

Ecological studies on the rice blast disease with special reference to the nature of resistance

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Rice is one of the most important cereal crops in Egypt. It is the second export crop after cotton and an important food crop. Rice blast incited by *Pyricularia oryzae* avara., is considered, one of the most destructive diseases of rice all over the rice growing areas in Egypt. It causes considerable losses of the crop yearly. Results obtained from this investigation could be summarized as follows:

- 1- During 1980 rice growing season, eleven physiological races of *P. oryzae* designated as: IA28, IA57, IB1, IB5, C19, IC26, ID2, IE1, IE2, IG1 and III were identified from 94 specimens collected from different rice growing governorates in ARE using the set of international differential rice varieties.
- 2- Two subraces of *P. oryzae* were identified under each of races IA57, IE2 and III1 by the use of 12 local and foreign rice varieties during season 1980.
- 3- Eighteen physiological races of *P. oryzae* were identified from 103 specimens of infected leaves and necks of rice plants collected from different localities of the rice growing area during 1981 season. These races were designated as: IA17, IA57, IA64, IB21, IB32, IB34, IB57, IB59, IB62, IC14, IC27, IC30, ID5, IF1, IF2, IF3, IF4, IF5, IF6, IF7, IF8, IF9, IF10, IF11, IF12, IF13, IF14, IF15, IF16, IF17, IF18, IF19, IF20, IF21, IF22, IF23, IF24, IF25, IF26, IF27, IF28, IF29, IF30, IF31, IF32, IF33, IF34, IF35, IF36, IF37, IF38, IF39, IF40, IF41, IF42, IF43, IF44, IF45, IF46, IF47, IF48, IF49, IF50, IF51, IF52, IF53, IF54, IF55, IF56, IF57, IF58, IF59, IF60, IF61, IF62, IF63, IF64, IF65, IF66, IF67, IF68, IF69, IF70, IF71, IF72, IF73, IF74, IF75, IF76, IF77, IF78, IF79, IF80, IF81, IF82, IF83, IF84, IF85, IF86, IF87, IF88, IF89, IF90, IF91, IF92, IF93, IF94, IF95, IF96, IF97, IF98, IF99, IF100.
- 4- Using 33 local and foreign rice varieties two subraces of *Pyricularia oryzae* were identified under each race of IF1 and IF2 and three subraces under race IF2 during 1981 growing rice season.
- 5- Using the set of international differential rice varieties, fifteen races of *P. oryzae* were identified from 107 specimens of infected leaf and necks collected from different localities of the rice growing areas in ARE during 1982 rice growing season. These races were designated as IA116, IB54, IC1, IC17, IC20, ID1, ID9, IE1, IE2, IES, IE6, IF1, IF2, IF3, IF4, IF5, IF6, IF7, IF8, IF9, IF10, IF11, IF12, IF13, IF14, IF15, IF16, IF17, IF18, IF19, IF20, IF21, IF22, IF23, IF24, IF25, IF26, IF27, IF28, IF29, IF30, IF31, IF32, IF33, IF34, IF35, IF36, IF37, IF38, IF39, IF40, IF41, IF42, IF43, IF44, IF45, IF46, IF47, IF48, IF49, IF50, IF51, IF52, IF53, IF54, IF55, IF56, IF57, IF58, IF59, IF60, IF61, IF62, IF63, IF64, IF65, IF66, IF67, IF68, IF69, IF70, IF71, IF72, IF73, IF74, IF75, IF76, IF77, IF78, IF79, IF80, IF81, IF82, IF83, IF84, IF85, IF86, IF87, IF88, IF89, IF90, IF91, IF92, IF93, IF94, IF95, IF96, IF97, IF98, IF99, IF100.
- 6- During 1982 rice growing season, three subraces of *P. oryzae* were identified under each of races IE1 and IE2 also two subraces under each of races IES, IF1 and IF2, using 12 Japanese rice varieties and 4 local rice varieties.
- 7- All races and subraces of *P. oryzae* identified during the period from 1980 to 1982 varied in their virulence on all the tested varieties.
- 8- Race groups IA, IB and IC are more common each year during the period 1980-1982 and there is fluctuation between race groups namely ID, IE, IF and IG from year to other.
- 9- Horizontal resistance occurred in five rice varieties i.e. Giza 180, CO 34, Sakha 2 and IR 36 and ten rice varieties showed vertical resistance, these varieties are, Nahda, Saljieni, Agamiml, Yabani 15, Giza 14, Giza 159, Giza 170, Giza 171, Giza 172 and IR 8.
- 10- No stable races were found from the first asexual generation to the last one (after 36 months). However, some races showed stability during the 24 generations as IG1 and IF1 then changed to other races, also their virulence changed as race changed. However, some races changed but their virulence was not changed such as race I026 (with disease index 14) which changed to race I027 with the same disease index (14).
- 11- Bacterial and fungal spp were isolated from leaf surfaces of both susceptible or resistant rice varieties. The number of bacteria increased with the increase of age of the plant and also on the resistant varieties more than susceptible ones.
- 12- No bacterial spp. showed antagonistic reaction against *E. oryzae*. These isolates were identified as *Bacillus cereus* var. *mycoides* and the second sp, has two isolates which were identified as *Bacillus subtilis*. Bacteriocin, antibiotic, was isolated and identified from culture filtrate of *Bacillus cereus* var. *mycoides* and *Myco-subtilis* from culture filtrate of the two isolates of *B. subtilis*. These compounds were effective in decreasing the infection of rice plants with *E. oryzae* especially *Bioceren*. Also the crude filtrate of the above mentioned *Bacilli* was effective in controlling *E. oryzae* especially that of *B. cereus* var. *mycoides*.
- 13- Total free amino acids

showed significant differences at the seedling stage between susceptible and resistant varieties. Higher amounts were noticed in susceptible varieties. Yabani 15 found in leaf of healthy resistant Araby variety. However these amounts increased greatly in the infected plants whether susceptible or resistant than healthy ones. Proline was found in higher amounts in infected Giza 180 resistant rice variety while the arginine and glutamine were found in higher amounts in both infected Giza 180 (R) and Nahda (3) rice varieties. In this respect leucine + isoleucine and aspartic acids were found in higher amounts in infected Yabani 15 (3) variety. 14- At tillering stage although total free amino acids were equal for the two susceptible varieties, Yabani 15 and Nahda but general decrease in all amino acids except the arginine + glutamine was noticed in both susceptible and resistant varieties. Higher amounts of alanine, serine and glycine were present in infected Nahda (3) rice variety. However the lowest amounts of total amino acids were found in healthy Araby (R) variety. Although proline amount, were reduced in all varieties but it was noticed in higher amounts in infected Giza 180 (R) rice variety. 15- At the adult stage of growth general increase in all the amounts of total amino acids was noticed in both infected susceptible and resistant varieties except in case of alanine in Nahda (S), Giza 180 (R) and Araby (R) rice varieties. Also, proline amounts increased in Giza 180 infected plants only and decreased in all the other treatments. As far as leucine + isoleucine their amounts increased except that of the arginine + glutamine in case of Nahda healthy plants. However, it could be noticed that the total amounts of free amino acids were higher in infected plants than in healthy ones and the highest amounts were noticed in Yabani 15 susceptible variety. 16- In four tested varieties, Araby and Giza 180 resistant rice varieties and Nahda and Yabani 15 susceptible ones, total sugars increased by ageing of the plants whether infected or not. However, the total sugar contents were higher in infected plants than healthy one. Specially the susceptible ones at tillering and adult stages of growth. 17- Reducing sugars were generally higher in infected rice plants than healthy ones specially at tillering stage. However, a general decrease in the reducing sugar contents was noticed by the increase in plant age in all tested varieties. 18- Healthy susceptible rice varieties show higher amounts of sucrose than the resistant ones. Infected susceptible varieties contain higher amounts of sucrose than resistant ones. However sucrose contents decreased at tillering and adult stages in all tested varieties. Also the same trend was noticed as regards glucose and galactose except that their amounts decreased in case of Araby (R) variety in infected plants than in uninfected ones at the seedling and adult stages only. 19- Fructose is found in higher percentages in infected plants and in susceptible varieties than in uninfected plants as well as resistant varieties in different stages of plant growth. There was significant difference in fructose amounts between infected and uninfected plants in case of Giza 180 (R) rice variety at the adult stage. 20- The contents of mannose were higher in susceptible variety either infected or not than the resistant one specially at the seedling stage. This increase was noticed in Yabani 15 (3) variety and at the tillering stage no significant differences were noticed in the adult stage. 21- The amounts of total phenols were higher in infected plants in all tested varieties. Also their amounts were higher in resistant varieties than susceptible ones. It is clearly noticed that these amounts increased also by the increase in plant age specially in resistant infected and uninfected plants. 22- Resistant varieties contain higher amounts of free phenol than susceptible ones specially at seedling and tillering stages, whereas their amounts were almost similar except in case of Araby (R) infected plants. 23- As for conjugated phenols their amounts were higher in all infected varieties than healthy ones specially at tillering and adult stages. Also their amounts were higher in susceptible infected and uninfected plants than resistant varieties specially at seedling and adult stages, whereas the contrast was noticed at the tillering stage. 24- The highest amounts of 0 dihydroxyphenol were detected in infected and uninfected resistant varieties in all stages of the growth. As regards the tested susceptible varieties, the infected plants showed higher amounts of 0 dihydroxyphenols than uninfected plants. It could be noticed also that its amounts decreased by ageing of the plants, specially at the adult stage of growth. 25- Four organic acids, i.e. citric, malic, succinic and fumaric acids were detected in rice varieties i.e. Nahda and Yabani 15; susceptible and resistant varieties; Giza 180, resistant varieties; 26- The infection with *r. oryzae* caused little decrease in citric acid contents in seedling stage while in the tillering and adult stages its amounts increased considerably specially in resistant varieties. 27- The amounts of malic acid increased by infection

except in case of Yabani 15 in seedling stage. These amounts decreased in infected plants in tillering stage except in case of Giza 180 resistant variety. As for the adult stage malic acid amounts increased in infected plants except in Hahda susceptible rice variety. 28- The amounts of succinic and fumaric acids decreased in susceptible varieties due to infection, whereas contrast results were noticed as regards the resistant varieties in all stages of growth except Araby resistant variety in the tillering stage of growth. 29- The isolated races differed in their virulence and also in their contents of total free amino acids. Race I-7 which has the highest disease index (22) produced high amounts of amino acids both in culture filtrate and mycelial mat, except aspartic, valine, phenylalanine and leucine + isoleucine in culture filtrate whereas it produced lower amounts of all amino acids in mycelial mat. In this respect the second race in virulence IB5 showed lower amounts of total free amino acids either in the filtrate or mycelial mat. The fifth race in virulence gave the highest amounts of amino acids whereas the least amounts were obtained by race IB5 which ranks the second in its virulence, whereas the highest amounts were obtained by race I-21 which ranks the fourth in its virulence (16) both in the filtrate or mycelial mat. Thus it could be concluded that there is no correlation between the virulence of the race and the amounts of free amino acids both in filtrate or mycelial mat. 30- Also, results indicated that there is no correlation between the race virulence of I- or, y; zae and the amounts of total and reducing sugars in both the culture filtrate or the mycelial mat, of each race. 31- As regards sucrose amounts, the highly pathogenic race IA17 (22) produced moderate amounts of it, while races IA (121) (16), IB5 (20) and IBi5 (15) differed in their virulence but produced low amounts of sucrose whereas race IFi (12) and IG2 (10) the least virulent races produced high amounts of sucrose. As before a reversible correlation coefficient was obtained between race virulence and different sugar contents. 32- No correlation was obtained between amino acid contents and different contents of sugars and race virulence with Yabani 15 rice variety. 33- The infection with the eight races of I. or, y; zae on Yabani 15; susceptible rice variety, decreased the amounts of all organic acids, i.e. citric, malic, succinic and tartaric acids. Generally no correlation was obtained between race virulence and all tested organic acids. 34- Results showed clearly that there is no correlation between the race virulence and its ability of producing toxins. 5- Total, free and conjugated phenols increased as a result of infection of the susceptible variety Yabani 15. As regards the interaction between race virulence and phenolic compounds a negative correlation could be noticed.