

The Transcriptional Response of Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) to Boron Toxicity

By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Declaration	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abbreviations	v
Chapter 1. Literature review	1
1.1. Barley and mineral stress	1
1.1.1 The barley crop	1
1.1.2 <i>Hordeum</i> species and their relationship with wheat.....	2
1.1.3. Mineral stress.....	2
1.2. B toxicity and tolerance.....	3
1.2.1. Natural toxic occurrence of B.....	3
1.2.2. B toxicity	4
1.2.3. Symptoms of B toxicity.....	5
1.2.4. Mechanism of tolerance to B toxicity.....	5
1.3. B chemistry and B complexes	6
1.4. Functional roles of B in plants	8
1.4.1. Role in the cell wall.....	9
1.4.2. Role in membrane structure and functions.....	9
1.5. B uptake and translocation.....	10
1.5.1. Passive B uptake	10
1.5.2. Active carrier mediated B uptake	11
1.5.3. The role of B transporters.....	12
1.5.4. The role of aquaporins.....	14
1.5.5. B re-translocation.....	16
1.6. Carbohydrate metabolism under B toxicity.....	17
1.7. Protein profile changes under B toxicity	17
1.8. Accumulation and partitioning of B under toxic conditions.....	18
1.9. B efficiency of crop cultivars under B deficiency and toxicity.....	19
1.10. Exclusion or efflux as a tolerance mechanism? The tolerance mechanism revisited.....	20
1.11. Genetics of tolerance to B toxicity.....	24
1.11.1. B tolerance genes and QTL in wheat.....	25

1.11.2. B tolerance QTL in barley.....	26
1.12. Breeding for B toxicity.....	26
1.13. Genomic approaches.....	27
1.14. Conclusion.....	28
1.15. Aims of the project.....	29
Chapter 2. General materials and methods.....	30
2.1. Seed germination	30
2.2. Hydroponic system	30
2.3. Nutrient solution.....	33
2.4. Growth chamber conditions.....	33
2.5. Leaf symptom score.....	33
2.6. ICP-MS analysis.....	34
2.7. Collection and preservation of plant materials for RNA isolation.....	34
2.8. RNA preparation and handling.....	35
2.8.1. Total RNA extraction	35
2.8.2. Total RNA cleanup.....	35
2.8.3. Poly (A) RNA isolation from total RNA.....	35
2.8.4. Spectrometric quantification of RNA.....	35
2.8.5. Electrophoresis of RNA on denaturing gel.....	35
2.8.6. Transferring RNA to nylon membrane by capillary blotting	36
2.9. cDNA synthesis.....	36
2.10. Agarose gel electrophoresis of DNA	36
2.11. Isolation and purification of DNA fragments from agarose gel	37
2.12. Ligation of DNA to cloning vectors	37
2.13. Introduction of ligated cDNA into <i>E. Coli</i> by electroporation	37
2.14. Colony picking and sub-culturing colonies.....	37
2.15. Restriction digestions of DNA	38
2.16. Labelling of DNA probes with ³² P.....	38
2.17. Southern hybridization.....	38
2.18. Stripping radio labelled probes from membranes.....	39
Chapter 3. Difference in gene expression between roots of B tolerant and B intolerant barley grown at high and low B concentrations assayed using suppression subtractive hybridization (SSH)	40

3.1. Introduction.....	40
3.1.1. Experimental strategy	41
3.2. Materials and methods	43
3.2.1. Suppression subtractive hybridization.....	43
3.2.2. An over-view of the experimental procedures	43
3.2.3. Plant materials.....	47
3.2.4. RNA extraction	48
3.2.5. Poly(A)+ RNA isolation.....	49
3.2.6. Subtractive hybridisation and library construction.....	49
3.2.7. Construction of macroarrays (dot-blot).....	50
3.2.8. Southern blot hybridisation for differential screening.....	50
3.2.9. Quantification of spot intensities.....	51
3.2.10. Sequence analysis.....	51
3.2.11. Southern blot hybridisation for mapping candidates.....	51
3.2.12. cDNA preparation for qPCR analysis.....	51
3.3. Library constructions and differential screening.....	52
3.3.1. Library construction.....	52
3.3.2. Differential screening for genes up-regulated by B treatment in the tolerant bulk.....	52
3.3.3. Differential screening for genes over-expressed in the tolerant bulk under control conditions.....	54
3.4. Results.....	55
3.4.1. Verification of the selected C x S DH lines.....	55
3.4.2. Expression profiles from the differential screening for genes up-regulated by B treatment in the tolerant bulk.....	56
3.4.3. Expression profiles from the differential screening for genes over-expressed in the tolerant bulk under control condition.....	59
3.4.4. BLAST search.....	59
3.4.5. Functional categories of the clones.....	61
3.4.6. <i>In silico</i> comparative mapping of the clones to wheat deletion bins.....	66
3.4.6.1. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous chromosomal group 1.....	67
3.4.6.2. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous chromosomal group 2.....	67
3.4.6.3. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous	

chromosomal group 3.....	67
3.4.6.4. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous	
chromosomal group 4.....	67
3.4.6.5. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous	
chromosomal group 5.....	68
3.4.6.6. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous	
chromosomal group 6.....	68
3.4.6.7. Clones bin mapped to wheat homoeologous	
chromosomal group 7.....	68
3.4.7. Short listing clones for further analysis.....	77
3.4.8. Chromosomal mapping of the candidates using wheat-barley	
chromosome addition lines by Southern blot analysis.....	81
3.4.9. Genetic mapping of candidates using mapping populations by	
Southern blot analysis.....	83
3.4.9.1. Candidates mapped onto 4H QTL.....	83
3.4.9.2. Candidates mapped onto 2H QTL.....	85
3.4.9.3. Candidates mapped onto 6H QTL.....	85
3.4.10. Expression analysis by qPCR	87
3.4.10. 1. Expression of a candidate mapped onto 2H QTL.....	88
3.4.10.2. Expression of candidates mapped onto 6H QTL.....	89
3.4.10.3. Expression of candidates mapped onto 4H QTL.....	90
Chapter 4. Discussion (SSH).....	95
4.1. Introduction.....	95
4.2. The 4H and 6H B tolerance locus candidates for B exclusion.....	96
4.3. Further SSH clones with potential involvement in B toxicity tolerance.....	98
4.3.1. Enhanced respiration and meeting energy demand for B efflux....	98
4.3. 2. K ⁺ ion homeostasis.....	99
4.3.3. Carbohydrate metabolism.....	101
4.3.4. Cell wall synthesis.....	102
4.3.5. Osmoregulation.....	103
4.3.6. Detoxification of cellular environment (ROS scavenging,	
detoxification and repairing stress damages).....	104
4.3.7. Sequestration as a possible B tolerance mechanism.....	105
4.3.8. A hint of lignifications.....	107
4.3.9. Stress perception and cellular signalling under B stress.....	107

4.3.10. Involvement of the Ubiquitin(Ub)/proteasome pathway	108
4.3.11. Involvement of transcription factors	109
4.4. Summary	110
Chapter 5: Expression profiling of B tolerant and intolerant barley using GeneChip™ Barley Genome Array	112
5.1. Introduction.....	112
5.2. Experimental strategy.....	113
5.3. Methods and materials.....	114
5.3.1. GeneChip™ Barley Genome Array (Affymetrix 22K Barley1 GeneChip™).....	114
5.3.2. Plant materials.....	115
5.3.3. RNA extraction and processing.....	115
5.3.4. Microarray hybridisation.....	116
5.3.5. Statistical analysis of microarray data.....	116
5.3.6. Probe set annotations.....	116
5.3.7. Microarray expression validation by Real-Time qPCR.....	116
5.4. Results	119
5.4.1. Development of leaf symptoms due to B stress in Clipper and Sahara.....	119
5.4.2. The transcriptional responses of Clipper and Sahara barley to B treatment.....	122
5.4.3. Real-Time, qPCR validation of microarray expression results...	125
5.4.4. Down-regulated transcripts in Sahara.....	128
5.4.5. Up-regulated transcripts in Sahara.....	129
5.4.5.1. Up-regulated in Sahara, no change in Clipper.....	129
5.4.5.2. Up-regulated both in Sahara and Clipper.....	132
5.4.5.3. Up-regulated in Sahara and down-regulated in Clipper..	132
5.4.6. Expression difference between Clipper and Sahara control Plants.....	134
Chapter 6. Discussion (Microarray).....	140
6.1. Introduction.....	140
6.2. Is the differential expression of transcripts enabling the Sahara plant to overcome B stress?.....	140
6.2.1. Down-regulated transcripts in Sahara.....	140

6.2.2. Up-regulated transcripts in Sahara.....	142
6.3. Constitutively differentially expressed transcripts in relation to B toxicity tolerance.....	145
6.4. Summary.....	146
Chapter 7. General discussion.....	149
Bibliography.....	158
APPENDIX A	
APPENDIX B	
APPENDIX C	
APPENDIX D	
APPENDIX E	

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure A. Influx of B in Sahara 3771 and Schooner barley roots during short-term exposure to nutrient solution containing 5 mM B and efflux after removal of B.....	22
Figure B. Short-term influx of B to the roots of Halberd and WI*MMC wheat exposed to 1 mM B.....	22
Figure C. Efflux of B from wheat roots after removal of B.....	22
Figure 2.1. View of the hydroponic tanks from above showing the arrangement of plants.....	31
Figure 2.2. Photo of the plants growing in a hydroponic tank with the lid uncovered to show how the plants were grown.....	32
Figure 3.1. Flowchart of the steps involved in the suppression subtractive hybridization	44
Figure 3.2. Schematic presentation of the molecular events of the SSH.....	45
Figure 3.3. Autoradiograph of type F1 membrane hybridized with forward (i) and reverse (ii) subtracted ³² P labelled cDNA probes.....	53
Figure 3.4. Autoradiograph of type R1 membrane hybridized with forward (i) and reverse (ii) subtracted ³² P labelled cDNA probes.....	53
Figure 3.5. Autoradiograph of type F2 membrane hybridized with forward (i) and reverse (ii) subtracted ³² P labelled cDNA probes.....	54
Figure 3.6. Results of the verification of the individual lines of the bulks showing shoot B concentrations and leaf symptom scores	55
Figure 3.7. Mean shoot B concentration of the tolerant and intolerant bulks after growing the plants for two weeks at 1 mM B	56
Figure 3.8. Scatter plot of signal intensities of each spot on membrane F1 (a) and R1 (b).....	57
Figure 3.9. Scatter plot of signal intensities of each spot on membrane F2.....	58
Figure 3.10. Distribution and overlap of the candidates producing known protein hits from the B treated and control library.....	60
Figure 3.11. Distribution of the clones (producing known protein hits) from the B treated library into functional categories.....	63
Figure 3.12. Distribution of the clones (producing known protein hits) from the control library into functional categories.....	65
Figure 3.13. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font)	

library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 1.....	69
Figure 3.14. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 2.....	70
Figure 3.15. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 3.....	71
Figure 3.16. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 4.....	72
Figure 3.17. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 5.....	73
Figure 3.18. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 6.....	74
Figure 3.19. Candidates from non-treated (blue font) and B treated (red font) library mapped on deletion bins of wheat homeologous chromosomal group 7.....	76
Figure 3.20. Decision tree used to shortlist initial candidates for further analysis.....	79
Figure 3.21. Candidates genetically mapped on the 4H B tolerance QTL.....	84
Figure 3.22. Candidates genetically mapped on the 2H B tolerance QTL.....	86
Figure 3.23. Candidates genetically mapped on the 6H B tolerance QTL.....	87
Figure 3.24. The precise map location of B4.2 on the 6H B tolerance QTL.....	87
Figure 3.25. Accumulation of Tn1_2B7 (S-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase precursor) transcripts (normalized mRNA copy/ μ l) in bulked root RNA of the tolerant and intolerant lines without B and 200 μ M B treatment for 24 hours.....	88
Figure 3.26. Accumulation of B4.2 (bromo-adjacent homology (BAH) domain- containing protein-like protein) transcripts (normalized mRNA copy/ μ l) in bulked root RNA of the tolerant and intolerant lines without B and 200 μ M B treatment for 24 hours.....	89
Figure 3.27. Accumulation of Tn1_2C4 (ATP/ADP carrier protein) transcripts (normalized mRNA copy/ μ l) in bulked root RNA of the tolerant and intolerant lines without B and 200 μ M B treatment for 24 hours.....	90
Figure 3.28. Accumulation of Tn1_2A12 transcripts (normalized mRNA	

copy/ μ l) in bulked root RNA of the tolerant and intolerant lines without B and 200 μ M B treatment for 24 hours.....	91
Figure 3.29. Accumulation of NMAP1D5 transcripts (normalized mRNA copy/ μ l)in bulked root RNA of the tolerant and intolerant lines without B and 200 μ M B treatment for 24 hours.....	92
Figure 3.30. B concentrations in the shoots of Clipper and Sahara plants used to isolate RNA for qPCR analysis.....	92
Figure 3.31. Accumulation of NMAP1D5 transcripts (normalized transcript copy/ μ l cDNA) in the Clipper and Sahara roots under non-treatment condition and different B treatments at different time-points.....	93
Figure 3.32. Accumulation of NMAP1D5 transcripts (normalized transcript copy/ μ l cDNA) in the Clipper and Sahara shoots under non-treatment condition and different B treatments at different time-points.....	94
Figure 5.4.1. Leaf symptom expression in Clipper barley grown at a range of B concentrations.....	120
Figure 5.4.2. Leaf symptom expression in Sahara barley grown at a range of B concentrations.....	121
Figure 5.4.3. Venn diagrams illustrating the number of probe sets differentially regulated by B.....	123
Figure 5.4.4. Summary of sequence similarity searches of 286 probe sets differentially regulated by B in Sahara using BLASTx against the NCBI non-redundant (nr) database.....	124
Figure 5.4.5. Responses of probe sets in Clipper that were seen to be up- or down- regulated in Sahara.....	125
Figure 5.4.6. Comparison of microarray expression profile of selected probe sets with expression data obtained from real-time qPCR analysis...	126
Figure 5.4.7. Fold change categories and the category wise numbers of probe sets over-expressed in Sahara relative to their expression in Clipper.....	134
Figure 5.4.8. Fold change categories and the category wise numbers of probe sets over-expressed in Clipper relative to their expression in Sahara.....	135
Figure 5.4.9. RMA normalised expression (expressed as log base 2) in Clipper and Sahara plants under control condition and various B treatments of all three probe sets having sequence similarity with B transporters featured in the Affymetrix 22K Barley1 GeneChip TM (Contig21126_at, Contig14139_at and Contig19634_at).....	139

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1. Critical tissue B concentration for B toxicity.....	4
Table 2.1. Composition of the ACPFG cereal growth nutrient solution used to grow plants hydroponically.....	33
Table 2.2. Scale used to score leaf symptoms in barley due to B toxicity.....	34
Table 3.1. Shoot B concentration (ppm) of the C X S DH lines used for SSH.....	47
Table 3.2. Genetic make-up at different B tolerance loci of the bulks.....	48
Table 3.3. Summary of the sequence similarity searches using BLASTx against the NCBI non-redundant (nr) database.....	54
Table 3.4. Redundant clones from the B treated and non-treated library with their relative abundance.....	61
Table 3.5. Percentage of clones from both the B treated and non-treated libraries that could be assigned to different wheat homoeologous chromosomal groups.....	65
Table 3.6. List of the short-listed initial candidates for further analysis.....	80
Table 3.7. Results of chromosomal mapping of the short listed candidates using wheat-barley addition lines.....	82
Table 5.1. Various B treatments for Sahara and Clipper plants.....	115
Table 5.2. Primer sequences of the probe sets subjected to validation test by real-time qPCR.....	118
Table 5.3. Probe sets up-regulated (≥ 2 fold) in Sahara alone but not differentially regulated in Clipper by B treatments.....	133
Table 5.4. Annotations of probe sets over-expressed in Sahara with a fold change ratio of 16 and above their expression in Clipper.....	136
Table 5.5. Annotations of probe sets over-expressed in Clipper with a fold change ratio of 16 and above their expression in Sahara.....	137

ABSTRACT

The occurrence of Boron (B) toxicity in Australian soils is recognised as a limiting factor for cereal productivity. A number of loci conferring tolerance to B toxicity have been identified in barley and chromosomally mapped. However, a lack of knowledge relating to the physiological and molecular events that occur under B toxicity and the molecular basis for B stress tolerance has been a bottleneck in harnessing available genetic diversity in barley and wheat. The recent advances in functional genomics provided an opportunity to examine B stress in barley in more detail. The aim of this project was to analyse genes differentially expressed under B stress in tolerant and intolerant barley to identify candidate genes involved in B toxicity tolerance. Two experimental approaches, Suppression Subtractive Hybridization (SSH) and microarray were adopted.

Firstly, SSH was performed to examine gene expression in roots of selected tolerant and intolerant doubled haploid lines from a Clipper (B intolerant) X Sahara 3771 (B tolerant) mapping population, grown under moderate B stress. The SSH experiment aimed to investigate the early transcriptional response of B tolerant barley lines to B stress in order to identify the basis for B toxicity tolerance in roots.

Differential screening of the subtracted library generated from B treated plants identified a total of 111 non-redundant clones up-regulated in bulked tolerant lines. On the other hand 94 clones were differentially expressed under non-treated conditions. Among the clones identified from subtracted library generated from B treated plants, metabolism was the largest functional category, representing 21% of the clones. The largest functional category in the subtracted library generated from non treated plants was cellular transport, representing 19% of the clones. Based on sequence similarity, about 170 transcripts identified in this experiment were assigned to chromosomal segments (bins) on the three homoeologous genomes of bread wheat. In total, 36 clones from the subtracted library generated from B treated plants were analysed as candidates. Nine were genetically mapped within the region of B tolerance QTL on three chromosomes (2H, 4H and 6H). The genes mapped to 4H and 6H QTL have the highest association with these loci in the Clipper X Sahara 3771 doubled haploid mapping population. A 4H B tolerance QTL candidate gene was identified as a B transporter gene with similarity to the *Arabidopsis BOR1* gene. Genes identified to be differentially expressed in the tolerant lines from SSH suggest activation of a diverse defence response in the roots of barley plants under B stress. Data from SSH experiment indicate that cell wall-plasma membrane-

cytoskeleton continuum constitute the first action site against B toxicity and the influence of toxic B on K⁺ uptake could be the key initiating factor.

In the second approach, the Affymetrix 22K Barley1 GeneChip™ was used to investigate B stress adaptation processes in barley. Gene expression was profiled in leaves of Sahara 3771 and Clipper plants grown under various B concentrations. The results show that the two genotypes respond differently to B toxicity. The B intolerance of Clipper is expressed through the induction of a high number of probe sets (2310) even at a low B concentration of 100 μM. In contrast, Sahara 3771 responded to a high B concentration (2000 μM) through the induction of only a few hundred (266) probe sets. In Sahara 3771 no change in the expression level of any probe sets was observed at 100 μM B. Altogether 286 probe sets showed differential expression in Sahara 3771 under three levels of B treatment (500, 1000 and 2000 μM). About 30% of these were down-regulated and about 70% were up-regulated in Sahara 3771 in response to B treatment. Most of the probe sets (59%) up-regulated in Sahara 3771 did not respond to B treatment in Clipper. These genes are either salt stress responsive or related to plant defense and thus could play a key role in protecting barley plants from the toxic effects of B.

Two differentially expressed probe sets annotated as B transporters were identified between Sahara 3771 and Clipper under control condition. These two B transporter probe sets did not respond to B treatment but showed opposing expression patterns in the two varieties. One of these probe sets (Contig21126_at) is similar to the B transporter gene isolated from the SSH experiment that maps to the 4H tolerance locus. The map location and expression of this B transporter gene suggest that it could be the borate anion efflux transporter predicted by the proposed efflux model of B tolerance in Sahara 3771 barley. The other B transporter gene (Contig14139_at) showed over expression in Clipper under control condition and could be contributing to high B accumulation in Clipper which needs further investigation.

Data from both experiments have indicated that B toxicity triggers oxidative stress and that jasmonate-based signaling plays a key role in B toxicity tolerance. SSH data indicate that Sahara 3771 which evolved in the harsh environment of Africa is more efficient in osmoregulation and ROS scavenging than Clipper. This trait is likely to give Sahara 3771 an edge over Clipper in tolerating toxic the effect of B. In addition to the efflux mechanism, which becomes less efficient with increasing B supply, Sahara 3771 appears to apply a number of other mechanisms for alleviating or withstanding toxic B induced stress to sustain growth. Some of these mechanisms are already known to be used by plants to cope with a number of stresses.

DECLARATION

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

I consent to this copy of my thesis, when deposited in University Library, being available for loan and photocopying.

Mahmood Hassan

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List of Abbreviations

(B[OH]₃) or H₃BO₃ = boric acid

(O₂⁻) =superoxide

μF =microfarrad

μg = microgram

μM = micromole

12-OPDA = 12-oxo-phytodienoic acid

13S-HPOT = 13(S)-hydroperoxy-9(Z),11(E),15(Z)- octadecatrienoic acid; α-ketol, 12-oxo-13-hydroxy-9(Z),15(Z)-octadecadienoic acid

4CL = 4-coumarate:CoA ligase

A9C = anthracene-9-carboxylic acid

ABC = ATP binding cassette

ACPFG = Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics

ADP = adenosine diphosphate

AE = anion exchanger

AGRF = Australian Genome Research Facility

AOC = allene oxide cyclase

AOS = allene oxide synthase

AQP9 = animal aquaporin9

ATP = adenosine 5'-triphosphate

B = boron

B[OH]₄⁻ = borate

BAC = bacterial artificial chromosome

BADH = betaine aldehyde dehydrogenase

BLAST = Basic Local Alignment Search Tool

BOR1= boron transporter 1

Br⁻ = bromine ion

BSA = Bovine Serum Albumin

bZIP = Basic Leucine Zipper

C X S = Clipper X Sahara

C4H = cinnamate 4-hydroxylase

CA II = carbonic anhydrase II

Ca²⁺ = calcium ion

CaMV = Cauliflower Mosaic Virus

cDNA = complementary DNA

CDS = coding sequence

CeSA 1= cellulose synthase A catalytic subunit 1

CeSA 3= cellulose synthase A catalytic subunit 3

CEV1= constitutive expression of VSP1 protein 1

CHCA = α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid

CHS = chalcone synthase

CIMMIT = International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento del Maíz y del Trigo)

Cl⁻ = chlorine ion

cM = centimorgan

cm = centimeter

CPRF2 = light-inducible protein CPRF-2

cRNA = complementary RNA

CS = Chinese Spring

Cyt = cytochrome

dATP = 2-deoxyadenosine 5'-triphosphate

dCTP = 2-deoxycytidine 5'-triphosphate

DEPC = diethylpolycarbonate

dGTP = 2-deoxyguanosine 5'-triphosphate

DH = doubled haploid

DHA = dehydroascorbate
DI = deionized
DIDS = 4,4'-di-isothiocyanostilbene-2,2'-disulfonic acid
DPC = diphenylamine-2carboxylic acid
dTTP = 2-deoxythymidine 5'-triphosphate
dw= dry weight
ECM = extra-cellular matrix
EDTA = ethylenediaminetetracetic acid
EST = expressed sequence tag
FDR = false discovery rate
fw = fresh weight
GB = glycine betaine
GDH = glutamate dehydrogenase
GLP = germin-like protein
GONST = golgi nucleotide sugar transporter
GPI= glucosylphosphatidyl-inositol
GPX = glutathione peroxidase
GRP94 =94-kDa glucose related protein
GSH = reduced glutathione
GST = glutathione S transferase
 H^+ = hydrogen ion/ proton
 H_2O_2 = hydrogen peroxide
HAC1 = histone acetyltransferase HAC1
HAK = high-affinity K^+ uptake systems
HATS = high-affinity nitrate transport system
 HCO_3^- = bicarbonate ion
 $HgCl_2$ = mercuric chloride
HIF = heterogeneous inbred families

HsBTR1 = *Homo sapiens* bicarbonate transporter-related protein 1

HSP = heat shock protein

HVGI = TIGR Barley gene index

I⁻ = iodine ion

ICARDA = International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

ICP-MS = Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry

ITB = intolerant boron

ITC = intolerant control

JA = jasmonic acid

JAFAs = Joined Assembly of Function Annotations

kDa = kiloDalton

kg = kilogram

K_m = Michaelis-Menten kinetics coefficient

LB = Luria broth

LIMMA = Linear Models for Microarray Data Package

LOD = Log of the Odds

LOX = lipoxygenase

LRS = Likelihood Ratio Statistics

M = mole

MAPK = mitogen-activated protein kinase

MAPKK = mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase

MAPKKK = mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase

MDHA = monodehydroascorbate

mg = milligram

MgCl₂ = magnesium chloride

MIPS = Munich Information Center for Protein Sequences

MIPs = major intrinsic proteins

mM = millimole

MOPS = 3-(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid

mRNA= messenger ribonucleic acid

MRP = multidrug resistance-associated protein

N = nitrogen

Na⁺ = sodium ion

Na₂CO₃ = sodium carbonate

NaBC1 = sodium borate cotransporter 1

NaCl = sodium chloride

NaCl = sodium chloride

NAD = nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide

NADH = reduced form of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide

NADP = nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

NADPH = reduced form of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

NADP-ME = NADP-malic enzyme

NaHCO₃ = sodium bicarbonate

NCBI = National Center for Biotechnology Information

NDH = NADH-quinone oxidoreductase

NdhK = NADH-plastoquinone oxidoreductase subunit K

ng = nanogram

NHX = sodium/hydrogen exchanger

NIL = near isogenic lines

NIP = nodulin 26 like intrinsic protein

NO₃ = nitrate

nr = non-redundant

NRT = nitrate transporter

O₂ = Oxygen molecule

OH⁻ = hydroxyl ion

P = probability

P³² = phosphorus-32

PAL = phenylalanine ammonia-lyase

PCR = polymerase chain reaction

PEG = poly ethylene glycol

Pf_b = lipid permeability of boric acid

PIP = plasma membrane intrinsic protein

PIPES = piperazine-1-4-bis[2-ethanesulfonic acid]

PO₄³⁻ = phosphate ion

ppm = parts per million

PRR73 = pseudo-response regulator 73

PS = photosystem

PS1-A = photosystem I P700 apoprotein A1

qPCR = quantitative polymerase chain reaction

QTL = quantitative trait loci

RAB1C = Ras-related protein Rab-35

RAV2 = regulator of V-ATPase in vacuolar membrane protein 2

RFLP = restriction fragment length polymorphism

RG-II = rhamnogalacturonan- II

RNA = ribonucleic acid

ROS = reactive oxygen species

rpm = revolutions per minute

rRNA = ribosomal RNA

RT = room temperature

SAMDC = S- adenosylmethionine decarboxylase

SARDI = South Australian Research and Development Institute

SDS = sodium dodecyl sulfate

SFP = single feature polymorphism

SIP = small basic intrinsic protein

SLC4 = solute carrier family 4
SLC4A11 = sodium bicarbonate transporter-like protein 11
SNP = single nucleotide polymorphism
 SO_4^{2-} = sulfate ion
SOB = super-optimal broth
SOD = superoxide dismutase
SOS = salt overly sensitive
SSC = sodium chloride/ sodium citrate
SSH = Suppression Subtractive Hybridization
t = metric ton
TAE = Tris/acetate/EDTA
TB = tolerant boron
TC = tolerant control
T-DNA = transferred DNA
TIGR = The Institute for Genomic Research
TIP = tonoplast intrinsic protein
TM = trans-membrane
TPX = thiol peroxidase
Ub = ubiquitin
UDP = uridine diphosphoglucose
USPA = universal stress protein A
UTR = untranslated region
UV = ultra violet
V = voltage
V-ATPase = vacuolar type H^+ -ATPase
VDAC = voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein
VSP = vegetative storage protein
W/V = weight/volume

YNL275w = nonglycosylated anion transport protein from yeast