

Index

Chapter 1. Introduction	01	Chapter 2. Physiological changes of pepper accessions in response to salinity and water stress	46
1.1.General Aspects of <i>Capsicum</i> sp.	01		
1.2.Economic Importance	03		
1.3.Pepper Production Challenges	05	2.1.Abstract	47
1.3.1. Biotic Stress	05	2.2.Introduction	48
1.3.2. Abiotic Stress	07	2.3.Material and methods	50
a. Salt Stress	07	2.3.1. Plant material	50
b. Water Stress	09	2.3.2. Biomass	50
c. Other Abiotic Stresses of Economic Importance in Pepper Cultivation	09	2.3.3. Photosynthesis measurements	51
1.4.Tolerance to Salt Stress in Plants:		2.3.4. Water relations	51
Physiology and Genetics	10	2.3.5. Proline determination	51
1.4.1. Plant Growth and Development	10	2.3.6. Sodium and chloride ions analysis	51
1.4.2. Ion Homeostasis	11	2.3.7. Statistical analysis	52
1.4.3. Water Relations	13	2.4. Results	53
1.4.4. Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Scavenging	14	2.4.1. Biomass	53
1.4.5. Phytohormones	15	2.4.2. Photosynthetic parameters	54
1.4.6. Photosynthesis	16	2.4.3. Relation between photosynthesis and fresh weigh	55
1.5.Tolerance to Water Stress in Plants:		2.4.4. Instantaneous carboxilation efficiency	55
Physiology and Genetics	18	2.4.5. Water and osmotic potential	56
1.5.1. Plant Growth and Development	18	2.4.6. Proline concentration in leaves and roots	57
1.5.2. Ion homeostasis	19	2.4.7. Sodium and chloride analysis	58
1.5.3. Water Relations	20	2.5.Discussion	59
1.5.4. Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) Scavenging	20	2.6.References	62
1.5.5. Phytohormones	21		
1.5.6. Photosynthesis	22		
1.6.How to Improve Tolerance to Abiotic Stresses in Crop Plants:			
The Role of Grafting	23		
1.6.1. Grafting in Vegetables	24		
1.7.Thesis objectives	29		
1.8.References	30		

Chapter 3. Pepper Rootstock and Scion Physiological Responses Under Drought Stress	66	Chapter 4. Physiological characterization of a pepper hybrid rootstock designed to cope with salinity stress	94
3.1. Abstract	67	4.1. Abstract	95
3.2. Introduction	68	4.2. Introduction	96
3.3. Material and Methods	70	4.3. Material and methods	98
3.3.1. Experimental Site and Greenhouse Conditions	70	4.3.1. Plant material	98
3.3.2. Plant Material and Management	70	4.3.2. Hydroponic greenhouse experiment	98
3.3.3. Gas Exchange Measurements	71	4.3.3. Ion determination	99
3.3.4. Biomass Determination	71	4.3.4. Gas exchange measurements	99
3.3.5. Water Relations	71	4.3.5. Abscisic acid analysis	99
3.3.6. Nitrate Reductase Activity	71	4.3.6. Nitrate reductase activity	100
3.3.7. Determination of DPPH Radical-Scavenging Capacity	72	4.3.7. Proline determination	100
3.3.8. Total Phenolic Content Analysis	72	4.3.8. Total phenolic content	100
3.3.9. Determination of Hydrogen Peroxide	72	4.3.9. Hydrogen peroxide determination	100
3.3.10. Lipid peroxidation Analysis	73	4.3.10. Lipid peroxidation determination	101
3.3.11. Statistical Analysis	73	4.3.11. DPPH radical-scavenging capacity	101
3.4. Results	74	4.3.12. Biomass measurements	101
3.4.1. Gas Exchange Measurements	74	4.3.13. Statistical analysis	101
3.4.2. Biomass Parameters	75	4.4. Results	102
3.4.3. Hydric and Osmotic Relations	76	4.4.1. Ions determination	102
3.4.4. Nitrate Reductase Activity	78	4.4.2. Photosynthetic rate and stomatal conductance	103
3.4.5. DPPH-Radical Scavenging Activity	79	4.4.3. ABA analysis	105
3.4.6. Total Phenolic Content	80	4.4.4. Percentage of nitrate reductase activity in the salt treatment vs. the control	106
3.4.7. H ₂ O ₂ Concentration	81	4.4.5. Proline analysis	107
3.4.8. Lipid Peroxidation	82	4.4.6. Total phenols analysis	108
3.5. Discussion	83	4.4.7. H ₂ O ₂ determination	109
3.6. Conclusion	87	4.4.8. Lipid peroxidation	110
3.7. References	88		

4.4.9. DPPH-radical scavenging activity	111	Chapter 6. General Discussion	188
4.4.10. Biomass measurements	112	6.1. References	195
4.5. Discussion	113		
4.6. References	118	Chapter 7. Final Conclusions	200
Chapter 5. Uncovering Salt Tolerance Mechanisms in Pepper Plants: a Physiological and Transcriptomic Approach	124		
5.1. Abstract	125		
5.2. Background	127		
5.3. Results	129		
5.3.1. Biomass	129		
5.3.2. Gas Exchange Measurements	130		
5.3.3. Ion Determination	131		
5.3.4. Transcriptomic Expression Results	132		
5.4. Discussion	138		
5.4.1. Hormonal Signalling	138		
5.4.2. Biomass and Cell Growth	139		
5.4.3. Starch Degradation	139		
5.4.4. Ion Homeostasis	140		
5.4.5. Photoprotection	141		
5.4.6. ROS Scavenging	141		
5.4.7. Conclusions	141		
5.5. Methods	143		
5.5.1. Plant Material	143		
5.5.2. Biomass Determination	143		
5.5.3. Gas Exchange Measurements	143		
5.5.4. Ion Determination	144		
5.5.5. Extraction and Quality Measurement of Total RNA	144		
5.5.6. Microarray Hybridisation	144		
5.5.7. Microarray Data Analysis	145		
5.5.8. Statistical Analysis	145		
5.6. References	146		
5.7. Supplementary Information	151		