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INFLUENCE OF HIGH TEMPERATURES ON HEAT TOLERANCE AND SYNTHESIS OF HEAT SHOCK PROTEINS IN SPRING WHEAT AT THE INITIAL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

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Wheat is one of the agricultural crops that is subjected to temperature stress during ontogenesis and it is especially sensitive to action of the stress at the initial stages of wheat development. High temperatures restrict of growth, development and plant productivity. However, plants can to acclimate to temperature stress and have the adaptive mechanisms at the cellular and molecular levels. One of this adaptive mechanism is an increase of the synthesis of the heat shock proteins (HSPs), which functions are very important and various.

The aim of this study was to determine the influence of different heat treatments (37 and 39 °C for 1, 3, 6, 24 h and 50 °C for 1, 3, 5 h) on the heat tolerance in spring wheat seedlings (Triticum aestivum L.) and synthesis of the HSPs (101, 70, 60 and 16.9 kDa) in shoots of the 4-day-old seedlings and leaves of the 8-day-old seedlings.

Based on the findings, it is concluded that the 4-day-old and 8-day-old spring wheat seedlings are characterized by a similar response to heat stress at 50 °C, however, 4-day-old seedlings are more resistant in the initial period of stress influence. The exposures at 37 and 39 °C are suitable for acclimation of spring wheat at the initial stages of development (the 4-day and 8-day-old seedlings). These temperatures lead to a similar trend in the heat resistance of seedlings and the synthesis of HSPs in shoots and leaves. At the same time the content of HSP16.9 depends on the developmental stage of wheat. It is noted the synthesis of HSP16.9 in shoots, but not in leaves under normal conditions. It is concluded that the heat acclimation of the 8-day-old seedlings is a longer process (6-24 h of exposure at 37 and 39 °C) compared with the 4-day-old seedlings (3-6 h of exposure at 37 and 39 °C).

Keywords: Triticum aestivum L.; heat shock proteins; acclimation; seed-lings; shoots; leaves; high temperature; heat tolerance.

ВЛИЯНИЕ ВЫСОКИХ ТЕМПЕРАТУР НА ТЕПЛОУСТОЙЧИВОСТЬ И СИНТЕЗ БЕЛКОВ ТЕПЛОВОГО ШОКА В ЯРОВОЙ ПШЕНИЦЕ НА НАЧАЛЬНЫХ СТАДИЯХ РАЗВИТИЯ

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Пшеница одна из сельскохозяйственных культур, которая подвергается действию температурного стресса в течение онтогенеза и особенно чувствительна к действию стресса на начальных стадиях её развития. Высокие температуры ограничивают рост, развитие и продуктивность растений. Однако, растения могут адаптироваться к температурному стрессу и имеют адаптивные механизмы на клеточном и молекулярном уровнях. Одним из таких адаптивных механизмов является увеличение синтеза белков теплового шока (БТШ), функции которых очень важны и разнообразны.

Целью данной работы было изучить влияние различных тепловых обработок (37 и 39 °C в течение 1, 3, 6, 24 ч и 50 °C в течение 1, 3, 5 ч) на теплоустойчивость проростков яровой пшеницы (Triticum aestivum L.) и синтез БТШ (101, 70, 60 и 16.9 кДа) в побегах 4-х суточных и листьях 8-ми суточных проростков.

На основании полученных данных сделан вывод, что 4-х суточные и 8-ми суточные проростки яровой пшеницы характеризуются схожей реакцией на тепловой стресс при 50 °C, однако 4-х суточные проростки более устойчивы в начальный период стрессового воздействия. Воздействие температурами 37 и 39 °C подходят для адаптации яровой пшеницы на начальных стадиях её развития (4-х суточные и 8-ми суточные проростки). Эти температуры приводят к схожей тенденции в синтезе БТШ в побегах и листьях. В тоже время, содержание БТШ16.9 зависит от стадии развития пшеницы. В нормальных условиях был отмечен синтез БТШ16.9 в побегах, но не в листьях. Сделано заключение, что адаптация 8-ми суточных проростков более длительный процесс (6-24 ч воздействия 37 и 39 °C) по сравнению с 4-х суточными проростками (3-6 ч воздействия 37 и 39 °C).

Ключевые слова: Triticum aestivum L.; белки теплового шока; адаптация; проростки; побеги; листья; высокая температура; теплоустойчивость.

Introduction

Wheat is one of the agricultural crops that is subjected to temperature stress and it is very sensitive to action of the heat stress during ontogenesis at the stages of seedling germination and leaf formation, anthesis and grain filling. On these stages of development, the high temperatures restrict of growth, development and wheat productivity [1]. The normal temperature of vegetative development of wheat is reported to be 20-30 °C, and the adverse of the stress effect depends on the magnitude, timing and the duration of stressful influence [2]. However, plants can to adapt to stress and for heat tolerance is required different changes on physiological, biochemical and molecular levels. The synthesis of heat shock proteins (HSPs) is one of essential component of the plant response to elevated temperatures and thermotolerance [3-8]. The heat resistant depends on the synthesis of HSPs that improve different processes, such as photosynthesis, respiration, membrane stability, water use efficiency, assimilate partitioning and can to use the reactive oxygen species as a signal molecule and regulate the activity of the antioxidant enzymes [9]. The principal heat shock proteins are grouped into five conserved classes: HSP100, HSP90, HSP70, HSP60, and the small heat shock proteins (sHSPs) [3, 9]. HSP16.9 is a sHSPs, that belongs to a family of class I of HSP20 family. HSP16.9 may interact with many essential polypeptides in a manner similar to HSP90 [3, 10]. sHSPs form a high molecular weight oligomeric complexes which may to serve as cellular matrix for stabilization of unfolded proteins and for its function are needed HSP100, HSP70 [3, 6, 9]. HSP60 perform the function of ATP-dependent specialized folding machinery [3]. HSP100 is responsible for ATP-dependent dissociation and degradation of aggregate protein [3, 11]. HSP70 is responsible for primary stabilization of newly formed proteins [3, 12]. It is known that the low-molecular-weight HSPs can protect the chloroplasts and the mitochondria from heat damage [13]. The chloroplastic and mitochondrial sHSPs are considered to play an important role in heat tolerance [6].

The responses of plants to high temperatures are very complex including different physiological and metabolic changes that effect on the plant development and the interactions on cellular and molecular levels. Therefore, little research has systematically compared the effects of heat elevated and stressful temperatures of various durations in various developmental phases of wheat [2]. Many works are devoted to the study of the influence of high elevated and stressful temperatures at the level of wheat flowering and grain filling, but not at the initial stages of wheat development. In this connection, the purpose of this work was to determine compared analyze of the influence of elevated (37)

and 39 °C for 1, 3, 6, 24 h) and stressful (50 °C for 1, 3, 5 h) temperatures on the heat resistant (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and synthesis of the HSPs (101, 70, 60 and 16.9 kDa) in wheat at the initial stages of development.

Samples and Research Methods

We used the 4-day-old and 8-day-old seedlings of spring wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) variety "Novosibirskaya 29". The 2-day-old seedlings were transferred into 3-dm³ boxes with solution a half-strength Knop medium and were grown in a KBWF 400 chamber at 23 °C / 20 °C (16 h day / 8 h night) and illumination 200 μ mol (photon) m⁻² s⁻¹ photosynthetic active radiation.

For heat acclimation, control seedlings into 3-dm³ boxes were transferred in a KBWF 240 chamber at 37 or 39 °C for 1, 3, 6, 24 h under light conditions. For heat stress treatment, control seedlings into 3-dm³ boxes were transferred in a KBWF 240 chamber and were subjected to heat stress at 50 °C for 1-5 h under light conditions. Cultivation and temperature treatments were carried out in Binder chambers (Tuttlingen, Germany) of the experimental station "Fitotron" SIPPB SB RAS.

The effectiveness of acclimation is assessed by the accumulation of heat shock proteins in the shoots of 4-day-old seedlings and leaves of 8-day-old plants spring wheat after heat treatments.

The heat resistant was studded using conductivity meters HI 8734 (Hanna Instruments Inc., Nusfalau, Romania). The yield of electrolytes from the leaf and shoot cells (V, %) was calculated by the formula: $V = 100 \, (Lt \, / \, Lk)$, where Lt is the electrical conductivity of the sample after heat treatment, Lk is the conductivity of the same sample after 15 min of the boiling.

Content of the heat shock proteins in shoot and leaves of seedlings were investigated by 1D SDS-PAGE electrophoresis with using the Mini-PROTEAN III Electrophoretic Cell (Bio-Rad, USA). The total protein from green shoots and leaves was extracted according with Borovik and Grabelnych [14]. After SDS-PAGE, the separated proteins were transferred on a nitrocellulose membrane (GE Healthcare, Freiburg, Germany) by the Mini Trans-Blot (Bio-Rad, USA). Then the HSPs were visualized with a BCIP-T/NBT alkaline phosphate system (Thermo Scientific, Vilnius, Lithuania). It was used the following antibodies: anti-HSP101 (AS07 253, Agrisera, Vännäs, Sweden), anti-HSP70/Hsc70 (SPA-820, StressGen, Victoria, Canada), anti-HSP60 (H1830-77B, US Biological, Salem, MA, USA), anti-HSP16.9 (AS12 2570, Agrisera, Vännäs, Sweden), anti-Actin (AS13 2640, Agrisera, Vännäs, Sweden), and secondary antibodies conjugated with alkaline phosphatase (Agrisera, Vännäs, Sweden).

The statistical significance of differences for the comparison of groups was determined by ANOVA with using program of SigmaPlot14.0 (Systat Software Inc. (SSI), USA). It was dune at least three independent experiments. Data are presented as mean \pm SD (standard deviation of the mean) and as median with percentiles (75th percentile and 25th percentile). The differences at p < 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Research Results and Discussion

Since wheat is sensitive to high temperatures during stages of seedling germination and leaf formation, it was selected these stages as 4-day and 8-day-old seedlings, respectively (fig. 1).



Fig. 1. The seedlings of spring wheat. Note: a – the 4-day-old seedlings; b – the 8-day-old seedlings of spring wheat

The heat resistance of seedlings was assessed by the yield of electrolytes from cells into water. It should be noted that the yield of electrolytes in control samples is different and it is much higher in shoots of 4-day-old seedlings compared with the leaves of 8-day-old seedlings (fig. 2).

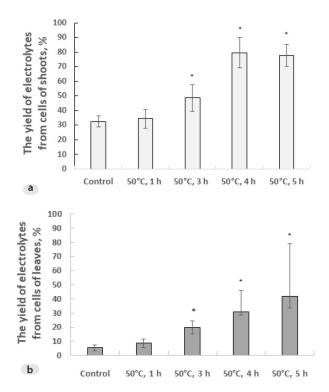


Fig. 2. The influence of heat stress (50 °C) on the heat resistant of spring wheat seedlings.

Note: a – the 4-day-old seedlings; b – the 8-day-old seedlings of spring wheat. The data are presented as mean \pm SD for a and median and percentiles (75th percentile and 25th percentile) for b. n = 3. * The differences between the control and heat treatments are statistically significant; P < 0.05.

The heat shock at 50 °C (from 1 to 5h) resulted in the increase of yield of electrolytes from cells of the leaves and shoots. At the same time the content of electrolytes from shoot cells was significantly lower compared with the leaves (fig. 2). As shown in Fig. 2, the heat stress at 50 °C for 3 h resulted in the increase of yield of electrolytes from cells of shoots and leaves by 1.5 and 3-fold, respectively. This indicates that the 4-old-day seedlings are more resistant to heat stress at initial period of influence at 50 °C. It is likely that this increased heat resistance deals with a higher level of carbohydrates, HSPs and other pro-

tective compound that are accumulated under action of high temperature in seedlings [6, 15-17].

For next stage of the work, it was selected the temperatures of heat acclimation (37 and 39 °C) with an exposure interval (1, 3, 6, 24 h) which was estimated by heat resistant of seedlings and synthesis of HSPs in shoots and leaves (fig. 3).

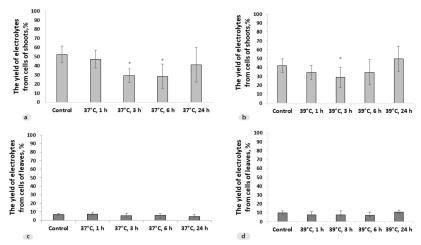


Fig. 3. The influence of heat treatments (37 and 39 °C) on the heat resistant of spring wheat seedlings.

Note: a, b – the 4-day-old seedlings; c, d – the 8-day-old seedlings of spring wheat. The data are presented as mean \pm SD for a,b and median and percentiles (75th percentile and 25th percentile) for c,d. n = 3. * The differences between the control and heat treatments are statistically significant; P < 0.05.

The increase in the duration of the time exposed at 37 and 39 °C (from 1 to 24 h) was not accompanied by an increase the yield of electrolytes from shoot and leaves cells (fig. 3).

The induction of HSP synthesis is classical plant response to high temperatures and it is an essential component of the plant heat acclimation and thermotolerance [3, 5, 7, 9, 18]. The efficiency of heat acclimation for 4-day-old and 8-day-old plants was assessed by the synthesis of HSPs with molecular weight of 101, 70, 60 and 16.9 kDa in shoots and leaves of the seedlings (figs. 4 and 5). It was noted that the synthesis of HSP16.9 is observed only in shoots of the 4-day-old seedlings, but not in leaves of the 8-day-old seedlings at the control conditions (fig. 4).

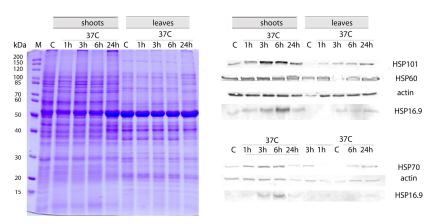


Fig. 4. Effect of the heat treatments (37 °C for 1 to 24h) on the HSPs content in the spring wheat seedlings.

Note: C – control seedlings; M – the protein markers; 1 D SDS-PAGE separation of total proteins followed by immunoblotting with antibodies against HSPs and actin that were visualized with a BCIP-T/NBT alkaline phosphate system are presented from left to right. n = 3.

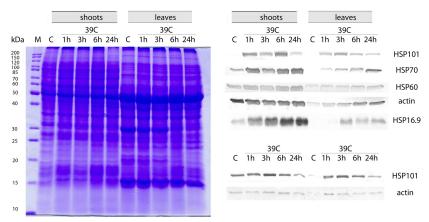


Fig. 5. Effect of the heat treatments (39 °C for 1 to 24h) on the HSPs content in the spring wheat seedlings.

Note: C – control seedlings; M – the protein markers; 1 D SDS-PAGE separation of total proteins followed by immunoblotting with antibodies against HSPs and actin that were visualized with a BCIP-T/NBT alkaline phosphate system are presented from left to right. n = 3.

The changes in the HSPs content in spring wheat seedlings after heat treatments is observed (figs. 4 and 5). It is known that under high temperature the HSP100, HSP90, HSP70 and HSP20 (or small HSPs) are expressed in maximal amounts [6]. The increase in the duration of time exposed to 37 °C (from 1 to 24 h) was accompanied by an increase in the HSP101 content in both shoots and leaves of seedlings of spring wheat (fig. 4). The higher induction of the synthesis of HSP70 is detected under heat exposure at 37 °C for 3-6 h in shoots and at 37 °C for 24 h in leaves. As shown in Fig. 4, the higher induction of the synthesis of HSP16.9 is detected under heat exposure at 37 °C for 6 h in shoots and at 37 °C for 24 h in leaves.

Also as shown in Fig. 4, the content of HSP16.9 was detected only in shoots, but not in leaves at the control conditions (fig. 5). At the same time, for the higher content of HSP16.9 is required under a prolonged exposure of 39 °C in both 4-day-old and 8-day-old seedlings (fig. 5).

As shown in Fig. 5, the higher induction of the synthesis of HSP70 is detected under heat exposure at 39 °C for 1-24 h in shoots and at 39 °C for 24 h in leaves. The increase in the duration of time exposed to 39 °C (from 3 to 6 h) was accompanied by an increase in the HSP101 content in both shoots and leaves of seedlings of spring wheat (fig. 5). Based on the research conducted, it was supposed that synthesis of HSP16.9 depends on on the developmental stage of spring wheat. It is known that some sHSPs are highly-expressed in embryogenic tissues and growing fruits [6] and not only under stress condition, but in normal development [8, 9].

Conclusion

It was concluded that the ability of wheat to acclimation depends on duration of the exposure at temperatures (37 and 39 °C) and stages of the wheat development. The thermotolerance also depends on the stages of wheat development. The important role of the heat shock proteins (especially of small heat shock proteins) in the heat acclimation of wheat at the initial stages of its development was revealed.

Conflict of interest information

We have no conflict of interest to declare

Sponsorship information

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