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(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



Effect of auxin type on the total phenols synthesis and some enzymatic proteins activity in maize callus from seeds irradiated to gamma radiation

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Abstract

Secondary metabolites of plants widely used in the medicinal and cosmetic industries, can be produced by tissue culture. *In vitro* production of these secondary metabolites is affected by various factors such as the type and concentration of phyto regulators. In this study, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) and 2-methoxy-3,6-dichlorobenzoic acid (Dicamba) effect on phenolic compounds synthesis as well as Phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), tyrosine ammonia lyase (TAL), Polyphenoloxidase (PPO), peroxidase (POD), Catalase (CAT) and Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX) activities from root explants have been studied. The root explants come from the seeds *in vitro* germination of maize irradiated (200 and 300 grays) or not irradiated (control) with gamma radiation. The results obtained showed that the auxin type had a very highly significant effect (p <0.001) on all parameters studied. Callus induced on medium containing 2,4-D gave a higher content of phenolic compounds, PAL, TAL, PPO, POD, CAT and APX than callus induced on medium containing dicamba. The highest content of total phenols (76.971 µmol/g fresh callus) was obtained in callus from 300 grays. By cons, the contents of POD, PAL, TAL, CAT and APX (4.034; 0.031; 0.145; 1315.596 and 2461.714 mmol/min/g fresh callus) were obtained in callus from 200 grays.

Keywords: Callus, 2, 4-D; Dicamba; Phenolic compounds; Enzymes; Gamma radiation; Maize.

1. Introduction

Maize (Zea mays L.) is an annual tropical herbaceous plant of the Poaceae family (grasses). It is a cereal cultivated under very varied conditions ranging from tropical to temperate climates. In the world, Maize is the first cereal (41%) cultivated in terms of quantity and area, ahead of wheat 40 % and rice 9 % [2]. World maize production was 1.06 million tones with the United States as the main producer, followed by China and Brazil [8].

Africa maize production is estimated at more than 70 million tones for an area of 34 million hectares [10]. It is estimated that more than 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa depend on maize as a source of food and livelihood. Maize makes up almost half of calorie and protein contributions in Eastern and Southern Africa, and a fifth in West Africa [10].

In Côte d'Ivoire, maize is the second most widely grown cereal after rice. It occupies a prominent place in agricultural activities, in human and animal nutrition [14]. Annual national maize production is approximately 654,738 tones, for a total area of 327,800 hectares. Its national consumption is estimated at 28.5 kilograms per inhabitant per year [5]. According to FAO production estimates and compared to the situation in neighboring countries, the Ivorian maize sector seems to experience relatively slow growth because its cultivation faces many problems. These problems are linked not only to land degradation but especially to climate change. Recent studies suggest that production of major products has

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declined since 1980 due to global warming [17]. It is estimated that, given current trends in global warming in sub-Saharan Africa, major cereal production could decline by up to 20 % by century middle [30].

In addition, genetic degeneration of the varieties is combined with the constraints mentioned above to make the cultivation of this cereal more difficult. To this end, many solutions are sought around the world. These are mainly the fertilizers use and high-performance varieties most often introduced. Consequently, biotechnology has been developed in addition to conventional methods in order to achieve more effective improvement protocols for this cereal. Among the various regeneration systems, somatic embryogenesis is highly coveted because it regularly ensures high multiplication rates which can be maintained for a long time. The somatic embryogenesis system has been the method of choice for tissue culture, regeneration and processing of maize for over twenty years. Somatic embryogenesis plays an important role in the clone's propagation. In addition, this technique is highly coveted for genetic transformation [32]. Somatic embryogenesis involves the establishment of an explant in culture, callus proliferation and the somatic embryos initiation [36]. The phytohormones used in tissus culture are mainly auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins [4]. These hormones are really essential for carrying out tissus culture. In tissue culture, to induce calluses and somatic embryos, hormonal stress is essential [15] l. According to several authors, 2,4-D is the best auxin which induces the maximum embryogenic calluses [13, 20, 1]. During callogenesis and embryogenic structures induction, there is an intense metabolism of biochemical compounds [18]. The chemical reactions that lead to synthesis or catabolism of these compounds are catalyzed by many enzymes. Gamma irradiation of seeds and hormones type appear to be important factors in stimulating biochemical and physiological processes [8]. This is why this present work aims to study the effect of auxin type on the phenolic compounds synthesis and some enzymatic proteins activities in calluses.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Disinfection and maize seeds germination

Under a laminar flow hood, the maize seeds irradiated (200 and 300 grays) and non-irradiated seeds were soaked in fungicide (18 mL / 15 L) for 5 min, in 70 % alcohol for 3 min and in 3.6% active chlorine sodium hypochlorite with 3 drops of tween 20 for 40 min. The seeds were rinsed 4 times with sterile distilled water for 5 minutes. Then, one seed per test tube containing sterile distilled water is put in the dark for 48 h. After this imbibition time, the seeds whose radicles appear, were cultured in test tubes containing 15 ml of germination medium. The test tubes containing the seeds were incubated in the dark for 2 days and then transferred to the culture room under a light for 5 days. Maize vitroplants obtained were used as an explant source.

2.2. Germination medium and culture condition

Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium [23], supplemented with sucrose (30 g/L), was used. The medium pH was adjusted to 5.8 with NaOH (1N) or HCl (1N) and then solidified with agar-agar (6 g/L). The culture medium was sterilized in an autoclave (Sanoclav) for 20 min at 121 °C, under 1 bar pressure. In culture room, all cultures were maintained at 25 \pm 2 °C under a 16 h/8 h light/dark photoperiod and at 70 % relative humidity. The light intensity (100 μ E.m⁻².sec⁻¹) was provided by warm-white fluorescent lamps.

2.3. Callus induction

For maize callus induction, two auxins types, 2,4 dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D), and Dicamba at 2 mg/L each were supplemented in the callogenesis medium composed of MS medium supplemented with 30g/L of sucrose. So, the root explants were cut with a sterile scalpel and placed on the callus induction medium and then placed in culture room for 4 weeks. After three subcultures (4 weeks/ subcultures), the callus was used for the assays.

2.4. Extraction and phenolic compounds determination

2.4.1. Extraction

Phenolic compounds extraction was carried out according to method of [15]. 500 mg callus sample from each treatment was placed in 10 mL of methanol (96 %). The mixture was then incubated in the dark for 10 h at 4 ° C. After centrifugation at 5000 rpm during 10 min, the supernatant obtained was filtered through a Millipore membrane (0.45 μ m) and formed the crude phenolic extract.

2.4.2. Dosage

Phenolic compounds dosage was carried out according to method of [32]. So, 0.5 mL of folin-ciocateu (5 N) reativ was added to 0.9 mL of distilled water. To this was added 0.1 ml of phenolic extract. The mixture was stirred at ambient

temperature, then 1.5 mL of sodium carbonate (17 %) and distilled water (6 mL) were added to solution. The solutions obtained were incubated for 30 minutes. The optical density is determined at 765 nm (OD₇₆₅) using a spectrophotometer. The total phenols concentration is determined using a standard curve carried out with different concentrations of gallic acid solution (200 μ g/mL).

2.5. Extraction and enzymatic proteins determination

The quantitative study of enzymes concerned three enzymes types what are phenylalanine- ammonia-lyase (PAL) and tyrosine ammonia-lyase (TAL) (biosynthesis enzymes of phenolic compounds); polyphenoloxidase (PPO) and peroxidase (POD) (degradation enzymes of phenolic compounds), catalase (CAT) and ascorbate peroxidase (APX) (antioxidant enzymes).

2.5.1. Enzymatic proteins Extraction

Enzymes extraction was carried out cold (4 ° C) with 500 mg of fresh callus crushed in 5 mL of phosphate buffer (0.1 M) and 0.05 g of polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). During grinding, 0.1 mL of solution composed of 5 % polyethylene glycol 6000 (PEG 6000), 0.25 % sodium thiosulfate, 15 % glycerol, 1 mM EDTA, and 15 mM mercaptoethanol, was added. After centrifugation, at 5000 rpm during 20 min, the supernatant obtained represents the crude enzyme extract.

2.5.2. Enzymatic proteins dosage

Polyphenoloxidases. The determination of Polyphenoloxidases (PPO) was carried out according to the method of Zhou *et al.* (2003). During the dosage, 3 ml of reaction volume composed of 0.2 ml of enzymatic extract, 1 ml of pyrocatechol, and 1.8 ml of phosphate citrate buffer (0.1 M, pH 6.5) was used. The oxidation of pyrocatechol is determined using a spectrophotometer at 500 nm (OD₅₀₀). The Polyphenoloxidases activities is expressed by considering that the molar extinction coefficient of the product formed is 1400 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹.

Peroxidase. The peroxidase (POD) activity was carried out according to method of Santimone (1973). During the dosage, 0.1 mL of enzyme extract was taken and put into test tubes. To this extract is added 2.9 mL of a solution composed of 10-2 M guaiacol and 10-2 M hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) (v / v). The reaction mixture was stirred and then incubated in dark during 10 min. The oxidation of guaiacol is followed using a spectrophotometer at 470 nm (OD₄₇₀). The peroxidase (POD) activity is expressed by considering that the molar extinction coefficient of the product formed is 26.6 mM⁻¹.cm⁻¹.

Phenylalanine and tyrosine ammonia-lyases. The dosage was carried out according to method of Regnier (1994). 0.1 ml of enzyme extract, 1 ml of 0.1 M phenylalanine for PAL or 0.1 M tyrosine for TAL and 1.9 ml of sodium borate buffer (0.2 M) at pH 8.8 were used for this dosage. The reaction mixture was incubated at ambient temperature during 30 min and the PAL and TAL activities were followed by spectrophotometer at 290 nm (OD₂₉₀). This activity is proportional of cinnamic acid quantity formed. The PAL and TAL activities are expressed by considering that the molar extinction coefficient of cinnamic acid is 19600 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹ and that of p-coumaric acid is 17600 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹.

Peroxidase Ascorbate and catalase. The catalase and ascorbate peroxidase activities were determined according to the method of [32]. The ascorbate peroxidase determination was carried out with 3 ml of reaction volume comprising 0.1 mL of enzymatic extract and 2.9 mL of ascorbic solution. The ascorbate peroxidase activity is monitored using a spectrophotometer at 290 nm (OD₂₉₀). The dosage of catalase was carried out with the same reaction including 0.1 mL of enzymatic extract, 1 mL of H₂O₂, and 1.9 mL of Tris-HCl buffer. The catalase activity is followed with a spectrophotometer at 240 nm (OD₂₄₀). The molar extinction coefficient of product formed is 0.0436 mM⁻¹.cm⁻¹ for catalase and 2.8 mM⁻¹.cm⁻¹ for ascorbate peroxidase.

2.6. Statistical analysis

The data were statistically analyzed with STATISTICA software, version 7.1. Analysis of variation (ANOVA) was used to test statistical significance, and significant differences between the means were calculated using Tukey's HSD test at P < 0.05.

3. Results

3.1. Effect of auxin type on the phenolic compounds synthesis

The results relating to effect of the auxin type on the phenolic compounds content in maize callus are reported in Table I. Analysis of results shows that the auxin type has a significant effect (p < 0.024) on the phenolic compounds content,

whatever the irradiation dose. Indeed, calluses induced on medium containing 2,4-D contain more polyphenols (49,841 μ g/g fresh callus) than callus induced on Dicamba medium (31,660 μ g/g fresh callus). However, in the presence of 2,4-D, the highest content is obtained in callus from 300 grays (76.971 μ g/g fresh callus) and the lowest in the callus from control (33.643 μ g/g fresh callus). In addition, the lowest content is obtained in Dicamba medium with control callus (27.526 μ g/g fresh callus).

Irradiation dose	Auxin type	phenolic compounds (µg/g fresh callus)
Control	2,4-D	33,643 ± 0,11a
	Dicamba	27,526 ± 0,11b
200 grays	2,4-D	38,910 ± 0,52a
	Dicamba	32,963 ± 0,50b
300 grays	2,4-D	76,971 ± 2,87a
	Dicamba	34,492 ± 0,95b
Р		0.024
F		6,191

Table 1 Effect of auxin type on the phenolic compound in callus

The values followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey's test at 5%).

3.2. Effect of auxin type on enzymatic proteins in maize calluses

The variation of Phenylalanine-ammonia-lyase (PAL), tyrosine ammonia-lyase (TAL), Polyphenoloxidase (PPO), peroxidase (POD), Catalase (CAT) and Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX) activities under the effect of auxin type in the calluses is recorded in Tables II and III.

Table 2 Effect of auxin type on the PPO, POD, PAL and TAL activities in maize callus

Dose	Type of auxin	Enzymatic activity (mmol/min/g fresh callus)					
		РРО	POD	PAL	TAL		
	2,4-D	0,805 ± 0,003 ^a	1,898 ± 0,003 ^a	0,022 ± 0,001 ^a	0,135 ± 0,001 ^a		
Control	Dicamba	0,548 ± 0,003 ^b	0,520 ± 0,001 ^b	0,010 ± 0,001 ^b	0,120 ± 0,001 ^b		
200 grays	2,4-D	$0,788 \pm 0,003^{a}$	$4,034 \pm 0,099^{a}$	0,031 ± 0,001 ^a	$0,145 \pm 0,002^{a}$		
	Dicamba	0,571 ± 0,002 ^b	2,003 ± 0,017 ^b	0,009 ± 0,001 ^b	0,133 ± 0,001 ^b		
300 grays	2,4-D	$0,777 \pm 0,005^{a}$	2,584 ± 0,046 ^a	0,024 ±0,001 ^a	$0,145 \pm 0,001^{a}$		
	Dicamba	0.542 ± 0,005 ^b	0,635 ± 0,012 ^b	0,009 ± 0,001 ^b	0,116 ± 0,001 ^b		
Р		0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001		
F		549,14	19,553	62,302	30,630		

The values followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey's test at 5%).

PPO: polyphenoloxidase ; POD: Peroxidase ; PAL : Phenylalanine-ammonia-lyase ; TAL : Tyrosine ammonia-lyase

The tables Analysis shows that the auxin type exerts a very significant influence (p <0.001) on the enzymatic activities studied (all doses combined). Indeed, the activity of PPO, POD, PAL, TAL, catalase and ascorbate peroxidase is higher in the calluses induced on 2,4-D medium (respectively 0.79; 2.84; 0.02; 0.14; 1141.9 and 2346.3 mmol/min/g fresh callus) compared to calluses induced on Dicamba medium (respectively 0.554; 1.053; 0.009; 0.123; 774.31 and 1432.76 mmol/min/g fresh callus). Otherwise, the highest activities were obtained in the calluses of 200 grays (4.034; 0.031; 1315.596; 2461.714 mmol/min/g fresh callus) respectively for POD, PAL, catalase and ascorbate peroxidase.

That of PPOs (0.805 mmol/min/g fresh callus) is observed in control calluses. As for the TAL, its activity is higher both in the calluses of 200 grays compared to the calluses of 300 grays (0.145 mmol/min/g fresh callus). The weak enzymatic activities in the 2,4-D medium were obtained in the calluses of 300 grays for the PPO and the CAT (0.777; 866.055

mmol/min/g fresh callus). By cons, those of POD, PAL, TAL and APX (1.898; 0.022; 0.135 and 2248.286 mmol/min/g fresh callus) are obtained in control calluses.

Dose	Type d'auxine	Catalase (mmol/min/g fresh callus)	Peroxidase ascorbate (mmol/min/g fresh callus)		
Control	2,4-D	1244,037 ± 10,47 ^a	2248,286 ± 19,14 ^a		
	Dicamba	735,780 ± 3,02 b	2014,286 ± 10,78 ^b		
200 grays	2,4-D	1315,596 ± 4,33ª	2461,714 ± 16,87 ^a		
	Dicamba	849,541 ± 5,67 ^b	1366,286 ± 23,56 ^b		
300 grays	2,4-D	866,055 ± 4,85ª	2328,857 ± 16,09 ^a		
	Dicamba	737,614 ± 3,60 ^b	917,714 ± 26,22 ^b		
Р		0.001	0.001		
F		25,320	30.214		

Table 3 Effect of auxin type on the catalase and peroxidase ascorbate in maize callus.

The values followed by the same letter are not significantly different (Tukey's test at 5%).

3.3. Correlation between quantitative variables

To establish possible relationships between the different parameters measured during this study, a correlation matrix was realized (Table IV). Matrix analysis showed that the phenolic compounds (Pheno. C) exhibited a weak positive correlation (r = 0.48) with polyphenoloxidase (PPO) and an average positive correlation (r = 0.58) with tyrosine ammonia lyase (TAL). Furthermore, no correlation has been revealed between phenolic compounds and the other quantitative variables, namely, peroxidase (POD), phenylalanine ammonia lyase (PAL), catalase (CAT) and ascorbate peroxidase (APX). In contrary phenolic compounds, the matrix showed a strong positive correlation between PPO and the other enzymes studied which are, POD (r = 0.74), PAL (r = 0.87), TAL (r = 0, 81), CAT (r = 0.81) and APX (r = 0.80). POD has a strong positive correlation with PAL (r = 0.82), TAL (r = 0.88) and CAT (r = 0.75) and a positive mean correlation (r = 0.62) with the APX. PAL activity is strongly correlated with that of TAL (r = 0.76), CAT (r = 0.79) and APX (r = 0.78). The TAL is moderately correlated (r = 0.65) with CAT and strongly correlated (r = 0.73) with APX. As for the CAT, it revealed an average positive correlation (r = 0.64) with APX.

	Pheno. C	PPO	POD	PAL	TAL	САТ	APX
Pheno. C		0,48	0,36	0,40	0,58	-0,03	0,36
РРО			0,74	0,87	0,81	0,81	0,80
POD				0,82	0,88	0,75	0,62
PAL					0,76	0,79	0,78
TAL						0,65	0,73
CAT							0,64
АРХ							

Table 4 Correlation between quantitative variables

Pheno. C (μg/g fresh callus): Phenolic compounds; PPO (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Polyphenoloxidase; POD (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Peroxidase; PAL (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Phenylalanine- ammonia-lyase (PAL) TAL (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Tyrosine ammonia-lyase; CAT (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Catalase; APX (mmol/min/g fresh callus): Ascorbate peroxidase

4. Discussion

The work submitted to our study focused on the evaluation of the effect of auxin type on the phenolic compounds synthesis and some enzymatic proteins activities in maize calluses whose seeds have been subjected to gamma radiation. So, several assays were carried out in order to determine the content of phenolic compounds, Phenylalanine-ammonia-lyase (PAL), tyrosine ammonia-lyase (TAL), Polyphenoloxidase (PPO), peroxidase (POD), Catalase (CAT) and Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX) in calluses.

The results showed that the auxin type has a very highly significant effect on the phenolic content of maize calluses. Indeed, 2,4-D makes it possible to produce more phenolic compounds in calluses compared to Dicamba. Our results are similar to those of [22] who found that liquid treatments supplemented with 2,4-D had a higher amount of anthocyanin than those supplemented with AIA in carrot callus [21] reported that increasing the concentration of 2,4-D upon initiation of somatic carrot petiole embryos caused an increase in the amounts of polyphenols. [7] also applied 2,4-D to determine the accumulation of anthocyanins in the cell culture of strawberries. 2,4-D appears to cause stress in plants and to increase the phenolic compounds synthesis [31, 12] also reported that the medium supplemented with 2,4-D for the carrot callus initiation showed an increase in abscissic acid which resulted in a higher synthesis of anthocyanins. Recently, [34] reported that salicylic acid such as 2,4-D significantly increased the content of phenolic compounds in the calluses of *Garcinia brasiliensis*. However, according to [26] the highest level of phenolic compounds was found in the calluses of *Leucojum aestivum* initiated and multiplied on the medium supplemented with dicamba. According to [35] Phenols are secondary metabolic compounds present in vegetables and synthesized in the shikimic acid pathway. These compound present different chemical structures as well as different biological properties and can influence the texture of cellular structures.

Our results also revealed that the auxin type has a significant effect on the activity of the enzymatic proteins studied. Calluses induced on medium containing 2,4-D have an enzymatic activity in Phenylalanine-ammonia-lyase (PAL), tyrosine ammonia-lyase (TAL), Polyphenoloxidase (PPO), peroxidase (POD), Catalase (CAT) and Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX) higher than those induced on medium containing Dicamba. Similar results have been reported by [6] who, working on mature and immature explants, showed that PPO and POD activities differed in the calluses obtained from the two explants types. According to [25], the activity of Superoxide dismutase (SOD) and CAT was strongly stimulated by paraguat, while dicamba and 2.4-D were effective only at higher concentrations in calluses potato. Treatment with Dicamba induced a less pronounced effect on the activity of CAT compared to 2,4-D. Cell metabolism and especially cell viability would be greatly compromised by the presence of 2,4-D. This may increase H2O2 and CAT activities in cells [25]. [27] reported high levels of POD and PAL in Sesamum prostratum calluses with crude toxin from Fusarium oxysporumf. sp. In addition, [19] reported that the elicitor Magnaporthe grisea induced PPO and POD activities in the rice suspensions. According to these authors, POD increase in rice cells treated with the elicitor or the toxin may have involved an increased biosynthesis of lignin. PPO, POD and PAL activities increased significantly in injured and inoculated tubers. These results show that PAL, PPO and POD play a role in resistance to infection by soft rot of potatoes [24]. According to [9] PPO plays a more important role than POD in the enzymatic browning of *Jatropha curcas* calluses. In contrast, [10] found that PPO activity showed less browning during tissue culture. [3] reported that the browning rate was correlated with the total phenol content and PPO activity. This indicates that PPO and polyphenols have an impact on the browning of calluses in *I. amethystoides*. So, PAL would be the first enzyme in the phenolic metabolism route and has its enzymatic activity triggered by stress conditions. It catalyzes the L-phenylalanine (aromatic amino acid) desamination reaction in trans-cinnamic acid and free ammonia ions. This reaction is the first step of the broad range of reactions that biosynthesizes the phenylpropanoids [135 Furthermore, these same authors claimed that, the activity of the POD in the process of enzymatic browning has been questioned due to the low amount of hydrogen peroxide in the plant cells. However, it can have a synergistic effect on PPO and POD, due to hydrogen peroxide release in the oxidation of some phenolic composites, catalyzed for the PPO. So, Cell decompartimentalization involves a chain of events, including the activation of latent PPO or "de novo synthesis" of this enzyme, as well as the induction of POD.

5. Conclusion

The auxin type exerted a beneficial effect on the synthesis of the various parameters studied. Indeed, 2,4-D induces higher contents of phenolic compounds, Phenylalanine-ammonia-lyase (PAL), tyrosine ammonia-lyase (TAL), Polyphenoloxidase (PPO), peroxidase (POD), Catalase (CAT) and Ascorbate Peroxidase (APX) more than Dicamba in maize calluses. The calluses from the 200 grays dose contain more compound than the calluses from the control and from the 300 grays.

Compliance with ethical standards

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Disclosure of conflict of interest

Compliance with ethical standards Acknowledgments, disclosure of conflict of interest The authors do not disclose any conflict of interest.

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