## Enzymatic Conversion from Campesterol to Campestanol in Primary Roots of Maize

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The presence of brassinosteroids(BRs) in primary roots of maize(zea mays L.) has been already demonstrated. To examine whether the endogenous BRs were biosynthesized in the roots, identification of biosynthetic precursor(s) in the roots were carried out. Gas chromatography-Mass spectrum analysis revealed that maize primary roots contained campesterol(CR) and campestanol(CN). Next, enzymatic conversion from CR to CN was undertaken.  $3\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase/isomerase( $3\beta$ -HSD), an enzyme converting CR to (24R) -24-methylcholest 4-en-3-one(4-en-3-one) via (24R)-24-methylcholest-4-en-3 $\beta$ -ol(4-en-3 $\beta$ -ol), were successfully detected in cytosolic enzyme solution, indicating that  $3\beta$ -HSD was a cytosolic soluble protein. Activity for 4-en-3-one  $5\alpha$ -reductase, an enzyme converting 4-en-3-one to 3-one, and 3-one reductase, an enzyme converting 3-one to CN, were detected in microsomal enzyme solution, indicating that the intracellular localization of the enzymes is in the membrane of ER. Together with the presence of 6 deoxocastasterone oxidase in primary roots of maize, these provide that BRs in the roots are biosynthesized by the late C6-oxidation pathway operating in the roots.

Keywords: brassinosteroids,  $3\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase/isomerase( $3\beta$ -HSD),  $5\alpha$ -reductase. reductase. zea mays L.