

# Determination of five mineral element contents in pollen grains of different seedling date palm (*Phoenix Dactylifera L.*) male trees grown in fayoum Governorate, Egypt

## Abstract

This experiment was conducted to find the connection between sensible male pollinators and the content from mineral element (Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Magnesium) in pollen grain of fifty seedling date palm male and compared it with the best selective five seedling date palm males (number 2, 10, 29, 40, 46) are appropriate and promising males for to be utilized in pollinating female date palms and mistreatment in breeding programs in previous study. Results found variations among the categories of pollen and elements. The highest concentration of zinc was found in males' number (2, 10, 40 and 46) which recorded 127,102, 115 and 122 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees. Also the highest concentration of iron was found in male number (40) which recorded 222 µg/g dry weight as compared to the other male trees. Moreover, notes from result excellence male number (10) in manganese concentration which recorded 202 µg/g dry weight as compared to the other male trees. In this concern, pollen grain of date palm male trees contained also, high concentrations of copper and magnesium the concentration ranging from 10 to 30 and 1320 to 1985 µg/g dry weight for copper and magnesium respectively. The best value for copper and magnesium which obtained from the selective male number (46) which recorded 30 and 1985 µg/g dry weight for copper and magnesium respectively as compared to the other male trees. From all the results we can conclude that the date palm pollen grain was as rich source of important minerals, so its suitability as a regular component in plant and human diet.

**Keywords:** male date pal, zinc, iron, manganese, copper, magnesium

Volume 3 Issue 3 - 2019

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**Received:** December 03, 2018 | **Published:** May 28, 2019

## Introduction

Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera L.*) is one amongst the oldest cultivated trees in world. In Egypt, Phoenix dactylifera tree is taken into account joined of the foremost vital fruits wherever it's cosmopolitan in numerous areas in Egypt from the Mediterranean coast up to Assouan. It's cosmopolitan in numerous districts of the planet districts of the world. It constitutes the foremost vital plant in arid and desert areas wherever it provides favorable conditions for both human and animal habitats.<sup>1</sup> In fact, feather palm as Associate in Nursing irreplaceable tree in irrigable desert lands grows underneath unfavorable conditions wherever several of the opposite fruit species doesn't. It additionally keeps alternative crops settled under that from heat, wind, and even cold weather. So, it plays an enormous role to prevent geologic process and provides life to desert areas.<sup>2,3</sup> Date palm could be a dioecious perennial and monocotyledonous fruit tree that belongs to the Arecaceae family. Several investigators studied the effect of pollens obtained from totally different palm males cultivar on fruit set, yield and fruit physical and chemical properties of many female palm cultivars.<sup>4-10</sup> The direct influence of the male parent on the event of the date fruit is precise and definite and varies with the actual male wont to fertilize the female flowers. Every male exerting just about constant impact on fruit of all varieties and exerting constant impact in several years. Therefore, it's vital to select and identify superior male in term of fertilization. The concentration of mineral components in spore grains of feather date

palm males were studied by many workers.<sup>11-21</sup> In addition, several investigators mentioned that, the effect of micro-nutrient in spore grain germination and pollen tube growth in several plant species.<sup>22,23</sup> The minerals content in pollen grains differed from one seedling plant males to a different. The macronutrients, N was gift within the highest concentrations, followed by Ca, P, Mg and Na, whereas the micronutrients, Fe was gift within the highest concentrations, followed by Zn, Mn and Cu.<sup>24</sup> The aim of this analysis area unit study the content of those five types of nutrients (Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Magnesium) in pollen grain of the selective five seedling date palm males and compare them with those of alternative males because these elements are importance within the life of the plant wherever any shortage leads to intensive harm to the plant. Moreover, these males might be used as pollinators for palm females. Also, we are able to propagate and multiply these promising males' oldsters by tissue cultural programs. Moreover, we wish to indicate is that the content of those elements are correlated with the rise in pollination and fertilization process or not.

## Materials and methods

### Plant materials

The study was conducted during the three successive seasons 2015, 2016 and 2017 on fifty seedling date palm males about 30 years old and grown in Sand clay loamy soil at Tamiya district, Fayoum Governorate, Egypt. Moreover, the study included the five date palm

males coded by numbers (2, 10, 29, 40 and 46) which select according to the evaluation results of more previously studies.<sup>8-10</sup> as good male pollinators for further using in pollinating female date palms and breeding programs.

### Collection of plant material

Date Palm pollen was collected in March (2015, 2016 and 2017) from Tamiya district, Fayoum Governorate, Egypt. Some of palm pollen grains (*Phoenix dactylifera L.*) were collected and separated from the kernels with a fine gauze sieve and dried at 70°C and then kept in closed container.

### Chemical composition:

Dried pollen grain were used for determination, Iron, zinc, manganese, copper and magnesium contents as µg/g dry weight by using atomic absorption spectrophotometer apparatus according.<sup>25,26</sup> Data were statistically analyzed according.<sup>27</sup> Data presented in the Table of this investigation represent the mean of the three experimental seasons.

## Results

### Micro nutrient

**Zinc concentrations:** Data presented in Table 1 indicate that Pollen grain of date palm male trees contained high concentrations of zinc, the concentration ranging from 49 to 127µg/g dry weight .The best result which obtained from the selective males number (2, 10, 40 and 46) which recorded 127,102, 115 and 122 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees.

**Iron concentrations:** Data presented in Table 2 indicate that Pollen grain of date palm male trees contained also high concentrations of iron, the concentration ranging from 145 to 222µg/g dry weight. The best result which obtained from the selective male number (40) which recorded 222 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees.

**Manganese concentrations:** Data presented in Table 3 indicate that Pollen grain of date palm male trees contained high concentrations of iron, the concentration ranging from 97 to 202µg/g dry weight .The best result which obtained from the selective male number (10) which recorded 202 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees.

**Copper concentrations:** Data presented in Table 4 indicate that pollen grain of date palm male trees contained low concentrations of copper, the concentration ranging from 10 to 30 µg/g dry weight .The best result which obtained from the selective male number (46) which recorded 30 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees.

### Macro nutrient

**Magnesium concentrations:** Data presented in Table 5 indicate that Pollen grain of date palm male trees contained high concentrations of magnesium, the concentration ranging from 1320 to 1985 µg/g dry weight. The best result which obtained from the selective male number (46) which recorded 1985 µg/g dry weight respectively as compared to the other male trees.

**Table 1** Pollen zinc content of date palm males as the mean of the three seasons studied

Male No.	Zn µg/g dry weight		Male No.	Zn µg/g dry weight	
	Mean*	C.V.**		Mean*	C.V.**
1	88	3.13	26	92	1.25
2	127	3.62	27	95	1.95
3	95	1.33	28	70	2.41
4	93	6.31	29	98	2.63
5	74	1.43	30	81	1.01
6	55	2.67	31	63	2.14
7	62	2.61	32	66	1.92
8	81	1.43	33	53	2.33
9	49	3.58	34	84	1.36
10	102	4.14	35	84	1.85
11	73	1.4	36	90	2.06
12	92	6.25	37	77	1.35
13	94	6.71	38	94	1.18
14	82	1.66	39	63	2.55
15	83	1.86	40	115	3.02
16	83	1.17	41	51	1.18
17	60	2.01	42	65	1.66
18	64	1.95	43	83	1.22
19	58	1.18	44	90	1.28
20	79	1.77	45	95	1.35
21	88	2.03	46	122	2.47
22	67	1.18	47	59	1.35
23	72	3.64	48	57	1.48
24	75	3.22	49	92	1.79
25	83	1.84	50	64	1.45

Mean of seasons, 2015, 2016 and 2017\*

Coefficient of variation\*\*

**Table 2** Pollen iron content of date palm males as the mean of the three seasons studied

Male No.	Fe µg/g dry weight		Male No.	Fe µg/g dry weight	
	Mean*	C.V.**		Mean*	C.V.**
1	167	12.67	26	148	5.15
2	184	12.54	27	183	9.21
3	204	8.25	28	199	25.15
4	201	8.11	29	149	10.28
5	217	9.01	30	162	12.2
6	193	13.73	31	208	9.28
7	205	9.18	32	174	11.11
8	221	9.25	33	172	12.55
9	145	10.21	34	160	6.18
10	188	21.05	35	231	10.14
11	198	20.18	36	153	6.33
12	200	10.11	37	160	14.25
13	182	11.18	38	178	16.6
14	164	9.85	39	192	15.66
15	145	10.85	40	193	15.35
16	222	8.55	41	184	14.2
17	191	9.84	42	205	10.18
18	203	8.95	43	209	10.89
19	175	15.1	44	187	11.33
20	188	12.21	45	161	8.61
21	207	13.15	46	222	14.15
22	202	25.18	47	176	15.04
23	170	14.36	48	206	21.18
24	177	10.15	49	202	10.74
25	216	8.85	50	185	9.78

Mean of seasons, 2015, 2016 and 2017\*

\*\*Coefficient of variation

**Table 3** Pollen manganese content of date palm males as the mean of the three seasons studied

Male No.	Mn µg/g dry weight		Male No.	Mn µg/g dry weight	
	Mean*	C.V.**		Mean*	C.V.**
1	134	15.14	26	129	3.25
2	191	12.1	27	133	5.68
3	182	15.05	28	97	3.54
4	178	12.28	29	136	10.54
5	112	10.18	30	189	10.25
6	98	3.25	31	194	12.25
7	155	5.16	32	203	11.82
8	192	8.65	33	158	9.28
9	141	7.99	34	182	8.92
10	202	12.63	35	179	10.25
11	154	8.15	36	192	9.44
12	177	6.58	37	186	8.15
13	168	9.65	38	172	6.18
14	136	6.85	39	194	10.52
15	121	10.21	40	157	8.25
16	166	13.05	41	142	5.15
17	192	12.15	42	154	4.27
18	143	6.17	43	193	9.88
19	129	5.25	44	171	10.55
20	155	9.18	45	185	11.33
21	181	11.21	46	157	12.25
22	138	10.84	47	142	10.22
23	141	13.13	48	194	10.54
24	174	14.85	49	173	12.12
25	187	17.38	50	184	16.1

Mean of seasons, 2015, 2016 and 2017\*

Coefficient of variation\*\*

**Table 4** Pollen Copper content of date palm males as the mean of the two seasons studied

Male No.	Cu µg/g dry weight		Male No.	Cu µg/g dry weight	
	Mean*	C.V.**		Mean*	C.V.**
1	16	3.12	26	14	1.14
2	10	2.16	27	13	1.35
3	22	5.24	28	24	1.58
4	14	2.01	29	21	1.87
5	25	2.18	30	19	1.65
6	32	3.24	31	23	1.24
7	30	3.58	32	15	1.65
8	29	2.66	33	21	1.38
9	11	1.23	34	12	1.59
10	17	1.65	35	26	1.34
11	14	1.21	36	22	2.01
12	13	1.68	37	18	2.35
13	15	1.38	38	29	3
14	12	1.65	39	15	1.15
15	18	2.12	40	27	2.01
16	15	2.52	41	23	2.05
17	20	1.32	42	20	2.06
18	19	2.58	43	14	1.32
19	23	2.84	44	28	1.89
20	21	2.44	45	24	1.54
21	24	2.86	46	30	2.06
22	13	2.47	47	15	1.11
23	20	2.38	48	29	1.42
24	23	2.65	49	12	1.11
25	30	2.98	50	25	1.68

Mean of seasons, 2015, 2016 and 2017\*

Coefficient of variation\*\*

**Table 5** Pollen magnesium content of date palm males as the mean of the three seasons studied

Male No.	Mg µg/g dry weight		Male No.	Mg µg/g dry weight	
	Mean*	C.V.**		Mean*	C.V.**
1	1330	16.05	26	1840	16.33
2	1670	17.28	27	1940	15.17
3	1450	18.33	28	1450	12.32
4	1940	18.54	29	1320	14.25
5	1680	18.69	30	1520	15.26
6	1130	19.04	31	1830	17.77
7	1980	19.35	32	1220	18.39
8	1320	16.33	33	1340	14.35
9	1960	16.54	34	1530	16.33
10	1340	18.21	35	1820	17.28
11	1460	16.16	36	1470	17.95
12	1970	15.24	37	1960	16.13
13	1950	15.36	38	1780	16.19
14	1350	16.66	39	1660	18.17
15	1930	16.32	40	1430	13.25
16	1720	17.21	41	1940	16.25
17	1880	19.18	42	1350	11.38
18	1930	19.32	43	1230	16.35
19	1490	14.13	44	1680	10.82
20	1360	12.16	45	1920	18.39
21	1500	13.15	46	1985	10.1
22	1830	14.25	47	1840	11.66
23	1610	14.36	48	1670	15.25
24	1450	15.15	49	1450	13.25
25	1720	16.26	50	1940	16.21

Mean of seasons, 2015, 2016 and 2017\*

Coefficient of variation\*\*

## Discussion

It is clear from the current information that the great male pollinators for using in pollinating female date palms (five seedling date palm males number, 2, 10, 29, 40, 46) was characterized by high content of the estimated element (Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Magnesium). In this respect,<sup>24</sup> pointed that feather date palm pollen (*Phoenix dactylifera L.*) is particularly high mineral content. This could be associated with the high mineral content of the soil horizons in dry areas wherever this species grows. But, the capability of the parent plant to accumulate elements within the pollen is additionally associated with the species. Moreover,<sup>19</sup> found that Egyptian pollen grain contain higher quantity of copper 3.196 mg/g with lower quantity of manganese 2.84mg/g, zinc 2.81mg/g and iron 2.41mg/g. The elements Fe, Mg, Mn, Zn and Cu have been classified as essential elements for the plants and human diet.<sup>28,29</sup> While not copper, iron cannot be properly reborn to its usable<sup>30</sup> whereas the Mg contain within the pollen grains is also reduced risk of stroke.<sup>31</sup> The presence of  $Mg^{+2}$ ,  $Cu^{+3}$ ,  $Fe^{+2}$ ,  $Mn^{+2}$  and  $Zn^{+2}$  reflects their perform as essential nutrient components, typically as co-factor activators in metal-ligand enzyme complexes.<sup>29</sup> The healthful importance of pollen grain could also be thanks to its content of Zn that is beneficial to manufacture of testosterone, as antioxidant and essential for traditional functioning of the male reproductive system,<sup>29,32</sup> in contribution of  $Mn^{33}$  which also are essential for traditional functioning of central system nervousum and are an honest anti-oxidant.<sup>29</sup> Workers, rumored that, iron plays a task in syntheses of RNA, reduction of nitrate to ammonia,<sup>34</sup> chlorophyll synthesis,<sup>35</sup> nucleic acid metabolism and chemical change and structural roles of  $Fe^{+2}$  and  $Fe^{+3}$  in plant.<sup>36</sup> Also, iron is either a constituent or a cofactor of many antioxidant enzymes, and might acts as a pro-oxidant issue as a result of free or loosely bound  $Fe^{-}$  catalyses free radical generation within the presence of reductants and peroxides through the Fenton reaction. In particular, Fe is involved in the  $Fe^{-}$  catalysed Haber–Weiss reaction in which trace amounts of  $Fe^{3+}$  are reduced by to produce  $Fe^{2+}$  which, in turn, reacts with  $H_2O_2$  to form OH (Fenton reaction). As the intrinsic constituent or metal compound, iron is actively concerned in cellular detoxification reactions catalysed by enzyme, phenolic-dependent peroxidases (non-specific peroxidases, ascorbate peroxidases and metallic element SOD, that scavenge oxide and superoxide, therefore protective the cell from aerophilous injury. As the intrinsic constituent or metal cofactor, iron is actively concerned in cellular detoxification reactions catalysed by enzyme catalase, phenolic-dependent peroxidases (non-specific peroxidases, ascorbate peroxidases and  $Fe$  superoxide dismutase, which scavenge hydrogen peroxide and superoxide, therefore protective the cell from aerophilous injury.. In this respect,<sup>37</sup> reported that, iron deficient helianthus plants appears to have an effect on totally different the various peroxidase isoenzymes to different extents and to induce a secondary aerobic oxidative stress, as indicated by the redoubled levels of  $H_2O_2$ . On the opposite hand, the foremost vital perform of manganese is said to the oxidation-reduction processes.<sup>28</sup> It may be used as a cofactor of many enzymes that act as phosphorylated substrates; conjointly, it plays a task in control the amount of plant hormones (auxins) in plant tissues by activating the auxin oxidation system.<sup>34</sup> The essential role of atomic number 30 is said to the synthesis of essential amino acid organic compound and consequently formation of phytohormone i.e. IAA that act as plant hormone particularly in prolonging height of plants.<sup>38</sup> Metal has a role in supermolecule metabolism, supermolecule synthesis, essential amino acid and IAA synthesis, since it activates variety of enzymes

for photosynthesis.<sup>39,40</sup> The essential role of Zn is related to the synthesis of tryptophan amino acid and consequently formation of phytohormone i.e. IAA that act as plant hormone particularly in prolonging height of plants.<sup>38</sup> Zinc has a vital role in carbohydrate metabolism, protein synthesis, essential amino acid and IAA synthesis, since it activates variety of enzymes for photosynthesis.<sup>39,40</sup> Also,<sup>41</sup> rumored that, the rise in spore grain from Mg, Zn, Mn, iron and atomic number 29 is various components of the plant. The stimulating impact of micronutrients on plant growth is also because of their role in lepton transmission from water to chlorophyll and manufacturing O gas within the chemical change, additionally to their role within the gas metabolism through activated group enzyme catalyst.<sup>42</sup> Also, the favorable impact of Mg, Zn, Fe, Mn and atomic number 29 on yield and its elements in antecedently studied by<sup>8,9</sup> may be attributed to the rise in photosynthetic pigments concentration<sup>36</sup> moreover as, catalyst activity, consequently improvement of plant metabolism.<sup>43</sup> Also,<sup>41</sup> reported that, the rise in Pollen grain from Mg, Zn, Mn, Fe and Cu also because of the impact of Zn on synthesis of phytohormone (I.A.A.) that promote ontogenesis process and consequently the amounts of mineral elements absorbed and trans placed into the various components of the plant. The stimulating impact of micronutrients on plant growth is also because of their role in electron transmission from water to chlorophyll and manufacturing oxygen gas within the photosynthesis, additionally to their role within the nitrogen metabolism through activated nitrite reductase enzyme.<sup>42</sup> Also, the favorable impact of Mg, Zn, Fe, Mn and Cu on yield and its components in antecedently studied by<sup>8,9</sup> may be attributed to the rise in photosynthetic pigments concentration<sup>36</sup> moreover as, enzyme activity, consequently improvement of plant metabolism.<sup>43</sup>

## Conclusion

Finally, from the present results, it could be concluded that the good male pollinators for using in pollinating female date palms was characterized by high content from elements (Zinc, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Magnesium). Which reflected greatly on fertility and yield, and consequently improved quality of fruits because these elements participate in the different metabolic processes. Moreover, it could be recommended to fertilizing date palm males trees with micronutrients of (Fe, Zn, Mn, Cu, Mg) for increase vitality of Pollen grains of date Palm male trees and greatly increased yield.

## Acknowledgments

None.

## Conflicts of interest

The author declares there is no conflicts of interest.

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