

IMMUNOLOCALIZATION OF AQUAPORINS IN THE LEAVES OF TWO *SOLANUM TUBEROSUM* L. GENOTYPES DIFFERENTIATED IN TERMS OF SENSITIVITY TO DROUGHT

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In the last decade, the frequency of long-term drought periods in Central Europe has increased, which has serious consequences for the yield of crops, including potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.). The plant aquaporins from the PIP subfamily (plasma membrane intrinsic proteins) are widely studied in the context of their key role in the regulation of the cell water potential under stress conditions.

In this work, we present the changes in the intensity of labelling of aquaporins in stressed plants of two potato varieties differing in tolerance to drought stress: Gwiazda - resistant genotype to soil drought and Oberon – susceptible genotype to water deficiency. For immunolocalization of aquaporins, leaf samples were prepared according to standard procedures in two experimental variants: 1) control (watered plants) and 2) drought (unwatered plants). The primary antibody specific to PIPs and secondary antibodies conjugated to 10 nm gold particles were used to visualize aquaporins under a transmission electron microscope (TEM).

The observed changes in aquaporin labeling in the membrane of the palisade and spongy mesophyll in one of the tested potato cultivars under drought stress may indicate the ability of this genotype to maintain proper water balance and physicochemical activity under conditions of water deficiency.

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