

**FUNCTIONAL GENOMIC STUDIES TO IDENTIFY
LEAF RUST RESISTANCE RELATED
GENES IN BREAD WHEAT**

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sc. (Genetics), Ain Shams University, 2010

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

Of

The Requirements for the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

in

Agricultural Sciences

(Genetics)

Department of Genetics

Faculty of Agriculture

Ain Shams University

2017

Approval Sheet

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ABSTRACT

Mohammed Mostafa El-mahdy Abd-Allah: Functional Genomic Studies to Identify Leaf Rust Resistance Related Genes in Bread Wheat. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis, Department of Genetics, Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, 2017.

Wheat, one of three most important commercial crops around the world, is considered the first strategic food crop in Egypt. Wheat leaf rust caused by *Puccinia triticina* Eriks, reduces the yield and quality of the grain and yields. It cause yield loss between 20-50% if infection occurs very early. Differential display reverse transcription PCR (DDRT-PCR) was used to study the response of bread wheat to leaf rust infection at the molecular level. Three Egyptian cultivars of bread wheat were used in this study; Shandwell 1, Gemmeiza 1 and Sids 1 representing resistant, moderately resistant and sensitive cultivars, respectively. Performance of non infected cultivars and after one and two weeks from infection was evaluated. Two hundred and forty eight differentially expressed fragments were observed as up-regulated, up- & down-regulated, down- & up-regulated and Down-regulated EST. Sixty four fragments were selected, extracted from the gel, reamplified and sequenced. BLAST program from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), USA were used to determine similar sequences of these fragments. Results of the database sequence alignment identified fragments with significant homology to genes and/or proteins with known function, other fragments with homology to unknown or hypothetical ESTs with unknown functions, and some fragments revealed no homology in the databases. These results implicated that several pathways are involved in the plant's response to leaf rust infection which still needs to be elucidated further.

Key words: Bread wheat, Biotic stresses, Leaf rust, *Puccinia triticina*, Differential display reverse transcription (DDRT), PCR, cDNA, Gene expression and GenBank Database.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Firstly, all praises to **ALLAH** the most merciful and compassionate, for the strengths, support, help, generosity and blessing in my life and completing this thesis.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Fatthy M. Abd El-Tawab**; Prof. of Genetics, Genetics Dept., Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams University, **Prof. Dr. Eman Fahmy**; Prof. of Genetics, Genetics Dept., Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams University and **Dr. Sameh Elsayed Ibrahim**; Senior Researcher and Head of Bioinformatics Department, Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI), Agriculture Research Center (ARC) for their valuable supervision; suggesting the scientific problem, productive help, energetic guidance, conclusive instructions throughout the course of this investigation and in the writing and reviewing the thesis.

The pleasure of completion is to look over the journey and remember all the friends and family who have helped and give me support along this time, my family love provided my inspiration, moral support and positive energy, I owe them everything and wish I could show them just how much I love and appreciate them.

Sincere appreciation is due to **Dr. Rania Mahmoud**; Senior Researcher, (AGERI), **Dr. Mohamed Abdel Sattar**; Senior Researcher, (AGERI), **Dr. Omneia Osama**; Researcher, (AGERI), **Dr. Marwa Hanafy**; Assistant Researcher, (AGERI) and **Mr. Yasser Bahaa Eldin**; Assistant Researcher, (AGERI) for their encouragement and serving as a model to me as a junior member of the Academia. They have been strong and supportive advisors to me throughout my career.

Special and great thanks for **Dr. Reda Sallam**; Senior Researcher and **Dr. Walid El-Oraby**; Senior Researcher, Wheat Diseases Research Department (WDRD) for their valuable help, kind and supporting.

During this work I have been blessed with a friendly and cheerful group of junior scientists, Great and deep thanks to my dear staff

members: **Mr. Kareem Ahmed, Mrs. Rasha Abdel Kader, Mrs. Warda Alaa, Mrs. Esraa Bassam** and my friend **Mrs. Marwa Ibrahim** for their great help, assistance and encouragement, and many thanks to assistants **Mrs. Lamiaa Ahmed, Mrs. Rabab Ibrahim** and **Mr. Adel Abdel Rady** for their assistance.

Many thanks are also due to head and all staff members of Genetics Department, Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams University.

Extended grateful thanks for all members of Agricultural Genetic Engineering Research Institute (AGERI), Agriculture Research Center (ARC).

I wish to express my deepest thanks to my dear Mother, Father, Sisters, Friends and Relatives for their encouragement and spiritual support.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Name
Ap1	Arbitrary primer 1
Ap2	Arbitrary primer 2
Ap3	Arbitrary primer 3
Ap4	Arbitrary primer 4
Ap5	Arbitrary primer 5
Ap6	Arbitrary primer 6
Ap7	Arbitrary primer 7
Ap8	Arbitrary primer 8
AFLP	Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
BLAST	Basic Local Alignment Search Tool
BLASTn	Nucleotide blast (Search a nucleotide database using a nucleotide query)
cDNA	Complementary DNA
CTAB	Cetyltrimethyl Ammonium Bromide
DD	Differential display
ddH₂O	Double-distilled water
DDRT- PCR	Differential display reverse transcription-PCR
DNase	Deoxyribonuclease
dNTP	Deoxynucleotide
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
ESTs	Expressed Sequencing Tags
EtBr	Ethidium bromide stain

MgCl₂	Magnesium chloride
mRNA	messenger RNA
Na₂SO₃	Sodium sulfite
NaCl	Sodium chloride
NaI	Sodium iodide
NCBI	National Center for Biotechnology Information
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
Re-PCR	Reamplified-PCR
rRNA	Ribosomal RNA
rpm	Round per minute
SAM	S Adenosylmethionine
T₁₉A	Anchored Primer A
TAE	Tris-acetate-EDTA
TBE	Tris Borate EDTA

INTRODUCTION

Wheat is one of three most important commercial cereal crops around the world, It ranks first as the largest cultivated area which surpasses any other commercial crop. Wheat contains protein higher than the other major; cereals, maize or rice. It providing more than 20% of all calories consumed by the people worldwide. **FAO's** latest forecast for 2015 global wheat production stands at 719 million tonnes (**FAO, 2015**). In 2016, total Egyptian cereal harvest is 22.1 million tonnes, including nine million tonnes wheat production, this means that wheat represents 40.7 % of the total Egyptian cereal production (**FAO, 2016**). Bread making is a basic staple food for both urban and rural areas. It is the main source of plant protein in the human nutrition.

World population is increasing at an alarming rate and is expected to reach about nine billions by the end of year 2050. On the other hand, food productivity is decreasing due to the effect of various abiotic and biotic stresses. Therefore minimizing these losses is a major area of concern for all nations to cope with the increasing food requirements (**Waraich et al., 2012**). Nature including plants always encounter many changes, that lead to various stress whether abiotic stress (temperature changes, drought and salinity) or biotic stresses (viruses, bacteria and fungus). On the other hand, researches and tecnology always develop new solutions. In order to find suitable solutions, different situations, reasons and conditions must be studied, here is the important role of the molecular biologists, because natural changes lead to changes on physiological responses of cells at the molecular level (**Harb 2010**).

Globally important fungal diseases of wheat, caused by biotrophs (obligate parasites) include the three rusts (leaf rust *Puccinia triticinia*, stem rust *Puccinia graminis tritici* and yellow rust *Puccinia striiformis*), powdery mildew, and the bunts and smuts, whereas, those caused by hemibiotrophs (facultative parasites) include *Septoria tritici* leaf blotch, *Septoria nodorum* blotch, spot blotch, tan spot, and *Fusarium* head blight.