

# Molecular characterization of barley yellow dwarf virus coat protein gene in wheat and aphids

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## ABSTRACT

Barley yellow dwarf viruses (BYDVs) are members of the luteovirus group transmitted only by aphids. The five serotypes (PAV, RMV, RPV, MAV and SGV) were reported. In Egypt, BYDV is common with PAV serotype being dominant. In the current report, total RNA was purified from infected wheat leaf plants and Aphids. RT-PCR technique was used to amplify and identify the coat protein gene sequence of BYDV- PAV and RMV serotypes in wheat using specific primers designed by ABI primer express software. Expected PCR products were sequenced and aligned together with related gene bank sequences and revealed the high similarity up to 93%. RT- Real Time PCR technique was used to detect and quantify BYDV. The results indicate that the infection ratio of Giza 164 samples are higher than the infection ratio of Sids 7 based on Ct value, and virus concentration in aphids are higher than in wheat for both serotypes. In addition, the sensitivity of RT- Real Time PCR is 3 to 5 fold higher than conventional PCR for detecting virus infection.

**Key words:** Wheat, BYDV, molecular characterization, coat protein, Real Time PCR, sequencing.

## INTRODUCTION

Every year, barley yellow dwarf viruses (BYDVs) cause substantial losses throughout the world wherever their hosts, mainly wheat, barley, and oats, occasionally rice and maize, are grown. The barley yellow dwarf (BYD) disease was first identified by Oswald and Houston (1951). Barley yellow dwarf viruses (BYDVs) are members of the luteovirus group and are phloem limited transmitted in a persistent manner by several species of aphids (over 100 species of cultivated and wild grasses (Lister and Sward, 1988). Differences among BYDV isolates were first characterized by Rochow (1969). These isolates are distinguishable serologically (Waterhouse *et al.*, 1988).

Symptoms induced by luteoviruses are often difficult to distinguish from symptoms caused by other pathogens, nutritional deficiencies, or cold weather (D'Arcy, 1995). The symptoms in wheat are not always obvious; often they are limited to stunting resulting in a substantial yield loss, while remaining undetected (Irwin and Thresh, 1990). In contrast, BYDV causes yellowing and stunting in barley, and yellowing, reddening, leaf stiffness, reduced tillering and heading, and numerous sterile florets in oats (D'Arcy, 1995). BYDV (PAV-129) isolates vary greatly in symptom severity (Chay *et al.*, 1996). In Egypt, BYDV is common and was first recorded on wheat (Abdel-Hak and Ghobrial, 1984). The virus was isolated and identified (Aboul-Ata *et al.*, 1992). The five serotypes (PAV, RMV, RPV,

MAV and SGV) were found in Egypt, with PAV being dominant (Lister and Sward, 1988). In addition, BYDV-PAV fluctuated from year to year (Aboul-Ata *et al.*, 2001). Much progress has been made recently in elucidating the roles of the proteins most conserved among all luteoviruses, those encoded by ORFs 3, 4, and 5 (Hussien, 1996). Besides its obvious function in forming virions, the coat protein (encoded by ORF 3) may have roles in virus movement and replication in plants (Shen and Miller, 2004). The coat protein is required for aphid transmission and it may confer aphid vector-specificity. Young *et al.*, (1994) found that a portion of the CP itself harbors the vector-specificity determinant. Real-time RT-PCR is a highly sensitive technique enabling amplification and quantification of a specific nucleic acid sequence with detection of the PCR product in real time. Quantification of DNA, cDNA, or RNA targets can be easily achieved by determination of the cycle, when the PCR product could be first detected (Fabre *et al.* 2003). Real Time PCR is based on TaqMan technology, detects and quantifies from  $10^2$  to  $10^8$  BYDV-PAV RNA copies. This test is  $10^1$  and  $10^3$  times more sensitive than the standard RT-PCR and ELISA assays published previously for BYDV-PAV detection and significantly improves virus detection in single aphids (Sijun *et al.*, 2006).

In this investigation, the molecular characterization of the Egyptian BYDV the coat protein genes of PAV and RMV serotypes in aphids and infected wheat plants was investigated. The results showed that the infection ratio for wheat Giza 164 samples are higher than the infection ratio of wheat Sids 7 and the virus concentration in aphids are higher than in wheat for both serotypes. In addition, the coat protein gene aligned sequence for these serotypes showed highest similarity.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Extraction and purification of total RNA from infected wheat leaf plants and aphids

Infected wheat leaf plants ( Giza 164 and Sids 7) were collected from The Agricultural Research Center (ARC) open field, according to BYDV symptoms. Total RNAs which include BYDV ssRNA were extracted using RNeasy Plant Mini Kit from Qiagen (Germany) according to the manufacturers protocol. Total RNA from aphids was extracted by grinding two to three aphids in 200  $\mu$ l of lysis buffer using RNA Microprep Kit from Stratagene (USA) according to the manufacturers protocol.

### Sequence alignment, RT- PCR and Real Time RT-PCR conditions

The data search for Luteovirus family coat protein nucleotide sequence were performed using NIH GeneBank. The nucleotide sequence for Luteovirus coat protein gene with accession number L10356 was employed (Cheng *et al.*, 1997). Forward and reverse RT-PCR primers, Real Time RT-PCR primers and TaqMan probes for Luteovirus were designed to amplify Luteovirus coat protein gene using ABI primer express software. Also, three coding sequences for each coat protein gene of BYDV-PAV and RMV serotypes from NIH GeneBank with accession numbers AY879231 (Malmstrom and Shu, 2005), AJ563414 (Bisnieks *et al.*,2004) and AY450454 (Rastgou *et al.*, 2005) for PAV serotype and with accession number L12757(Geske *et al.*, 1996), L12758 (Geske *et al.*, 1993) and Z14123 (Domier *et al.*,1994) for RMV serotype were used in a multiple alignment and consensus of these coding sequences were carried out using DNA Man software. The sequence, used to design coat protein gene RT- PCR primers, Real Time

RT-PCR primers and TaqMan probes by ABI primer express software were used to detect and confirm infection with these serotypes.

### Diagnosis and detection of BYDV coat protein gene

Reverse transcription and PCR were carried out sequentially in the same tube using one step RT-PCR kit from Qiagen (Germany) according to the manufacturers protocol using RT- PCR primers designed by ABI primer express software. This part of work was done in Virology Department, Plant Pathology Institute, Agricultural Research Center (ARC). A gel-free real-time one-step reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction protocol was done using MX3000p Real Time PCR system from Stratagene (USA) and Quantitect Probe RT-PCR kit from Qiagen (Germany) according to manufacturers protocol. For specific detection and quantitation of Luteovirus families, BYDV-PAV and RMV coat protein gene serotypes using primers and TaqMan probes designed for each serotype by ABI primer express software to confirm diagnosis and infection detection in infected leaf wheat plants (Giza 164). This part of work was done in Virology Department, National Cancer Institute, Cairo University.

### Sequencing of the coat protein gene

ABI prism 310 Genetic Analyzer automated sequencer with Big Dye terminator chemistry from Applied Biosystems (USA) was used to sequence the forward strand of each purified PCR product of BYDV-PAV and RMV coat protein genes. This analysis was done in Bayer Reference Laboratory in Erany-France.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Sequence alignment and computer analysis for coat protein gene

The data base analysis gives the research the ability to study the investigated case before starting the experimental steps. In addition to determination the best way to tackle this problem, multiple alignment of the coding sequences were carried out using DNA Man software. The sequence alignment analysis data released the consensus sequence which was used to design the coat protein gene RT-PCR primers, are listed in (Table 1) and The Real Time RT-PCR primers and TaqMan probes in (Table 2).

**Table (1): PCR primer sequences designed and used to amplify coat protein gene for luteovirus, BYDV PAV and RMV serotypes.**

Primer Code	Sequence	Length	Start	PCR Product size (bp)
Luteo-F	Aaaggttccgaccacatt	20	581	400 bp
Luteo-R	Aagtcctcgcaccagttt	19	980	
PAV- F	Aggacctagacgcgcaaa	18	21	520 bp
PAV-R	Ggttcattggcctttaga	20	540	
RMV-F	Cgtgaatgaatacgggaggt	20	43	600 bp
RMV-R	Cctatttggggtttgaaca	20	642	

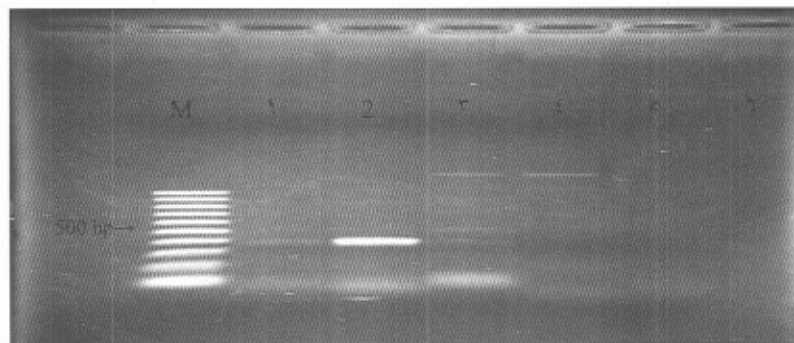
**Table (2): Real Time PCR primer and TaqMan probe sequences that used to amplify coat protein gene for luteovirus, BYDV PAV and RMV serotypes.**

Primer Code	Sequence	Length	Start	PCR Product size (bp)
Luteo-F	Gatacaacccggaatgtggt	20	257	170 bp
Luteo-R	tgtgtccggctagttttgtg	20	426	
Luteo TaqMan probe	FAM tgcgctcaacttcaaaagtg TAMRA	20	352	
PAV- F	Aaattcgccccagctctatc	20	238	179 bp
PAV-R	Tagctaccagggtgattg	20	416	
PAV TaqMan probe	FAM gcgcttcagacggaataact TAMRA	20	268	
RMV-F	Cgtgaatgaatacgggaggt	20	43	172 bp
RMV-R	Cgtctgactccaggctctcc	20	214	
RMV TaqMan probe	FAM acgegttcgcaataataacc TAMRA	20	92	

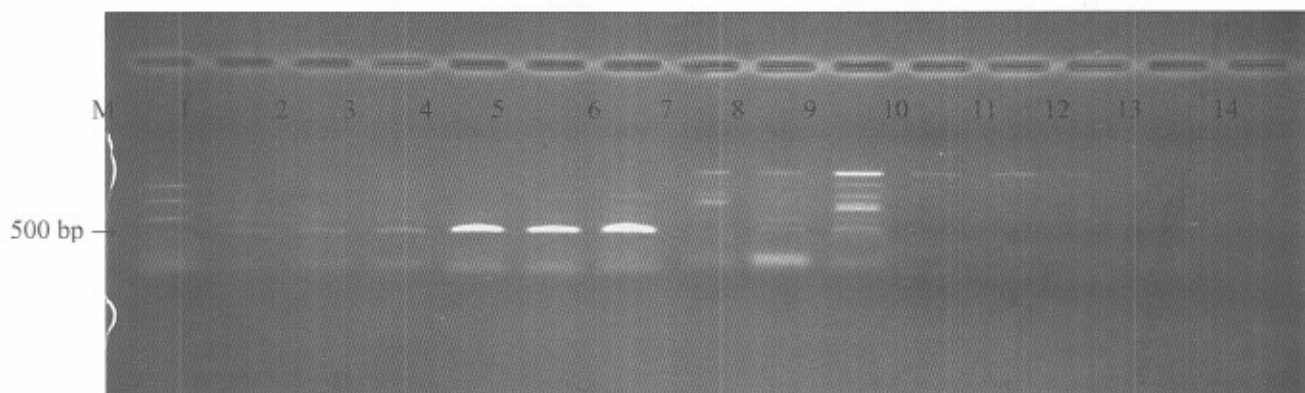
### Diagnosis and detection of coat protein gene for BYDV PAV and RMV serotypes

The primers designed were used for diagnosing and detecting the infection of luteovirus families (BYDV PAV and RMV) from wheat (Giza 164 and Sids 7) by RT-PCR. After different optimizations for RT-PCR reactions, the minimum RNA concentration as a template for RT-PCR reaction for the Giza 164 was 250 ng. The best primer concentration used for 50 ul total reaction volume was 60 pmol for all primers designed by ABI primer express software. The best primer annealing temperature for Luteovirus coat protein gene primer is 48 °C that produced amplified product of 480 bp (Fig. 1). The best primer annealing temperature for BYDVPAV coat protein gene primer was 52 °C that produced amplified product of 520 bp (Fig. 2). The best primer annealing temperature for BYDV-RMV coat protein gene primer was 54 °C that produced amplified product of 600 bp (Fig. 3).

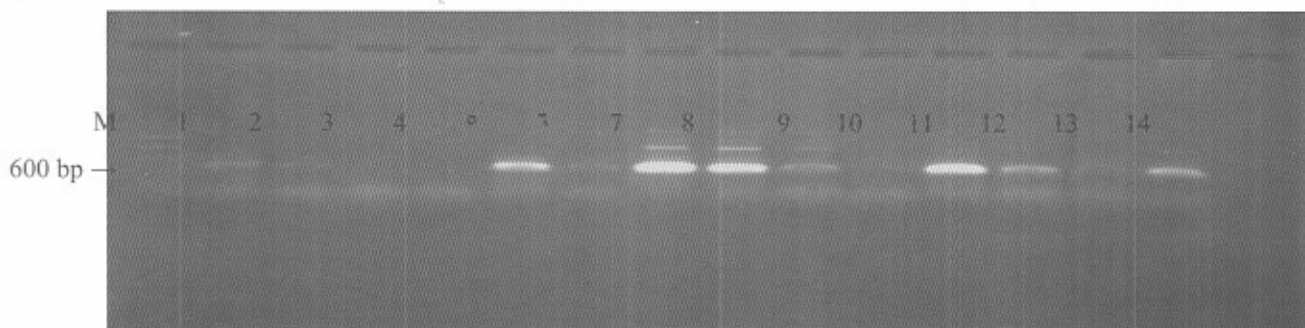
For wheat (Sids 7), infection could not be detected by BYDV-PAV serotype using RT-PCR primers designed for coat protein gene by ABI primer express software, although was used up to 2 ug template RNA. This may be due to low viral RNA concentrations or may be due to Sids 7 being resistant to BYDV-PAV infection (Fig. 2) (Aboul-Ata *et al.*, 2001). The minimum RNA concentration used as a template for RT-PCR reaction was 850 ng that to detect BYDV infection for RMV serotype. The high RNA template amount indicated that low virus copy numbers were in samples or may be due to Sids 7 being resistant to BYDV-RMV infection (Aboul-Ata *et al.*, 2001). The best primer concentration used for 50 ul total reaction volume is 120 pmol for all primers designed. The best primer annealing temperature for BYDV RMV coat protein gene primer was 54 °C that produced amplified product of 600 bp (Fig. 3) (Hussien, 1996).



**Fig.(1):** Optimizing primer annealing temperature, concentrations and template RNA concentrations for Luteovirus coat protein gene from infected leaf wheat plants (Giza 164 and Sids 7). (M): PCR marker. (Lanes 1,2,3): Giza 164.(Lanes 4,5,6) Sids 7.



**Fig.(2):** Optimizing primer annealing temperature, concentrations and template RNA concentrations for BYDV-PAV coat protein gene serotype from infected leaf wheat plants (Giza 164 and Sids 7). (M): PCR marker.(Lanes 1,2,3,4,5,6): Giza 164.(Lanes 7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14): Sids 7.

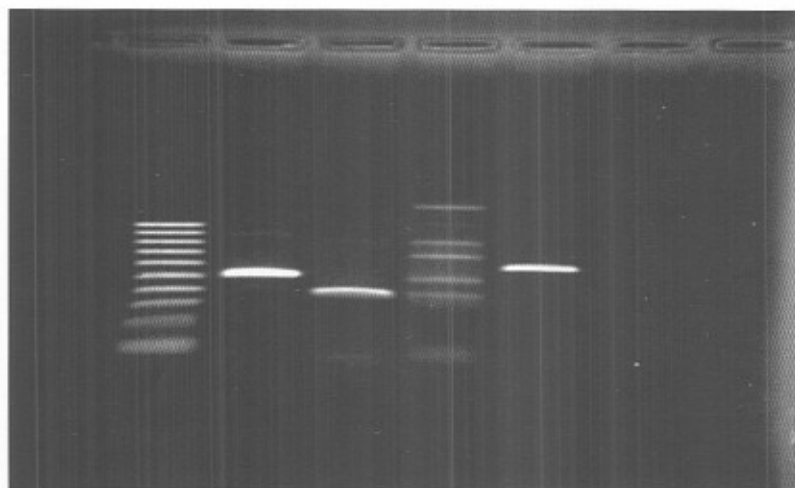


**Fig.(3):** Optimizing primer annealing temperature, concentrations and template RNA concentrations for BYDV-RMV coat protein gene serotype from infected leaf wheat plants (Giza 164 and Sids 7). (M): PCR marker. (Lanes 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8): Giza 164. (Lanes 9,10,11,12,13,14) : Sids 7.

### Purification of amplified RT-PCR coat protein gene from BYDV-PAV and -RMV serotypes in wheat

Several PCR reactions were done and in each case the purification of the amplified product was essential for the subsequent steps (Geske *et al.*, 1996). Qiaquick PCR purification kit from Qiagen (Germany) was

used for purification of PCR products according to manufacturers protocol. Amplified PCR products of BYDV-PAV and RMV coat protein genes were obtained through RT-PCR from infected wheat (Giza 164) (Fig. 4). The purified products were sequenced (Fig. 5 and 6) (Bisnieks *et al.*, 2004).



**Fig. (4):** Purified amplified RT-PCR products for coat protein genes from infected leaf of wheat plants (Giza 164). (M): PCR marker. Lane (1): BYDV-PAV CP gene- 520 bp. Lane (2): Luteovirus CP gene- 400 bp. Lane (3): BYDV-RMV CP gene- 600 bp.

### Sequencing and alignment analysis of purified RT-PCR coat protein gene of BYDV PAV and RMV serotypes

The forward strand of each purified PCR product of BYDV-PAV (Fig. 5) and RMV (Fig. 6) coat protein genes were sequenced using forward primer used in RT-PCR technique from infected wheat (Giza 164).

Using DNA MAN software version 4.0, the sequence obtained from BYDV- PAV coat protein gene was aligned to the sequence obtained from BYDV-RMV coat protein and found sequence similarity of 93% (Fig. 7). The data confirmed that the coat protein for both PAV and RMV of BYDV are very close to each other with high relationship for both of them (Geske *et al.*, 1996, Bisnieks *et al.*, 2004).

Another alignment was done between BYDV- PAV coat protein gene and two other BYDV- PAV coat protein genes obtained from NIH GeneBank with accession numbers AY 879231 (Malmstrom and Shu, 2005) and AJ 563414 (Bisnieks *et al.*, 2004). Also, sequence alignment made between BYDV- RMV coat protein gene with two other BYDV- RMV coat protein genes obtained from NIH GeneBank with accession numbers L 12757 (Geske *et al.*, 1996) and Z 14123 (Domier *et al.*, 1994). These alignments showed sequence similarity reaching 89% (Fig. 8) and 91% (Fig. 9) respectively. However, this slight difference may be due to mutational events or different aphid vector species (Bisnieks *et al.*, 2004).



RMV serotype comparing to Wheat (Giza 164). In addition, sensitivity of RT- Real Time PCR is 3 to 5 fold higher than conventional

PCR for detection of virus infection (Malmstrom and Shu, 2005).

**CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment** **Identity 89%**

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AY879231 05  GGACTGAGGTATTTCGTATTCTCAGTTGACAACCTTAAAGCCAACCTCCTCCGGGGCAATCA
AJ563414 04  GGACTGAGGTATTTCGTATTCTCAGTTGACAACCTTAAAGCCAACCTCCTCCGGGGCAATCA
PAV          GGGCGCGNAANTTTGNNTTTCGAAGGACTCTCTCCGGGC-AATGCCTCCGGGAAGCTCA
          ** * * * * * ** * * * * * ** * * * * * ** * * * * * ** * *
AY879231 05  AATTCGGCCCCAGTCTATCGCAATGCCAGCGCTTTCAGACGGAATACTCAAGTCTTACC
AJ563414 04  AATTCGGCCCCAGTCTATCGCAATGCCAGCGCTTTCAGACGGAATACTCAAGTCTTACC
PAV          CCTTCGGGGCGTCTCTATCAGAGTGCGCAGCATTTCAGTAGTGGAAATTCFAAGGCTACC
          ***** * ***** * * * * * * * ***** * ***** * *****
AY879231 05  ATCGTTACAAGATCACAAGTATCCGAGTTGAGTTAAGTACACACGCGTCCGCCACTACGG
AJ563414 04  ATCGTTACAAGATCACAAGTATCCGAGTTGAGTTAAGTACACACGCGTCCGCCACTACGG
PAV          ATGAGTATAAGATCTCAAAGTCACTTTGGAGTTTCATCTCCGAGGCTCTCCCAATCTG
          ** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
AY879231 05  CNGGCGCTATCTTTATGANTCGACACCGCGTGAAGCAATC-AGCCCTGGGTAGCTAC
AJ563414 04  CCGGCGCTATCTTTATGAACTCGACACCGCGTGAAGCAATC-AGCCCTGGGTAGCTAC
PAV          AAGGCTCCATCGCTTATGAGCTTGAATCCACACAACAAGCTCTCTAGCNCTCTCTCCACC
          *** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
AY879231 05  ATTAATTCCTTCACCATCAGCAAG-ACCGCTCCAAGGCTTTCAGGTTCAGAGGCAATTA
AJ563414 04  ATTAATTCCTTCACCATCAGCAAG-ACCGCTCCAAGGCTTTCAGGTTCAGAGGCAATTA
PAV          ATCAACAATTCCTCAATCGTCAAANGGTGTAAGAGAACCTTACGTTCATCAATCAATCGG
          ** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
AY879231 05  CGGGAAGGAATTCAGGAA--TCAACGATAGACCAATTCGGATGCTCT---
AJ563414 04  CGGGAAGGAATTCAGGAA--TCAACGATAGACCAATTCGGATGCTCT---
PAV          AGGTGGAATTTGGCGAGANCTTNCACATAAGATTNAATCCGCTCATCTTNTCT
          ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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**Fig. (8): Sequence alignment between coat protein genes of BYDV-PAV and other PAV serotypes from GeneBank.**

**CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment** **Identity: 91%**

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RMV          GTGGTTGTGGTCGCGGCAGGTCAGCGTCGACGCCGCCAGAGACGAGGACGACGAAC
L12757 99    GTGGTTGTGGTCGCGCAAACCCAGCGTAGACGCA---CCCGAAGACGAGGACGACCAAGT
Z14123 94    GTGGTTGTGGTCGCGGCAAAATCCCGCTCGAGGACGCTCTCGAAGACGAAGACGATCAAGT
          ***** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RMV          GGAAACACTCCAGGAGGATCTGGAATCCGAAGAGGGTCGCGGGAACATTTGTATTTTCG
L12757 99    GGAGACACTTCAGGAGGACCTCGAGGGCGAGGAGGCTCCGGGGAGACTTTCGTATTTTCG
Z14123 94    GGAAACATTACAGGAAGACCTGGAGTCAGACGAGGCTCGCGGGAGACTTTGTATTTTCA
          *** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RMV          AAGGACTCTCTCACGGCAATGCCTCCGGGAAGCTCACCTTCGGGGCGTCTCTATCAGAG
L12757 99    AAGGACTCTATCGCGGGCAGTGC-TCCGGAAGCTCACCTTCGGGGCGTCTCTTCTTGAG
Z14123 94    AAGGACTCTATCGCGGGCAACGCCTCCGGGAAAATCACCTTCGGACCGTCTTTATCAGAG
          ***** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RMV          TGCGC-AGCATTCAGTAGTGAATTCCTCAAGGCCTACCATGAGTATAAGATCTCAAAGGT
L12757 99    TGCGCCAGCATTCCTCTGGTGAATTCCTCAAGGCCTACCATGAGTATAAGATCACAATAAT
Z14123 94    TGTGC-AGCATTCAGTGGCGGAATTCCTCAAGGCCTACCATGAGTATAAGATCTCAAAGAT
          ** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RMV          CACTTTGGAGTTCATCTCCGAGGCTCTTCCCAATCTGAAGGCTCCATCGCTTATGAGCT
L12757 99    CATACTGGAGTTCATCTCCGAGGCTCTTCAACGAGTCCGGTTCATCGCTTATGAGCT
Z14123 94    CATACTGGAGTTCATCTCCGAGGCTCTTCCACCGCCGAAGGTTCCATCGCTTATGAGCT
          ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
RMV          TGATCCACACAACAAGCTCTCAGCCCTCTTCCACCATCAACAATTCFAATCGTCAA
L12757 99    GGATCCCACAACAAGCTCAGCACCCTCGCATCAACAATCAATCAATTCGATCGTCAA
Z14123 94    TGATTCACACAACAAGCTCTCAACCCCTTGCTCCACCATCAACAATTCFAATCGTCAA
          *** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

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**Fig. (9): Sequence alignment between coat protein genes of BYDV-RMV and other RMV serotypes from GeneBank.**



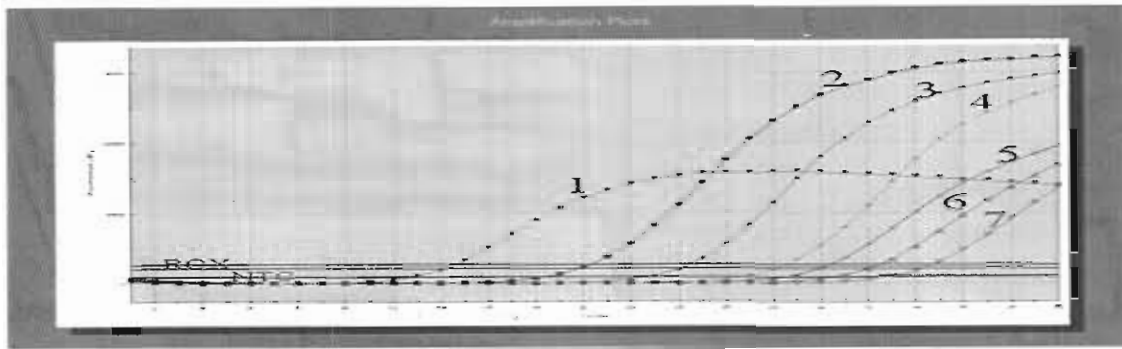
**Amplification Plots***Relative Quantitative BYDV-PAV*

Fig. (10): Fluorescence amplification curve vs cycles for relative quantitation of amplified Real Time RT-PCR coat protein gene of BYDV-PAV serotype, using 200 ng template RNA extracted from *R.padi* aphid vector as a calibrator standard and 200 ng template RNA from different infected wheat leaf plants (Giza 164 and Sids 7). Curve (1): *R.padi* aphid vector. Curves (2,3,4): wheat Giza 164. Curves (5,6,7): Wheat Sids 7. NTC (negative control), Rox (fluorescent normalization dye).

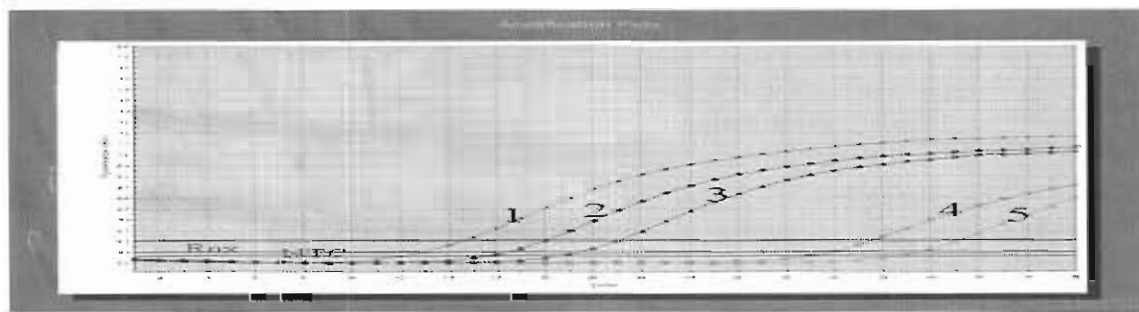
**Amplification Plots***Relative Quantitative BYDV-RMV*

Fig. (11): Fluorescence amplification curve vs cycles for relative quantitation of amplified Real Time RT-PCR coat protein gene of BYDV-RMV serotype, using 200 ng template RNA extracted from *R.maidis* aphid vector as a calibrator standard and 200 ng template RNA from different infected wheat leaf plants (Giza 164 and Sids 7). Curve (1): *R.maidis* aphid vector. Curves (2,3): wheat Giza 164. Curves (4,5): wheat Sids 7. NTC (negative control), Rox (fluorescent normalization dye).

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### الملخص العربي

#### التوصيف الجزيئي لجين الغلاف البروتيني لفيروس التقزم الاصفر في القمح والمان

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يعتبر فيروس التقزم الاصفر (BYDV) من مجموعه اللينوفيرس ويتم انتقاله بواسطة المن فقط. ومن اكثر السلالات انتشارا في مصر سلالة PAV وهي ضمن سلالات الفيروس الخمس (SGV PAV, RMV, RPV and MAV). تم استخدام تكتيكات البيولوجيا الجزيئية لتشخيص الفيروسات النباتية على مستوى الجينوم نتيجة لحساسيتها العالية في الكشف عن التركيزات المنخفضة من الفيروس. وفي هذا البحث، تم استخدام تكتيك النسخ العكسي لتفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل (RT-PCR) وجهاز تحليل التتابع النوتيدي الاوتوماتيكي (Automated Sequencer) لتكبير وتحديد التتابع النوتيدي لجين الغلاف البروتيني (CP) لفيروس التقزم الاصفر في القمح من سلالاتي PAV, RMV ومقارن m التتابع النوتيدي للسلالتين اثبتت النتائج درجة تشابه عالية تصل الى 93% لكل من جين الغلاف البروتيني لسلالتي فيروس التقزم الاصفر في القمح. وقد تم تحديد نسبة الاصابة في كل من القمح والمن بواسطة التحليل الكمي النسبي باستخدام تكتيك النسخ العكسي لتفاعل البلمرة المتسلسل في الوقت الحقيقي (RT- Real Time PCR). واوضحت النتائج ان معدل الاصابة في صنف جيزه 164 اعلى من صنف سيدس- 7 كما اظهرت النتائج ان نسبة تركيز الفيروس في المن اعلى من القمح في كل من السلالتين.