

*Original Contribution***PEROXIDASE, POLYPHENOL OXIDASE AND PROTEIN CHANGES IN OLIVES DURING ADVENTITIOUS ROOT FORMATION****E. Aslmoshtaghi\*, A. R. Shamsavar**

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**ABSTRACT**

Changes of peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase and protein activities were assessed during the rooting process of two cultivars of olive. Cuttings bases were submitted to a quick dip treatment to promote rooting, using indol-3-butyric acid (IBA). Samples for quantification of enzyme activities were collected at 0-60-120 days after culture. The highest peroxidase activities were measured at first of the sampling, these values decreased in connection with the root formation. Polyphenol oxidase activity maximized on the 60 days and then declined to a minimum on 120 days in both cultivars. The total protein contents increased during 60 days of culture. All these results indicate that peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase and protein are more important in rooting of olive cuttings.

**Key words:** cutting, enzyme activities, rooting**INTRODUCTION**

Olive (*Olea europaea* L.) has been propagated mainly by cutting. Stem cuttings are the important means of vegetative propagation in horticultural industry for mass production within a short time (1, 2). However, there are great differences in the rooting potential among olive cultivars and these have been categorized into three groups, easy, moderate and hard-to-root cultivars. In olive the capacity to develop adventitious roots has proved to be extremely variable among cultivars (3). Auxins have been showed to have the greatest effect on rooting (4, 5). Nevertheless, auxins have failed to promote root initiation or they had only a slight rooting effect in the case of hard-to-root olive cultivars (2, 3). Adventitious rooting consists of three successive, but interdependent, physiological phases (induction, initiation and expression) with different requirements (6). The induction phase comprises molecular and biochemical events with no visible change. The initiation phase is characterized by cell division and root primordia organization.

The expression phase consists of the intra-stem growth of root primordia and the emergence of roots (7, 8). The ability to form adventitious roots is affected by genotype, stock plants, types of cuttings, collection date, and endogenous factors related to cutting (9, 10). Someone showed that in many species, endogenous specific rooting factors determine the rooting potential of the cultivars. These factors were found to be synthesized in the leaves and buds and translocate to the base of the cutting (11). Nevertheless, other reports have provided evidence that the difficulty in rooting olive cuttings could not be correlated with the anatomical structure of the cutting, and the genetic, biochemical or physiological causes, rather than anatomical ones, could be related to the in capacity of several olive cultivars to form adventitious roots (8). There is a close relationship between the occurrence of adventitious roots in plants and their peroxidase (POD, EC 1.11.1.7), polyphenol oxidase (PPO, EC 1.10.3.1) activities as well as their protein content (12). Peroxidases are hem-containing enzymes that catalyze the oxidation of a diverse group of organic compounds. It has been suggested that peroxidase play significant roles in plant growth, differentiation and development, in hormone catabolism and in lignin

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polymerization (13). Peroxidases are known to be good physiological markers of rooting in many species and there is substantial evidence that peroxidase activities in plant cuttings are related in some way to rooting (4, 14). Polyphenol oxidase is a copper contacting enzyme localized in the thylakoids of plastids, which catalysis the oxidation of phenolic in to quinones. It is also involved in the defense mechanism of plants against environmental stresses. Furthermore, PPO plays a key role in rhizogenesis where it is involved in regulating the synthesis of phenolic precursors needed for lignin biosynthesis during root differentiation (13, 15). The objective of this study was to examine peroxidase, polyphenol oxidase and protein content changes during the induction, initiation phases and root development in an easy and difficult-to root olive cultivars.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cuttings were collected from 15-year-old mother plants of two olive cultivars, the selected cultivars were 'Roghani', an easy-to-root and 'Konservalia' which is a difficult-to root one. Sub apical cuttings 7-10 cm long were cut, with four leaves. The base of each cutting was treated for 5 s with 4000 mg l<sup>-1</sup> IBA dissolved in a 45% aqueous solution of ethanol while cuttings dipped for 5s in 45% aqueous solution of ethanol served as control. The cuttings were finally put under an automatic mist unit. The cuttings were misted for 20s every 6 min. The average air and rooting medium temperature were 29 °C and 24 °C respectively. At the end of the rooting period rooting percentage, number of roots and roots length were recorded. Samples of cuttings were taken just before planting (day 0) and at 60, 120 days after planting. Sampled were frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen, lyophilized, ground and stored in deep freezer (-80 °C) until analysis. Each sample (0.5 g) from each replication at each of the three Stages of sampling in both cultivars were blended in a homogeniser containing liquid nitrogen for 1 min, then crushed in liquid nitrogen in a mortar and homogenised in 2 ml of extraction buffer [0.607 g Tris-base, 0.05 g polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), in 50 ml of distilled water, pH 8]. The homogenate was centrifuged at 13,000 × g for 15 min at 4°C and the supernatant was collected and used to assay for total soluble protein concentration and the separate enzyme activities (16). Total soluble protein (TSP) concentrations were determined according to Bradford (17). Twenty µl of each

extract was diluted with 80 µl of extraction buffer, as above. Five ml of fresh Coomassie Brilliant Blue-G 250 reagent was then added and the mixture was stirred for 2 min. The absorbance was measured at 595 nm, after 5 min. Bovine serum albumin was used as the standard and TSP concentrations were expressed in mg g<sup>-1</sup> fresh weight (FW). Peroxidase (POD) activity was assayed by the method of Chance and Maehly (18), using guaiacol. Guaiacol oxidation (tetraguaiacol formation) was monitored by reading the absorbance at 470 nm at the moment of adding the enzyme extract and 1 min later. The difference in absorbance ( $\Delta A_{470}$ ) was divided by the molar extinction coefficient (25.5 mmol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>) of tetraguaiacol and the specific activity of POD was expressed in mmol of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> min<sup>-1</sup> mg<sup>-1</sup> TSP. Polyphenol oxidase activity was estimated by following the oxidation of pyrogallol at 430 nm and expressed as  $\Delta A_{430}$  min mg protein as previously described by Raymond *et al.* (19). The treatments were arranged in a completely randomized design with four replications of 30 cuttings each. All data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA). Means were compared by the least significant difference (LSD) test at  $P \leq 0.05$  using SAS 9.0 software (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

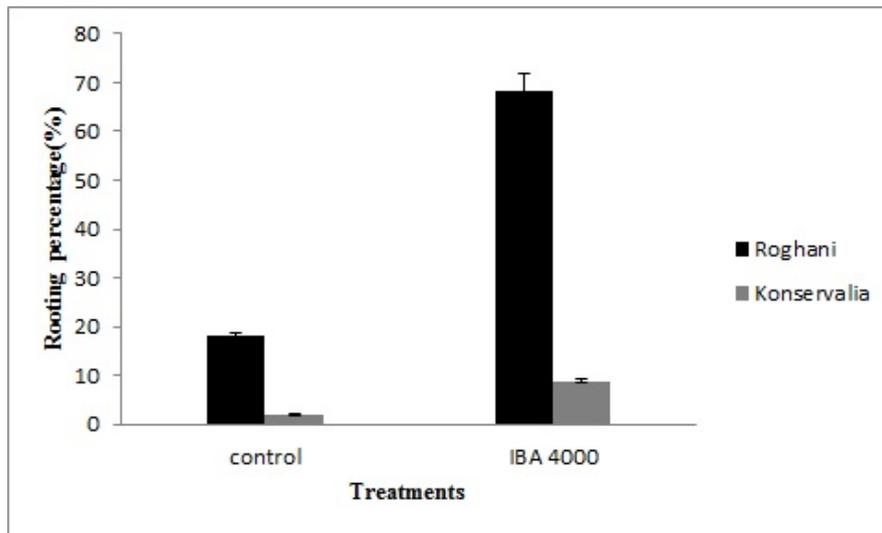
Olive rooting is apparently related to the genotype: in fact, the two genotypes used in this study have shown different rooting abilities. 'Roghani' exhibited the highest rooting percentage, while 'Konservalia' exhibited the lowest rooting percentage. Exogenous application IBA 4000 mg l<sup>-1</sup> significantly increased cuttings percentage in the easy-to-root cv 'Roghani'. However, in the difficult-to-root cv 'Konservalia', IBA treatment was ineffective (**Figure 1**). The ability to form adventitious roots has been associated with the physiologic and ontogenetic age of plant material, genotype and the characteristics of the cuttings, such as growth conditions of the stock plant (9). Our results show that the application 4000 mg l<sup>-1</sup> IBA improved the rooting percentage in two olive cultivars in comparison with control. Cultivars also differed in the number of roots produced per cuttings; number of roots was significantly higher in cv. 'Roghani' cuttings treated with IBA at 4000 mg l<sup>-1</sup> in

comparison with control (**Figure 2**). IBA at 4000 mg l<sup>-1</sup> applied significantly increased roots length in cv. 'Roghani' in comparison with 'Konservalia' (**Figure 3**). The maximum number of roots in IBA treated may be due to its effect on cell wall turgidity, which accelerates cell division (4). The effectiveness of auxin to raise rooting percentage of the cuttings could be through increasing cambial activity and differentiation of root primordial or by stimulating redistribution and mobilization of some auxin cofactors towards base of the cuttings (20). Peroxidase activity decreased during 60 days after culture (**Figure 4**). It may be therefore be assumed that the low peroxidase activity at 60 days after culture correlated with the induction phase of adventitious root formation as proposed by Gaspar *et al.* (15). According to Rajeswari and Paliwak (21) the overproduction of active oxygen species (AOS) in the cell is a sign of oxidative stress and is a common phenomenon in plants, which are exposed to stressful environmental conditions. Peroxidase activity was higher in 'Konservalia' than 'Roghani' cuttings. These results are in agreement with Rajeswari and Paliwak (21) and Gaspar (15); they observed that a sharp drop in POD activity corresponds to the root induction phase, which is characterized by numerous biochemical changes and cytological and histological events. This decreasing peroxidase activity is due to the inhibition of the de-nova synthesis of the peroxidase iso enzymes during adventitious root formation (22). A peak of specific peroxidase activity (increase in enzyme activity followed by decrease) has generally been found in crude extracts of stem- or shoot cuttings prior to root formation (15, 23). POD activity has been linked to the oxidation of a wide variety of substrates including auxin (IAA). For adventitious rooting, elevated IAA concentration is required during the induction phase but during the root emergence phase, the phytohormone becomes inhibitory (13). Based on our results we can conclude that POD enzyme activities during root initiation are in close correlation with the different rooting ability of the different plant species. A clear relationship between POD activity and root initiation has been reported (24, 25). A reverse trend was observed in PPO activity. PPO activity doubled up to 60

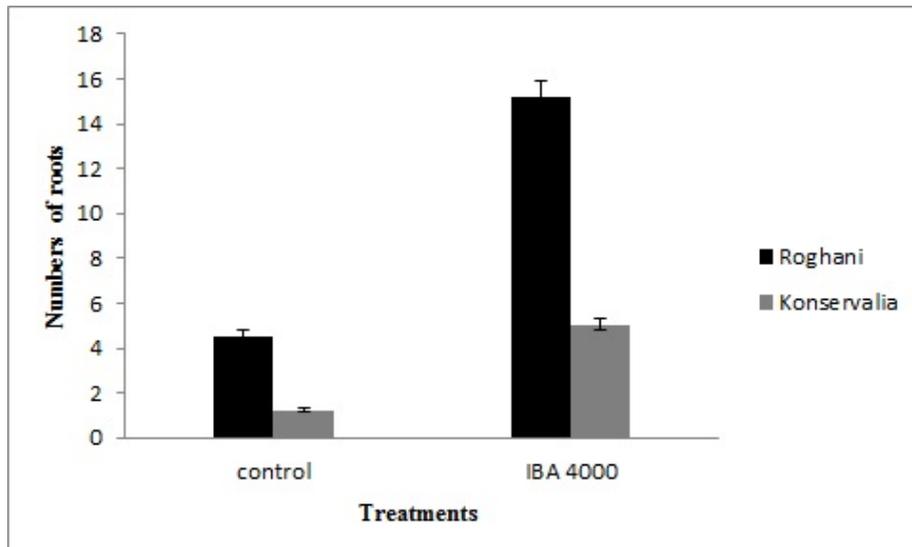
days after culture (**Figure 5**). An increase in PPO activity was observed which differed significantly from the level recorded at first time in 2 cultivars. Rout (26) reported that PPO activity increased in *Camellia sinensis* L. cuttings during the induction and initiation phases and then decreased during the expression phase. This inverse relationship between POD and PPO activities during the initial phases of adventitious rooting was also observed by Cheniany *et al.* (13). Yilamz *et al.* (27) reported that there was a relationship between PPO activity and root formation in grape cuttings with different rooting abilities. The PPO activity showed similar patterns of change in both cultivars, but in 'konservalia' the activity changes were significantly less during 3 period of the sampling. Bhattacharya (28) proved that PPO can catalyse the metabolism of auxin, promoting the generation and development of adventitious roots. Moreover, PPO can also catalyse phenolic compounds and IAA to form "IAA-phenol complexes", which could be a type of rooting cofactor that can promote the occurrence and development of adventitious roots. Molnar and Iacroix (29) found that when *Hydrangea macrophylla* formed adventitious roots from stem tissue, PPO activity increased dramatically when the root tip emerged. Haboguchi (30) observed the same results in carrot callus culture, when root tips emerged from callus PPO activity increased sharply. PPO activity increased significantly while a significant decrease was observed in POD activity this behavior coincided with the intense mitotic activity observed at that time, during the development of newly formed root meristems (27, 31). Both enzyme activities then showed the same declining trend until the end of the period of observation (120 days) corresponding to the phase of root expression. Vaughn and Duke (32) who determined that PPO plays a role in polyphenol synthesis and inhibits lignin biosynthesis, consequently affecting cell division, cell differentiation and root emergence. A perusal of the data of changes in total protein content (**Figure 6**) in olive cuttings with progress of root development shows that there was a slow rise of total protein contents during early phase of rooting. This trend did tally with RNA content suggesting that high protein synthesis is preceded by RNA synthesis

during root development and emergence (33). A sharp rise in protein during 60 days seems to indicate that the enzymes, which are likely to participate in rooting

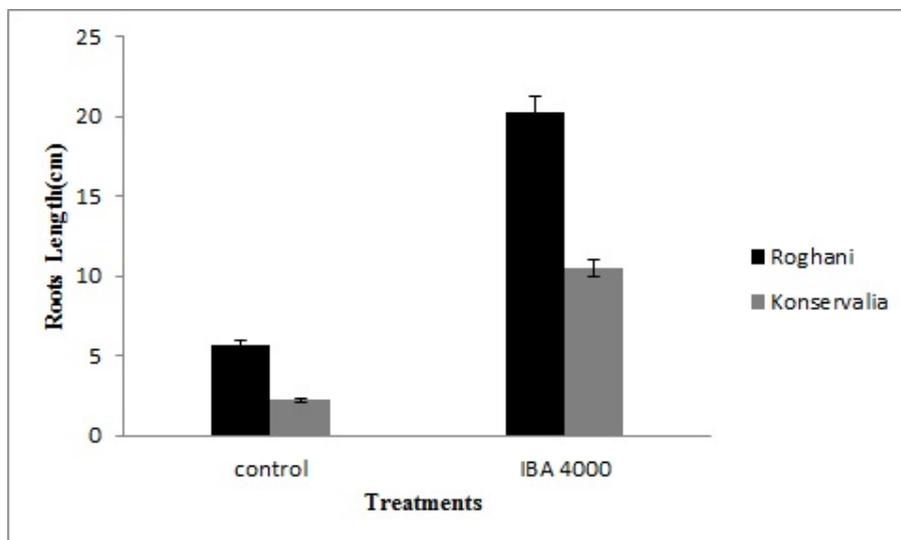
process, are mostly synthesis during this period which are similar to the observation of Upadhyaya *et al.* (34).



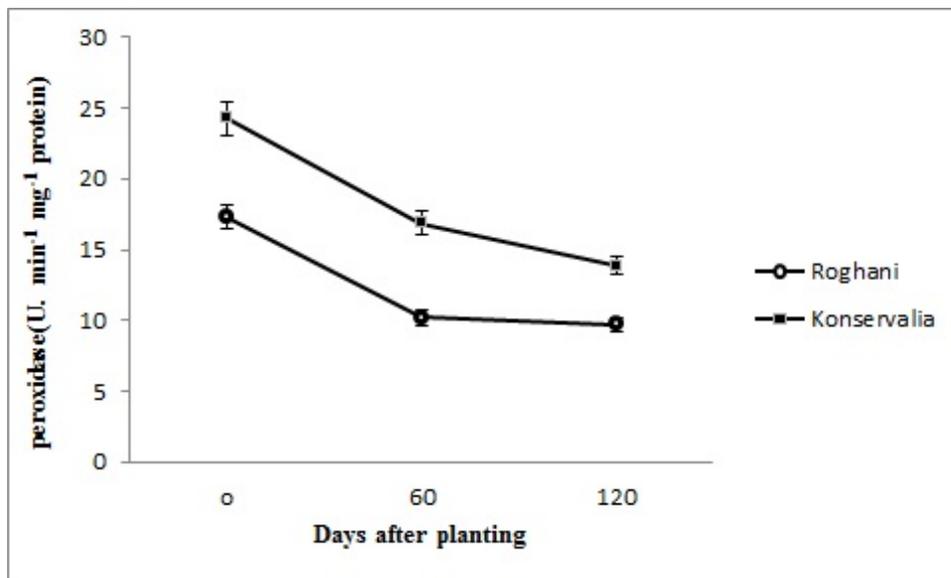
**Figure 1.** The effect of IBA on rooting percentage of 'Roghani 'and 'Konservalia' olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.



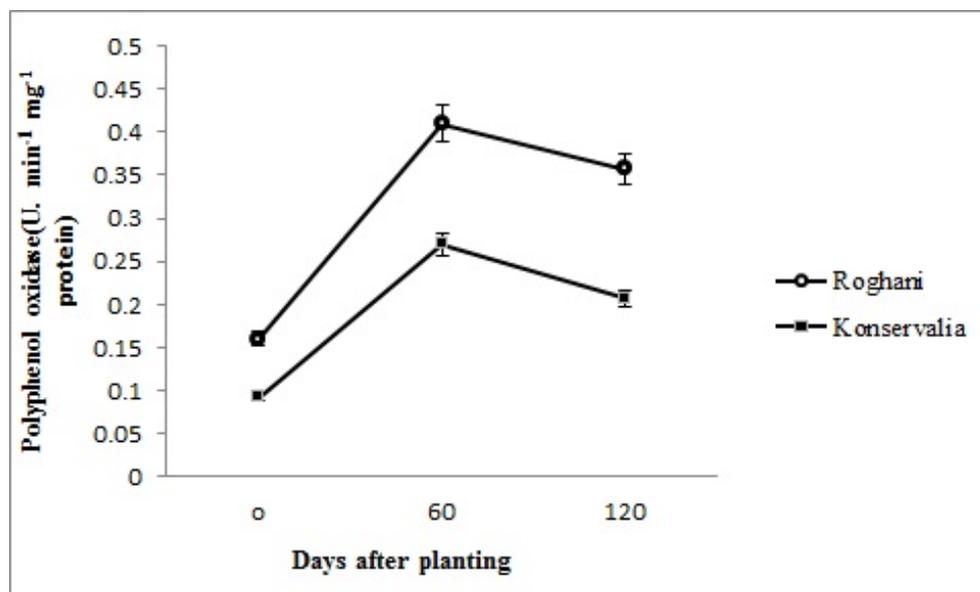
**Figure 2.** The effect of IBA on number of roots of 'Roghani 'and 'Konservalia' olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.



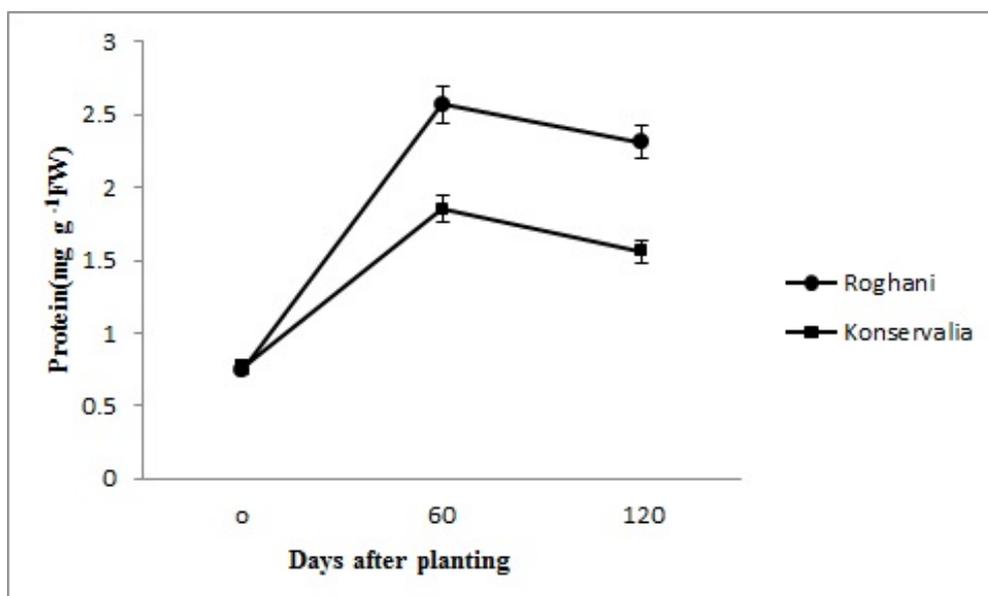
**Figure 3.** The effect of IBA on roots length of 'Roghani 'and 'Konservalia' olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.



**Figure 4.** Changes in peroxidase activity during the rooting culture (0-120 days) of 2 olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.



**Figure 5.** Changes in polyphenol oxidase activity during the rooting culture (0-120 days) of 2 olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.



**Figure 6.** Changes in protein content during the rooting culture (0-120 days) of 2 olive cultivars. Vertical bars are standard deviations (SD) of means.

**CONCLUSION**

Enzyme activities which were related to the rooting changed after cuttings culture in two olive cultivars. These changed differed over the rooting period and there were significant difference between easy-to-root cv 'Roghani' and difficult-to-root cv 'Konservalia' cultivars. These changed in the activity of the POD, PPO and protein can thus be used as a marker and predictor of rooting ability in olive tree.

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