

Reviewer comments

Article

Physiological, biochemical, and molecular response in “Siete Caldos” chili pepper plants (*Capsicum frutescens*) exposed to water deficit

Dear reviewer: we appreciate your time in reviewing the manuscript.

Observations in the manuscript

In fact, the text is almost the same, which seems strange. Could you explain this?

R: Changes were made in the way the results are presented. The comparison between the sampling days is attached.

Lines 250-253. The statistical analysis should be detailed. You refer that “A completely randomized factorial design was carried out with two factors, considering the amount of water (irrigated and non-irrigated) and the time of exposure to drought. Therefore, the statistical analysis was performed using a factorial ANOVA, followed by Tukey's analysis, to determine the possible differences between the response variables.”, but this information was not added in the manuscript.

R: Changes were added regarding time intervals and within the same time period.

Lines 283-285 and others. You refer that “Different lowercase letters in each column indicate significant statistical differences between treatments simultaneously, while different uppercase letters indicate differences across different times, Tukey's ($P \leq 0.05$), $n=22$.” However, in your cover letter it appears “Two types of analyses were carried out: one comparing the data at a single point in time and the other covering all times.”. So, in my opinion, the headers of all figures should be revised.

R: It was added that they were evaluated at different exposure times

Line 312. “IMS” should be changed to “MSI”

R: Switched to MSI. Line. 333

In table 3, Electrolyte leakage of WW 14 d needs a uppercase letter

R: Added capital letter in Table 3.

Lines 356-358. Please verify the values of catalase.

R: Catalase values were corrected. Line 386-389

Line 403 and 417. I cannot see “bars with diagonal lines.” Please, verify.

R: The bars with diagonal lines sentence was removed. Line 434, 460 and 475