High-throughput phenotyping to evaluate heat stress response in quinoa

Leonardo Hinojosas, Neeraj Kumar, Kulvinder Gill and Kevin Murphy
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman WA;
lhinojosasanchez@wsu.edu

Abstract
Quinoa is a nutritionally dense annual seed crop originating from the Andes Mountains of South America. Sensitivity to high temperatures has been reported as a serious obstacle to the global expansion of quinoa. Temperatures above 35°C during anthesis have been shown to significantly reduce quinoa grain yield. The objective of this study was to evaluate heat tolerance in diverse quinoa genotypes. 112 genotypes were evaluated at anthesis for 12 days in a greenhouse simulation experiment with a maximum temperature of 40°C for 2 hours/day. Leaf greenness index (LSI) was quantified using a SPAD meter for each genotype. Of the original 112 genotypes, 68 produced seeds under heat-stressed conditions. The genotype “Kaslaea” produced the highest yield (9.93 g/plant) and the genotype “Cahuil” had the largest seed (3.37 mm²) under greenhouse conditions. A set of eight genotypes were selected based on LSI for a subsequent field trial. Four (Baer, QQ74, Pison, and BGQ 352) were potentially heat tolerant with a mean LSI decrease of 19.31 between day 12 and day 0, and four (17 GR, 3 UISE, La Molina and Japanese Strain) were considered heat sensitive with a LSI reduction of 60.11. Our results will validate the capacity to generate a new tool for phenotyping quinoa at high temperatures.

Objectives
- Evaluate heat tolerance in diverse quinoa genotypes
- Determine different tools to evaluate heat stress in quinoa

Methods

Control conditions: Average temperature of 20.3 °C during the night and 26.7 °C during the day
- Leaf Greenness Index (LSI) Minolta SPAD-502 M
- Days to flowering
- Plant height (cm)
- Dry weight/plant (g)
- Seed yield (g/plant)
- Harvest index

High temperature conditions: The night temperature (10:00 pm to 6:00 am) was constant (average temperature of 23.5 °C). The day temperature started with 22 °C at 6:00 am, and increased 1 °C at every hour up to 9:00 am. Afterwards, at every hour up to 2:00 pm, the temperature was increased 3 °C until it reached ~40 °C from 2:00-4:00 pm and then decreased gradually.

Results
- Sixty-eight quinoa genotypes produced seeds under the high-temperature treatment. The remaining genotypes (44) did not produce seeds.
- The highest yield was obtained with Kaslaea with 9.93 g/plant followed by Cherry Vanilla, Linares, Colorado 407, and Pison with 9.70, 9.27, 9.07, and 8.97 g/plant respectively (Figure 1).
- The mean LSI decrease for Baer, QQ74, Pison, and BGQ 352 was 19.31 from day 0 to 12, indicating their heat tolerance potential. The mean LSI decrease for 17 GR, 3 UISE, La Molina and Japanese Strain was 60.11, suggesting these could be potentially heat sensitive genotypes.
- Three cluster were differentiated using a cluster analysis based on LSI, yield, and harvest index. The four potentially heat tolerant genotypes identified localized in the first cluster. The genotypes 17 GR and Molina localized in the second cluster, and 3 UISE and Japanese Strain localized in the third cluster (Figures 2 & 3).

Conclusion
- The genotypes Baer, QQ74, Pison, and BGQ 352 are potential heat tolerant genotypes

Next Steps

Acknowledgements
We gratefully acknowledge Luz Gomez, Irene Herencia, Juan Antonio Gonzalez, Mario Tapia, and USDA - Germplasm Resources Information Network for providing quinoa seeds. This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award numbers 2016-51300-25808 and 2016-68004-24770, Alaska Airlines and the National Secretary of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation from the Government of Ecuador.

Picture 1: 112 genotypes of quinoa growing in greenhouse conditions
Picture 2: A) An aerial near-infrared image of quinoa field trial; B) Field imaging with different sensors; C) Fluorescent imaging in WSU Phonemics Center; D) Quinoa field trial (left- irrigated conditions and right non-irrigated conditions)

(Photos: L. Hinojosas)