

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of salinity stress on chlorophyll content, proline, water soluble carbohydrate, germination, growth and dry weight of three seedling barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) cultivars

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Salinity is a serious environmental constraint to crop production in many parts of the world and the development of crops with improved salt tolerance is proposed as part of solution to this problem. This research was performed out in order to study the effects of different salinity levels on germination, growth, dry weight, proline, water soluble carbohydrate and chlorophyll content of three barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) cultivars named Jonoob (INC-54), Reyhan (INC-45) & Nosrat (INC -47). The experiment was carried out using factorial based on completely randomized design with three replications. Seven old seedlings after germination were transferred to Hoagland nutrient solution under the effect of salinity levels (0, 50, 150 and 250 mM NaCl) in during seven days. Data variance analysis showed that seed germination of three barley cultivars was significantly ($P<0.01$) affected by salinity levels. Minimum germination percentage was obtained in highest salinity (250mM NaCl). The sequence of reduction in germination was Jonoob>Reyhan>Nosrat. The results showed that, increasing in salinity decreased all growth parameters. Salinity stress decreased shoot and root length, root dry weight and chlorophyll contents in every three cultivars. But decreasing of chlorophyll was less in Nosrat compared to two other items. Proline content and soluble carbohydrate were increased in all of the three cultivars with enhance of NaCl concentration. By increasing of salinity stress accumulation of proline and soluble sugar content in leaves of Nosrat cultivar was more than other cultivars. As saltiness increases resistance natural responses in this plant gets better considering less decrease in chlorophyll amount and strategy of more production about praline and sugar solution compared to two other items.

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The soil salinity affects large areas of the world's cultivated land, causing significant reductions in crop yield (Grewal, 2010). The soil salinity is one of the most problem affecting agriculture productions fertility in the world an estimated 6% of total global

land area, which equates to between 400 and 950 × 10⁶ hectares and nearly half of all irrigated land being adversely affected by high salinity. High salt stress disrupts the homeostasis of water potential and ion distribution at both the cellular and the

whole-plant levels (Wenxue, 2003).

Barely (*Hordeum vulgare* L.), is one of the most important cereal production in all over the world which it has main role in human and herd feeding (Walia, 2006). This plant with scientific name of *Hordeum vulgare* is from Gramineae (Poaceae) family and *Hordeum* specie. From under cultivating level, barely is the fourth cultivated cereal in the world which this title due to it's vast consistency in arid and semi- arid situation and water tensions and salinity (Gill 1999).

The germination phase is the most important and sensitive phases in salinity tension (Dizaji, 1998). Salinity by reducing of water potential and special poisonous ions such as: Na^+ , Cl^- and reducing of its necessary nutrition calcium and potassium has negative influence on seed germination (Chesson, 2004). Salinity stress increase ions poisonous, changing enzymes activation and seeds hormones in germination phases (Othman, 2006). Salinity by competing in nutrition element absorption causes to growth reduction. Different experiments on cultivating plants explained this subject which increasing of salinity can reduce micro- stem and micro- root length and also dry weight of these bodies in comparison with instance sample meaningfully (Chesson, 2004). Plants have many behaviors against with salinity indicating. Osmoregulation in plants is one of the effective and meaningful mechanisms against with salinity stress (Paneknyat, 2007). The most important of these osmoregulators solutions including of soluble sugars (such as: sakaroz, glucose, fructose, terhaloz, rafinoz (Prabhjot, 2001). Insoluble sugar (starch, amylose, amilopectin,) and Tetra amino acid such as proline (Shuji, 2002). Proline and hydroxyproline in structural proteins are clearly distinguished from free proline, which serves to regulate osmotic

adjustment. proline transporter (HvProT) was highly expressed in the apical region of barley roots under salt stress (Ueda, 2007). Increasing of aminoacid concentration which contributes to osmoregulation, is due to several factors such as: inhibition of proline analysis, inhibition of enter of proline to protein or increasing of protein analysis which accompany with growth reduction (Kao, 1981).

Proline has conservative effect on nitrate reductase activation of cellular membrane in barely plant leaf under low- water situation seems that cellular membrane resistance is one of the best physiologic indices against with environmental stress and is as a parameter for plants selection with high resistance is high (Neto, 2004 , Tantau, 2004).Carbohydrate soluble aggregations in leaves under stress indicating of it's involve in plant consistency process (Kerepesi, 2000).The reduction of photosynthesis activity is one of the main reasons in salinity influence of plants in which is due to chlorophyll reduction and also reduction of CO_2 absorption and photosynthesis capacity (Fransisco, 2002).

Currently, using of resistant cultivars to salinity is one of the most important and influential methods in extracting and increasing of performance in salt and low-salt soils in arid and semi- arid of areas in all over the world (Ekiz & Yilmaz, 2003). With respect to high extension of barely cultivating in the world and serious threat of salinity tension on producing of this crop with economical value, investigation on it seems necessary. Studying of different phases of cultivating plants growth in salt situation has special importance in agriculture management (Dizaji, 1998). So the aims of present study was , therefore, (1) to determine the effect of saline irrigation on germination, growth, dry matter

and measurement of proline, soluble sugar and chlorophyll content (a, b, a+b), (2) to evaluate abilities of these cultivars under salinity, (3) to compare and to introduce the most constant of cultivars to agricultural society.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For studying of salinity stress effect on germination and physiological factors of Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) seeds were prepared in Karaj plant Institute, Iran. Related study was carried out in 2010 at Islamic Azad University of Tonekabon under controlled condition. This experiment was carried out using factorial based on completely randomized design with three replications. For studying of salinity tension effects on germination phase seeds was put in 5% sodium hypochlorite solution of for 20 min and then by distilled water washed for antiseptic of it. Seeds was cultivated in Petri on wet filter paper soaked with the four levels of salinity include 0, 150, 50, 250 m/mol chloride sodium. In every dish putted 30 seeds. Then plates were putted in 20 centigrade in incubator (25°C, 12 h of light and 12 h of dark), after 3 days germinated seeds enumerated. For evaluation of physiological parameters, Seven old seedlings after germination on wet filter paper soaked with distilled water in incubator, were transferred to Hoagland nutrient solution under the effect of salinity levels (0, 50, 150 and 250 mM NaCl) in during seven days. The Hoagland solution was continuously aerated changed twice a week (table 1). PH was 6-6.5. After passing of 3 days, salinity care, 0, 50, 150, 250 m/mol, NaCl imposed on them for one week. Plants were grow under controlled situation (16 hours light on 25°C, 8 hours darkness on 20°C and environment moisture 60-70%) (Yousfi, 2007). Then physiological parameters were evaluated. After passing of stress period, proline was evaluated by Bates method

(1973), sugar by Nelson method (1943), chlorophyll by Lichtenthaler method (1987). Other parameters included measurement of root/shoot dry weight, root height and aerial or atmospheric body. The dry matter was determined by drying the plants in an oven at 65-70 °C for 48 hours to a constant weight. Data Analysis, variance and comparison of mean by Duncan experiment and SPSS software was done and drawing of diagrams was used from Excel software.

RESULTS

Salinity and germination: statistical analysis of studied behaviors showed that by increasing of salinity, germination percent will reduce.

Based on the table of comparison, the highest percent of germination belongs to Jonoob type with 98.3% in control level and 75% in 250m/mol. The least percent of germination belonging to Nosrat type with 93.3% in control level and 40% in 250m/mol level.

Salinity and growth: variance analysis table shows that the length of atmospheric body and root and root/shoot dry weight in different salinity levels and in comparison with three types of them, they have meaningful difference together. ($P < 0/01$) salty condition had less effect on Nosrat's air organs height and dry weight compared to other items and the lengths of Reyhan's and Jonoob's stem under salty condition was significantly decreased (table 4). Considering to the table of comparison, shortest height of air organ belongs to 250 mgr/lit salt and the highest belongs to control level. This matter applies to all three items under study. (Table 3) Decrease of dry weight in shoot and root are noticeable respectively compared to highest level of saltiness (250 mgr/lit salt) and results show that dry weight of three kinds of barely under study was

dramatically decreased under salty condition. (Table 2 and 3)

Salinity and carbohydrate solution: Based on a variance analysis table, carbohydrate solution in atmospheric phase in different levels of salinity in comparison with three types and also interacting effect of types and salinity, had meaningful difference ($p \leq 0.01$) sugar solution of stem with increasing of salinity increased (fig1).

Salinity and proline rate: Result showed that in every level of salinity and in comparison with three types of barely (Jonoob, Nosrat, Reyhan) it was meaningful difference ($p \leq 0.01$) saltiness had a considering effect on increase in root's praline in

150 and 250mmol compared to control level and 50 mmol NaCl level. Salinity induced increase in content of leaves and root's proline in Nosrat (0/455a) (0/427a) compared to two other items.

Salinity and chlorophyll: Variance analysis indicates that saltiness effect on cultivars chlorophyll content is meaningful. Table 3 indicates that chlorophyll content of a, b and a+b had noticeable decrease by increasing of salinity in all cultivars. The highest rate of chlorophyll was observed in nutrient solution without salt and in high rates of saltiness (150 and 250 mM) the highest rate of chlorophyll decrease was observed. Considering diagram, chlorophyll was less in Nosrat compared to two other items (fig. 2).

Table 1. Contents of nutrient solution used for irrigation of barely seedlings

Element name	Resource	Main solution(g/L)	Suitable content for 1 litere of solution
Potassium di hydrogen phosphate	KH_2PO_4	34.025	1mg/L
Potassium nitrate	KNO_3	25.275	5mg/L
Calcium nitrate	$\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	59.025	5mg/L
Magnesium sulfate	$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	61.6	2mg/L
Boric acid	H_3BO_3	0.715	1mg/L
Manganese chloride	$\text{MnCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.4525	
Zinc sulfate	$\text{ZnSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.055	
Copper sulfate	$\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.02	
Molybdic acid	$\text{H}_2\text{MoO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.0225	
Coordination complex	Na_2EDTA	0.5	1mg/L

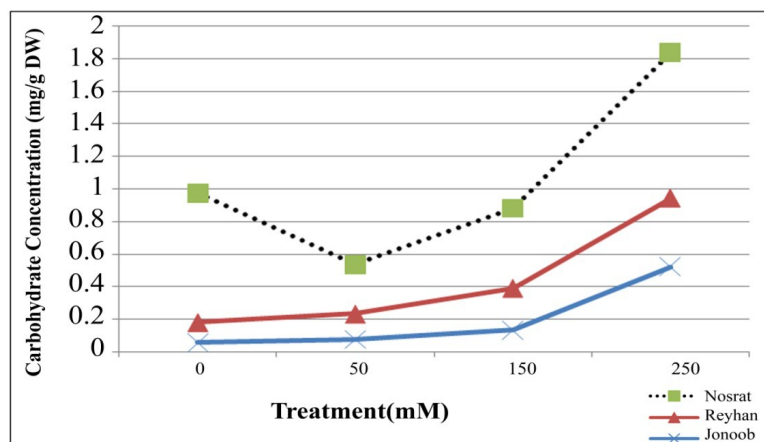


Fig1. Intraction effect of salinity and cultivar on carbohydrate of leaves

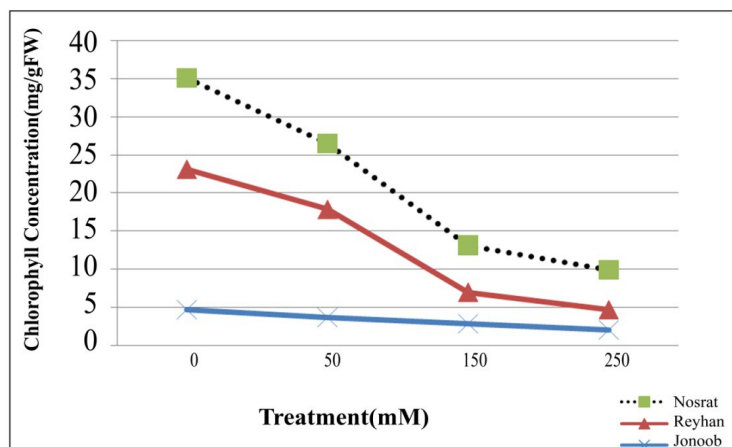


Fig2. Interaction effect of salinity and cultivar on total chlorophyll

Table 2. Variance analysis of studied parameters

Resource	Cultivar	salinity	Cultivar & salinity	Root MSE	CV
df	2	3	6	23	
Shoot height (cm)	44.083611**	142.5328704**	1.8895370 ^{ns}	1.293466	7.6%
Root height (cm)	12.084444 *	64.0358333**	0.2855556 ^{ns}	1.669082	20.4%
Shoot dry weight (mg/gr)	0.00004258**	0.00031470**	0.00000395 ^{ns}	0.002062	13.3%
root dry weight (mg/gr)	0.00000908**	0.00005489**	0.00000019 ^{ns}	0.001000	16.6%
chlorophyll a (mg/g)	0.42130503**	0.45377225**	0.06308092**	0.061998	15.2%
chlorophyll b (mg/g)	0.14248108**	0.15550667**	0.04649975**	0.034399	15.04%
Chlorophyll (a+b) (mg/g)	132.3600905**	137.3984745**	34.9279122**	0.928054	13.1%
leaves sugar (mg/g)	0.20057108**	0.47217625**	0.04132942**	0.065832	22.3%
Root sugar (mg/g)	0.03504775 ^{ns}	0.12129966**	0.01430960 ^{ns}	0.143637	87.5%
leaves proline(mM/g)	0.24885219**	0.24284326**	0.00633612 ^{ns}	0.067050	23.1%
Root proline (mM/g)	0.22579603**	0.21121574**	0.1143088 ^{ns}	0.074162	25.8%
Germination percentage	1185.52778**	2532.333333**	166.083333 ^{ns}	9.991663	13%

ns: not significant. (*,**) Significant at the 5% & 1% levels of probability according to Duncan test

Table 3. Comparison of cultivars

cultivar	Jonoob (1)	Reyhan (2)	Nosrat (3)
Shoot height (cm)	16.8250 b	14.900 c	18.733 a
Root height (cm)	7.8417 ab	7.3417 b	9.2750 a
Shoot dry weight (mg/gr)	0.0150000 b	0.0139167 b	0.0175833 a
root dry weight (mg/gr)	0.0055833 b	0.0054167 b	0.0070000 a
chlorophyll a (mg/g)	0.18942 b	0.50867 a	0.51900 a
chlorophyll b (mg/g)	0.11458 c	0.33167 a	0.23975 b
Chlorophyll (a+b) (mg/g)	3.3831 c	9.8269 a	8.0009 b
leaves sugar (mg/g)	0.20067 b	0.23958 b	0.44150 a
Root sugar (mg/g)	0.10775 a	0.16900 a	0.21550 a
leaves proline(mM/g)	0.21675 b	0.19692 b	0.45567 a
Root proline (mM/g)	0.27900 b	0.15392 c	0.42792 a
Germination percentage	86.917 a	75.833 b	67.083 b

Table 4. Comparson of salinity levels influence

salinity	Control (1)	50m M (2) NaCl	150mMNaCl (3)	250mMNaCl (4)
Shoot height (cm)	21.8556 a	17.7667 b	15.1222 c	12.5333 d
Root height (cm)	11.4444 a	9.0000 b	6.8667 bc	5.3000 c
Shoot dry weight (mg/gr)	0.0224444 a	0.0175556 b	0.0134444 c	0.008556 d
root dry weight (mg/gr)	0.0087778 a	0.0071111 b	0.0050000 c	0.0031111 d
chlorophyll a (mg/g)	0.67111 a	0.50833 b	0.25733 c	0.18600 c
chlorophyll b (mg/g)	0.38600 a	0.28578 b	0.14178 c	0.10111 c
Chlorophyll (a+b) (mg/g)	11.7019 a	8.8553 b	4.3980 c	3.3259 c
leaves sugar (mg/g)	0.08800 d	0.17944 c	0.29511 b	0.61311 a
Root sugar (mg/g)	0.06267 b	0.07156 b	0.22378 ab	0.29833 a
leaves proline(mM/g)	0.12533 c	0.20222 c	0.33067 b	0.50089 a
Root proline (mM/g)	0.11344 b	0.20633 b	0.38644 a	0.44156 a
Germination percentage	95.556 a	84.222 a	69.444 b	57.222 b

DISCUSSION

Salinity on germination and growth parameters: Different studies showed that the increasing of salinity had meaningful reduction on germination percentage in variety of plants such as *Panicum miliaceum* (Alizadeh et al, 2007), *Hordeum vulgare* L. (Youzung, 2006), *Elymus junceus* (Askarian, 2005), *Triticum aestivum* (Al-Ansari, 2003). Under saltiness tension low moisture would lead to stop of metabolism while germination and changes seeds harmonic activities (Othman, 2006). Salinity due to solution's osmotic potential reduction, toxic ions production and imbalance in nutritional elements, causes decrease of germination..Sodium Chloride has a direct negative effect on embryo's growth and finally leads to decrease in germination percentage and delay in appearance of roots in seeds. Researchers found out that extension of embryo's lengths is highly stopped by high rates of salt (Alizadeh et al, 2007). Salinity due to osmotic reduces water absorption and due to aggregation of ions such as Na^+ and Cl^- can lead to imbalance in nutrition and toxicity (Shokohifard, 1989).

One of the important indexes for selecting of resistant cultivars under salinity stress is to measure growth of atmospheric bodies. Studies showed that

different levels of salinity on growth and dry weight of different plants can infer to meaningful decreasing on *Plantago ovata* & *Plantago psyllium* (Safarnejad, 2007), *Zea mays*(Turan, 2010), *Hordeum vulgare* (Innocenti, 2009), *Gossypium hirsutum*(Rezaee, 2004). Making of osmotic organic solutions in plants is one of the growth reduction reasons under salinity, because the producing of this material needs to more energy consumption and this matter is cause of decrease in atmospheric body growth (Safranejad, 2007). Based on reports presented by Usue (2009) in saltiness condition, decrease of growth is not only a result of ions toxic effect and ionic misbalance in culture area but also a result of low water relations. Because water is kept by soil ions (Cl^- and Na^+). In such circumstances delaying substances such as Absizic acid increases in plant and it reduces rate of plant growth (Abasi, 2007).

Root as a filter controls ions passing and prepares convenience proportion of Na^+ and K^+ ions for plant activity, so root consumes much energy against with tension and this matter can reduce the applicability of root and also absorption of nutrition elements for atmospheric bodies and as a result, the root and atmospheric body dry weight reduce. Disordering in absorption system and transferring of material under environmental stress by

preparing of inconvenience proportion K/Na has negative effect on physiological process and it creates toxicity. In a such situation, plant by some mechanisms such as ions leakage to out of root, absorption by woody vessel cells can maintain salt in a low grade in cytoplasm and this reason can be caused either reducing of root length or becoming corked (Safarnejad, 2007).

Salinity on soluble carbohydrate and proline:

Plants develop different mechanisms in order to face environmental tensions. Gathering of osmoregulators is one of the plant's first responses to saltiness tension. Such as alcoholic sugars (glycerol, inozitol) and simple sugars (froktoz, glucose), mixed sugars (Terholoz, Rafinoz, froktans) and proline. (Shuji, 2002). In many studies there has been an emphasis on accumulation of polyamines and carbohydrates as an effective mechanism in different plants under salinity stress which can infer to meaningful increasing on *Oriza sativa* L. (Amirjani, 2010), *Sorghum bicolor* L. (Faheed, 2005), *Sesbania grandiflora* (Dhanapackiam et al, 2010), *portulaca oleracea* L. (Yazici, 2007), *Lycopersicon esculentum* (Amini, 2005), *Vicica faba* (Neto, 2004).

Gathering these osmoregulators in leafs during environmental tensions including saltiness indicates their role in adjustable process. Proline is one of the well-known osmoprotectants and its accumulation is widely observed in various organisms under salt stress. Proline accumulation is regulated by multiple factors, such as its synthesis, catabolism, utilization for protein synthesis and transport from other tissues. Proline gathering in environmental tension such as saltiness could be due to denovo synthesis which reason of proline biosynthesis in salty stress is because of increase in level of 1-D-Pirolin – 5 – carboxylate synthesis enzyme

(Grewal, 2010). Different roles has been presented related to proline gathering in plant tissues in environmental stress that could lead to adjust osmosis, integration of plasma membrane, energy source, carbon and nitrogen source, destroyer of free radicals of hydroxyl and creation of structural proteins (Dhanapackiam, 2010). Ueda et al (2007) demonstrated that proline transporter (HvProT) was highly expressed in the apical region of barley roots under salt stress. Salt stress increased proline and hydroxyproline contents in the cell wall fraction of the root apical region, suggesting increment of proline utilization. Expression of the genes encoding cell wall proteins (proline rich protein and extensin) and cellulose synthase was induced in barley roots by salt stress. These findings indicated that free proline transported by HvProT presumably behaved as a component of cell wall synthesis in the apical region of barley roots under salt stress.

Sugars are important molecules that influence on physiological response, regulator genes in metabolism, photosynthesis and defensive reactions. Sugars regulate expression of some genes such as genes coding of amylum constructor proteins, saccharosis metabolism and defensive genes (Amini, 2005). Therefore it is possible that increase in sugar solution of Nosrat cultivar was stimulated by osmotic regulation and in result caused some resistant genes to express. Another thesis in relation to carbohydrate gathering under saltiness is their role in cleaning types of active oxygen (free radical) which are produced by tension. Generally increase of solution sugars during tension process could be related to amylum analysis, sugar synthesis in a non-photosynthesis pathway, not transferring these combinations and decrease in their transaction by leaves and other parts (Ueda et al, 2007).

Salinity on chlorophyll: Under salinity, photosynthesis in leaves surface level decreases due to closing leaf's ostium, decrease in carbon dioxide transaction (Wallia, 2006), limitation of leaf's extension and chlorophyll molecules destruction by sodium (Innocenti, 2009). As the chlorophyll content changes by saltiness tension would also be meaningfully effected on final photosynthesis level, perspire speed and ostium transaction (Dhanapackiam, 2010). In many studies, decrease in chlorophyll content under salinity stress mentioned which can imply to its increase in *Zea mays* (Chaum et al, 2009), *Paulownia imperialis* (Dhanapackiam, 2010), *Hordeum vulgare* L. (Grewall, 2010), *Oriza sativa* L. (Amirjani, 2010) *Gossypium hirsutum* L. (Desingh et al, 2007). Beinsan (2003) reported that decrease in leaf's chlorophyll content was due to increase in activity of chlorophyll destroying enzyme named chlorophylls enzyme that would lead to destruction in chloroplast and instability of protein complexity of pigments. (Faheed, 2005). One of other reasons of decrease in photosynthesis could be considered as the gathering in sugars and increase in their density in mesophyll cells which are in fact a kind of feedback limitation on photosynthesis (Galiba, 1994).

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