

# Effects of salinity on photosystem II activity and antioxidant enzymes in two Turkish barley cultivars

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## Abstract

The antioxidant activity and photosynthetic efficiency of two Turkish barley cultivars, Erginel-90 and Tokak 157/37, grown under 120 mM NaCl, was studied. Photosynthetic and antioxidative changes were much more significant after 7 days of salt treatment. The photosynthetic apparatus of Tokak 157/37 was found to be more tolerant to salt stress as compared with Erginel-90, probably due to higher antioxidant activity, lower H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> content and lower lipid peroxidation. After 7 days of salt treatment, Erginel-90 showed high value of the rate of accumulation of closed reaction centers ( $\Phi V/\Phi t_o$ ) and dissipation energy flux per PSII reaction center (DIO/RC) while it is not changed in Tokak 157/37 as compared to control. SM, N,  $\Phi_o$ , ETo/RC, SFIABS,  $\Phi_o/(1-\Phi_o)$ , performance index (PIABS),  $\Phi Ro$  and  $\Phi Ro$  were drastically lower than control in Erginel-90 under salt stress for 7 days, however, these parameters in Tokak 157/37 were very close to the values determined in control plants. Thus, on the basis of our results on two barley cultivars, we recommend the use of some JIP test parameters such as  $\Phi V/\Phi t_o$ , SM, N, SFIABS, PI,  $\Phi Ro$ , PI and  $\Phi Ro$  for the detection of salt-induced changes and to test salt tolerance degree in barley cultivars.

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