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Research Article

SALINITY STRESS INDUCED ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY OF PHOSPHATE DEPENDENT GLYCOLYTIC ENZYMES IN ANABAENA SP. BHUAR002

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ABSTRACT

Cyanobacterium *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 (Accession no. bankit1353506 HM235817) survive under energy depleted condition in salt stress because of different adaptations which facilitate organism survival. Inorganic phosphate which is the main source of energy in the form of ATP become diminished under stress condition, organism switch their dependency towards pyrophosphate which was unaffected under stress condition and all phosphate dependent glycolytic pathway enzymes alternate their pathway toward inorganic pyrophosphate dependent alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes. By observing enzyme activity under control and stressed condition, activity of main glycolytic pathway enzymes as inorganic phosphate or ATP dependent phosphofructokinase (PFK), Glyceraldehyde 3P-dehydrogenase, Phosphoglycerate Kinase and Pyruvate kinase found to be more in control. Whereas activity of alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes (inorganic pyrophosphate dependent enzymes) as PPI dependent phosphofructokinase (PFK), NADP- glyceraldehydes 3P-dehydrogenase, Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (PEPC), Malate dehydrogenase and NAD – Malic enzyme was enhanced under stress condition.

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INTRODUCTION

Excessive soil salinity is an increasing agricultural problem in different regions of the World (Rai, 2015). One of the most important factors for the reduced growth and failure of plants and cyanobacteria to grow and survive under salinity is energy limitation to meet the adaptation. Pi starvation further deregulates the physiology of cells and cause ATP over intake (Plaxton, 2004). Plant metabolic flexibility allows the preferential utilization of inorganic pyrophosphate (PPI) as an energy donor, particularly when cellular ATP pools become limited during stresses and nutritional Pi starvation. PPI permits microbes to conserve ATP (Rai, 2011; Stitt, 1998)

Use of PPI (a byproduct of secondary metabolism and anabolism) as an energy donor helps to conserve inadequate ATP pools. Concentration PPI in the cytosol is up to about 0.5 mM which is remarkably unaffected to abiotic stresses (Stitt, 1998). These large amounts may be engaged to enhance the energetic efficiency of cellular processes. During salt stress, there is a clear drop in cytoplasm Pi levels that follow large declines in intracellular levels of ATP. During stress conditions, PPI would continue to be generated (albeit at a lower rate) as a byproduct of the synthesis of essential macromolecules. PPI- motorized processes may become

an crucial facet of the metabolic alterations of plants to environmental stress that cause low ATP (but not PPI) pools (Dobrota, 2006). However, this aspect has not been worked out especially in the case of salt stress.

Alternative glycolytic pathways are shown in Figure 1, in which PPI-dependent processes contribute a significant bioenergetic benefit that may extend the survival time of ATP-depleted cells during stresses. Glycolytic reactions can bypass Pi or ATP- demanding steps of glycolysis under environmental stress conditions (Duff *et al.*, 1989; Theodorou *et al.*, 1992).

One alternative glycolytic pathway is catalyzed by a PPI – dependent phosphofructokinase (PFK) which under Pi scarcity, can bypass the ATP dependent phosphofructokinase (PFK) by producing fructose -1,6-bisphosphate (Plaxton and Carswell, 1999).

Second alternative glycolytic pathway found in cyanobacteria is made by the reaction of non-phosphorylating NADP – dependent glyceraldehyde -3P dehydrogenase (NADP-G3PDH) that alternate Pi dependent NAD – G3PDH and phosphoglycerate kinase (Duff *et al.*, 1989; Theodorou *et al.*, 1992).

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Third bypass of the glycolytic pathway is catalyzed by collective activities of PEPC, MDH and NAD-malic enzyme (Theodorou and Plaxton, 1996). When Pi stress under salt stress condition can severally bound pyruvate kinase (PK), an enzyme requiring Pi ADP, PEPC, MDH and NAD-malic enzymes bypass PK and by this continue the flow of carbon in glycolysis cycle by avoiding the use of ADP but producing free Pi (Plaxton and Carswell, 1999).

Cyanobacteria under salt stress condition use extra ATP for their metabolic activities. Due to this, cellular ATP pool of cyanobacteria becomes reduced or cellular Pi level falls to a very low level. For the better survival of the organism and for energy conservation during salt stress cyanobacteria may bypass the main glycolytic pathway enzymes by alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes which are ATP or Pi independent and PPI dependent pathway. Level of PPI has been found constant under stress condition.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Estimation of intracellular Phosphate and Pyrophosphate

A known amount of *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 (Rai and Rai, 2011) culture was centrifuged and collected pellet was washed with sterilized DDW and inoculated which was then incubated for 24 h in control and stressed (500 mMNaCl) concentration of Allen Arnon medium (Allen and Arnon, 1955)

Intracellular Phosphate: 5 ml of homogeneous cyanobacterial cell suspension added with 5 ml combined reagent mixture containing 1.0 ml ammonium molybdate, 2.5 ml diluted H₂SO₄, 1.0 ml Ascorbic acid and 5.0 ml Antimony Potassium Tartrate (from prepared stock solutions of reagent). Absorbency was taken after 15 min at 885 nm by spectrophotometer in triplicates. Phosphate concentration was calculated by a standard curve of phosphate (K₂HPO₄).

Intracellular Pyrophosphate: 5 ml of *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 for control and stressed cells (500 mMNaCl, at 24 hr of incubation) was taken and added with liquid nitrogen and allowed to evaporate at room temperature then 1.5 ml of 1.41 M HClO₄ was added to the frozen cell which was broken up with mortar and pestle (Autoclaved). The resulting suspension was kept on ice for 90 min and then centrifuged for 2 min at 20,000 rpm at 2°C. The sediment was rinsed with resuspension and centrifugation in two 0.5 ml portion of sterilized DDW. The initial supernatant and the washings were neutralized with 5 M K₂CO₃ and combined.

Further, centrifugation removed the resulting KClO₄ to give a final supernatant; the pH was adjusted to 7-8 by glacial acetic acid. The basis of enzyme assay was measurement of the fructose 1, 6 – bisphosphate formed when the extract was added to pure pyrophosphate: fructose 6 – phosphate 1 phosphotransferase. The assay mixture contained in 1 ml: 50 mM 2 amino – 2 (hydroxymethyl) – 1, 3 – propanediol (adjusted to pH 8.0 with glacial acetic acid), 2 mM Magnesium acetate, 1 mM fructose 6- Phosphate, 0.15 mM NADH, 20 μM Fructose 2, 6 bisphosphate, 0.45 unit fructose-bisphosphate aldolase, 1.7 unit glycerol – 3 – phosphate dehydrogenase, 5.0 unit triosephosphate isomerase and upto 0.87 ml extract (Edwards *et al.*, 1984). The reaction was started with the addition of 0.1 unit pyrophosphate fructose 6 – phosphate 1-phosphotransferase and was allowed to go to completion.

Oxidation of NADH was measured in triplicates by spectrophotometrically at 340 nm.

Measurement of rate of respiration

The rate of respiration (oxygen consumption in dark) was determined in *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 for control and stressed cells (500 mMNaCl, at 24 hr of incubation) by measuring total O₂ consumed in dark for a given period of time minus nonspecific O₂ uptake. To determine the non-specific O₂ uptake the consumption of O₂ was measured in presence of antimycin A (2 μM) (Grant, 1978).

Enzyme Assay

It includes extraction of enzyme and estimation of nine different glycolytic enzymes (main glycolytic pathway and alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes) of *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 in control and stressed cells (500 mMNaCl) at 24 h of incubation.

Enzyme extraction

The experiment was carried out at 4°C. Frozen cells (0.5 g) were ground (1:1) w/v in homogenization buffer for 10 min using sterilized autoclaved mortar and pestle and the homogenate was centrifuged for 10 min at 10000 rpm supernatant used for enzyme assay (Duff *et al.*, 1989).

Estimation of Glycolytic Enzyme Activity

Different glycolytic enzymes and alternate glycolytic enzymes were assayed in triplicates at 25°C by reduction of NAD⁺ or NADP⁺ or the oxidation of NADH or NADPH at 340 nm using a Hitachi, model no. U-2900 Spectrophotometer.

Main Glycolytic Pathway Enzymes: Phosphate dependent Phosphofructokinase (PFK) (Bergmeyer, 1974), ATP dependent glyceraldehydes 3P dehydrogenase (Kelly and Gibbs, 1973), Phosphoglycerate kinase (Bücher, 1955) and Pyruvate kinase (Bergmeyer *et al.*, 1974).

Bypass Glycolytic Pathway Enzymes: Inorganic pyrophosphate-dependent phosphofructokinase (PFP) (Schafingen *et al.*, 1982), NADP – dependent glyceraldehydes-3P dehydrogenase (NADP – G3PDH) (Kelly and Gibbs, 1973) Inorganic pyrophosphate-dependent phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Wohl and Markus, 1972), Inorganic pyrophosphate-dependent Malate dehydrogenase (Bergmeyer, 1974), Inorganic pyrophosphate-dependent NAD – Malic enzyme (Geer *et al.*, 1980).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Acclimatization under salt stress by conserving ATP pool is mainly due to hyperactivity of ATP independent and PPI dependent glycolytic pathway enzymes. Energy-dependent plant stress acclimation explained by (Dobrota, 2006) mainly studied about the survival of the organism under salt stress condition when ATP was more required to cells for better survival. Under this condition, more ATP was consumed to separate different metabolic activity of cells, so the level of ATP or inorganic phosphate become diminished (Ashihara *et al.*, 1988). Experimental results also show that rate of respiration and level of phosphate become diminished under stress conditions but pyrophosphate level was found more or less constant under control and stress condition (Table-1).

Table 1 Rate of respiration, intracellular phosphate and pyrophosphate in control and stressed cyanobacterial cells

| Sl no | Parameters | Control | 500 mMNaCl |
|-------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Rate of Respiration | 0.32 ±0.28 μM | 0.52 ±0.2 μM |
| 2 | Intracellular Phosphate | 20.1 ±0.18 μM ml ⁻¹ | 9.2 ±0.26 μM ml ⁻¹ |
| 3 | Intracellular Pyrophosphate | 8.02 ±0.2 μM ml ⁻¹ | 7.14 ±0.11 μM ml ⁻¹ |

Under stress condition when cellular ATP pool become diminished P_i can work as an energy donor (Plaxton and Carswell, 1999). Several studies i.e., MicroRNA399 signal for regulation of plant phosphate homeostasis by (Pant *et al.*, 2008), Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxylase activity measured by Meyer (Meyer *et al.*, 1988) and malate dehydrogenase as an alternative pathway enzyme characterized in cyanobacterium *Coccochlorispenicocystis* (Norman and Colman, 1988), Contribution of Malic enzyme, Pyruvate kinase, and Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Edwards *et al.*, 1998) indicate towards this fact.

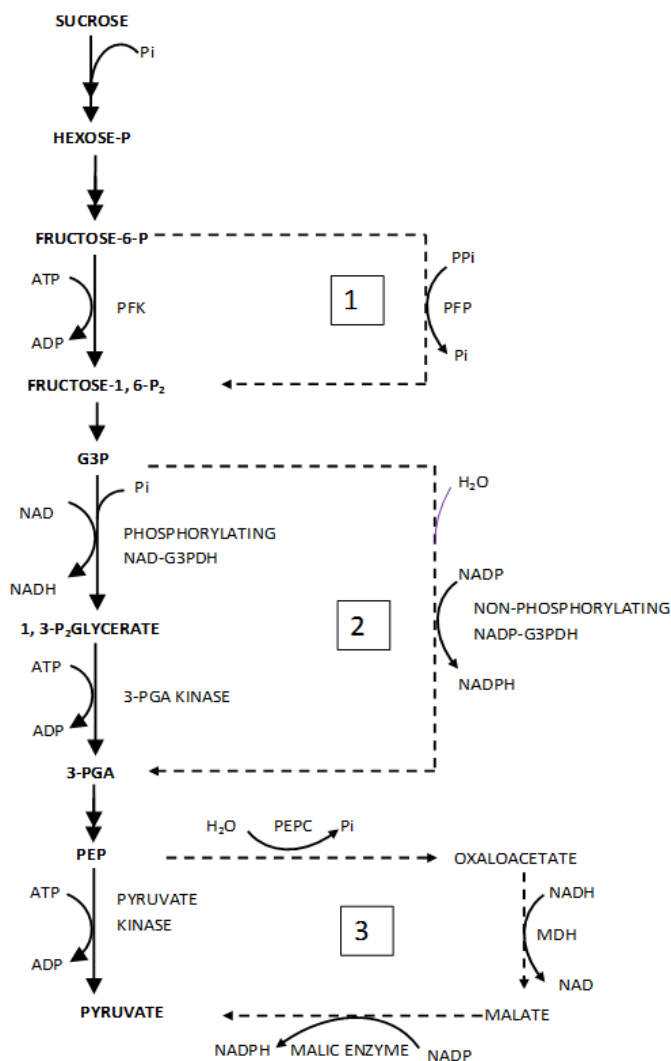


Figure 1 A model for plant (Dobrota, 2006; Duff *et al.*, 1989) and cyanobacteria (Rai, 2011) suggesting the three salt stress inducible glycolytic bypass pathway in cyanobacteria. 1- representing P_i dependent phosphofructokinase bypass of ATP dependent phosphofructokinase, 2- represent Non-Phosphorylating NADP-G3PDH which bypasses two ATP dependent glycolytic enzymes i.e. Phosphorylating NAD-G3PDH and 3- PGA Kinase third bypass pathway 3-represent combination of three ATP independent enzymes PEPC, MDH and NAD-Malic enzyme which alters ATP dependent Pyruvate Kinase of main glycolytic pathway.

It was found that under stressed condition when cellular ATP level become diminished and level of inorganic phosphate become lower, main glycolytic pathway enzymes as PFK, NAD-G3PDH, 3-PGA Kinase and Pyruvate Kinase bypasses by PFP, NADP-G3PDH, PEPC, Malate dehydrogenase and NAD- Malic enzyme inorganic pyrophosphate-dependent or ATP independent enzymes (Figure -2). A similar pattern of enzyme activities were observed in higher plants under stress condition (Stitt, 1998; Sung *et al.*, 1988).

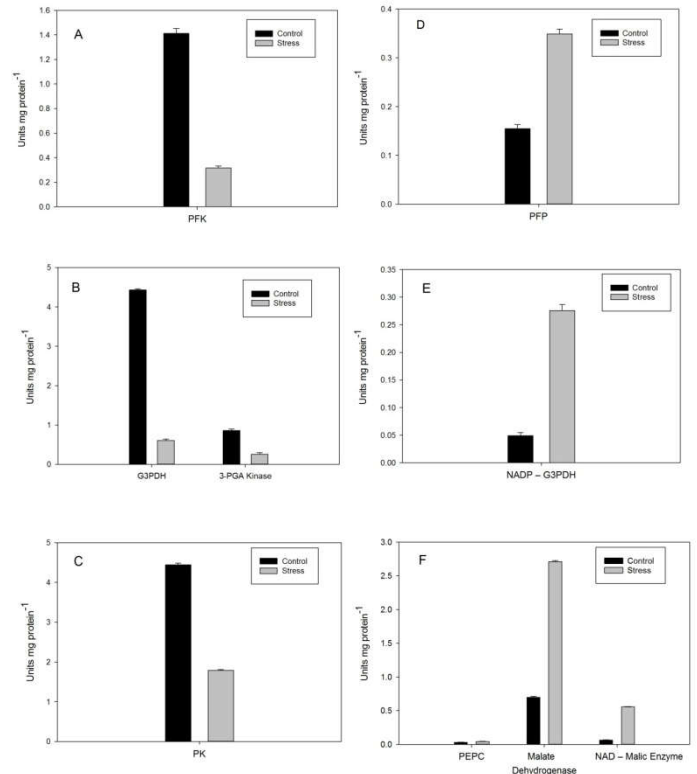


Figure 2 Activities of different glycolytic pathway enzymes (A, B, C) and alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes (D, E, F)

In *Anabaena* sp. BHUAR002 level of P_i dependent Phosphofructokinase (PFK) was found 77% less in stress (500 mMNaCl, at 24 h of incubation) compared to control and P_i dependent PFK was found 125.5% more in control compared to stress. NAD-G3PDH and Phosphoglycerate Kinase both were found more in control i.e., 86.4 and 70.7% respectively compared to stress and NADP-G3PDH was found 462% more in stress compared to control. 59.7% more pyruvate kinase was found in control compared to stress.

Table 2 Different Glycolytic enzymes activity in control and stressed cyanobacterial cells

| Sl No | Name of the Enzyme | Enzyme activity (units/mg protein) | | % age increase/decrease |
|-------|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | | Control | Stress | |
| 1 | PFK | 1.412±0.039 | 0.317±0.016 | -77.4936 |
| 2 | PFP | 0.154±0.008 | 0.349±0.010 | 125.5131 |
| 3 | NAD-G3PDH | 4.427±0.012 | 0.603±0.012 | -86.3668 |
| 4 | 3-PGA Kinase | 0.857±0.079 | 0.251±0.024 | -70.665 |
| 5 | NADP-G3PDH | 0.048±0.005 | 0.275±0.010 | 462.9361 |
| 6 | PK | 4.440±0.045 | 1.789±0.021 | -59.7064 |
| 7 | PEPC | 0.029±0.002 | 0.042±0.006 | 41.42083 |
| 8 | Malate dehydrogenase | 0.696±0.016 | 2.708±0.019 | 288.8753 |
| 9 | NAD-Malic enzyme | 0.062±0.002 | 0.555±0.006 | 787.3676 |

Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase, Malate dehydrogenase, and NAD – Malic enzymes are alternative glycolytic pathway enzymes were found to be 41.4, 288.8 and 787.4% respectively and was found more abundant in stress compared to control (Table-2).

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