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Characteristics of Nodulation and Nitrogen Fixation in the Improved Supernodulating Soybean (Glycine max L. Merr.) Cultivar 'Sakukei 4'

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Abstract: Supernodulating soybean lines have more than several times as many nodules as normal cultivars. They are expected to have high nitrogen-fixing ability and enhanced productivity, but their yields have been inferior to those of normal genotypes. We have recently developed a new supernodulating cultivar, 'Sakukei 4' (formerly 'En-b0-1-2', presently 'Kanto 100'), with improved growth and yield. The objective of the present study was to identify the characteristics of the nodulation and nitrogen-fixing ability of Sakukei 4. In pot trials, the nodule number of Sakukei 4 was 8.3 times that of a normal cultivar, 'Enrei', and the nodule weight per plant was 2.3 to 2.8 times the value for Enrei. The acetylene reduction activity per plant in Sakukei 4 was higher than that in Enrei and conventional supernodulating genotypes, especially during the late growth stage. Compared with conventional supernodulating lines, the improved vegetative growth in shoots and roots of Sakukei 4, especially after flowering, probably enhanced its nitrogen-fixing ability per plant. We consider that its high nitrogen-fixing ability at the seed-filling stage, would help increase its yield in fields with low nitrogen fertility.

Keywords: *Glycine max* L. Merr., Growth, Nitrogen fixation, Root nodule, Soybean, Supernodulation





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