

Root Responses to Short-Lived Pulses of Soil Nutrients and Shoot Defoliation in Seedlings of Three Rangeland Grasses

Author(s): JoséTulio Arredondo and Douglas A. Johnson

Source: Rangeland Ecology & Management, 62(5):470-479.

Published By: Society for Range Management

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2111/08-151.1>

URL: <http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.2111/08-151.1>

BioOne (www.bioone.org) is a nonprofit, online aggregation of core research in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences. BioOne provides a sustainable online platform for over 170 journals and books published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Web site, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/page/terms_of_use.

Usage of BioOne content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non-commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

Root Responses to Short-Lived Pulses of Soil Nutrients and Shoot Defoliation in Seedlings of Three Rangeland Grasses

José Tulio Arredondo¹ and Douglas A. Johnson²

Authors are ¹Scientist, División de Ciencias Ambientales, Instituto Potosino de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, San Luis Potosí, SLP, México; and ²Plant Physiologist, USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Lab, Utah State University, Logan, UT 84322-6300, USA.

Abstract

Root proliferation is important in determining root foraging capability of rangeland grasses to unpredictable soil-nutrient pulses. However, root proliferation responses are often confounded by the inherent relative growth rate (RGR) of the particular species being compared. Additionally, inherent biomass allocation to roots (R:S ratio) can be associated with root RGR, hence likely influencing root foraging responses. The influence of relative growth rate and biomass allocation patterns on the speed and efficiency of root foraging responses at the critical seeding stage was examined in two important perennial rangeland grasses that occur widely in the Great Basin Region of the United States (Whitmar bluebunch wheatgrass [*Pseudoroegneria spicata* {Pursh} Löve] and Hycrest crested wheatgrass [*Agropyron desertorum* {Fisch. ex Link} Schult. × *A. cristatum* L. Gaert.]) as well as in the widespread exotic invasive annual grass, cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.). Greenhouse-grown seedlings were exposed to four nutrient regimes: uniform–low, uniform–high, soil-nutrient pulse, soil-nutrient depletion, and to either no clipping or clipping (80% removal of standing shoot biomass). Hycrest was the only species that exhibited root proliferation responses to the short-lived nutrient pulse, and this response occurred through root elongation rather than initiation of lateral root branches. Overall, defoliation inhibited proliferation-based root responses to a larger extent than topological-based root responses. Defoliated plants of Hycrest interrupted root development (topological index did not change) following shoot defoliation compared to undefoliated plants. In contrast, root topological developmental patterns were the same for defoliated and undefoliated plants of Whitmar, whereas cheatgrass exhibited an intermediate response between Whitmar and Hycrest. Our results suggest that inherent biomass allocation to roots contributes to enhanced capabilities of proliferation-based root responses.

Resumen

La proliferación de raíces es importante al determinar la habilidad de los pastos para buscar los nutrientes en el suelo aún a pesar de cambios impredecibles. Sin embargo, las respuestas de propagación de raíces a menudo se confunde con el crecimiento relativo intrínseco de una especie en particular al compararla con otra. Además, la distribución natural de la biomasa de la raíz (relación de R:S) puede relacionarse con la RGR de la raíz, e influenciar la respuesta de la búsqueda de nutrientes de la raíz. Se estudió la influencia de la velocidad del crecimiento relativo del patrón de distribución de la biomasa en la velocidad y eficiencia de las respuestas a la búsqueda de nutrientes de la raíz durante el estado crítico de plántula en dos pastos perenes muy importantes que ocurren ampliamente en la Región del Great Basin, U.S.A. (Whitmar bluebunch wheatgrass [*Pseudoroegneria spicata* {Pursh} Löve] y Hycrest crested wheatgrass [*Agropyron desertorum* {Fisch. ex Link} Schult. × *A. cristatum* L. Gaert.]) así como un pasto anual, el bromillo (*Bromus tectorum* L.), que es invasivo y ampliamente distribuido. Plántulas producidas en un invernadero se expusieron a cuatro regímenes de nutrientes: Uniforme–bajo, uniforme–alto, cambios en los nutrientes del suelo, reducción en los nutrientes del suelo, y cortes o sin cortes (remoción del 80% de la biomasa). El trigoillo crestado (Hycrest) fue la única especie que presentó respuesta en la propagación en la raíz debido a la breve disponibilidad de nutrientes. Esta respuesta ocurrió a través del alargamiento de la raíz en lugar de la iniciación del crecimiento lateral de la raíz. En general, la defoliación reduce más la respuesta basada en la proliferación de la respuesta de la raíz en un mayor grado que la respuesta basada en la topología de la raíz. Las plantas defoliadas del trigoillo crestado interrumpieron el desarrollo de la raíz (el índice topológico no cambia) después de la defoliación comparada con la plantas no defoliadas. En contraste, los patrones del desarrollo topológico de la raíz fueron similares para las plantas defoliadas y las no defoliadas de Whitmar, mientras que para el bromillo presentó una respuesta intermedia entre Whitmar y Hycrest. Nuestros resultados sugieren que la distribución natural de la biomasa de la raíz contribuye a incrementar la habilidad en la respuesta a la proliferación de las raíces.

Key Words: *Agropyron cristatum*, *Agropyron desertorum*, *Bromus tectorum*, clipping, nutrient-enriched soil patches, *Pseudoroegneria spicata*, root foraging, soil-nutrient heterogeneity, soil resources

Mention of a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by US Dept of Agriculture, Utah State University, or the authors, and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products.

At the time of the research, José Tulio Arredondo was a graduate student in the Dept of Rangeland Resources, Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA.

Correspondence: J. T. Arredondo, Instituto Potosino de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica, Camino Presa de San José 2055 Lomas 4ta sección, 78261, San Luis Potosí, SLP, México. Email: tulio@ipicyt.edu.mx

Manuscript received 10 June 2008; manuscript accepted 23 June 2009.

INTRODUCTION

Differential root foraging responses for soil resources among species have been associated with several intrinsic root traits and their phenotypic plasticity, including root tissue density, specific root length, root xylem cross-sectional area, root longevity, and nutrient-uptake kinetics (Eissenstat et al. 2000; Hummel et al. 2007). However, the relationship between root

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/4404954>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/4404954>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)