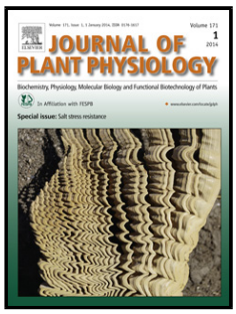

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Authors: Vicente Vives-Peris, Lázaro Molina, Ana Segura, Aurelio Gómez-Cadenas, Rosa María Pérez-Clemente

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Root exudates from citrus plants subjected to abiotic stress conditions have a positive effect on rhizobacteria

Vicente Vives-Peris[1], Lázaro Molina[2], Ana Segura[2], Aurelio Gómez-Cadenas[1], Rosa María Pérez-Clemente[1]

[1] Departament de Ciències Agràries i del Medi Natural, Universitat Jaume I, Avda. Sos Baynat s/n, 12071, Castellón de la Plana, Spain

[2] Environmental Protection Department, Estación Experimental del Zaidín, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, C/ Profesor Albareda 1, 18008, Granada, Spain

e-mail adresses:

Vicente Vives-Peris: vvives@uji.es

Lázaro Molina: lazaro.molina@eez.csic.es

Ana Segura: ana.segura@eez.csic.es

Aurelio Gómez-Cadenas: aurelio.gomez@uji.es

Corresponding author:

Rosa María Pérez-Clemente: rosa.perez@uji.es

phone number: +34 964729403

Abstract

Plants are constantly releasing root exudates to the rhizosphere. These compounds are responsible for different (positive or negative) interactions with other organisms, including plants, fungi or bacteria. In this work, the effect of root exudates obtained from *in vitro* cultured citrus plants on two rhizobacteria (*Pseudomonas putida* KT2440 and *Novosphingobium* sp. HR1a) was evaluated. Root exudates were obtained from two citrus genotypes differing in their sensitivity to salt and heat stress and differentially affected the growth of both rhizobacteria. Root exudates from salt-stressed plants of *C. macrophylla* (salt tolerant) induced an increase in bacterial growth higher than that obtained from Carrizo citrange exudates (salt sensitive). Root exudates from heat-stressed