

Abstract The occurrence of boron toxicity becomes a major constraint in cereal production in the world, thus causing significant yield loss particularly in wheat, one of the most susceptible crops to boron toxicity. List of eighty Aegilops-wheat accessions collected from different countries and used in the present study

Name of the Species	Genome	Country	Aegilops
speltoides	S	S	Aegilops
Aegilops	S	S	Aegilops
Aegilops	S	S	Aegilops
Aegilops	S	S	Aegilops
Aegilops	S	S	Aegilops
longissima	S	S	Aegilops
sharonensis	S	S	Aegilops
bicornis	S	S	Aegilops
searsii	S	S	Aegilops
kotschy	S	S	Aegilops
S1	S	S	Aegilops
Ssh	S	S	Aegilops
Sb	S	S	Aegilops
Ss	S	S	Aegilops
US	S	S	Aegilops
U	S	S	Aegilops
cylindrostachys	S	S	Aegilops
euvariabilis	S	S	Aegilops
US	S	S	Aegilops
U	S	S	Aegilops
geniculata	S	S	Aegilops
syn. ovata	S	S	Aegilops
UM	S	S	Aegilops

Name of the accessions: TS-100, TS-02, TS-41, TS-43, Israel (7) TS-47, TS-76, TS-01 Unknown (1) TS-117 Turkey (1) TS-118 Syria (1) TS-132 TL-01, TL-02, TL-04, TL-05, Israel (8) TL-07, TL-09, TL-17, TL-21 Jordan (1) TL-24 TH-17, TH-02, TH-03, TH-04, TH-07, Israel (9) TH-10, TH-11, TH-15, TH-01 Israel (2) TB-04, TB-05 Egypt (3) TB-07, TB-10, TB-12, Israel (4) TE-03, TE-09, TE-21, TE-27 Syria (1) TE-36 TKK-01, TKK-03, TKK-06, Israel (6) Tkk-11, TKK-27, TKK-21 Israel (4) TKC-01, TKC-04, TKC-06, TKC-08 Unknown (1) TKE-02, TKE-03, TKE-12, TKE-19, Israel (9) TKE-24, TKE-42, TKE-46, TKE-62, TKE-66, Unknown (1) TO-01 Israel (2) TO-07, TO-13 TKE-22, 44

www.macrothink.org/jab Journal of Applied Biotechnology ISSN 2327-0640 2015, Vol. Few primers were taken from wheat chromosomes, 5A, 5B, and 5D because recent study (Schnurbusch et al., 2008) identified some orthologous sequence of Btolerant genes on these chromosomes. The total PCR reaction volume was 13 µl, composed of 2.0 µl genomic DNA, 1.5 µl 10X PCR buffer (Tris with 15 mM MgCl₂, Conc. 10x), 0.75 µl dNTPs (Containing dCTP, dGTP, dTTP and dATP all in the conc. 2.2 mM) Hydropenic screening The hydropenic screening was done in a growth chamber with light set to 16 h day at 22 °C and 8 h night at 15 °C. High quality seeds were sterilized in a solution of 1.3% sodium hypochlorite (2.5% bleach solution) plus one drop of Tween 20 (surfactant) in distilled water

43 www.macrothink.org/jab Journal of Applied Biotechnology ISSN 2327-0640 2015, Vol. Agronomic management of Bt toxicity is more of a serious task than dealing with Bt efficiency (Sutton et al., 2007). Boron stress is one of the key limiting factors for crop production in

42 www.macrothink.org/jab Journal of Applied Biotechnology ISSN 2327-0640 2015, Vol. 3, No. 2 many areas of the world (Jeffries et al., 2000). Materials and Methods 2.1 Plant Materials Seventy-nine genotypes from 12 wild species within the Aegilops-Triticum group were obtained from Dr. Moshe Feldman, Department of Plant Sciences, The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel. These genotypes were collected from several Mediterranean region sources (Table 1).

2.3 DNA extraction Fresh leaves from 13-day old seedlings were used for DNA extraction followed by CTAB mini-prep method (IRRI, 1997). The DNA samples were analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively using a spectrophotometer and 0.8% agarose gel electrophoresis.

2.4 SSR marker genotyping Thirty-four selected SSR primers (along with three Barley primers) were used for the study. Samples were subjected to the following thermal profile for amplification in a thermocycler: after the initial 7 min at 95 °C, SSR marker amplification comprised 10–15 touchdown cycles of 94 °C for 30 s, annealing for 30 s, decreasing the temperature by 0.5 °C per cycle until the specified annealing temperature was

reached, and 7.72 °C for 30 s. The first matrix was produced from the standardized root length data using SIMINT procedure based on Average Taxonomic Distance (i.e. DIST coefficient in the procedure). Standardization of data was done by STANDARD procedure of NTSYS. The second matrix was generated with help of SSR data using Nei genetic distance (Nei, 1972). Previous studies were inappropriate in context of the number of species included and the type of molecular marker used for the diversity studies. On the other hand wild emmer wheat *Triticum dicoccoides* and rye (*Secale cereale*) are also important genetic stocks for improvement of cultivated wheat. *Ae. speltoides*, *Ae. euv. variabilis* and *Ae. searsii* also experience tolerance performance against B toxicity. Due to the inconsistency, no reliable conclusion can be drawn for any of the genotypes from the species *Ae. kotschyi* and *Ae. bicornis*. Wheat is very susceptible to B toxicity and production is hampered in toxic environments. Due to the stock of different genes in an interbreeding population used in breeding programs, the genetic diversity among wheat cultivars has decreased (Weir et al., 2000, as cited in Li et al., 2006). Moreover, most of the previous studies (Konstantinos et al., 2010; Belkadi et al., 2011, Baghizadeh et al., 2011, Naghavi et al., 2009) that were devoted to identifying the genetic relationship and diversity of *Aegilops* species were based on RAPD markers.

2.5 Statistical Analysis

The allele size at each microsatellite locus was measured in base pairs by using AlphaEaseFC 4.5 www.mackay.com/jab Journal of Applied Biotechnology ISSN 22327-0640 2015, Vol. Development of tolerant variety is now of utmost importance since agronomic management of soil boron is becoming ineffective to mitigate the toxicity. Due to narrow genetic base of the existing wheat cultivars, genetic variation for this character was poorly reported. Their derivatives genotypes TL L-09 and TL L-17 were found to explain considerable tolerance to boron. On the other hand, among the SSR markers used, Xgwm 192 was the most robust in identifying boron tolerance polymorphism. But, surprisingly these species gave better root length under 3.3 mM B. Among the species evaluated *Ae. sharonensis*, *Ae. longissima* and *Ae. kotschyi* revealed better tolerance against excess B than the other species (Figure 1). Results

3.1 Morphological Characterization

3.1.1 Root Length Variation

In the hydroponic screening, variation in root length of the genotypes of each species under different concentrations (0, 3 and 10 mM B) is presented in the Figure 1.3, No. 2 for 8 minutes and then thoroughly rinsed. Seeds were placed on filter paper containing 0.2% of Pipracil (Pipracillin Sodium antibiotic) solution in labeled petri dishes for germination. The *Aegilops* genera are still neglected in B tolerance research, and the existence of such a large pool of genotypic variation is promising and can be used in wheat breeding programs for developing B-tolerant cultivars.

3.69 (Felsenstein, 2009) with 1000 permutation and co-phenetic correlation coefficient was calculated by NTSYSpc program ver. 2.11 (Rohlf, 2005) for internal validation of the phylogenetic tree.

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