

Original Research Article

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Evaluation of Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) Rootstocks under Induced Moisture Stress Condition for Various Morpho-Physiological Traits

L. Shanthala*, R. K. Ramachandra, S. Mohan Kumar, G. S. K. Swamy,
M. K. Honnabyraiah and H. M. Pallavi

Department of Fruit Science, College of Horticulture, UHS Campus, Vignana Kendra,
Bengaluru-560065, Karnataka, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to evaluate mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) rootstocks under induced moisture stress condition for various morpho-physiological traits. The result revealed that the rootstock Totapuri recorded minimum plant height (23.55 cm), stem diameter (1.16 cm), leaf area (380.30cm²), stomatal density (78.36 No./mm²), plant biomass (98.00 g) and maximum relative water content (90.26 %). Among the different stress level, lower plant height (23.93 cm), stem diameter (1.27 cm), relative water content (77.49 %), leaf area (463.59cm²), stomatal density (80.97 No./mm²) and plant biomass (97.66 g) was found in severely stressed treatment. However interaction effect showed that Totapuri rootstocks under severe stressed condition recorded minimum plant height (22.65 cm), stem diameter (1.04 cm), leaf area (352.32cm²), stomatal density (70.51 No./mm²), plant biomass (96.31 g) and maximum relative water content (94.25 %). The rootstock Totapuri clearly shows the survivable strategies under severe stressed period by reducing its plant height, stem diameter, leaf area. As by reducing crop canopy there will be reduced water loss through transpiration and evaporation rate. More rapid reduction in stomatal density and ability to maintain higher relative water content under stressed period were the chief physiological adaptations characterized by rootstock Totapuri and Alphonso to tolerate stress condition.

Keywords

Moisture stress, rootstocks, field capacity, stress tolerance

Article Info

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Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) is an economically important fruit crop of India, belongs to the family Anacardiaceae. There are more than one thousand varieties and the crop was cultivated in Indian sub-continent since 4000 years. It is the national fruit of

India and acknowledged as “King of Fruits”. The mango fruit is an excellent source of vitamin A and potassium. 100g fruit is said to provide 4800 IU of vitamin A, 156 mg of potassium with just 2 mg of sodium. The mango is very nutritious having greater health benefits both, when eaten raw and as a ripened. The fruit (ripe and unripe), seed,

bark, leaves, root and even the smoke of burning leaves have healing properties. It is known to be a very good source of vitamins such as, vitamin-C, riboflavin, thiamine, niacin and β -carotene. Apart from the use of ripe mango, young and unripe fruits are utilized for culinary purposes as well as for preparing pickles, chutneys and amchur.

Moisture stress is one of the most significant abiotic stress factor limiting global production. Plants exhibit number of physiological and biochemical responses at cellular and whole organism level on account of water stress environment. Moisture stress is characterized by decrease in water content, diminished leaf water potential and turgor loss, closure of stomata and reduced cell enlargement and growth. This situation may result in the arrest of photosynthesis, interruption of metabolism and finally the death of plant (Jaleel *et al.*, 2008). Reducing canopy leaf area, stomatal conductance, deeper penetration of roots, higher relative water content and enhanced osmotic adjustment are some the mechanism that plant employ to overcome plant stress.

Materials and Methods

An experiment was conducted at University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Horticulture research and extension centre (HREC), Hogalagere, Kolar, Karnataka (India) during the year 2019-2020 in a Factorial Completely Randomized Block Design (FCRD). There were 16 treatments with five replications and 10 plants in each replication. Six month old rootstocks of Alphonso, Dashehari, Neelum and Totapuri were treated with four different stress levels (100 % of FC- Control; 80 % of FC- moderate stress; 60 % of FC- mild stress and 40 % of FC- severe stress). Stress was imposed by withholding watering for 15 days and on 16th day plants were irrigated up to 100 per cent of FC and again stress was created for another 15 days. Six such serial stress cycles

were given to study the variations among the rootstocks under the stress period (1st January to April 4th). Later on seedlings were allowed to recover by irrigating daily (100% of FC) in the month of April (recovery period). Observations were recorded at monthly interval and pooled data were subjected to statistical analysis as per the procedure outlined by Panse and Sukhatme (1985) and the treatment means were compared by critical difference values computed at 5% level of significance. Leaf area was measured by leaf area meter, Relative water content was measured as per the procedure of Barrs and Weatherlay's (1962), Stomatal density was measured by thermocol- xylene impression method (Wolf *et al.*, 1979).

Results and Discussion

Plant height

During stress induction period and at recovery period, Totapuri under severe stress treatment recorded minimum plant height (22.65 cm and 23.40 cm respectively). Similarly, in case of Kent mango, reduced irrigation treatments significantly reduce the vegetative growth in comparison to the control (Pavel Devilliers, 2004). The reduced plant height is usually associated with a decline in the cell enlargement under water deficit which is greatly hampered because of low moisture content (Bhatt and Srinivasa Rao, 2005).

Stem diameter

Minimum stem diameter was observed in Dashehari under moderate stress treatment during stress period (1.04 cm) and at recovery period (1.21 cm). As there was increase in the water stress the diameter of stem was decreased to reduce the water loss from the plant. Under water stress, declination in stem diameter was due to the loss of cell turgor which suppresses cell expansion and

enlargement there by, inhibiting the growth of shoot (Bhatt and Srinivasa Rao, 2005). A steady increase in stem diameter was observed in control and mild stress treatment, whereas there was no increase in stem diameter in case of water stress condition (Luvaha *et al.*, 2011).

Plant biomass

The rootstock Totapuri under mild stressed condition recorded minimum plant biomass during stress period (96.31 g) and at recovery period (96.91 g).

Under water stress condition, there is a trend of decrease in plant vegetative growth, number of leaves and plant biomass. These findings are in conformity with Sakalauskaite *et al.*, (2006). They reported that 50 per cent decrease in fresh and dry weights following five weeks of drought treatments in apple rootstocks.

Relative water content (RWC) (%)

In control Totapuri rootstock recorded maximum RWC (94.25 % and 95.41 % respectively) whereas, minimum RWC was recorded in Neelum rootstock under severe stressed condition during stress period (70.91 %) and Dashehari rootstock under severe stressed in case of recovery period (77.25 %). RWC was observed to decline in all the rootstocks with increase in water stress level.

The decline in RWC was less in rootstock Totapuri as compared to others. This showed that even under severe stress condition Totapuri rootstock had able to maintain more RWC which is the characteristic of water stress tolerance. All the rootstocks showed a recovery to some extent in all the levels of stress (mild stress, moderate stress and severe stress) and highest recovery was found in

Totapuri under severe stress condition from 46.741 per cent RWC to 50.323 per cent.

Leaf area

Minimum leaf area was recorded in rootstock Totapuri under severe stressed condition during stress period and at recovery period (352.32 cm² and 371.73 cm² respectively). Highest per cent reduction in LA was found in Totapuri (8.48 % in moderate stress level and 12.61 % in severe stress level period) and least per cent reduction was found in Dashehari under moderate stress level (1.08%) and Neelum under severe stress level period (1.049%). Reduced leaf area growth may be a survival mechanism for the plants to maintain tissue hydration by reducing the rate of transpiration.

These results are in conformity with those reported by Kadam *et al.*, (2001) in grape rootstocks. According to them, maximum leaf area was observed in variety Salt Creek (101.63 cm²) at 0.3 bar irrigation level and lowest was recorded in 1103-P (32.25 cm²) at 0.7 bar irrigation level. Maximum per cent reduction in leaf area was observed in 1103-P (29.18% and 54.77% at 0.5 bar and 0.7 bar respectively) found to be more tolerant rootstocks compared to Dogridge and Salt Creek.

Stomatal density

The rootstock Totapuri with severe stressed treatment recorded minimum stomatal density (70.51 and 78.71 respectively). This was supported by Zahara and Razi, 2009.

They showed that the faster rate of reduction in stomatal conductance might be attributed to the tendency of plants to control water loss through transpiration.

Table.1a Effect of induced moisture stress on morpho-physiological parameters

Treatments	Plant height (cm)		Stem diameter (cm)		Leaf area (cm ²)	
	During stress	Recovery	During stress	Recovery	During stress	Recovery
Factor 1 (Water stress levels)						
I₁	25.60	26.86	1.33	1.42	496.55	499.45
I₂	25.14	26.30	1.36	1.41	485.93	489.05
I₃	24.10	24.55	1.35	1.38	474.10	480.31
I₄	23.93	24.10	1.27	1.37	463.59	470.87
S.Em±	0.095	0.080	0.01	0.02	0.034	0.018
CD at 5 %	0.275	0.230	0.02	0.04	0.100	0.054
Factor 2 (Rootstocks)						
V₁	25.75	26.66	1.43	1.48	560.01	561.38
V₂	24.38	25.45	1.38	1.44	520.56	523.52
V₃	25.11	24.69	1.35	1.41	459.30	461.58
V₄	23.55	26.17	1.16	1.23	380.30	393.20
S.Em±	0.09	0.080	0.01	0.02	0.034	0.018
CD at 5 %	0.275	0.230	0.02	0.04	0.100	0.054
Interaction effects						
I₁V₁	27.39	28.27	1.47	1.54	583.44	584.12
I₁V₂	25.10	26.37	1.17	1.22	545.83	548.33
I₁V₃	24.02	25.43	1.39	1.39	464.82	469.82
I₁V₄	25.90	27.37	1.36	1.40	392.11	395.53
I₂V₁	26.26	27.69	1.46	1.50	566.14	568.42
I₂V₂	24.80	25.61	1.27	1.31	516.24	520.52
I₂V₃	24.10	25.39	1.30	1.34	453.61	454.16
I₂V₄	25.39	26.51	1.42	1.47	407.74	413.11
I₃V₁	24.80	25.17	1.37	1.42	541.81	541.26
I₃V₂	24.43	25.46	1.11	1.44	519.71	521.13
I₃V₃	24.52	25.51	1.33	1.41	465.84	466.43
I₃V₄	23.85	24.18	1.35	1.44	369.04	392.41
I₄V₁	25.30	25.63	1.41	1.46	548.64	551.71
I₄V₂	23.18	24.34	1.14	1.19	500.46	504.10
I₄V₃	23.42	24.55	1.40	1.48	452.94	455.92
I₄V₄	22.65	23.40	1.04	1.21	352.32	371.73
S.Em±	0.190	0.159	0.01	0.03	0.069	0.037
CD at 5%	0.055	0.461	0.04	0.09	0.199	0.107

I₁ (100 % of FC); I₂ (80 % of FC); I₃ (60 % of FC); I₄ (40 % of FC)

V₁(Alphonso); V₂(Dashehari); V₃(Neelum); V₄(Totapuri)

Table.1b Effect of induced moisture stress on morpho-physiological parameters

Treatments	Relative water content (%)		Stomatal density (No./mm ²)		Plant biomass (g)	
	During stress	Recovery	During stress	Recovery	During stress	Recovery
Factor 1 (Water stress levels)						
I ₁	90.68	90.98	91.49	91.81	104.93	106.17
I ₂	86.40	89.02	87.64	90.28	102.28	102.92
I ₃	82.42	86.39	84.6	89.22	99.22	100.50
I ₄	77.49	83.49	80.97	88.39	97.66	100.10
S.Em±	0.011	0.007	0.007	0.015	0.02	0.11
CD at 5 %	0.031	0.021	0.019	0.043	0.044	0.32
Factor 2 (Rootstocks)						
V ₁	85.62	88.04	78.57	82.26	104.94	106.40
V ₂	79.81	83.02	84.12	87.99	101.83	102.85
V ₃	81.31	85.15	103.67	107.28	99.31	101.19
V ₄	90.26	93.69	78.36	82.16	98.02	99.26
S.Em±	0.011	0.007	0.007	0.015	0.02	0.11
CD at 5 %	0.031	0.021	0.019	0.043	0.04	0.32
Interaction effects						
I ₁ V ₁	90.92	91.85	82.31	82.11	110.21	112.33
I ₁ V ₂	88.90	87.24	90.03	92.11	106.91	106.97
I ₁ V ₃	88.63	89.42	109.31	107.80	101.41	102.63
I ₁ V ₄	94.24	95.41	84.32	85.22	101.21	102.73
I ₂ V ₁	86.26	89.61	79.21	81.91	105.81	105.87
I ₂ V ₂	82.16	85.42	83.61	86.32	105.91	106.07
I ₂ V ₃	84.44	87.22	105.32	108.81	101.11	102.83
I ₂ V ₄	92.72	93.81	82.42	84.08	96.44	96.91
I ₃ V ₁	84.37	86.26	76.91	82.61	103.14	104.30
I ₃ V ₂	77.27	82.16	82.61	86.91	97.27	98.60
I ₃ V ₃	79.54	84.44	102.70	106.71	98.34	99.90
I ₃ V ₄	88.52	92.71	76.17	80.63	98.18	99.20
I ₄ V ₁	80.91	84.35	75.83	82.42	100.63	103.11
I ₄ V ₂	70.91	77.25	80.22	86.61	97.27	99.71
I ₄ V ₃	72.63	79.53	97.31	105.80	96.38	99.41
I ₄ V ₄	94.25	95.42	70.51	78.72	96.31	98.21
S.Em±	0.021	0.015	0.013	0.029	0.03	0.22
CD at 5%	0.061	0.042	0.038	0.085	0.09	0.64

I₁ (100 % of FC); I₂ (80 % of FC); I₃ (60 % of FC); I₄ (40 % of FC)
V₁(Alphonso); V₂(Dashehari); V₃(Neelum); V₄(Totapuri).

Plant biomass

The rootstock Totapuri under mild stressed condition recorded minimum plant biomass during stress period (96.31 g) and at recovery period (96.91 g). These findings are in conformity with Sakalauskaite *et al.*, (2006). They reported that 50 per cent decrease in fresh and dry weights following five weeks of drought treatments in apple rootstocks.

By analyzing the various morpho-physiological parameters under induced moisture stress condition, it was concluded that mango rootstocks Totapuri and Alphonso are found to be tolerant to moisture stress period with a characteristics of reduced plant growth, stem diameter, leaf area, plant biomass, stomatal density with higher relative water content and also having the ability of fast recovery after rewatering. Hence rootstocks Totapuri and Alphonso can act as potential source for drought tolerance.

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