Thiourea orchestrates regulation of redox state and antioxidant responses to reduce the NaCl-induced oxidative damage in Indian mustard (Brassica juncea (L.) Czern.) seedlings. Biochemical analyses of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and lipid peroxidation revealed that TU supplementation to NaCl brought down their levels to near control values as compared to that of NaCl stress. These positive effects could be correlated to the significant increases in the 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH)-radical scavenging activity, in the levels of reduced glutathione (GSH) and GSH/GSSG.
radical scavenging activity, in the levels of reduced glutathione (GSH) and GSH/GSSG (reduced/oxidized glutathione) ratio and in the activities of superoxide dismutase (SOD; EC 1.15.1.1) and glutathione reductase (GR; EC 1.6.4.2) in NaClâ€’TU treatment as compared to that of NaCl treatment. Further, TU supplementation allowed plants to avoid an over-accumulation of pyridine nucleotides, to stimulate alternative pathways (through higher glycolate oxidase activity; EC 1.1.3.15) for channeling reducing equivalents and thus, to maintain the redox state to near control levels. These positive responses were also linked to an increased energy utilization (analyzed in terms of ATP/ADP ratio) and presumably to an early signaling of the stress through stimulated activity of ascorbate oxidase (EC 1.10.3.3), an important component of stress signaling. A significant reduction observed in the level of sodium ion (Na+) accumulation indicated that TU mediated tolerance is attributable to salt avoidance. Thus, the present study suggested that TU treatment regulated redox and antioxidant machinery to reduce the NaCl-induced oxidative stress.

Highlights
• The potential role of thiourea (TU) in the amelioration of salinity stress-induced oxidative damage was studied in Brassica juncea seedlings. • The TU treatment significantly reduced the ROS load through the co-ordinated regulation of different redox couples, non-enzymatic and enzymatic antioxidants. • The TU mediated protection was also associated with the significant reduction in the level of Na+ ion accumulation.

Keywords
Ascorbate; ATP; Glutathione; Ion accumulation; Pyridine nucleotides

Abbreviations
ADP, adenosine-5â€’-diphosphate; AO, ascorbate oxidase; APX, ascorbate peroxidase; ASC, reduced ascorbate; ATP, adenosine-5â€’-triphosphate; CAT, catalase; DPPH, 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical; DHA, dehydroascorbate; DHAR, dehydroascorbate reductase; DTT, dithiothreitol; ETC, electron transport chain; GO, glycolate oxidase; GR, glutathione reductase; GSH, reduced glutathione; GSSG, oxidized glutathione; MDA, malondialdehyde; MDHAR, monodehydroascorbate reductase; NAD, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide; NADH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide reduced; NADP, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate; NADPH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced; NADP+; NADP, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate; NADPH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced; NADP+; NADP
orchestrates regulation of redox state and antioxidant responses to reduce the NaCl-induced oxidative damage in Indian mustard

adenine dinucleotide; NADH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide reduced; NADP, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate; NADPH, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate reduced; ROS, reactive oxygen species; RSA, radical scavenging activity; SOD, superoxide dismutase; TBARS, thiobarbituric acid reactive substances; TGA, thioglycollic acid; TU, thiourea
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