

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 2.1: Flowchart of main antioxidants and redox signaling processes in higher plants.
- Fig. 2.2: Drought induction experiment of tea seedlings.
- Fig. 2.3: Photographs of photosynthesis rate, transpiration rate and stomatal conductance measurement using a photosynthesis system, an uprooted plant, root length measurement of control and drought induced plants of TV-23 and roots for various experiments.
- Fig. 2.4: Light microscopic images of stomata and transverse section of petioles.
- Fig. 2.5: Ultra-structural images of TEM.
- Fig. 2.6: Estimation of different antioxidative enzymes activity of leaves and roots of drought stressed and control tea plants.
- Fig. 3.1: Functions of drought associated genes.
- Fig. 3.2: Transcriptional regulatory networks of drought as well as other abiotic stress signals.
- Fig. 3.3: Agarose gel electrophoresis of total RNA isolated from tea roots by different reagents and methods.
- Fig. 3.4: Evaluation of RsaI restriction digestion of dsDNAs.
- Fig. 3.5: Adaptor ligation efficiency analyses of 'tester' dsDNAs.
- Fig. 3.6: Analyses of primary and secondary PCR products.
- Fig. 3.7: Subtraction efficiency analyses of SSH libraries.
- Fig. 3.8: Blue white screening of transformed DH10B *E. coli* cells.
- Fig. 3.9: Extracted plasmids of transformed cells containing the DNAs of interest.
- Fig. 3.10: Distribution and numbers of assembled drought induced ESTs.
- Fig. 3.11: Codon usage analyses of drought induced unigenes.
- Fig. 3.12: Phylogenetic tree of drought associated conserved protein domain sequences.
- Fig. 3.13: Gene ontology classification of drought induced unigenes as defined for *Arabidopsis* proteome.

- Fig. 3.14: SCF complex mediated ubiquitin-proteasome degrading pathway associated ESTs of tea roots under drought stress.
- Fig. 3.15: Size ranges of ds cDNA synthesized through LD PCR.
- Fig. 3.16: Size fractionation of cDNAs through chroma spin 400 column.
- Fig. 3.17: Plaque forming units of unamplified and amplified full-length cDNA libraries.
- Fig. 3.18: Distribution and numbers of assembled standard full-length ESTs.
- Fig. 3.19: Codon usage analysis of standard full-length unigenes.
- Fig. 3.20: Gene ontology classification of full-length unigenes as defined for *Arabidopsis* proteome.
- Fig. 3.21: Venn diagram of genes that expressed in roots under drought and normal conditions.
- Fig. 3.22: BLASTx analysis of tea leaf unigenes under normal growth, drought and winter dormancy stresses.
- Fig. 3.23: Functional assignment of unigenes under normal growth, drought and winter dormancy stresses of tea leaves as defined for *Arabidopsis* proteome.
- Fig. 3.24: Venn diagram of drought stress induced genes in roots and leaves.
- Fig. 3.25: Venn diagram of genes that expressed in leaves under drought, winter dormancy and normal conditions as well as those expressed mutually among these stresses.
- Fig. 4.1: Different steps involved in the identification process of conserved miRNAs and their targets.
- Fig. 4.2: Predicted hairpin secondary structures of candidate pre-miRNAs.
- Fig. 4.3: Conservation of tea miRNA (csi-miR408) in diverse plant species.
- Fig. 4.4: Phylogenetic relationship among the members of each miRNA family, namely: miRNA414, miRNA1122 and miRNA408.
- Fig. 4.5: Predicted miRNA targets and their complementary sites with miRNAs.