



Aluminium Toxicity in Rice Cultivars and Some Ameliorative Methods

Balaji Meriga

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Preface

Rice is a staple food crop for more than half of the global population. Its yields are limited by many factors including Aluminium (Al) toxicity. Al is a major abiotic stress factor affecting crop productivity, especially in acidic soils where soluble forms of aluminium becomes toxic to plants. Despite its importance, the physiological, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms of Al toxicity and tolerance in rice remain incompletely understood. This book is a comprehensive exploration into the intricate responses of rice seedlings to aluminium stress, with focus on cultivar-specific differences in tolerance and injury.

The investigations presented herein were undertaken to decipher how different rice cultivars-VIK, IR-8, IR-64, PB, and SUR-respond to varying concentrations and durations of aluminium exposure. Particular focus was given to changes in growth parameters, aluminium accumulation, cellular and histological alterations, membrane lipid peroxidation, antioxidant enzyme responses, metabolic adaptations, and molecular markers associated with tolerance.

The findings reveal that Al stress significantly hinders growth, root-shoot development, and nutrient uptake, particularly under lower pH conditions and in younger seedlings. However, PB and SUR cultivars demonstrated marked resilience, evident from their minimal growth inhibition, reduced oxidative damage, and efficient antioxidant responses. Histological studies revealed effective compartmentalization of aluminium in tolerant cultivars, minimizing injury to root tissues. Elevated activity of key enzymes in the pentose phosphate pathway and TCA cycle, alongside enhanced exudation of citric acid, reflect metabolic adjustments in PB and SUR. Moreover, protein profiling and DNA analysis identified potential molecular markers and stress-inducible components associated with tolerance.

This book not only enriches our understanding of aluminium-induced stress responses but also underscores potential physiological and molecular markers that could be leveraged in rice breeding programs for developing Al-tolerant cultivars. The insights presented here aim to contribute towards sustainable agricultural practices and improved food security in regions with acidic soils.

We hope that researchers, students, plant physiologists, agronomists, and molecular biologists will find this work a valuable resource in the field of plant stress physiology and crop improvement.

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Aluminium Toxicity in Rice Cultivars and Some Ameliorative Methods

Rice is a staple food crop for more than half of the global population. Its yields are limited by many factors including Aluminium (Al) toxicity. Al is a major abiotic stress factor affecting crop productivity, especially in acidic soils where soluble forms of aluminium becomes toxic to plants. Despite its importance, the physiological, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms of Al toxicity and tolerance in rice remain incompletely understood. This book is a comprehensive exploration into the intricate responses of rice seedlings to aluminium stress, with focus on cultivar-specific differences in tolerance and injury.

The investigations presented herein were undertaken to decipher how different rice cultivars-VIK, IR-8, IR-64, PB, and SUR-respond to varying concentrations and durations of aluminium exposure. Particular focus was given to changes in growth parameters, aluminium accumulation, cellular and histological alterations, membrane lipid peroxidation, antioxidant enzyme responses, metabolic adaptations, and molecular markers associated with tolerance.

The findings reveal that Al stress significantly hinders growth, root-shoot development, and nutrient uptake, particularly under lower pH conditions and in younger seedlings. However, PB and SUR cultivars demonstrated marked resilience, evident from their minimal growth inhibition, reduced oxidative damage, and efficient antioxidant responses. Histological studies revealed effective compartmentalization of aluminium in tolerant cultivars, minimizing injury to root tissues. Elevated activity of key enzymes in the pentose phosphate pathway and TCA cycle, alongside enhanced exudation of citric acid, reflect metabolic adjustments in PB and SUR. Moreover, protein profiling and DNA analysis identified potential molecular markers and stress-inducible components associated with tolerance.

This book not only enriches our understanding of aluminium-induced stress responses but also underscores potential physiological and molecular markers that could be leveraged in rice breeding programs for developing Al-tolerant cultivars. The insights presented here aim to contribute towards sustainable agricultural practices and improved food security in regions with acidic soils.

We hope that researchers, students, plant physiologists, agronomists, and molecular biologists will find this work a valuable resource in the field of plant stress physiology and crop improvement.

