MUTAGENSIES AND BIOTECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES FOR ABIOTIC STRESS TOLERANCE IN RICE

By

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B. Sc. Agric. Sc. (Genetics), Zagazig University, 2004

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment

of

The Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE in Agriculture Sciences (Genetics)

> Department of Genetics Faculty of Agriculture Ain Shams University

Approval Sheet

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ABSTRACT

Mohamed Ali Mohamed Ali. Mutagensis and biotechnological studies for abiotic stress tolerance in rice. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2016.

Water stress is one of the major threats for sustainable rice productivity. Combining drought resistance with yield potential is the most promising challenge for the rice breeders. The present study was conducted using three local rice cultivars (*Oryza sativa* L.); Sakha 101, Sakha103 and Giza 178, in addition to IET 1444 indica rice cultivar to explore their response against three water stress intervals. Grains of the cultivars were treated with different doses of gamma rays (200, 250 and 300 Gy) to create genetic variation to obtain drought tolerant and earlier genotypes via selection in the field and in vitro in M₂ and M₃ generations. Significant differences were observed between genotypes and their parents in all generations for most studied traits under both well watered and stress conditions. The most tolerant genotypes were identified due to their performances in the field. Callus initiated from mature embryos of all tested genotypes, then maintained on MS medium containing different concentrations (5, 10 and 15%) of Polyethylene glycol (PEG). Callus growth traits and number of regenerated plants decreased with increasing PEG concentration. Forty six SSRs primers were used to assess the 10 elite genotypes and their four original parents. The total number of amplified bands and polymorphic bands were (189 bands), representing 100% polymorphism. Thirty nine unique markers identified the drought tolerant genotypes and may be responsible for tolerance to drought.

Key words: Rice, Gamma radiation, Mutations, Drought tolerance, Early maturing, Mature embryo, Callus induction, Plant regeneration, PEG, SSRs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks for Allah, the greatest and almighty for his uncountable and infinite graces guided me to the Islam and taught me things that I didn't know.

Deep thanks are extended to **Dr. Alia El-seoudy**, Professor of Genetics, Genetics Dept., Ain Shams University for her kind supervision, suggesting the problem, the facilities she offered to me during the preparation of this work, her valuable advices and for reviewing the manuscript.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to **Dr. Lamyaa Mostafa Kamal**, Assistant Prof in Genetics, Ain Shams University for her kind supervision, energetic guidance, conclusive instructions throughout the course of this investigation and reviewing the manuscript.

My deep thanks are offered to **Dr. Abdel-shafy Ibrahim Ragab**, Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Plant Research Dept., Nuclear Research Center, Atomic Energy Authority, for his kind supervision, suggesting the problem, the facilities he offered to me during the preparation of this work and for writing the manuscript.

I would like to extend my deepest and greatest thanks to **Prof. Dr.**Mohamed A. M. Kassem Professor of Plant Breeding, Plant Research

Dept., Nuclear Research Center, Atomic Energy Authority for his
supervision, fruitful help, kind offer to finish this work. I will always
cherish his generous help.

I would like to extend my deepest and greatest thanks to **Prof Dr. Ali El-Gohary**, Sakha Research and Training Center, for helping me and his kind offer to finish this work. I will always cherish his generous help.

My deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to my best friends Dr. Mohammed Ayaad, Mr. Ibrahim Osamy, Dr. Khaled Elazab, Mr.

Mohammed Basyouny and MS Wafaa Adly for helping me in every part of my work.

I dedicate this work to whom my heartfelt thanks; to the soul of my lovely **mother** for her encouragement and valuable advices. As well as to **my father**, **my sisters** and my **brother** for their continuous encouragement and praying for me at all time.

Also, I dedicate this investigation to the soul of my cousin **Walaa** for her encouragement and moral support.

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