High throughput metabolome and proteome analysis of transgenic rice plants (*Oryza sativa* L.)

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**Abstract**  We profiled metabolic patterns of transgenic rice organs and tissue by Fourier-transform ion cyclotron mass spectrometry (FT-MS) to reveal effects of the over-expression of *YK1* possessing high homology with maize HC-toxin reductase gene. Comparison of metabolic patterns revealed that compositions of organ- or tissue-specific metabolites were not significantly varied between the control and the *YK1* rice, where expression levels of some metabolites were altered. Proteome analysis of cultured cells over-expressing *YK1* showed the up-regulation of several stress-related proteins such as osmotin-like protein and osr40c1. Thus, alteration of metabolites as well as proteins may contribute to multiple stress tolerances in transgenic *YK1* rice.

**Key words:** Metabolome, proteome, Fourier-transform ion cyclotron mass spectrometry (FT-MS), HC-toxin reductase like rice gene (*YK1*), rice (*Oryza sativa* L.).

To elucidate metabolic networks of plants, metabolome studies consisting of multitarget profiling is essential (Fiehn et al. 2000). Nevertheless, a simultaneous detection of a great number of intracellular metabolites is a bottleneck of such studies in terms of sensitivity and selectivity of metabolites. The high throughput technology such as Fourier-transform ion cyclotron mass spectrometry (FT-MS) technique has been developed to detect a number of intracellular metabolites. FT-MS as an ultra-high-resolution mass spectrometry is capable of detecting complexes of oligosaccharides in *Arabidopsis* (Penn et al. 1997) as well as thousands of metabolites in strawberry (Aharoni et al. 2002). Hirai et al. (2004) showed that several metabolic pathways in Arabidopsis leaves and roots were altered by nutritional stress such as a deficiency of sulfur or nitrogen. Furthermore, the improved methods such as a nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC/MS) have been contributed to analyze plant metabolism (Roessner et al. 2000; Sriram et al. 2004). The enormous amounts of data from these powerful analyzers enabled us to create the fingerprinting of plant metabolites. Thus, information obtained is highly effective in characterization of plant genes (Mele et al. 2003).

Recently, various proteome approaches such as high-resolution two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE), protein sequencing, and mass spectrometry have been used for identifying the protein expression patterns. In the case of rice, Rakwal and Komatsu (2000) reported the results of proteome analysis of jasmonate-treated plants.

Here we performed metabolome analysis of transgenic rice by FT-MS as well as proteome analysis by 2-DE. We used transgenic rice plants and calli over-expressing *YK1* gene, the homolog of maize HC-toxin reductase (*HCTR*) in rice (Uchimiya et al. 2002).

**Materials and methods**

**Plant materials and FT-MS analysis**

Transgenic rice plants (*Oryza sativa* L. cv. Nipponbare) harboring empty vector (C) or *YK1* (L-1) were grown at 25°C in a green house. Leaf and panicle of two-month-old plants were collected and freeze-dried. Suspension cultured cells were grown in MS medium containing 3% sucrose, 1 mg/L 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, B5 vitamin, and 50 µg/ml hygromycin at 27°C in dark. After 5 days, calli were washed twice with 40 ml of Milli-Q water and freeze-dried. Sample preparation and FT-MS analysis were basically performed according to Aharoni et al. (2002).

**Proteome analysis**

Protein extraction, 2-DE, and internal amino acid sequence analysis were performed as described by

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For measurements of approximate volume of spots, coomassie brilliant blue (CBB)-stained gels were scanned and the data were analyzed by 2D-Elite (Amersham Bioscience). Collected protein spots were subjected to amino acid sequencing and the homology search was carried out using the Rice BLAST database of National Institute of Agrobiological Resources, Japan.

Western blot analysis was performed as described in Uchimiya et al. (2002).

Results and discussion

Metabolome and proteome analyses were conducted to elucidate the effects of over-expression of YK1 gene on...
numerous metabolites and polypeptides. In respective organs, 866 metabolites were determined by FT-MS. The metabolic fingerprintings in callus, leaf, and panicle were significantly different from one another. Highly-expressed metabolites (S/N>100) were also apparent in several organs. However, the difference between control and the YK1 rice was not distinct (Figure 1A). The compositions of organ-specific metabolites in YK1 line were similar to the control (Figures 1B, C).

Figure 2A shows the differences of main metabolites between control and YK1 rice by a principal component analysis. The metabolic differences between control and YK1 line were three-dimensionally visualized (Hirai et al. 2004). Principal components were slightly different between control and YK1 callus, but those in leaf and panicle were nearly identical. Up-regulated metabolites were 5.9%, 3.7%, and 3.9% in callus, leaf, and panicle, respectively. On the other hand, down-regulated metabolites were 7.0%, 3.7%, and 5.2% in callus, leaf, and panicle, respectively (Figure 2B).

These results suggested that the compositions of metabolites were obviously different, but the over-expression of YK1 had little effect on plant metabolism. However, since YK1 rice conferred several stress tolerances (Uchimiya et al. 2002), there was a possibility that less than 10% of the metabolic alterations contributed to stress tolerances.

We also carried out proteomic analysis on cultured cells of YK1 rice. Total polypeptides (668 spots) were detected on the gel (pH 3–10) and stained by coomassic brilliant blue. The images of the immobilized pH gradient (IPG, pH 6–10) gels are shown in Figure 3. Five spots in L-1 cells (a–e) were up-regulated relative to the control. Each spot was then subjected to amino acid sequence analysis. These spots coincided with the 40 s ribosomal protein S1 (a), the osmotin-like protein (b and d), the osr40c1 (c), and fructose-bisphosphate aldolase (e), respectively.

The cDNA clone osr40c1, encoding ABA-responsive protein associated with salt tolerance was isolated from

![Figure 3](https://example.com/figure3.png)

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roots of rice seedlings. Exogenously applied ABA and salt induced a marked increase of the osr40c1 transcript level in roots, whereas constant osr40cl mRNA levels were found in the shoots (Moons et al. 1997). Furthermore, osmotin is a member of pathogen-related (PR) protein and known to be involved in plant defense responses. It has been reported that genes encoding osmotin-like proteins were induced by abiotic stresses including ABA and NaCl in potato (Zhu et al. 1995). Several stresses such as UV-irradiation and heavy metal also induced osmotin-like protein in rice (Rakwal et al. 1999). In YK1 line, a clear appearance of osr40c1 and osmotin-like protein though neither the salt nor the osmotic pressure were enforced was confirmed.

As a conclusion, our present results suggested that ectopic over-expression of a single gene (YK1) in rice cells might affect the expression of unrelated proteins and metabolites. This evidence may be important to extend our knowledge to the genetic engineering of plants with a novel foreign gene transfer.

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References