

# EFFECTS OF Cd IN THE ROOT PROTEOME OF TOMATO PLANTS

Jorge Rodríguez-Celma, Ana Flor López-Millán, Anunciación Abadía, Javier Abadía.

Departamento de Nutrición Vegetal. Estación Experimental Aula Dei – CSIC. Avenida de Montañana 1005, E-50059.

## **Introducción**

Heavy metals constitute a heterogeneous group of essential and non-essential elements. Non-essential heavy metals like Cd behave as phytotoxic elements, even when present at low concentrations (Vázquez *et al.*, 1992). Cd accumulation in soils may come from different sources, such as air pollutants and soil applications of commercial fertilizers. When present, it is easily taken up by the roots and mobilized throughout the plant where it can reach edible parts and become a potential hazard for human and animal health. The aim of this work was to investigate the effects of Cd on the root proteomic profile in tomato to further understand the physiological responses of plants to heavy metals.

## **Material and methods**

*Plant Culture:* Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) plants were grown as described in Zouari *et al.*, 2001. Nutrient Solution was supplied with 0, 10, or 100  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{CdCl}_2$ .

*Growth Parameters:* Ten days after treatment onset plants were harvested. Each plant was divided in leaves, stems, and roots, fresh and dry weights were recorded and ca. 1 gr root samples were frozen in liquid  $\text{N}_2$ .

*Cd concentrations:* Cd concentration in plant tissues was determined by ICP.

*Protein extraction:* Frozen root tissues were ground in a Retsch XXX mill and proteins extracted with phenol, precipitated and resuspended in rehydration buffer (Meyer *et al.*, 1988)

*2D electrophoresis:* A first dimension IEF separation was carried out on 7 cm ReadyStrip IPG Strips (pH 5-8; BioRad, Hercules, CA, USA), with a linear pH gradient in a PROTEAN IEF Cell (BioRad). SDS-PAGE (12% polyacrylamide) was carried out at 20 mA per gel for 1.5 h hour, and gels were subsequently stained with Commassie-blue and analysed with the PDQuest 8.0 program (BioRad). Experiment was repeated 5 times with 2 plants per batch.

## Results

Cd in nutrient solution decreased root and shoot fresh and dry masses, when compared to control plants. Plants grown with Cd had brownish roots and showed necrotic lesions in the leaf blades. Cd concentrations in roots from plants grown with 0, 10 and 100  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd were 0.7, 1607 and 4731  $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ .

Bidimensional separation of root extracts from plants grown with 0, 10, 100  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd resolved 194, 193 and 162 spots, respectively. Averaged polypeptide maps analysis indicated that the 10  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd treatment caused increases in signal intensity in 35 spots and decreases in 16 spots when compared to control plants. Also, 7 and 1 spots were only detected in plants grown with 10 and 0  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd, respectively. When analyzing plants grown with 100  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd, 17 and 47 spots increased and decreased their signal intensity, and 4 and 11 spots were only detected in the 100 and 0  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd grown plants, respectively. From the spots whose intensity changed with Cd supply, 11 spots increased their signal intensity in both 10 and 100  $\mu\text{M}$  Cd treatment, while 7 spots decreased in both.

## Conclusions

Cd toxicity induces significant changes in tomato development and root proteome. Further investigation is needed in order to identify the spots that showed changes in intensity with Cd supply and thus better understand plant physiological responses to Cd toxicity.

## References

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