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[Image PDF (552K)] [References]

## Effects of Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration on Photosynthetic Carbon Metabolism in Flag-Leaf Blades of Rice before and after Heading

<u>Naohiro Aoki</u><sup>1)</sup>, <u>Kiyomi Ono</u><sup>1)</sup>, <u>Haruto Sasaki</u><sup>2)</sup>, <u>Saman P. Seneweera</u><sup>3)</sup>, <u>Hidemitsu</u> Sakai<sup>2)</sup>, Kazuhiko Kobayashi<sup>3)</sup> and Ken Ishimaru<sup>1)</sup>

1) Department of Plant Physiology, National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences

2) Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Science, University of Tokyo

3) National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences

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**Abstract:** We monitored the effects of elevated atmospheric  $CO_2$  concentrations on the photosynthetic carbon metabolism in the flag leaves of rice plant (*Oryza sativa* L. cv. Akitakomachi) before and after heading. The plants were grown under ambient (350 ppm : control) or elevated (650 ppm)  $CO_2$  conditions. Flag-leaf blades grown under high  $CO_2$  accumulated more starch than control leaf blades before heading, but the level of starch declined to almost zero under both  $CO_2$  concentrations as soon as the development of ears began. Before heading, the transcript level of sucrose-phosphate synthase (SPS) (EC 2.4.1.14), a key enzyme in the sucrose synthesis in flag-leaf blades was significantly higher under elevated  $CO_2$  conditions than under elevated  $CO_2$  (P<0.01). The difference in the expression of SPS decreased after heading, coinciding with a change in starch contents in both groups. These results showed that the effects of elevated  $CO_2$  concentration on rice plants might vary with the growth stage of the leaf blades. We also discussed the influence of the changes in the carbohydrate metabolism of rice plants caused by elevated  $CO_2$  concentration on yield.

Keywords: Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, Rice, Starch, Sucrose-phosphate synthase,

Yield

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