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STOMATAL CONDUCTANCE OF DUKU (LANSIUM DOMESTICUM CORR.) IN RESPONSE TO INUNDATION

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at evaluating the stomatal conductance reaction in several duku accessions to inundation conditions. This study was conducted in the Experiment Station of the Faculty of Agriculture, Jambi University, Mendalo Indah Village, Muaro Jambi Regency. The research was carried out simultaneously or in series in two groups. Group I had no inundation of planting media or 100% field capacity (FC) and Group II had inundation (150% FC) of planting media using a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with 3 replications. One variety and tree accessions of Jambi duku tested for their response to inundation in this study were: Duku Variety Kumpeh (DVK-01), Duku Selat Accession (DSA-1), duku Danau Lamo Accession (DLA-2, and Duku Senaning accession (DSA-3). The observed variables include Relative Water Content (RWC), Stomatal Conductance (SC), and Photosynthetic Rate (PR). The results showed that inundation at the level of 150% field capacity (FC) affected all observed variables. There was a decrease in RWC, SC, and PR values in DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 compared with no inundation (100% FC). DVK-01 (duku variety Kumpeh) showed relatively no decrease in RWC, SC, and PR values. At the inundation level of 150% FC, RWC, SC, and PR values were comparatively the same in all tested accessions. The adaptation mechanism of the three accessions tested in response to inundation was seemingly through a decrease in stomatal conductance, while the Kumpeh variety (DVK-01) by maintaining root permeability. The information obtained from this study can be used for further evaluation of the physiological traits of duku in the future.

KEY WORDS

Duku, inundation, stomatal conductance.

The increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere that has exceeded 400 ppm has triggered an increase in Earth's temperature in the last 10 years (NOAA/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2017). This climate change has led to severe and uneven rainfall distribution (Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, 2001). This phenomenon can worsen poor land drainage conditions, causing inundation in agricultural areas, including in the duku main planting area in Jambi Province. Inundation is a condition where the soil can no longer store more water or exceeds the field capacity so that water inundates the roots of plants (Striker, 2012). Such inundation conditions can disrupt the plant root respiration system because of the decreased oxygen content in the soil (Blom and Voesenek, 1996; Serres and Voesenek, 2008). This in turn affects plant metabolism and productivity (Serres and Voesenek, 2008; Colmer and Vosenek, 2009).

Repeated inundation that occurred in several duku planting centers in Jambi has caused serious problems, such as drying leaves and sudden death of the plants, locally known as *mati meranggas* (deciduous death). To date, it is estimated that more than 50% of Jambi's duku plants have died (FGD, 2019). This condition has caused a decline in Jambi duku production. In 2017, duku production experienced the highest decline among other fruit production, which was around 32.82%, recorded production in the fourth quarter only reached 20814 quintals (Hayati, 2020).



An effort to reduce the negative effects of waterlogging includes the development of duku varieties that are tolerant to waterlogging. Hopefully, these plants will be able to adapt to poorly drained areas of repeated flooding. One of the physiological traits affecting the degree of plant resistance to inundation stress (abiotic) is the stomatal open-close response/stomatal conductance. Stomata act as a tool or pathway for gas traffic (CO₂ and H₂O) from outside to inside the plant, in other words, the metabolic process is in line with the level of stomatal opening and closing. This study was aimed at evaluating the nature of stomatal conductance of several accessions and one variety of duku plants grown in inundation for further use in evaluating the physiological traits of duku in the future.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The research was conducted at the Experiment Station of the Faculty of Agriculture, Jambi University, Muaro Jambi Regency. This study was conducted in parallel or in series in two groups. Group I has no flooding or 100% field capacity (FC) and Group II was Flooding (150% FC) of the growing media. This experiment used a completely randomized design (CRD) with 3 replications. This study tested the response of 1 variety and 4 accessions of Jambi duku against inundation: Duku Variety Kumpeh (DVK-01), Duku Selat Accession (DSA-1), Danau Lamo Accession (DLA-2), and Duku Senaning Accession (DSA-3).

The soil used was an alluvial type taken from the village of Kota Baru, Selat, one of the growing centers of duku in Jambi. The soil was then left air-dried in a screen house for 10 days, with the roof covered with plastic to avoid the rain. This planting medium was mashed evenly. The crushed soil was mixed evenly with cow manure at a ratio of 2: 1, before being put into experimental pots (buckets) of 8 kg each.

Field capacity (FC) was obtained by watering the soil media slowly until saturated in 3 sample pots that had been filled with 8 kg of soil. The amount of water poured was 3 liters, then allowed to stand for 24 hours. The water that comes out of the pot is recorded as 1 liter. Thus, the water retained in the pot at 100% field capacity was 2 liters, making the weight of the pot at 100% field capacity 10 kg. To reach 150% field capacity, another 1 liter of water is added so that the weight of the pot becomes 11 kg. The weight of the pots at 100% field capacity was maintained until the end of the study. All experimental pots were watered to ensure FC conditions, 1 day before planting, inundation at 150% FC was done one week after planting.

Observation of Relative Water Content (RWC), calculated by the formula (Kramer, 1969):

$$RWC = (FW - ODW)/(TW - ODW)x100\%$$

Where: RWC = relative water content, FW = fresh weight of sample leaves, DWO = oven dry weight, and TW = turgor weight. Leaf sampling for RWC measurement was conducted at noon (12:30 pm) 4 weeks after inundation (WAI).

Stomatal conductance was observed using a leaf porometer (Decagon Inc. US), at the age of 4 WAI. Photosynthetic Rate (PR) was observed using a multi-spec porometer, at the age of 4 WAI.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result indicated that the relative water content (RWC) of DVK-01, DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 were relatively similar in the non-flooded condition (100% FC). However, the highest RWC value was observed in DVK-01 which measured 92.6% and the lowest was found in ADS-03 which measured 89.3%. Under flooded conditions (150% FC) there was a significant decrease in RWC in DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3, but there was no significant decrease in RWC in DVK-01. At 150% FC, the highest RWC value was recorded in DVK-01, which was 83.25%, while the lowest was in DSA-3, which reached 59.8%, but it was relatively similar to the RWC in DSA-1 (62.3%) and DLA-2 (60.5%) (Figure 1).

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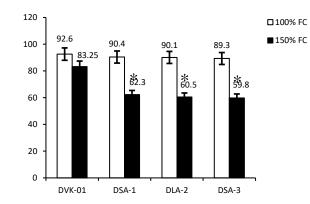


Figure 1 – Relative water content at 100% FC as well as 150% FC state. (*) denotes a significant difference according to the T-test at a 5% confidence level

The research revealed that waterlogging affected the conductance of stomata. The observational results of the SC response at the age of 4 weeks after inundation (WAI) showed that the SC value in the condition of no inundation (100% FC) was relatively the same among DVK-01, DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3, but the highest SC value was recorded in DVK-01 (540.7 mmol H₂O.m⁻². min⁻¹) and the lowest in DLA-2 (530.2 mmol H₂O.m⁻².min⁻¹). Under 150% FC conditions, a significant decrease in SC values was observed in all accessions, except for DVK-01 which showed no significant decline in SC values. In these conditions, the highest SC value was obtained in DVK-01 (507.8 mmol H₂O.m⁻².min⁻¹) and the lowest in DLA-2 at 350.4 mmol H₂O.m⁻².min⁻¹ (Figure 2).

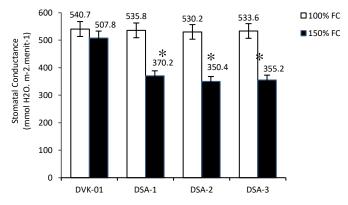


Figure 2 – Stomatal conductance under 100% FC and 150% FC environment. (*) indicates a significant difference according to the T-test at a 5% confidence level

Inundation affected the photosynthetic rate. The observation of PR at 4 weeks after inundation (WAI) revealed that the PR value in the no-inundation state (100% FC) was relatively similar among DVK-01, DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 at 0.68 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹, 0.62 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹, 0.64 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹, and 0.62 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹, respectively. The highest value of the PR, however, was observed in DVK-01 at 0.68 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹ and the lowest in DSA-1 and DSA-3 at 0.62 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹, respectively (Figure 3). Under the 150% FC waterlogging condition, all accessions showed a significant decrease in PR value, except for DVK-01 which showed no significant decrease in PR value. In this inundation period, the highest PR value was obtained in DVK-01 (0.57 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹) and the lowest in DSA-3, which was 0.28 g.cm⁻².min⁻¹.

Relative water content is a parameter to measure the weathering or absorption of water by the roots of plants. The significant reduction in RWC in accessions DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 under 150% FC inundation at the age of 4 WAI, indicated that roots were unable to absorb water optimally and thus the need for water for the canopy was not fuPRilled. One initial physiological response of plants to inundation is a decreased stomatal conductance (Gomes and Kozlowski 1980; Pezeshki and Chambers 1985; Folzer et al. 2006). Inundation



not only enhances stomatal resistance but also limits water uptake, leading to an internal water deficit (Jackson and Hall, 1987, Ismail and Noorm, 1996, Pezeshki et al., 1996; Pezeshki, 2001, Nicolas et al., 2005; Folzer et al., 2006; Parent et al., 2008).

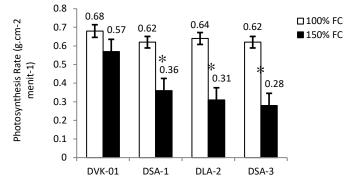


Figure 3 – Photosynthetic rate under 100% FC and 150% FC environment. (*) indicates significant differences according to T-test at a 5% confidence level

The lack of O_2 under inundation conditions could reduce the root hydraulic conductivity (Lp), leading to a reduction in root permeability (Clarkson et al., 2000; Else et al., 2001). The decreased Lp maybe associated with aquaporin molecules by cytosolic pH (Tournaire-Roux et al., 2003). Shreds of evidence suggest that the regulation of the intrinsic plasma membrane proteins (PIPs) by their pH is particularly relevant under anoxic conditions (Postaire et al., 2007). Up-regulation of aquaporin genesis commonly associated with a decrease in root Lp as aquaporins regulate radial water movement in roots (Vandeleur et al., 2005). Accordingly, it appears that the low Lp in the whole plant under water logged conditions is most likely related to the impediment of water transport by aquaporins, although in-depth studies on the influence of aguaporins on the whole plant water regulation during water logging are still acking. In addition, the low radial water transport could be partly explained by the presence of oxygen gradients within the root tissue. There is clear evidence that in water logged soil, an O₂ gradient exists between the stele which maybe in anoxic conditions, and the cortex cell which may only be in hypoxic conditions (Thomson and Greenway, 1991; Colmer, 2003). These differences in the micro-environment may thus a PRo lead to inter-sectional differences in cell energy level and hence low root Lp. This was not the case with DVK-01 although there was a decrease in RWC values under 150% FC conditions, it was not as significant as compared to the RWC under 100% FC conditions. This indicated that accession DVK-01 was more resistant or more tolerant to inundation. It can further be explained that in the 150% FC condition for 4 weeks of water logging, there has been no significant reduction in Lp of the roots in accession DVK-01, therefore no reduction in root permeability. This means that there was no impediment in water transport by aquaporins that control radial water movement in the roots.

The immediate effect of waterlogging, according to Blom and Voesenek (1996), is a hypoxic phase, followed by a steep decline in the O_2 availability resulting in anoxic conditions. The limited O_2 effect on cellular metabolism depends on its concentration and the possible gradual decrease in O_2 availability in the roots and it affects plant metabolism. Anoxia, i.e. where ATP is only generated through fermentative glycolysis because there is no O_2 availability any longer. Accordingly, as the anaerobic conditions are developed in water logged soil, there is an increased amount of by-products of fermentative metabolism accumulates in the root environment, and levels of CO_2 , methane, and volatile fatty acids are elevated (Pezeshki, 2001). A reduction in energy availability has consequences on cellular processes, leading to water and nutrient imbalances and/or deficiencies (Dat et al., 2006). Furthermore, these environmental changes may also predispose plants to other stresses, in particular to pathogenic infections (Munkvold and Yang, 1995, Yanar et al., 1997; Balerdi et al., 2003).



The mechanism by which plants tolerate water stress (inundation) is the response of stomata open-close or stomatal conductance. The metabolism process in the plant body proceeds along with the level of stomatal opening and closing. If the metabolism is obstructed, the stomatal conductance will decrease or may even stop completely. In inundated conditions, the stomatal conductance of plants often drops due to the reduction in the conductance value of the roots (Davies and Flore, 1986). This situation applied to Selat duku accession (DSA-1), Danau Lamo duku accession (DLA-2), and Senaning duku accession (DSA-3) as a mechanism of survival of these accessions in responding to inundation situation. As a consequence, the photosynthesis rate decreases (Dias-Filho, 2002, Bertolde et al., 2012). It was different with the duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01) where the stomatal conductance relatively did not show a significant decrease (more open stomata). It appeared that the adaptation mechanism of this variety in responding to inundation was to maintain root permeability to ensure that water absorption was not disturbed. High water content which can be absorbed by plant roots ensures the full fillment of plant requirements to maintain the turgidity of its tissues. Once water is sufficient, plant cell becomes more turgid, including the stomatal cover cell. This will cause the stoma to open. The increasing turgor is due to the water inflow from neighboring cell to the ccover cell. On the contrary, when the turgor of the closing cell decreases, stoma will close.

Stomatal conductivity of duku accessions DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 which were inundated at the level of 150% FC decreased. This may result from the suppression of metabolic rate as an adaptation strategy of these accessions to inundation, leading to low water content that can be absorbed by the roots (RWC 62.3%, 60.5%, and 59.8%, respectively). In flooded conditions, photosynthesis in the cover cell is inhibited. Therefore, less CO₂ is released and fewer H⁺ ions are also released from the cover cell, so the cellular pH remains low. When the cover cell is in an acidic condition (low pH), phosphorylase is not activated to convert amylum into glucose. Consequently, the osmosis pressure of the cover cell remains unchanged. Because of that, the stomatal opening rate does not increase (low stomatal conductance). Furthermore, according to Davies and Flore (1986), if the metabolism is inhibited, the SC will decrease or even stop completely. In inundated conditions, plant SC often decreases due to a reduction in the conductance value of the roots. Consequently, the photosynthesis rate will decline (Dias-Filho, 2002, Bertolde et al., 2012).

In contrast, the water absorption ability of the duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01) was still higher (RWC = 83.25%) so that it could maintain the photosynthetic rate. CO_2 gas in the leaves is converted to CH_2O , as a result of which H⁺ ions are decreased in the cover cell so that the cellular pH increases. This pH increase activates the phosphorylase enzyme which will convert amylum into glucose. Thus, water from neighboring cell flows into the cover cell. The osmotic pressure of the cover cell rises, encouraging water to osmosis towards the cover cell. Consequently, the stomata will open more widely, resulting in higher stomatal conductance. This means that the stomatal conductance of duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01) toward CO_2 into the leaves is higher so the rate of photosynthesis is also higher. Fitter and Hay (1994) stated that usually, the opening of stomata along with conditions stimulate photosynthesis. Stomatal conductance is a response that is closely related to the photosynthesis process (Soleh et al., 2017; Soleh et al., 2020).

CONCLUSION

The duku Selat accession (DSA-1), duku Danau Lamo accession (DLA-2), and duku Senaning accession (DSA-3) were more sensitive to inundation, while the duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01) was more tolerant. The adaptation mechanism of accessions DSA-1, DLA-2, and DSA-3 in response to inundation conditions differed from the duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01). The three accessions were adapted to inundation through a reduction in stomatal conductance, while the duku variety Kumpeh (DVK-01) was adapted by preserving root permeability.



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