

ISOLATION OF ACC DEAMINASE PRODUCING RHIZOBACTERIA FROM WHEAT RHIZOSPHERE AND DETERMINATING OF PLANT GROWTH ACTIVITIES UNDER SALT STRESS CONDITIONS

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Abstract. Salinity in agricultural lands is a major problem worldwide and the application of 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (ACC) producing plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR), is a good option to reduce the effects of salt stresses on plant growth and development. This study aims to isolate ACC deaminase producing PGPR and evaluate their effect on the growth and yield of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) under salt stress of conditions. 21 ACC deaminase producing bacteria were isolated from wheat rhizosphere and the effectiveness of the isolates was determined by petri, jar and pot experiments. Pot experiments were established with 5 bacterial isolates (*Bacillus cereus*, *Serratia odorifera*, *Lelliottia amnigena*, *Arthrobacter arilaitensis*, *Pseudomonas putida*) and 4 different salt levels (0.95, 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹). ACC deaminase producing bacteria increased shoot and root length under petri and jar trial. Likewise, inoculation of PGPRs under salt stress conditions had a positive effect on wheat Sodium (Na), Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b contents compared to uninoculated control plants in pot trials. Inoculation of wheat with ACC deaminase producing PGPR alleviated the negative effects of salinity and increased plant growth. This study shows the vital role of rhizobacteria producing ACC deaminase increasing salt tolerance and eventually the development of wheat under salinity stress.

Keywords: *plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR), abiotic stress, salinity, ethylene, pot experiments*

Introduction

Salinity is one of the most notable abiotic stress sources that affect agricultural systems and cause a decrease in the food supply in agricultural production. Salinity affects 80 million hectares of agricultural land worldwide (Munns and Tester, 2008) and saline soils increase approximately 7% per year (Tester, 2003). More than 6% of the total land that can be used for agricultural purposes is seriously affected by salt stress in arid and semi-arid regions around the world (Sarkar et al., 2018). Arid climates, low-quality irrigation water, and high temperatures with imbalances in the distribution of rain are among the main causes of soil salinity. Soluble salts accumulate in the plow layer in regions where the evaporation amount of plants is higher than the size of the leach fraction (Rajput et al., 2013). Salt deposits in the soil disrupt the physical and chemical balance of the soil and naturally adversely affect plant growth. In plants developing at high salt concentrations, reactive oxygen species, osmotic shock, ion toxicity, reduced nutrient uptake and reduction in leaf area are observed (Parihar et al., 2015). Increased soil salinity leads to a decrease in plant growth and crop yields as well as in microbial activity. Environmentally friendly, cost-effective and innovative

approaches are needed to minimize the effects of salinity on agricultural soils and increase crop yields. The use of bacteria known as Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) which increases plant growth in abiotic stress conditions is one of the most appropriate and sustainable approaches for alleviating the effects of salt stress (Yang et al., 2008; Sofo et al., 2015). PGPR can increase plant growth by reducing the effects of abiotic stresses, fixing nitrogen, producing plant hormones, dissolving phosphates in the soil and also producing siderophores that increase iron intake (Shanmugam and Kanoujia, 2011; Çakmakçı, 2016). Reduced the amount of ethylene produced under stress conditions, by 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylate (ACC) deaminase containing PGPR is one of the most important mechanisms of alleviating salt stress (Singh et al., 2016). Ethylene is a gaseous form and is a very important plant hormone that is produced by almost all plants and plays a role in plant growth and differentiation. Ethylene at low concentration ($10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) plays a part in plant growth, seed germination, fruit maturing, flower shedding and root development. However, at high concentration ($25 > \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$) may cause root growth reduction and some plant process (Nadeem et al., 2010). A number of PGPR strains containing ACC deaminase which can break down the ethylene precursor ACC into ammonia and α -ketobutyrate thereby reduce the level of ethylene in stressful plants (Ali et al., 2014; Glick, 2014). In recent years, ACC deaminase producing bacteria have been used to reduce the amount of ethylene produced by plants under stress conditions. Research has found that PGPR containing ACC deaminase increases plant growth in abiotic stress conditions such as heavy metal (Hassan et al., 2016; Grobelak et al., 2018), flood (Ravanbakhsh et al., 2017; Ali and Kim, 2018), drought (De Zelicourt et al., 2013; Erdogan et al., 2016; Carlson et al., 2020) salinity (Afridi et al., 2019; Tahir et al., 2019). This study aims to isolate acc deaminase-containing PGPR from wheat roots grown in saline soils and to determine their effects on wheat development under salt stress conditions in pot trials.

Materials and Methods

Isolation of bacteria

For isolation, 21 soil samples were collected from saline soils of Eskişehir province TURKEY in 2014. Soil samples were taken from wheat root rhizosphere and brought into the laboratory in plastic bags. Rhizospheric bacteria were isolated by serial dilution technique. Between 10^{-4} and 10^{-6} dilution was spread on DF salt minimal medium which ACC is used as a nitrogen source (Dworkin and Foster, 1958) and bacterial isolates were purified by repeated streaking. In laboratory, we prepared salt medium as follows (per 1000 ml) 6.0 g Na_2HPO_4 , 4.0 g KH_2PO_4 , 2.0 g glucose, 2.0 g gluconic acid, 2.0 g citric acid, 0.2 g $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 1 mg $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 124.6 μg $\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 78.22 μg $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 10 μg H_3BO_3 , 11.19 μg $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, 10 μg MoO_3 and 15.0 g agar (pH 7.2). We prepared 300 ml DF salt medium autoclaved and after cooling ($> 35^\circ\text{C}$) added 30 ml 0.5 mM ACC solution (filter sterilized). Purified ACC deaminase containing bacteria was stocked in LB medium and 20% glycerol at -80°C .

Characterization and identification of bacteria

Characterization of bacteria used in pot experiments was done by 16s rDNA method. Genomic DNA isolated from bacteria and sequence analysis was performed by

replicating DNA's 16s rDNA region by PCR (Barnawal et al., 2014). Nucleotide similarities were determined by NCBI-BLAST and gene bank numbers were obtained.

Inoculation of seeds with bacteria

Wheat seeds surface sterilized and coated with bacteria for further experiments. After wheat seeds were immersed to 95% ethanol for a very short time (5 seconds), kept in 2% HgCl₂ solution for 3 min. Seeds washed 5 times with sterilized distilled water. Seeds immersed 3 m M ACC solution for 5 min. then kept in 30 min 24-h bacterial culture (Zahir et al., 2009).

Petri experiments

In Petri experiments, 5 bacteria coated seeds placed in sterile petri dishes containing sterile filter paper under sterile conditions. After a second filter paper to cover the seeds and five ml of sterile 5 dS m⁻¹ NaCl solution added to each petri dish. Petri dishes incubated seven days with 28±1 °C and shoot, root data recorded. The experiments conducted with three replication.

Jar experiments

In jar experiment, sterilized jars were used and conducted with 3 replication. 5 bacteria coated seeds were sandwiched between two sterilized filter paper which placed in 10 dS m⁻¹ NaCl containing ½ strength Hoagland solution (Hoagland and Arnon, 1950). The jars were placed in the growth chamber at 25 °C, adjusted to 16 hours light and 8 hours dark for 21 days (Zahir et al., 2009). End of the jar trials shoot length and root length recorded.

Pot experiments

Pot experiments were carried out in the greenhouse of Eskişehir Transitional Zone Agricultural Research Institute Turkey to determine the effectiveness of selected bacterial strains for plant growth of wheat under different salt conditions. Soils were taken from the land and sieved through 2 mm 4.5 kg of plastic pots were filled from the homogeneous mixture (3:1 soil, sand). Pot mixture was analyzed for some physicochemical properties i.e. saturation 56%, pH: 7.82, EC: 0.95 dS m⁻¹ organic matter: 1.44%, extractable P: 4.12 mg kg⁻¹ and extractable K: 120.38 mg kg⁻¹. 40 kg ha⁻¹ phosphorus (together with sowing) and 180 kg ha⁻¹ nitrogen (half sowing and half at the beginning of tillering) were applied to the pots.

Pot experiments were planned at 4 different salt levels with 1, 4, 8, 12 dS m⁻¹ with 4 replications. The amount of NaCl calculated, dissolved in water and applied to the pots soils. Actual salinity was measured as 0.95, 3.98, 7.80 and 11.05 dS m⁻¹. 8 bacterial grafted wheat seeds were planted in the pots and after germination, the seeds were diluted 4 plants. The experiment was carried out according to the factorial experiment design in randomized plots. In the experiment, irrigation was carried out twice a week with distilled water without drainage. Na, K, Ca, chlorophyll a, and chlorophyll b were determined and analyzed. Data were analyzed by using SPSS version 25.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). differences among means were compared with Duncan multiple comparison tests.

Determination of leaf element contents

The first leaves, just below the flag leaf, were collected and analyzed for each plant. Leaf samples collected from plants were washed with distilled water and dried for 65 °C 48 hours. The dried samples were ground and weighed into 0.25 g microwave tubes. 10 ml of HNO₃ mixture containing 20% HClO₄ was added to the weighed sample and digested in the for 30 minutes. Na, K, and Ca were determined as mg g⁻¹ dry weight (DW) by ICP-OES (Optima 8000, PerkinElmer, USA) after completing 50 ml of the digested liquid.

Determination of chlorophyll a and b content

To determine the amount of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b in wheat leaves, 500 mg fresh weight (FW) leaf were crushed in mortar in 90% acetone and centrifuged at 9000 g for 10 minutes. After centrifugation, the supernatant was completed to 50 ml and measured at 645 and 663 nm in the spectrophotometer. Chlorophyll a (Eq.1) and chlorophyll b (Eq.2) contents were determined (Lichtenthaler, 1987).

$$\text{Chlorophyll a (mg g}^{-1}\text{ FW)} = (11.75 \times A_{663} - 2.35 \times A_{645}) \times 50/500 \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

$$\text{Chlorophyll b (mg g}^{-1}\text{ FW)} = (18.61 \times A_{645} - 3.96 \times A_{663}) \times 50/500 \quad (\text{Eq.2})$$

Results

Petri and jar experiments

The data obtained as a result of the petri experiments showed that the root and shoot lengths of wheat which inoculated with ACC deaminase producing PGPR increased compared to the uninoculated control (*Table 1*). Inoculation with ACC deaminase containing bacteria significantly increased plant root and seedling length. The strain 20/1 caused the maximum increase in root length with 74% compared to the uninoculated control. Strain 20/1 was followed by strain 18/6 with 54%, strains 1/6 and 11/5 with 32% over the control. Among the isolates in the petri experiment, the highest shoot length was obtained from strain 17/4 with 43% over the control. Strain 10/6 and strain 1/6 increased shoot length 41% and 35% compared to uninoculated control respectively.

The jar experiments were established with 9 bacterial isolates which were determined as a promising from the petri experiments. As a result of jar trials, length of root and shoot of wheat seeds inoculated with ACC deaminase containing strains increased compared to control (*Table 2*). Strain 21/4 caused maximum increase of root length (97%) compared to uninoculated control. Strain 15/1 and strain 11/5 increased root length of 82% and 56% over the control, respectively. Similarly, strain 18/6 and 10/6 increased shoot length of 54% and 51% over the control, respectively. The maximum shoot length increase data obtained from strain 15/1 with 60% compared to control.

Pot experiments

As a result of jar trials, pot experiments were established with strain 10/6, strain 11/5, strain 15/1, strain 18/6, strain 21/4 and 4 different salt levels which 0.95, 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹. The bacterial isolates used for the pot experiments were identified as strain 10/6 *Bacillus cereus* 10/6, strain 11/5 *Serratia odorifera* 11/5, strain 15/1

Lelliottia amnigena, strain 18/6 *Arthrobacter arilaitensis*, and strain 21/4 *Pseudomonas putida* (Table 3).

Table 1. Effect of ACC deaminase producing rhizobacteria on root and shoot length of wheat under 5 dS m⁻¹ NaCl in petri trial (p < 0.05)

Strain	RootLength (cm)	ShootLength (cm)
Control	5.85 ± 0.42**	4.98 ± 0.21
1/6*	7.70 ± 0.27	6.70 ± 0.22
2/5	6.16 ± 0.62	6.01 ± 0.50
3/4	6.02±0.48	5.24± 1.45
4/2	6.92 ± 0.32	6.82 ± 0.72
5/4	6.15±0.47	5.07±0.97
6/1	6.27 ± 0.37	6.50 ± 0.61
7/3	5.19±0.12	6.48± 1.11
8/4	7.13 ± 0.52	6.60 ± 0.48
9/7	6.29±1.14	6.29±1.04
10/6*	7.65 ± 0.73	7.02 ± 0.31
11/5*	7.70 ± 0.29	5.76 ± 0.19
12/1	6.00±0.79	5.15±0.71
13/4*	7.47 ± 0.56	6.14 ± 0.19
14/2	6.12±0.45	5.01±0.21
15/1*	7.02 ± 0.30	5.90 ± 0.26
16/1	7.09 ± .048	6.42 ± 0.39
17/4*	7.50 ± 0.39	7.10 ± 0.44
18/6*	9.02 ± 0.28	6.09 ± 0.13
19/3	6.12±0.77	6.08±0.51
20/1*	10.02 ± 0.87	6.30 ± 0.51
21/4*	7.47 ± 0.21	5.90 ± 0.18

* Selected for jar trial ** Average for third replicate ± Std. Error

Table 2. Effect of ACC deaminase producing rhizobacteria on root and shoot length of wheat under 10 dS m⁻¹ NaCl in jar trial (p < 0.05)

Strain	Root Length (cm)	Shoot Length (cm)
control	6.80 ± 0.75*	16.00 ± 0.53
1/6	6.60 ± 0.80	19.45 ± 1.15
10/6 ^a	10.40 ± 0.89	24.20 ± 1.07
11/5 ^a	10.60 ± 0.89	21.60 ± 2.60
13/4	7.60 ± 0.96	20.80 ± 0.95
15/1 ^a	12.40 ± 0.96	25.60 ± 0.80
17/4	9.50 ± 0.83	20.80 ± 2.02
18/6 ^a	9.20 ± 0.43	24.60 ± 1.10
20/1	8.40 ± 0.60	23.20 ± 1.28
21/4 ^a	13.40 ± 0.30	23.60 ± 1.23

^a Selected for pot trial * Average for third replicate ± Std. Error

Table 3. Identification of strains

Strain No.	Species	Accession No	Similarity (%)
10/6	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	KP027636.1	99
11/5	<i>Serratia odorifera</i>	NR037110.1	99
15/1	<i>Lelliottia amnigena</i>	KM114915.1	99
18/6	<i>Arthrobacter arilaitensis</i>	CP012750.1	99
21/4	<i>Pseudomonas putida</i>	GQ2008822.1	99

Na⁺ contents tested in salt stress wheat plants in response to ACC deaminase producing PGPR. According to the results of the analysis, the leaf Na⁺ content increased due to increasing salt concentrations (Table 4). Bacterial applications caused reductions in Na⁺ content compared to uninoculated control at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels. Application of *A. arilaitensis* at 7.80 and 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salt levels decreased Na⁺ content by 32% and 10%, respectively, compared to control. Likewise, application of *P. putida* was decreased Na⁺ content of wheat by 26% and %9 at 7.80 and 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels, respectively.

Table 4. Effect of ACC deaminase producing rhizobacteria on Na, K, and Ca under different salinity levels in pot trials

Strain	0.95 (dS m ⁻¹)	3.98 (dS m ⁻¹)	7.80 (dS m ⁻¹)	11.05 (dS m ⁻¹)
Na ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)				
Control	0.12 h	0.15 efg	0.22 d	1.15 a
<i>B. cereus</i>	0.12 h	0.14 fgh	0.22 d	1.13 a
<i>S. odorifera</i>	0.12 h	0.13 gh	0.16 ef	1.09 b
<i>L. amnigena</i>	0.12 h	0.13 fh	0.21 d	1.10 b
<i>A. arilaitensis</i>	0.12 h	0.12 h	0.15 efg	1.04 c
<i>P. putida</i>	0.12 h	0.12 h	0.16 ef	1.05 c
K ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)				
Control	2.09 bc	1.98 de	1.67 hij	1.56 k
<i>B. cereus</i>	2.10 bc	2.08 bcd	1.77 gh	1.57 k
<i>S. odorifera</i>	2.16 b	2.10 b	1.86 fg	1.57 k
<i>L. amnigena</i>	2.18 b	2.09 bc	1.83 fg	1.57 k
<i>A. arilaitensis</i>	2.50 a	2.15 b	1.90 ef	1.70 hi
<i>P. putida</i>	2.56 a	2.18 b	2.0 cde	1.61 ijk
Ca ²⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)				
Control	0.80 abcd	0.74 efg	0.69 g	0.57 h
<i>B. cereus</i>	0.80 abcd	0.80 abcd	0.71 fg	0.59 h
<i>S. odorifera</i>	0.85 a	0.77 bcde	0.69 g	0.58 h
<i>L. amnigena</i>	0.82 ab	0.81 abc	0.75 def	0.59 h
<i>A. arilaitensis</i>	0.82 ab	0.82 ab	0.77 bcde	0.70 fg
<i>P. putida</i>	0.84 a	0.77 bcde	0.77 bcde	0.69 g

p<0.05 bacteria *, salinity *, bacteria*salinity* values with the same letter are not different according to DUNCAN

Leaf K⁺ content decreased due to increased salt concentrations in trials (Table 4). Bacterial applications containing ACC deaminase were found to increase leaf K⁺ content 0.95, 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels compared to control. Application of *P. putida* increased leaf K⁺ content at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels by 10%,

20% and 4%, respectively. Similarly, application of *A. arilaitensis* increased 9%, 14% and 9% K⁺ content at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels, respectively.

Leaf Ca⁺² content decreased due to increased salt concentrations similar to K⁺ content. Bacterial applications increased Ca⁺² content at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels over the uninoculated control. The maximum Ca⁺² increases data obtained from *A. arilaitensis* application at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels by 9%, 9% and 22%, respectively.

Chlorophyll a content of wheat significantly affected salinity (Table 5). Depending on the salt level, chlorophyll a content significantly decreased. ACC deaminase producing PGPR applications did not affect chlorophyll a content at 0.95 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels. However, bacterial applications increased chlorophyll a content compared to control at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels. Application of *P. putida* increased chlorophyll a content at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels by 4%, 7% and 10%, respectively.

Table 5. Effect of ACC deaminase producing rhizobacteria on chlorophyll a content of wheat under different salinity levels in pot trials (mg g⁻¹ FW)

Strain	0.95 (dS m ⁻¹)	3.98 (dS m ⁻¹)	7.80 (dS m ⁻¹)	11.05 (dS m ⁻¹)	Avarage
Control	1.95	1.80	1.73	1.60	1.77b
<i>B. cereus</i>	1.94	1.83	1.76	1.73	1.82ab
<i>S. odorifera</i>	1.94	1.85	1.77	1.72	1.82a
<i>L. amnigena</i>	1.94	1.87	1.77	1.74	1.83a
<i>A. arilaitensis</i>	1.98	1.89	1.82	1.75	1.86a
<i>P. putida</i>	1.97	1.89	1.84	1.75	1.86a
Average	1.95a	1.86b	1.78c	1.72d	

p<0.05 bacteria *, salinity *, bacteria^{n.s.} values with the same letter are not different according to DUNCAN

Chlorophyll b content of wheat significantly decreased due to salinity application (Table 6). Bacteria applications did not affect chlorophyll b content at 0.95 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels. Contrary to the 0.95 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels, the amount of chlorophyll b increased with the application of ACC deaminase producing PGPR at 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels. *A. arilaitensis* application increased the amount of chlorophyll b by 15% on average.

Table 6. Effect of ACC deaminase producing rhizobacteria on chlorophyll b content of wheat under different salinity levels in pot trials (mg g⁻¹ FW)

Strain	0.95 (dS m ⁻¹)	3.98 (dS m ⁻¹)	7.80 (dS m ⁻¹)	11.05 (dS m ⁻¹)	Avarage
Control	1.42	1.00	0.78	0.60	0.95c
<i>B. cereus</i>	1.46	1.07	0.89	0.71	1.03bc
<i>S. odorifera</i>	1.46	1.02	0.91	0.71	1.03bc
<i>L. amnigena</i>	1.43	1.04	0.96	0.84	1.07ab
<i>A. arilaitensis</i>	1.48	1.07	0.99	0.86	1.10a
<i>P. putida</i>	1.46	1.07	0.98	0.79	1.08ab
Average	1.45a	1.5b	0.92c	0.75d	

p<0.05 bacteria *, salinity *, bacteria^{n.s.} values with the same letter are not different according to DUNCAN

Discussion

In this study, 21 ACC deaminase containing PGPR isolated from the wheat root rhizosphere and plant growth-promoting activities of isolates tested under salt stress condition by petri trials. Based on petri trials, jar trials and according to the results of the jar trials pot trials conducted. The effect of five ACC deaminase containing PGPR (*B. cereus*, *S. odorifer*, *L. amnigena*, *A. arilaitensis*, *P. putida*) was evaluated for wheat growth and yield under salt stress 0.95, 3.98, 7.80, 11.05 dS m⁻¹ salinity levels in pot trials. The results showed that salt stress had a strong negative effect on the development of wheat plants, while ACC deaminase containing bacterial applications increased wheat development. Previously conducted studies showed that several bacteria species, including *Serratia* and *Pseudomonas* (Zahir et al., 2009), *Arthrobacter* (Barnawal et al., 2014), *Streptomyces* (Palaniyandi et al., 2014), *Enterobacter* (Singh et al., 2016), *Staphylococcus* and *Kocuria* (Yildirim et al., 2011), *Cronobacter* (Afridi et al., 2019), increased plant growth under salt-stress conditions.

ACC deaminase containing bacterial applications increased the root and shoot length of wheat under saline conditions in petri (5 dS m⁻¹) and jar (10 dS m⁻¹) trials. Inoculation of rhizobacteria strains promoted root and shoot growth by lowering levels of ethylene caused by salt stress. It is known as the ethylene stress hormone and its synthesis is accelerated in response to different environmental stresses like salinity (Mayak et al., 2004). It has been shown that ACC-deaminase containing PGPR can help regulate endogenous ethylene levels in plants through ACC-deaminase activities and consequently promote plant growth and development (Maqshoof et al., 2011; Glick, 2014; Shimaila et al., 2014; Khan et al., 2016; Barra et al., 2016; Sarkar et al., 2018; Afridi et al., 2019). Higher concentrations of ethylene reduced plant growth. In this study, *B. cereus*, *S. odorifer*, *L. amnigena*, *A. arilaitensis*, *P. putida* exhibited ACC deaminase production, which cleaved ACC into α -ketobutyrate and ammonia and reduces the harsh effects of ethylene on plant growth under salinity stress.

Ionic balance is disturbed in plants under saline conditions. Salinity leads to reducing plant growth and development, as well as impairment of ionic balance, especially Na⁺ and K⁺ (Singh et al., 2016). One of the effects of salinity is that the high Na⁺ content has an antagonistic effect on K⁺ uptake. Therefore, restricting Na⁺ intake by increasing K⁺ intake are the main strategies commonly used by plants to maintain the desired K⁺ / Na⁺ ratio in the cytosol (Khan et al., 2009). In this study, Na⁺ increased and K⁺ decreased in plants due to increasing salt concentrations. However, in the application of bacteria that contain acc deaminase, the amount of Na⁺ in the plant has decreased and the amount of K⁺ has increased. Application of *A. arilaitensis*, and *P. putida* especially may help to ion homeostasis of wheat in pot trials. Also, the inoculation of bacteria increased Ca⁺² content that improves plant growth. According to Zahir et al. (2009), low Na⁺ uptake by grafted roots likely resulted from the reduction of Na⁺ passive (apoplastic) flow into tissues caused by a higher proportion of the root covered with soil. Likewise, this effect has been reported in studies conducted with wheat (Singh et al., 2016, 2017; Afridi et al., 2019) and maize (El-Komy, 1998). Yue et al. (2007), Shimaila et al. (2014) and Turhan et al. (2020) shown in their studies that the plants inoculated with ACC deaminase containing bacteria have a low Na⁺ and high K⁺ content.

The decrease in photosynthetic efficiency takes an important place in salinity decreasing plant growth and productivity (Colmenero-Flores et al., 2007). The lack of physiological water caused by salinity stress reduces stomatal conductivity and slows down CO₂ assimilation (James et al., 2002). PGPR has an important role in increasing

the water intake in salt conditions and reducing the suppression of photosynthesis under salinity stress (Hashem et al., 2019). In this study, the amount of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b decreased in salt stress conditions. On the contrary, ACC deaminase containing bacterial applications increased the amount of chlorophyll a and b compared to the uninoculated control. The findings obtained in this study are compatible with previous studies reporting an increase in photosynthetic activity in plants inoculated with ACC deaminase-producing PGPR (Singh et al., 2016, 2017; Chen et al., 2017; Afridi et al., 2019).

Conclusion

As a result, the results show that salt stress applied to wheat has strong negative effects on the growth of wheat. However, inoculation with *B. cereus*, *S. odorifer*, *L. amnigena*, *A. arilaitensis*, *P. putida* has a positive effect on the development of wheat plants under salt stress conditions. The results of the study show that ACC deaminase containing bacterial inoculation supports stress tolerance to wheat plants in terms of plant growth and biochemistry. For this reason, use of ACC deaminase containing bacteria great hope for the plant growth promote in saline soils. Therefore, using ACC deaminase containing bacteria to increase plant growth in saline soils is an environmentally friendly and economical option. However, this study was carried out under controlled conditions in the greenhouse. Therefore, in future studies, it will be useful to determine the yield and quality parameters of wheat in, the field conditions especially inoculation with *A. arilaitensis*, *P. putida*. In addition, suitable carrier formulations for bacteria need to be studied.

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