



SCREENING OF THERMO TOLERANT RICE GENOTYPES FOR HEAT TOLERANCE AT SEEDLING STAGE USING TIR TECHNIQUE

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ABSTRACT

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Heat is one of the major factors that considerably limit rice production. Here we report a novel temperature induction response (TIR) technique which was standardized for Rice crop. By adapting TIR technique 74 genotypes were screened for thermo tolerance. Out of 74 genotypes, 14 genotypes exhibited thermo tolerance due to induced high temperature. These genotypes have intrinsic heat tolerance and they can be explored as donor source in breeding program aimed for global warming.

KEYWORDS: Thermo tolerance, lethal temperature, sub - lethal temperature, rice genotypes, seedling survival.

INTRODUCTION

Rice is the most important staple food around the world. India is the second largest producer of Rice. Rice occupied an area of about 43.86 million ha with production of 11,267 million tons during 2015-16. Rice is important *kharif* and *rabi* crop. Due to increasing temperatures by Global warming, plants are prone for recurrent heat and drought stresses which affect the crop growth and yield. Plants adopt to high temperature stress by inherent basal level tolerance as well as acquired tolerance to severe temperature stress. Acquired thermo tolerance is quite rapid and has been shown to be induced during cell acclimation to moderately high temperature periods (Larkindale *et al.*, 2005; Massie *et al.*, 2003). Temperature affects a broad spectrum of cellular components and metabolism, and temperature extremes impose stresses of variable severity that depend on the rate of temperature change, intensity, and duration. The ability to withstand and to acclimate to supra-optimal temperatures results from both prevention of heat damage and repair of heat-sensitive components (Sung *et al.*, 2003; Senthil Kumar *et al.*, 2007). Seedlings exposed to a sub lethal temperature prior to challenge with severe temperature have better growth recovery than those seedlings challenged directly to severe temperature stress. The global rise in temperature will also increase the severity of other environmental stresses such as floods and drought. The variation in rainfall will lead to more frequent floods and droughts (Yildiz and Terzi, 2008) which are the most important constraints for deep water

and aerobic cropping systems, respectively. Both these extreme conditions (drought and flood), if exceed certain critical period, will have substantial consequences on rice and may lead to complete failure of the rice crop when occur at sensitive stages either in the form of water shortage or excessive submergence. And thus, the changing climate may enforce a shift in the cropping pattern in most parts of the world most probably making rice the most suitable choice for areas with increased water availability but becoming less appropriate for farmers in areas with decreased wetness. So there is a need to adopt a multi-faceted approach while studying the impact of high-temperature stress, also focusing on other environmental stresses, which may be equally detrimental for rice productivity. Acquired tolerance for a specific abiotic stress has been shown to give cross protection for other stresses such as salinity, chilling temperatures, and drought. Therefore, evaluating the relative performance of rice genotypes for high temperature tolerance using TIR technique is the main objective.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental Details and Treatments

Experimental Details:

The experiment was conducted at Phenotyping laboratory, Institute of Frontier Technology, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tirupati, using the standardized TIR (Temperature Induction Response) protocol.

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Screening of rice genotypes for heat tolerance with TIR technique

Highly thermo tolerant rice genotypes were screened from 74 rice germplasm obtained from Nellore, Marteru, some land races and African lines (Nerica) including proven varieties for heat tolerance such as N22, Dular and Nipponbare which were used as check genotypes. This approach of TIR involves first the identification of challenging temperature and induction temperature and later standardizing them before being used for screening germplasm for intrinsic tolerance. Phenotyping of rice genotypes for thermo tolerance using TIR technique was established in this laboratory (Sudhakar *et al.*, 2012) and same protocol is used in this study.

Treatments:

Rice seeds were washed with distilled water 2- 3 times and were kept for germination at room temperature. After 42 hours, seedlings which have attained 0.5 cm uniform size were selected and sown in aluminum trays containing blotter paper wetted with water. These trays with seedlings were subjected to sub-lethal temperatures (gradual temperature increasing for every half an hour from 38°C to 55°C for 4 hours in the environmental chamber – ‘LABLINE’ –(Humidity Controlled Oven). Later these seedlings were exposed to lethal temperatures (55°C) (induced) for 2 hours. Another sub set of seedlings were exposed directly to lethal temperatures (non induced). Induced and non induced rice seedlings were allowed to recover at room temperature for one week. A control tray was maintained at room temperature, without exposing to sub-lethal and lethal temperatures.

The following parameters were recorded from the seedlings:

a) Per cent seedling survival =

$$\frac{\text{Number of seedlings survived at the end of recovery}}{\text{Total number of seedlings sown in the tray}} \times 100$$

b) Per cent reduction in root growth =

$$\frac{\text{Actual root growth of treated seedlings}}{\text{Actual root growth of control seedlings} - \text{Actual root growth of control seedlings}} \times 100$$

c) Per cent reduction in shoot growth =

$$\frac{\text{Actual shoot growth of control seedlings} - \text{Actual shoot growth of treated seedlings}}{\text{Actual shoot growth of control seedlings}} \times 100$$

RESULTS

Using this technique it was proved that sufficient genetic variability was present among rice genotypes for

high temperature tolerance. The genotypes showed significant genetic variability for per cent survival of seedlings, per cent reduction in root and shoot growth respectively. The per cent survival of seedlings varied from 0 to 100 per cent. Among the 74 rice genotypes screened 14 (FR 13A, Swarna Sub 1A, NLR3238, MTU1001, Jagannadh, MTU1061, Konark, Vajram, Satya, Minghui, VL Dhan16, BPT1235, JGL3855, Basmathi386) genotypes showed highest thermo tolerance in terms of 80-100 per cent seedlings survival and no or very little reduction in root and shoot growth. Of these, two genotypes namely FR13A, and SwarnaSub1A were out performed the highly tolerant check Dular in the study both for RRL (Relative Root Length) (62.53% and 47.56%) and RSL (Relative Shoot Length) (106.20% and 40.74%), respectively. However, the other two checks N22 and Nipponbare showed 100% survival, the growth performance was poor over control. The genotypes NLR3238, MTU1001, Jagannadh, MTU1061 and Konark also showed better performance over Dular.

DISCUSSION

These results are in conformity with several studies, which showed that acclimated plants survive upon exposure to a severe stress, which otherwise could be lethal and is considered to be as thermo tolerance (Srikanth Babu *et al.*, 2002). Results of this study indicated that the effect of TIR on other genotypes revealed variable results. Such acquired tolerance was variably recorded in other rice genotypes, where either survival of seedlings was affected or root growth alone was affected or only shoot growth was affected. This technique of exposing young seedlings to sub-lethal and lethal temperature has been validated in many crop species (Senthil Kumar *et al.*, 2007). This novel temperature induction response technique has been demonstrated to reveal genetic variability in intrinsic stress tolerance at cellular level. The present study also revealed that the Thermo Induced Response (TIR) technique can very well be used in rice crop.

CONCLUSION

The above results suggest that the TIR technique is a powerful and constructive technique to identify genetic variability in high temperature tolerance in rice within a short period of time and it is suitable for screening a large number of genotypes. The identified 14 genotypes of rice can be used as donor source for developing high temperature tolerant rice genotypes to resist global rise temperature.

Survival percentage of different genotypes under sub lethal conditions

S. No.	Genotype	SP/ SL*	S. No.	Genotype	Sp/ SL*	S. No.	Genotype	SP/ SL*
1	Basmathi370	100	26	VL Dhan16	100	51	Sonasali	60
2	Dular**	100	27	AC41038	90	52	Swarna	60
3	FR13A (LR)	100	28	MTU 1071	90	53	WGL 347	60
4	Jagannadh	100	29	NLR3242	90	54	AC38460	50
5	Konark	100	30	NLR34242	90	55	Dikhow	50
6	Koshihikari	100	31	NLR4002	90	56	ARC10533	40
7	Minghui	100	32	Basmathi386	80	57	Vasundhara	40
8	MTU1001	100	33	BPT1235	80	58	JGL3844	30
9	MTU1010	100	34	IR64	80	59	NLR30491	30
10	MTU1061	100	35	JGL3855	80	60	LN409	20
11	MTU3626	100	36	LN386	80	61	Mahisugandh	20
12	N22**	100	37	NL42 [#]	80	62	Shabigdhan	20
13	NBR16	100	38	NLR3042	80	63	Udayagiri	20
14	Nilagiri	100	39	Pokkali	80	64	BPT5204	10
15	Nipponbare**	100	40	Rajeshwari	80	65	Dalasaitha	10
16	NL61 [#]	100	41	Ranbir Basmati	80	66	Disang	10
17	NL24 [#]	100	42	WGL482	80	67	Erramallelu	10
18	NLR145	100	43	WGL915	80	68	RNR150418	10
19	NLR3238	100	44	Kandagiri	70	69	Binuhungiri	0
20	Satya	100	45	Kolong	70	70	Kab Aus R270	0
21	Siddi95	100	46	IR1552	60	71	Kapilee	0
22	Sona	100	47	NL1	60	72	Lachit	0
23	Swarna Sub1A	100	48	NLR3354	60	73	MTU1121	0
24	TKM6	100	49	NLR33671	60	74	Pusa1121	0
25	Vajram	100	50	NLR40024	60			

* : Survival percent (SP) under sub-lethal (SL) conditions, ** : reported heat tolerant genotypes,
: NL- NERICA Lines: derived from crosses involving *O. glaberrima* / *O. sativa* as parents. LR : Landrace

Screening of rice genotypes for heat tolerance with TIR technique

Performance of fourteen heat tolerant genotypes along with known check genotypes

S No	Genotype	SP/SL*	MRL -C	MRL-SL	RRL	SHTL-C	SHTL-T	RSL
A	N22*	100	6.40	6.05	-5.39	8.92	6.03	-32.40
B	Nipponbare*	100	7.58	5.17	-31.59	14.42	5.88	-59.11
C	Dular*	100	7.40	10.61	43.36	7.58	6.33	-16.57
1	FR13A	100	5.74	9.33	62.53	4.64	9.54	106.20
3	Swarna Sub1A	100	7.15	10.55	47.56	5.30	7.45	40.74
6	NLR3238	100	7.23	10.22	41.36	6.33	8.44	33.38
7	MTU1001	100	6.67	9.38	41.26	9.24	8.51	-7.91
5	Jagannadh	100	7.48	10.58	41.74	10.39	9.33	-10.16
4	MTU1061	100	6.33	9.29	46.81	8.44	7.27	-13.88
8	Konark	100	6.81	9.41	38.15	6.60	9.21	39.69
2	Vajram	100	5.27	8.48	61.00	9.24	5.23	-43.40
9	Satya	100	5.21	5.80	11.31	6.31	6.16	-2.33
10	Minghui	100	7.45	9.19	23.54	7.67	6.23	-18.77
11	VL Dhan16	100	4.45	4.80	7.87	5.26	7.44	41.39
13	BPT1235	80	7.34	10.74	46.35	7.15	11.75	64.35
14	JGL3855	80	6.50	9.26	42.67	6.64	7.25	9.21
12	Basmathi386	80	7.11	8.51	19.77	6.60	9.49	43.82
	Min	80	4.45	4.80	-31.59	4.64	5.23	-59.11
	Max	100	7.58	10.74	62.53	14.42	11.75	106.20

* : reported heat tolerant genotypes (checks). SP/SL : survival percent under sub-lethal conditions. Relative root and shoot lengths are highlighted in bold font.

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