cell wall, immunoblotting was performed using anti- β 1,2-xylose and anti- α 1,3-fucose monoclonal antibodies. β 1,2-xylose and cow α 1,3-fucose are specific residues of N-glycans of plant proteins. The glycosylated proteins of the phloem and xylem parts of the stem separated by 2D electrophoresis had the molecular weights mainly in the range from 11 to 35 kDa and their isoelectric points are in the alkaline region. The results of our studies also showed that glycans detected on N-glycoprotein blots mainly contain α 1,3-fucose residues than β 1,2-xylose. The differences we obtained in the binding to α 1,3-fucose and β 1,2-xylose by N-glycans indicate the possibility of the existence of two independent pathways of N-glycosylation of proteins in flax plants. For the first time we characterized the profiles of N-glycosylated proteins of flax plants and found that the phloem part of the stem contained fibers with a mature thickened tertiary cell wall (BOT) was distinguished by the highest content of N-glycoproteins.

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