

Original Research Article

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Physiological and Biochemical Responses of Indian Mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) Genotypes to Different Sowing Dates

Ajeev Kumar^{1*}, Mahesh Kumar¹, Parveen Gill², Dharamvir¹ and Neeraj Kumar¹

¹Department of Botany & Plant Physiology, ²Department of Zoology, CCS Haryana
Agricultural University, Hisar – 125004, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted with 6 genotypes of Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) viz RH-0116, RH-725, RH-923, RH-1019, RH-1077, RH-1301 for three dates of sowing i.e 23 September, 16 October and 21 November in the field in randomized block design during rabi season of 2015-16 at Oil Seed Section, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar with an objective was to study the changes for the physiological traits like water potential, osmotic potential, relative water content, relative stress injury, canopy temperature depression and chlorophyll a fluorescence and biochemical traits like proline and glycine betaine content. The values of all the physiological traits were maximum on 16 October sowing and minimum on 21 November sowing except relative stress injury which was maximum on 21 November and minimum on 16 October and the canopy temperature depression was maximum on 23 September sowing and minimum on 16 October sowing. The accumulation of proline and glycine betaine content was maximum on 21 November sowing and minimum on 16 October. Results showed that among sowing dates, 16 October sowing was the best for Indian mustard and genotypes RH-0116 performed better in terms of all physiological as well as biochemical traits.

Keywords

Sowing dates,
Physiological traits,
Proline, Genotypes

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Introduction

Oilseeds crops are the second most important determinant of agricultural economy, next only to cereals. Today, the demand for vegetable oils is out pacing the supply with more than half of its annual requirements being met mainly through imports. India is the 5th largest vegetable oil economy in the world next to USA, China, Brazil and Argentina accounting for 7.4% world oilseed output, 6.1 % of oil meal production, 3.9% world oil meal

export 5.8% vegetable oil production, 11.2% of world oil import and 9.3% of the world edible oil consumption (DRMR, 2013, Vision 2020). Rapeseed-mustard (*Brassica spp.*) is one of the most important oilseed crops of the world where India is ranking third in area and production in the world (DRMR, 2015). Its seed contains 37 to 49 percent edible oil (Singh *et al.*, 2009). Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea* L. Czern) belongs to family Cruciferae, genus *Brassica* and species *juncea* popularly known as rai. Mustard is cultivated mostly

under temperate climate. It is also cultivated in certain tropical and subtropical region as a cold weather crop. In India, rapeseed-mustard occupy 5.99 million ha area with production and productivity of 6.31 million tones and 1053 kg/ha respectively (India stat 2014-15). Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea* L.) is an important *rabi* crop of Haryana. In Haryana, rapeseed and mustard is one of the major growing crop occupying 0.56 million ha of area, with production and productivity of 0.699 million tones and 1248 kg/ha respectively (India stat 2014-15). Indian mustard is sown late due to delay in harvesting of rainy season crops like cluster bean, cotton and rice (Kumar *et al.*, 2013). Under late sown condition, productivity declines primarily due to the shortening of vegetative and reproductive phase. Late sown Indian mustard is exposed to high temperature coupled with high evaporative demand of the atmosphere, during the reproductive phase which consequently results in forced maturity, increased senescence and low productivity (Porter, 2005). The rise in temperature, even by a single degree beyond the threshold level is considered as heat stress in the plants (Hasanuzzaman *et al.*, 2013; Wahid *et al.*, 2007). The global mean surface air temperature increased by 0.5°C in the twentieth century and is expected to increase a further 1.5–4.5°C by the late twenty-first century (IPCC, 2012). Climate change has increased the intensity of heat stress and heat stress due to increased temperature is an agricultural problem in many areas in the world as well as in India (Beck *et al.*, 2007).

Transitory or constantly high temperatures cause an array of morphological, physiological and biochemical changes in plants (Serraj *et al.*, 1999, Moradshahi *et al.*, 2004). The high temperature adversely affected the photosynthesis, respiration, water relations and membrane stability, enhanced expression of a variety of heat shock proteins and

production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) constitute major plant responses to heat stress (Wahid *et al.*, 2007; Camejo *et al.*, 2006).

Extreme temperature leads to accumulation of certain organic compounds (osmolytes) like sugars, polyols, proline and glycine betaine (Kavikishor *et al.*, 2005; Sairam and Tyagi, 2004). These solutes have several protective roles in heat-stressed cells (Jain *et al.*, 2007; Rasheed *et al.*, 2010).

There is a specific time for the sowing of particular variety of a crop on specific area (Robertson *et al.*, 2004; Uzun *et al.*, 2009). Ideal sowing dates for one or more variety allows for availability of a set of environmental factor that favour a desirable greening, establishment and survival of plantlet which as a result the plant encounters the favorable environmental conditions and avoid unfavorable ones during each stage of its growth (Khajepour, 2001).

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at research area of Oil Seed Section, in the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar during *Rabi* 2015-16. Geographically the experimental field was located at 29 °.10' N latitude and 75 °.46 longitude at an elevation of 215.2 meters above the mean sea level. The average rainfall varies from 300-500 mm and about 80-90 per cent of the total rains are received from South-West monsoon during the month of July to September. The minimum temperature in this area reaches upto 0.5 °C in December and January and the maximum temperature in the area reaches upto 48 °C during May or June. The experimental soil having 57.93 % sand, 26.03 % silt and 16.04 % clay particles, EC = 0.20 dSm⁻¹ at 25°C, pH = 8.0, Organic carbon = 0.30 %, Nitrogen = 143.4 kg ha⁻¹,

Phosphorus = 17 kg ha⁻¹, Potassium = 172 kg ha⁻¹. The crop was planted in rows spaced 45cm with 30 cm plant to plant distance. The genotypes of mustard were RH-0116, RH-725, RH-923, RH-1019, RH-1077, RH-1301. The experimental treatments were 3 sowing dates viz. D1=23rd September, D2=16th October, D3= 21st November. The experimental design was Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications having plot size 1.5m × 5.0 m. Data were collected on Water potential (W.P), Osmotic potential (O.P), Relative water content (RWC), Relative stress injury (RSI), Canopy temperature depression(CTD), Chlorophyll a fluorescence (fv/fm), Proline and Glycine betaine. Water potential of leaf was measured with the help of pressure chamber. The osmotic potential was measured by Vapor Pressure Osmometer. The relative water content was calculated by formula given by Weatherley (1950). Photochemical efficiency / quantum yield was determined in intact plants in the field with an OS-30P Chlorophyll Fluorometer. Canopy temperature depression measurements were made by using a handy Infrared Thermometer. Membrane injury index was measured by method given by Sullivan and Ross, (1979). Proline content was estimated by using the method of Bates *et al.*, (1973). Glycine betaine was measured according to Grieve and Grattan (1983) and all the collected data were statistically analyzed by the OPSTAT software at the Computer Centre, Department of Statistics, CCS HAU, Hisar.

Results and Discussion

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that among three dates of sowings, lowest leaf water potential, osmotic potential and RWC was recorded in crop sown on November 21 and highest was recorded in October 16 sowing. This might be due to the reason that the low temperature at 21 November sowing condition might have inhibited the

water absorption from the soil by the roots due to slow physiological processes that might have resulted into poor root growth while on 16 October sowing, might have favorable temperature for root growth that resulted into higher water potential, osmotic potential and RWC. Similar results due to different sowing dates has also been reported earlier in the literature (Maharaj *et al.*, 2009; Sinaki *et al.*, 2007; Gan *et al.*, 2004; Sudhir *et al.*, 2013; Ram *et al.*, 2015 in *Brassica juncea*).

Among genotypes, highest leaf water potential, osmotic potential and RWC was recorded in genotype RH-725 and minimum was in RH-1019. This is because of variation in different genotypes in their genetic makeup which is well reported in the literature (Sudhir *et al.*, (2013); Ram *et al.*, (2014). The lowest relative stress injury (RSI) in leaf was recorded in crop sown on October 16 and highest was recorded in November 21 sowing. This might be due to the reason that the decreased water potential, osmotic potential and RWC in leaf due to very low temperature prevailing on 21 November sowing condition that might have resulted into the severe injury to the leaf while on 16 October sowing condition the sufficient water potential, osmotic potential and RWC due to optimum environmental condition might have prevented the injury to the leaf. Similar results due to different sowing dates has also been reported in the literature (Ram *et al.*, (2014); Sudhir *et al.*, (2013); Wilson *et al.*, (2012); Du *et al.*, (2009) in mustard crop. In all the genotypes lowest relative stress injury was recorded in genotype RH-0116 and maximum was recorded in RH-1019. This is because of variation in different genotypes in their genetic makeup which is well reported in literature (Ram *et al.*, 2014; Sudhir *et al.*, 2013).

The maximum chlorophyll a fluorescence was recorded in crop sown on October 16 and minimum was recorded in November 21 sowing. This might be due to the reason that the foggy and cloudy weather conditions prevailing on 21 November sowing that might have resulted into the limited photosynthesis while the bright sunshine hours and clear weather conditions on 16 October sowing that might have resulted into the sufficient amount of photosynthesis which increases the chlorophyll a fluorescence. Similar results due to different sowing dates have also been reported earlier in the literature (Singh *et al.*, (2014); Ristic *et al.*, (2008) in *Brassica juncea*; Basu *et al.*, (2011) in chickpea). In all the genotypes highest chlorophyll a fluorescence was recorded in genotype RH-0116 and lowest was recorded in RH-1019. This is because of variation in different genotypes in their genetic makeup which is well reported in the literature (Singh *et al.*, (2014); Ram *et al.*, (2012) in *Brassica juncea*. The maximum canopy

temperature depression was observed in the crop sown on September 23 and minimum was observed in October 16 sowing. This might be due to the reason that high temperature prevailing on 23 September sowing condition that might have resulted into more canopy temperature depression while on 16 October sowing the prevailing temperature was optimum for *Brassica* that might have resulted into less canopy temperature depression. Similar results due to different sowing dates have also been reported earlier in the literature (Basu *et al.*, (2014); Rosyara *et al.*, (2010) in wheat; Kumar *et al.*, (2012) in chickpea). Among genotypes, lowest canopy temperature depression was recorded in genotype RH-0116 and highest canopy temperature depression was recorded in genotype RH-1019. This is because of variation in different genotypes in their genetic makeup which is well reported in the literature (Basu *et al.*, (2014) in wheat; Kumar *et al.*, (2012) in chickpea).

Table.1 Effect of sowing dates on physiological and biochemical traits of Indian mustard

Treatments	W.P (-Mpa)	O.P (-Mpa)	R.W.C (%)	R.S.I (%)	C.T.D (⁰ C)	FV/FM	Proline (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Glycine Betaine (mg g ⁻¹ DW)
Sowing dates								
23 September	0.46	0.47	74.1	6.38	-5.43	0.663	0.397	0.055
16 October	0.33	0.32	82.3	4.55	-3.41	0.694	0.266	0.039
21 November	0.62	0.62	67.7	9.98	-4.42	0.646	0.541	0.079
CD at 5 %	0.01	0.01	0.5	0.11	0.07	0.010	0.008	0.003
Genotypes								
RH-0116	0.38	0.40	77.1	6.03	-4.20	0.681	0.432	0.067
RH-725	0.41	0.43	77.2	6.30	-4.23	0.677	0.429	0.066
RH-923	0.47	0.45	73.5	7.35	-4.50	0.663	0.391	0.053
RH-1019	0.55	0.56	72.9	7.64	-4.63	0.657	0.380	0.051
RH-1077	0.54	0.52	73.9	7.58	-4.53	0.665	0.386	0.054
RH-1301	0.47	0.47	73.8	6.93	-4.45	0.664	0.388	0.055
CD at 5 %	0.01	0.01	0.8	0.16	0.10	0.014	0.011	0.005

The maximum proline and glycine betaine content in leaf was recorded in crop sown on November 21 and minimum was observed in October 16 sowing. This might be due to the reason that the low temperature prevailed on 21 November that might have resulted into the more accumulation of proline and glycine betaine content due to cold stress while on 16 October sowing the prevailing temperature was optimum as the 16 October was the normal sown condition for mustard crop that might have resulted into less accumulation of proline and glycine betaine content. Similar results have also been reported earlier in the literature (Kaushal *et al.*, (2011); Kumar *et al.*, (2012) in chickpea; Takeda *et al.*, (2000); Hayat *et al.*, (2009) in mustard; Ahmed and Hasan (2011) in wheat; Moharramnejad *et al.*, (2015) in maize. Among genotypes maximum proline and glycine betaine content in leaf was recorded in genotype RH-0116 and minimum was recorded in RH-1019. This is because of variation in different genotypes in their genetic makeup which is well reported in the literature (Kumar *et al.*, (2012) in chickpea; Moharramnejad *et al.*, (2015) in maize).

From the results it may be concluded that under agroclimatic condition of Hisar, maximum physiological and biochemical traits of *Brassica juncea* cultivars can be obtained if these cultivars were sown on October 16. The genotype RH-0116 proved to be best among all studied genotypes in terms of all the above traits.

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