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ONLINE ISSN : 1349-1008

PRINT ISSN : 1343-943X

**Plant Production Science**

Vol. 11 (2008) , No. 1 59-66


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## Alternative Respiratory Pathway under Drought is Partially Mediated by Hydrogen Peroxide and Contributes to Antioxidant Protection in Wheat Leaves

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(Received: November 24, 2006)

**Abstract:** Water stress significantly enhanced the capacity of alternative respiratory pathway and induced *AOXI* transcript in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) leaves. The water-stressed seedlings pretreated with 1 mM salicylhydroxamic acid (SHAM) had higher level of production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) than the seedlings either subjected to drought or SHAM treatment alone did. This observation suggests that cyanide-resistant respiration could play a role in antioxidant protection under the condition of drought. Exogenous application of hydrogen peroxide effectively increased the capacity of alternative respiratory pathway and induced *AOXI* transcription. Pretreatment with ROS scavengers, such as 4,5-dihydroxy-1,3-benzene disulfonic acid (Tiron) and dimethylthiourea (DMTU), arrested the increase of ROS and partly inhibited the induction of both cyanide-resistant respiration and *AOXI* transcript under water stress. These results suggest that the enhancement of cyanide-resistant respiration under drought might be partially mediated by hydrogen peroxide.

**Keywords:** [Antioxidant defence system](#), [Cyanide-resistant respiration](#), [Reactive oxygen species](#), [Water stress](#), [Wheat](#)



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To cite this article:

Hanqing Feng, Jiangong Duan, Hongyu Li, Houguo Liang, Xin Li and Na Han: "Alternative Respiratory Pathway under Drought is Partially Mediated by Hydrogen Peroxide and Contributes to Antioxidant Protection in Wheat Leaves". *Plant Production Science*, Vol. **11**, pp.59-66 (2008) .

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doi:10.1626/pp.s.11.59

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