Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0308-8146(18)31237-8

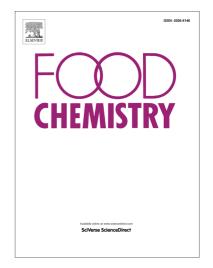
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2018.07.092

Reference: FOCH 23207

To appear in: Food Chemistry

Received Date: 20 December 2017

Revised Date: 16 July 2018 Accepted Date: 16 July 2018



Please cite this article as: Ma, Y., Wang, P., Wang, M., Sun, M., Gu, Z., Yang, R., GABA mediates phenolic compounds accumulation and the antioxidant system enhancement in germinated hulless barley under NaCl stress, *Food Chemistry* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2018.07.092

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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

GABA mediates phenolic compounds accumulation and the antioxidant system enhancement

in germinated hulless barley under NaCl stress

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Abstract: In this study, the function of γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) on the phenolic compounds

accumulation and antioxidant system enhancement in germinated hulless barley under NaCl stress

was investigated. Results showed that exogenous GABA induced the accumulation of phenolic

compounds. It was observed that the activities and gene expression of phenylalanine ammonia lyase

(PAL), cinnamic acid 4-hydroxylase (C4H), 4-coumarate coenzyme A ligase (4CL), p-coumaric

acid 3-hdroxylase (C3H), caffeic acid O-methyltransferase (COMT) and ferulic acid 5-hydroxylase

(F5H) which are involved in phenolics biosynthesis was up-regulated by NaCl stress plus GABA

treatment. In addition, antioxidant enzymes activities were induced. However, these effects were

suppressed by 3-mercaplopropionic acid (3-MP), an inhibitor of GABA synthesis. This inhibition

could be alleviated partly by exogenous GABA. These results suggested that GABA was essential

for mediating NaCl stress-induced phenolic compounds accumulation and the antioxidant system

enhancement in germinated hulless barley.

Keywords: NaCl stress; germinated hulless barley; GABA; phenolic compounds; antioxidant

system

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