

APFanres5_Germination and Seedling

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Germination and Seedling Growth of Hybrid and Madura Local Corn on Salt Stress

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ABSTRACT

Madura Salt Tolerance Corn (var. Duko and var. Elos) and Hybrid Corn (Sukmaraga and Anoman-1) were germinated on 0, 100, 200, 300 and 400 mM NaCl for 7 days. Then its planted by wick system hydroponic also on the same NaCl concentration for 14 days, conducted by using randomized block design with 4 replications. The results were all varieties couldn't germinated on 300 and 400 mM NaCl and Anoman-1 couldn't be germinated from 200mM NaCl. Duko had the highest value of Full Germination Percent (FGP), Mean Germination Time (MGT), Germination Index (GI), and Salt Tolerance Index (STI) at 200 mM NaCl. Sukmaraga had the highest value of height and shoot growth ratio of the seedling.

Keywords: corn, salt, germination, seedling

I. INTRODUCTION

Corn is one of the main foods and essential commodities in agribusiness [1] and important in improving the agricultural economy in the world [2]. Corn production in Indonesia is 19.6 million tons, the second's food production after rice [3]. The total usage of maize would increase, but the land would decrease because of land conversion into residential. It makes difficult to fulfill maize need [4].

Land expansion is needed to fulfill it. Corns can be planted in marginal lands, such as dry and saline soils. Saline soils are the largest marginal land in Indonesia. Indonesia has shorelines 106 thousand kilometers and land potential 1.06 million hectares [5] It can be planted maize, but the main challenge the high content of salt will decrease productivity. Salinity is one of the main limiting factors that can decrease growth and productivity of maize [6] and many plant species [7]

Corn var. Duko and Elos are Madura local corn which has the highest resistance to salinity [8]. This research objective was to compare the resistance of both corn to var. Sukmaraga and Anoman¹. [9] explained that Sukmaraga had middle resistance to salt stress and Anoman had a low one.

II. METHODS

Plant material and Research Design

Corn from the research of [8] was var. Elos (El.), Duko (Du.), The hybrid corns are Sukmaraga (Su) and Anoman-1 (An.) from Research Center of Cerealia Maros, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Seeds with similar size and weight were selected to get the same germination rate. Seeds were surface sterilized in 2% (v/v) NaOCl for 10 min and

washed by distilled water. Thirty seeds were placed on filter papers that contained NaCl solution (0, 100, 200, 300 and 400 mM) and located in 15 cm diameter sterile Petri dishes.

It was conducted by using randomized block design with 4 replications. Significant differences between treatments were determined by DMRT 5%.

Germination Assays

Germination was done at room temperature ($\pm 27^\circ\text{C}$). The seed weight was measured for 3 days. The seed germination was counted every day for 7 (seven) days. Germination of seed was counted when the emergence of radicles ≥ 2 mm [10].

Full Germination Percent (FGP) was calculated by equation

$$FGP = \frac{\text{number of germinated seeds}}{\text{total seeds number}} \times 100\%$$

The Mean Germination Time (MGT) was calculated everyday for each replication used the equation [10], [11]

$$MGT = \frac{\text{number of seeds newly germinated at day } D}{\text{number of all germinated seeds}}$$

Germination Index (GI) was calculated by equation [12],

$$GI = \sum \left(\frac{\text{the number of seeds germinated on } D \text{ day}}{\text{number of days up to } D \text{ day}} \right)$$

Salt Tolerance Index (STI) on germination was calculated by equation [12].

$$STI = \frac{\text{germination/growth in a particular treatment}}{\text{germination/growth in the control}}$$

Seedling Assays

The seedlings were cultivated by wick system hydroponic. The media used [13] added by NaCl 0, 100 mM and 200 mM. It had the same replication with germination treatment. Plants height measured at 21 days after cultivated. Plants leaves at 21 days after cultivated were cut and measured Proline content, measured by ninhydrin methods. [14].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Germination Character

Table 1 showed that all varieties decrease germination ability. All varieties could not be germinated on 300 mM and 400 mM salt (NaCl). They could be germinated until 200 mM. The value of FGP, GI and STI of Madura local corns were better than hybrid corn. Reducing germination ability also reported by the previous researcher such as [15], [16], [17].

Table 1. Germination Character of Hybrid and Madura Local Corn on Difference Concentration Salt Solution

Par.	Var	Salt Treatment (mM)				
		0	100	200	300	400
FGP (%)	El.	100 e	92.5 cd	80,5 c	0 a	0 a
	Du.	100 e	100 e	90,2 cd	0 a	0 a
	Su.	100 e	100 e	75,2 cd	0 a	0 a
	An.	100 e	80 c	20,5 b	0 a	0 a
MGT (d)	El.	2.64 b	4.66 c	4.99 cd	0 a	0 a
	Du.	3.65 b	4.68 c	5.44 d	0 a	0 a
	Su.	4.32 c	4.53 c	7.00 e	0 a	0 a
	An.	3.25 b	4.47 d	7.30 e	0 a	0 a
GI	El.	9.73 f	4.29 c	3.12 bc	0 a	0 a
	Du.	5.77 e	4.48 c	2.45 b	0 a	0 a
	Su.	4.79 cd	4.47 c	0.14 a	0 a	0 a
	An.	5.54 d	4.67 cd	0.04 a	0 a	0 a
STI	El.	1.00 c	0.93 c	0.81 c	0 a	0 a
	Du.	1.00 c	1.00 c	0.90 c	0 a	0 a
	Su.	1.00 c	1.00 c	0.75 c	0 a	0 a
	An.	1.00 c	0.80 bc	0.21 b	0 a	0 a
Seed growth weight (g)	El.	0.81 e	0.76 d	0.66 c	0.61 c	0.55 bc
	Du.	0.33 a	0.32 a	0.31 a	0.31 a	0.31 a
	Su.	1.11 g	0.91 g	0.55 bc	0.54 bc	0.51 b
	An.	1.10 g	0.89 f	0.52 b	0.51 b	0.49 b

Note : number followed by same letter on row and column, not significantly different on DMRT 5%.

In normal water (0 mM salt), seeds could germinate normally because water and another nutrient normally

absorbed. Increasing salt concentration in the medium can increase the osmotic potential, thus prevent the uptake of water, indicated by decreasing seed growth weight (Table 1). Existing water was needed to mobilize nutrients for germination. Increasing of salt, also makes the ions Na⁺ or Cl⁻ may be toxic to the embryo [12]. The toxicity of NaCl reported by [18] and [19]. Finally, its inhibits germination ability [15], [17].

Seedling Character

Table 2 shows that salt stress reduced all corn's height. On normal water, hybrid corns were taller than local corns. On 200mM NaCl, both hybrid and local corns' height were not significantly different. Reducing plant growth caused by osmotic stress, ion toxicity and nutritional imbalance. Osmotic stress occurs because salt on medium restricts water potential and plant root water conductivity. It reduces cell membrane permeability and water influx. Ions toxicity made by sodium and chloride. Sodium and chloride also reduce mineral uptake of the plants, which would make nutritional imbalance [20].

Table 2. Seedling Character of Hybrid and Madura Local Corn on Difference Concentration Salt Solution

Parameter	Var.	Salt Treatment		
		0 mM	100 mM	200 mM
Height	El.	30,63 c	26,61 b	21,82 a
	Du.	31,83 c	24,12 ab	20,75 a
	Su.	37,63 d	29,08 c	21,75 a
	An.	33,03 c	24,75 ab	22,25 a
Growth ratio	El.	1,28	1,21	1,35
	Du.	1,49	1,19	1,64
	Su.	1,32	1,89	1,71
	An.	1,56	2,06	2,00
Proline	El.	1,08 a	107,67 f	140,51 g
	Du.	1,31 a	93,29 ef	193,66 h
	Su.	9,53 b	31,12 d	83,44 e
	An.	16,81 c	104,90 f	-

Note : number followed by same letter on row and column, not significantly different on DMRT 5%.

Table 2 also showed increasing of NaCl content increase proline level of all varieties. That result was similar to previous research such as [21], [22], and [23]. While plants under stress, plant produce reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as hydrogen peroxide, superoxide, singlet oxygen, and hydroxyl radical. ROS can increase lipid peroxidation, protein degradation and DNA mutation [24]. ROS activity can be blocked by proline and glycine betaine. Increasing of proline content in hybrid and local corn could show plant activity to block ROS activity. According to previous research, existing of proline on stress concern with cell

membrane stabilizing [25], osmotic balance [26], the arrangement of cytosol acidity and NAD⁺/NADH.

IV. CONCLUSION

Salt stress reduces germination ability and seedling growth of hybrid and local Madura corns. Corn var. Duko had the highest germination ability but Var. Sukmaraga had the highest on seedling growth.

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