BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

3rd International C o n f e r e n c e on Plant Biology (22nd SPPS Meeting)





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tomato cultivars were used to determine whether grafting could prevent decrease of K concentration under salt stress conditions. The cultivars Buran F1 and Berberana F1 were grafted onto rootstock "Maxifort" and grown under three levels of elevated soil salinity (S1- EC 3.80 dS m-1, S2- 6.95 dS m-1 and S3- 9.12 dS m-1). Salt stress at the third salinity level (EC 9.12 dS m-1) induced the highest alteration of K concentration of both grafted and non-grafted plants (about 11%) in comparison to the control. The possibility of grafting tomato plants to improve influx of potassium in salt stress conditions is discussed.

Keywords: tomato, grafting, potassium

Response of antioxidative enzymes to drought and salicylic acid application in *Impatiens walleriana* grown *ex vitro*

PP2-36

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Impatiens walleriana is one of the most popular Impatiens species characterized by fleshy, succulent leaves and a variety of flower colours. The major problem in production and sale of this ornamental species is related to its tendency to quickly wilt when drought stressed. Since one of the most devastating consequences of drought is the onset of oxidative stress, we have studied the responses of antioxidative enzymes to drought and applied salicylic acid (SA) as a potential stress-alleviating regulator. The *I. walleriana* seeds were germinated in a growth chamber under controlled conditions. Plants (8 weeks old) were divided into four groups: (1) regularly watered plants (W), (2) regularly watered plants with single application of 2 mM SA (WS), (3) plants exposed to drought (D), and (4) drought-exposed plants with single application of 2 mM SA (DS). The activities of antioxidative enzymes including superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT) and guaiacol peroxidase (POX) were assessed in all four groups. Our results show that drought and SA (WS, D, and DS) increase activity of Cu/ZnSOD and MnSOD in comparison to control (W). Total CAT activity was increased in D, but not in WS and DS groups; however additional CAT isoforms were observed in these groups. POX activity was generally high in D and especially in DS group. It can be concluded that SA improves drought tolerance in *I. walleriana* grown ex vitro probably by modulating the activity of antioxidative enzymes and can be used as a drought-ameliorating agent.

Keywords: drought, salicylic acid, antioxidative enzymes

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