Introduction and Springer Tools

Diana Alkema - Senior Account Development Specialist Southern Europe & Africa @ Springer

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Abstract

The potato steroidal glycoalkaloids (SGAs) are important components of plant resistance against pests and pathogens but can be toxic to humans at high levels. SGAs derive their toxicity from anticholinesterase activity affecting the central nervous system and the disruptive effects on cell membrane integrity affecting the digestive system and other organs. Accordingly, current safety regulations limit their content in the edible tuber to 20 mg per 100 g fresh weight. SGA composition and level are genetically determined, with unfavourable growth conditions and inappropriate postharvest management inducing the accumulation of SGAs at levels in the tubers of “safe” cultivars beyond the maximum level set by the industry. Hence, genetic alteration of potato to prevent toxic levels of SGAs in tubers is highly desirable. At the same time, maintaining high SGA levels in other plant organs will contribute to plant resistance against pathogens and pest attacks. To this end, SGA biosynthesis and degradation should be manipulated.
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Potato Steroidal Glycoalkaloids: Biosynthesis and Genetic Manipulation

Idit Ginzberg, James G. Tokuhisa and Richard E. Veilleux

Abstract

High content of leptine glycoalkaloids present in Solanum chacoense has been associated with genetic resistance to Colorado potato beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata [Say]). From an unrecorded accession of S. chacoense, the North Dakota State University breeding program has developed a tetraploid genotype, ND4382-19, that contains foliar leptines. In this study, using a segregating population, ND5873 (ND4382-19 x Chipeta), and GC-MS to analyze foliar content of alkaloids, two loci, involved in the synthesis of leptines were identified. They segregated as two complementary epistatic genes that allowed the synthesis of leptinidine (Lep) and acetyl-leptinidine (AL), respectively. Partial AFLP maps for both parents were developed using 97 individuals from population ND5873. The total lengths mapped for ND4382-19 and Chipeta were 1,883 and 1,021 cm, respectively. The marker for Lep was located at the distal end of simplex-coupling linkage group R37. Expansion of the initial mapping population and analysis of Lep-containing individuals allowed us to...
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