

XXXII° CONVEGNO NAZIONALE 07. DELLA SOCIETÀ ITALIANA 09. DI CHIMICA AGRARIA

settembre
2014
Bolzano, Italia

Libera Università di Bolzano
Facoltà di Scienze e Tecnologie



con il patrocinio del
Comitato Scientifico
per EXPO del
Comune di Milano



Fakultät für Naturwissenschaften und Technik
Facoltà di Scienze e Tecnologie
Faculty of Science and Technology



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XXXII CONVEGNO NAZIONALE Società Italiana di Chimica Agraria

*“Il potenziale biologico del sistema pianta-microorganismi-suolo come chiave della
sostenibilità e qualità delle produzioni”*

Atti del Convegno

**Bolzano 7-9 Settembre 2014
Piazza Università 1,
39100 Bolzano**

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A metabolomics based approach to study the interaction between sulfur and iron nutrition in tomato roots

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Plant response mechanisms to deficiency of a single nutrient, such as sulfur (S) or iron (Fe), have been described at the level of agronomy, physiology, biochemistry, metabolomics and transcriptomics. However, agroecosystems are often characterized by different scenarios in which combined nutrient deficiencies are likely to occur. For example, agricultural soils are becoming depleted for S and, on the other hand, an element like Fe, though being highly abundant in the soil, is poorly available for uptake, due to its insolubility in the soil matrix. To this end, it has been recently reported that a limited S availability reduces Fe uptake and that Fe deficiency results in the modulation of sulfate uptake and assimilation. However, the mechanistic bases of this interaction are still largely unknown. Metabolite profiling of tomato leaves and roots was performed to improve the understanding of the S/Fe interaction through the identification of main players in the considered pathways. Tomato plants (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) were grown hydroponically under two different sulfate levels (0 and 1.2 mM, deficient and sufficient, respectively) and half of the plants from both treatments were exposed to 40 (Fe-sufficient) or 0 (Fe-deficient) μM FeIII-EDTA, with root and shoot samples being collected 17 d after sowing. GC-TOF/MS analysis of the levels of amino acids, TCA cycle intermediates, sugars, and compounds of secondary metabolism (in total 45 metabolites were wholly identified) revealed substantial changes under the different nutritional conditions imposed. Furthermore, root capability to uptake sulfate and Fe was evaluated by analysing the expression of genes encoding sulfate transporters (STs) of Groups 1, 2 and 4 (SIST1.1, SIST1.2, SIST2.1, SIST2.2, SIST4.1) and the Fe transporter SIIRT1. These results are compared with previously reported pattern that appeared to be affected upon single S or Fe starvation and discussed within the context of S/Fe interaction.