

## Salt Tolerance of Muskmelons Grown in Different Media

Akira NUKAYA, Masao MASUI and Akira ISHIDA

*College of Agriculture, Shizuoka University, Ohya, Shizuoka 422*

### Summary

Muskmelons were grown under the same environmental conditions to determine levels of salt tolerance in different media. Plant height at harvest decreased with increasing sea water concentrations in sand and soil cultures. The relative plant dry weight and fruit fresh weight were greatest in nutrient solution culture, followed by soil culture and least in sand culture. The relative fruit fresh weights at 1,000 ppm Cl as compared to 0 ppm Cl in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures were 66.2, 70.5 and 91.1%, respectively. Osmotic potential of leaves and roots decreased, and Cl content in each plant part, and Na and Mg in leaves increased with increasing sea water concentrations in each medium. The relative Cl and Na content in leaves was highest in sand culture and lowest in nutrient solution culture. Cl and exchangeable Na in soil and sand, and EC of soil increased with increasing sea water concentrations. Anion and cation content, and EC of media were greater in soil culture than in sand culture.

### Introduction

Because the salinity of well water originated from sea water (11), salt tolerance of muskmelons (*Cucumis melo* L. cv. Earl's Favourite) was determined in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures by applying diluted sea water (14, 15). These experiments showed that the marginal diluted sea water concentration which decreased the fruit weight was 250 ppm Cl in sand and soil cultures, and 2,000 ppm Cl in nutrient solution culture. Also, the salt injury symptoms began to appear at 250 ppm Cl in sand culture and 1,000 ppm Cl in soil and nutrient solution cultures. Thus, muskmelons seemed to be most tolerant to diluted sea water in nutrient solution culture, less tolerant in soil culture, and least tolerant in sand culture. Differences in salt tolerance may be induced by environmental factors, such as light intensity, day length, temperature of room and medium, humidity, total soil moisture stress, and salt accumulation in media (1, 8, 9, 19) and the plant characteristics, such as top-root ratios, root system,

and the stage of growth at which salinization occurred (3, 4, 10). The previous experiments were carried out at different times using diluted sea water with tap water in soil culture and with base nutrient solution in sand and nutrient solution cultures. Therefore, in this experiment muskmelons were grown under the same environmental conditions at the same time to determine differences in salt tolerance and major elements in plants grown in different media.

### Materials and Methods

Treatments were applied in a factorial arrangement involving 4 levels of diluted sea water, and 3 kinds of culture media. Thus there were 12 treatments, each having 5 replications, with a total of 60 single plant plots. Sea water taken at Miho sea-side was diluted with base nutrient solution to make 4 treatment levels (0, 250, 500 and 1,000 ppm Cl) as shown in Table 1. The media were Takamatsu light clay paddy soil, taken at Shizuoka, Tenryu River sand and nutrient solution in soil, sand and nutrient solution cultures. Fourteen liters of the soil mixed with 7 liters of decomposed rice straw, or 14 liters of the sand were put into a

Table 1. Cation concentrations and EC in relation to sea water diluted with base nutrient solution.\*\*

Sea water concentrations*			Cations (ppm)				EC (mΩ/cm)
Cl (ppm)	Osmotic potential (bars)	%	K	Na	Ca	Mg	
0	-0.69	0	235	44	232	46	2.43
250	-1.02	1.25	241	170	237	61	3.03
500	-1.35	2.50	246	296	242	78	3.87
1,000	-2.02	5.00	257	548	252	109	4.96

\* : Sea water contains 20,500ppm Cl, 445ppm K, 10,082ppm Na, 393ppm Ca and 1,262ppm Mg.

\*\* : Composition of base nutrient solution ; Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>·12H<sub>2</sub>O=0.5mM, K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>=3mM, Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O=4mM, MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O=2mM, and minor elements (Mn, Fe, Zn, Cu, B and Mo). pH=6.0

wooden box (40×40×20 cm). Four-leaved seedlings, cv. Spring No.3 of Earl's Favourite grafted on Barnett Hill Favourite rootstocks, were transplanted into boxes in sand and soil cultures on April 19, 1976. The treatment solution was applied to the media 1 or 3 times a day whether it was cloudy or sunny, from April 16 to harvesting (early July). No solution was applied on rainy days. In nutrient solution culture, each

treatment solution was put into 13 liter pots, and identical seedlings with sand and soil cultures were transferred to the pots on April 19, 1976. The solution was replaced every 2 weeks for the first 6 weeks and every week after that and aerated continuously. To maintain a constant solution volume tap water was added to pots to compensate for transpiration losses. The experiment was carried out under uniform

Table 2. Effect of sea water concentrations on growth of muskmelons grown in different media.

Treatments			Plant ht. (cm)*		Fresh wt. (g)			Dry wt. of whole plant (g)
Nc	Media	Sea water concns (ppm Cl)	May 15	At harvest	Leaves	Stem	Roots	
1	Soil	0	110 <sup>b</sup>	117 <sup>a,b,c</sup>	324 <sup>c</sup>	240 <sup>d</sup>	22 <sup>c</sup>	188 <sup>d</sup> (100.0)**
2		250	110 <sup>b</sup>	118 <sup>a,b</sup>	305 <sup>c</sup>	250 <sup>d</sup>	22 <sup>c</sup>	182 <sup>d</sup> ( 96.8)
3		500	108 <sup>b,c</sup>	114 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	345 <sup>c</sup>	258 <sup>d</sup>	23 <sup>c</sup>	183 <sup>d</sup> ( 97.3)
4		1,000	100 <sup>d</sup>	109 <sup>d</sup>	327 <sup>c</sup>	242 <sup>d</sup>	22 <sup>c</sup>	157 <sup>e</sup> ( 83.5)
5	Sand	0	118 <sup>a</sup>	121 <sup>a</sup>	523 <sup>a,b</sup>	311 <sup>a,b</sup>	50 <sup>c</sup>	284 <sup>a</sup> (100.0)
6		250	107 <sup>b,c</sup>	108 <sup>d</sup>	492 <sup>b</sup>	305 <sup>b</sup>	36 <sup>c</sup>	241 <sup>c</sup> ( 84.9)
7		500	103 <sup>d</sup>	108 <sup>d</sup>	496 <sup>b</sup>	305 <sup>b</sup>	34 <sup>c</sup>	230 <sup>c</sup> ( 81.0)
8		1,000	84 <sup>e</sup>	90 <sup>e</sup>	367 <sup>c</sup>	250 <sup>d</sup>	22 <sup>c</sup>	159 <sup>e</sup> ( 56.0)
9	Solution	0	107 <sup>b,c</sup>	110 <sup>c,d</sup>	522 <sup>a,b</sup>	280 <sup>c</sup>	200 <sup>a</sup>	268 <sup>a,b</sup> (100.0)
10		250	111 <sup>b</sup>	119 <sup>a,b</sup>	568 <sup>a</sup>	330 <sup>a</sup>	207 <sup>a</sup>	270 <sup>a,b</sup> (100.8)
11		500	109 <sup>b</sup>	113 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	537 <sup>a,b</sup>	333 <sup>a</sup>	169 <sup>b</sup>	250 <sup>b,c</sup> ( 93.3)
12		1,000	102 <sup>d</sup>	107 <sup>d</sup>	538 <sup>a,b</sup>	331 <sup>a</sup>	151 <sup>b</sup>	244 <sup>c</sup> ( 91.0)
Mean Cl concns		0	112 <sup>A</sup>	116 <sup>A</sup>	457 <sup>A</sup>	277 <sup>B</sup>	91 <sup>A</sup>	247 <sup>A</sup>
		250	110 <sup>A</sup>	115 <sup>AB</sup>	455 <sup>A</sup>	295 <sup>A</sup>	88 <sup>A</sup>	231 <sup>B</sup>
		500	108 <sup>B</sup>	112 <sup>B</sup>	459 <sup>A</sup>	299 <sup>A</sup>	75 <sup>AB</sup>	221 <sup>B</sup>
		1,000	95 <sup>C</sup>	102 <sup>C</sup>	410 <sup>B</sup>	274 <sup>B</sup>	65 <sup>B</sup>	187 <sup>C</sup>
Mean media	Soil		107 <sup>X</sup>	115 <sup>X</sup>	325 <sup>Z</sup>	247 <sup>Z</sup>	22 <sup>Y</sup>	178 <sup>Z</sup>
	Sand		103 <sup>Y</sup>	107 <sup>Y</sup>	469 <sup>Y</sup>	293 <sup>Y</sup>	35 <sup>Y</sup>	228 <sup>Y</sup>
	Solution		107 <sup>X</sup>	112 <sup>X</sup>	541 <sup>X</sup>	319 <sup>X</sup>	182 <sup>X</sup>	258 <sup>X</sup>

\* : Mean separation followed by the same letter within columns by Duncan's multiple range test, 5% level.

\*\* : Figures in parentheses show percentage of 0ppm Cl in each medium.

Table 3. Effect of sea water concentrations on fruit weight and quality of muskmelons grown in different media (% of dry matter).

Treatments			Fresh wt.* (g)	Soluble solids (%)	External*** appearance	Salty taste****
No.	Media	Sea water concns (ppm Cl)				
1	Soil	0	1,348 <sup>cde</sup> (100.0)**	14.7 <sup>bcd</sup>	7.1 <sup>cde</sup>	0
2		250	1,284 <sup>e</sup> (95.3)	14.9 <sup>abc</sup>	7.2 <sup>cde</sup>	0
3		500	1,242 <sup>ef</sup> (92.1)	15.7 <sup>ab</sup>	7.2 <sup>cde</sup>	0~0.5
4		1,000	950 <sup>g</sup> (70.5)	15.9 <sup>a</sup>	5.6 <sup>f</sup>	1~2
5	Sand	0	1,673 <sup>a</sup> (100.0)	14.6 <sup>cd</sup>	9.3 <sup>a</sup>	0
6		250	1,494 <sup>bc</sup> (89.5)	14.5 <sup>cd</sup>	9.5 <sup>a</sup>	0
7		500	1,332 <sup>de</sup> (79.6)	14.3 <sup>cd</sup>	9.0 <sup>ab</sup>	0~0.5
8		1,000	1,108 <sup>f</sup> (66.2)	12.8 <sup>e</sup>	6.5 <sup>e</sup>	0~0.5
9	Solution	0	1,593 <sup>ab</sup> (100.0)	13.5 <sup>de</sup>	8.3 <sup>abc</sup>	0
10		250	1,551 <sup>ab</sup> (97.4)	13.9 <sup>cde</sup>	7.6 <sup>cde</sup>	0
11		500	1,500 <sup>bc</sup> (94.2)	13.6 <sup>de</sup>	7.0 <sup>de</sup>	0
12		1,000	1,451 <sup>bcd</sup> (91.1)	13.8 <sup>cde</sup>	7.9 <sup>bcd</sup>	0.5
Mean Cl concns		0	1,538 <sup>A</sup>	14.3 <sup>A</sup>	8.2 <sup>A</sup>	
		250	1,443 <sup>B</sup>	14.5 <sup>A</sup>	8.1 <sup>A</sup>	
		500	1,358 <sup>C</sup>	14.5 <sup>A</sup>	7.7 <sup>A</sup>	
		1,000	1,170 <sup>D</sup>	14.2 <sup>A</sup>	6.7 <sup>B</sup>	
Mean media		Soil	1,206 <sup>Z</sup>	15.3 <sup>X</sup>	6.8 <sup>Z</sup>	
		Sand	1,402 <sup>Y</sup>	14.1 <sup>Y</sup>	8.6 <sup>X</sup>	
		Solution	1,524 <sup>X</sup>	13.7 <sup>Y</sup>	7.7 <sup>Y</sup>	

\*,\*\* : The same as Table 2.

\*\*\* : Full score=10.

\*\*\*\* : 0=none, 0.5=minimal salty, 1=slightly salty and 2=salty.

conditions in the greenhouse until harvesting. At the end of the experiment measurements were made of plant growth, osmotic potential of leaves and roots, and chemical properties of sand and soil. The treatment solution was sampled and analyzed when changed. The analytical methods were the same as described previously (12).

### Results

*Growth and fruit quality (Table 2 and 3)*  
The early growth as expressed by plant height on May 15 was restricted at 1,000 ppm Cl in each medium, especially in sand culture. Plant height at harvest decreased with increasing sea water concentrations in sand and soil cultures. Fresh weight of leaves, stem and roots was markedly decreased at 1,000 ppm Cl as compared to 0 ppm Cl in sand culture, and tended to be greater at 250 ppm Cl in nutrient solution culture. There was no significant difference in fresh weight of plant parts in soil culture.

Whole plant dry weight was relatively small at 1,000 ppm Cl in soil culture, and decreased with increasing sea water concentrations in sand and nutrient solution cultures. The whole plant dry weight as expressed by percentage of 0 ppm Cl was greatest in nutrient solution culture, followed by soil culture and then sand culture. The salt injury symptom, a wilting of leaf margin, was slight at 1,000 ppm Cl in sand and soil cultures. Fruit fresh weight decreased with increasing sea water concentrations in each medium. The decrement was greatest in sand culture. Fruit fresh weight at 1,000 ppm Cl as compared to 0 ppm Cl, in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures, was 66.2, 70.5 and 91.1%, respectively. There was no distinct difference in soluble solids of fruit in the same medium. Scores of external appearance were higher in sand culture than in the others. They decreased at 1,000 ppm Cl in sand and soil cultures. Fruit taste was slightly salty at 500 ppm Cl in sand and

soil cultures, and at 1,000 ppm Cl in nutrient solution culture. In soil culture the taste at 1,000 ppm Cl was saltier than at 500 ppm Cl.

*Osmotic potential of leaves and roots and Cl content in plant parts (Table 4)* Osmotic potential of leaves and roots decreased with increasing sea water concentrations in sand and soil cultures, and was not significantly different in nutrient solution culture. The osmotic potential in nutrient solution culture was higher than in sand and soil cultures. Cl content in each plant part tended to increase with increasing sea water concentrations in each medium. Cl content in leaves at 1,000 ppm Cl as compared to 0 ppm Cl in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures was 6.7, 4.8 and 3.1 times, respectively. Salty taste of fruit seemed to be correlated to the Cl content in fruit.

*Major elements in leaves (Table 5)* Na and Mg content in leaves increased with increasing sea water concentrations in each medium. The increment of Na was greater in sand culture than in other cultures. At

1,000 ppm Cl as compared to 0 ppm Cl in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures, there was 2.9, 1.6 and 1.5 times as much Na, respectively. K content in soil and sand cultures, and Ca content in soil and nutrient solution cultures decreased as sea water concentrations increased. There were no significant differences in total-N and P content among the same medium.

*Chemical properties of soil and sand at the end of the experiment (Table 6)* Cl and exchangeable Na content in soil and sand cultures, exchangeable Mg, NO<sub>3</sub>-N, and EC value in soil culture increased with increasing sea water concentrations. However, EC value, NO<sub>3</sub>-N and exchangeable Mg were not significantly different in sand culture. Cations and anions, and EC value were greater in soil culture than in sand culture.

**Discussion**

The actual values of leaf, stem, root and fruit fresh weight, and whole plant dry weight were greatest in nutrient solution culture, followed by sand culture and then

Table 4. Effect of sea water concentrations on osmotic potential of leaves and roots, and Cl content in leaves, roots and fruit of muskmelons grown in different media.

Treatments			Osmotic potential* (bars)		Cl (% of dry matter)		
No.	Media	Sea water concns (ppm Cl)	Leaves	Roots	Leaves	Roots	Fruit
1	Soil	0	- 9.7 <sup>de</sup>	- 6.3 <sup>c</sup>	0.48 <sup>fg</sup>	1.85 <sup>d</sup>	0.23 <sup>cd</sup>
2		250	-11.5 <sup>c</sup>	- 7.1 <sup>b</sup>	1.20 <sup>c</sup>	3.07 <sup>b</sup>	0.26 <sup>cd</sup>
3		500	-11.9 <sup>abc</sup>	- 7.8 <sup>ab</sup>	1.69 <sup>b</sup>	3.90 <sup>a</sup>	0.32 <sup>bcd</sup>
4		1,000	-12.8 <sup>a</sup>	- 8.2 <sup>a</sup>	2.28 <sup>a</sup>	3.96 <sup>a</sup>	0.62 <sup>a</sup>
5	Sand	0	-10.1 <sup>d</sup>	- 5.4 <sup>d</sup>	0.35 <sup>fg</sup>	0.77 <sup>f</sup>	0.25 <sup>cd</sup>
6		250	-11.3 <sup>c</sup>	- 7.1 <sup>b</sup>	1.11 <sup>cd</sup>	2.26 <sup>c</sup>	0.46 <sup>abc</sup>
7		500	-11.6 <sup>bc</sup>	- 7.8 <sup>ab</sup>	1.71 <sup>b</sup>	3.27 <sup>b</sup>	0.42 <sup>abcd</sup>
8		1,000	-12.5 <sup>ab</sup>	- 8.6 <sup>a</sup>	2.34 <sup>a</sup>	3.74 <sup>a</sup>	0.44 <sup>abcd</sup>
9	Solution	0	- 8.8 <sup>e</sup>	- 3.3 <sup>e</sup>	0.27 <sup>g</sup>	0.30 <sup>g</sup>	0.21 <sup>d</sup>
10		250	- 9.1 <sup>e</sup>	- 3.1 <sup>e</sup>	0.53 <sup>f</sup>	0.93 <sup>ef</sup>	0.27 <sup>cd</sup>
11		500	- 9.0 <sup>e</sup>	- 3.2 <sup>e</sup>	0.90 <sup>de</sup>	1.11 <sup>ef</sup>	0.41 <sup>abcd</sup>
12		1,000	- 8.8 <sup>e</sup>	- 3.8 <sup>e</sup>	0.83 <sup>e</sup>	1.17 <sup>e</sup>	0.52 <sup>ab</sup>
Mean Cl concns		0	- 9.5 <sup>C</sup>	- 5.0 <sup>D</sup>	0.37 <sup>D</sup>	0.97 <sup>D</sup>	0.23 <sup>C</sup>
		250	-10.6 <sup>B</sup>	- 5.8 <sup>C</sup>	0.95 <sup>C</sup>	2.09 <sup>C</sup>	0.33 <sup>BC</sup>
		500	-10.9 <sup>B</sup>	- 6.3 <sup>B</sup>	1.43 <sup>B</sup>	2.76 <sup>B</sup>	0.38 <sup>B</sup>
		1,000	-11.4 <sup>A</sup>	- 6.9 <sup>A</sup>	1.82 <sup>A</sup>	2.96 <sup>A</sup>	0.53 <sup>A</sup>
Mean media		Soil	-11.5 <sup>X</sup>	- 7.3 <sup>X</sup>	1.41 <sup>X</sup>	3.20 <sup>X</sup>	0.36 <sup>X</sup>
		Sand	-11.4 <sup>X</sup>	- 7.2 <sup>X</sup>	1.38 <sup>X</sup>	2.51 <sup>Y</sup>	0.39 <sup>X</sup>
		Solution	- 8.9 <sup>Y</sup>	- 3.4 <sup>Y</sup>	0.63 <sup>Y</sup>	0.88 <sup>Z</sup>	0.35 <sup>X</sup>

\* : The same as Table 2.

Table 5. Effect of sea water concentrations on certain elements in leaves of muskmelons grown in different media (% of dry matter).

Treatments			Total-N*	P	K	Na	Ca	Mg
No.	Media	Sea water concns(ppm Cl)						
1	Soil	0	2.59 <sup>c</sup>	0.38 <sup>de</sup>	0.54 <sup>a</sup>	0.19 <sup>f</sup>	7.27 <sup>abc</sup>	1.72 <sup>de</sup>
2		250	2.61 <sup>c</sup>	0.35 <sup>e</sup>	0.48 <sup>a</sup>	0.27 <sup>cde</sup>	7.13 <sup>abc</sup>	1.75 <sup>de</sup>
3		500	2.89 <sup>abc</sup>	0.35 <sup>e</sup>	0.22 <sup>cd</sup>	0.26 <sup>cde</sup>	7.07 <sup>abc</sup>	1.84 <sup>cd</sup>
4		1,000	2.79 <sup>bc</sup>	0.36 <sup>e</sup>	0.08 <sup>d</sup>	0.30 <sup>c</sup>	6.82 <sup>cd</sup>	1.96 <sup>bc</sup>
5	Sand	0	2.73 <sup>bc</sup>	0.49 <sup>cd</sup>	0.44 <sup>ab</sup>	0.16 <sup>f</sup>	7.29 <sup>abc</sup>	1.85 <sup>cd</sup>
6		250	2.79 <sup>bc</sup>	0.53 <sup>c</sup>	0.50 <sup>a</sup>	0.22 <sup>de</sup>	7.66 <sup>a</sup>	1.87 <sup>cd</sup>
7		500	2.86 <sup>abc</sup>	0.50 <sup>cd</sup>	0.48 <sup>a</sup>	0.39 <sup>b</sup>	7.50 <sup>abc</sup>	2.02 <sup>b</sup>
8		1,000	2.72 <sup>bc</sup>	0.43 <sup>cde</sup>	0.27 <sup>bcd</sup>	0.46 <sup>a</sup>	7.41 <sup>abc</sup>	2.26 <sup>a</sup>
9	Solution	0	3.25 <sup>ab</sup>	1.15 <sup>b</sup>	0.58 <sup>a</sup>	0.20 <sup>ef</sup>	7.52 <sup>ab</sup>	1.67 <sup>e</sup>
10		250	3.32 <sup>a</sup>	1.27 <sup>a</sup>	0.22 <sup>cd</sup>	0.27 <sup>cde</sup>	6.95 <sup>bcd</sup>	1.84 <sup>cd</sup>
11		500	3.18 <sup>ab</sup>	1.20 <sup>ab</sup>	0.22 <sup>cd</sup>	0.28 <sup>cd</sup>	7.09 <sup>abc</sup>	1.96 <sup>bc</sup>
12		1,000	3.06 <sup>abc</sup>	1.27 <sup>a</sup>	0.32 <sup>abc</sup>	0.30 <sup>c</sup>	6.41 <sup>d</sup>	2.22 <sup>a</sup>
Mean Cl concns		0	2.85 <sup>A</sup>	0.67 <sup>A</sup>	0.52 <sup>A</sup>	0.18 <sup>C</sup>	7.36 <sup>A</sup>	1.75 <sup>C</sup>
		250	2.91 <sup>A</sup>	0.72 <sup>A</sup>	0.40 <sup>B</sup>	0.25 <sup>B</sup>	7.25 <sup>A</sup>	1.82 <sup>C</sup>
		500	2.98 <sup>A</sup>	0.68 <sup>A</sup>	0.31 <sup>BC</sup>	0.31 <sup>A</sup>	7.22 <sup>A</sup>	1.94 <sup>B</sup>
		1,000	2.86 <sup>A</sup>	0.69 <sup>A</sup>	0.23 <sup>C</sup>	0.36 <sup>A</sup>	6.87 <sup>B</sup>	2.15 <sup>A</sup>
Mean media		Soil	2.72 <sup>Y</sup>	0.36 <sup>Z</sup>	0.33 <sup>Y</sup>	0.26 <sup>Y</sup>	7.07 <sup>Y</sup>	1.82 <sup>Z</sup>
		Sand	2.77 <sup>Y</sup>	0.49 <sup>Y</sup>	0.42 <sup>X</sup>	0.31 <sup>X</sup>	7.46 <sup>X</sup>	2.00 <sup>X</sup>
		Solution	3.20 <sup>X</sup>	1.22 <sup>X</sup>	0.34 <sup>Y</sup>	0.26 <sup>Y</sup>	6.99 <sup>Y</sup>	1.92 <sup>Y</sup>

\* : The same as Table 2.

Table 6. Chemical properties of soil and sand at the end of the experiment.

Treatments			Exchangeable cations(me/100g)*				NO <sub>3</sub> -N (ppm)	P(Truog) (ppm)	Cl (ppm)	EC(1:5) (mΩ/cm)	pH (H <sub>2</sub> O)
No.	Media	Sea water concns (ppm Cl)	K	Na	Ca	Mg					
1	Soil	0	2.58 <sup>a</sup>	1.27 <sup>d</sup>	10.27 <sup>a</sup>	3.93 <sup>c</sup>	50 <sup>b</sup>	44 <sup>a</sup>	91 <sup>ef</sup>	1.01 <sup>c</sup>	4.42 <sup>a</sup>
2		250	2.69 <sup>a</sup>	2.89 <sup>c</sup>	10.71 <sup>a</sup>	4.23 <sup>b</sup>	62 <sup>a</sup>	43 <sup>a</sup>	777 <sup>c</sup>	1.76 <sup>b</sup>	4.52 <sup>a</sup>
3		500	2.60 <sup>a</sup>	4.86 <sup>b</sup>	10.04 <sup>a</sup>	4.35 <sup>b</sup>	60 <sup>ab</sup>	47 <sup>a</sup>	1,050 <sup>b</sup>	1.84 <sup>b</sup>	4.72 <sup>a</sup>
4		1,000	2.55 <sup>a</sup>	6.43 <sup>a</sup>	10.09 <sup>a</sup>	4.63 <sup>a</sup>	71 <sup>a</sup>	38 <sup>ab</sup>	1,800 <sup>a</sup>	2.29 <sup>a</sup>	4.43 <sup>a</sup>
5	Sand	0	0.48 <sup>b</sup>	0.29 <sup>g</sup>	1.56 <sup>b</sup>	0.37 <sup>d</sup>	12 <sup>c</sup>	26 <sup>c</sup>	7 <sup>f</sup>	0.32 <sup>d</sup>	4.93 <sup>a</sup>
6		250	0.51 <sup>b</sup>	0.53 <sup>fg</sup>	1.34 <sup>b</sup>	0.35 <sup>d</sup>	16 <sup>c</sup>	25 <sup>c</sup>	73 <sup>f</sup>	0.33 <sup>d</sup>	4.42 <sup>a</sup>
7		500	0.49 <sup>b</sup>	0.75 <sup>ef</sup>	1.18 <sup>b</sup>	0.38 <sup>d</sup>	15 <sup>c</sup>	26 <sup>c</sup>	177 <sup>de</sup>	0.36 <sup>d</sup>	4.61 <sup>a</sup>
8		1,000	0.47 <sup>b</sup>	0.95 <sup>e</sup>	0.89 <sup>b</sup>	0.42 <sup>d</sup>	15 <sup>c</sup>	30 <sup>b</sup>	262 <sup>d</sup>	0.37 <sup>d</sup>	5.14 <sup>a</sup>
Mean Cl concns		0	1.53 <sup>A</sup>	0.78 <sup>D</sup>	5.91 <sup>A</sup>	2.15 <sup>B</sup>	31 <sup>B</sup>	34 <sup>A</sup>	49 <sup>D</sup>	0.67 <sup>C</sup>	4.68 <sup>A</sup>
		250	1.60 <sup>A</sup>	1.71 <sup>C</sup>	6.03 <sup>A</sup>	2.29 <sup>AB</sup>	39 <sup>AB</sup>	34 <sup>A</sup>	425 <sup>C</sup>	1.04 <sup>B</sup>	4.47 <sup>A</sup>
		500	1.55 <sup>A</sup>	2.81 <sup>B</sup>	5.58 <sup>A</sup>	2.37 <sup>AB</sup>	38 <sup>AB</sup>	37 <sup>A</sup>	614 <sup>B</sup>	1.10 <sup>B</sup>	4.67 <sup>A</sup>
		1,000	1.51 <sup>A</sup>	3.69 <sup>A</sup>	5.49 <sup>A</sup>	2.52 <sup>A</sup>	43 <sup>A</sup>	35 <sup>A</sup>	1,031 <sup>A</sup>	1.33 <sup>A</sup>	4.79 <sup>A</sup>
Mean media		Soil	2.60 <sup>X</sup>	3.87 <sup>X</sup>	10.28 <sup>X</sup>	4.28 <sup>X</sup>	61 <sup>X</sup>	43 <sup>X</sup>	930 <sup>X</sup>	1.72 <sup>X</sup>	4.52 <sup>X</sup>
		Sand	0.49 <sup>Y</sup>	0.63 <sup>Y</sup>	1.23 <sup>Y</sup>	0.38 <sup>Y</sup>	14 <sup>Y</sup>	27 <sup>Y</sup>	130 <sup>Y</sup>	0.35 <sup>Y</sup>	4.78 <sup>X</sup>

\* : The same as Table 2.

soil culture, as shown in Table 2 and 3. However, the relative plant growth as expressed by percentage of 0 ppm Cl was most suppressed in sand culture. The decrement in soil culture was to some extent less than

in sand culture. For example, the relative plant dry weight at 1,000 ppm Cl to 0 ppm Cl was 56.0, 83.5 and 91.0% in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures, respectively. The relative fresh weight of plant parts was sim-

ilar to the results of the plant dry weight.

The plant growth reduction by the application of diluted sea water could be associated with not only higher concentrations of potentially toxic ions but also lower osmotic potential of plants and media (6). It is considered (5, 16) that the reduction in plant growth is primarily associated with osmotic potential of the medium, but in some plants nutritional imbalance or toxicity of specific ions are also important factors (7).

It is possible that one of the reasons for the difference of growth reduction in different media is the specific ion effect. There was an increase in Na content in leaves and Cl content in leaves, roots and fruit in each medium when sea water concentrations increased. On the other hand, the descending order of relative amounts of Cl and Na in leaves was sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures. The relative amount of 1,000 ppm Cl compared to 0 ppm Cl in sand, soil and nutrient solution cultures for Cl was 6.7, 4.8 and 3.1 times and for Na was 2.9, 1.6 and 1.5 times, respectively. The order is in the same relationship as that of relative plant growth. Therefore, the increased Cl and Na in leaves seemed to cause some adverse effects on plant growth as observed by many investigators (2, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17).

Another possible reason for the difference of plant growth reduction is low osmotic potential of leaves and roots. The leaf and root osmotic potential in nutrient solution culture was markedly higher than in sand and soil cultures, and was not significantly different from 0 to 1,000 ppm Cl. These results are comparable in that the relative plant growth in nutrient solution culture was greater than in the other cultures, and the growth was slightly suppressed even at 1,000 ppm Cl. It may be due to differences of root system, root weight and osmotic potential of the medium between nutrient solution culture and the others. The plant growth in soil and sand cultures decreased with decreasing osmotic potentials of applied diluted sea water in each medium. However, there was no significant difference in the osmotic potential of leaves and roots between soil and sand

cultures. As to the result between in sand and soil cultures, restricting water absorption induced by high salinity (18) could not be a cause of plant growth reduction.

The chemical properties of the sand and soil at the end of the experiment (Table 6) did not account for the difference in plant growth suppression between sand and soil cultures. Although Na and Cl content, and EC values increased with increasing diluted sea water concentrations in each medium, they were higher in soil culture than in sand culture. This result is contradictory in that the plant growth was more suppressed in sand culture than in soil culture. Because each medium has different physical properties, these factors should be taken into consideration when the chemical properties between sand and soil are compared. It is supposed that the osmotic potential of the medium solution might be lower in sand culture than in soil culture (2). This may be suggested by the fact that Cl and Na content in plant parts were higher in sand culture than in soil culture.

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## 異なる培地におけるメロンの耐塩性

糠谷 明・増井正夫・石田 明

(静岡大学農学部)

### 摘 要

異なる培地におけるメロンの耐塩性を調べるため、同一条件下でメロンを栽培した。草丈は、砂耕と土耕において海水濃度が増すにつれ減少した。0ppmCl を100とした場合の全植物体乾物重と果実新鮮重は、養液耕、土耕の順に大きく、砂耕では最も小さかった。0ppmCl に対する1,000ppmCl の果実新鮮重の割合は、砂耕で66.2%、土耕で70.5%、養液耕で91.1%であった。それぞ

れの培地において海水濃度が増すにつれ、葉と根の浸透ポテンシャルは減少し、植物体各部のCl含量、葉中のNaとMg含量は増加した。葉中のClとNa含量は砂耕で最も高く、養液耕で最も低かった。土壌と砂のCl及び置換性Na含量、土壌のECは、海水濃度が増すにつれて増加した。培地のカチオンとアニオン含量、ECは砂耕より土耕で高かった。