

Molecular Characterization of Betaine Aldehyde Dehydrogenase (*BADH*) Gene and Proline Estimation in *Hordeum vulgare* L. in Response to Abiotic Stress

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: 14/4 /2020

Accepted: 2/ 7/2020

Keywords:

Hordeum vulgare L., abiotic stress, *BADH* gene sequencing, proline., molecular characterization .

ABSTRACT

Barley possesses the highest level of salt tolerance among cereals, thus it is used as an important species to investigate mechanisms involved in salt tolerance. The present investigation was conducted to study the effect of salt stress by different NaCl concentrations (0, 9000, 12000, and 15000 ppm) on proline production and it was found that there is a positive correlation between proline production and salinity. Also study the effect of salinity on *BADH-1* gene expression by Real-Time PCR, where this gene was performed and it was aligned in GenBank. The sequencing was translated into amino acid sequences and these amino acid sequences were aligned in GenBank. Finally, the secondary structure of *BADH-1* enzyme was determined from the most tolerant barley (Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr) and sensitive barley Giza 129 cultivars, then sequencing translated into amino acid sequences and these sequences were aligned in GenBank. Finally, the secondary structure of *BADH-1* enzyme was determined. These isolated genes were submitted in GenBank under accession numbers KX433169, KX342849, KX342850, KX342851, KX433170, and KX433171.

INTRODUCTION

Salinity is one of the serious problems affecting one-third of the irrigation land nearly 950 million ha land in the world, also, it has an important effect on plant growth and productivity of modern cultivars (Maas and Hoffman, 1977; Babu *et al.*, 2007 and Munns, 2002). In Egypt, there are about two million feddans of the irrigated land adversely affected by the accumulation of salts. This environmental stress is a complex trait controlled by a large number of genes which makes them elusive to selection for tolerance by conventional breeding programs (Abo-Elenin *et al.*, 1981).

For the overcoming of salt stress problems, plants have evolved complex mechanisms that contribute to the adaptation to osmotic and ionic stress caused by high salinity. During the onset and development of salt stress within a plant, all the major processes such as compatible osmolytes, protein synthesis, and lipid metabolism are affected. The resistance or sensitivity to salt stress depends on the species, the genotype, and the development age of the plants.

Compatible osmolytes are potent osmoprotectants that play an important role in facing the osmotic stress. Proline, glycine betaine, polyamines, and carbohydrates have been described as being effective against salt stress by (Hare and Cress, 1997).

These compatible osmolytes show rapid and quantitatively important changes in their concentrations following variation in salinity (Fathi-Ettai and Prat, 1990).

Proline accumulation induced by drought and salt stress in plants is also involved in stress resistance mechanisms. Their possible roles have been attributed to stabilizing the structure of macro-molecules and organelles through stabilizing proteins and membranes against the denaturation effect of high concentrations of salts and other harmful solutes (Munns, 2002).

Plant abiotic stress response is mediated by increasing *BADH* gene activity (Nakamura *et al.*, 2001). *BADH* transcript levels were more abundant under salt stress than control in barley (Fujiwara *et al.*, 2008). Barley has a diploid number of

chromosomes $2n=14$ also, it has two *BADH* paralogs, *BADH1* gene located on chromosome 4 and *BADH2* gene on chromosome 8 (Singh *et al.*, 2010). In barley, *BADH2* mainly expressed in leaf cytosol, while *BADH1* expressed in leaf peroxisomes (Fujiwara *et al.*, 2008).

Betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase (*BADH*) is an important enzyme, which has dual roles in cereals influencing rice fragrance and abiotic stress tolerance. First role: A mutation in some *BADH2* alleles introduces a termination codon which causes truncation of the protein and ultimately elevates the level of 2 acetyl-1-pyrroline (2AP), leading to fragrance in rice (basmati and jasmine rice) and soybean as shown in figure (1) (Shrestha, 2011).

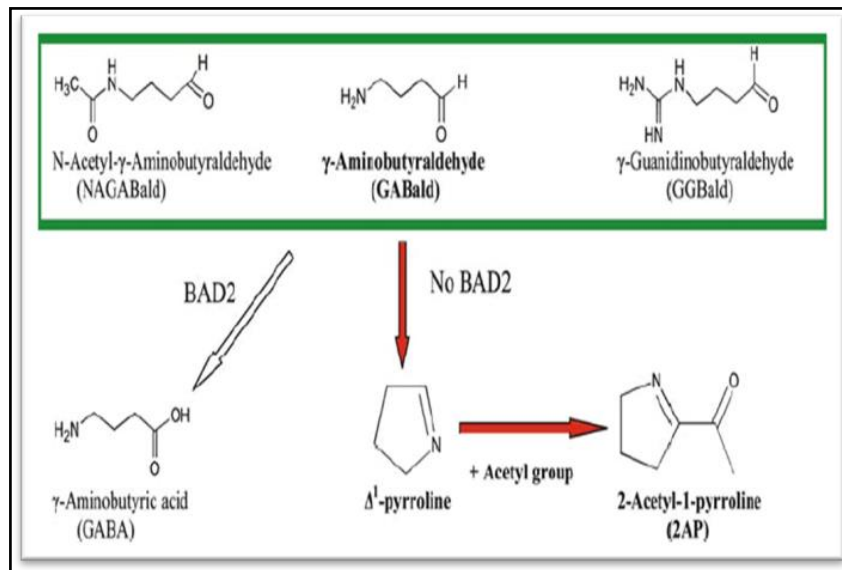


Fig. 1: A mutation in some *BADH2* alleles

Second role: Betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase (*BADH*) enzyme also plays an important role in defined mechanism to abiotic stress as salinity, cold temperature, and draught (Le Rudulier *et al.*, 1984 and Kishitani *et al.*, 1994), it catalyzes the conversion of betaine aldehyde (BA) to glycine betaine (GB), this reaction is dependent on oxidizing the co-factor NAD^+ or $NADP^+$ as shown in figure (2) (Weigel *et al.*, 1986; Nakamura *et al.*, 1997 and Mori *et*

al., 2002). Glycine betaine (GB) is accumulated in several higher plant families such as Chenopodiaceae, Podiaceae, and Adteraceae (Ishitani *et al.*, 1993). It is predominantly accumulated in the leaves and stems from a diverse range of dicotyledons and some monocotyledons (Ishitani *et al.*, 1993). Glycine betaine (GB) protects the cell under stresses by maintaining the osmotic balance between the intracellular and extracellular compartments of cells in

addition to stabilizing enzymes and biomolecules (Robinson and Jones, 1986).

Glycine betaine, which is an amazing amino acid, functions as an osmotic protectant in plant responses to various environmental stresses. This important compound can protect the photosystem II complex, the biomembrane system, and numerous useful proteins from destructive

stresses through providing osmotic adjustment. The expression of the *BADH* and *CMO* genes is greatly induced by different abiotic stresses leading to the high agglomeration of glycine betaine and consequently enhancing the tolerance to a wide range of stresses in many crops (Yu, *et al.*, 2017).

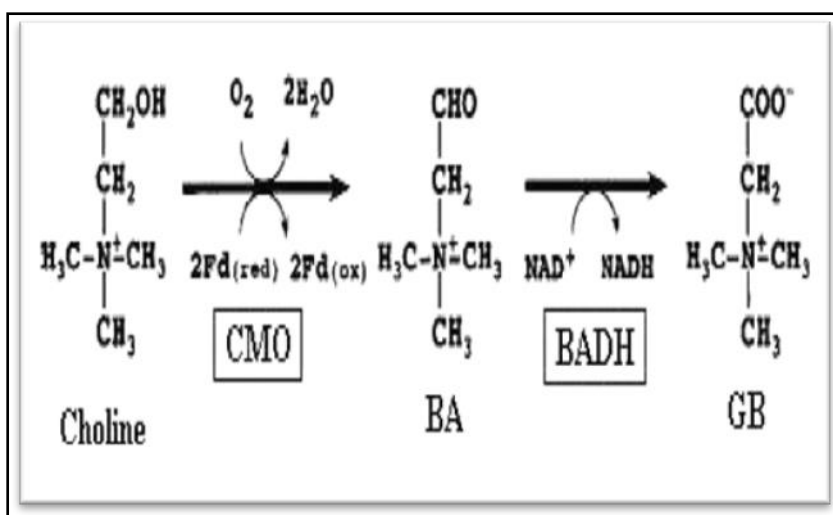


Fig 2: the conversion of betaine aldehyde (BA) to glycine betaine (GB)

Betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase (*BADH*) and choline monooxygenase (*CMO*) work together, *CMO* converts choline, a derivative of proline, to betaine aldehyde and *BADH* converts betaine aldehyde to glycine betaine. These enzymes are compartmentalized within the chloroplast in plants (Weigel *et al.*, 1986) with both reactions taking place depending on the presence and length of exposure to light (Hanson *et al.*, 1985 and Weigel *et al.*, 1988).

The aim of the present study was to determine the tolerant barley cultivar and sensitive one against the salt stress and make recommendations for using the best one. Also, study the effect of salt stress by different NaCl concentrations on proline production from each cultivar and study the effect of salinity on *Betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 (BADH-1)* gene expression by using Real-Time PCR, where this gene was performed and it was aligned in GenBank. Molecular characterization of

(*BADH-1*) gene was carried out from the most tolerant and sensitive cultivar, where, the sequencing of the gene was translated into amino acid sequences, which were aligned in GenBank, finally, the secondary structure of *BADH-1* enzyme was detected.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Extraction and Estimation of Proline:

Free proline was determined according to Bates *et al.* (1973). Acid ninhydrin reagent was prepared by warming 1.25 g ninhydrin in 30 ml glacial acetic acid and 20 ml 6 M phosphoric acid with agitation until dissolved; kept cool and stored at 4 °C. The reagent remains stable for 24 hours.

Approximately one gram of macerated fresh leaves was homogenized in 10 ml of 3 % aqueous sulfosalicylic acid and then filtered through filter paper Whatman No.2. Two ml of the filtrate were mixed with 2 ml glacial acetic acid and 2 ml of acid ninhydrin reagent in a test tube and heated for one hour at 100 °C. The reaction mixture was extracted with 4 ml toluene, mixed

vigorously in the test tube for 15-20 seconds. The chromophore containing toluene was aspirated from the aqueous phase and warmed to room temperature. The absorbance was read at 520 nm using toluene as a blank using spectrophotometer (Spectronic 601, Milton Roy Company). Proline concentration was determined using a standard curve and expressed as μg proline g^{-1} FW.

Isolation and Sequencing of *Betaine Aldehyde Dehydrogenase1 (BADH-1)* gene

DNA Isolation:

DNA was isolated from three *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties by using Gene Jet Plant Genomic DNA Purification Mini Kit (thermo Scientific K0791).

RNA Extraction:

SV Total RNA Isolation System Spin Protocol (Promega, U.S.A.) was used for extraction of RNA.

cDNA Synthesis:

RevertAid First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (thermo, Germany) was used to synthesis cDNA from total RNA. First-strand cDNA synthesis for different isolated

RNA was performed in 0.2 ml PCR Eppendorf containing (20 μl) consisted of template RNA (5 μl), Primer oligo (dt)18 primer (1 μl), 5X reaction buffer (4 μl), RiboLock RNase inhibitor (1 μl), 10 mM dNTP Mix (2 μl) and RevertAid M-MuLV reverse transcriptase (1 μl) then completed to 20 μl by nuclease-free water. For oligo (dT) 18 or gene-specific primed cDNA synthesis, incubate for 60 min at 42°C then terminate the reaction by heating at 70°C for 5 min by Thermocycler (Bio-Rad).

Betaine Aldehyde Dehydrogenase1 (*BADH-1*) gene Isolation From Genomic DNA and cDNA:

Genomic DNA and cDNA from Giza 129, Giza 2000 cultivars, and Wadi Sedr landrace in seedling stage (2 or 3-week old plant) were subjected to a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for 30 cycles with BADH1 Primer (Shrestha, 2011). This primer designed from *BADH1* sequences was obtained from the NCBI databases with the following accession numbers *Hordeum vulgare* BADH1 (AB161712) as shown in **table (1)**.

Table (1): Primers used for the amplification of *BADH-1*.

Homologs, Primer pairs	Forward primer (5'-3')	Reverse primer (5'-3')	Expected size of amplicon
BADH1 (from DNA)	CAGCAAGAAGTGAAGGTGCTAC	GTACCTGGTGACTTGTTTCACG	~750 bp
BADH1 (from cDNA)	CAGCAAGAAGTGAAGGTGCTAC	GTACCTGGTGACTTGTTTCACG	~410 bp
B-Actin	GTTCCAATCTATGAGGGATACACGC	GAACCTCCACTGAGAACAACATTACC	~422 bp

PCR amplification for isolation *BADH* gene from genomic DNA and cDNA was performed in 0.2 ml PCR Eppendorf containing (50 μl), which consisted of Dream *Taq* DNA Polymerase, Promega (1 μl), 10x Dream *Taq* Green Buffer (10 μl), MgCl (5 μl) dNTP were mixed 10mM each (4 μl), primer forward (f) and reverse (r), Metabion, German (3 μl) and template DNA (4 μl) or cDNA (2 μl). Then, all these components were completed to 50 μl by water, nuclease-free. Thermocycler (Bio-Rad) was programmed for 30 cycles in case of isolation from genomic DNA as follows: 95°C for 3 min (one cycle) then, 95°C for 30

sec, 58°C for 1min and 72°C for 1.5 min. While in case of isolation from cDNA as the follows: 94°C for 2 min (one cycle) then 94°C for 15 sec, 57°C for 30 sec and 72°C for 1.5 min (35 cycles).

Gel Preparation, Isolation And Sequencing of *BADH-1* gene:

Two grams of agarose were placed in 1/2x TAE buffer (100 ml) and were boiled in water bath, then ethidium bromide was added to the melted gel after the temperature became 55°C. The melted gel was poured in the tray of midi-gel apparatus and the comb was inserted immediately. Then the comb was removed when the gel became hardened.

The electrophoresis buffer (1X TAE) was added and covered the gel. 10 µl of DNA amplified product was loaded in each well and run at 100 V for about 2 hours. The gel was photographed and was analyzed by Gel-Documentation 2000 system, USA. The expected size of *BADH-1* gene was appeared in the gel in genomic DNA a proximally at 750 and in cDNA at 410 under gel documentation. After that the purification of isolated gene was made from gel fragment by Clean Up Purification Kit (promega, USA) then the product was sequenced by sequencing apparatus in Macro-gene lab in Korea.

BADH-1 gene was isolated and was sequenced. The forward and reverse was sequenced and was aligned by Bio-Edit program (Hall, 1999) to obtain the exact size of the sequencing of *BADH-1* gene which was isolated from gel fragment in genomic DNA and cDNA in Giza 129, Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr.

BADH-1 from genomic DNA in three varieties were aligned to each other on the basis of the phylogenetic relationship between three studied varieties was carried out with ClustalW by Mega 6.06 program (Tamura *et al.*, 2013); also, the same step was repeated between *BADH-1* from cDNA

sequence. The alignment was obtained by the Mega 6.06 program between *BADH-1* sequence in genomic DNA and in cDNA of the same variety to determine the exon region in the genomic *BADH* gene. Also, this gene sequence was identified in GenBank by alignment in nucleotide NCBI BLAST.

The sequence which was obtained from cDNA could be translated into amino acid sequences by the Mega 6.06 program then these amino acid sequences were identified by protein alignment NCBI BLAST.

Gene Expression of *BADH-1* gene Under Salt Stress by Real Time-PCR:

RNA was extracted from young leaves of Giza 129, Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr by using RNA extraction Kits (Promega, USA) after 72 hours of treatments from control and 15000 Ppm treatment of NaCl; then RNA was reverse transcribed with oligo d (T) primer using the Revert Aid Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit™ purchased from Thermo. The *BADHI* Primer was used as a positive control for a salt-induced gene while B-Actin was used as a house-keeping control. Real-time PCR, the *BADH-1* gene expression could be determined by the following equations.

$$\Delta CT_{\text{untreatment}} = CT_{\text{BADH-1 gene}} - CT_{\text{house-keeping gene}}$$

$$\Delta CT_{\text{treatment}} = CT_{\text{BADH-1 gene}} - CT_{\text{house-keeping gene}}$$

$$\Delta\Delta CT = \Delta CT_{\text{treatment}} - \Delta CT_{\text{untreatment}}$$

$$\text{Gene expression (RQ)} = 2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of Salinity on Proline Content in *Hordeum vulgare* L. Varieties:

The analysis of proline content in fresh leaves of ten Egyptian *Hordeum vulgare* L. showed highly significant differences. Also, the salinity treatments of different NaCl concentrations (control, 9000, 12000, and 15000 ppm) showed highly significant differences between the treated varieties and untreated varieties indicating a significant effect of salinity on the studied traits (table 2). Table (3) and figure (3) represent the mean performance of proline content in fresh leaves for ten Egyptian *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties under different concentrations of sodium chloride (control, 9000, 12000 and 15000 ppm).

The optimum proline content (µg g⁻¹ FW) was found in Giza 2000 were 11.29 and 24.11 in 12000 and 15000 ppm respectively, while the minimum proline content (µg g⁻¹ FW) was reported in Giza 129 were 0.61 and 0.38 in 12000 and 15000 ppm respectively. In Giza 128, Giza 129 and Giza 130, it was found that the proline content increase as sodium chloride concentrations increase in control, 9000 ppm then begin to decrease as sodium chloride increase in 12000 and 15000 ppm.

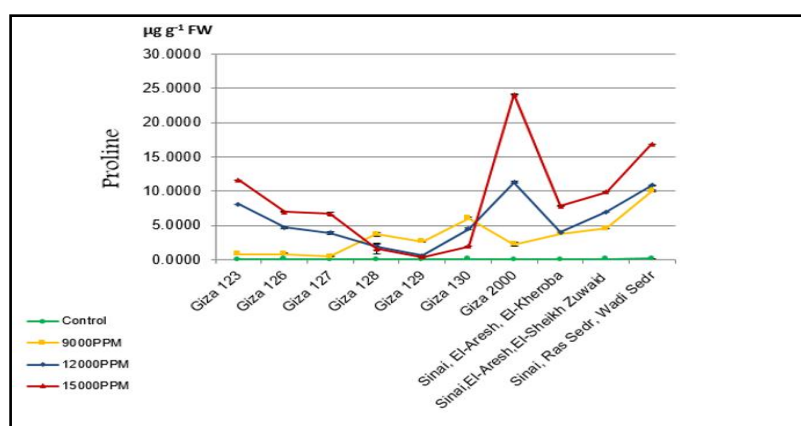
Table 2: Mean square (MS) of proline content on fresh leaves on ten *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties under salt stress of NaCl.

Source	Df	MS
Repeat	2	0.02 ^{ns}
Treatment	3	405.75 ^{***}
Varieties	9	102.86 ^{***}
Treatment x varieties	27	41 ^{***}
Error	78	0.01
Total	119	3250.9

*: significant ** : moderately significant ***: highly significant at 0.005 level of probability
^{ns}: no significant Ms: Mean square df: degrees of freedom

Table 3: The effect of sodium chloride concentration on proline content ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ fw) in fresh leaves of ten *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties.

Varieties	Control	9000 PPM	12000 PPM	15000 PPM
Giza 123	0.0000 \pm 0.0000	0.7890 \pm 0.0000	8.0740 \pm 0.0069	11.6230 \pm 0.0035
Giza 126	0.1120 \pm 0.0035	0.8240 \pm 0.0069	4.7260 \pm 0.0035	6.9740 \pm 0.0849
Giza 127	0.0443 \pm 0.0003	0.4767 \pm 0.0101	3.9077 \pm 0.0066	6.6793 \pm 0.0032
Giza 128	0.0000 \pm 0.0000	3.7020 \pm 0.0035	1.9130 \pm 0.0035	1.5890 \pm 0.1022
Giza 129	0.0000 \pm 0.0000	2.6307 \pm 0.0032	0.6060 \pm 0.0035	0.3767 \pm 0.0066
Giza 130	0.0620 \pm 0.0012	6.0673 \pm 0.0032	4.4900 \pm 0.0035	1.9243 \pm 0.0032
Giza 2000	0.0000 \pm 0.0000	2.2127 \pm 0.0476	11.2933 \pm 0.0101	24.1110 \pm 0.0035
El-Kheroba	0.0000 \pm 0.0000	3.7780 \pm 0.0000	3.9840 \pm 0.0035	7.8390 \pm 0.0069
El-Sheikh Zuwaid	0.0640 \pm 0.0012	4.5610 \pm 0.0035	6.9443 \pm 0.3398	9.8927 \pm 0.0372
Wadi Sedr	0.1880 \pm 0.0000	10.0220 \pm 0.0035	10.8340 \pm 0.0035	16.8550 \pm 0.0000

**Fig. 3:** Effect of salinity on proline content ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ fw) in fresh leaves of ten *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties.

From table (3) and figure (3) we can conclude that the proline plays an important role in enhancing the plant to tolerate salt stress. The maximum value of proline concentration is found in Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr, both varieties were more tolerant to salt stress with sodium chloride while Giza 129 were sensitive to salinity stress depended on proline content on variety.

The present results show that the mean performance of proline content in fresh leaves of ten Egyptian *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties increase as the concentration of sodium chloride increases in the studied salt tolerance varieties, this agreed with El-Hamamsy and Behairy (2015), who found that the proline accumulation was increased in all of the barley landraces by increasing the NaCl concentration. Tabatabaei, (2013) found that, the concentration of proline increase under salt stress in barley. Garthwaite *et al.*, (2005) observed that the proline content was increased in *Hordeum marinum* and *Hordeum vulgare* when exposed to increasing in sodium chloride concentrations.

Vodičková and Zámečnicková (2011) also observed a positive correlation between the proline content and osmotic potential in the leaves of spring barley were cultivated under salinity conditions; also, McCue and Hanson (1990) reported that the salt stress increases the accumulation of proline.

Al-Khayri (2002) stated that a significant proline accumulation occurred when increasing sodium chloride in palm callus, (Arbona *et al.*, 2003) in *Carrizo citrange*; also Moradi and Ismail (2007) reported that, under salt stress, proline concentration increased significantly in the flag leaf of three lines of rice (*Oryza sativa*), while Çiçek and Çakırlar (2002) found that salt stress at different osmotic potential increased the amounts of proline in leaf tissues of two maize cultivars, but its accumulation was fast in one of them.

Salt stress induces an increase of proline accumulation in most cereal crops (Chaitanya *et al.*, 2009; Ramanjulu and

Sudhakar, 2000; Lakmini *et al.*, 2006, Rao *et al.*, 2008 and Tripathi *et al.*, 2019). Also, similar findings were reported by Ramteke and Karibasappa, (2005) in grape genotypes. A positive correlation between the magnitude of free proline accumulation and stress tolerance has been suggested as an index for determining the stress tolerance potential of cultivars. The major reason for the increase in the proline concentration during water stress was due to lesser incorporation of continuously synthesized proline amino acid during proline synthesis (Sharma *et al.*, 1987).

Proline has been suggested to play a functional role as osmoregulator under drought and salinity conditions, stabilization of proteins, prevention of heat denaturation of enzymes, and conservation of nitrogen and energy for the post-stress period (Aloni and Rosenshtein, 1984). However, elevated proline levels play an important role in the control of the activity of plasma membrane transporters involved in cell osmotic adjustment in barley roots (Dat *et al.*, 2000). Besides osmotic adjustment other roles have been proposed for proline in osmotically stressed plant tissues: protection of plasma membrane integrity (Mansour, 1998), a sink of energy or reducing power (Verbruggen *et al.*, 1996), a source for carbon and nitrogen (Ahmad and Hellebust, 1988 and Peng *et al.*, 1996), or hydroxyl radical scavenger (Smirnoff and Cumbes, 1989 and Hong *et al.*, 2000).

Finally, Acosta-Motos 2020 found that the accumulation of the most common osmolytes such as proline, polyamine, and glycinebetaine these molecules in the cytosol and organelles decreases plant internal osmotic potential, in response to the decrease in external soil osmotic potential, due to excessive accumulation of phytotoxic ions in the substrate. Consequently, the cell membrane and macromolecules integrity are maintained.

Isolation and Sequencing of *BADH-1* gene from Both Genomic DNA and cDNA and Estimation the Gene Expression of

***BADH-1* gene under the Effect Of Salinity on the Most Tolerance and Sensitive Barley by Quantitative Real Time PCR:**

The betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase (*BADH*) gene plays a multifunctional role in plants. It is an important factor in fragrance production, abiotic stresses, and antibiotic-free selection of transgenic plants. Recently, molecular studies have presented a new

picture of this critical factor involved in abiotic stress responses via the MAPK (mitogen-activated protein kinase) signaling pathway in numerous plants (Sinha *et al.*, 2011). It was found that *BADH* is a positive regulator of salt treatment via MAPK pathway in plants (Hashimi *et al.*, 2018). The role of *BADH* in tolerating abiotic stresses can be shown in Figure (4). (Yu *et al.*, 2014).

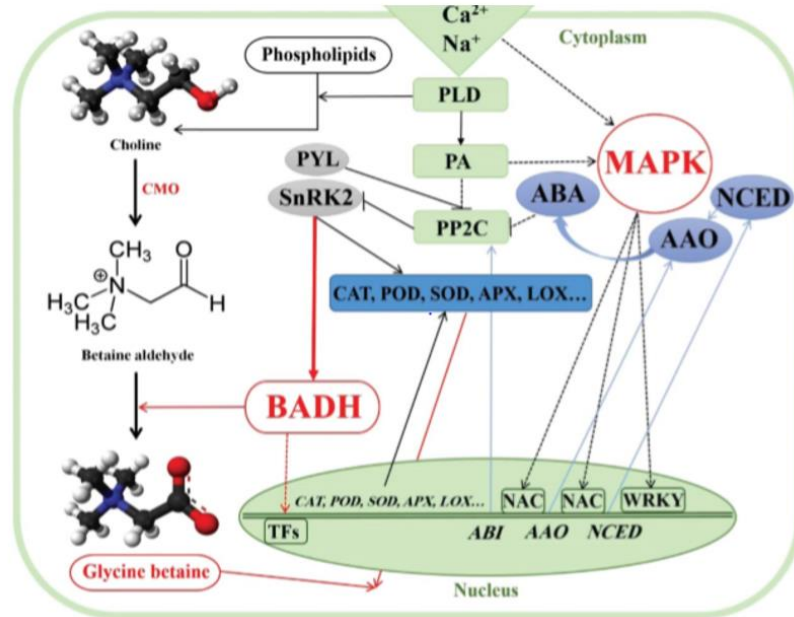


Fig. 4. The function of *BADH* in the tolerance to abiotic stresses via the MAPK signalling pathway, and also metabolic synthesis of glycine betaine in plants (Modified from Yu *et al.* (2017)). Note: AAO, ABA-aldehyde oxidase; ABI, encoding gene for PP2C; APX, ascorbate peroxidase; CAT, catalase; CDPK, Ca²⁺-dependent calmodulin-independent protein kinase; CMO, choline monooxygenase; MAD, malondialdehyde; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinase; NAC, NAC transcription factor; NCED, 9-cis epoxy-carotenoid dioxygenase gene; PA, phosphatidic acid; PLD, phospholipase D; POD, peroxidase; PP2C, protein phosphatase 2 C; REL, relative electrolyte leakage; RWC, relative water content; SnRK2, sucrose non-fermenting 1-related protein kinase 2; SOD, superoxide dismutase; WRKY, WRKY transcription factors

Isolation and sequencing of *BADH-1* gene from genomic DNA of barley:

Isolation of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase-1 genes by using a specific primer to amplify this gene from the genomic DNA of Giza 129 (sensitive cultivar to salt stress); also, from Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr (tolerance to salt stress). The results of PCR-products obtained from using a specific primer (*BADH-1* primer) gave an amplified band at a molecular size of 750 bp,

as showed in figure (5).

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from the genomic DNA of Giza 129 cultivar (sensitive to salinity) gave 728 nucleotide base pairs. The G+C content of this sequence was 334 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 45.88%, while; the A+T content was 394 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 54.12%. These gene sequences were submitted in the GenBank under accession number "KX433169".

The comparison between the isolated gene sequence from genomic DNA from Egyptian barley cultivar Giza 129 and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>), this alignment

showed 100% identity while covered 51% in 371 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare BBD1* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number “AB063179.1” by Nakamura *et al.*, (2001).

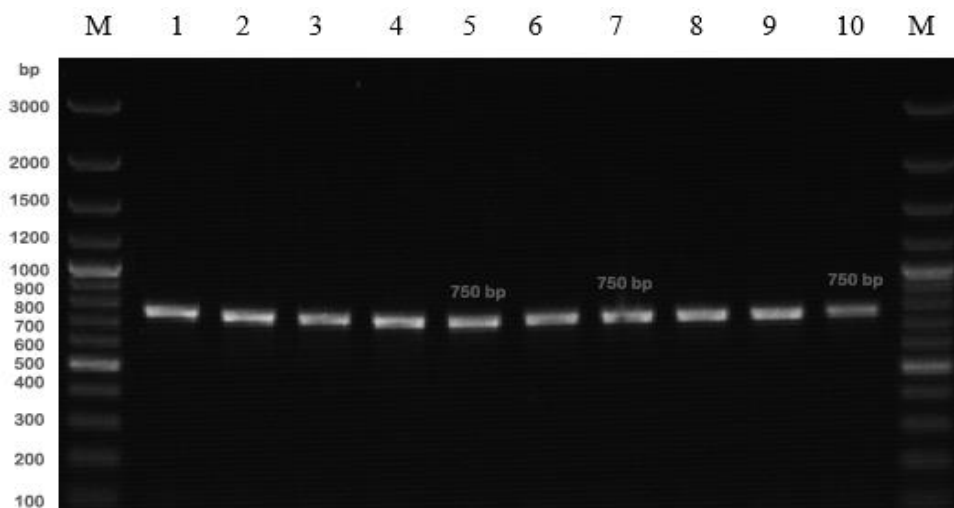


Fig. 5: Electrophoretic profile for PCR product using one specific primer for *BADH-1* sequence in genomic DNA.

M= DNA Marker

Cultivars: 1-Giza 123, 2-Giza 126, 3-Giza 127, 4-Giza 128, 5-Giza 129, 6-Giza 130 and 7- Giza 2000.

Landraces: 8- El-Kheroba, 9- El-Sheikh Zuwaid, and 10- Wadi Sedr.

Also, it gave 99% identity while covered 51% in 370 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIASHv2031D21 under Accession Number “AK365132.1” by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 98% identity while covered 51% in 367 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from the genomic DNA of Giza 2000 cultivar (tolerance to salinity) gave 728 nucleotide base pairs. The G+C content of this sequence was 335 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 46.02%, while the A+T content was 393 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 53.98%. These gene sequences were submitted in GenBank under accession number “KX342849”.

The comparison between the isolated gene sequence of genomic DNA from

Egyptian barley cultivar Giza 2000 and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>), this alignment showed 99% identity while covered 51% in 370 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare BBD1* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number “AB063179.1” by Nakamura *et al.*, (2001). Also, it gave 99% identity while covered 51% in 369 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIASHv2031D21 under Accession Number AK365132.1 by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 99% identity while covered 51% in 368 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from the genomic DNA of Wadi Sedr landrace

(tolerance to salinity) gave 728 nucleotide base pairs. The G+C content of this sequence was 334 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 45.88%, while the A+T content was 394 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 54.12%. These gene sequences were submitted in GenBank under accession number "KX433171".

The comparison between nucleotide sequences of the segment of *BADH-1* gene isolated from genomic DNA from Egyptian barley landrace Wadi Sedr obtained in this study and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>). This alignment showed 100% identity while covered 51% in 371 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* BBD1 mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number "AB063179.1" by Nakamura *et al.*, (2001). Also, it gave 99%

identity while covered 51% in 370 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIAHV2031D21 under Accession Number "AK365132.1" by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 98% identity while covered 51% in 367 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

Isolation and Sequencing of *BADH-1* gene from cDNA of Barley:

Isolation of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase-1 genes by using a specific primer to amplify this gene from cDNA of Giza 129 (sensitive cultivar to salt stress) also from Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr (tolerance to salt stress). The results of PCR-products obtained from using a specific primer (*BADH-1* primer) gave an amplified band at a molecular size of 410 bp, as showed in **figure (6)**.

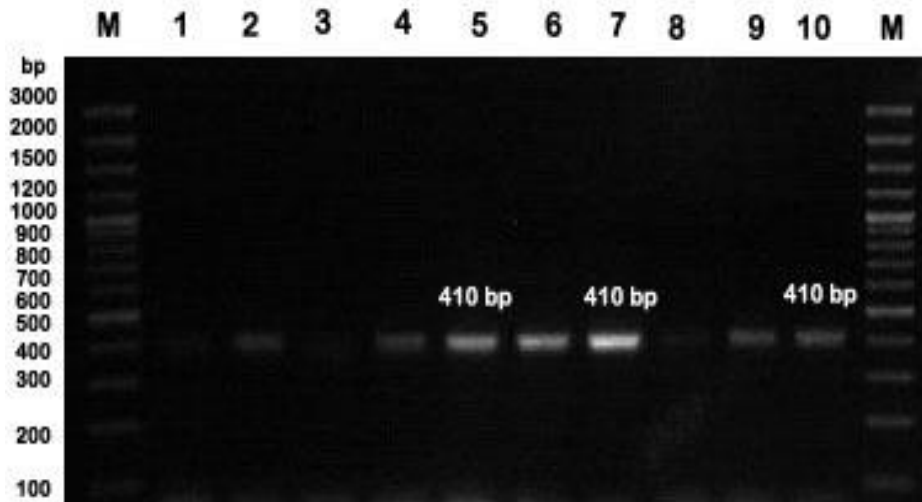


Fig. 6: Electrophoretic profile for PCR product using one specific primer for *BADH-1* sequence in cDNA.

M= DNA Marker

Cultivars: 1-Giza 123, 2-Giza 126, 3-Giza 127, 4-Giza 128, 5-Giza 129, 6-Giza 130 and 7- Giza 2000.

Landraces: 8- El-Kheroba, 9- El-Sheikh Zuwaid, and 10- Wadi Sedr.

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from cDNA of Giza 129 cultivar (sensitive to salinity) gave a 384 nucleotide base. The G+C content of this sequence was 189 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 49.21%, while the A+T content was 195 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 50.78%. These

gene sequences were submitted in GenBank under accession number "KX342850". The comparison between nucleotide sequences of the segment of *BADH-1* gene isolated from cDNA from Egyptian barley cultivar Giza 129 and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated

sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>), this alignment showed 100% identity while covered 100% in 384 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare BBD1* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number “AB063179.1” by Nakamura *et al.*,(2001). Also, it gave 99% identity while covered 100% in 383 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIAShv2031D21 under Accession Number AK365132.1 by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 99% identity while covered 100% in 380 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from cDNA of Giza 2000 cultivar (tolerance to salinity) gave 384 nucleotide base pairs. The G+C content of this sequence was 190 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 49.48%, while the A+T content was 194 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 50.52%. These gene sequences were submitted in GenBank under accession number “KX342851”.

The comparison between nucleotide sequences of the segment of *BADH-1* gene isolated from cDNA from Egyptian barley cultivar Giza 2000 and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>); this alignment showed 99% identity while covered 100% in 383 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare BBD1* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number “AB063179.1” by Nakamura *et al.*,(2001). Also, it gave 99% identity while covered 100% in 382 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIAShv2031D21 under Accession Number AK365132.1 by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 99% identity while covered 100% in 381 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde

dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

The sequence of the *BADH-1* from cDNA of Wadi Sedr landrace (tolerance to salinity) gave 384 nucleotide base pairs. The G+C content of this sequence was 189 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 49.21%, while the A+T content was 195 nucleotide base pairs with a ratio of 50.78%. These gene sequences were submitted in GenBank under accession number “KX433170”.

The comparison between nucleotide sequences of the segment of *BADH-1* gene isolated from cDNA from Egyptian barley landrace Wadi Sedr obtained in this study and another gene sequences in the GenBank, by alignment the isolated sequence of *BADH-1* gene in GenBank by nucleotide blast (<http://blast.ncbi.nlm>), this alignment showed 100% identity while covered 100% in 384 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare BBD1* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number “AB063179.1” by Nakamura *et al.*,(2001). Also, it gave 99% identity while covered 100% in 383 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare* mRNA for predicted protein, complete cds, clone: NIAShv2031D21 under Accession Number AK365132.1 by Matsumoto *et al.*, (2011), and 99% identity while covered 100% in 380 base pairs with *Hordeum vulgare* mRNA for betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase, complete cds under Accession Number D26448.1 by Ishitani *et al.*, (1995).

Transcription (Splicing Processing):

The splicing process is occurred by editing the nascent pre-messenger RNA (pre-mRNA) transcript, in which introns are removed and exons are joined together by ligation. In nuclear-encoded genes, splicing takes place within the nucleus immediately after transcription. In eukaryotic genes that contain introns, splicing is usually required in order to create an mRNA molecule that can be translated into protein.

Figures (7) represented the expression

region or coding region (exon) and genomic DNA of *BADH-1* gene in three intervening sequences (intron) in the studied varieties.

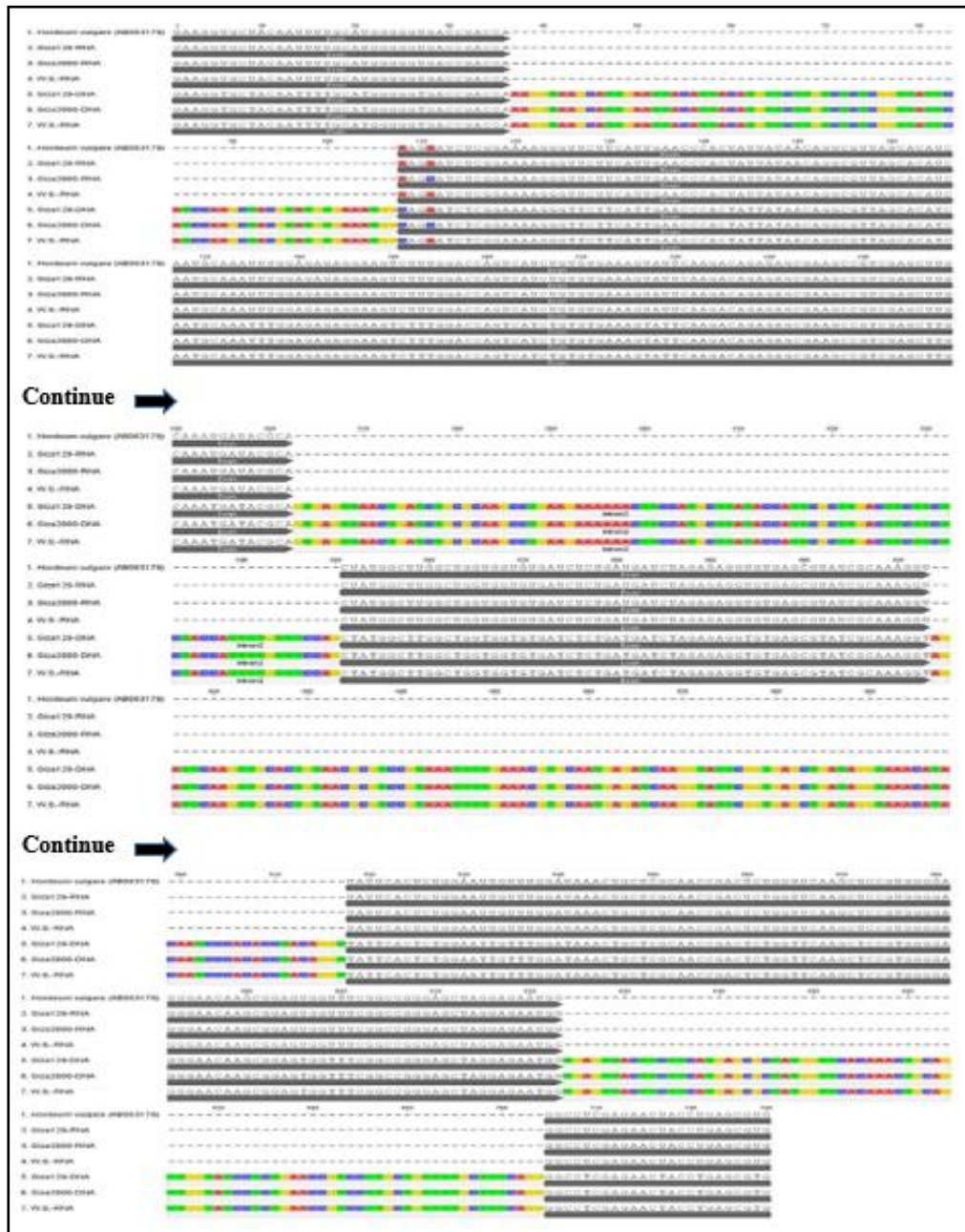


Fig. 7: Alignment between Genomic DNA and cDNA to determine Exon and Intron regions in three studied varieties.

Translation of mRNA into Protein:

The betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase1 (*BADH-1*) protein sequence deduced from the cDNA gene of Giza 129 cultivar as predicted by computer analysis of the Blast Package Program (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) gave 128 amino acids. It showed 100% identity in 128 amino acids comparing with

that reported by Nakamura *et al.*, (2001) in *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare*, submitted in the GenBank under accession number “BAB62847.1” as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase. Also, it showed 98% identity in 128 amino acids with that were reported by Li *et al.*, (2009) as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase in *Agropyron cristatum*,

submitted in the GenBank under accession number “ACZ67850.1”.

The betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase1 (*BADH-1*) protein sequence deduced from the cDNA gene of Giza 2000 cultivar as predicted by computer analysis of the Blast Package Program (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) gave 128 amino acids as showed in figure (8). It showed 99% identity in 128 amino acids comparing to that reported by

Nakamura *et al.*, (2001) in *Hordeum vulgare* subsp. *vulgare*, submitted in the GenBank under accession number “BAB62847.1” as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase. Also, it showed 98% identity in 126 amino acids with that reported by Li *et al.*, (2009) as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase in *Agropyron cristatum*, submitted in the GenBank under accession number “ACZ67850.1”.

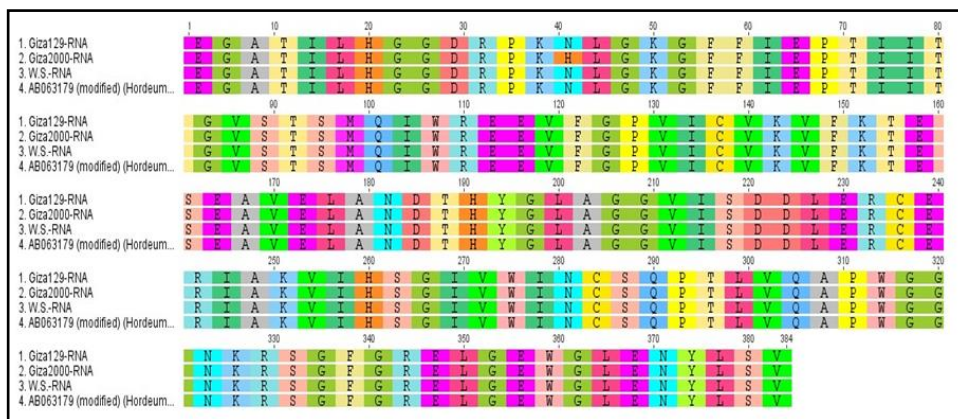


Fig. 8: The alignment of amino acid sequences of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 enzymes in three studied varieties (Giza 129, Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr)

The betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase1 (*BADH-1*) protein sequence deduced from the cDNA gene of Wadi Sedr landrace as predicted by computer analysis of the Blast Package Program (Altschul *et al.*, 1997) gave 128 amino acids as shown in figure (9). It showed 100% identity in 128 amino acids comparing to that reported by Nakamura *et al.*, (2001) in *Hordeum vulgare*

subsp. *vulgare*, submitted in the GenBank under accession number “BAB62847.1” as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase. Also, it showed 98% identity in 126 amino acids with that reported by Li *et al.*, (2009) as betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase in *Agropyron cristatum*, submitted in the GenBank under accession number “ACZ67850.1”.

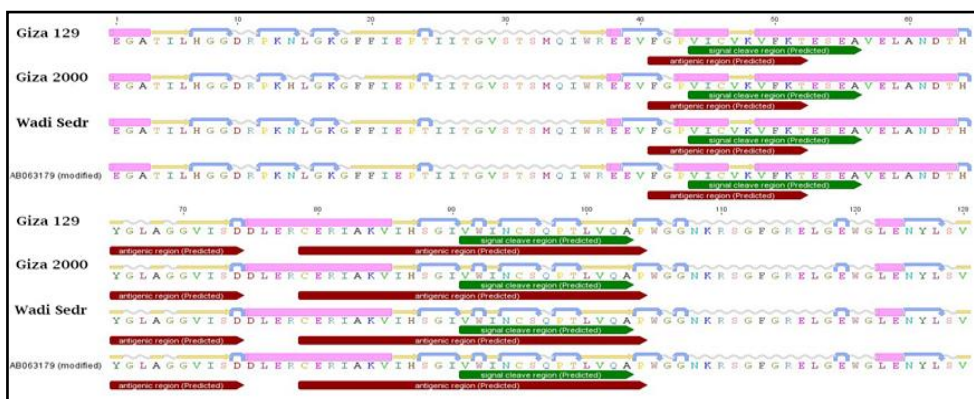


Fig. 9: Secondary structure of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase enzyme in Giza 129, Giza 2000, and Wadi Sedr.

The alignment of amino acid sequences of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 enzymes in three studied varieties (Giza 129, Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr) were represented in figure (8). From alignment of amino acid sequence, we noted that, there is one amino acid differed in Giza 2000 only lead to the difference in coiling and turning of secondary structure of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 enzyme in Giza 2000 compared with other two varieties (Giza 129 and Wadi Sedr), as shown in figure (9).

Gene Expression of *BADH-1* gene by Quantitative Real Time PCR:

Betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase-1 (EC 1.2.1.8) play an important role in defense of the plant against abiotic stress as drought, salinity, and cold temperature, table (4) represented the *BADH-1* gene expression of one salt-sensitive barley cultivar (Giza 129) and two salt-tolerant barley varieties (Giza

2000 and Wadi Sedr) under the effect of 15000 PPM of NaCl solution and control condition. In Giza 129, the gene expression of *BADH-1* under 15000 PPM of NaCl thirteen-fold its expression under control while in Giza 2000 its expression under salt treatment 4.7 fold compared to control condition but in Wadi Sedr its expression under salinity 1.7 fold than in control condition, this means that this gene overexpressed in three studied varieties (Fig. 10).

Salinity effect on plant growth, the activity of major cytosolic enzymes by disturbing intracellular potassium homeostasis, causing oxidative stress and programmed cell death, reduced nutrient uptake, metabolic toxicity, inhibition of photosynthesis, reduce CO₂ assimilation and reduced root respiration (Sairam and Srivastava, 2002; Cuin and Shabala 2007; Demirkiran *et al.*, 2013 and Liu *et al.*, 2014).

Table 4: RQ values of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase-1 (*BADH-1*) gene expression in studied three *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties under salt stress of NaCl.

Samples	$\Delta Ct-15000$ ppm	$\Delta Ct-cont$	RQ 15000 ppm	RQ cont	$\Delta\Delta CT$	RQ
Giza 129	-10.4113	-6.707	1361.8	104.46	-3.704	13.036
Giza 2000	-7.897	-5.661	238.36	50.594	-2.236	4.711
Wadi Sedr	-6.0851	-5.305	67.89	39.533	-0.78	1.717

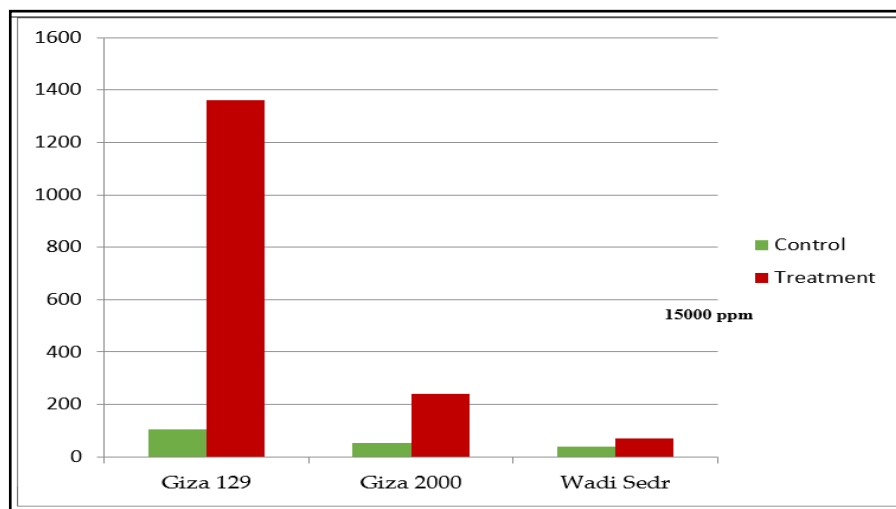


Fig. 10: RQ values of *betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase-1* (*BADH-1*) gene expression in studied three *Hordeum vulgare* L. varieties under salt stress of NaCl.

In plants, *BADH* converts betaine aldehyde into glycine betaine (GB) in some halotolerant plants. Glycine betaine (N, N, N-trimethylglycine) is an important quaternary ammonium compound that is produced in response to salt and other osmotic stresses in many organisms (Morgan, 1984). The GB plays an important role such as stabilizing the structures and activities of proteins and maintaining the integrity of membranes against the damaging effects of high salt, heat, cold, and freezing (Gorham, 1995).

The increase in *BADH* mRNA establishes that stress-induced betaine accumulation in plant involves modulation of the expression of a betaine biosynthesis gene (Yang *et al.*, 1995). The biological effects of GB on plant stress tolerance have been shown using near-isogenic lines in maize and transgenic plants (Saneoka *et al.* 1995; Yang *et al.* 1995; Nomura *et al.* 1995; Sakamoto and Murata, 1998 and Mohanty *et al.* 2002). In near-isogenic lines of maize differing in levels of GB accumulation, lines with abundant GB showed higher salt tolerance than GB-deficient lines. However, most crop plants such as rice accumulate little GB and are sensitive to salt stress. Therefore, to improve plant salt tolerance, it is important to elucidate the mechanism of GB biosynthesis to potentially introduce the ability of GB production into GB non-accumulators (Saneoka *et al.* 1995 and Yang *et al.* 1995).

Glycine betaine is thought to protect the plant by maintaining the water balance between the plant cell and the environment and by stabilizing macromolecules (Chen and Murata, 2002 and Rontein *et al.*, 2002). Plants synthesize glycine betaine *via* two-step oxidation of choline: Choline→betaine aldehyde→glycine betaine (Rhodes and Hanson, 1993). The first reaction is catalyzed by ferredoxin-dependent choline monooxygenase (CMO) and the second step by an NAD⁺-dependent betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase (*BADH*) (Chen and Murata, 2002 and Rontein *et al.*, 2002). Glycine

betaine accumulation is associated with upregulated CMO and *BADH* gene expression concomitantly leading to elevated enzymatic activity. Glycine betaine accumulation marginally improves osmotic stress tolerance in transgenic plants (Hayashi *et al.*, 1997). The levels of glycine betaine thus far obtained by engineering are low, and the increments in stress tolerance are small (Nuccio *et al.*, 1999). The major factors that limit the accumulation of glycine betaine are the available choline as the substrate for the reaction and its transport from the chloroplast (where it is synthesized) to the cytosol (Nuccio *et al.*, 1998 and 2000; McNeil *et al.*, 2000; Huang *et al.*, 2000; Chen and Murata, 2002 and Rontein *et al.*, 2002).

Several investigators isolated *BADH* genes such as Liu *et al.*, (2010), who isolated the full-length cDNA of betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase gene (*OjBADH*) from *Ophiopogon japonicus* using Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and Rapid Amplification of cDNA. The *OjBADH* gene (GenBank accession number: DQ645888) has 1785 nucleotides and encodes a polypeptide of 500 amino acids.

It has been reported that *BADH* gene in plants was included in a small multi-gene family. In barley, there is a small multi-gene family with 2 or 3 members (Ishitani *et al.*, 1995 and Weigel *et al.*, 1986). Two members of the gene in *Sorghum vulgare*, *Avicennia marina*, and *Atriplex triangularis* have been cloned (He *et al.*, 2004; Hibino *et al.*, 2001 and Wood *et al.*, 1996). However, the expression profiles and the position of enzyme protein-coding of the members from the *BADH* gene family are different.

Shrestha (2011) isolated and sequenced the *BADH* from three genomes of wheat and found that T blast n comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence of wheat *BADH* showed 100% identity with barley *BADH* paralogs. This high level of similarity in amino acid sequences with barley indicates that wheat *BADH* paralogs might

also localize to two different sites in the wheat plant.

CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that, Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr cultivars were the most tolerant to salt stress, so we can recommend the cultivation of both cultivars in salt soil. On the other hand, Giza129 was the most sensitive one and can be excluded. Also, there is a positive correlation between proline production and salinity. It was found that proline plays an important role in enhancing the plant to tolerate salt stress. The maximum value of proline concentration is found in Giza 2000 and Wadi Sedr. Both varieties were more tolerant to salt stress with sodium chloride. Molecular characterization of (*BADH-1*) gene was investigated from the most tolerant and sensitive cultivars, where, the sequencing of the gene was translated into amino acid sequences and these amino acid sequences were aligned in GenBank. Finally, the secondary structure of *BADH-1* enzyme was detected.

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