

**ENGINEERING TOMATO PLANTS GENETICALLY
TO IMPROVE ITS ECONOMIC TRAITS**

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sci. (Horticulture), Fac. Agric., Menofia Univ., Egypt, 1993

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SUPERVISION SHEET

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للحصول على درجة

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هندسة نباتات الطماطم وراثيا لتحسين صفاتها الاقتصادية

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/ / التاريخ:

(Abstract)

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(def)

(chi)

(tomato- transgenic plants-biolistic-chitinase-definsin)

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This study was conducted to improve the economic traits of the tomato crop in respect to the resistance against fungal diseases by means of introducing antifungal genes. Both the (*chi*) gene and the (*def*) gene were used to transform tomato explants. The transformation was performed using biolistic delivery system. Putative transgenic plantlets of were confirmed by PCR, Southern and dot blot analysis. Bioassay for transgenic plants was performed using the fungal pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* to assay for the resistance against fsarium wilt disease.

(Key Words :- transgenic plants-biolistic-chitinase-definsin-tomato)

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biolistic delivery system -

(def) *(chi)*

Southern hybridization analysis dot blot PCR -

(def) *(chi)* -

(def) -
(chi)

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Production of transgenic tomato plants with enhanced -

resistance against the fungal pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum*

Dina E. Abbas; Naglaa A. Abdallah and Magdy M. Madkour

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Name of Candidate: Dina El-Amir Abbas **Degree:** Ph.D.

Title of Thesis: Engineering tomato plants genetically to improve its economic traits.

Supervisors: Dr. Naglaa Abd El-Moneim Abd Allah,
Dr. Magdy Ahmed Madkour.

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in attempts to improve the economic traits of the tomato crop in respect to the resistance against fungal diseases. The Fusarium susceptible tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill) cultivar Castlerock was used in this study to produce fungal resistant plants by means of introducing antifungal genes. Both the plant vector pGL2 that harbors a class I rice chitinase gene (*chi11*) under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter and hygromycin resistant gene as a plant selectable marker and the plant vector pMON22653 harboring defensin (*def1*) gene derived from the plant species *Medicago sativa*, under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter were used to transform tomato explants. Hypocotyl with a part of cotyledon (hypocotyledonary) of young tomato seedlings were used as explant material. The transformation was performed using biolistic delivery system. Shoots were regenerated onto selective regeneration medium supplemented with suitable concentration of BA, zeatin riboside, AgNO₃ and hygromycin then subjected to rooting medium for developing roots. Putative transgenic plantlets of R₀ were confirmed by PCR analysis using specific primers for the transgenes and the transformation frequencies obtained were 42.5% and 52.3% for both *chi11* and *def1*-transformed plantlets respectively. However, PCR, Southern hybridization and dot blot analysis were conducted to R₁ seedlings to confirm the stable integration of transgenes in R₁ progeny. Bioassay for transgenic plants was performed on the transgenic R₁ young seedlings and non-transgenic controls by challenging with a vigor isolate of the fungal pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici* to assay for the resistance against fusarium wilt disease among individuals. Data from the challenged *chi11*-transgenic plants showed percentage of resistance for transgenic plants under treatment was 43.9% and the degree of resistance varied among the transgenic lines. Three lines (8, 3 and 4) showed very slight symptoms against *F. oxysporum* infection as they did not spread even when the incubation period was extended more and reached to blossoming and fruiting stages. Results also showed that line 8 gave the highest percentage of resistance, as 7 out of 9 were resistant plants with resistance rate of 77.7%, followed by line 3 with 75%, then line 4 with resistance rate of 66.6%. On the other hand bioassay data for the *def1*-transgenic plants showed that the percentage of resistance for transgenic plants under treatment was 52.4% while the degrees of resistance varied among the transgenic lines. Three lines (4, 7 and 3) showed very slight symptoms against *F. oxysporum* infection as they were the most individual plants that exhibit healthy appearance even when the incubation period was extended. Results also showed that line 4 gave the highest percentage of resistance, as it was 81.8%, followed by line 7 with 75%, then line 3 with resistance rate of 71.4%. The obtained results indicated that expression of both the chitinase (*chi11*) and defensin (*def1*) genes into tomato plants acquired them antifungal activity against fusarium pathogen.

Key words: Tomato-transgenic plants-biolistic-chitinase-defensin.

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	5
1. Fungal pathogens	5
2. General approaches for controlling plant diseases.....	10
3. Genetic engineering approaches for controlling plant diseases	11
4. Chitin and chitinases	12
5. Production of Transgenic plants possessing chitinase genes	14
6. Plant defensins	24
7. Production of transgenic plants possessing defensin genes	27
8. Plant regeneration	32
9. Particle accelerator mediated plant transformation	36
10. Selection for transformants	40
MATERIAL AND METHODS	47
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	61
1. Hygromycin sensitivity determination	61
2. Particle bombardment transformation	63
3. Shoot induction for the transformed explants with the plant vector pGL2	66
4. Shoot induction for the transformed explants with the plant vector pMON 22653	67
5. Root development	70
6. Acclimatization	71
7. Verification of transgenic plants	72
a. Polymerase chain reaction analysis	72
b. Dot blot hybridization analysis	75
c. Southern hybridization analysis	78
8. Pathogenicity test	83
9. Reisolation and purification of the pathogenic fungus	85
10. Bioassay for chitinase transgenic plants	86
11. Bioassay for defensin transgenic plants	91
SUMMARY	97
REFERENCES	105
APPENDIX	131
ARABIC SUMMARY	