

Photosynthetic performance responses in different physiological development stages of some *Brassica juncea* genotypes in field condition

Fatma Kayacetin^{1,*}  Banu Efeoglu²  Oguzhan Aydin¹ 

¹Central Research Institute for Field Crops, Oil Seed Crops Unit, Yenimahalle, Ankara/Turkey

²Central Research Institute for Field Crops, Biotechnology Research Center, Yenimahalle, Ankara/Turkey

*Corresponding Author: fatmakayacetin@gmail.com

Abstract

In this study *Brassica juncea* genotypes were planted as fall sowing at the experimental fields located at Yenimahalle-Ankara location based on randomized block design. In order to investigate photosynthetic performances of three *B. juncea* genotypes; net photosynthetic rate = P_N [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2) \text{ m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$], transpiration = E ($\text{mmol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), stomatal conductance = g_s ($\text{mmol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), intercellular/ambient CO_2 air = C_i [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2) \text{ mol}^{-1}(\text{hava})$], mesophyll conductance = g_m [$\text{mmol}(\text{CO}_2)/\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$] and photosynthetic water use efficiency = PWUE [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2)/\text{mol}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$] parameters (model LCi Photosynthesis System, ADC Bioscientific Ltd., Hertfordshire, UK) were measured and phenological aspects were recorded at different physiological stages as booting, anthesis and grain filling during experiment. Photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance were associated with seed yield in *B. juncea* genotypes and the selection of genotypes with high gas exchange may provide development of mustard (*B. juncea*) genotypes with high yield.

Keywords: *Brassica juncea*, Gas exchange, Stomatal conductance, Yield

Introduction

Brassicaceae family includes economically important industrial oilseed, spice, vegetable, and fodder crops and exhibits extreme morphological diversity and many crop species (Li et al., 2017). This family, comprises a number of plant species. The dicotyledonous family Brassicaceae has 338 genera and 3709 species (Warwick et al., 2006). The species which belong to the family *Brassica* L., Turkish natural flora of *Sinapis alba* (white mustard), *S. arvensis* (wild mustard), *B. juncea* (brown mustard), *B. rapa* syn. *B. campestris* (field mustard) and *B. nigra* (black mustard) are the most important

among them (Babac, 2004; Guner et al., 2012). Brown mustard belonging to the family *Brassicaceae* are cultivated for different usage, especially for spice and energy industries. Brown mustard is tap rooted, herbaceous, upright growing, multi-branched, yellow-flowered and seed and grow as an annual plant cultivated worldwide for the industrial oilseed, spice, vegetable and fodder crop species (Kayacetin 2019; Mulligan and Bailey, 1975). In India, *B. juncea* is dominant, whereas in Europe and Canada, *B. juncea* is planted in minor areas just for condiment use (Sovero 1993). Fertilization of ovules generally stem from self-pollination, with interplant outcrossing rates

Cite this article as:

Kayacetin, F., Efeoglu, B., Aydin, O. (2020). Photosynthetic performance responses in different physiological development stages of some *Brassica juncea* genotypes in field condition. Int. J. Agric. Environ. Food Sci., 4(4), 400-405

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31015/jaefs.2020.4.2>

ORCID: Fatma Kayacetin : 0000-0003-3428-8121 Banu Efeoglu: 0000-0002-4053-5806 Oguzhan Aydin: 0000-0003-3374-6813

Received: 21 May 2020 Accepted: 29 September 2020 Published Online: 15 November 2020

Year: 2020 Volume: 4 Issue: 4 (December) Pages: 400-405

Available online at : <http://www.jaefs.com> - <http://dergipark.gov.tr/jaefs>

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of 20-30% (Rakow and Woods, 1987). *B. rapa* [AA (n:10)] and *B. nigra* [BB (n:8)] are two basic diploid species and their natural interspecific cross lead to amphidiploid species, *B. juncea*, [AABB (n:18)] (Nagaharu, 1935). Brown mustard, which is among the genetic resources of our country, is one of the important non-edible that can be cultivated for industrial oil purposes on marginal areas (Kayacetin, 2019).

Photosynthesis measurements have been successfully used to demonstrate genetic diversity in performance and to explain physiological responses to environmental effects and crop inputs. Direct measurements of photosynthesis from gas exchange are performed with an infrared gas analyzer (IRGA) which measures the carbon dioxide flux within a sealed chamber containing a leaf sample. Measurements of gas exchange have become increasingly valuable in precision phenotyping studies. The efficiency of utilizing the absorbed

photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) for biomass production can change with variation in plant growth stage, field management practices and environmental stress intensity (Orange and Ebadi, 2012). In present paper photosynthetic performance responses and phenological aspects in different physiological development stages of some *B. juncea* genotypes in field condition were compared.

Materials and Methods

The field experiment was carried out during fall season of 2017-2018 at Central Research Institute for Field Crop at the experimental fields under fall sowing condition. The study made use of three brown mustard genotypes as research material which were selected from among a large number of genotypes belonging to different origin obtained from the USA gene bank.

Table 1. The long-term and 2017-2018 monthly agro-climatic meteorological data pertaining to vegetation period (September to August) conditions of Yenimahalle location (925 m altitude)

Climatic factors	Years	Months											Total or mean
		S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	Ma	Ju		
Precipitation (mm)	Long years	17.5	31.8	34.2	42.0	40.2	33.0	36.7	46.7	49.9	34.2	366.2	
	2017-2018	3.2	10.0	37.2	41.5	48.0	43.5	62.0	2.6	86.2	37.4	371.6	
Relative humidity (%)	Long years	49.1	60.5	69.7	76.5	76.4	70.7	63.2	59.0	56.5	52.1	63.4	
	2017-2018	34.2	55.1	70.0	78.3	77.0	73.3	63.2	44.4	60.0	53.1	60.9	
Mean temp. (°C)	Long years	19.0	13.1	6.8	2.3	0.4	2.3	6.4	11.5	16.2	20.3	9.8	
	2017-2018	22.6	12.4	7.2	4.8	3.1	6.6	10.2	15.4	18.0	21.4	12.2	
Maximum temp. (°C)	Long years	32.6	27.6	19.7	13.9	11.9	14.7	21.4	25.7	29.3	33.6	33.6	
	2017-2018	37.7	23.7	18.6	17.0	11.4	15.6	22.7	28.1	28.9	33.9	37.7	
Minimum temp. (°C)	Long years	6.6	1.1	-3.8	-8.2	-11.5	-9.9	-5.9	-0.8	4.1	8.1	-11.5	
	2017-2018	7.7	3.2	-1.9	-4.6	-3.9	-2.7	-2.8	0.6	9.1	12.4	-4.6	

(S, September; O, October; N, November; D, December; J, January; F, February; M, March; A, April; Ma, May; Ju, June)

The data were obtained from Yenimahalle Meteorology Station of Central Field Crops Research Institute, Ankara Turkey

Table 2. The soil analysis during 2017, performed out of the soil taken at a depth of 0-20, 21-40 cm of Yenimahalle location

Depth (cm)	Texture	Saturation content (%)	Total salt (%)	pH	Lime (%)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)	Organic Substance (%)
0-20	Clay loamy	56.0	0.025	7.81	5.3	9.3	126.0	1.35
21-40	Clay loamy	56.0	0.025	7.81	5.2	10.5	240.0	1.28
Mean		56.0	0.025	7.81	5.3	9.9	183.0	1.32

Data were obtained from Soil Fertilizer and Water Resources Institute

Genotypes were planted as fall sowing at the experimental fields located at Yenimahalle location 39°12' - 43°6' N, 35°58' - 37°44' E, and 925 m altitude, rainfed conditions.

The monthly meteorological data pertaining to vegetation period (September to June) of long term and 2017-2018 agro climatic conditions of Yenimahalle, Ankara are given in Table 1. There was total precipitation of 366.2 and 371.6 mm, mean temperature of 9.8 and 12.2 °C, and an mean humidity of 63.4% and 60.9%, respectively at Yenimahalle location.

The soil analysis during 2017, performed out of the soil taken at a depth of 0-20, 21-40 cm showed low organic matter (1.35% and 1.28% respectively), in alkaline (pH 7.81), limey (5.3% and 5.2%, respectively), and clay-loamy soils (Table 2).

Each genotype was planted as two rows, 3 m plots with 30 cm row spacing and three replicates. In this study, the thousand seed weight and seed yield were determined as described by Kayacetin (2019).

The crude oil content was determined by grinding 10 g of powdered mustard seed samples and extracting by hexane that were used with Gerhardt 2000 soxhlet apparatus (Singh et al., 2014).

Genotypes were grown under natural conditions without using any fertilizer or pesticide to measure their potential under natural conditions. The seeds of these genotypes were considered mature and harvested on achieving 8.5% moisture content (CFIA, 1999).

At Yenimahalle location sowing date was 31th October 2017, emergence date was 12th November 2017, harvest date 13th-17th June 2018, days to maturity 225-229 d. Phenological aspects were (days to emergence, days to 50% flowering and days to maturity, plant height, number of branches) recorded

Statistical analysis: All data were statistically analyzed using AVCI's analysis of variance technique and the treatment means were compared using LSD test at 0.01 probability level (Steel & Torrie 1984).

In order to investigate photosynthetic performances of three brown mustard genotypes; net photosynthetic rate = P_N [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2) \text{ m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$], transpiration = E ($\text{mmol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), stomatal conductance = g_s ($\text{mmol m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$), intercellular/ambient CO_2 air = C_i [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2) \text{ mol}^{-1}(\text{hava})$], mesophyll conductance = g_m [$\text{mmol}(\text{CO}_2)/\text{m}^2\text{s}^{-1}$] ve photosynthetic water use efficiency = PWUE [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{CO}_2)/\text{mol}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$] parameters (model LCi Photosynthesis System, ADC Bioscientific Ltd., Hertfordshire, UK) were measured at different physiological stages as booting, anthesis and grain filling during experiment.

Measurements were made from full developed youngest

leaves at PAR of 892 to 2055 [$\mu\text{mol}(\text{foton}) \text{ m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$] and environmental CO_2 concentration value of 272-368 ppm. Mesophyll conductance was calculated by dividing P_n by C_i (Fischer et al., 1998). Photosynthetic water use efficiency (PWUE) was calculated by dividing P_n by g_s (Ahmadi and Siosemardeh, 2005).

Results and Discussion

Significant ($p < 0.05$) differences were noted among different genotypes regarding some phenological aspects and yield components characters of *Brassica juncea* genotypes in different growth stages. The Izmir genotypes showed higher plant height (132.90 cm), number of branches (12.60 branch plant^{-1}), number of capsules (282.71 capsule plant^{-1}), thousand seed weight (2.88 g), seed yield (290.76 g m^{-2}) and crude oil content (29.06%) than the other genotypes. India genotypes showed lower plant height (100.27 cm), number of branches (8.27 branch plant^{-1}), number of capsules (215.07 capsule plant^{-1}), thousand seed weight (2.53 g), seed yield (213.17 g m^{-2}) and crude oil content (25.65%) than other genotypes. Days to emergence, days to 50% flowering and days to maturity did not change among the genotypes (Table 3. and 4).

Net photosynthetic rate (A) was higher at anthesis stage than booting and grain filling stages in all *Brassica juncea* genotypes. Transpiration rate (E) was different among all stages and genotypes. Transpiration (E) increased in the same way in Izmir and Tekirdag genotypes while it increased through late stages in India genotype. Photosynthesis and transpiration are both physiologically complex processes. Plants are thought to optimize water use efficiency by adjusting the rate of photosynthesis in relation to the rate of transpiration (Farquhar et al., 2002). Intercellular CO_2 concentrations (C_i) was highest at booting stage in Izmir and Tekirdag genotypes and was highest in grain filling stage in India genotype. Intercellular CO_2 concentrations (C_i) was almost inversely related with photosynthesis rate in India genotype. Stomatal conductance (G_s) was highest at booting stage in all genotypes and decreased through later stages.

Mesophyll conductance (MC) was highest at anthesis stage in all *Brassica juncea* genotypes. Photosynthetic water use efficiency (PWUE) was highest at grain filling period in Izmir and Tekirdag genotypes and at booting stage in India genotype. PWUE (photosynthetic water used efficiency) gives the information about the assimilation of dry mass produced per unity of lost water through transpiration process. This parameter is important for indicating water management

to agricultural productivity. PWUE increased from booting through grain filling period in the genotypes. A great value of PWUE parameter does not mean the increased assimilation of plant. At ripening stage, a higher value means a higher water consumer (Acatrinei, 2010). The resulted relationships in different growth stages with decreasing slope toward the end of growing season show the possibility to save water with withdrawing water application during last growth stages (Azizian and Sepaskhah, 2014). Similar findings were also reported for wheat (Abbate et al., 2004) and potato (Ahmedi et al., 2010). Increased yields have been achieved by (i) increased or extended photosynthesis per unit land area and (ii) increased partitioning of crop biomass to the harvested product. The first has mainly been achieved by irrigation schemes and improved agronomic practices, in particular the use of inorganic fertilizers, but also to elevated atmosphere CO₂ concentrations, whereas the second has largely been due to plant breeding (Richards

2000). It has been showed positive correlations between grain yield, photosynthetic rate, and stomatal conductance in irrigated short spring wheats (Fischer et al., 1998; Shimshi and Ephrat, 1975), *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. and *Phaseolus coccineus* L. (Rodriguez & Estrada 2005). Higher stomatal conductance in plants is known to increase CO₂ diffusion into leaves thereby favouring higher photosynthetic rates. Higher net assimilation rates could in turn favour a higher biomass and higher crop yields (Taiz and Zeiger, 1998). Recent studies have shown positive correlation between yield increases and increases in stomatal conductance (Rodriguez and Estrada, 2005).

Traits related to stomatal conductance may prove useful for improving selection for yield potential. Higher yield-potential wheats had greater stomatal conductance and, therefore, cooler canopies than older, lower yield potential releases (Fischer et al., 1998).

Table 3. Variation of some photosynthetic parameters of *Brassica juncea* genotypes in different growth stages

Genotypes	Net photosynthetic rate μmol CO ₂ m ⁻² s ⁻¹				Transpiration mmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹				Intercellular/ambient air CO ₂ (Ci/Ca) μmol mol ⁻¹			
	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean
Izmir	26.35	12.82	4.78	14.65	3.55	2.10	163.83	56.49	120.00c	164.50b	0.28d	94.93b
Tekirdag	21.20	17.13	4.10	14.14	4.56	3.41	183.25	63.74	160.00b	147.00bc	0.21d	102.40ab
India	21.93	9.15	3.78	11.62	5.40	6.33	142.17	51.30	144.67bc	223.67a	0.18d	122.84a
Mean	23.16a	13.03b	4.22c		4.50b	3.94b	163.08a		141.56b	178.39a	0.22c	
F value _G				2.81				1.38				3.77*
F value _S				95.91*				298.01*				159.69*
F value _{GxS}				2.87				1.84				4.20*
CV (%)				21.55				27.87				20.92

Table 4. Variation of some photosynthetic parameters of *Brassica juncea* genotypes in different growth stages

Genotypes	Stomatal resistance mmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹				Mesophyll conductance(A/Ci) mmol m ⁻² s ⁻¹				Photosynthetic water use efficiency (A/gS) μmol CO ₂ / mol H ₂ O			
	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean	Anthesis	Grain filling period	Booting	Mean
Izmir	0.22c	0.11c	30.57b	10.30b	0.22	0.08	17.83	6.04	125.15a	109.05ab	0.16d	81.23a
Tekirdag	0.20c	0.14c	30.90b	10.41b	0.13	0.11	19.49	6.58	124.82a	88.08bc	0.13d	78.11a
India	0.25c	0.15c	34.87a	11.75a	0.15	0.04	20.38	6.86	118.71a	64.39c	0.11d	50.86b
Mean	0.22b	0.13b	32.11a		0.17b	0.08b	19.23a		105.28a	104.79a	0.13b	
F value _G				22.33*				0.48				38.10*
F value _S				2324.73*				343.18*				278.63*
F value _{GxS}				42.75*				0.54				48.54*
CV (%)				3.89				27.51				19.75

Table 5. Variation of some phenological aspects and yield components of *Brassica juncea* genotypes in different growth stages

Genotypes	Days to 50% flowering (d)	Days to maturity (d)	Plant height (cm)	Number of branches (branch plant ⁻¹)
Izmir	198	261	132.90a	13.60a
Tekirdag	198	261	112.87ab	11.87ab
India	198	261	100.27b	8.27b
F value _G			26.83*	16.35*
CV (%)			4.77	10.36

Table 6. Variation of some phenological aspects and yield components of *Brassica juncea* genotypes in different growth stages

Genotypes	Number of capsules (capsul plant ⁻¹)	Thousand seed weight (g)	Seed yield (g m ⁻²)	Crude oil content (%)
Izmir	282.71	2.88a	290.79a	29.06a
Tekirdag	238.67	2.69ab	246.99a	25.82b
India	215.07	2.53b	213.17b	25.65b
F value _G	3.05	7.60*	31.31*	8.83*
CV (%)	13.92	4.15	8.01	4.17

Conclusion

Higher photosynthetic rates could in turn favor a high crop yield and higher stomatal conductance appears to favor higher yields. These results suggest that Izmir genotype, which is the highest yielding genotype, has substantial reserve capacity for photosynthesis. In conclusion photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance were associated with seed yield in *Brassica juncea* genotypes and the selection of genotypes with high gas exchange may provide development of brown mustard genotypes with high yield.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that for this article they have no actual, potential or perceived the conflict of interests.

Author contribution

The contribution of the authors is equal. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript. All the authors verify that the Text, Figures, and Tables are original and that they have not been published before.

Ethical approval

Not applicable.

Funding

No financial support was received for this study.

Data availability

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

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