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T-DNA Insertional Mutations in AtENH3, Enhancer of sos3 NaCl Hypersensitivity, Increase the Salt Sensitive Phenotype of sos3

Hyo-jung Lee, Dongwon Baek, Ji Yeon Kim and Dae-Jin Yun

Division of Applied Life Science (BK21 program) and Environmental Biotechnology National Core Research Center, Graduate School of Gyeongsang National University, Gajwa-dong, Jinju 660-701, Korea

A protein kinase complex consisting of the myristoylated calcium-binding protein SOS3 and the serine/threonine protein kinase SOS2 is activated by a salt-stress-elicited calcium signal. The protein kinase complex phosphorylates and activates various ion transporters, such as the plasma membrane Na⁺/H⁺ antiporter SOS1. We screened enhancer mutants of sos3-1 that increase NaCl sensitivity from a T-DNA insertion population in Arabidopsis Col-0 gl1 sos3 genetic background. Analysis of the genomic fragment in the flanking region of T-DNA left border of mutant plants was isolated by thermal asymmetric interlaced PCR (TAIL-PCR) and was sequenced it. Database searches revealed that the T-DNA tag was inserted on Arabidopsis chromosome 4, the first exon of unknown protein (At4g30996). So we named the AtENH3 (Enhancer of sos3 NaCl Hypersensitivity). Root growth of sos3-1 ENH3 mutant was shorter than sos3-1 mutant in 50 mM NaCl. We determined that sos3-1 ENH3 T₃ progenies were homozygous for the respective mutant by analysis of diagnostic PCR. The protein of AtENH3 has two phosphorylation sites and two glycosylation sites. Expression of AtENH3 mRNA was induced by various stresses, such as NaCl, temperature, GA3 and cytokinine. Our results suggest that AtENH3 enhance of sos3-1 salt sensitivity by the mutations and is implicated in an important Na⁺ influx or efflux system in plant roots.

^{*}Corresponding author: Dae-Jin Yun, Tel: 055-751-6256, E-mail: djyun@nongae.gsnu.ac.kr