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Peroxidase expression in a cereal cyst nematode (Heterodera avenae) resistant hexaploid wheat line.

The incompatible interaction between plant and pathogen is often determined by the hypersensitive reaction (HR). This response is associated with accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which results in adverse growth condi-

tions for pathogens. Two major mechanisms involving either NADPH oxidases or peroxidases have been proposed for generation of ROS. Peroxidases (PER, EC 1.11.1.7), present in all land plants, are members of a large multigenic family with high number of isoforms involved in a broad range of physiological processes.

PER genes, which are expressed in nematode feeding sites, have been identified in several plant species (Zacheo et al. 1997). A strong correlation between HR and PER activities at four and seven days post nematode infection, was detected in roots of wheat lines carrying *Cre2*, *Cre5* (from *Ae. ventricosa*) or *Cre7* (from *Ae. triuncialis*) *Heterodera avenae* resistance genes (Andrés et al. 2001; Montes et al. 2003, 2004).

We have studied changes in root of peroxidase mRNAs levels after infection by *H. avenae* of a wheat/*Ae. ventricosa* introgression line (H-93-8) carrying *Cre2* (Delibes et al. 1993). We also report and classify the predicted protein sequences derived from complete peroxidase transcripts.

materials and methods. Seedlings from the resistant line (H-93-8), obtained from the cross [(*T. turgidum* cv. Rubroatum, H-1-1/*Ae. ventricosa*, AP-1)//*T. aestivum* cv. Almatense, H-10-15] (Delibes et al. 1993) were inoculated with pathotype Ha71 of *H. avenae*. Root sections and leaves were harvested 4 and 7 days-after-infection; uninoculated tissues served as controls. Total RNA was extracted using the method of Båga et al. (1995). PER cDNAs were synthesized using 3'RACE a Superscript™ one-step RT-PCR kit (Invitrogen Life Technologies, San Diego, CA) and a 5'RACE SMART™ RACE cDNA Amplification Kit (Clontech Laboratories, Inc, Mountain View, CA) kit according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Primers from conserved regions of plant peroxidase genes were used for second cDNA synthesis and PCR. Preferential amplification of different PER sequences was obtained with primers designed from low-sequence-homology areas. Amino acid sequences were derived from the coding regions and aligned using MultAlign program (Corpet 1988). A distance-based tree was constructed by NEIGHBOR Joining with MEGA version 3.1 (Kumar et al. 2004).

The expression levels of each PER group in inoculated roots and uninoculated controls were determined by qRT-PCR. Primers for each peroxidase cluster were designed using Primer Express 2.0 software (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). PCRs were performed using Power SYBR® Green PCR Master Mix (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions in a ABIPRISM 7300 Detection System and software (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA).

results and conclusions. Comparative analysis of the amino acid sequences predicted from cDNAs revealed that they contain conserved structural features and activity sites of typical class III peroxidases. The distance tree of wheat line H-93-8 peroxidases was organized in five major clusters of homologous genes (*Pox1*, *Pox2*, *Pox3*, *Pox4*, and *Prec1*; Fig. 1), strongly supported by Bootstrap values. Interestingly, two members from rice peroxidase group IV (BAC79531.1, BAC83103.1, Passardi et al. 2004), which resulted equivalent to pathogen inducible proteins (Chittoor et al. 1997), were closely related to *Pox1*, *Pox2*, and *Pox3*.

Both with and without attack, all PER groups showed weak expression profiles in leaves. PER classified as *Pox1*, *Pox2*, and *Pox3* exhibited enhanced expression in infected roots when compared to noninoculated controls. Nematode infection apparently did not alter the expression pattern of *Pox4*, *Prec1*, and *Putper* in roots. The *Pox3* cluster showed the highest levels of transcription, independently of attack.

Acknowledgement. Financial support for this work was from Grant AGL2004-06791-CO4 from the Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología of Spain.

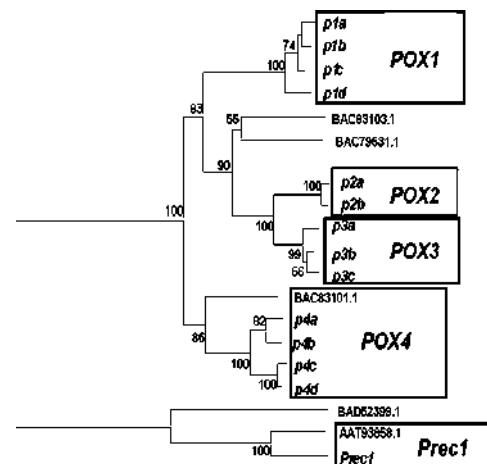


fig. 1. Unrooted phylogenetic tree of wheat line H-93-8 PER based on predicted protein sequences and its relationships with representative rice peroxidases (GenBank accession numbers: AAT93858.1, BAD62399.1, BAC83101.1, BAC79531.1, BAC83103.1). The tree was constructed by the NEIGHBOR joining method. Values at nodes indicate Bootstrap supports greater than 50 %.

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Release of Mapeña spring bread wheat.

mapeña is a spring bread cultivar released in 2007 carrying the *Cre7* resistance gene to *H. avenae* transferred from *Ae. triuncialis* (Romero et al. 1998). The cultivar was developed from the cross 'TR-353/Betres//Alcotán/3/Rinconada/4/3*Betres' under the designation ID-2181. Mapeña is a high-yielding, medium maturing, semidwarf cultivar with moderate resistance to leaf rust, yellow rust, powdery mildew, and Septoria. This cultivar is better adapted to the southern and northeastern wheat growing regions of Spain. Mapeña has good quality properties for baking industry and is registered in the Spanish Catalogue of Commercial Plant Varieties (BOE, 2008).

Coöperation with other institutions.

We are coöperating with Agrosa Semillas Selectas SA.

Personnel.

Dr. Guillermo Briceño-Felix left the bread wheat program in the UdL-IRTA Center. Dra. María Dolores Romero has just retired from Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

publications.

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