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LEAF FREE AMINO ACIDS OF SOME MALE AND FEMALE DATE PALM TREES@

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ABSTRACT

Leaf free amino acids of some date palm males grown at the Central Region of Saudi Arabia were determined. The free amino acids of the leaves of some female cultivars that might be the parent of such males, were also determined.

The total amino acids which were identified in the leaves ranged from 10-17 according to the cultivar and the male. Five amino acids were found to be common in the leaves of both males and females namely; asparatic, glutamic, cystine, arginine and histidine. Glutamic acid was dominant and was present in higher concentrations as compared with other amino acids. The total concentrations of the free amino acids also differed according to the cultivar in both males and females palm tree.

INTRODUCTION

The date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*, L.) is a dicecious plant. The sex of the plants raised from seeds, cannot be identified, until first flowering when the plants are five to

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