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Mathieu Bagard, Didier Le Thiec, Marie-Paule Hasenfratz-Sauder, Jacques Banvoy, Joelle Gérard, Pierre P. Dizengremel, Yves Y. Jolivet

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Effect of ozone on respiratory and photorespiratory parameters in relation to the developmental stages of poplar leaves



Bagard M., Le Thiec D., Delacote E., Hasenfratz-Sauder M.P., Banvoy J., Gérard J., Dizengremel P. & Jolivet Y.



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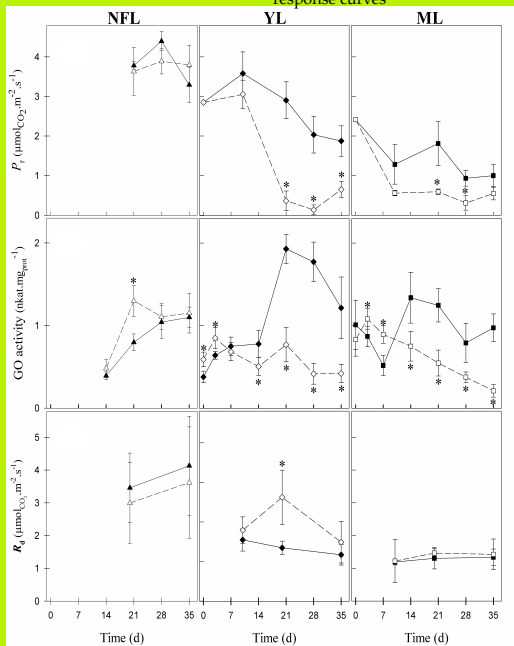
Introduction

Tropospheric ozone (O_3) is now considered as the major air pollutant affecting vegetation, causing reduction in photosynthesis, growth and yield. To unravel the effect of ozone on catabolism, we studied respiratory and photorespiratory parameters in leaves of young poplar trees submitted to 120 ppb O_3 . Clearly, the results showed that the responses differed according to the developmental stages of the leaves.

Results

Photorespiratory and respiratory rates

- *In vivo* determination of photorespiratory (P_r) rate was obtained from gas exchange and chlorophyll fluorescence measurements
- Glycolate oxidase activity was determined by monitoring the glyoxylate phenylhydrazone complex formation at 324 nm
- day mitochondrial respiration (R_d) was calculated from A/C_i response curves



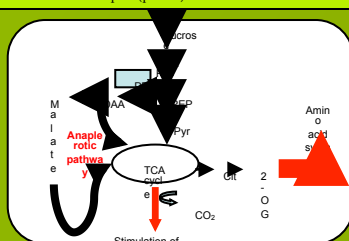
* Significant difference between ozone-treated and control samples ($p < .05$)

► Ozone treatment involved a reduced rate of photorespiration (P_r) in fully expanded leaves (ML and YL after 14 days)

► The activity of the photorespiratory enzyme glycolate oxidase (GO) was also highly reduced by ozone from 14 days of fumigation in both fully expanded leaves (ML and YL after 14 days)

► In response to ozone, a stimulation of the mitochondrial respiration occurred transiently in YL at 20 days of ozone exposure

control: filled symbols
ozone: open symbols



Conclusion

As a consequence to chronic ozone, photorespiration was inhibited in fully expanded leaves (ML and YL after 14 days). This inhibition could be partly explained by an effect of ozone on biochemical parameters (lower glycolate oxidase and rubisco activities).

On the contrary, the PEPc activity and its amount were increased in these leaves but this did not inevitably occurred with the stimulation of the mitochondrial respiration. It is suggested that the replenishment of the TCA cycle by PEPc functioning could be also useful for amino acid synthesis.

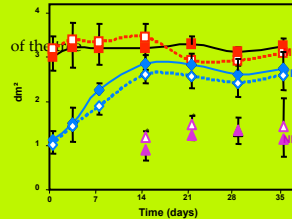
Expanding leaves appeared resistant to ozone fumigation.

Prospect → Roles and regulation (translational and post-translational) of PEPc in leaves in response to ozone

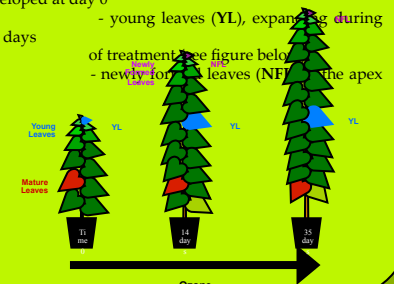
Plant material and experimental conditions

- Micropropagated six-month-old poplar trees (*Populus tremula* L. x *alba* L., INRA 717-1-B4 clone) grown in controlled conditions in 8 fumigation chambers with charcoal-filtered air (control, $n=48$) or with charcoal-filtered air + 100 to 120 ppb of ozone 13 h daily during 35 days ($n=48$).
- Leaf stages: - mature leaves (ML), fully developed at day 0

ozone exposure and fully developed after 14 days

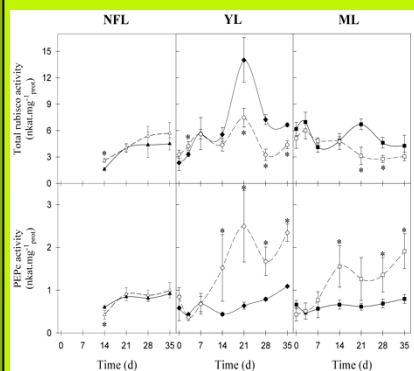


control: filled symbols
ozone: open symbols



Carboxylase activities

- *In vitro* determination of rubisco and PEPc activities was determined by spectrophotometric assays



* Significant difference between ozone-treated and control samples ($p < .05$)

control: filled symbols
ozone: open symbols

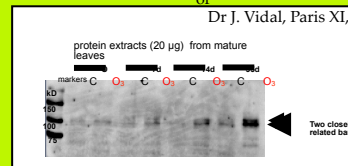
► In ML and YL, total rubisco activity was hugely inhibited (by up to 40%) from 14 days of ozone exposure

► On the opposite, in response to ozone fumigation, PEPc activity was stimulated 2- to 3-fold in ML and YL. This stimulation occurred as soon as the second week of fumigation

PEPc amount

- Western blot was performed with anti-N-terminal (phosphorylation site) peptide antibodies (gift of

Dr J. Vidal, Paris XI, IBF, Orsay)



► In ML, two PEPc isoforms (≈ 110 kD) were detected. In response to ozone, the amount of the isoforms increased