



**HAL**  
open science

# Growth, mineral nutrient content and nitrogen metabolism in *Laccaria laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated Douglas fir seedlings during their growth period

M. Chalot, B. Botton, J. Banvoy

## ► To cite this version:

M. Chalot, B. Botton, J. Banvoy. Growth, mineral nutrient content and nitrogen metabolism in *Laccaria laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated Douglas fir seedlings during their growth period. *Annales des sciences forestières*, 1989, 46 (Suppl), pp.711s-714s. hal-00882648

**HAL Id: hal-00882648**

**<https://hal.science/hal-00882648v1>**

Submitted on 11 May 2020

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

## Growth, mineral nutrient content and nitrogen metabolism in *Laccaria laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated Douglas fir seedlings during their growth period

M. Chalot, B. Botton and J. Banvoy

Université de Nancy I, Faculté des Sciences, Laboratoire de Physiologie Végétale et Forestière,  
BP 239, 54506 Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France

### Introduction

Enhanced plant growth caused by ectomycorrhizal inoculation in the nursery is well documented: thus *Laccaria* strains have proven to be very efficient for improving growth of various conifers (Le Tacon and Bouchard, 1986). The investigations described herein were carried out to obtain information on physiological and biochemical modifications that can explain such stimulation. The present study compared the seasonal changes in protein and amino acid levels, aspartate aminotransferase activity and nutrient content in both *L. laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated Douglas fir grown in a forest nursery.

### Materials and Methods

After 1 yr of growth in the nursery, 12 seedlings from both untreated and treated plots were collected at random, bimonthly from May to September. Root and top fresh weights and heights were measured for each seedling. Parts of the

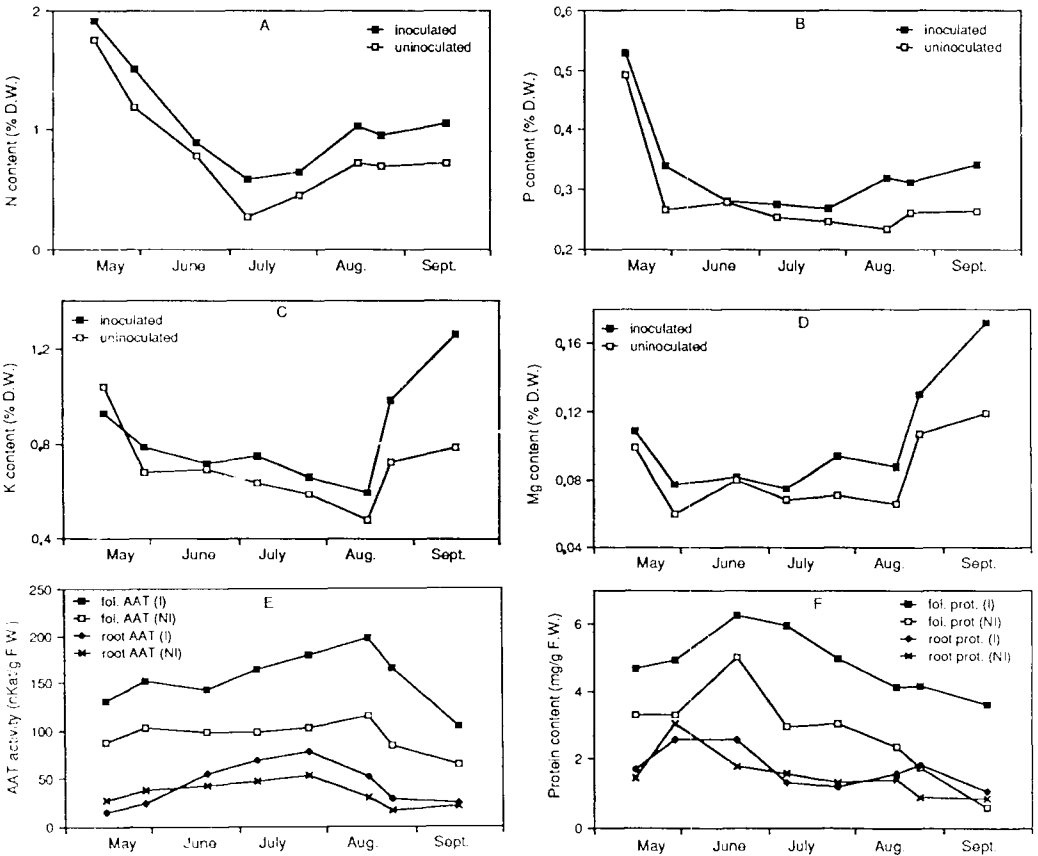
needles and roots were removed immediately after collection for amino acid, protein and enzyme determinations. Aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) activity was determined spectrophotometrically and proteins were measured using a colorimetric method. Amino acids were analyzed using an HPLC procedure. Total N was measured by a microKjeldahl method, total P by a colorimetric method and K and Mg by atomic absorption spectrophotometry.

### Results

By the end of the growing period, *L. laccata*-inoculated seedlings were significantly higher (not shown) and had accumulated more than 2-fold the fresh matter of the controls (Table I). In expanding shoots, N, P, K and Mg concentrations decreased rapidly until mid-August (Fig. 1 A, B, C, D) and tended to increase after growth ceased. No significant difference was found in nutrient analysis of stems and roots between treated and untreated plants (not shown). By contrast, statistically significant (ANOVA,  $P = 0.05$ ) changes were observed for leaf nutrient analysis

**Table I.** Seasonal variations of fresh matter (g/plant  $\pm$  SD) in *L. laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated (control) Douglas fir, 1 yr old at the beginning of the experiment.

	Date of sampling			
	May 11	June 15	July 20	Sept. 8
Non-inoculated controls	0.6 $\pm$ 0.3	4.2 $\pm$ 1.3	7.1 $\pm$ 1.6	7.9 $\pm$ 1.3
<i>L. laccata</i> -inoculated fir	4.6 $\pm$ 1.2	11.2 $\pm$ 2.1	16.3 $\pm$ 2.3	16.8 $\pm$ 2.7



**Fig. 1.** Seasonal changes in nutrient and protein contents, AAT activity of *L. laccata*-inoculated or non-inoculated Douglas fir seedlings grown in a forest nursery. (fol: foliar; I: inoculated; NI: non-inoculated). **A:** leaf nitrogen; **B:** leaf phosphorus; **C:** leaf potassium; **D:** leaf magnesium; **E:** leaf and root AAT activities; **F:** leaf and root proteins.

between treatments and, more particularly, by the end of the growing season (Fig. 1A, B, C, D).

Concerning protein amounts and AAT activity levels, high and significant differences (ANOVA,  $P = 0.05$ ) were found in

**Table II.** Root and leaf concentrations ( $\mu\text{mol/g DW}$ ) of free amino acids in *L. laccata*-inoculated and non-inoculated Douglas fir seedlings.

Free amino acid	May 11		June 15		July 20		August 26									
	root analysis		foliar analysis		root analysis		foliar analysis									
	inocul.	uninoc.	inocul.	uninoc.	inocul.	uninoc.	inocul.	uninoc.								
Ala	24.3	18.7	32.0	27.9	30.0	21.8	36.0	23.5	45.2	27.6	46.0	37.5	28.2	26.2	119.5	83.3
$\gamma$ Aba	47.9	45.1	33.1	41.5	34.5	26.6	37.2	38.5	14.5	12.5	29.0	18.0	23.8	24.8	68.5	56.2
Arg	19.3	15.3	34.1	39.1	10.5	12.3	11.4	12.1	5.9	6.8	22.7	25.6	37.5	30.2	112.4	102.5
Asp	46.1	42.6	26.8	28.0	24.5	21.3	24.5	23	19.3	20.6	28.5	24.5	18.4	15.6	27.5	20.5
Gln	41.5	40.8	23.8	16.0	24.1	9.34	13.4	12.8	13.9	6.8	18.0	9.2	15.1	6.5	51.5	24.1
Glu	10.3	7.7	7.9	6.9	8.1	8.5	6.1	7.5	6.3	7.1	4.2	3.8	9.3	6.5	5.1	6.2
Pro	9.8	12.5	18.8	21.8	6.6	23.9	8.0	17.3	11.4	7.5	7.1	9.7	4.1	12.4	10.4	19.3

Underlined figures denote significant differences.

foliar analysis between inoculated seedlings and controls: leaves of inoculated Douglas fir accumulated higher protein amounts (Fig. 1F) and showed greater AAT capacities (Fig. 1E). By contrast, there was no difference in root analysis between treatments (Fig. 1E, F).

Alanine, aminobutyric acid, glutamine, aspartic acid, arginine, proline and glutamic acid were the major components of the free amino acid pools in root and leaf tissues. Alanine and glutamine in both root and leaf tissues appeared to be in higher amounts in *L. laccata*-inoculated Douglas fir, whereas proline preferentially accumulated in non-inoculated seedlings (Table II).

### Discussion and Conclusion

Growth measurements reaffirmed the well-established importance of *L. laccata* strain 238 for improving seedling growth of Douglas fir (Le Tacon and Bouchard, 1986). Leaf nutrient content following inoculation also confirmed the importance of ectomycorrhizae for nutrient uptake, as reviewed by Harley (1969).

Our results also suggested that inoculations caused changes in the biochemical processes of the host tissues as demonstrated earlier (Nemec and Meredith, 1981; Krishna and Bagyara, 1983). Thus, alanine, proline and glutamine contents, protein amounts and AAT activity levels differed between controls and treated plants.

As a hypothesis, we might propose that lower AAT activity combined with a higher proline amount in non-inoculated Douglas fir characterized seedlings in stress-inducing situations. AAT is often considered as an indicator of physiological activity in plants affected by various internal or external factors (Cooper and Hill-Cottingham, 1974) and proline accumulation described as a response to environmental stress factors (Bode *et al.*, 1985). Inoculation with efficient mycorrhizal strains might provide a way to suppress or at least to attenuate stress-inducing situations.

### References

- Bode J., Kuhn H.P. & Wild A. (1985) The accumulation of proline in needles of damaged spruce. *Forstwiss. Centralbl.* 104, 353-360
- Cooper D.R. & Hill-Cottingham D.G. (1974) Glutamic dehydrogenase and glutamic oxaloacetate transaminase in apple tree. *Physiol. Plant.* 31, 193-199
- Harley J.L. (1969) *In: The Biology of Mycorrhizae.* Leonard Hill, London
- Krishna K.R. & Bagyara D.J. (1983) Changes in the free amino nitrogen and protein fractions of groundnut caused by inoculation with VA mycorrhizas. *Ann. Bot.* 51, 399-401
- Le Tacon F. & Bouchard D. (1986) Effects of different ectomycorrhizal fungi on growth of larch, Douglas fir, Scots pine and Norway spruce seedlings in fumigated nursery soil. *Acta Oecol. Appl.* 7, 389-402
- Nemec S. & Meredith F. (1981) Amino acid content of leaves in mycorrhizal and non mycorrhizal citrus root stocks. *Ann. Bot.* 47, 203-222