

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

EFFECTS OF WATER STRESS ON THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL RESPONSES OF MANGOSTEEN (GARCINIA MANGOSTANA L.) PLANT

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA 2006



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By

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Water is one of the environmental factors that influence plant growth and production. Water is also one of the main components in photolysis during light reaction photosynthesis pathways. Lack of water, therefore, severely decreases plant growth and production.

Several experiments have been conducted to study the effects of water deficit on mangosteen vegetative growth and toward yield production. Experiments were conducted in the green house unit of Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, and in Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) station in Kedah Darulaman on young plants (two years old seedlings) and productive plants, respectively. Other experiments with hydrogel (water absorbance and slow release) and partial root drying (PRD) treatments to



increase plant water use efficiency were also conducted. These experiments were conducted at the green house unit of Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang.

Overall results from these experiments showed that mangosteen plants physiological and biochemical have good response toward water stress or water deficit. Water stress or deficit produced significant decrease in plant leaf water potential, stomatal conductance and photosynthesis rate. Measurements on abscisic acid, peroxidase and proline concentrations were also taken. Water deficits were found to increase mangosteens leaf abscisic acid. However, water stress did not significantly affect plants peroxidase and proline concentration. Water stress also decreased plant leaf increment.

While hydrogel treatment with dose 0.1-0.5 % did not produce positive result, the lower dose (0.02-0.10%) showed good finding, which in these treatment, plant physiological appearance remain normal. It was suggested that hydrogel with dose 0.06 % could to be applied to mangosteen plant to assist the plant conserve soil water availability and increase water used efficiency.

The partial rootzone drying (PRD) treatment showed very interesting findings. PRD treatment was found to reduce water use by 50% compared to normal watering. Reducing water use by 50% in PRD treatment also did not decrease leaf water



potential, stomatal conductance and net photosynthesis. In other words, PRD treatment was able to maintain plants in the normal condition. PRD treatment also significantly produced higher proline concentration than that on water stressed treatment. It is concluded that PRD treatment could be used as water saving for mangosteen in vegetative stage.

Field experiments during the productive stage of mangosteen conducted for two years indicated interesting results. Water stress or deficit increased mangosteen leaves and flag leaves (leaves below flower) total nonstructural carbohydrate (TNC). However, increasing in TNC was not followed by a subsequent increase in fruit yield due to lower fruit set and higher fruit drop percentage. Generally, water stress or water deficit reduced mangosteen fruit yield. Increasing water supply from 50 L/tree/day to 200 L/tree/day in the field water stress significantly enhanced total harvested fruit weight. In the first year of the field experiment, there was no difference in soil moisture. In this condition, raising the amount of irrigation water led to higher average fruit weight. However, in the second year of the field experiment which was drier than the first year, raising the amount of irrigation water did not seem to increase fruit size and average fruit weight. Nevertheless, fruit drop percentage was not affected by the increase amount of irrigation water in the first year, but decreased in the second year of experiment.

v

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PENGARUH CEKAMAN AIR TERHADAP RESPON FISIOLOGI DAN BIOKIMIA TANAMAN MANGGIS (GARCINIA MANGOSTANA L.)

Oleh

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Air merupakan salah satu faktor alam yang sangat mempengaruhi tumbesaran dan penghasilan tanaman. Air berfungsi sebagai komponen fotosintesis tanaman dan merupakan media yang dominan dalam tindakbalas fisiologi tanaman. Oleh kerana itu tegasan kerana kekurangan air dapat menurunkan tumbesaran dan pengeluaran tanaman.

Beberapa kajian telah dilakukan untuk mengetahui pengaruh air terhadap tumbesaran tanaman manggis pada peringkat vegetatif dan reproduktif. Secara amnya, kajian telah dilakukan pada tanaman manggis dalam peringkat vegetatif dan tanaman manggis yang telah menghasilkan buah. Eksperimen yang bertujuan untuk meningkatkan keberkesanan penggunaan air (water use efficiency) juga telah



dilakukan dengan menggunakan hidrogel dan pengeringan akar secara berasingan (partial rootzone drying; PRD). Eksperimen pada tanaman manggis pada peringkat vegetatif dilaksanakan di rumah kaca dan eksperimen tanaman manggis pada peringkat penghasilan di ladang buah MARDI Kedah Darulaman.

Keputusan yang diperolehi, secara amnya rawatan tegasan air memberikan kesan kepada fisiologi dan biokimia tanaman manggis. Rawatan tegasan air mengakibatkan penurunan konduksi stomata, potensi air daun dan kadar fotosintesis secara bererti. Pengukuran pengaruh tegasan air terhadap pengawalatur tumbesaran juga telah dilakukan. Rawatan tegasan air meningkatkan secara bererti kadar ABA (abscisic acid) daun manggis. Walau bagaimanapun, rawatan tegasan air tidak memberikan kesan kepada kadar peroksidase tanaman dan prolin secara bererti. Tegasan air juga menurunkan pertambahan ukuran daun manggis.

Rawatan hidrogel pada 0.1-0.5 % tidak memberikan kesan positif yang bermakna, namun pada ekperimen dengan takaran yang lebih rendah yaitu 0.02-0.10 peratus memberikan keputusan yang baik. Takaran hydrogel 0.06% dapat disyorkan untuk digunakan untuk menolong tanaman menjimatkan penggunaan air tanah dan meningkatkan keberkesanan penggunaan air (WUE).

Keputusan yang baik didapatkan pada eksperimen rawatan PRD. Rawatan PRD telah dapat mengurangkan penggunaan air sebanyak 50 % dibandingkan dengan kawalan.



Pengurangan jumlah air pada rawatan PRD tidak menurunkan potensi air daun, konduksi stomata dan kadar fotosintesis. Rawatan PRD juga meningkatkan dengan berkesan kadar prolin tanaman manggis melebihi rawatan tegasan air. Dengan kata lain, rawatan PRD dapat menjaga tanaman dalam kondisi normal.

Percubaan yang dilakukan dua tahun berturut-turut di ladang terhadap tanaman manggis yang reproduktif, menunjukkan keputusan yang baik. Tegasan air secara berkesan meningkatkan kadar 'total nonstructural carbohydrate' (TNC) daun biasa dan daun bendera tanaman manggis. Namun peningkatan tingkat TNC dalam daun tidak diikuti dengan peningkatan hasil buah manggis pada rawatan yang sama. Secara am, tegasan air menurunkan hasil buah manggis. Penggunaan jumlah air yang semakin meningkat dari 50 L/pokok/hari sampai 200 L/pokok/hari pada kondisi tegasan air di ladang, secara berkesan meningkatkan berat hasil buah manggis yang dituai. Pada tahun pertama, yang mana tidak ada perbezaan kelembapan tanah, peningkatan pemberian jumlah air menaikkan purata berat buah. Namun, pada tahun kedua yang mana keadaannya lebih kering dari tahun pertama, pemberian jumlah air yang meningkat tidak meningkatkan saiz buah manggis dan purata berat buah manggis. Walau bagaimanapun, pada tahun pertama bilangan buah gugur tidak dipengaruhi oleh pemberian jumlah air, namun, pada percubaan tahun kedua, peratus buah gugur menurun dengan peningkatan jumlah air yang diberikan.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

.

Page

ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVAL	Х
DECLARATION	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABREVIATION	xvii

CHAPTER

1

2

•

3

·	INT	RODUCTION	
	1.1	Background	1
	1.2	Objective	8
	LIT	ERATURE REVIEW	
	2.1	The crop-mangosteen	9
	2.2 ·	Botanical description	10
	2.3	Distribution and ecological requirement	11
	2.4	Problem of cultivation	12
	2.5	Term of stress	14
	2.6	Mechanism of water stress	15
	2.7	Water stress and plant growth	17
	2.8	Water stress, flowering and fruiting	19
	2.9	Water stress and assimilation	21
	2.10	Water stress and carbohydrate	25
	2.11	Water stress and plant growth regulator	27
	2.12	Water stress and hydrogel	29
	2.14	Water use efficiency	32
•	GEN	NERAL MATERIAL AND METHODS	
	3.1	Measurement of leaf gas exchange	. 37
		3.1.1 Photosynthetic rate	37
		3.1.2 Stomatal conductance	37
		3.1.3 Leaf water potential (Ψ_{1})	38
		3.1.4 Soil moisture	39
	3.2	Leaf growth increment	39
	3.3	Proline determination	39
	3.4	Peroxidase determination	40
	3.5	Abscisic acid determination	41
	3.6	Total nonstructural carbohydrate determination	42



	3.7	Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) for stomata	43
	3.8	Data Analysis	44
4	RES man	SPONSES OF YOUNG MANGOSTEEN (Garcinia gostana L) TO WATER DEFICIT	
	4.1	Introduction	45
	4.2 ·	Material and methods	47
		4.2.1 Plant material and culture	47
		4.2.2 Experimental design and treatments	48
	• •	4.2.3 Soil moisture measurement	49
		4.2.4 Leaf gas exchange measurement	49
		4.2.5 Peroxidase and chlorophyll measurement	49
	4.3	Result	
		4.3.1 Soil moisture	50
	. ÷	4.3.2 Midday leaf water potential	50
	•	4.3.3 Stomatal conductance and stomata appearance	52
		4.3.4 Photosynthesis rate	56
		4.3.5 Correlation between soil moisture and leaf gas exchange	56
		4.3.6 Correlation between stomatal conductance and leaf	59
		4.3.7 Correlation between leaf water potential and stomatal conductance and photosynthesis rate.	60
		4.3.8 Peroxidase concentration	60
		4.3.9 Leaf chlorophyll content	64
		4.3.10 Root size and distribution	64
		4.3.11 Total root dry weight	66
	4.4	Discussion	69
	4.5	Conclusion	74
5	IMP	ROVED WATER USE EFFICIENCY ON YOUNG	
		NGOSTEEN(Garcinia mangostana L) PLANIS, EFFECI	
		Introduction	75
	5.1.	Material and methods	1.5
	5.4	5.2.1 Experimental site	77
		5.2.1 Experimental treatments and design	70
	53	2.2.2 Experimental treatments and design	/0
	5.5	S 2 1 Soil moisture	80
		5.3.1 Son moisture	80
		5.3.2 Isai waki pulitika 5.3.3 Stomatal conductance	00 92
		5.3.4 Dhotosynthesis rate	0.00
		5.3.5 Leafincrement	0J Q5
		5.3.5 Leaf increment $5.3.6$ Leaf absisic acid (ABA)	. 22
		J.J.U LEAT AUSISIC AUTU (ADA)	00



	5.3.7 Proline concentration	88
	5.4 Discussion	91
	5.5 Conclusion	93
6	INCREASED SURVIVAL OF DROUGHTED	
	MANGOSTEEN PLANTS BY HYDROGEL POLYMER	
	INCORPORATION	
	6.1 Introduction	94
	6.2 Material and methods	
	6.2.1 Experimental site	96
	6.2.2 Experimental Treatments and Design for Experiment 1	97
	6.2.3 Experimental Treatments and Design for Experiment 2	98
	6.3 Result for Experiment 1	
	6.3.1 Leaf water potential (LWP)	99
	6.3.2 Stomatal conductance	101
	6.3.3 Photosynthesis rate	102
	6.4 Result for Experiment 2	
	6.4.1 Soil moisture	103
	6.4.2 Leaf water potential (LWP)	103
	6.4.3 Stomatal conductance	106
	6.4.4 Photosynthesis rate	108
	6.5 Discussion	110
	6.5 Conclusion	113
7	DIFFERENTIAL WATER RELATIONS ON YIELD OF	
·	MATURE MANGOSTEEN PLANTS IN RESPONSE TO	
	WATER AVAILABILITY UNDER FIELD CONDITION	
	7.1 Introduction	114
	7.2 Material and methods	
	7.2.1 Experimental site	115
	7.2.2 Experimental treatments and design for experiment 1	116
	7.2.3 Experimental treatments and design for experiment 2	117
	7.2.4 Fruit sample labeling	118
	7.2.5 Variables observed	118
	7.3 Result of experiment 1	•
	7.3.1 Soil moisture	122
	7.3.2 Stomatal conductance	122
	7.3.3 Leaf total nonstructural carbohydrate	125
	7.3.4 <i>Flag leaf</i> total nonstructural carbohydrate	125
	7.3.5 Fruit growth	125
	7.3.6 Fruit quality	129
	7.3.7 Fruit yield	129
	7.4 Result of experiment 2	
	7.4.1 Leaf water potential	130
	7.4.2 Stomatal conductance	131



REFERENCES BIODATA OF AUTHOR		R B1
8.	GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	14
	7.6 Conclusion	14
	7.5 Discussion	13
	7.4.3 Fruit yield	134



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
4.1	Root size and root distribution of mangosteen plants under well- watered and water stress conditions.	66
6.1	Effects of hydrogel treatments on mangosteen leaf water potential	100
6.2	Effects of hydrogel treatments on mangosteen stomatal conductance	101
6.3	Effects of hydrogel treatments on mangosteen photosynthesis rate	102
7.1	Variables those observed in Experiment 1 and 2	119
7.2	Fruit diameter and average fruit weight of mangosteen under three types of water levels in Year 2000.	129
7.3	Fruit yield and fruit drop of mangosteen under three types of water levels in Year 2000	130



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
4.1	Soil moisture of mangosteen plants under well-watered and water stress	51
4.2	Midday leaf water potential of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	53
4.3	Stomatal conductance of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	54
4.4	Photosynthesis rate of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	57
4.5	Correlation between soil moisture and stomatal conductance (A), leaf water potential (B) and photosynthesis rate (C) of mangosteen plant as affected by two water regimes	58
4.6	Correlation between stomatal conductance, photosynthesis rate and leaf water potential of mangosteen plant as affected by two water regimes	61
4.7	Correlation between leaf water potential, photosynthesis rate and stomatal conductance of mangosteen plant as affected by two water regimes.	62
4.8	Peroxidase activity of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	63
4.9	Chlorophyll content of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	65
4.10	Total root length of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	67
4.11	Root dry weight of mangosteen under well-watered and water stress	·
5.1	Changes in soil moisture of mangosteen plant growing under three watering regimes	81
5.2	Changes in Leaf Water Potential of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes	82
5.3	Changes in stomatal conductance of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes.	84

xiv



5.4	Changes in photosynthesis rate of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes	86
5.5	Changes in leaf increment of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes	87
5.6	Changes in leaf abscisic acid of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes	89
5.7	Changes in proline concentration of mangosteen growing under three watering regimes	90
6.1	Effects of water and hydrogel treatments on soil moisture in three layers of soil	104
6.2	Effects of water and hydrogel treatments on leaf water potential of mangosteen plants.	105
6.3	Effects of water and hydrogel treatments on stomatal conductance of mangosteen plants.	107
6.4	Effects of water and hydrogel treatments on photosynthesis rate of mangosteen plants.	109
7.1	Soil moisture of mangosteen plants under three types of water levels	123
7.2	Stomatal conductance of mangosteen plants under three types of water levels	124
7.3	Leaves total nonstructural carbohydrate of mangosteen plants	126
7.4	Flag leaves total nonstructural carbohydrate of mangosteen plants	127
7.5	Fruit extension of mangosteen plants	128
7.6	Midday leaf water potential of mangosteen plants	132
7.7	Stomatal conductance of mangosteen plants	133
7.8	The quantity of mangosteen harvested fruits under different water treatment on the field condition	135



7.9	Mangosteen fruit weight per tree under different water treatment on the field condition	136
7.10	Mangosteen average fruit weight under different water treatment on the field condition	137
7.11	The percentage of mangosteen fruit harvested and dropped	144
7.12	Rainfall for year 2001 and 2002	145
•		
Plate		Page
Plate 1	Appearance of mangosteen stomata on well watered condition (X 2000 magnification)	55
Plate 2	Appearance of mangosteen stomata on water stressed condition (X 2000 magnification)	55
Plate 3	Root distribution of mangosteen plants in well-watered (WW) and water stress (WS) condition	68
Plate 4	Pot, soil, plastic membrane and watering pipe preparation for PRD treatment	79
Plate 5	Mangosteen tree with plastic sheet for water stress treatment	117

xvi



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

μg	Microgram
ABA	Abscisic acid
ADIP	Alternate drip irrigation
ADP	Adenosine Diphosphate
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
CAT	Catalase
Chl	Chlorophyll
cm	centimeter
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
g	Gram
GÁPDH	Glyceraldehyde-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase
GDH	Glutamate dehydrogenase
GOGAT	Glutamate synthase
GS	Glutamine Synthetase
G _s or g _s	Stomatal Conductance
HPLC	High-performance liquid chromatography
IRGA	Infra-Red Gas Analyzer
LER	Leaf-elongation rate
LSD	Least of Significance Different
LWP	Leaf Water Potential
m	Meter
•	

xvii



MARDI	Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
MDA	Malondialdehyde
mg	Miligram
MPa	Mega Pascal
NÁP	National Agricultural Policy
PEO	Polyethilene oxide
PGR	plant growth regulator
POD	Peroxidase
PRD	Partial root-zone drying
PS II	Photosystem II
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
PVPP	Polyvinylpyrolidone
RDI	Regulated Deficit Irrigation
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
Rubisco	Ribulose bisphosphate carboxilase, ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase
RuBP	Ribulose bisphosphate
RWC	Relative Water Content
SOD	Superoxide Dismutase
SWC	soil water content
TA	Titratable Acid
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
TNC	Total Non-structural carbohydrate



TSS	Total Soluble Solid
UV	Ultra Violet
v/v	volume per volume
VPD	Vapour Pressure Deficit
WUE	Water use efficiency

xix



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana* L.) is known as the "Queen of Fruits". Its origin is in Southeast Asia, probably the Malay Archipelago. It can now be found in Northern Australia, Brazil, Myanmar, Central America, Hawaii, Southern India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and other tropical countries. Mangosteen is one of the most widely recognized tropical fruits and has universal appeal because of its quality in colour, shape and flavour. The fruit is 2-3 inches (5-7cm) in diameter. A thick reddish-purple rind covers the aril or pulp which is segmented like that of an orange. The white, moist, soft and juicy flesh is sweet and aromatic, has high sugar content, but is low in vitamins and minerals. It is usually eaten fresh, but can be stored for short periods of time. It is also canned, frozen, or made into juice, preserves, and syrup. Mangosteen is also used in pharmaceutical (Kanchanapoom and Kanchanapoom, 1998; Nakasone and Paull, 1998).

Unknown in the wild state, mangosteen is found only as a cultivated female tree (male trees appear non-existent) and may be a fortuitous hybrid between two sister species (*G. malaccensis* and *G. hombroniana*). It is an apomictic polyploidy, which is morphologically intermediate between these two species. Moreover, genetic variation

