

Eco-physiological Responses of Two *Populus deltoides* Clones to Ozone

Yun, Sung-Chul¹, Pan-Gi Kim^{2*}, Jae-Seoun Hur³, Jae-Cheon Lee⁴ and Eun Woo Park¹

¹School of Applied Biology and Chemistry, Seoul National University, Suwon 441-744, Korea

²National Instrumentation Center for Environmental Management, Seoul National University,
Suwon 441-744, Korea

³Department of Environmental Education, Sunchon National University, Sunchon 540-742, Korea

⁴Tree Breeding Division, Forest Research Institute, Suwon 441-350, Korea

ABSTRACT: One-year-old cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* Bartr.) clones, which were classified as sensitive or tolerant, were exposed to 150 nll ozone (O₃) over 8 days for 8 hours each day under glass chamber conditions with natural sunlight. The leaves of the sensitive clone had black stipple and bifacial necrosis after O₃ treatment. Photosynthesis and stomatal conductance were measured before, during, and after the O₃ treatment. The photosynthetic rates due to O₃ treatment were decreased 51 percent and 34 percent on the sensitive and tolerant clone, respectively. The stomatal conductance of the sensitive clone was more than 40 percent higher than that of the tolerant clone regardless of the O₃ treatment. As light intensity increased, the O₃ effect on photosynthesis was clear. Compared to the previous growth chamber studies, our natural light exposure system was able to maintain a stable photosynthetic responses of the control treatment throughout the fumigation period. In addition, changes in assimilation versus intercellular CO₂ concentration (A/C_i curves) showed that O₃ decreased the slope and asymptote of the curves for the sensitive clone. This indicates that O₃ decreases the biochemical capacity of photosynthesis on the sensitive clone. Chlorophyll contents and fluorescence of the two clones were analyzed to examine the O₃ effects on photosystem II, but O₃ did not impact these variables on either clone. Although the tolerant clone did not show any foliar injury, we could not find any ecophysiological defensive responses to O₃ treated. Stomatal conductance of the tolerant clone was originally much lower than that of the sensitive one. Thus, the mechanisms of the tolerant clone in this system are to narrowly open stomata and efficiently maintain photosynthesis with a more durable biochemical apparatus of photosynthesis under O₃ stress. The sensitive clone has higher photosynthetic capacity and more efficient light reaction activity than the tolerant one under charcoal filtered condition, but is not as resilient under stress.

Key Words: Chlorophyll, Fluorescence, Ozone, Photosynthesis, Poplar, Stomatal conductance

INTRODUCTION

Ambient ozone (O₃) causes a reduction of yield of plants even in the absence of visible injury (Krupa and Nosal 1989). Since photosynthesis is ultimately linked to plant yield, it is important in studies of air pollutant effects. Ozone effects within the photosynthetic apparatus are variously attributed to damage of stomatal conductance (Unsworth and Black 1981) or reduced capacity of mesophyll to fix CO₂ (Lehnherr *et al.* 1987). Reduction in photosynthesis due to O₃ depends on species, clones, and age of plants as well as pollutant concentration (Lee *et al.* 1988,

Musselman *et al.* 1994). Photosynthetic rate is dependent upon stomatal control and there have been conflicting reports in the literature relating photosynthetic CO₂ uptake and stomatal conductance to injury (Reich 1987 Kull *et al.* 1996). Ozone, however, may also alter the structural and metabolic elements of photosynthesis (Pell *et al.* 1994).

Effects of O₃ on electron transport (Coulson and Heath 1974), PSI and/ or PSII (photosystem I / photosystem II) reactions (Schreiber *et al.* 1978), and on membrane permeability and structure (Matyssek *et al.* 1991) have been reported. In addition, changes in assimilation versus intercellular CO₂ concentration

* Author for correspondence; Phone: 82-31-290-2869, Fax: 82-31-295-2197, e-mail: mambo@nicem.snu.ac.kr

(A/Ci curves) due to O₃ stress, with decreased initial slopes and maximum plateaus, have been reported (Matyssek *et al.* 1993 Kull *et al.* 1996). Chlorophyll fluorescence emitted from the chloroplast thylakoid membrane is a complex but useful indicator of photosynthesis (Lichtenthaler 1988). Ozone treatment on bush bean affected the photosynthetic water-splitting enzyme systems, and then inhibited the electron transport between the two photosystems (Schreiber *et al.* 1978).

Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* Bartr.) or hybrid poplar included cottonwood has been widely studied because of its high sensitivity to O₃ and genetical uniformity (Tenga *et al.* 1993, Woodbury *et al.* 1994 Ainsworth *et al.* 1996). Gas exchange studies with cottonwood, exposed to 150 n/l O₃ for 5 hours (Guidi *et al.* 1998) and 60 n/l O₃, 5 hours per day, for 15 days (Soldatini *et al.* 1998), were conducted under artificial lamps and their comparisons were inter-poplar species. However, it is necessary to conduct O₃ exposure under natural light because O₃ effects on the photosynthetic apparatus may change due to the light source (Soldatini *et al.* 1998). The objectives of this study are to examine the ecophysiological responses under natural sunlight to O₃ stress from sensitive and tolerant clones of cottonwood based on their foliar responses to O₃ treatment. By measuring gas exchange before and after treatment, we determined O₃ altered the plant functions in the two-cottonwood clones.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ozone exposure

The two glass chambers with dimensions of 1.2 m x 1.5 m x 1.7 m (L x W x H, 3.06 m³) were used in this study. Air was circulated through charcoal filters and O₃ was mixed into the airstream. Air temperature and relative humidity were controlled at 22 ± 2°C and 60-80% RH with a cooling, a heating, and a humidifying system. Natural sunlight for plant growth illuminated the inside of the chamber through single layer of 1.6 mm thick

glass. The mixed humid and ozonated air entered the bottom of each chamber and exited the chamber top via two exhaust filters. Airflow was maintained at about 1 m/sec. Ozone was generated by passing pure oxygen through a 110-V, single phase O₃ generator and was delivered to the chamber with a controlling system (Fig. 1). The O₃ concentration was continuously monitored during the exposure with an ultraviolet (UV) photometric O₃ analyzer (Model 1008-AH, Dashibi, Galendale, CA) installed with a zero/span calibrator (Model 5008, Dashibi, Galendale, CA). The non-O₃ treated chamber with charcoal filters maintained less than 10 n/l of O₃. Plants were pre-adapted for 24 hours; conventional fumigations were then carried out at 150 ± 20 n/l over 8 days for 8 h each day (9:00 -17:00 h) in August, 1999.

Plant materials

The experiments were conducted on two cottonwood clones (*Populus deltoides*). Cottonwood cuttings were grown in 15-cm diameter pots containing top soil : peat : perlite (1:1:1, v/v/v) and maintained in a greenhouse at 18-22°C under ambient air condition. 5-months-old plants were used.

Net photosynthesis

The leaf net photosynthesis was measured three times (before, in the middle, and at the end of the fumigation) throughout the experiment with a photosynthesis measurement system (Li-Cor 6400, Lincoln, NE). The measured leaves were fully expanded and marked with string for repeated measurement. The leaf, still attached to the plant, was inserted into the 2 cm x 3 cm leaf chamber for broad leaves and allowed to acclimate for about 2 min. To precisely control gas exchange measurements, the leaf cuvette was maintained at 1000 μmol m⁻²s⁻¹ with a light emitting diode (LED), 380 μl of CO₂ from the injector system (Li-Cor 6400-01, Li-Cor), and 25°C inside the chamber. The machine measured CO₂ change, water vapor change, light intensity, and leaf temperature.

Stomatal conductance

The stomatal conductance was measured with a porometer (model 1600, Li-Cor). The stomatal ratio of the poplar leaf between adaxial and abaxial sides was checked before the O₃ treatment by measuring both sides of all leaves. Measurements were conducted four times during the O₃ exposures: before exposure, 3 days, 6 days, and 8 days after (final day) O₃ fumigation began. Stomatal conductance was measured on the same leaves used for photosynthesis measurement. A total of four leaves per clone were measured, i. e. two leaves per treatment.

Light response curve

The light response curves of the leaf photosynthetic potential were obtained by controlling the light intensity inside the Li-Cor chamber. Irradiance was decreased in 7 steps: 2000, 1500,

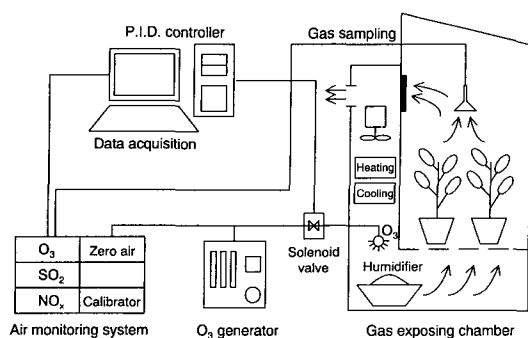


Fig. 1. Diagram of gas exposing system of the natural sunlight source.

Table 1. Changes in net photosynthesis (A: $\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$) in the sensitive and the tolerant clones of *Populus deltoides* on before, 4 days after, and the last day of fumigation with 150 nll O_3 between 9:00 and 17:00 h. Net photosyntheses were determined at 1000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ light, 380 $\mu\text{mol CO}_2$, 25°C in the controlled measurement chamber. Numbers in parentheses indicate the standard deviation of the mean of two replicate samples

| Days after ozone fumigation begin | Sensitive | | Tolerant | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Control | Ozone | Control | Ozone |
| 0 | 21.75 (1.48) | 20.50 (0.85) | 14.35 (0.35) | 18.45 (3.04) |
| 4 | 18.80 (0.14) | 9.56 (1.47) | 15.65 (0.35) | 15.60 (0.00) |
| 8 | 19.40 (0.00) | 9.53 (3.36) | 7.30 (0.28) | 11.50 (1.13) |

1000, 700, 500, 300, 150, 50, 0 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ of photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) on the adaxial side of the leaf. Once a leaf was inserted into the chamber, gas exchange measurements were automatically conducted via a programmed setting of irradiation for the light curve. Four light response curves were obtained with leaves from two treated measurement alternately. The chamber environment was controlled at 380 $\mu\text{l CO}_2$, 25°C, and 50-60% RH during the measurements.

A/Ci curve

The programmed levels of CO_2 concentration inside the measurement chambers were controlled with the CO_2 injector system (Li-Cor 6400-01, Li-Cor) and liquid CO_2 . This system can deliver precisely controlled CO_2 concentrations with rapid detection and compensation of CO_2 change in the chamber (C_a). Autoprograms within the Li-Cor 6400 system can automatically change setpoints to 1000, 700, 400, 200, 100, 50, 0 $\mu\text{l C}_a$ and log data for each setpoint. Internal CO_2 concentration (C_i) was calculated based on the gas exchange theory (Farquhar and Sharkey 1982). Four leaves were sequentially measured on the two clones and two treatments. The measured chamber was controlled at 1000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ PAR, 25°C, and 50-60% RH.

Chlorophyll contents

The leaves measured for gas exchange were sampled. 0.1 g of the fresh weight without veins was placed in 50 ml vials. The samples soaked with 10 ml of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) were in a 65°C water bath for 6 hours (Hiscox and Israelstam 1979). The amount of total chlorophyll, chlorophyll a, and chlorophyll b extracted from these leaf pieces was determined from optical density readings at 645, 652, and 663 nm (MacKinney 1941). Total chlorophyll content was determined by adding chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b per unit leaf fresh weight (mg chlorophyll/ fresh weight).

Fluorescent measurement

Chlorophyll fluorescence was measured using a chlorophyll fluorescence measurement system (Model CF-1000, Morgan Scientific, Inc., Andover, MA). The pulsed measuring light and the actinic light were 1-3 and 1000 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, respectively. The

measurements were carried out under chamber condition on the adaxial surface of the same leaves measured for the gas exchange determinations, but adapted in the dark for 1 minute. The fast kinetics phase of the induction curve was used to characterize the PSII activity using the value F_v (variable fluorescence in dark-adapted leaves)/ F_m (maximal fluorescence) (Bjorkman and Demming 1987), which was taken to be the maximum relative efficiency of photochemistry in the dark-adapted state.

RESULTS

Ozone injury

Typical O_3 injury occurred only on the leaves of the sensitive clone. The symptoms were black stipple with some severely injured part showing bifacial necrosis. The tolerant clone did not show any injury. The damaged area was about 50 - 60 percent of the leaf. The symptoms appeared on 2nd day after O_3 fumigation commenced. The damage mostly occurred on fully expanded leaves in the middle of the tree. The bottom leaves of the fumigated plants had mild symptom but did not show any early senescence.

Net photosynthesis

Net photosynthesis of the two clones and two treatments were not different at the first measurement before the treatment began, but variability was high. The decrease of photosynthesis on O_3 -treated sensitive clone started from 4th day after the fumigation began. There was a decrease in photosynthesis in the tolerant clone continuously throughout the measurement. After O_3 fumigation, the average of both clones showed 42 percent of photosynthesis compared to the control; the sensitive clone decreased 51 percent, whereas the tolerant clone decreased 34 percent. Although the photosynthetic decrease due to O_3 was less severe on the tolerant clone, the absolute amounts of photosynthesis on both clones with O_3 treatment were the same (Table 1). The photosynthetic rate of the sensitive clone was a little greater than that of tolerant clone throughout all three measurements.

Table 2. Changes in stomatal conductance (g_s : $\text{mmol H}_2\text{O m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) in the sensitive and the tolerant clones of *Populus deltoides* on before, 3 days after, 6 days after, and the last day of fumigation with 150 n/l O_3 between 9.00 and 17.00 h. Stomatal conductances were measured at natural sunlight ($600\text{--}900 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) under ambient air conditions in summer. Numbers in parentheses indicate the standard deviation of the mean of two replicate samples

| Days after ozone fumigation begin | Sensitive | | Tolerant | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Control | Ozone | Control | Ozone |
| 0 | 0.92 (0.24) | 1.33 (0.30) | 0.81 (0.08) | 1.04 (3.04) |
| 3 | 1.22 (0.01) | 1.42 (0.20) | 0.08 (0.02) | 0.53 (0.09) |
| 6 | 1.13 (0.10) | 1.19 (0.14) | 1.00 (0.03) | 0.93 (0.08) |
| 8 | 1.05 (0.02) | 1.20 (0.04) | 0.60 (0.09) | 0.66 (0.04) |

Stomatal conductance

The clonal difference of stomatal conductance was distinct throughout all four measurements (Table 2). The stomata of the sensitive clone were always open wider than that of the tolerant clone regardless of the O_3 treatment. The average of the sensitive clone on both treatments throughout all measurements was $1.182 \text{ H}_2\text{O mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, whereas that of the tolerant clone was $0.796 \text{ H}_2\text{O mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. The average stomatal conductance of O_3 treated plants was $1.037 \text{ H}_2\text{O mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and that of controls $0.941 \text{ H}_2\text{O mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. These two poplar clones did not close their stomata to O_3 stress.

Light response curve

The photosynthetic decrease due to O_3 started at $150 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ of light and the O_3 effect became more distinct as light levels increased (Fig. 2). The O_3 effect on the sensitive clone under $1000 \text{ mmol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or greater light was approximately 67 percent, whereas, that of the tolerant clone under the same conditions was 34 percent. Even at $2000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ of light, the poplar

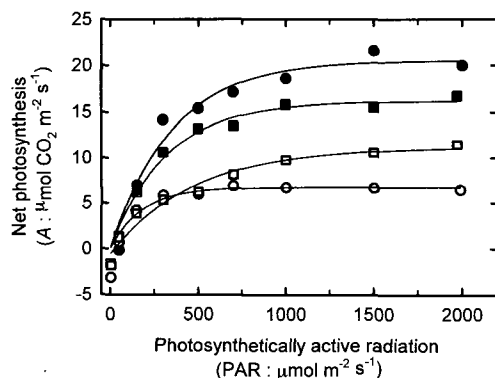


Fig. 2. Effect of ozone on the response of photosynthesis to variation in photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) of the two poplar clones. Solid circle, sensitive clone and control; Open circle, sensitive clone and O_3 treated; Solid square, tolerant clone and control; Open square, tolerant clone and O_3 treated. Measurement conditions were; chamber temperature 25°C , $380 \mu\text{l/l}$ CO_2 , 25°C , and 30–60% RH.

leaves were not light saturated since the potential of photosynthesis seemed to be increased as the light level increased. Dark respiration, the release of carbon dioxide without light, was measured on both clones and the two treatments. It was hard to detect an O_3 effect because of low rates of respiration. Under $50 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ of light, the photosynthetic average of the tolerant clone was $1.3 \text{ CO}_2 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, whereas that of the sensitive one was $0.3 \text{ CO}_2 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. Thus, the light compensation point of the tolerant clone would be much lower than that of the sensitive one.

A/Ci curves

Ozone effects on A/C_i curves occurred only on the sensitive clone, except for one datum point at about $500 \mu\text{l/l}$ C_i on the tolerant clone (Fig. 3). Ozone decreased the slope and the asymptote of the curves. The clonal difference on A/C_i curves between the two control curves seemed to be the same on the graphs, but C_i was significantly different between the two clones. The internal CO_2 concentrations between the two clones and the two treatments were similar until $100 \mu\text{l/l}$ CO_2 , but the C_i of the sensi-

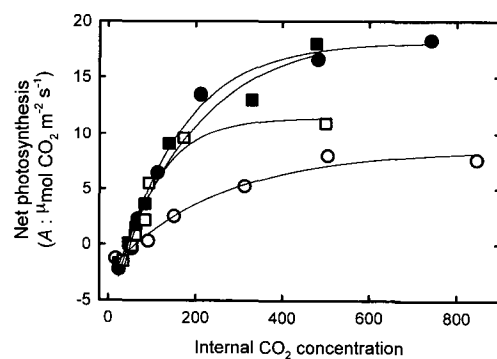


Fig. 3. Effect of ozone on the response of photosynthesis to variation in intercellular CO_2 concentration of the two poplar clones. The curves represent a biochemical model fitted to the data. Solid circle, sensitive clone and control; Open circle, sensitive clone and O_3 treated; Solid square, tolerant clone and control; Open square, tolerant clone and O_3 treated. Measurement conditions were; chamber temperature 25°C , photon flux density $1000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Table 3. Internal CO₂ concentrations (Ci) of the two *Populus deltoides* clones exposed to O₃ (150 n/l for 8 h day⁻¹) for 8 days. The controlled plants were kept in charcoal-filtered air. The gas exchange parameters were determined at 380 ml/l PAR, 25°C and 50-60% RH

| Supplied CO ₂ ¹ | Internal CO ₂ concentration ² | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|----------|-------|
| | Sensitive | | Tolerant | |
| | Control | Ozone | Control | Ozone |
| 1000 | 741.0 | 845.0 | 478.0 | 500.0 |
| 700 | 483.0 | 504.0 | 330.0 | 173.1 |
| 400 | 212.0 | 312.0 | 139.0 | 92.7 |
| 200 | 112.0 | 151.0 | 84.6 | 84.6 |
| 100 | 67.5 | 91.5 | 63.2 | 62.5 |
| 50 | 49.8 | 53.8 | 46.8 | 54.2 |
| 0 | 24.0 | 17.0 | 24.1 | 34.1 |

¹ The concentrations of the supplied CO₂ inside the measured chamber was precisely controlled with the CO₂ injector system (Li-Cor 6400-01).

² The calculated Ci was according to Farquar and Sharkey (1982).

Table 4. The maximum quantum yield (Fv/Fm) and chlorophyll contents of a (Chl a), b (Chl b), and total (total Chl) of mature leaves of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) clones exposed to O₃ (150 n/l for 8 h per day) for 8 days. The controlled plants were kept in charcoal-filtered air. The chlorophyll fluorescence parameters were determined in leaves dark-adapted for 1 min. Chlorophyll contents were determined by spectrophotometric absorbance of dimethyl sulfoxide extracts from 0.1 g fresh weigh leaf samples without foliar injury at the end of fumigation. The significance of the F-value following the two way ANOVA is shown. *, p<0.05; **, p<0.01

| | | Flourescence (Fv/Fm) | Chl a | Chl b | Total Chl |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Treatment | Control | 0.6927 | 212.0 | 83.0 | 294.9 |
| | Ozone | 0.6913 | 203.6 | 87.3 | 290.8 |
| Clone | Sensitive | 0.7517 | 195.1 | 74.74 | 269.8 |
| | Tolerant | 0.6323 | 220.5 | 95.48 | 315.9 |
| F-values | Treat effect | 1.0000 | 0.6517 | 0.5052 | 0.8646 |
| | Clone effect | 0.0110 | 0.2129 | 0.0245** | 0.1083 |
| | O ₃ x Clone | | | | |
| | Interaction | 0.7021 | 0.0464** | 0.0750* | 0.0482** |

tive clone was much higher than that of the tolerant one (Table 3).

did not significantly decrease due to O₃ treatment.

Flourescent responses and chlorophyll contents

Ozone did not change any fluorescence response (Table 4). The major difference in fluorescent response was due to clonal difference. That is, Fv/Fm of the sensitive clone was 19 percent higher than that of the tolerant clone and it means the photosynthetic ability on light reaction of the sensitive clone was much higher than that of the tolerant one.

The chlorophyll content was not affected by O₃ treatment or clonal difference (Table 4). The clonal difference was much greater than the treatment difference. Chlorophyll a was about 70 percent of total chlorophyll in both clones. Significant interactions between treatment and clone were found on Chlorophyll a and total chlorophyll. Although obvious O₃ damage occurred on the sensitive clone, chlorophyll contents on the sensitive clone

DISCUSSION

Natural light maintained A and g_s on both clones throughout the measurement, compared to the decreasing of gas exchange parameters under artificial light sources (Reich 1983, Yun and Laurence 1999). In addition, our light curve results showed that light intensity is an important factor to discriminate O₃ effects on photosynthetic responses clearly. Our results are consistent with previous studies that cottonwood is highly responsive to O₃ (Tenga *et al.* 1993, Woodbury *et al.* 1994 Woo 1997,). Ozone causes leaf injury, early leaf senescence, and abscission of older cottonwood leaves (Coleman *et al.* 1988, Sen *et al.* 1991, Soldatini *et al.* 1998). It also causes a reduction of net photosynthetic capacity (Reich 1983, Jensen and Nobel 1984, Guidi *et al.*

1998, Soldatini *et al.* 1998) in both the sensitive and the tolerant clones of cottonwood.

The previous studies (Guidi *et al.* 1998, Soldatini *et al.* 1998) reported that the mechanism of a decrease is stomatal closure and inhibition of mesophyll conductance. Moreover, PSII was affected by O₃ according to the significant Fv/Fm decrease. However, the significant changes of gas exchange were due to the clonal differences rather than O₃ treatment, in stomatal conductance, A/Ci curves, Fv/Fm, as well as in the visible symptom on the leaves caused by O₃. If O₃ exposure is not so severe, the sensitive clone has greater photosynthetic activity than the tolerant one due to greater light reaction efficiency (fluorescence) and stomatal conductance. However, the tolerant clone under high O₃ condition did efficiently photosynthesize while closing stomata, and thus has unchanged Rubisco activity. Thus, the mechanism of the O₃-tolerance can be a biochemically efficient photosynthesis with low stomatal opening and a durable Rubisco activity under O₃ stress. Although O₃ could not change the chlorophyll contents and the maximal quantum yield, we found severe damage on the biochemical apparatus.

The O₃-induced different A/Ci curves on the sensitive clone (Fig. 3) mean that O₃ is associated with lower ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase / oxygenase (Rubisco) enzyme activity, limitation of ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate (RuBP) regeneration, and limitation of inorganic phosphate supply (Ball *et al.* 1987, Flanagan and Jefferies 1989). The saturation level of A/Ci means that either the limitation is caused by the regeneration of RuBP or the limited supply of inorganic phosphate on ATP regeneration (Wullschlegel 1993). The O₃ in this study can explain the damage on the supply of inorganic phosphate (Pi) and RuBP in the dark reaction. Our results indicate that Rubisco in the O₃-treated leaves on the sensitive clone was damaged because there was a slower increase in carbon fixation as CO₂ increased. Thus, the severe O₃ damage on the sensitive clone can explain the damage to carbon metabolism after CO₂ entered through stomata into intercellular air spaces (Ball *et al.* 1987). However, our A/Ci results with the tolerant clone mean that O₃ affects the regeneration of biochemical responses for photosynthesis, but did not affect the RUBP enzyme activity on the tolerant clone.

The O₃ effect on gas exchange parameters, such as photosynthesis and stomatal conductance of the sensitive clone was that greatest on the third day after the fumigation began. However, the stomata of the sensitive clone did not respond to O₃ treatment. Because the quantum yield and the stomatal sensitivity of the sensitive clones were much lower than those of the tolerant clone, the stomata should be open regardless of the O₃ stress from the outside to maintain photosynthesis. On the other hand, O₃ greatly reduced stomatal conductance in the tolerant clone and decreased photosynthetic rates; stomatal closure was the mechanism in this clone.

The analysis of photosynthetic curves with increasing irradiance provides information on quantum yield and other light energy reactions (Stitt 1991). Our results showed that O₃ had little effect on quantum efficiency, the slope of the curve. Rather, the upper asymptote (near light-saturated photosynthesis) was influenced by O₃ and the effect differed between the clones (Fig. 2). Decreased photosynthesis on the upper asymptote due to O₃ treatment differed with clones, indicating that O₃ modified either the amount or activity of Rubisco, depending on the clones. The sensitive clone was the most productive when grown under high light. These clonal and O₃ effects on the light response curves were reported on *Populus tremuloides* (Coleman *et al.* 1995).

Fluorescence response can indicate direct photosynthetic disruption (Lichtenthaler 1988); O₃ changed the chlorophyll fluorescence kinetics on *Vicia faba* (Guidi *et al.* 1993), *Plantago major* (Reiling and Davison 1994), and barley (Rowland-Bamford *et al.* 1989). These previous studies found that the changes in fluorescence induction caused by O₃ started at leaf before any visible sign of leaf necrosis and that these changes correlated well with the alteration in fluorescence and the extent of visible injury. However, our results did not show any O₃ effects on fluorescent response, although 150 nl l⁻¹ O₃ is quite severe compared to other studies. Because Fv/Fm of the sensitive clone was significantly higher, the photosystem of the sensitive clone is more efficient in the photochemical functioning of the thylakoids than that of the tolerant one.

Chlorophyll contents of the treated leaves did not significantly reduced. The remained healthy parts of the leaves were not damaged by O₃. Because photosynthesis was reduced due to O₃ treatment without changes in fluorescence or chlorophyll contents, O₃ in this study did not significantly affect light reactions of the two clones of cottonwood.

Since O₃ fumigation occurred for relatively short periods of time during the tree growth, we did not measure biomass of the tree. However, biomass is important to relate whole-tree photosynthesis and carbon assimilation throughout the growing season. Photosynthetic decrease due to O₃ can be easily measured with gas exchange, but long-term fumigations should be conducted to investigate the O₃ effect on biomass. Our fumigation level of 150 nl/l for 8 days is unlikely to occur in the ambient air in Korea (Yun *et al.* 1999), however, this level can be reached in our circumstances and the O₃ damage shown in the results can be used as a warning of increasing O₃ levels.

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