



CROPS in a changing climate

PANOMICS meets Germplasm

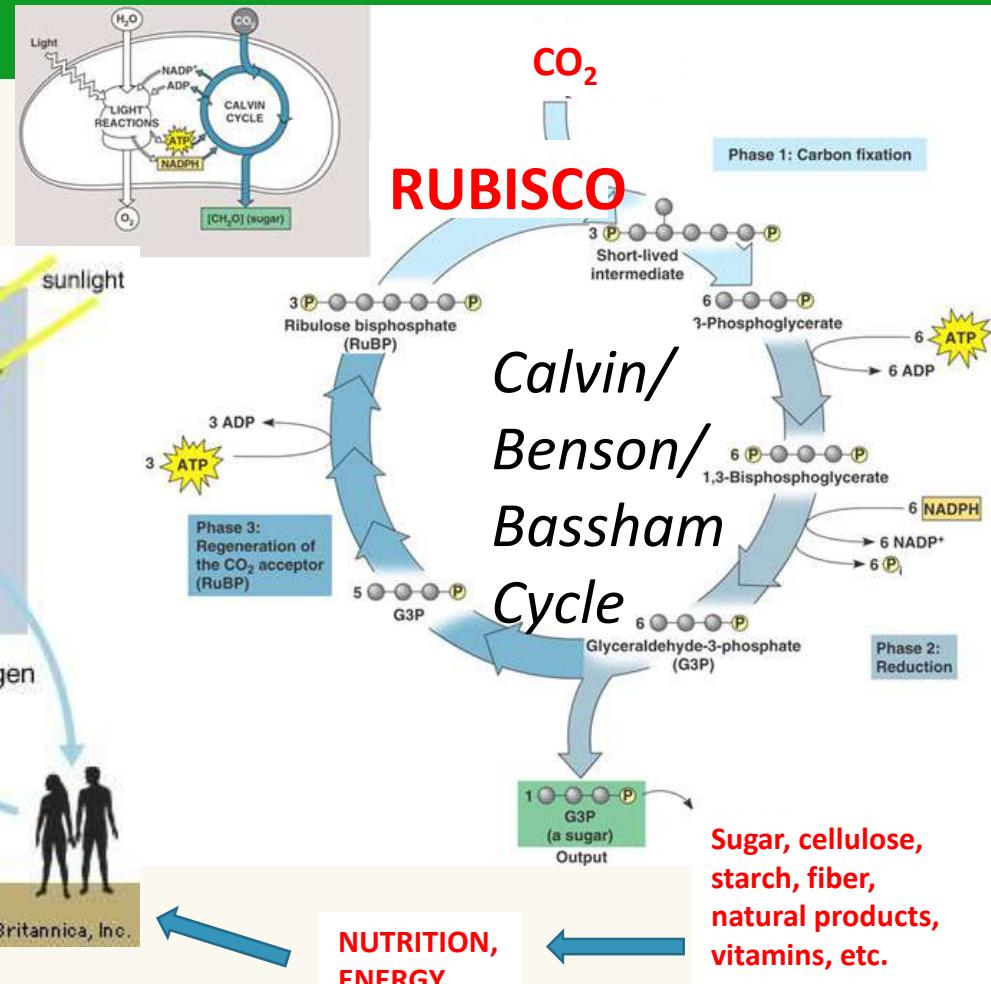
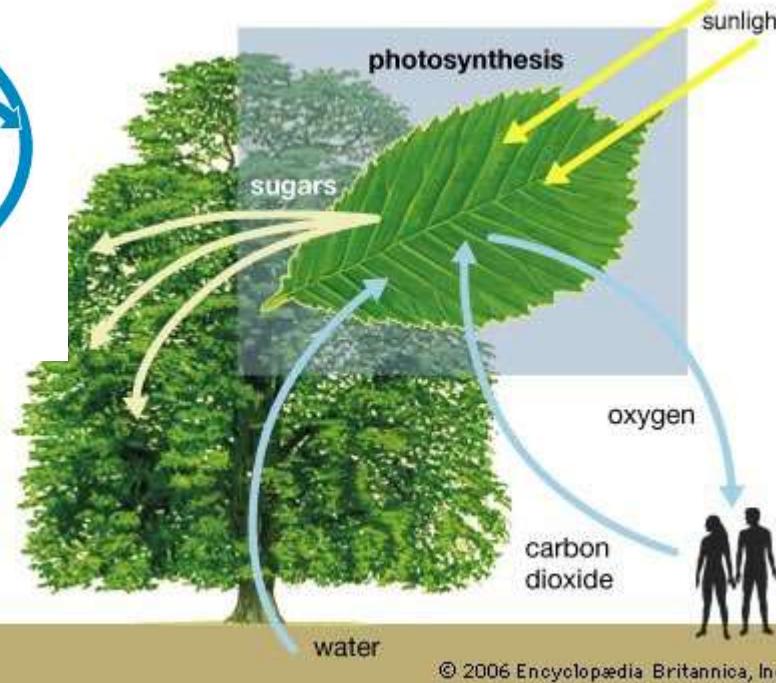
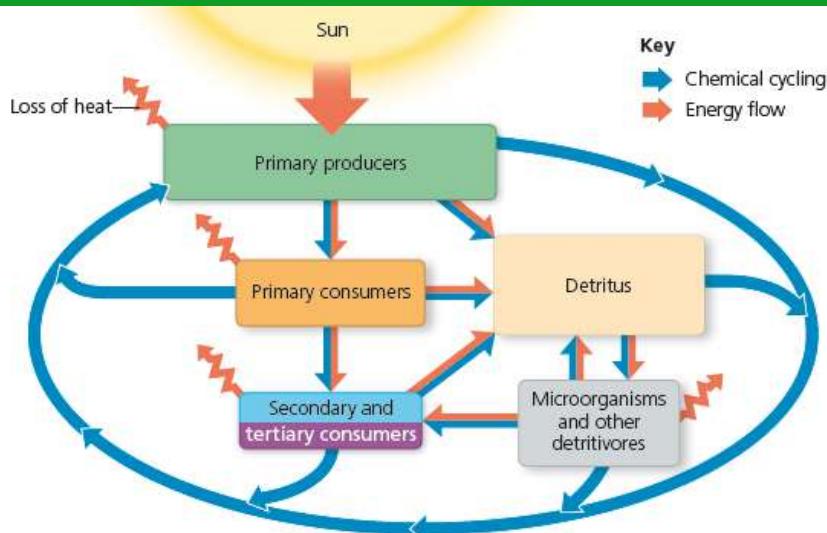
Understanding intraspecific crop plant variation

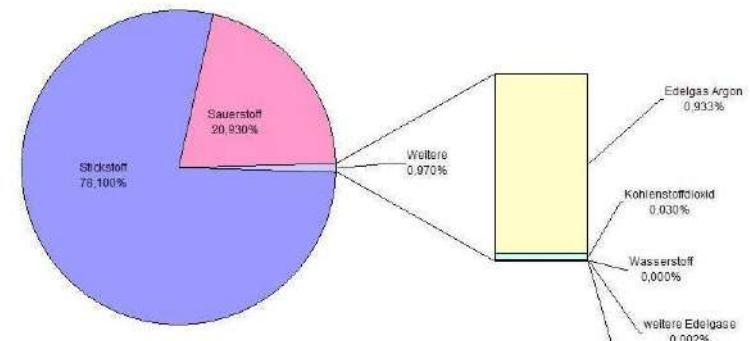
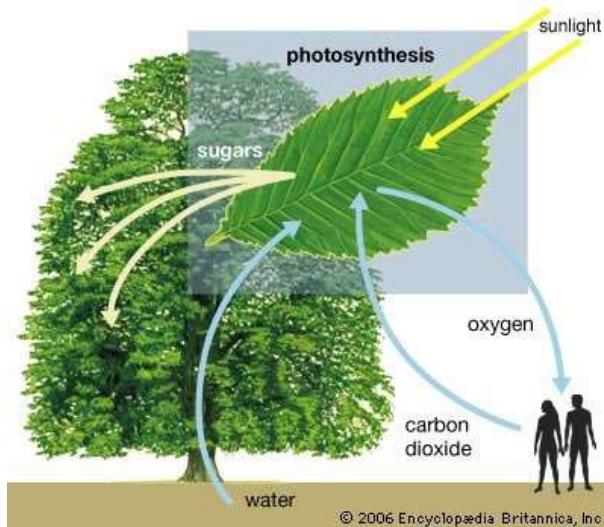
Wolfram Weckwerth

Head of Molecular Systems Biology (MOSYS)
Director of the Vienna Metabolomics Center (VIME)

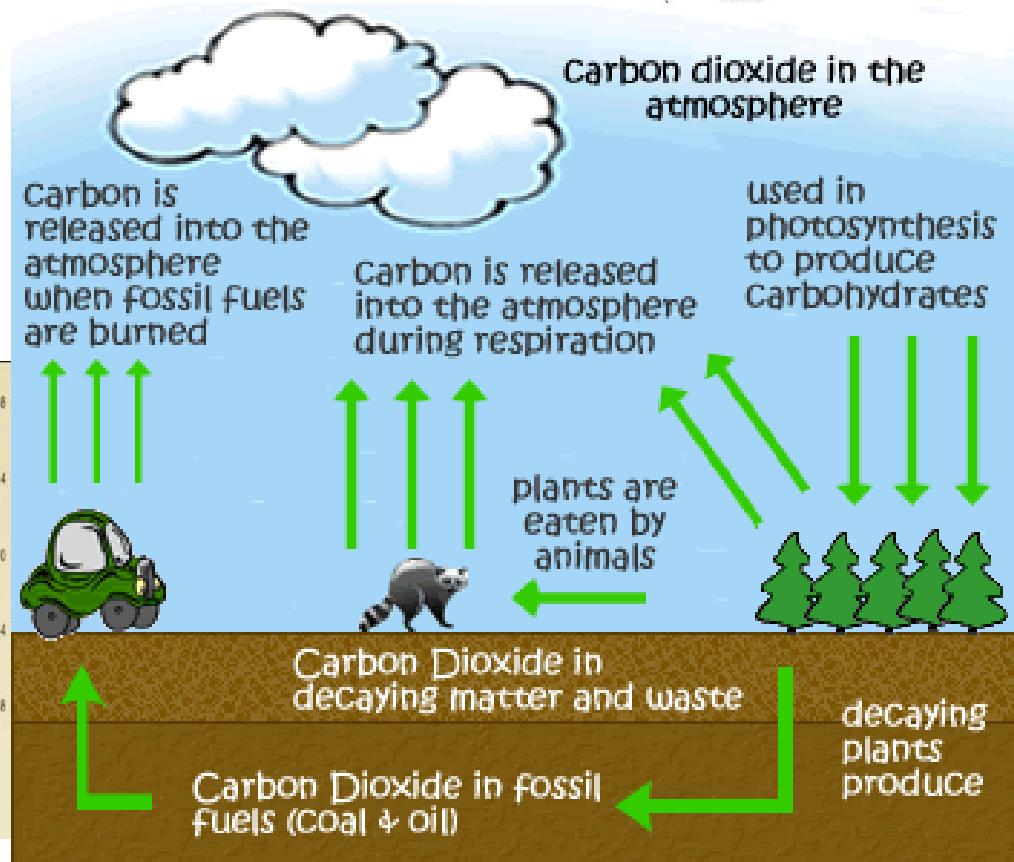
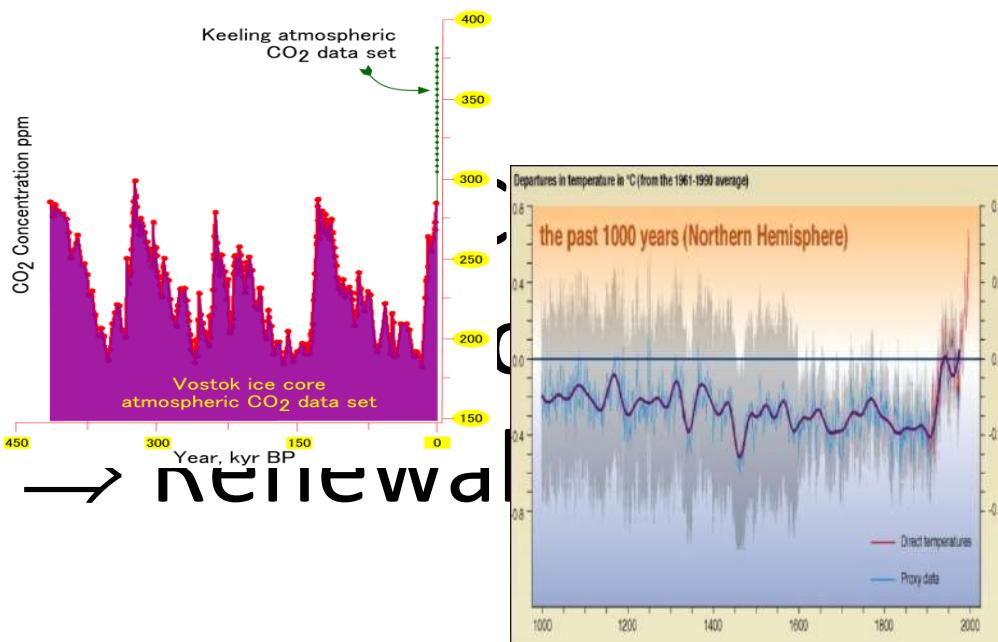


Net primary production – the perfect balance on earth

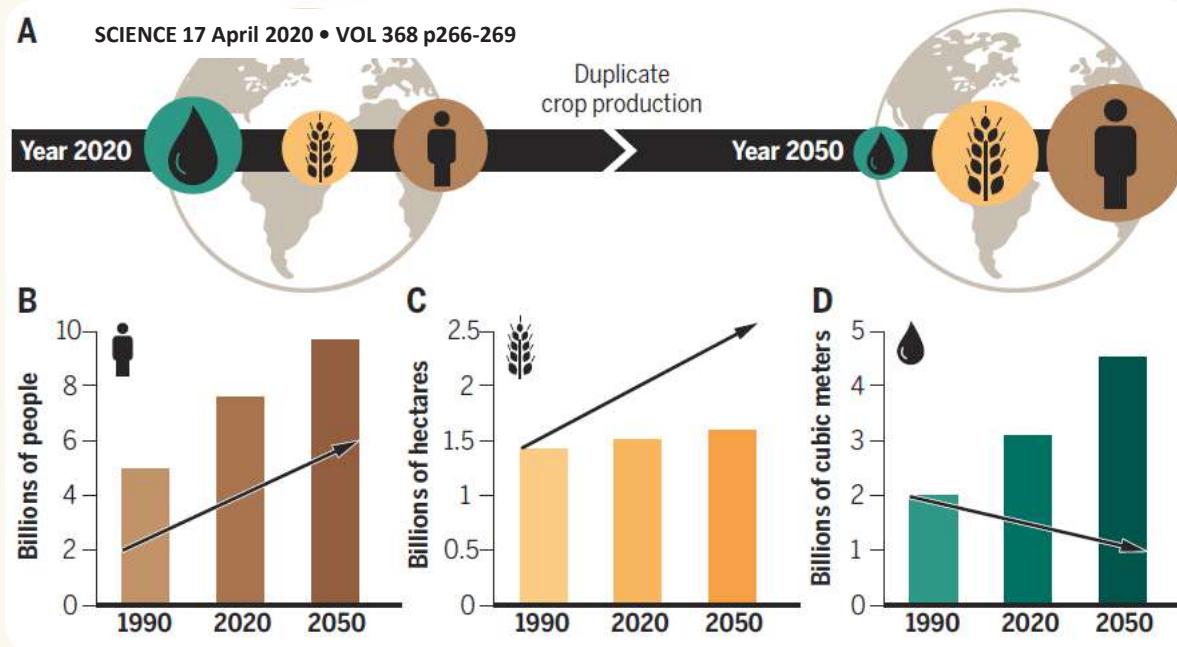
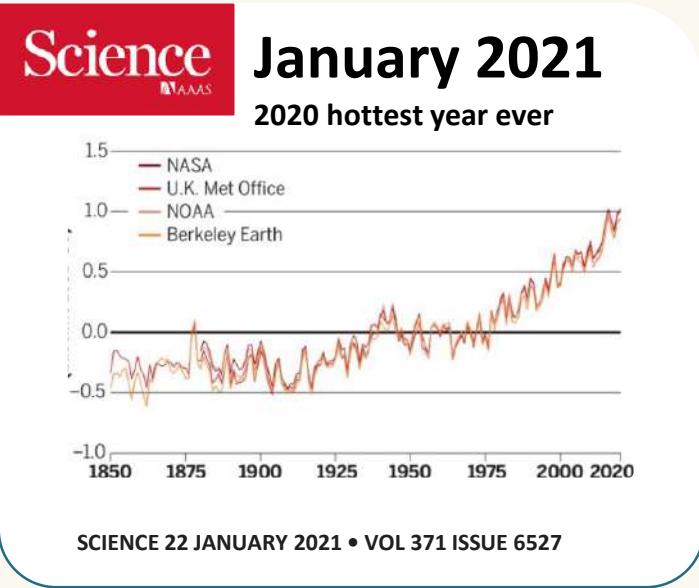




Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

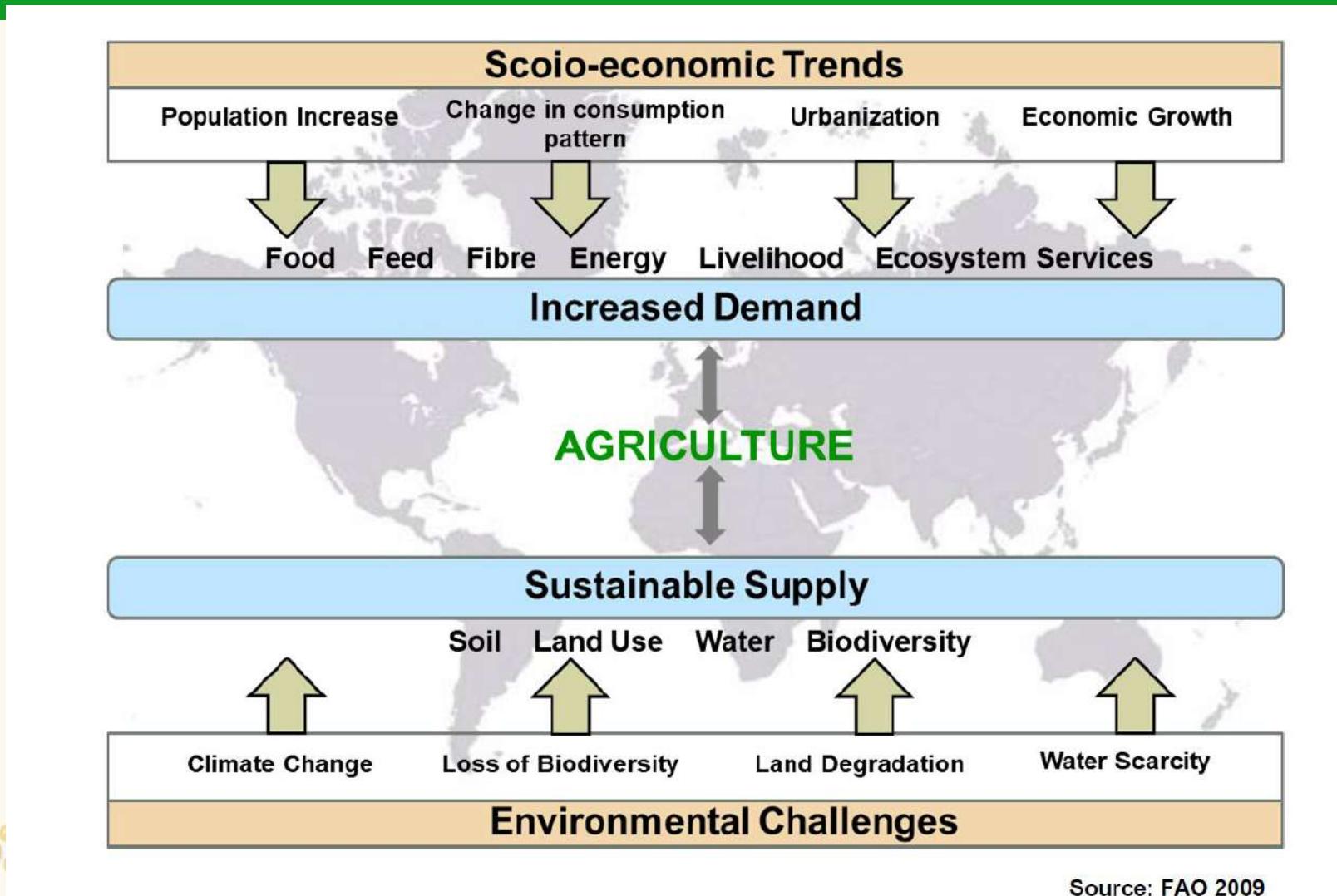


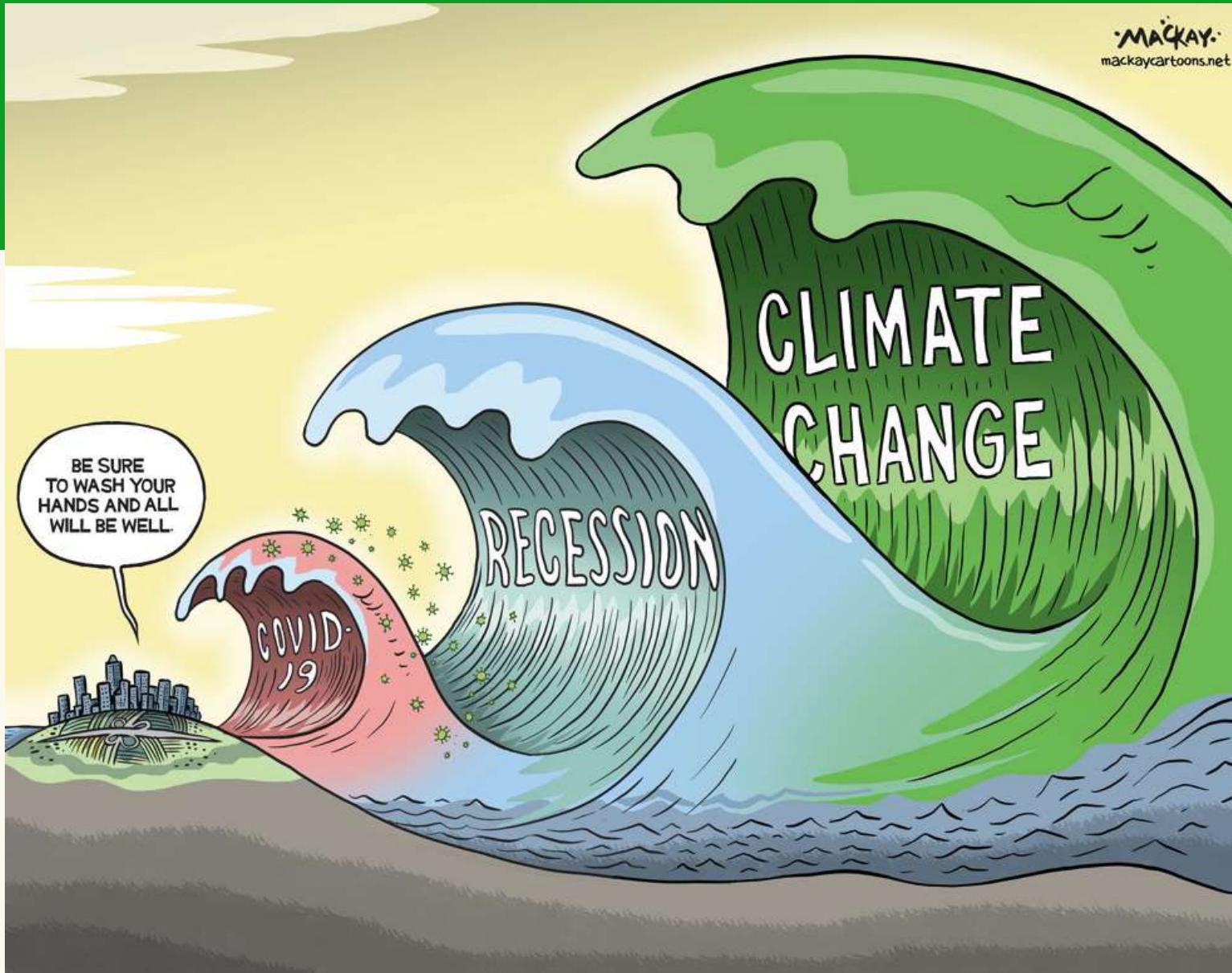
Global climate crisis



Pressures on Agriculture – Megatrends

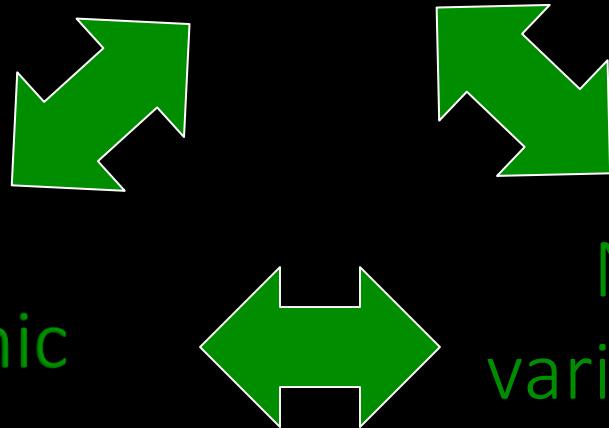
Food, Feed, Fibre





Megatrends
„FFF“
Food
Feed
Fuel
socio-economic
aspects

GREEN SYSTEMS BIOLOGY



Ecology
and
Evolution
Natural genetic
variation, biodiversity
and adaptation

ELSEVIER JOURNAL OF PROTEOMICS 75 (2011) 284–305

Review

Green systems biology — From single genomes, proteomes and metabolomes to ecosystems research and biotechnology

Wolfram Weckwerth

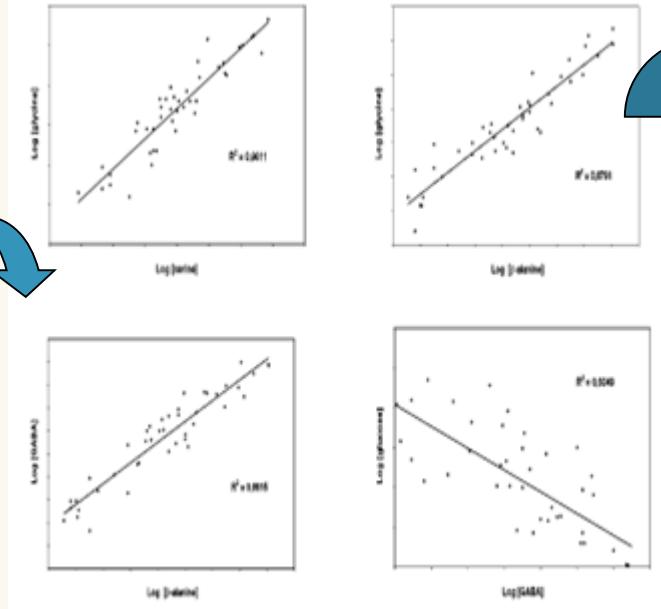
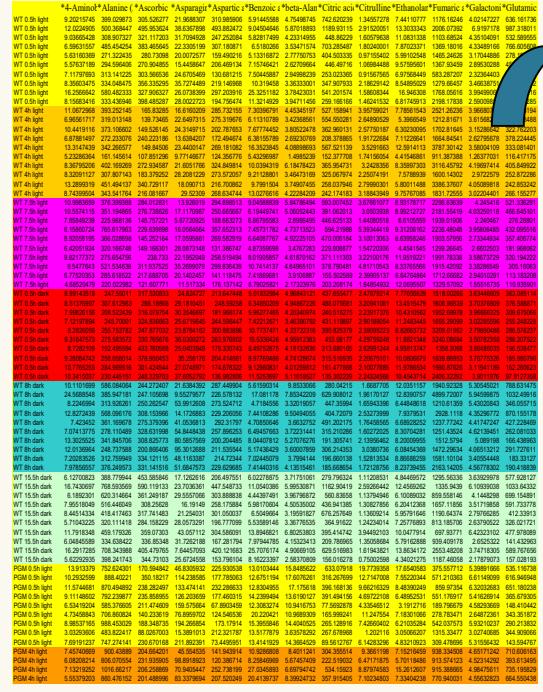
Department of Molecular Systems Biology (MOSYS; <http://www.univie.ac.at/mosys/>), University of Vienna, Althanstrasse 14, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Green Systems Biology – a genotype-phenotype equation

Metabolomics Correlation and Network Analysis

Data matrix

Samples, Metabolites

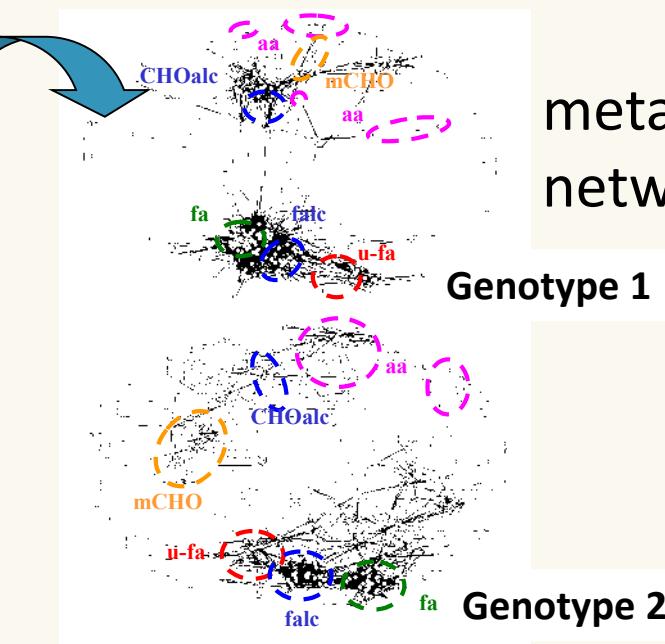


Weckwerth et al. (2001) ASMS

Weckwerth (2003) Annual Review of Plant Biology.

Weckwerth et al. (2004) PNAS

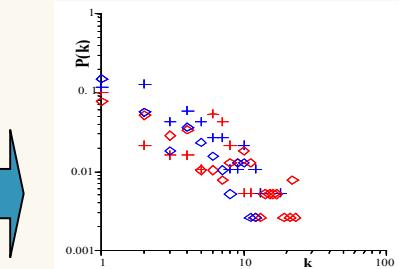
Weckwerth et al. (2004) Proteomics



metabolite network

Genotype 1

fa Genotype 2



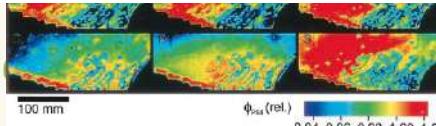
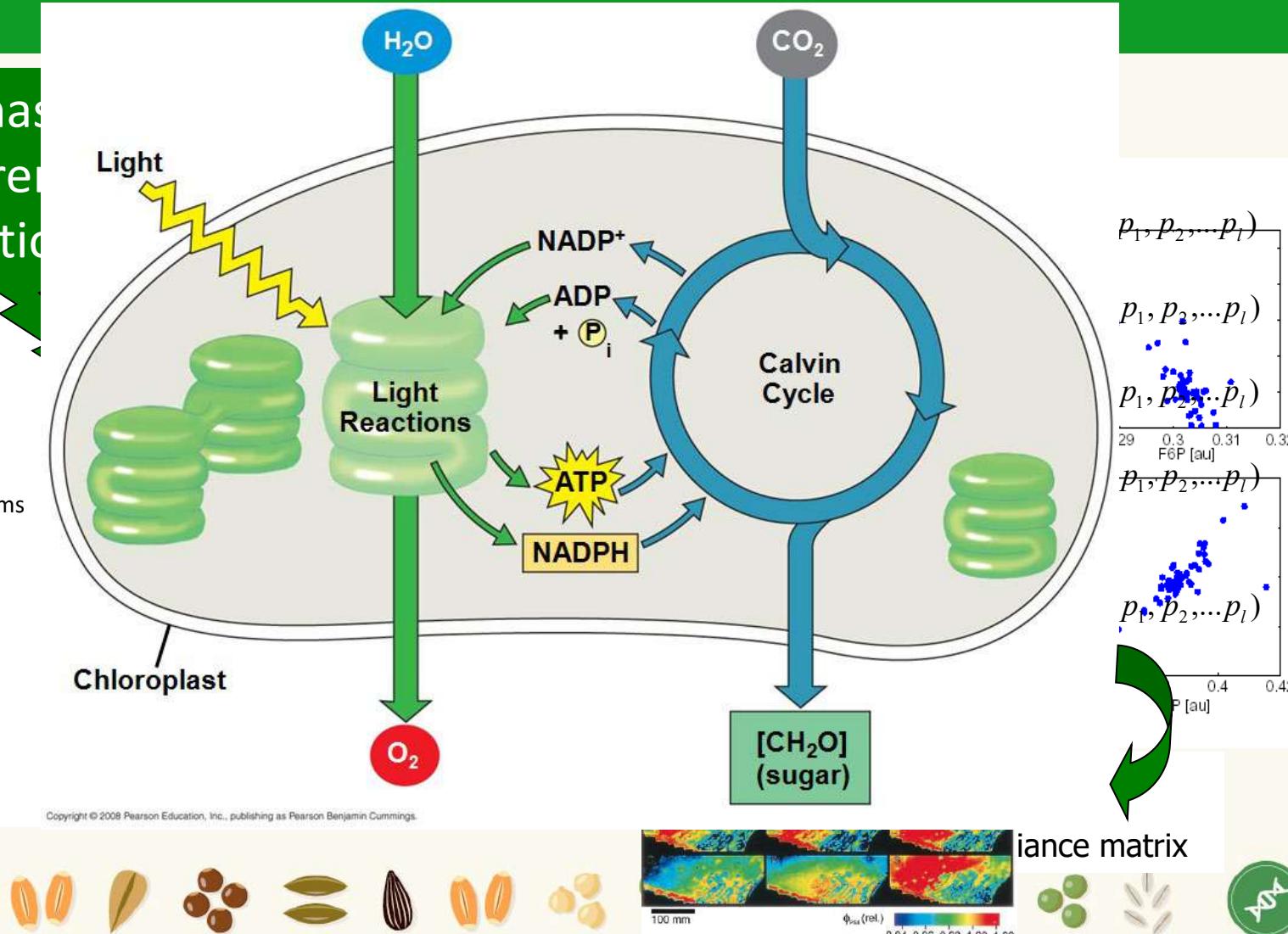
1. Stochastic Model of metabolism
 2. Network topology



Fundamental relation between network dynamics (statistics) and GENOME SEQUENCE

stochastic
differential
equations

Steuer et al. (2003) Bioinformatics
Weckwerth (2003) Annual Review of
Plant Biology
Morgenthal et al. (2006) Biosystems
Müller-Linow et al. (2007) BMC Systems
Biology
Weckwerth (2010) Bioanalysis
Weckwerth (2011) Analytical and
Bioanalytical Chemistry
Weckwerth (2011) Proteomics
Weckwerth (2019) Frontiers Applied
Math and Statistics
...



iance matrix



Fundamental relation between network dynamics (statistics/correlation/covariance/network) and GENOME SEQUENCE

Weckwerth (2019) Frontiers Applied Mathematics and Statistics 5, 29

Jacobian entries are the
Elasticities of the
enzymatic Reactions
dependent on
metabolite
concentration changes

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial M} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{Change in reaction rate } \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial M_i} \\ \text{Change in metabolite concentrations } \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dM_1}{dt} &= f_1(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_2}{dt} &= f_2(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_3}{dt} &= f_3(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_4}{dt} &= f_4(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \dots \\ \frac{dM_n}{dt} &= f_n(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n)\end{aligned} J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_n} \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n}$$

$$J = N * \frac{\partial f}{\partial M}$$

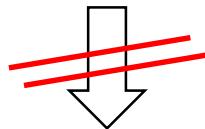
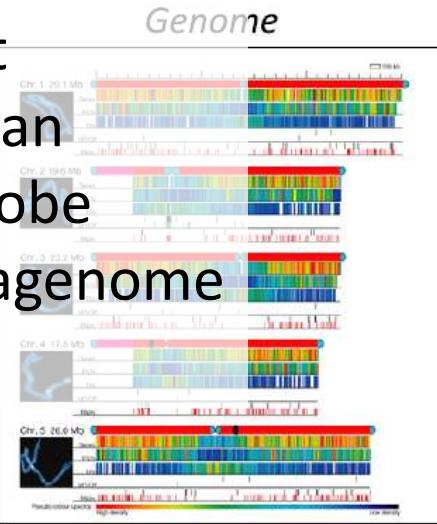
- J: Jacobian matrix
- N: stoichiometric Matrix
- => GENOME SEQUENCE**
- v: Reaction rate;
- M: metabolite



Genome-scale metabolic reconstruction

Genome-scale metabolic reconstruction

Plant
Human
Micro
Metagenome
etc...



Dynamic phenotypic plasticity



Fundamental relation between network dynamics (statistics/correlation/covariance/network) and GENOME SEQUENCE

Weckwerth (2019) Frontiers Applied Mathematics and Statistics 5, 29

Jacobian entries are the
Elasticities of the
enzymatic Reactions
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metabolite
concentration changes

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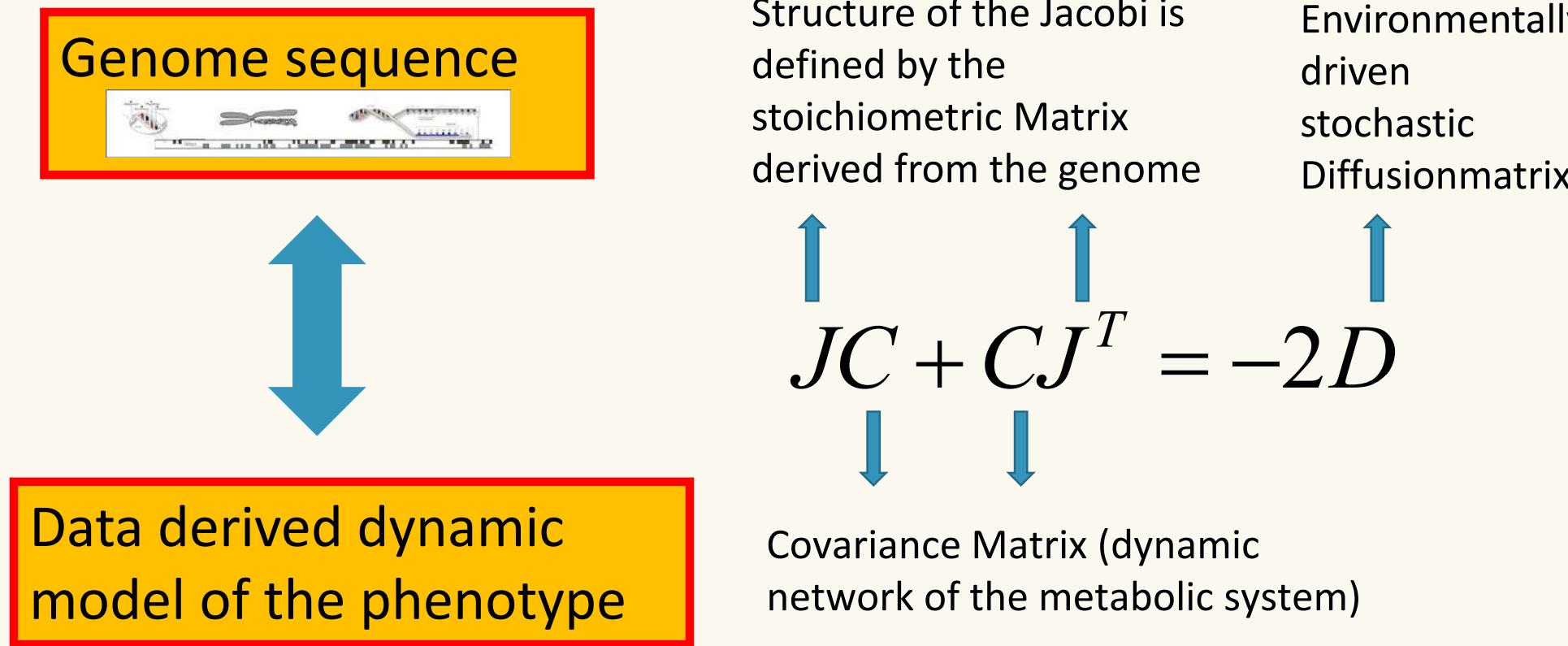
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dM_1}{dt} &= f_1(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_2}{dt} &= f_2(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_3}{dt} &= f_3(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \frac{dM_4}{dt} &= f_4(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n) \\ \dots \\ \frac{dM_n}{dt} &= f_n(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n)\end{aligned} J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial M_n} \\ \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial M_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_1} & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_2} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_n}{\partial M_n} \end{pmatrix}_{n \times n}$$

$$J = N * \frac{\partial f}{\partial M}$$

- J: Jacobian matrix
- N: stoichiometric Matrix
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- v: Reaction rate;
- M: metabolite



A genotype-phenotype-equation

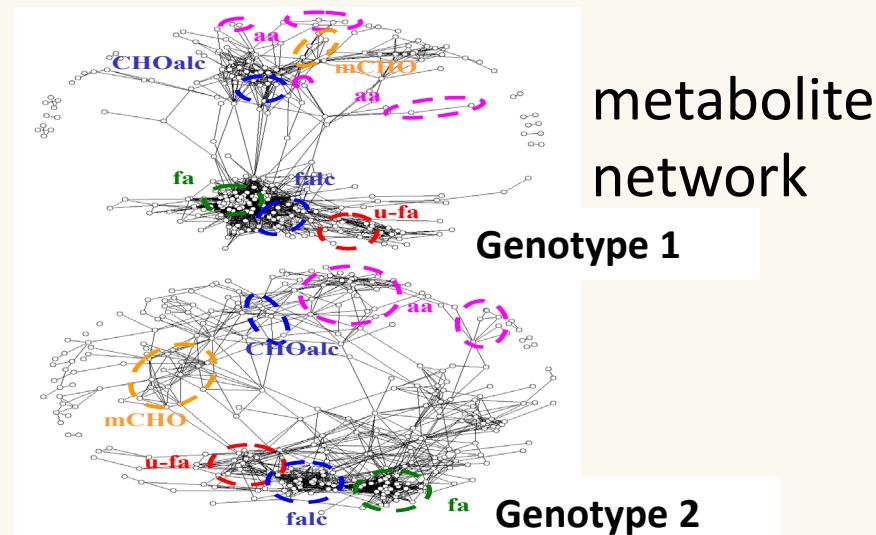
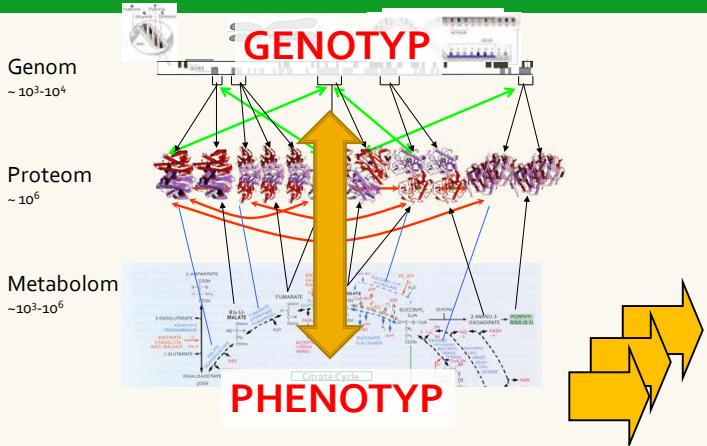


A systematic relation

Weckwerth (2011) *Unpredictability of Metabolism*

Weckwerth (2011) *Green Systems Biology*

Weckwerth (2019) *Unification of system theory in Biology and Ecology*



	M_1	M_2	M_3	...	M_n
S_1	$q_{1,1}$	$q_{1,2}$	$q_{1,3}$...	$q_{1,n}$
S_2	$q_{2,1}$	$q_{2,2}$	$q_{2,3}$...	$q_{2,n}$
S_3	$q_{3,1}$	$q_{3,2}$	$q_{3,3}$...	$q_{3,n}$
...
S_m	$q_{m,1}$	$q_{m,2}$	$q_{m,3}$		$q_{m,n}$

$$\frac{dM_1}{dt} = f(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n)$$

$$\frac{dM_2}{dt} = f(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n)$$

.....

$$\frac{dM_n}{dt} = f(M_1, M_2, \dots, M_n)$$



Systems equations

PHENOTYPE C

Systems theory J

$$JC + CJ^T = -2D$$

Multivariate
Statistics
Trajectories



Genome
sequence
GENOTYPE N



Linking OMICS and Modelling Platform MoSys

Weckwerth (2011) Green Systems Biology

Data driven mathematical model of the system – **Functional interpretation and Prediction**

Genotype-
Phenotype -
relationship

“READOUT”

in vivo
Dynamics -
PHEnotype

$$JC + CJ^T = -2D$$

Genotype (genome sequence) : metabolic and regulatory reconstruction of the species

environmental perturbation

Phenotype

Morphology, Anatomy, Physiology

Metabolomics

Proteomics

Genomics

n-dimensional Data
matrix

	M_1	M_2	M_3	\dots	M_n
S_1	$q_{1,1}$	$q_{1,2}$	$q_{1,3}$	\dots	$q_{1,n}$
S_2	$q_{2,1}$	$q_{2,2}$	$q_{2,3}$	\dots	$q_{2,n}$
S_3	$q_{3,1}$	$q_{3,2}$	$q_{3,3}$	\dots	$q_{3,n}$
\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots	\dots
S_m	$q_{m,1}$	$q_{m,2}$	$q_{m,3}$	\dots	$q_{m,n}$



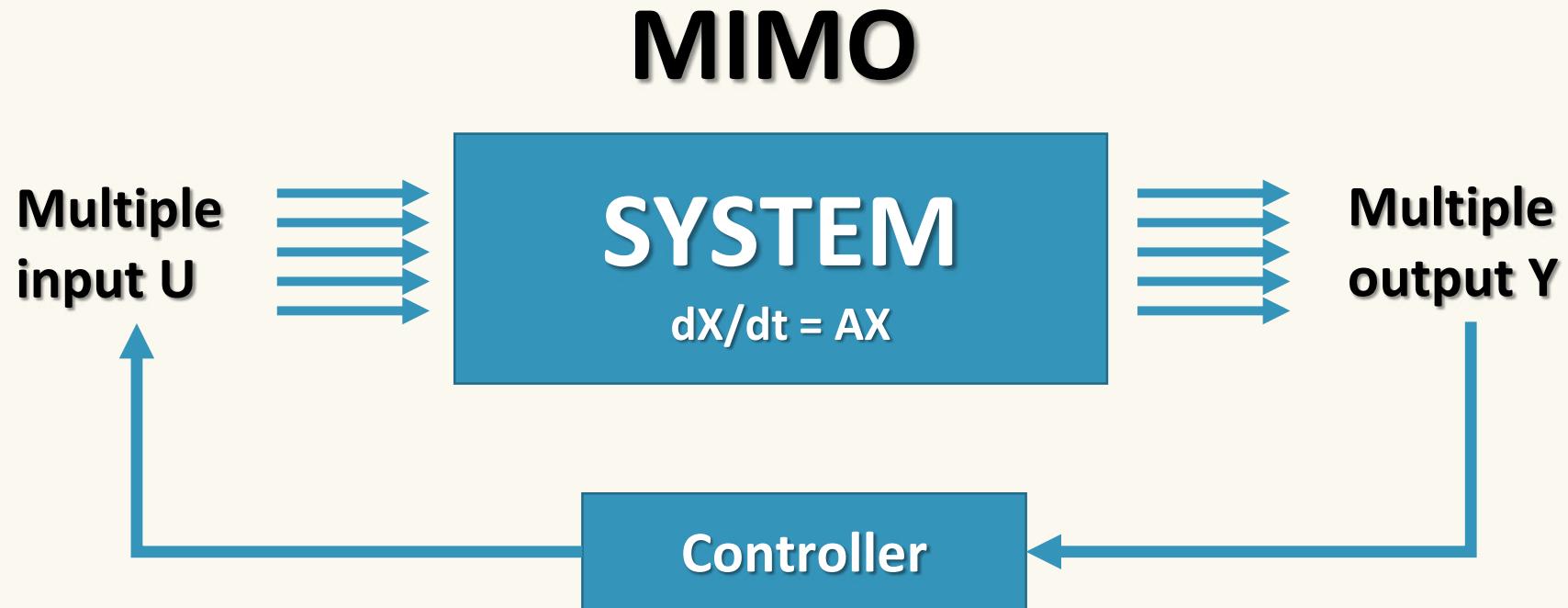
Lyapunov matrix equation in ecology/population dynamics – Richard Levins and Robert May

Weckwerth (2019) Frontiers Applied Mathematics and Statistics 5, 29

- Introduction of the Population Community Matrix which is equivalent with the Jacobi matrix
- Introduction of the Lyapunov matrix equation for stochastic systems $A^T P + P A + Q = O$
- Applications to population dynamics
- May Hypothesis: increasing diversity destabilizes the ecosystem measured by the eigenvalues of the Jacobian but....
- no random structure of the community matrix



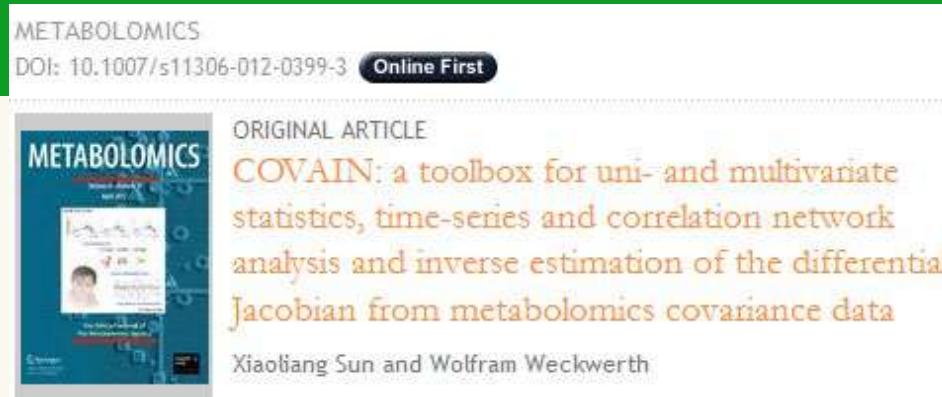
Lyapunov matrix equation is a central approach in artificial intelligence and bioinspired control theory



Weckwerth (2019) Towards a unification of **system-theoretical** concepts in biology and ecology – the stochastic Lyapunov matrix equation and its inverse application. Frontiers Applied Mathematics and Statistics 5,29



COVAIN – COVAriance INverse: toolbox for data integration and mining

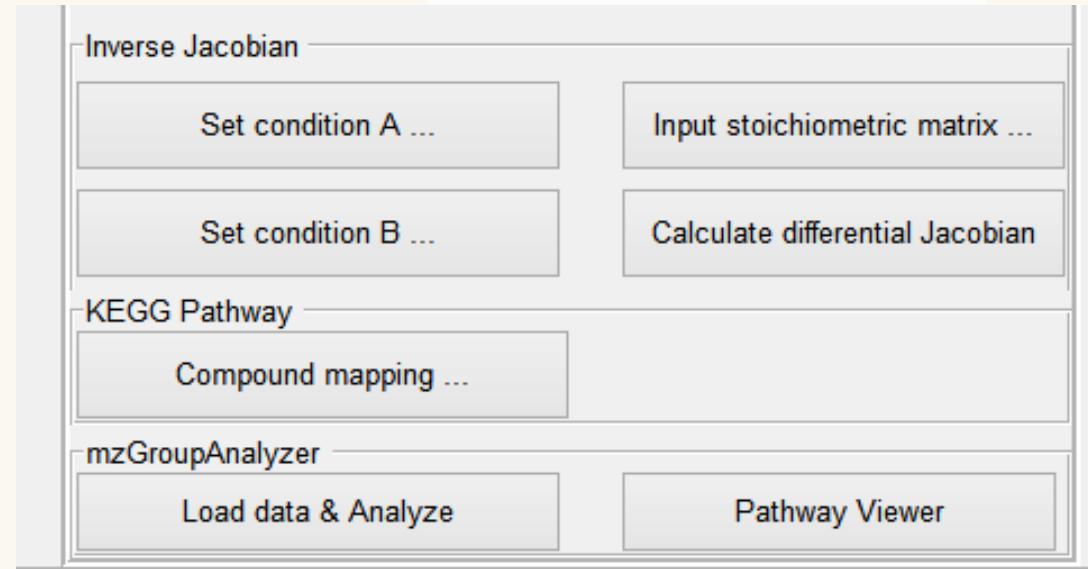


- PCA, ICA, HCA, etc.
- GRANGER CAUSALITY
- data integration
- data transformation
- data normalization
- metabolic modelling
- metabolomics
- proteomics
- transcriptomics
- other data

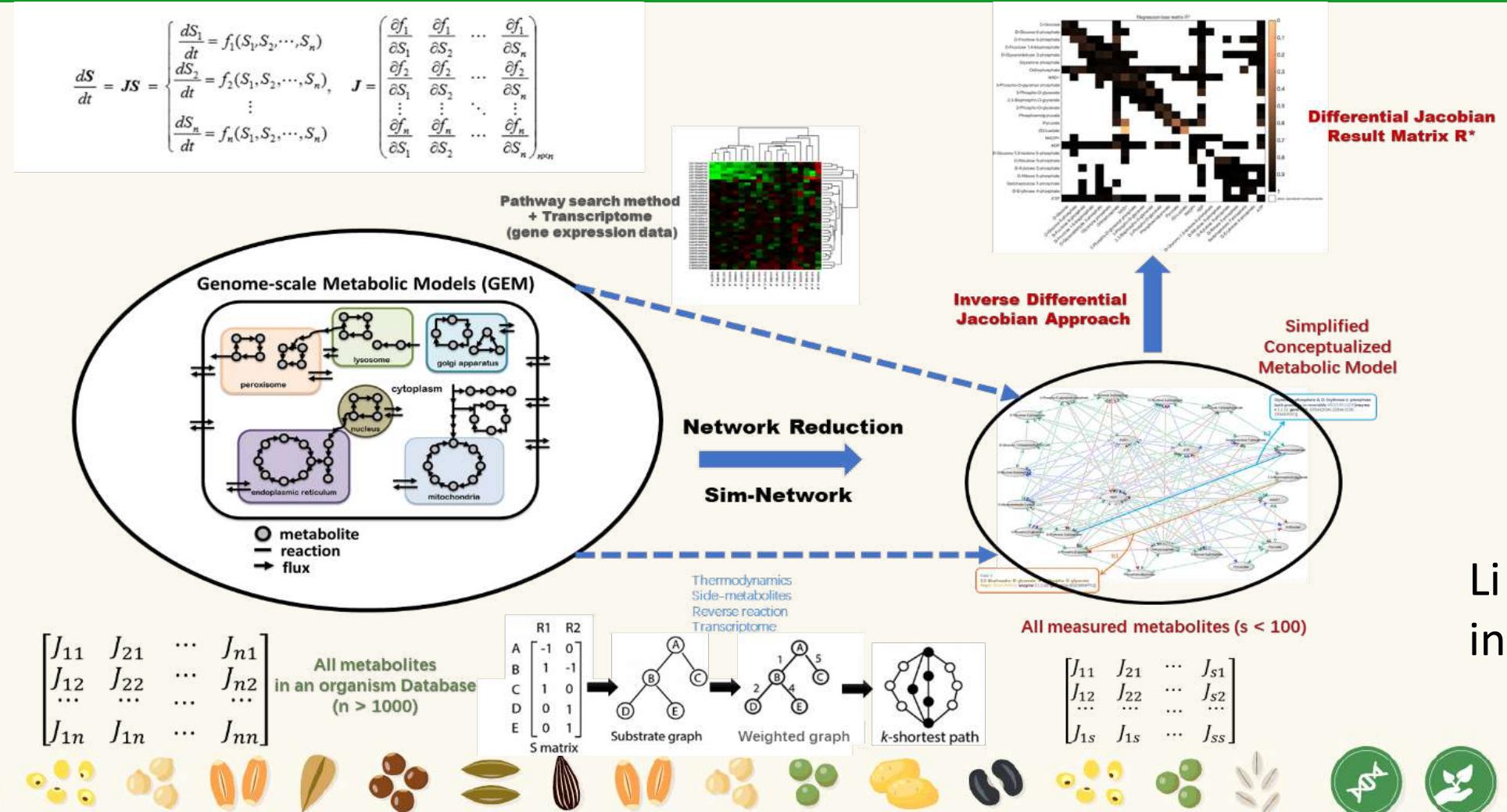
Sun & Weckwerth
2012 Metabolomics

$$JC + CJ^T = -2D$$

COVAIN GUI Matlab



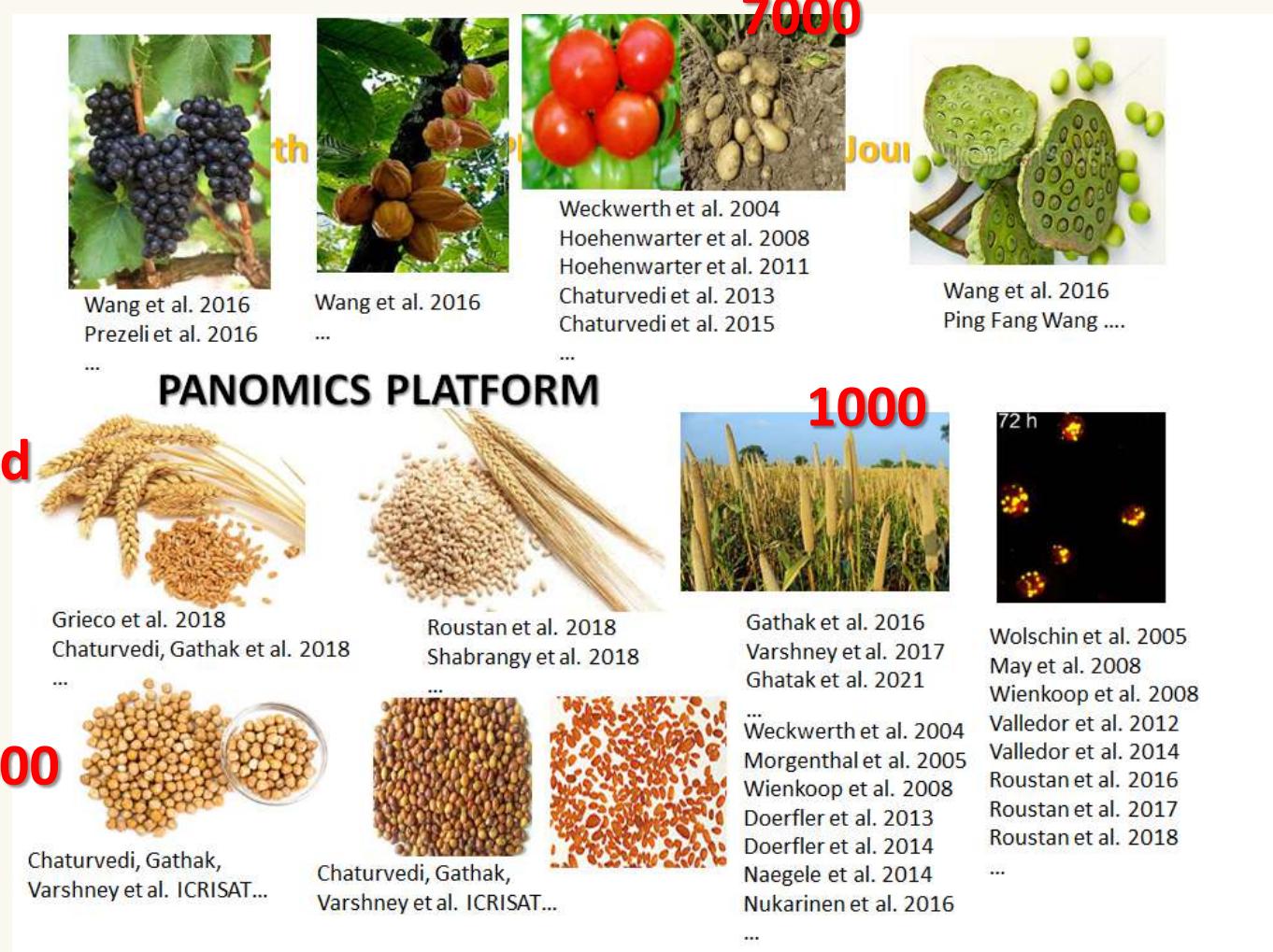
COVRECON: Combining Genome-scale Metabolic Network Reconstruction and Data-driven Inverse Modeling



Jiahang Li

Panomics meets Germplasm

Weckwerth et al 2020 Plant Biotechnology Journal



From Farm to Table to Health - Panomics

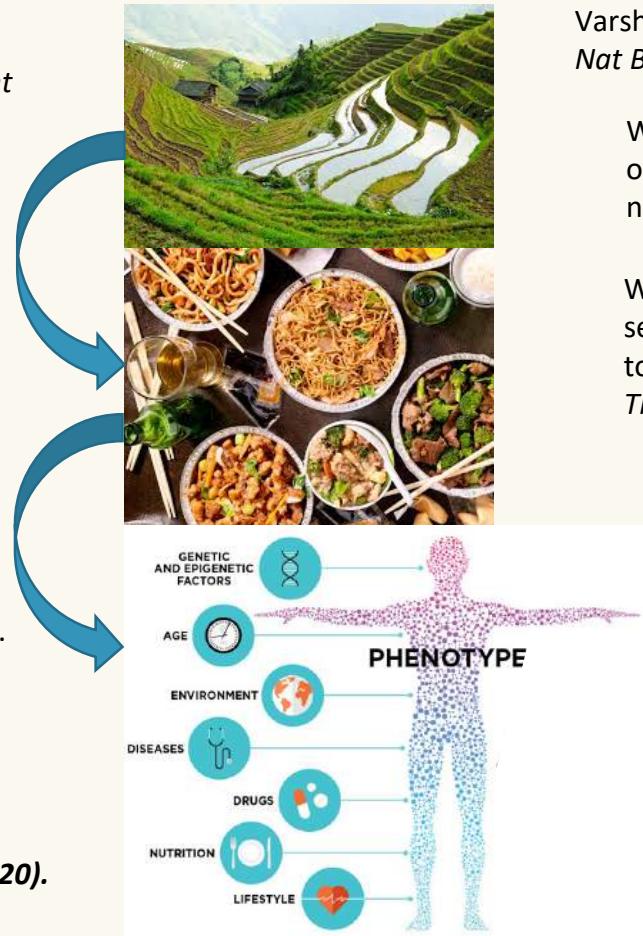
Weckwerth et al. PANOMICS meets germplasm. *Plant Biotechnology Journal* **18**, 1507-1525 (2020).

Zhang et al. Spatial distribution of proteins and metabolites in developing wheat grain and their differential regulatory response during the grain filling process. *The Plant Journal* **107**, 669-687 (2021).

Atanasov et al. Natural products in drug discovery: advances and opportunities. *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* **20**, 200-216 (2021).

Linke et al. Chronic signaling via the metabolic checkpoint kinase mTORC1 induces macrophage granuloma formation and marks sarcoidosis progression. *Nature immunology* **18**, 293-302 (2017).

Wilson et al. Inverse data-driven modeling and multiomics analysis reveals phgdh as a metabolic checkpoint of macrophage polarization and proliferation. *Cell Reports* **30**, 1542-1552. e1547 (2020).



Varshney et al. Rapid delivery systems for future food security. *Nat Biotechnol* **39**, 1179-1181 (2021).

Wang et al. Metabolomic and proteomic profiles reveal the dynamics of primary metabolism during seed development of lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*). *Frontiers in plant science* **7**, 750 (2016).

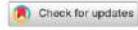
Wang et al. System level analysis of cacao seed ripening reveals a sequential interplay of primary and secondary metabolism leading to polyphenol accumulation and preparation of stress resistance. *The Plant Journal* **87**, 318-332 (2016).

Wang et al. System-level and granger network analysis of integrated proteomic and metabolomic dynamics identifies key points of grape berry development at the interface of primary and secondary metabolism. *Frontiers in plant science* **8**, 1066 (2017).

Bässler et al. Evidence for novel tomato seed allergens: IgE-reactive legumin and vicilin proteins identified by multidimensional protein fractionation– mass spectrometry and in silico epitope modeling. *J Proteome Res* **8**, 1111-1122 (2009).

Leitner et al. Combined metabolomic analysis of plasma and urine reveals AHBA, tryptophan and serotonin metabolism as potential risk factors in gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). *Frontiers in Molecular Biosciences* **4**, 84 (2017).





correspondence

Rapid delivery systems for future food security

To the Editor — The current world population of 7.8 billion is predicted to reach 10 billion by 2057 (<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/#pastfuture>). Future access to affordable and healthy food will be challenging, with malnutrition already affecting one in three people worldwide. The agricultural sector currently provides livelihoods for 1.1 billion people and accounts for 26.7% of global employment (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGREMPL.ZS>). However, our reliance on a small number of crop species for agricultural calorie production and depletion of land, soil, water and genetic resources, combined with extreme weather events and changing disease/pest dynamics, are already jeopardizing future food security¹. Climate change-induced reductions in the global yield of major crops (for example, rice, wheat, maize and soybean) are more pronounced in low-latitude regions and thus affect farmers in developing countries². As is evident from temperate cereal crops, a robust seed system that delivers improved cultivars to replace old cultivars is a plausible approach to adapting agriculture to climate change³. Here we provide an overview of how seed input supply systems and new production and harvesting technologies can generate increased incomes for developing world farmers and deliver better products.

required to realize higher crop yields and income for smallholder farmers and deliver enhanced agricultural outputs (Fig. 1). The integration of planting good-quality seeds of elite crop varieties with improved decision support tools, mechanical harvesting and post-harvest management will increase production gains. Electronic trading portals (for example, Wefarm (<https://about.wefarm.com/>), eNAM (<https://www.enam.gov.in/web>) and Digital Mandi (<https://www.ltik.ac.in/MLAsia/digimandi.htm>)) and support from farmer associations should help farmers market their produce directly for fairer prices. Further processing and addition of value can also deliver improved products to consumers and increase farmer's income (Fig. 1).

Seed is the single entry point for crop resilience and productivity. The sustainability of crop production is vitally dependent on the timely supply of improved seed and other inputs. In developing countries, formal seed supply systems generally do not meet farmers' demands, such that smallholder farmers source more than 80% of their seed from informal seed systems. Some South Asian countries, such as Nepal, ensure seed supply through community-based seed banks⁴, but most of the seed is not from elite varieties, which limits productivity and reduces environmental resilience. Promoting elite

protect the environment¹. Seeding rate and planting time are critical components of crop production packages, but they vary between locations. For instance, in China over-seeding of wheat reduced potential yield by 6.3% and under-seeding of maize reduced potential yields by 20.6%; meanwhile, timely sowing increased yields by 6.3% for wheat and 15% for maize. Timely irrigation and fertilizer application reduced wheat yield losses by 6.2%, whereas maize yield increased by 7.5% and wheat by 11.6% following recommended fertilizer regimes⁵. Integrated nutrient management incorporates optimal nutrients from various resources and synchronizes crop demand and supply. Using innovative nutrient-specific strategies such as urease inhibitors, fertilizer incorporation at depth and coated urea could improve nutrient use efficiency and crop productivity. Integrated pest management involving innovative ecological pest management strategies could help manage agricultural pests. Under rain-fed conditions, the use of mulch (for example, crop straw, plastic or gravel sand) can preserve soil moisture and increase moisture availability to crops. In China, ridge-furrow plastic mulching of maize increased water-use efficiency by 70% and improved nitrogen uptake efficiency by 45%, relative to flat irrigation⁶.

correspondence

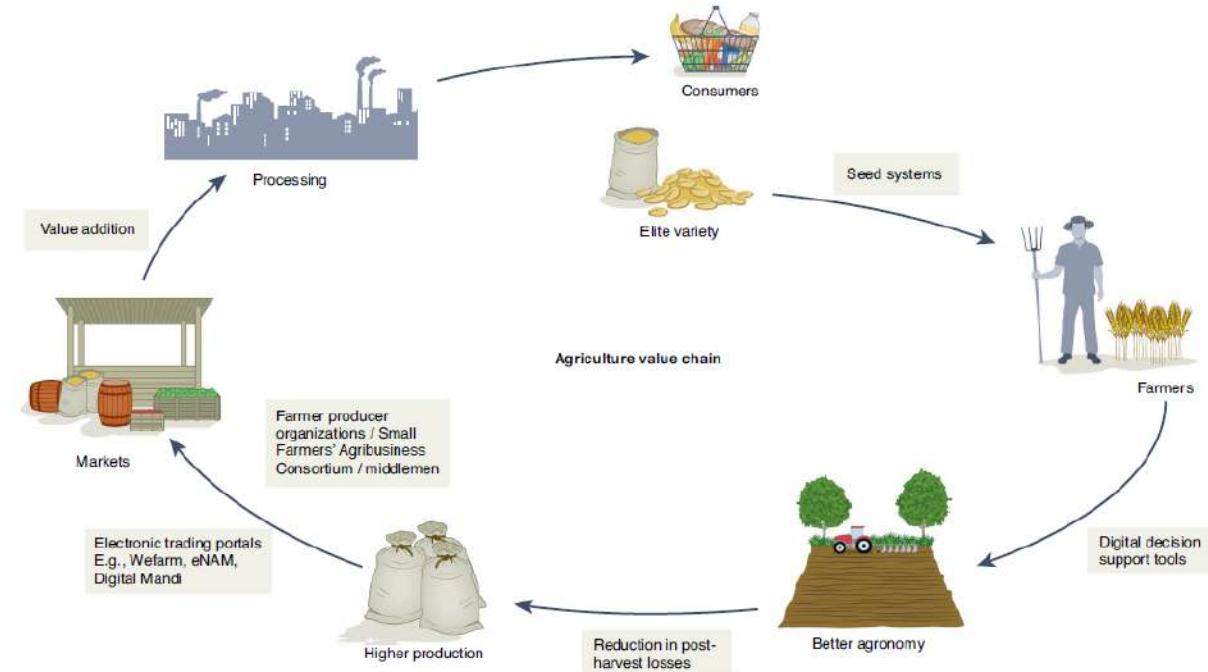


Fig. 1 | Rapid delivery of new cultivars to farmer fields and better products to markets. New crop products developed through innovative breeding technologies should be accessible to farmers. Improved seed and the input supply system remain at the core of farmer accessibility needs. Equally important will be better crop production technologies based on site-specific packages. Institutional support from the public sector (for example, digital agriculture tools, computational decision and analytics tools or digital communication tools) can contribute substantially to this end. Mechanized harvesting and more widespread cold-storage facilities could also reduce harvest losses. Value addition to farm produce could increase farm income, diversify production and provide new markets.

Nature Biotechnology 2021





CROPS in a changing climate

PANOMICS meets Germplasm

Understanding intraspecific crop plant adaptation in
the climate crisis for climate change mitigation



HYPOTHESIS

Agriculture contributes to the mitigation of climate change due to its nature as carbon sequestration process - photosynthesis and CO₂-fixation

versus current state:

1. Harsh climate reduces plant growth and productivity leading to inefficient CO₂-neutral biomass and food production
2. High demand on industrial nitrogen fertilizer for productivity but low nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) due to losses (50-70%) in the soil – nitrification processes and GHG emissions (N₂O)
3. Food production – industrial processes



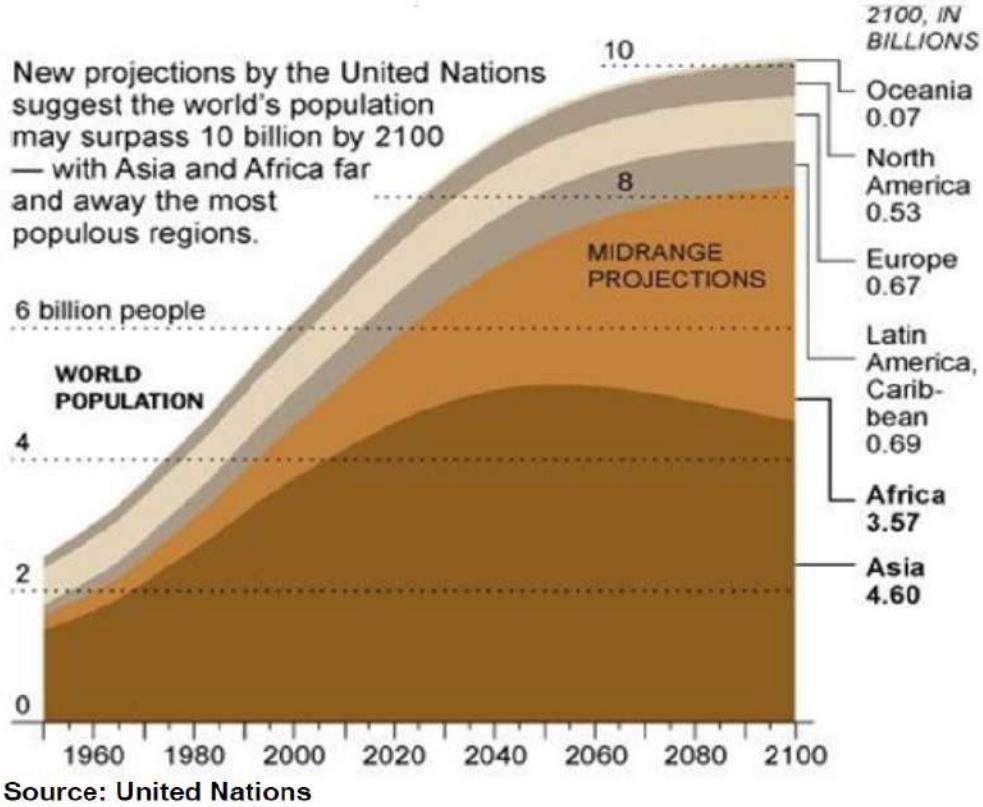
**Net GHG
emission
instead of
sequestration**



Transformation of Agriculture

Towards 10 Billion

New projections by the United Nations suggest the world's population may surpass 10 billion by 2100 — with Asia and Africa far and away the most populous regions.



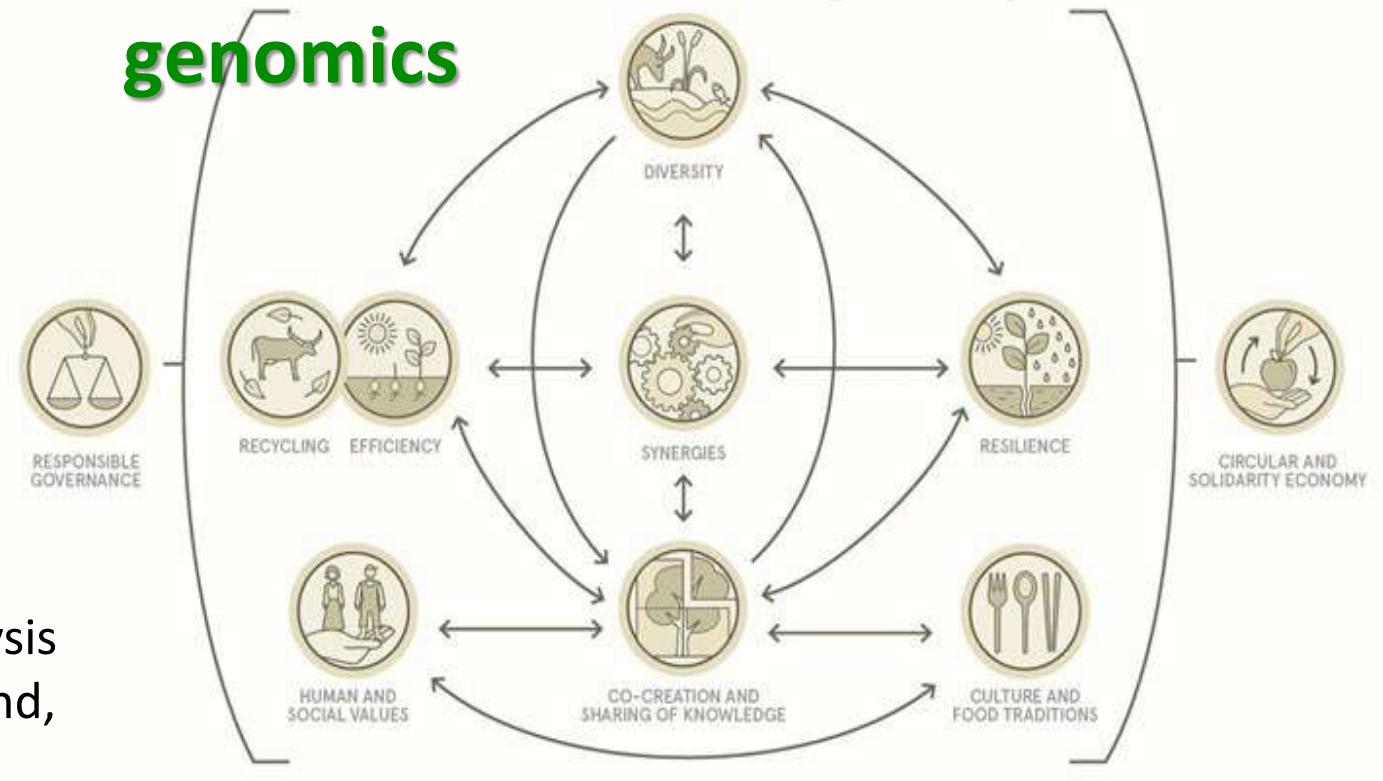
- World population will reach **9 billion** by 2050
- FAO estimates that agricultural production will have to **increase by 60%** by then
- Agriculture should undergo a **significant transformation** to feed the growing global population
- Climate change adds extra challenges in reaching this goal – esp. developing countries where food insecurity and poverty are prevalent



Agroecology: Key to agricultural resilience and ecosystem recovery

- Four major themes of agroecosystems (Conway 1983):
 - Productivity
 - Stability
 - Sustainability
 - Equability
- Fundamental properties of any complex system and derived from **SYSTEM THEORY**
- Agroecology and agroecosystems analysis is intimately bound to system theory and, thus, to systems biology

Genetic variation – germplasm genomics

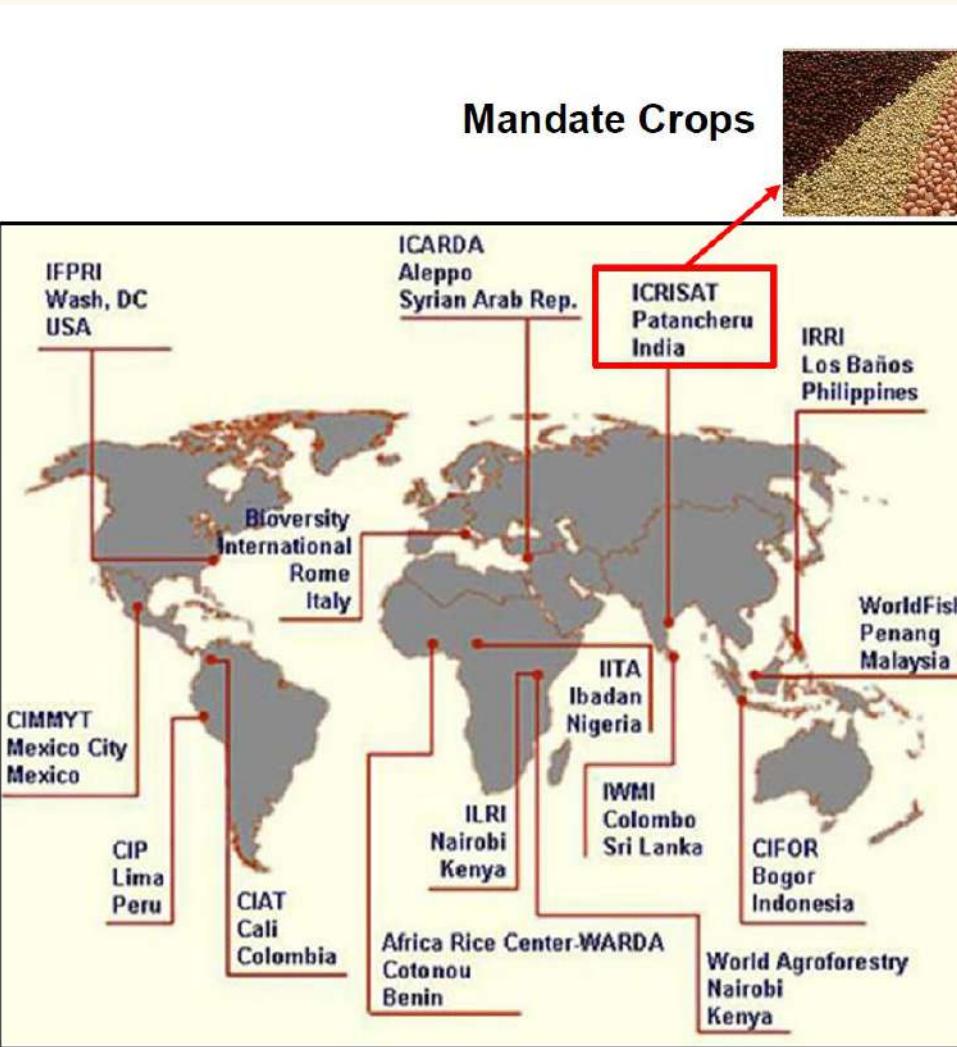


<http://www.fao.org/agroecology/knowledge/science/en/>





Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR)



- Chickpea
- Pigeon pea
- Groundnut
- Sorghum
- Pearl Millet

IPMGSC

Nature Biotechnology 2017
Arindam Ghatak, Palak Chaturvedi
Wolfram Weckwerth

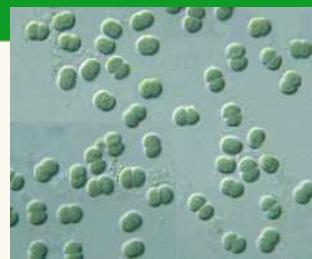


Rajeev Varshney



Next generation sequencing...

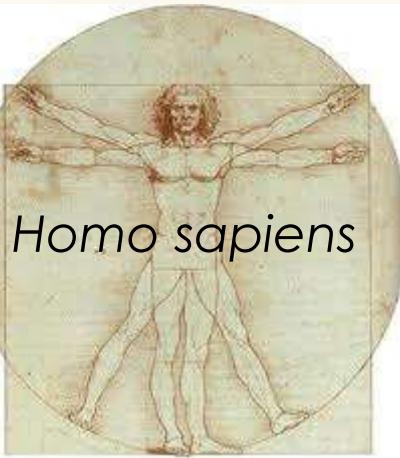
Arabidopsis



Synechocystis



Seit 1995 ~**450.000** Genome projects... exponential...
Metagenomes...**2021**



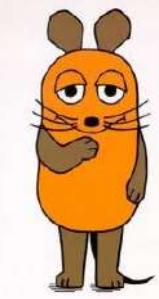
Homo sapiens



Canis familiaris



Chlamydomonas



Maus



Medicago



Plant Genomes

Oryza sativa



Populus trichocarpa



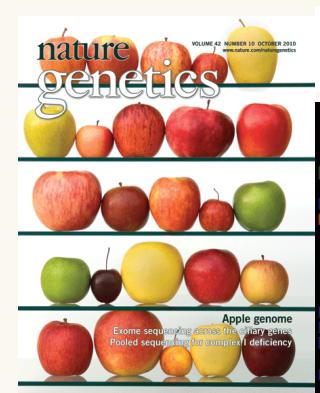
Vitis vinifera



Zea mays



Malus × domestica Borkh.



Medicago truncatula



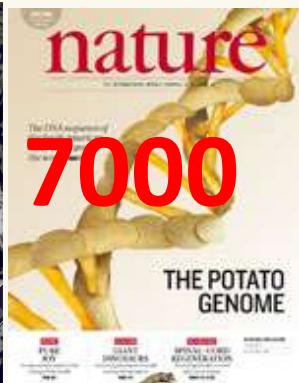
2002

Ricinus communis



2006

Solanum tuberosum



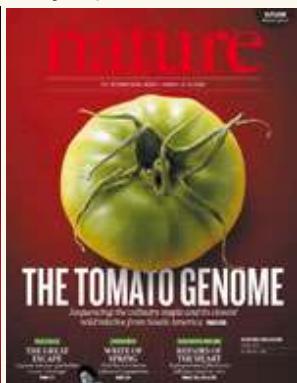
2007

Fragaria vesca
Theobroma cacao



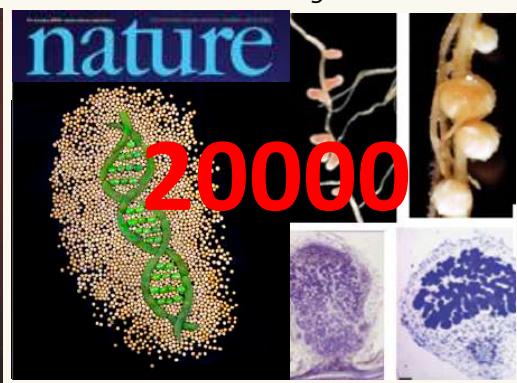
2009

Solanum lycopersicum



2009

Glycine max



2011

Rhizobium leguminosarum

• • •

2010



2011



2011



2012



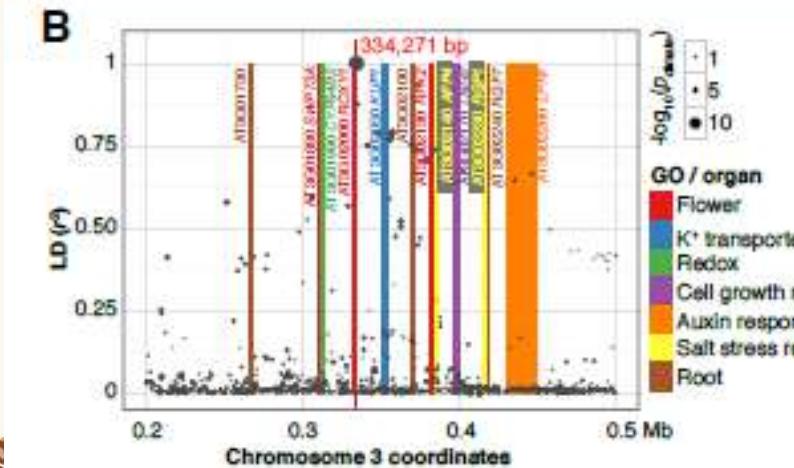
2010



2006

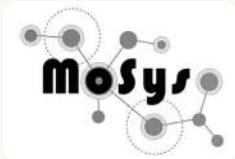


Germplasm genomics intraspecific variation



Polymorphism
involved in
climate
adaption

The 1001 Genomes
Consortium (2016)
**1135 genomes reveal the
global pattern of
polymorphism in
Arabidopsis thaliana
Cell**



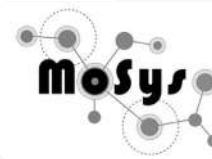
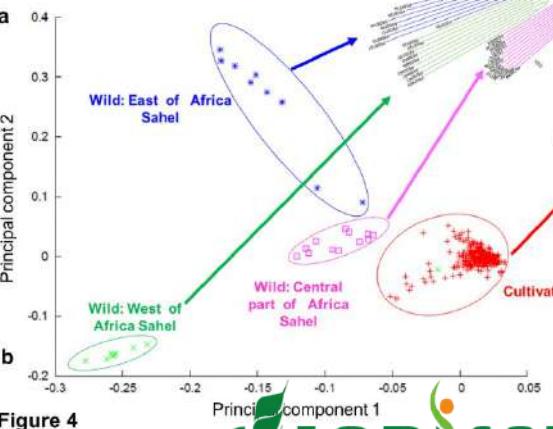
Germplasm genomics Pearl Millet

Pearl millet genome sequence provides a resource to improve agronomic traits in arid environments

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Rajeev K Varshney^{1,35}, Chengcheng Shi^{2,35}, Mahendar Thudi¹, Cedric He Zhang², Yusheng Zhao⁵, Xiyin Wang⁴, Abhishek Rathore¹, Rakesh Guangyi Fan², Prasad Bajaj¹, Somashekhar Punnuri⁶, S K Gupta¹, Hao V Mohan A V S Katta¹, Dev R Paudel¹⁸, K D Mungra⁹, Wenbin Chen², Neetin Desai^{11,12}, Dadakhalandar Doddamani¹, Ndjido Ardo Kane¹³, Jo Palak Chaturvedi¹¹, Sabarinath Subramanian^{16,17}, Om Parkash Yadav Falalou Hamidou^{20,21}, Jianping Wang⁸, Xinming Liang², Jérémie Clota Philippe Cubry³, Bénédicte Rhoné^{3,23}, Mame Codou Gueye¹³, Raman Francesca Sparvoli²⁶, Shifeng Cheng², R S Mahala²⁷, Bharat Singh⁶, R Swapan K Datta²⁹, C Tom Hash²⁰, Katrien M Devos⁴, Edward Buckler Andrew H Paterson⁴, Peggy Ozias-Akins¹⁴, Stefania Grandol¹, Jun Wang Wolfram Weckwerth^{11,32}, Jochen C Reif⁵, Xin Liu^{2,33}, Yves Vigouroux

Pearl millet [*Cenchrus americanus* (L.) Morrone] is a staple food for more than 90 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, India and South Asia. We report the ~1.79 Gb draft whole genome sequence of 23D-B1-P1-P5, which contains an estimated 38,579 genes. We highlight the subspecies which may contribute to heat and drought tolerance in this crop. We resequence a panel of accessions from across the species range to gain insights into population structure, genetic diversity and domestication. We use these associations for genomic selection, to define heterotic pools, and to predict hybrid performance. This work should empower researchers and breeders to improve this important staple crop.



Nature Biotechnology 2017

Germplasm genomics: Chickpea

Article

A chickpea genetic variation map based on the sequencing of 3,366 genomes

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-021-04066-1>

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Open access

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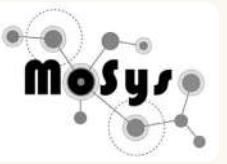


Rajeev K. Varshney^{1,2}, Manish Roorkiwal¹, Shuai Sun^{3,4,5}, Prasad Bajaj¹, Annapurna Chitikineni¹, Mahendar Thudi^{1,6}, Narendra P. Singh⁷, Xiao Du^{3,4}, Hari D. Upadhyaya^{8,9}, Aamir W. Khan¹, Yue Wang^{3,4}, Vanika Garg¹, Guangyi Fan^{3,4,10,11}, Wallace A. Cowling¹², José Crossa¹³, Laurent Gentzbittel¹⁴, Kai Peter Voss-Fels¹⁵, Vinod Kumar Valluri¹, Pallavi Sinha^{1,16}, Vikas K. Singh^{1,16}, Cécile Ben^{14,17}, Abhishek Rathore¹, Ramu Punna¹⁸, Muneendra K. Singh¹, Bunyamin Tar'an¹⁹, Chellapilla Bharadwaj²⁰, Mohammad Yasin²¹, Motisagar S. Pithia²², Servejeet Singh²³, Khela Ram Soren⁷, Himabindu Kudapa¹, Diego Jarquín²⁴, Philippe Cubry²⁵, Lee T. Hickey¹⁵, Girish Prasad Dixit⁷, Anne-Céline Thuillet²⁵, Aladdin Hamwieh²⁶, Shiv Kumar²⁷, Amit A. Deokar¹⁹, Sushil K. Chaturvedi²⁸, Aleena Francis²⁹, Réka Howard³⁰, Debasis Chattopadhyay²⁰, David Edwards¹², Eric Lyons³¹, Yves Vigouroux²⁵, Ben J. Hayes¹⁵, Eric von Wettberg³², Swapan K. Datta³³, Huanming Yang^{10,11,34,36}, Henry T. Nguyen³⁵, Jian Wang^{11,36}, Kadambot H. M. Siddique¹², Trilochan Mohapatra³⁷, Jeffrey L. Bennetzen³⁸, Xun Xu^{10,39} & Xin Liu^{10,11,40,41}

Zero hunger and good health could be realized by 2030 through effective conservation, characterization and utilization of germplasm resources¹. So far, few chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) germplasm accessions have been characterized at the genome sequence level². Here we present a detailed map of variation in 3,171 cultivated and 195 wild accessions to provide publicly available resources for chickpea genomics research and breeding. We constructed a chickpea pan-genome to describe genomic diversity across cultivated chickpea and its wild progenitor accessions. A



Chickpea 3000 project



Question:

From all these data

....can we predict metabolite dynamics and/or
protein dynamics or transcript dynamics?

Regulation? Growth? Physiology?

Morphotyp? Stress phenotype? Yield?

Quality? Adaptation to climate change?



Panomics meets Germplasm

Weckwerth et al 2020 Plant Biotechnology Journal

Review

PANOMICS meets germplasm

Wolfram Weckwerth^{1,2,*}, Arindam Ghatak¹, Anke Bellaire¹, Palak Chaturvedi^{1,*} and Rajeev K. Varshney^{3,*}

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²Vienna Metabolomics Center (VME), University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

³Center of Excellence in Genomics & Systems Biology, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, Telangana, India

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revised 17 February 2020;
accepted 26 February 2020.

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(W.W.), palak.chaturvedi@univie.ac.at (P.C.)
and r.k.varshney@cgiar.org (R.K.V.))

Summary

Genotyping-by-sequencing has enabled approaches for genomic selection to improve yield, stress resistance and nutritional value. More and more resource studies are emerging providing 1000 and more genotypes and millions of SNPs for one species covering a hitherto inaccessible intraspecific genetic variation. The larger the databases are growing, the better statistical approaches for genomic selection will be available. However, there are clear limitations on the statistical but also on the biological part. Intraspecific genetic variation is able to explain a high proportion of the phenotypes, but a large part of phenotypic plasticity also stems from environmentally driven transcriptional, post-transcriptional, translational, post-translational, epigenetic and metabolic regulation. Moreover, regulation of the same gene can have different phenotypic outputs in different environments. Consequently, to explain and understand environment-dependent phenotypic plasticity based on the available genotype variation we have to integrate the analysis of further molecular levels reflecting the complete information flow from the gene to metabolism to phenotype. Interestingly, metabolomics platforms are already more cost-effective than NGS platforms and are decisive for the prediction of nutritional value or stress resistance. Here, we propose three fundamental pillars for future breeding strategies in the framework of Green Systems Biology: (i) combining genome selection with environment-dependent PANOMICS analysis and deep learning to improve prediction accuracy for marker-dependent trait performance; (ii) PANOMICS resolution at subtissue, cellular and subcellular level provides information about fundamental functions of selected markers; (iii) combining PANOMICS with genome editing and speed breeding tools to accelerate and enhance large-scale functional validation of trait-specific precision breeding.

Keywords: Green systems biology, PANOMICS, plant systems biology, multi-omics, phenotyping, crop improvement, germplasm, genome editing, GWAS.

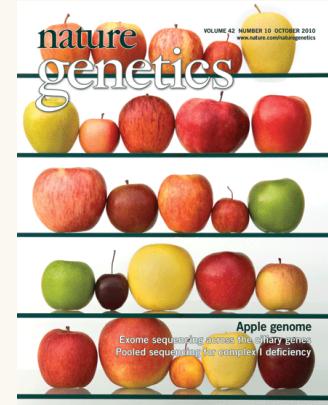
Table 1 GWAS studies and phenotypic variance

Crops	Species	Cultivars studied	GWAS studies (No. of Traits)	SNPs identified	Phenotypic variance	References
Arabidopsis	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	192	107	~216 130	~20%	Atwell et al. (2010)
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	517	14	~3.6 million	~36%	Huang et al. (2010b)
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	20	NA	~160 000	NA	McNally et al. (2009)
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i> ssp. <i>japonica</i>	176	4	~426 337	~30%–35%	Yano et al. (201 ^a)
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i> ssp. <i>Japonica</i>	193	5	~1713	~20%–40%	Reijo et al. ^b
Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	369	19	~71 710	~30%	
Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	723	23	52 303 DArT-seq marker		
Wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	105	9	~15 430		
Bread wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	163	13			
Bread wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	93	9			
Spring wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	10 ^a				
Aegilops tauschii	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.					
Barley						
Barley						
Soja						
Maize						
Maiz						
Maiz						
Maize						
Maize	<i>Zea mays</i> L.	289	3	~265 000	~40%	Morris et al. (2013)
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Maize						
Foxtail millet	<i>Setaria italica</i>	916	47	~845 787	NA	Jia et al. (2013)
Tomato	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	163	19	~5995	~30%–40%	Sauvage et al. (2014)
Cassava	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz	158	11	~349 827	~30%–40%	Zhang et al. (2018)
Peanut	<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.	200	50	~154 SSR, 4597 DArTs marker	~30%–40%	Pandey et al. (2014)

only 10-40% of phenotype variance explained



How is complexity encoded?



Genome

$\sim 10^3$ - 10^5

Proteome

$\sim 10^6$

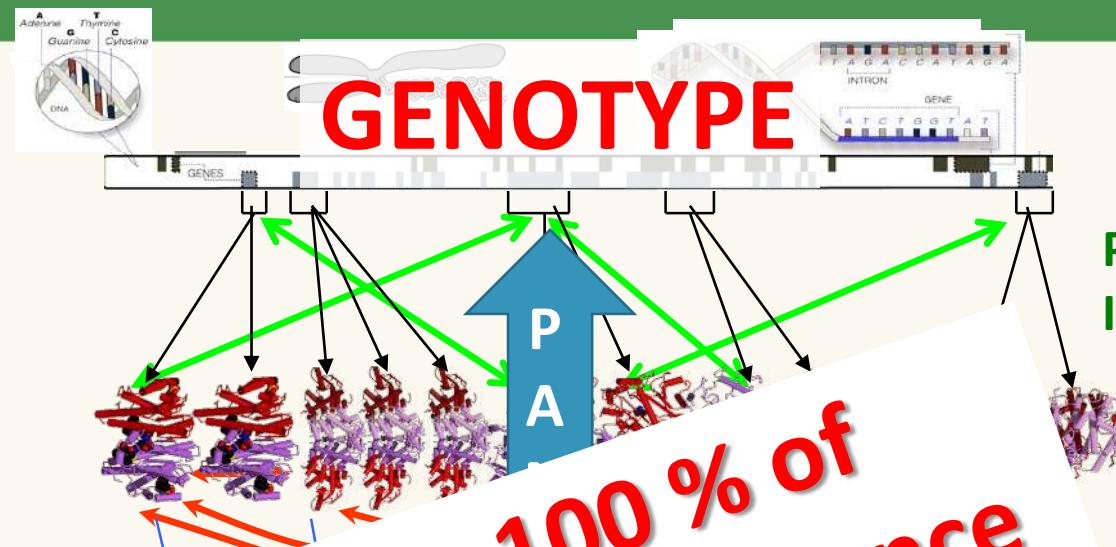
PTM

$$\sim 10^{6-7}$$

Metabolome

$\sim 10^5$ - 10^6

“OMICs”



Explains 100 % of phenotypic variance

PHENOTYPE

Protein-Gene Interactions

Protein-Protein Interactions

Metabolite-Protein Interactions

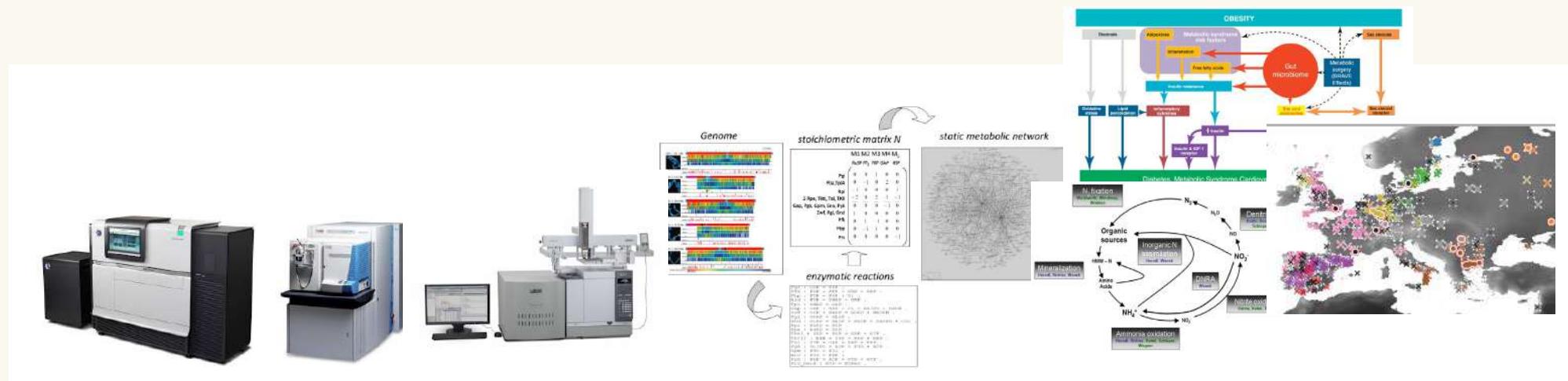
“OMICs”



Panomics meets Germplasm

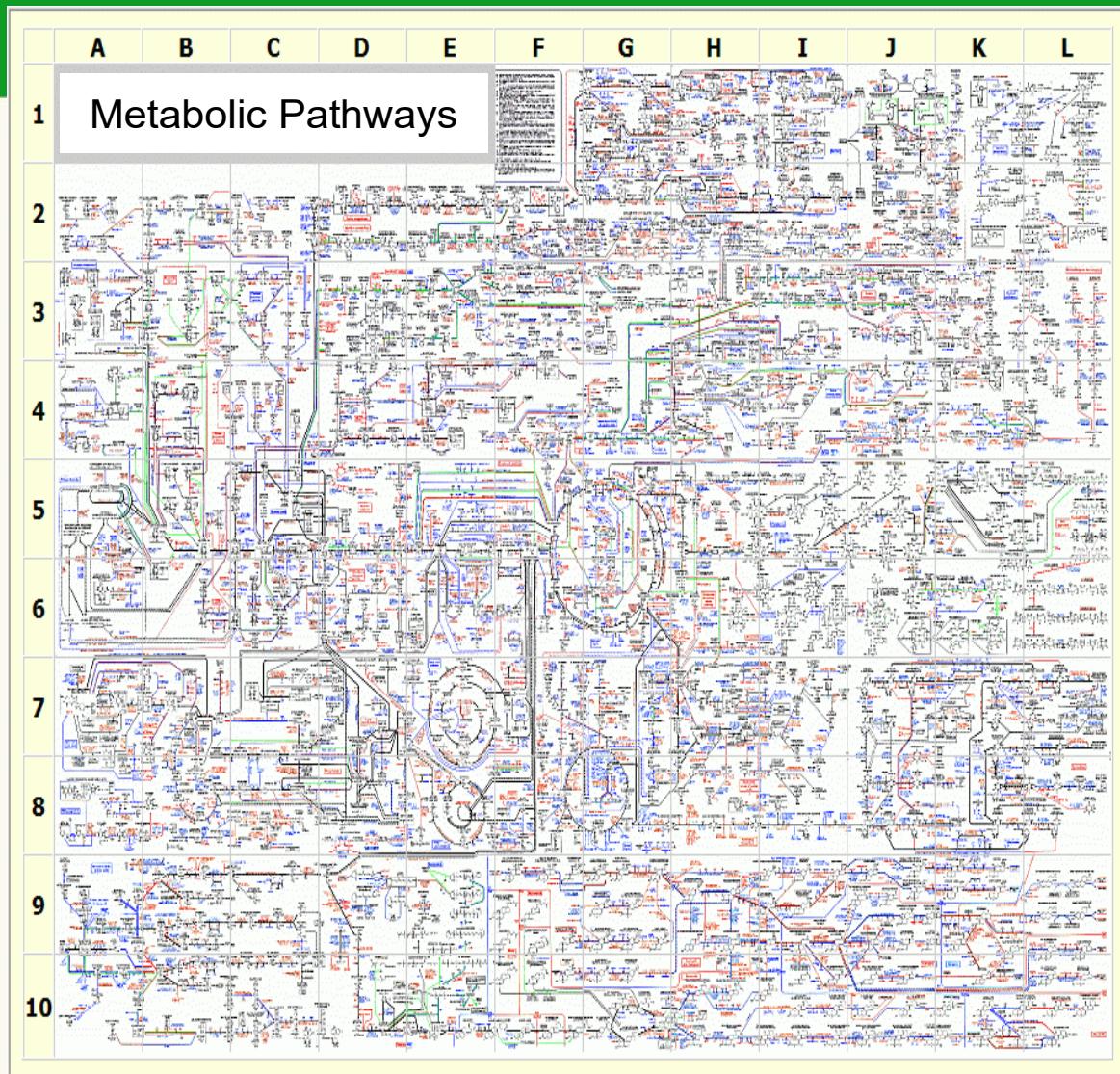
Weckwerth et al 2020 Plant Biotechnology Journal

- From Model Organisms to Ecosystems
- Genomics, Transcriptomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, Physiology, Phenotype **Weckwerth 2011 Green Systems Biology**



NGS Proteomics Metabolomics Genome-scale modelling Ecosystems analysis





Metabolomics

- non-targeted metabolite analysis
- integrative part of systems biology

Weckwerth (2003)
 Metabolomics in Systems Biology.
 Annual Review of Plant Biology



Vienna Metabolomics Center



- Research Platform University of Vienna (<http://metabolomics.univie.ac.at>)
- Coordinator: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfram Weckwerth
- Faculties of Life Sciences and Chemistry, CMESS and Medical University

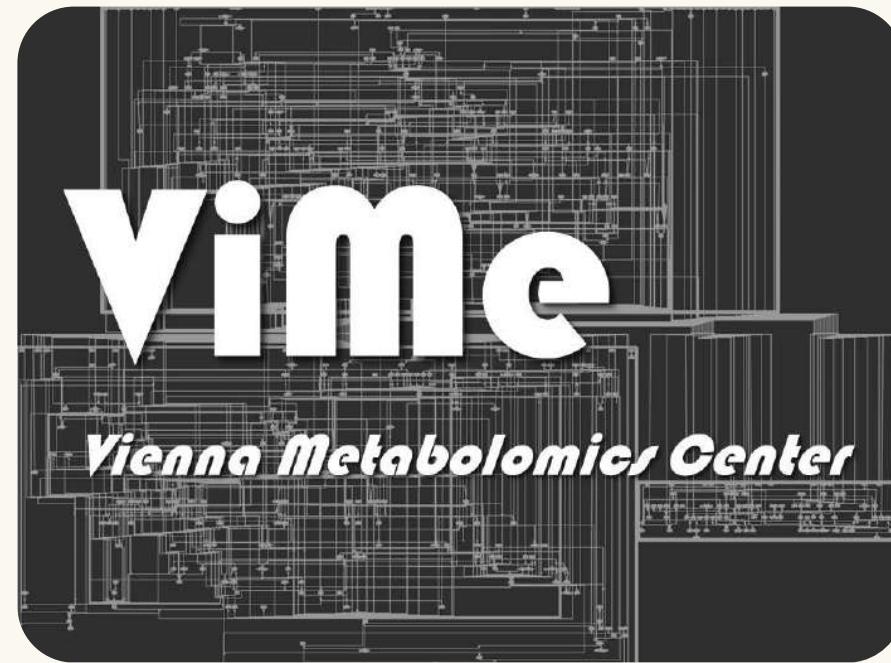


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wien



Vienna Metabolomics Center

- ViMe – Vienna Metabolomics Center – is an open research platform for national and international scientific collaborations
- Provides a full suite for metabolomic profiling combining GC-MS, LC-MS, structural elucidation, databases, multivariate statistics, data integration and metabolic modelling
- Provides a full suite for proteomic/phosphoproteomic profiling
- More than 120 publications including **Cell**, **PNAS**, **Nature Biotechnology**, **Nature Immunology**, **Cancer Cell**, **Plant Cell**, **Plant Physiology**, **Plant Journal**, and many more
- Contact: wolfram.weckwerth@univie.ac.at



<http://metabolomics.univie.ac.at/>





You are here: ... > VIENNA METABOLOMICS CENTER

VIME mission

Metabolomics, the unbiased profiling of all small molecules in biological samples, has developed into a core technology for functional genomics, biobased economy and personalized medicine in the last decade. Recently, ecological metabolomics has emerged in ecosystem research and metagenomic studies. The quality of state-of-the-art metabolomics technology depends on the quality of the preparation workflows, the quality of metabolite libraries and workflows for structural elucidation of novel structures.

Because of the diversity of the metabolomes from organisms in functional and biomedical studies as well as the complexity of exo-metabolomes in environmental samples from marine, fresh water and terrestrial ecosystems an **interdisciplinary approach** is necessary to tackle this problem. **Internationally recognized labs at the University of Vienna** distributed over three faculties for **Chemistry, Geosciences and Life Sciences** consolidate their specific and complementary metabolomics platforms and application fields to build a **Vienna Metabolomics Center**.

Contact

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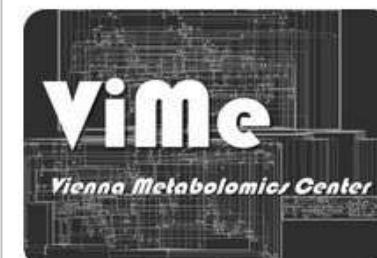


VIME in space - MOMEDOS

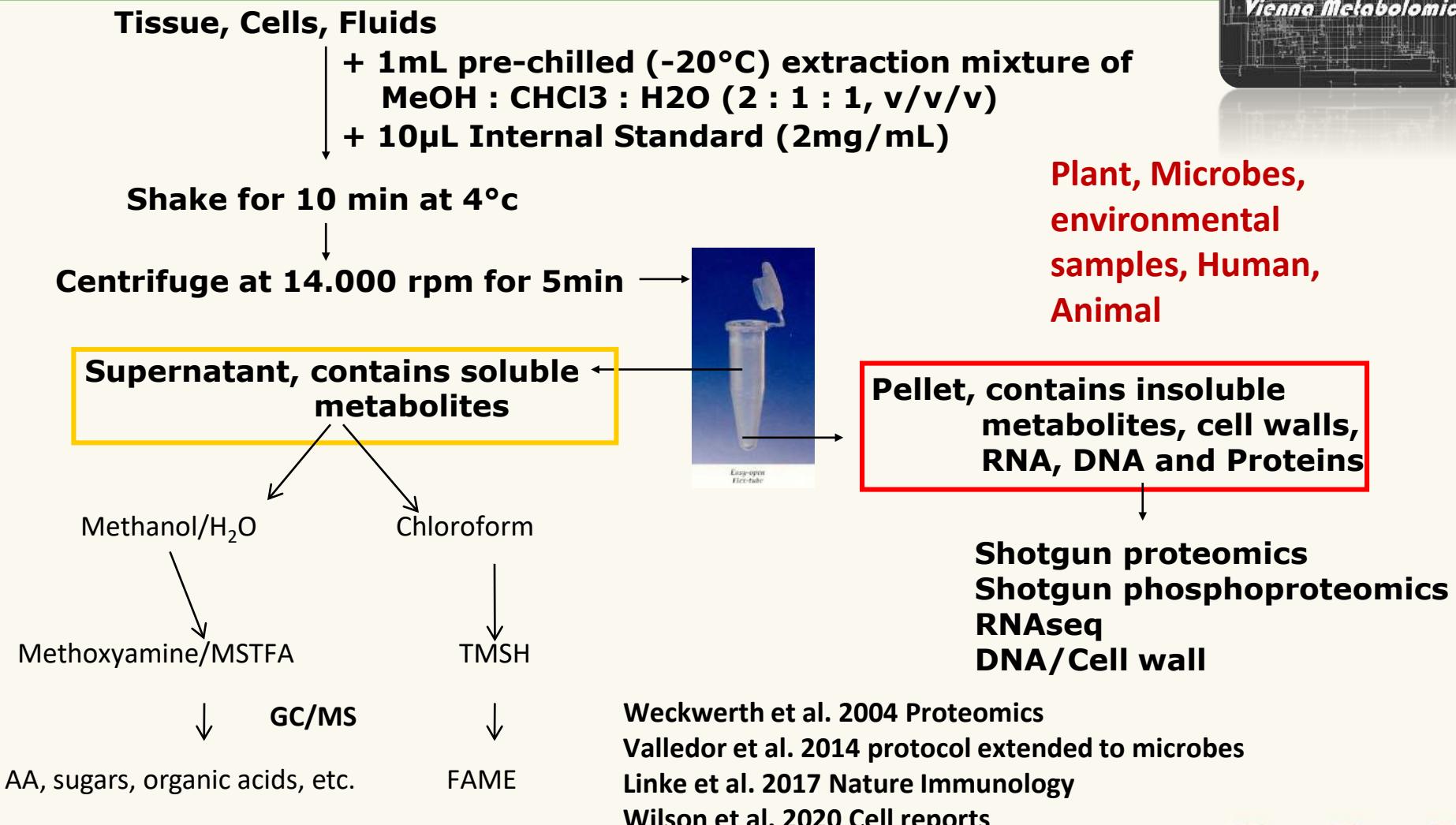
10.12.2016

How do microbes in cosmic dust adapt to outer space conditions?

VIME collaborates with Dr. Tetyana Milojevic from the Department of Biophysical Chemistry to investigate the molecular mechanisms of microbial adaptation to outer space conditions such as cold and radiation. The project is funded by the FFG and



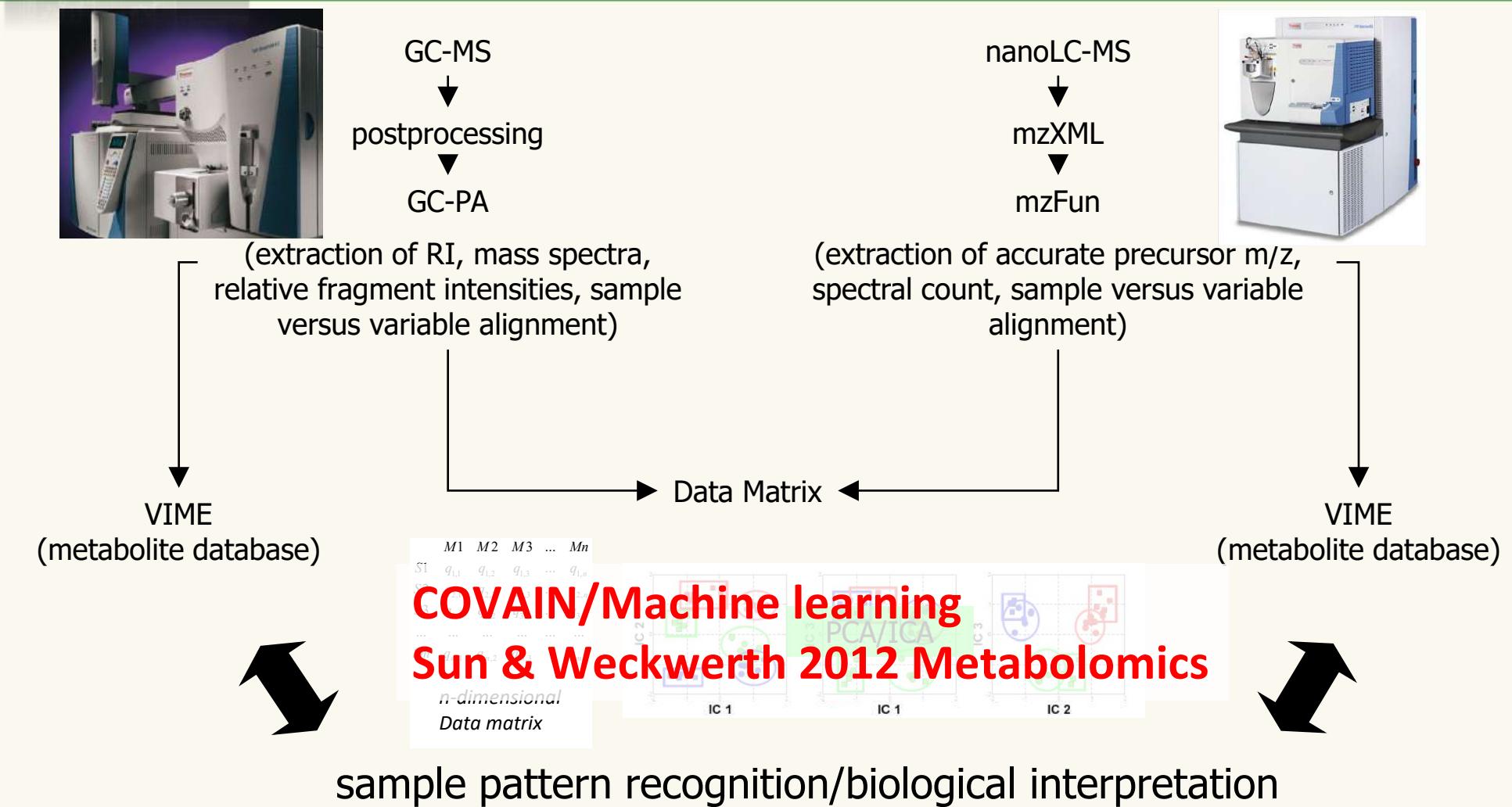
Integrative Multiomics protocol





Workflow Metabolomics

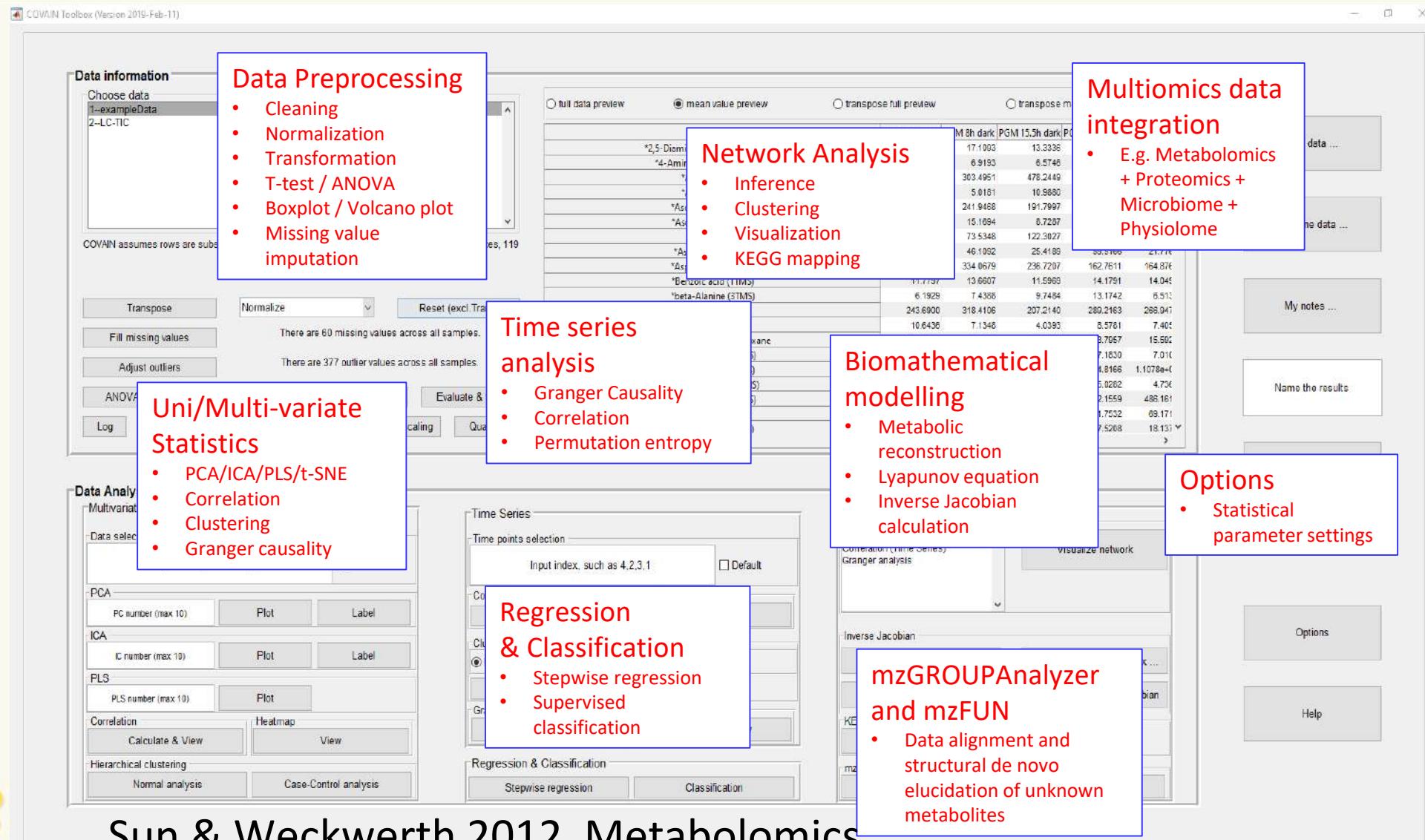
Weckwerth 2011 Unpredictability of Metabolism.ABC



sample pattern recognition/biological interpretation



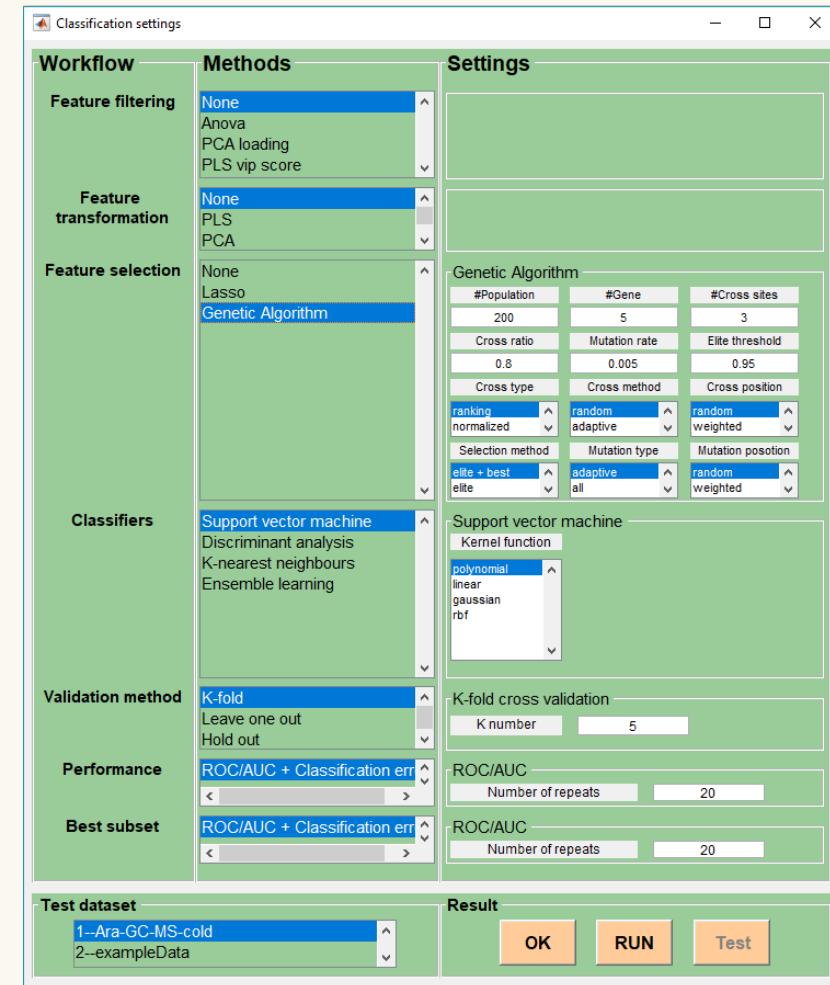
COVAIN (COVariance INverse) – a toolbox for OMICS data processing, statistics and machine learning, data integration, inverse data modelling, and *de novo* structural elucidation



Machine learning workflow and methods in COVAIN

- Feature filtering
- Feature transformation(engineering)
- Feature selection
- Classification /Regression
- Validation
- Model evaluation (performance)
- Best feature subset

Leitner et al. 2017





Integration of proteome/metabolome
and machine learning techniques in the
field - FIELDOMICS

Potato germplasm collection



- Mature tubers of tetraploid cultivars of *Solanum tuberosum*:
 - Ag, Agria, Al, Alliance; Ar, Arnika; F, Festien; G, Goldika; K, Kuras; LC, Lady Claire; Ma, Marabel; Mi, Milva; O, Omega; RF, Red Fantasy; T, Topas
- Grown on 3 plots each on 2 geographically separated fields in Germany
- 4 to 6 tubers of each cultivar were analyzed each three times = more than 500 shotgun proteomics analyses

Hoehenwarter et al. 2008 Proteomics





MAPA

Wolfgang Hoehenwarter

Mass Accuracy Precursor Alignment

4214

DOI 10.1002/pmic.200701047

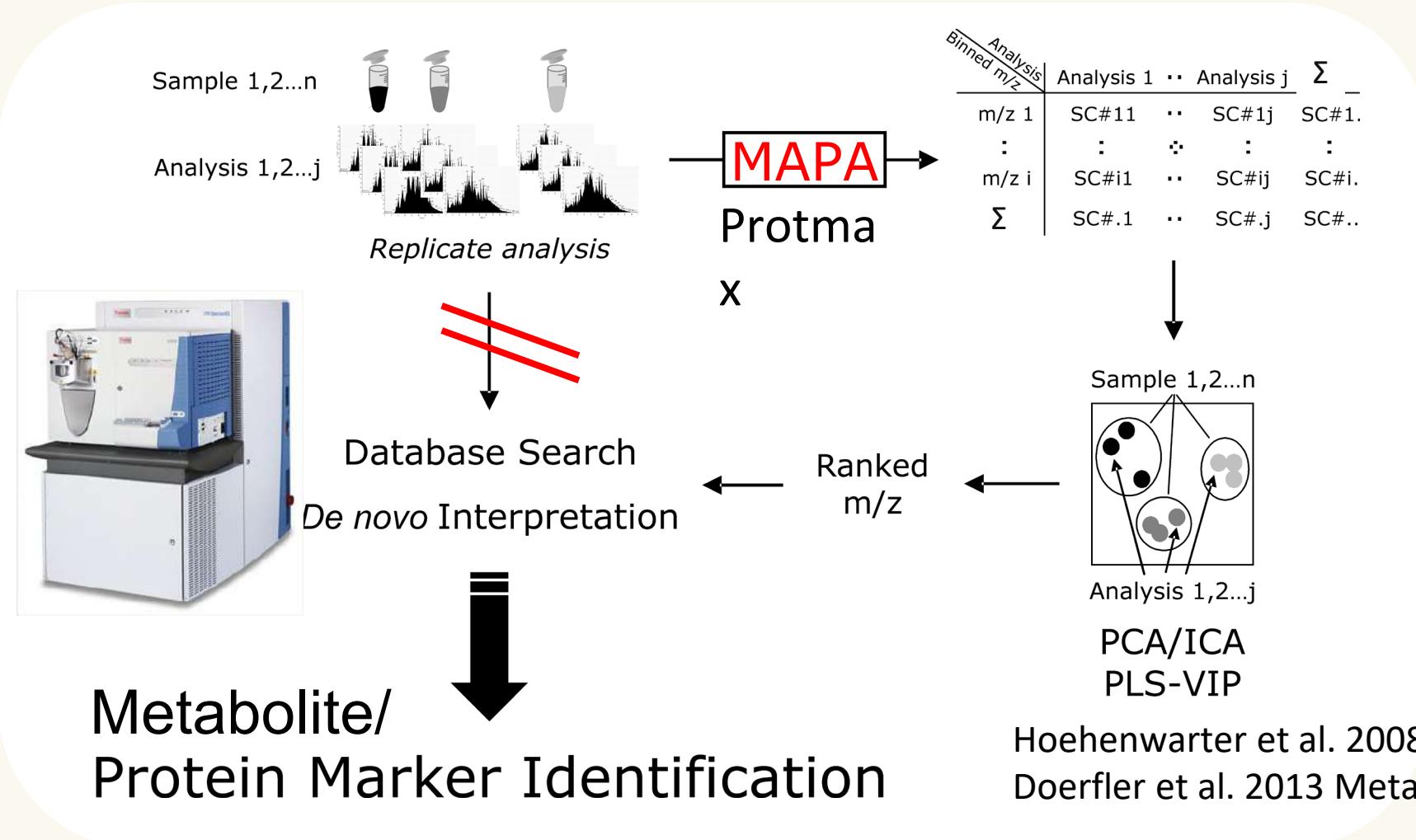
Proteomics 2008, 8, 4214–4225

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A rapid approach for phenotype-screening and database independent detection of cSNP/protein polymorphism using mass accuracy precursor alignment

*Wolfgang Hoehenwarter¹, Joost T. van Dongen¹, Stefanie Wienkoop¹,
Matthias Steinfath², Jan Hummel¹, Alexander Erban¹, Ronan Sulpice¹,
Babette Regierer², Joachim Kopka¹, Peter Geigenberger¹ and Wolfram Weckwerth^{1, 3, 4}*

MAPA – Proteomics/Metabolomics



Machine learning/classification

4 splitting rules X
• 5-fold cross validation
• Leave one out cross validation
• Bootstrap sampling
• Monte Carlo cross validation

500 training/test sets each

2000 training/test sets

123 predictors

4 classification methods
• LDA
• KNNC
• SVM
• Random Forest (RF)

18300 predictions each

500 training/test sets each
• 5-fold cross validation

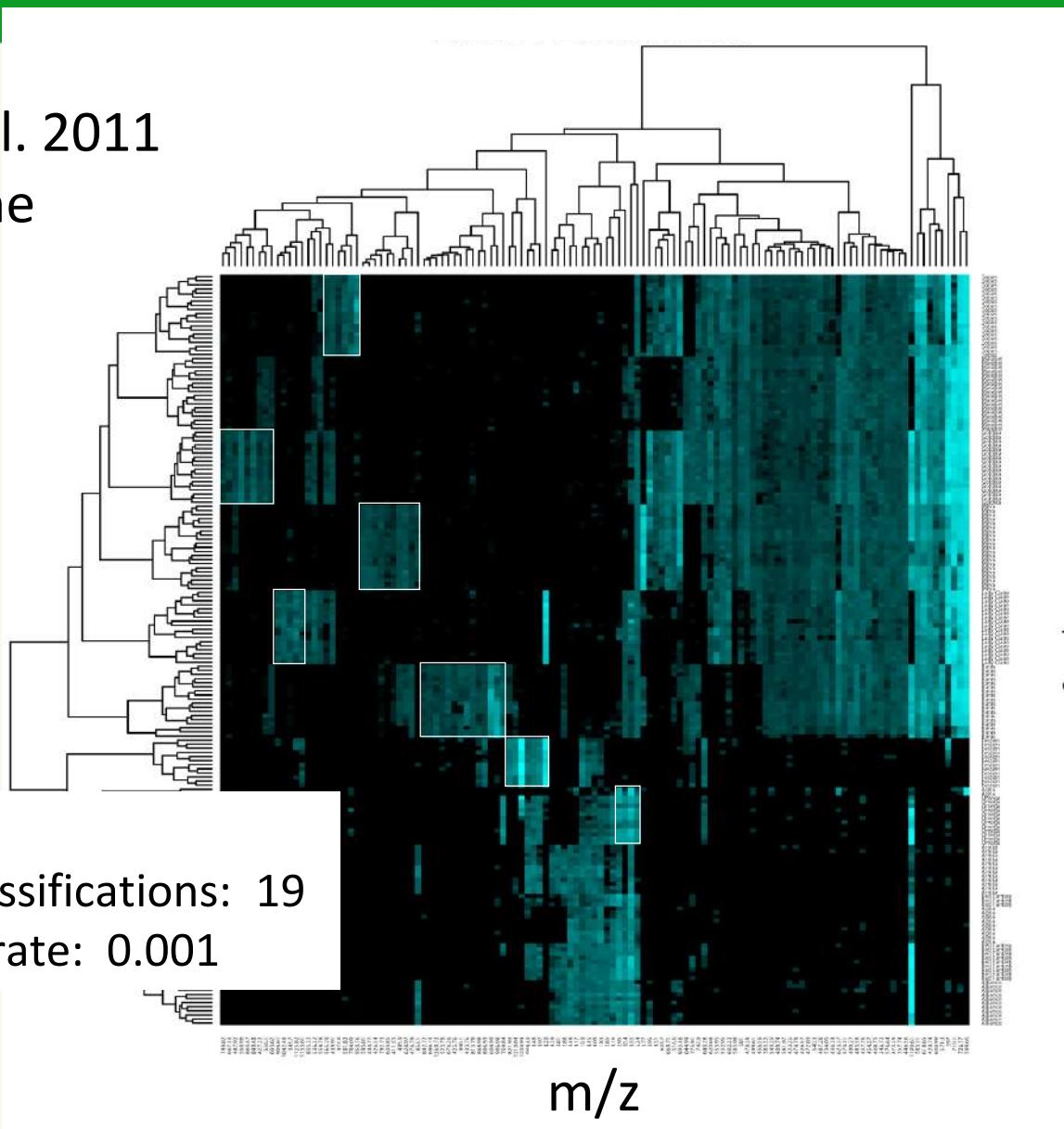
Hoehenwarter et al. 2011
Journal of Proteome Research



Machine learning of shotgun proteomics data identifies highly specific cultivar markers

Hoehnwarter et al. 2011
Journal of Proteome Research

18300 predictions
number of missclassifications: 19
missclassification rate: 0.001



Samples

- Topas
- Marabel
- Goldika
- Milva
- Lady Claire
- Kuras
- Festien
- Omega
- Arnika
- Agria
- Red Fantasy
- Alliance



Protein Marker? VIP versus ICA

Independent component	Top 50 precursor ion m/z		Protein accession number	Protein name
	Identified	Not identified		
IC1	27	23	TA23344_4113	Patatin protein 07 (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			STRNA01	Patatin precursor (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA23357_4113	Patatin (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA23294_4113	Patatin (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA23358_4113	Patatin protein group A-3 (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			New patatin polymorphism ^{a)}	Previously undescribed Patatin isoform
			TA23798_4113	Kunitz-type protease inhibitor (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA23796_4113	Putative Kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			CV286572	Serine protease inhibitor 5 precursor (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24005_4113	Wound-inducible proteinase inhibitor I (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24257_4113	Aspartic protease (<i>Brassica napus</i> (Rape))
			TA23378_4113	Putative Kunitz-type tuber invertase inhibitor (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24154_4113	Lipoxygenase (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24161_4113	Lipoxygenase (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			STLOX1	Lipoxygenase 1 (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24157_4113	5-Lipoxygenase (<i>S. tuberosum</i> (potato))
			TA24257_4113	Enolase (<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> (tomato))

Rohbrei

- 1 Serine protease inhibitor 5 precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 2 Lipoxygenase [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 3 Kunitz-type protease inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 4 Patatin protein 07 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 5 Patatin protein group A-3 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 6 Patatin [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 7 Patatin precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 8 Alpha-1,4 glucan phosphorylase, L-1 isozyme, chloroplast precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 9 Putative Kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]

Black spot

- 1 Patatin [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 2 Patatin protein group A-3 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 3 Serine protease inhibitor 5 precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 4 Patatin precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 5 Putative Kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 6 Patatin protein 07 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 7 Kunitz-type protease inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 8 Lipoxygenase [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 9 Aspartic protease inhibitor precursor

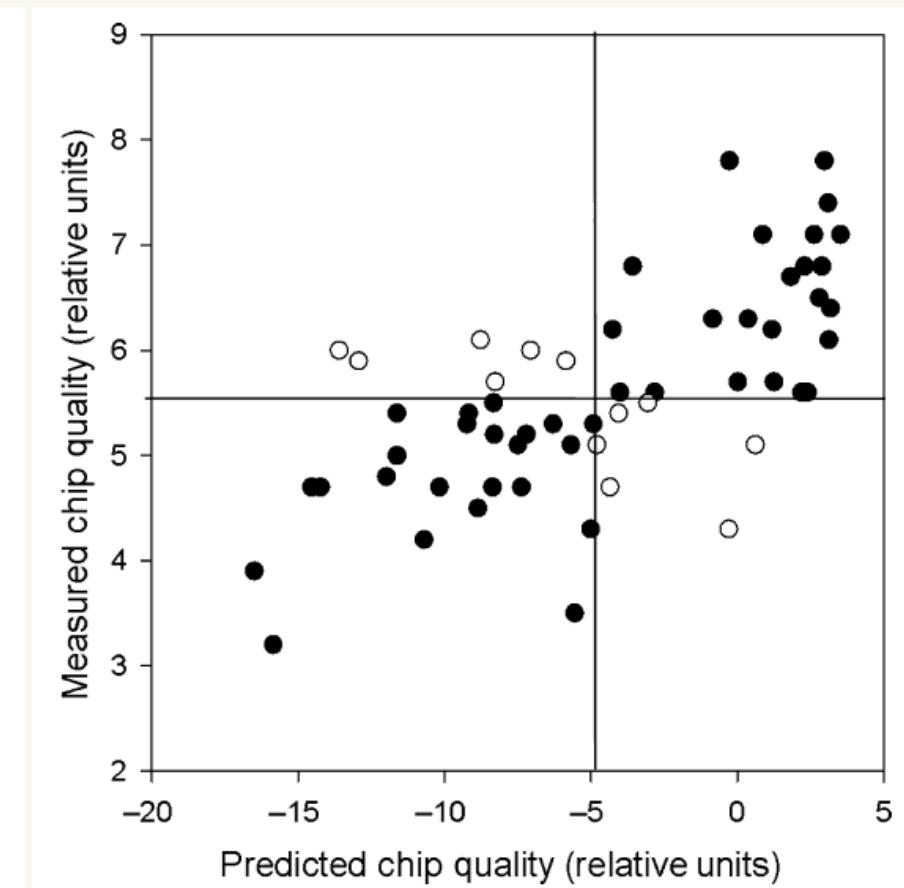
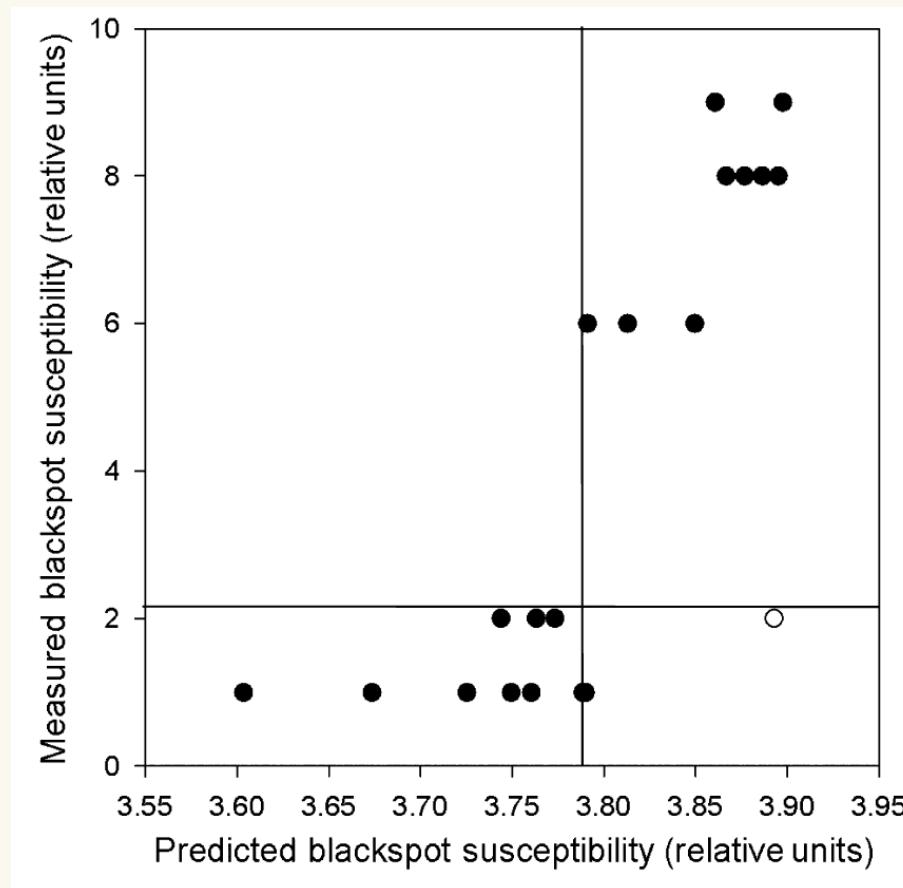
Chips

- 1 Patatin [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 2 Patatin protein 07 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 3 Patatin precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 4 Putative Kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 5 Lipoxygenase [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 6 Serine protease inhibitor 5 precursor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 7 Patatin protein group A-3 [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]
- 8 Enolase [*Lycopersicon esculentum* (Tomato)]
- 9 Kunitz-type protease inhibitor [*Solanum tuberosum* (Potato)]

Hoehenwarter et al. 2008 Proteomics



Metabolite marker for prediction



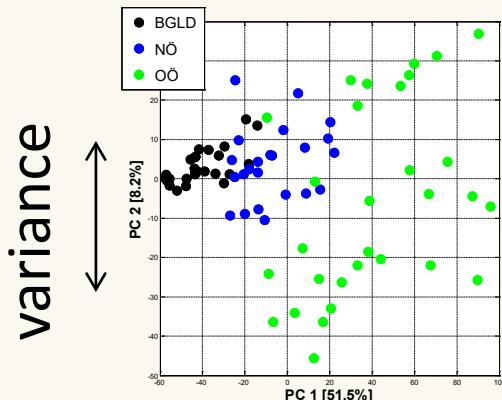
Steinfath et al. 2010 Plant Biotechn.



Metabolomics, genetic variation and
in situ modelling

Eco-Metabolomics and *in situ* metabolic modelling Nagler et al. 2018 Frontiers Plant Science

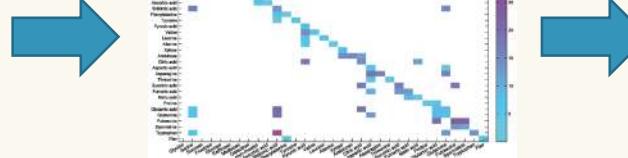
Arabidopsis thaliana natural populations



↔
variance

↔
variance

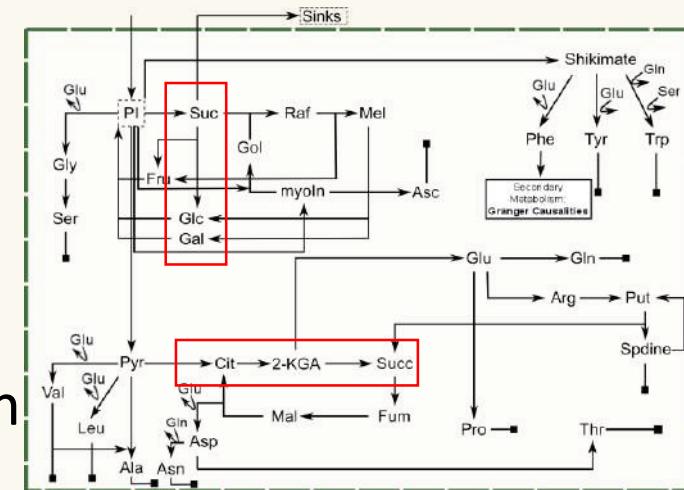
Stoichiometric matrix N (Genotype)



Differential Jacobian

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial M}$$

Reaction rate elasticities

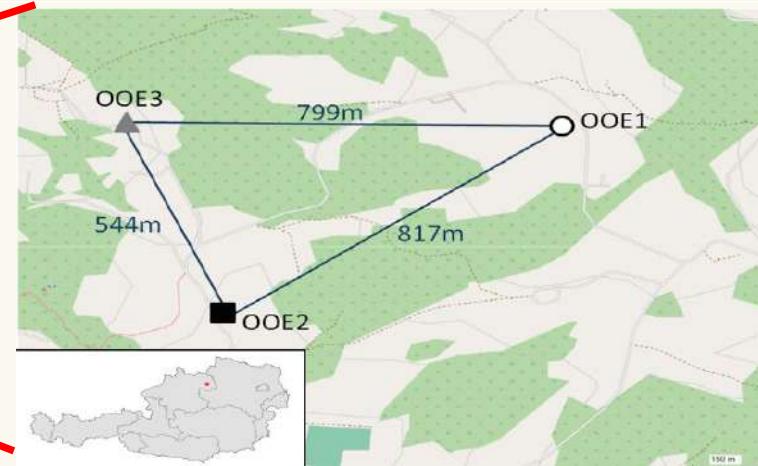


Physiology

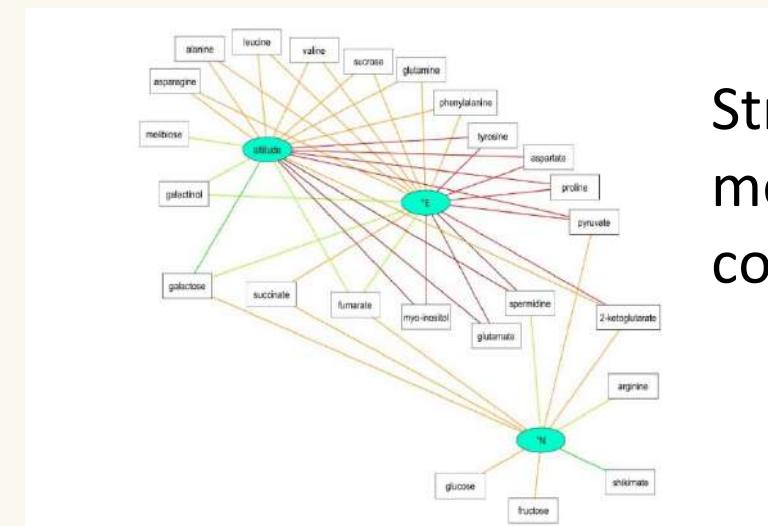
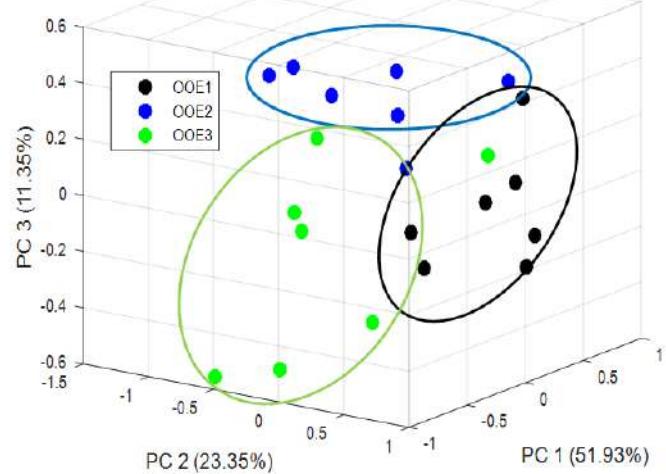


Eco-Metabolomics and *in situ* metabolic modelling

Nagler et al. 2018 Frontiers Plant Science



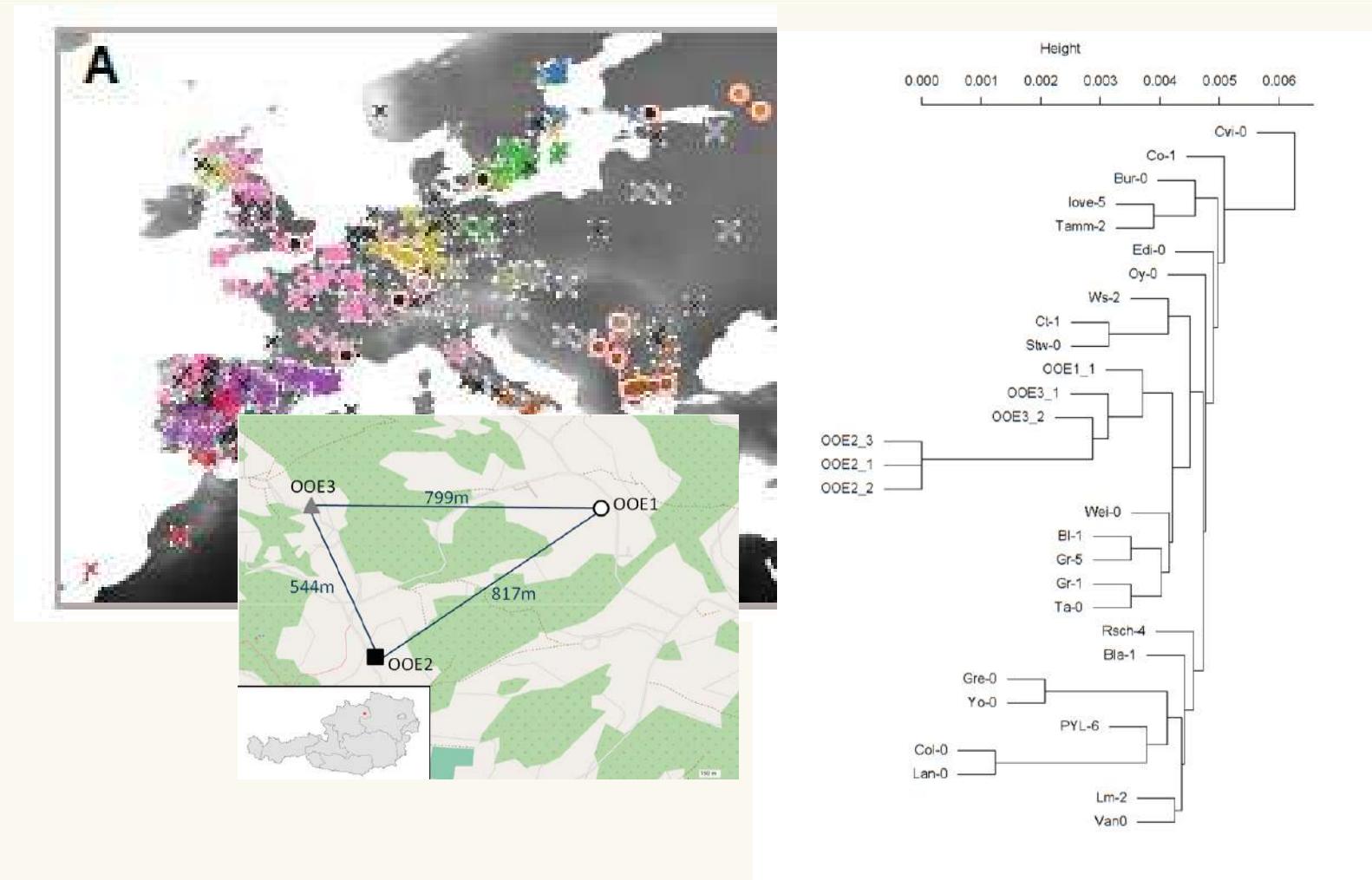
GC-MS/LC-MS Metabolomics



Strong GPS-metabolite correlations

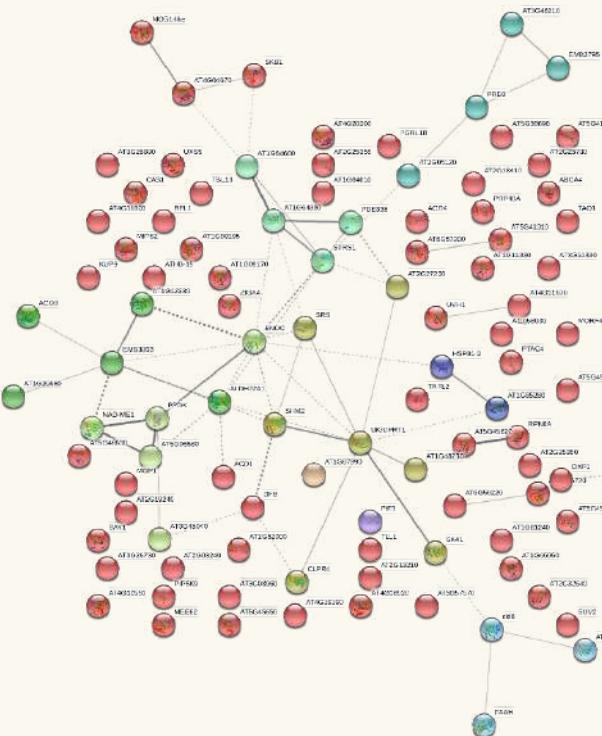


Eco-Metabolomics and *in situ* metabolic modelling Nagler et al. 2018 Frontiers Plant Science

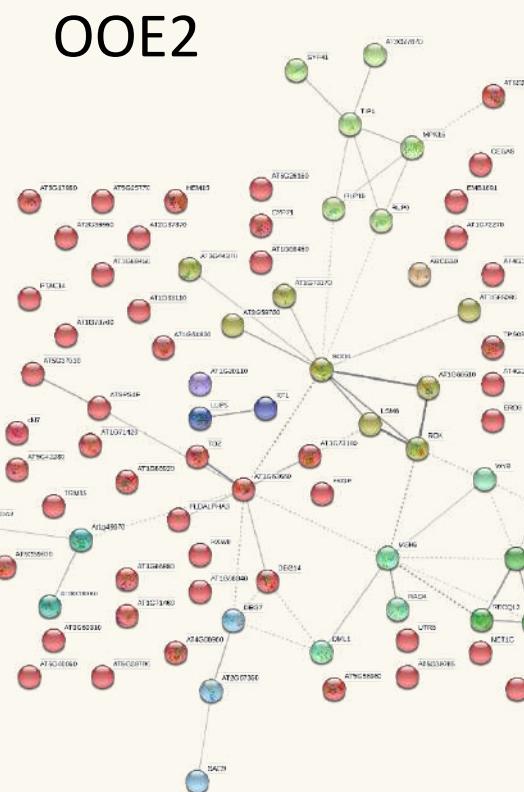


Eco-Metabolomics and *in situ* metabolic modelling Nagler et al. 2018 Frontiers Plant Science

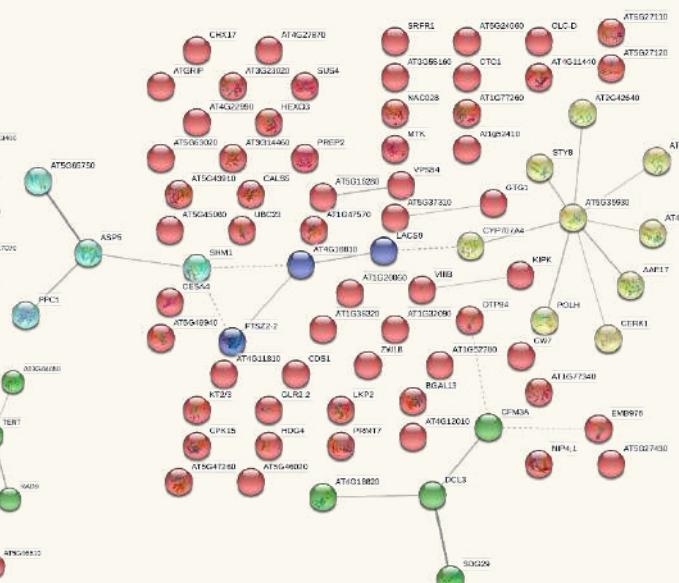
00E1



00E2



00E3

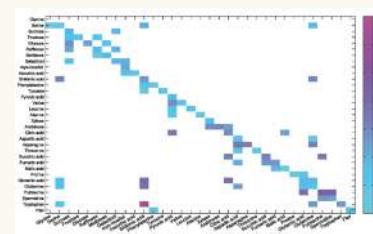
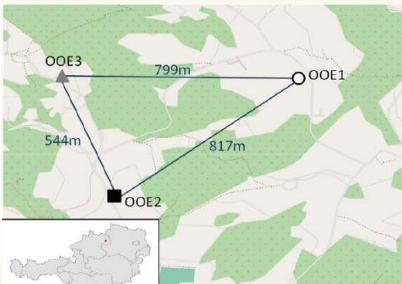
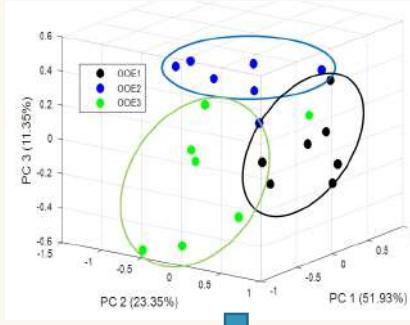


Population specific protein-interaction networks of SNP enriched genes



SNP enrichments of different genotypes correlate with biochemical prediction

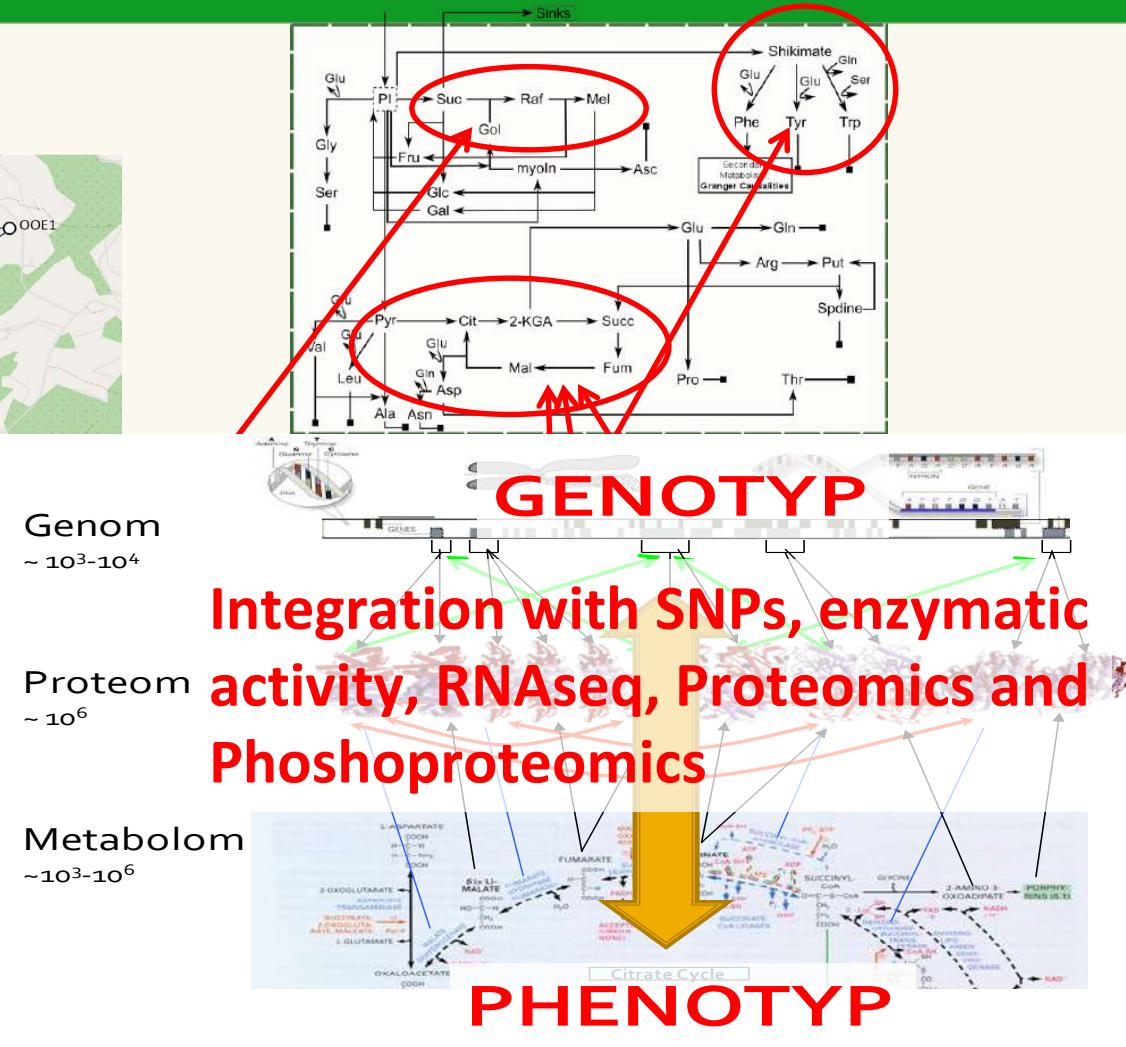
GC-MS/LC-MS Metabolomics



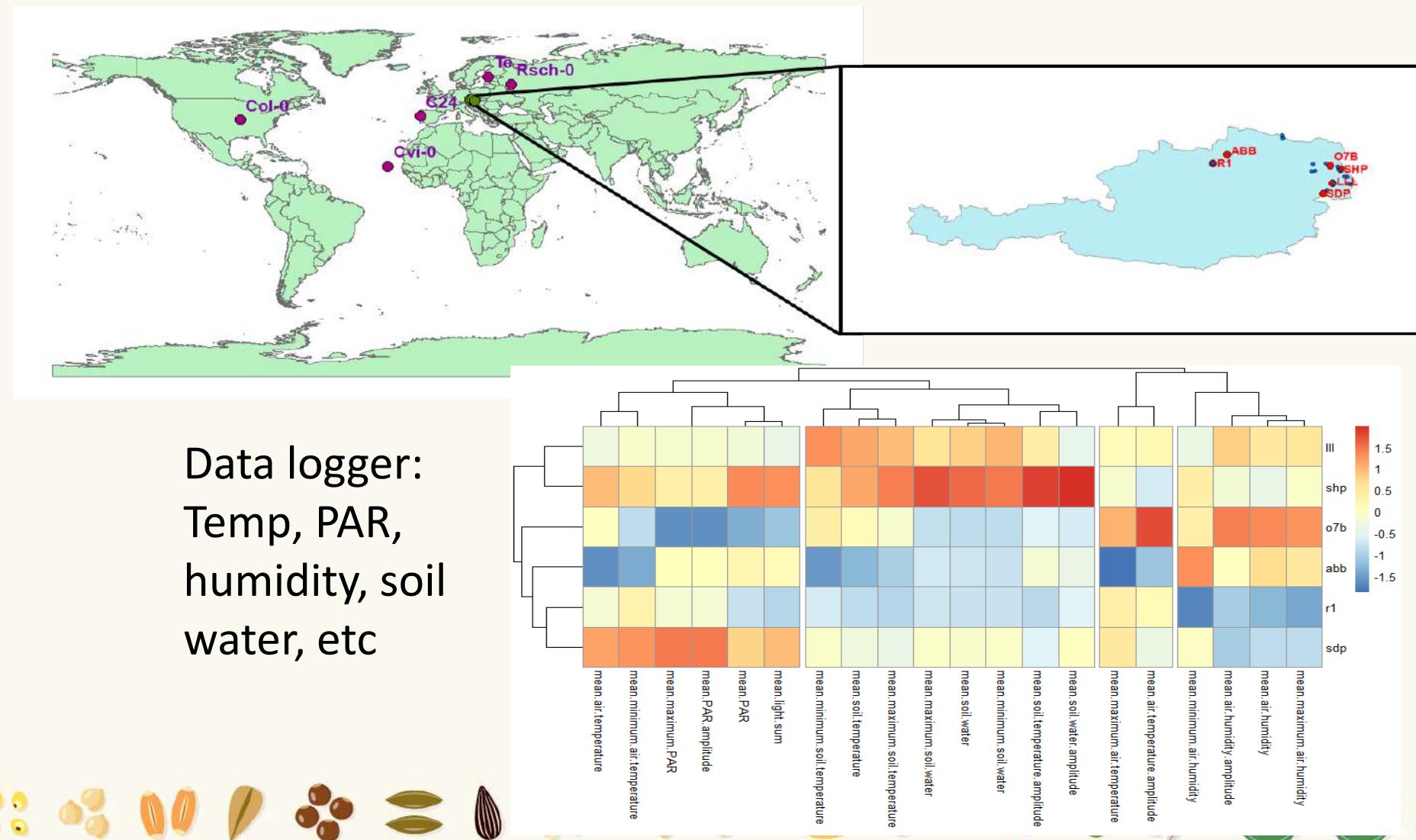
Differential Jacobian

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial M}$$

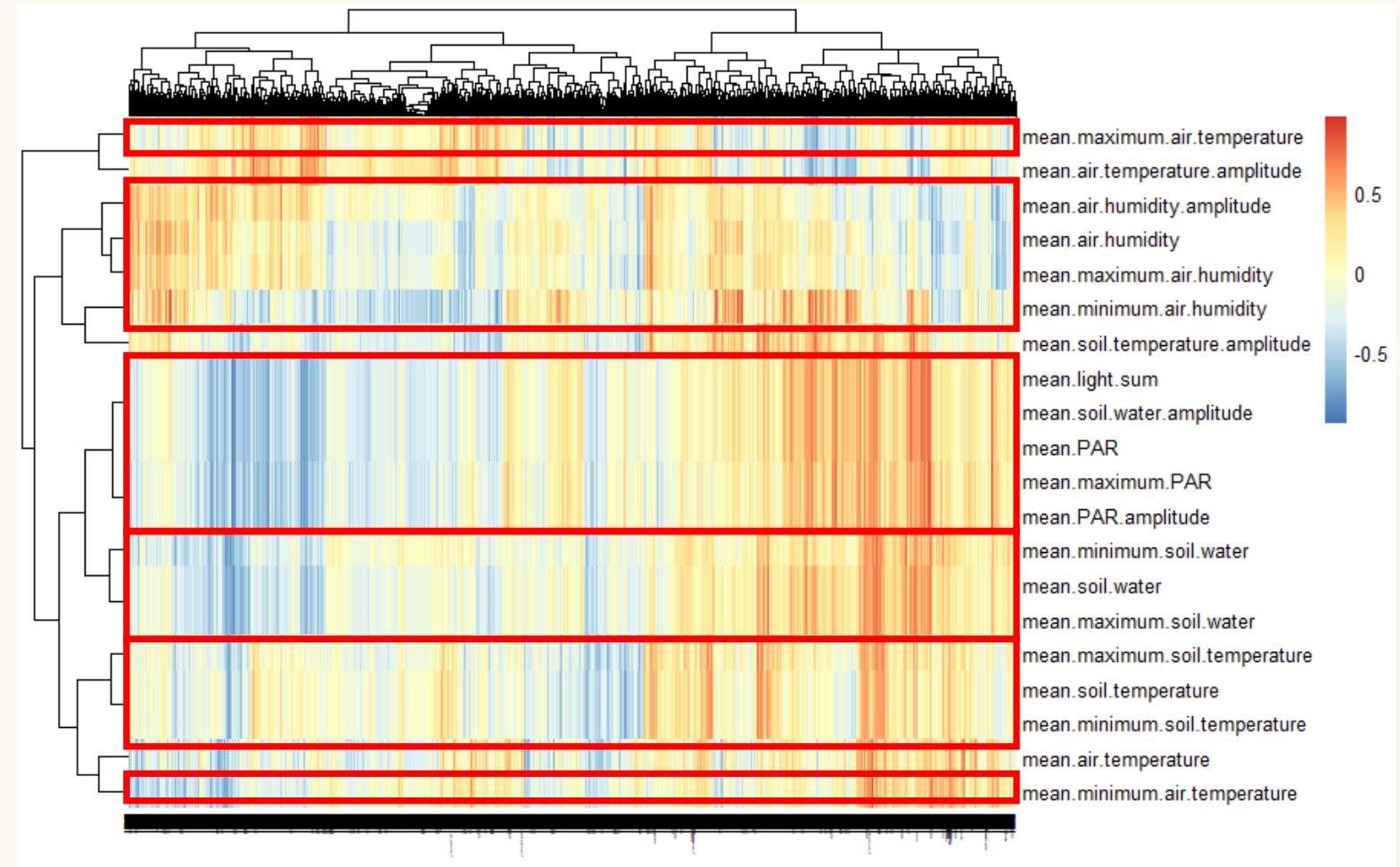
Prediction of changed proteins



Multiomics analysis of *in situ* *Arabidopsis* populations

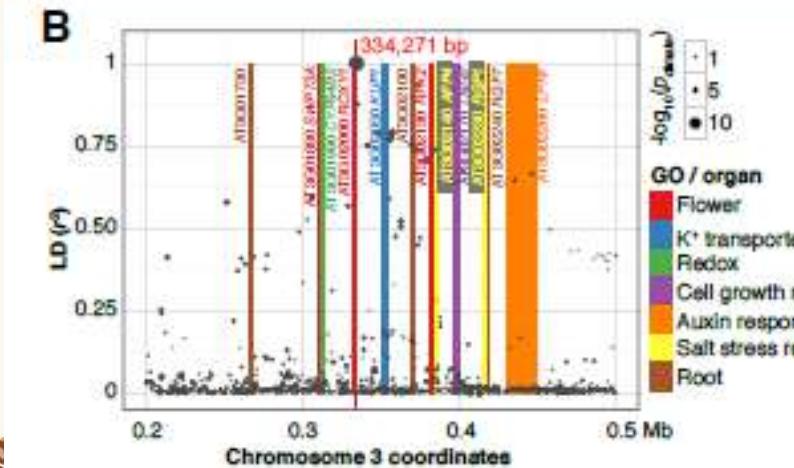
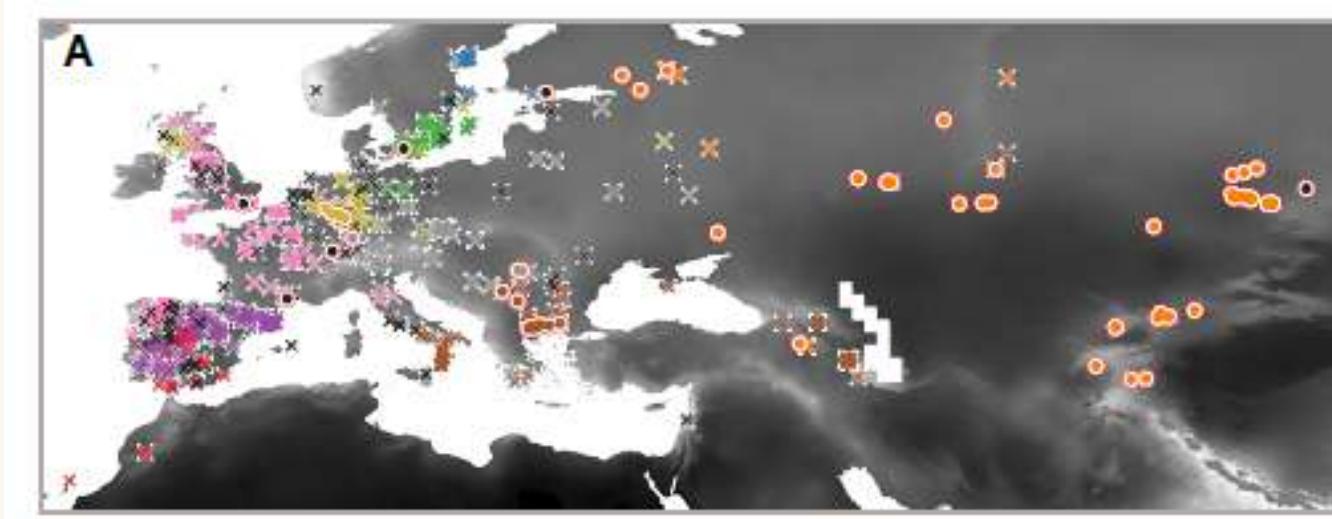


Multiomics analysis of *in situ* Arabidopsis populations – correlation with environmental data



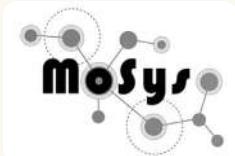
Metabolic genome wide association studies mGWAS

Germplasm genomics intraspecific variation

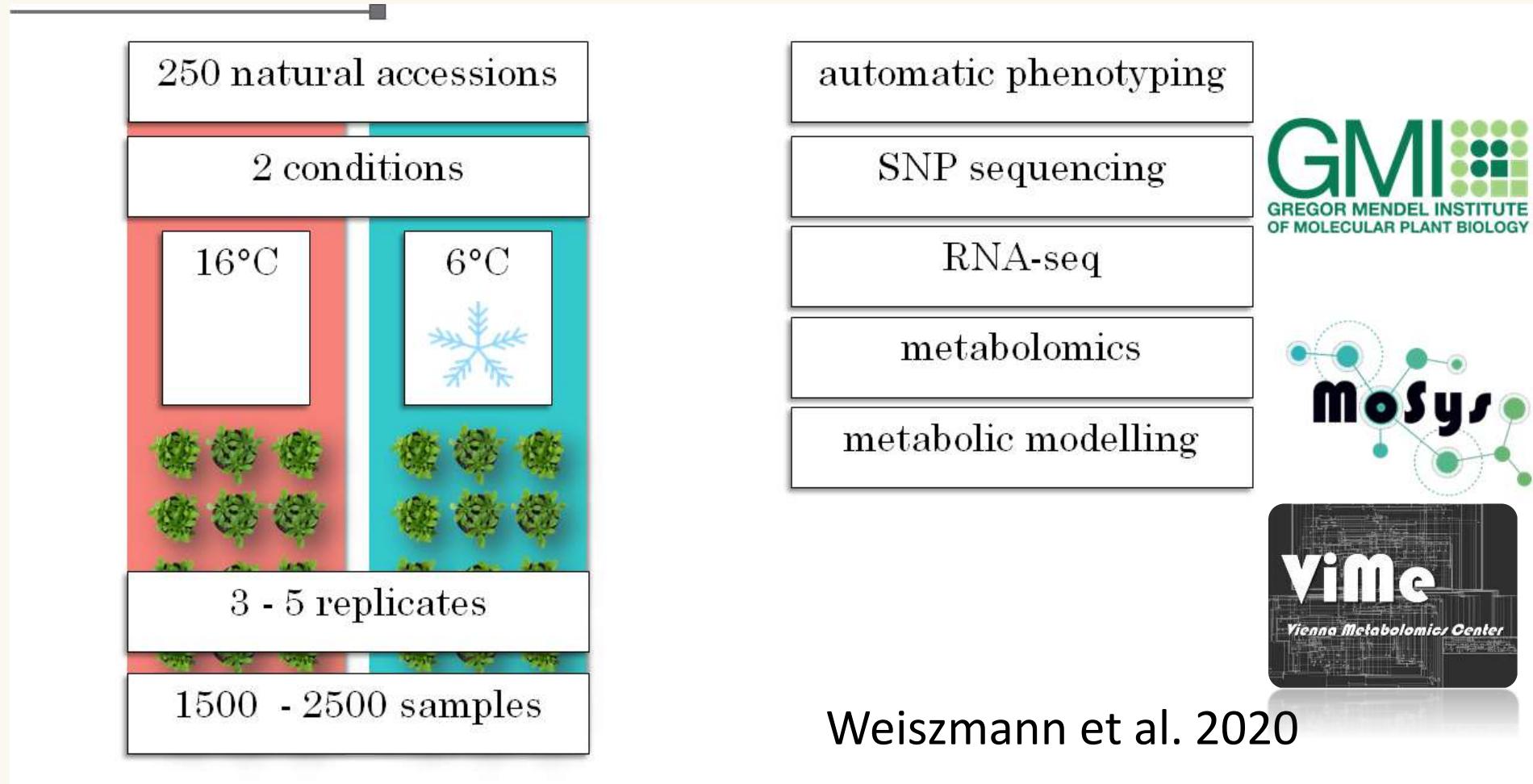


Polymorphism
involved in
climate
adaption

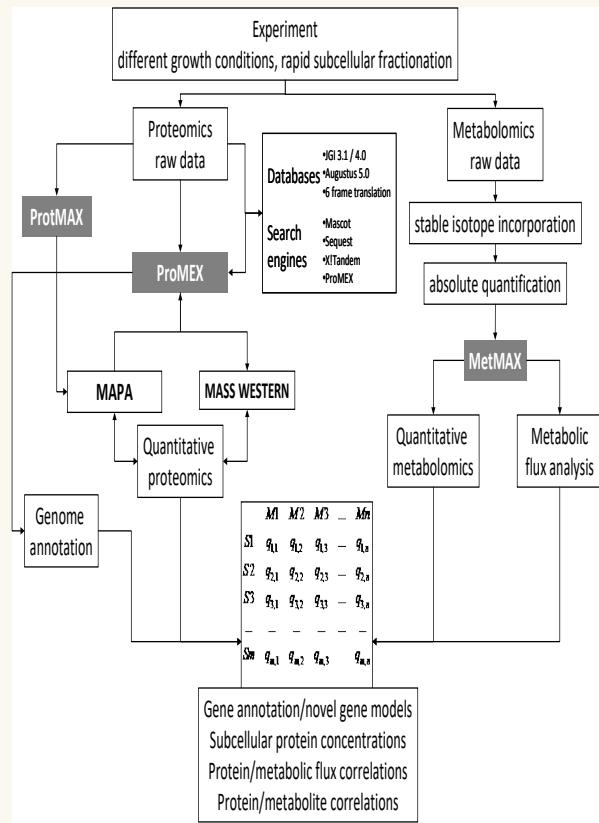
The 1001 Genomes
Consortium (2016)
**1135 genomes reveal the
global pattern of
polymorphism in
Arabidopsis thaliana
Cell**



250 *Arabidopsis* genotypes in control and cold stress



Some 3000 samples later...

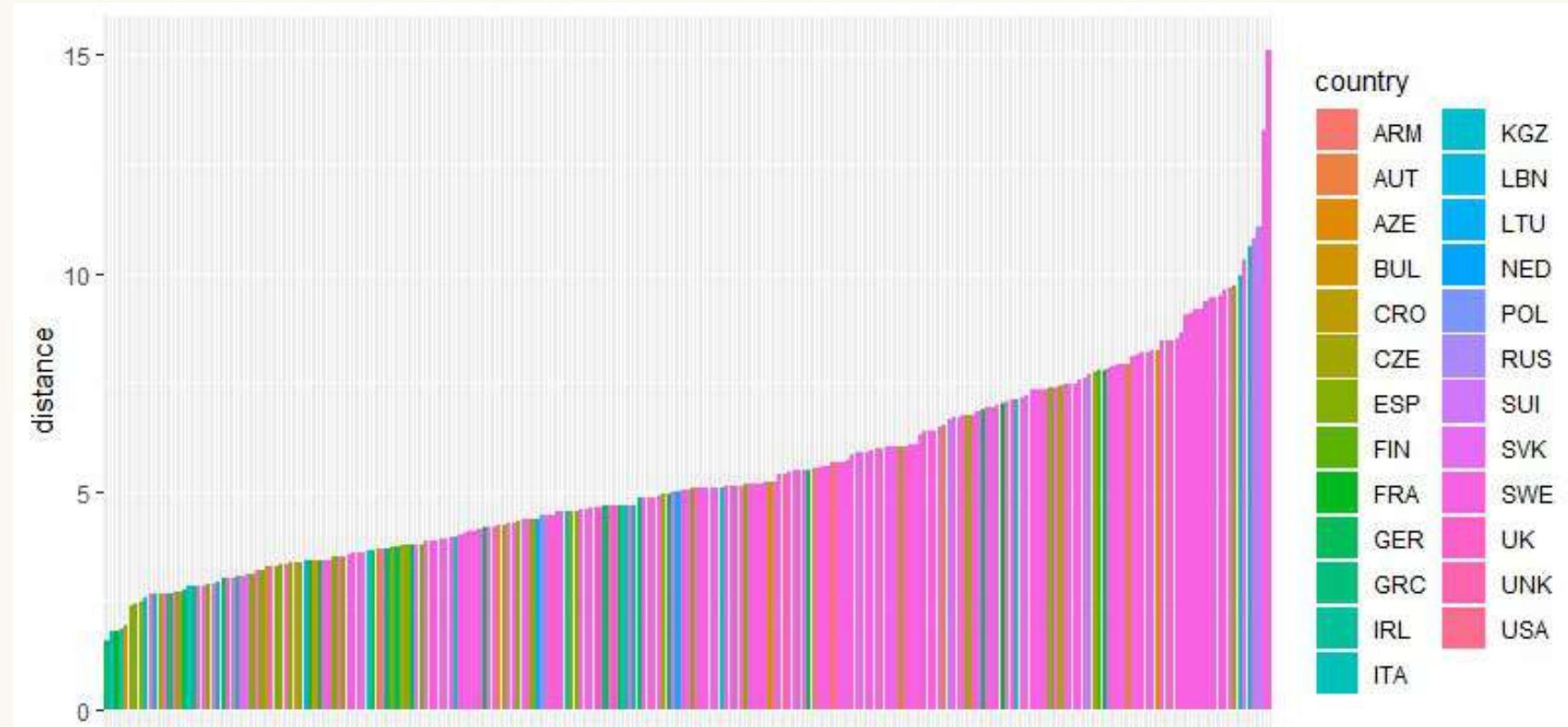


Metabolic distance of stress adaptation

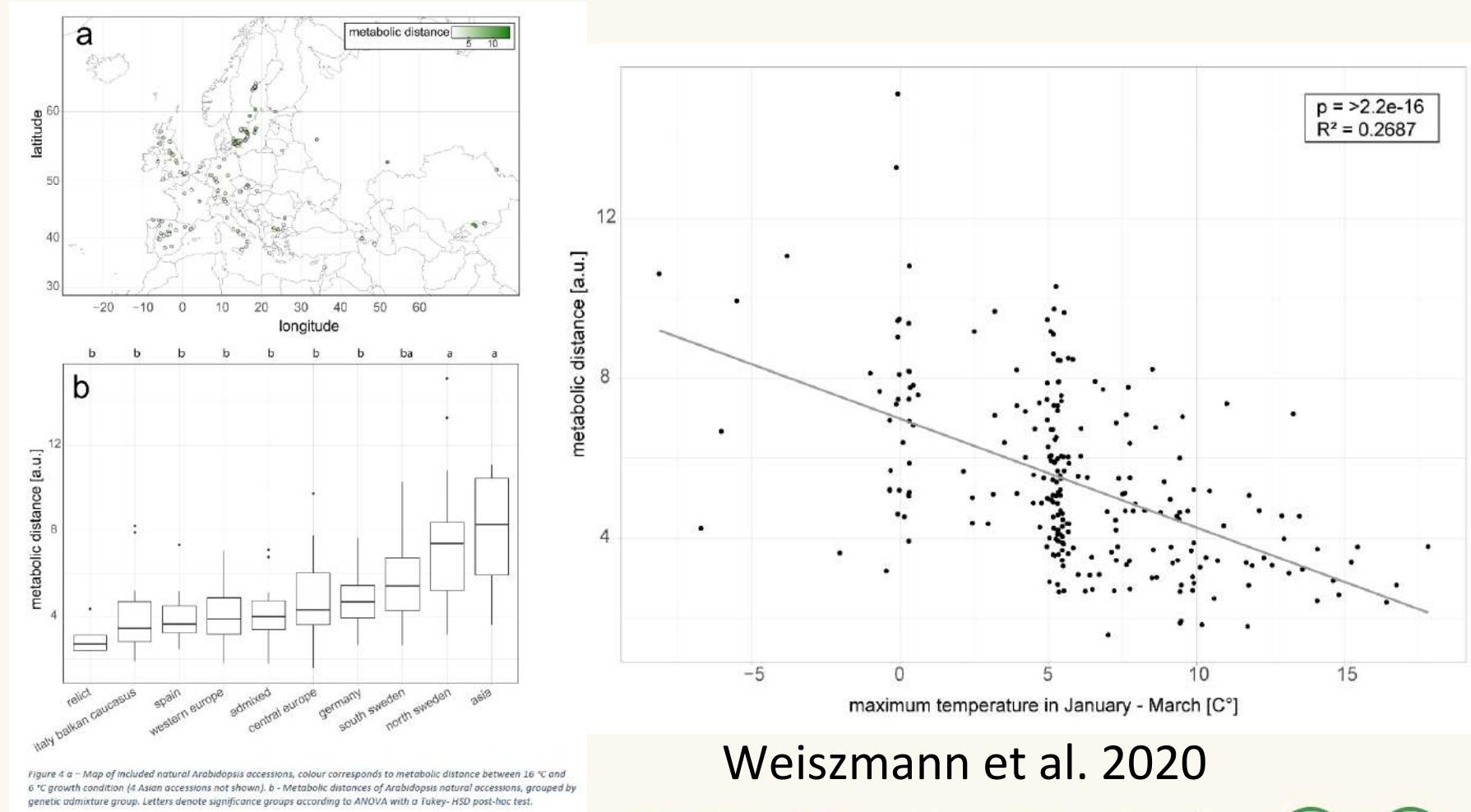


Genotype-dependent metabolic distance of stress adaptation

Weiszmann et al. 2020



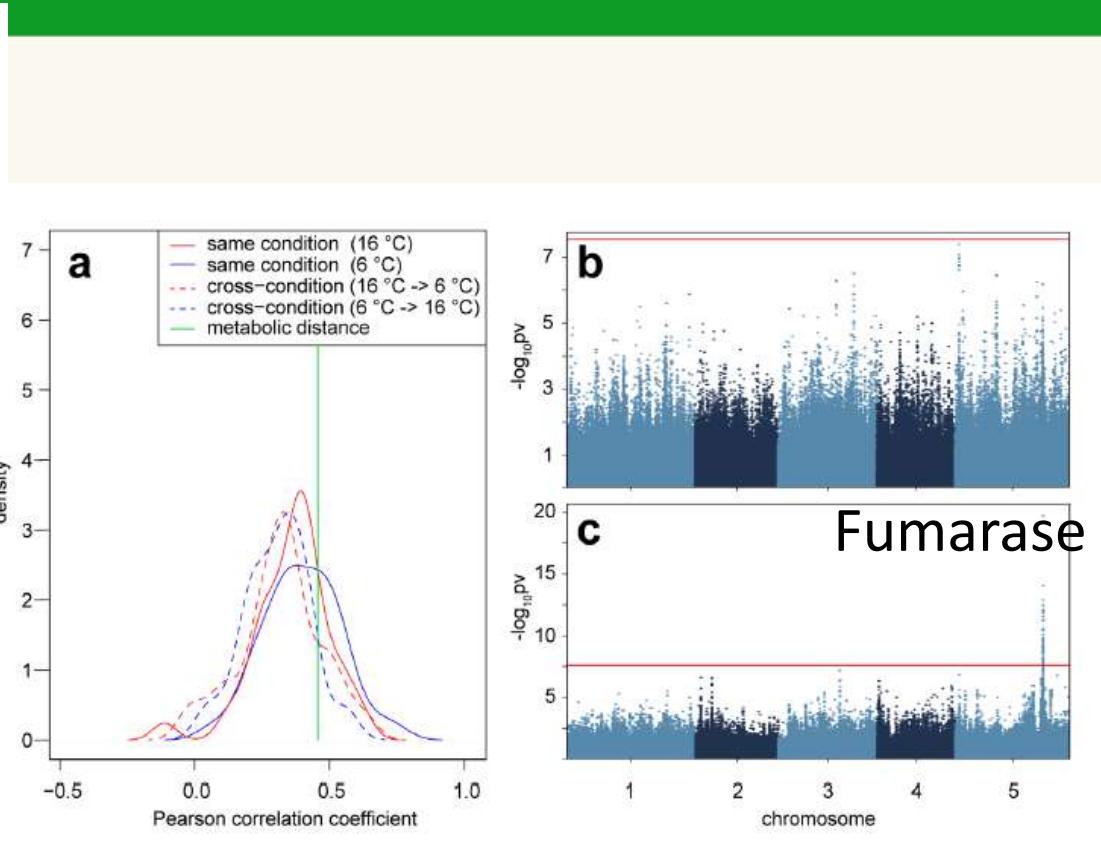
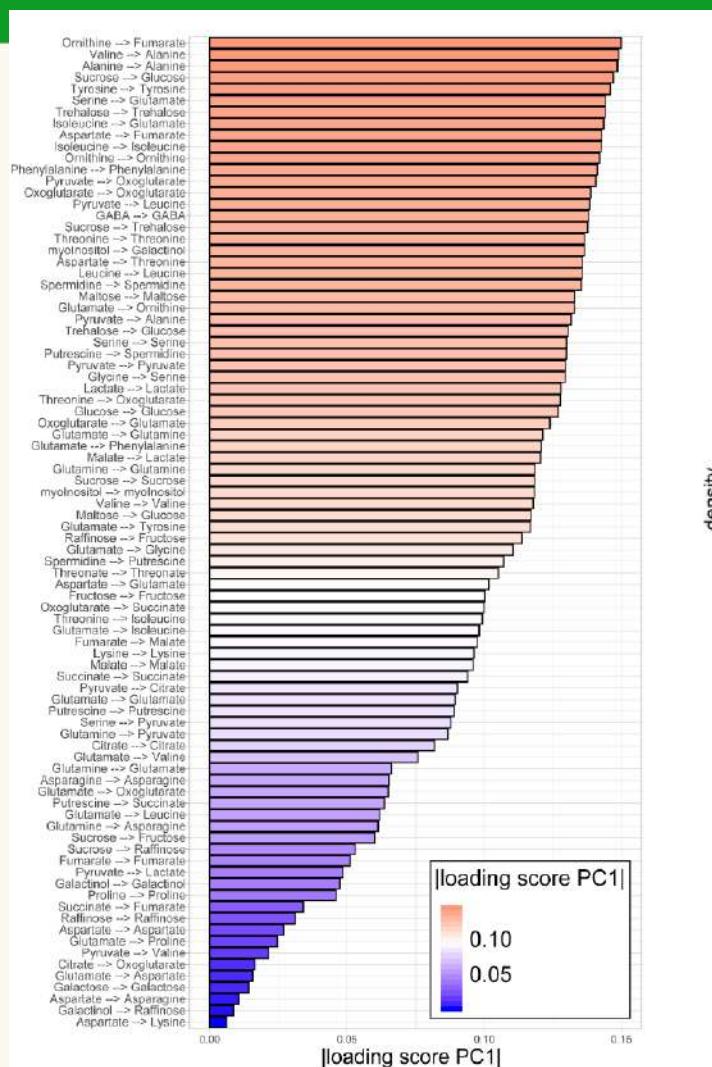
Natural metabolic variation is predicted by early spring time temperature of the natural habitate



Weiszmann et al. 2020



Allelic variation correlates with metabolic prediction



Weiszmann et al. 2020



Conclusion

Every location and microhabitat creates a unique phenotype. This suggests that locally selected and developed cultivars may be superior to seed stocks produced and distributed globally.

Comment in social media



Germplasm collections offer „climate smart crops“

Germplasm collections offer „climate smart crops“ – stress resilience



ORIGINAL RESEARCH
published: 13 January 2021
doi: 10.3389/fpls.2020.600278

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Physiological and Proteomic Signatures Reveal Mechanisms of Superior Drought Resilience in Pearl Millet Compared to Wheat

Arindam Ghatak^{1†}, Palak Chaturvedi^{1*†}, Gert Bachmann¹, Luis Valledor², Živa Ramšak³, Mitra Mohammadi Bazargani⁴, Prasad Bajaj⁵, Sridharan Jegadeesan⁶, Weimin Li¹, Xiaoliang Sun⁷, Kristina Gruden³, Rajeev K. Varshney⁵ and Wolfram Weckwerth^{1,7*}

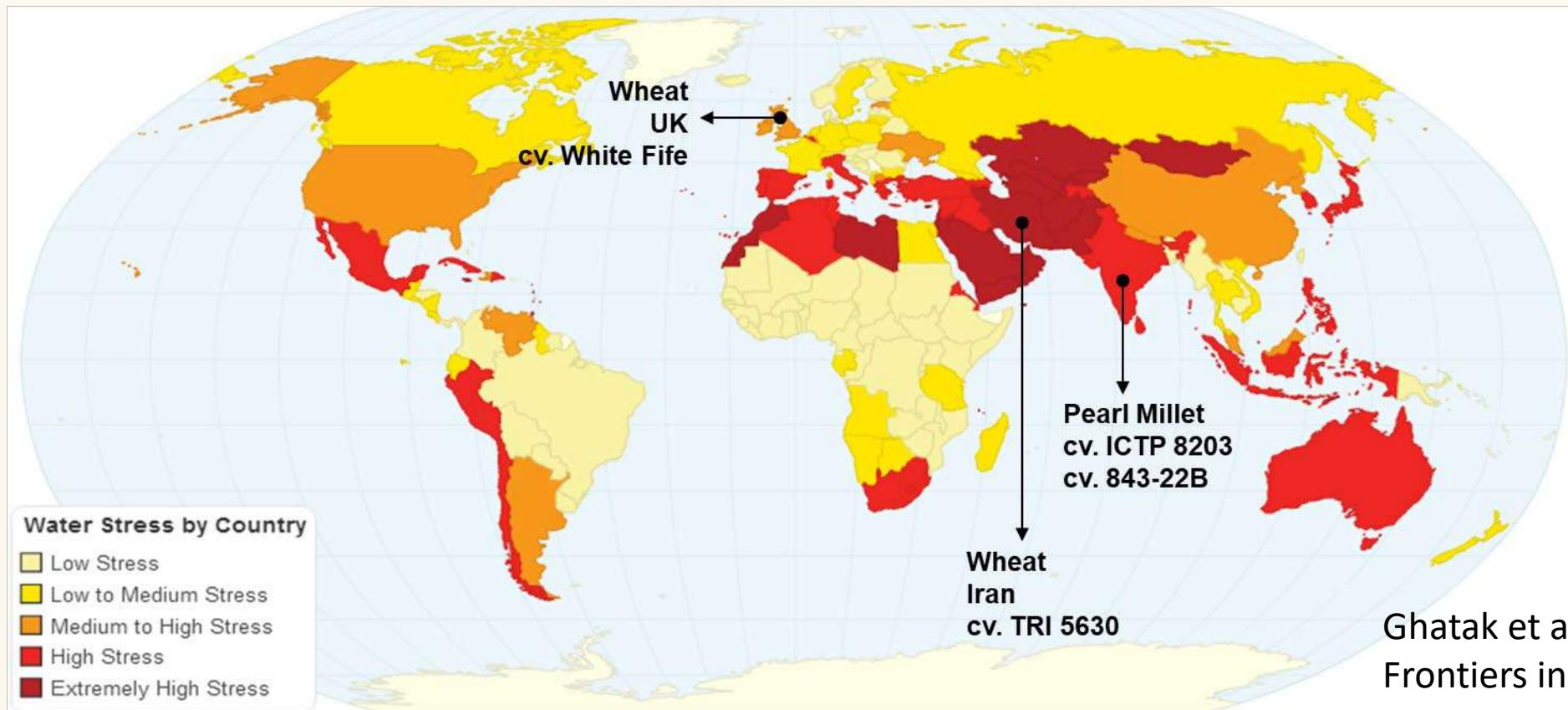
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³ Department of Systems Biology and Biotechnology, National Institute of Biology, Ljubljana, Slovenia, ⁴ Agriculture Institute, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology, Tehran, Iran, ⁵ Center of Excellence in Genomics & Systems Biology, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, India, ⁶ Premas Life Sciences, Bengaluru, India, ⁷ Vienna Metabolomics Center (VIME), University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

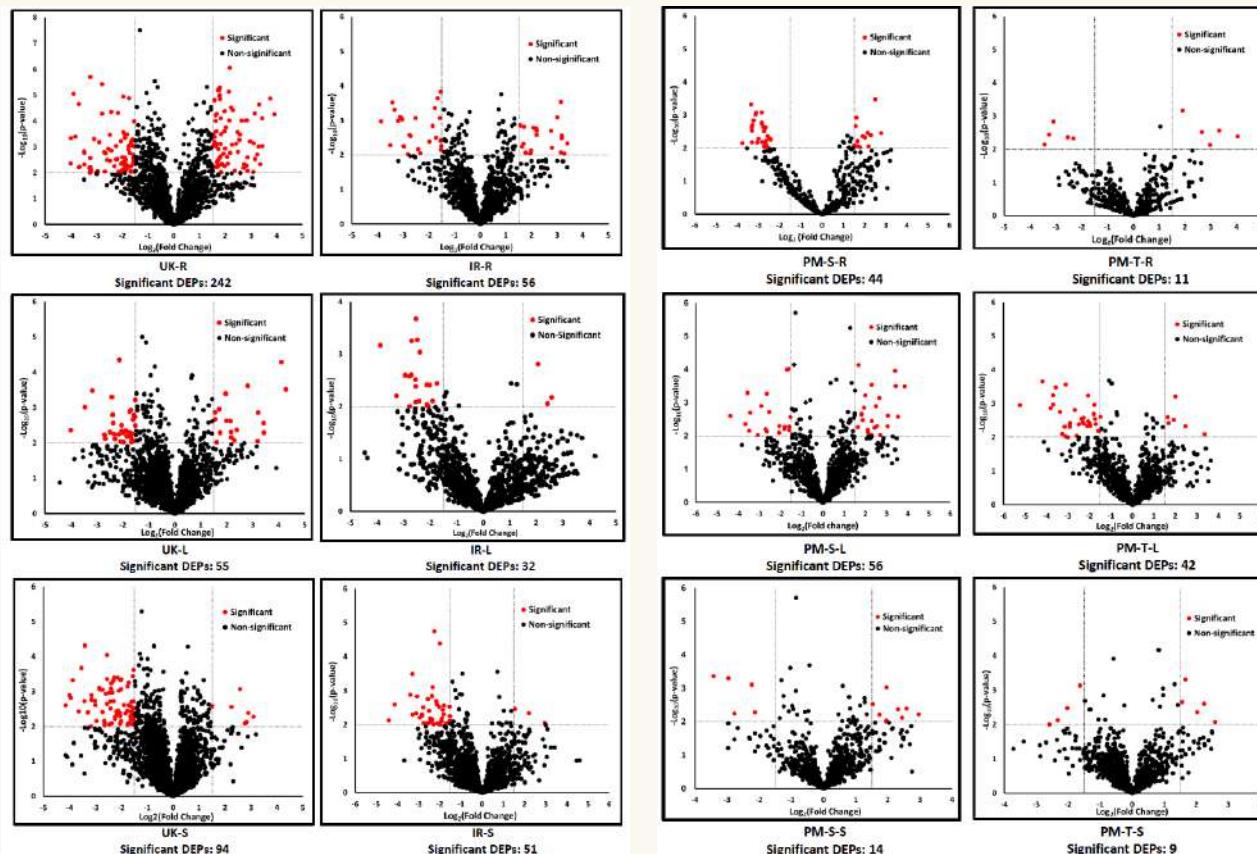
Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



Coping strategies under drought stress: Integrated physiological and multiomic analysis of roots, leaves and seeds in Pearl millet and Wheat



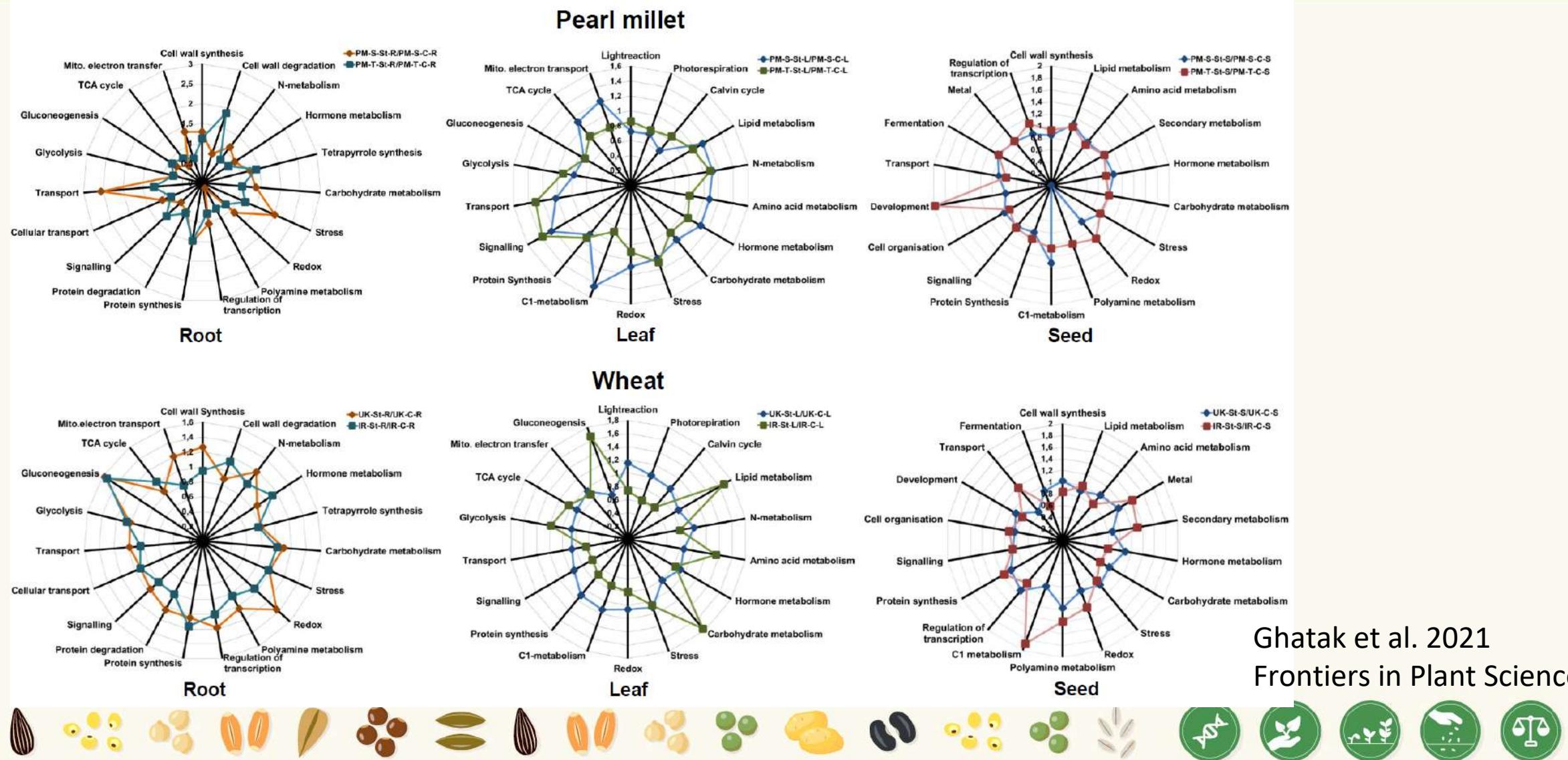
Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress



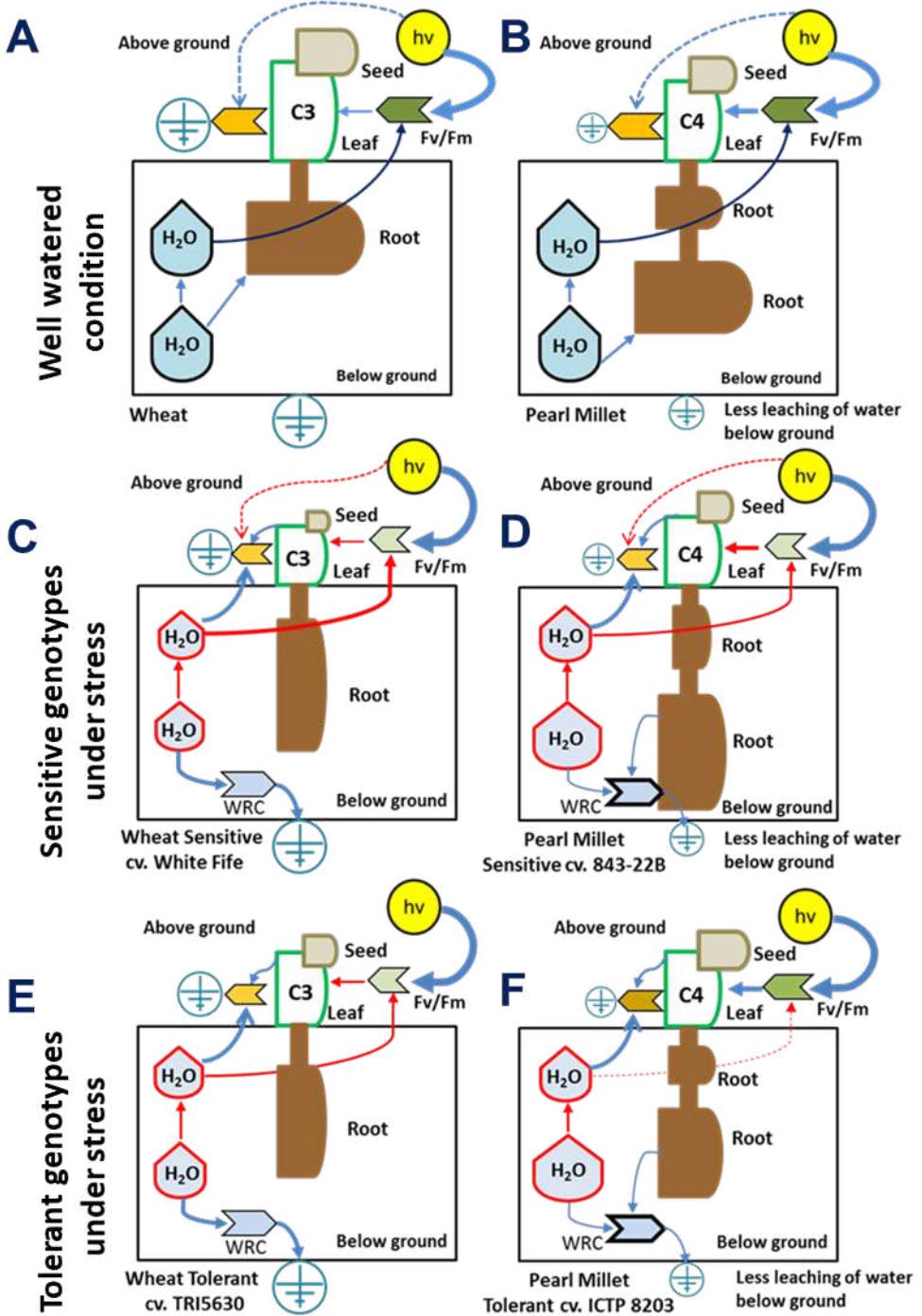
Ghatak et al. 2021
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Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress



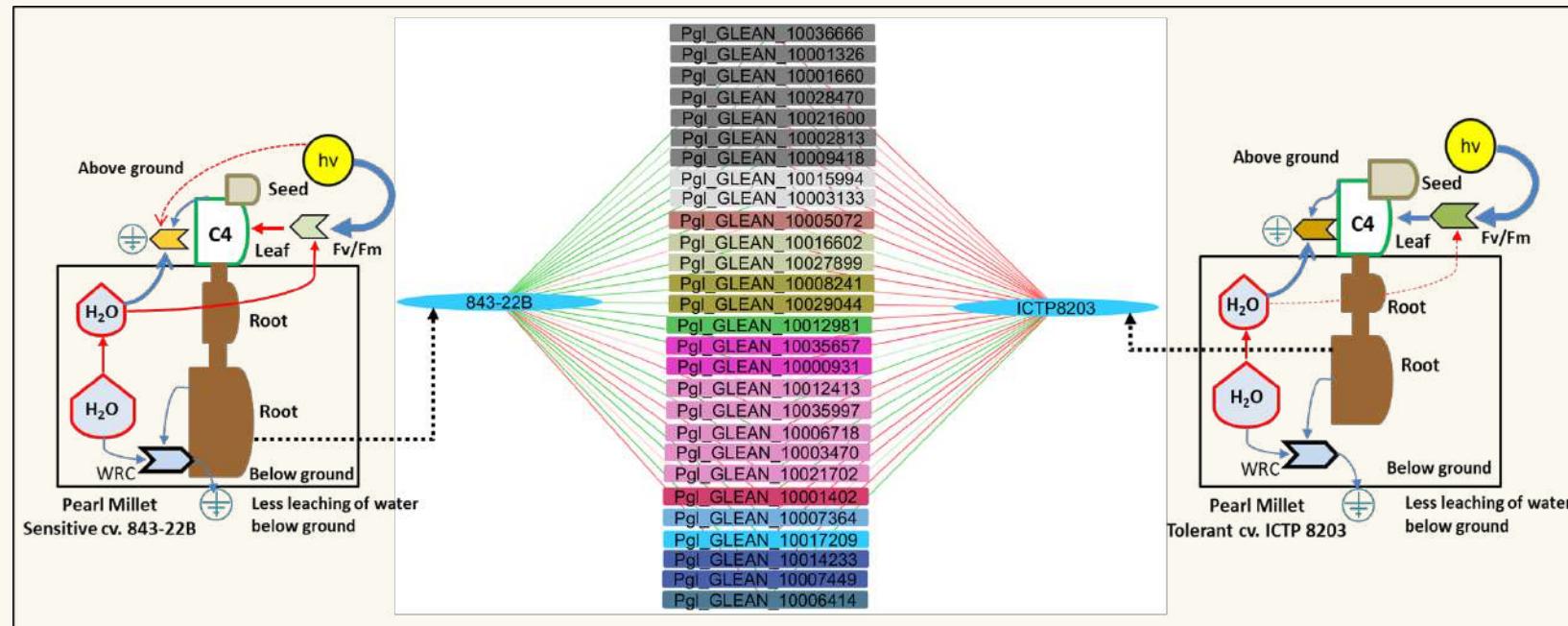
Molecular-physiological models of drought resistant and susceptible Pearl millet and Wheat genotypes



Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science

Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress

Sparse Partial Least Square analysis: **Predictors for root physiology in pearl millet**



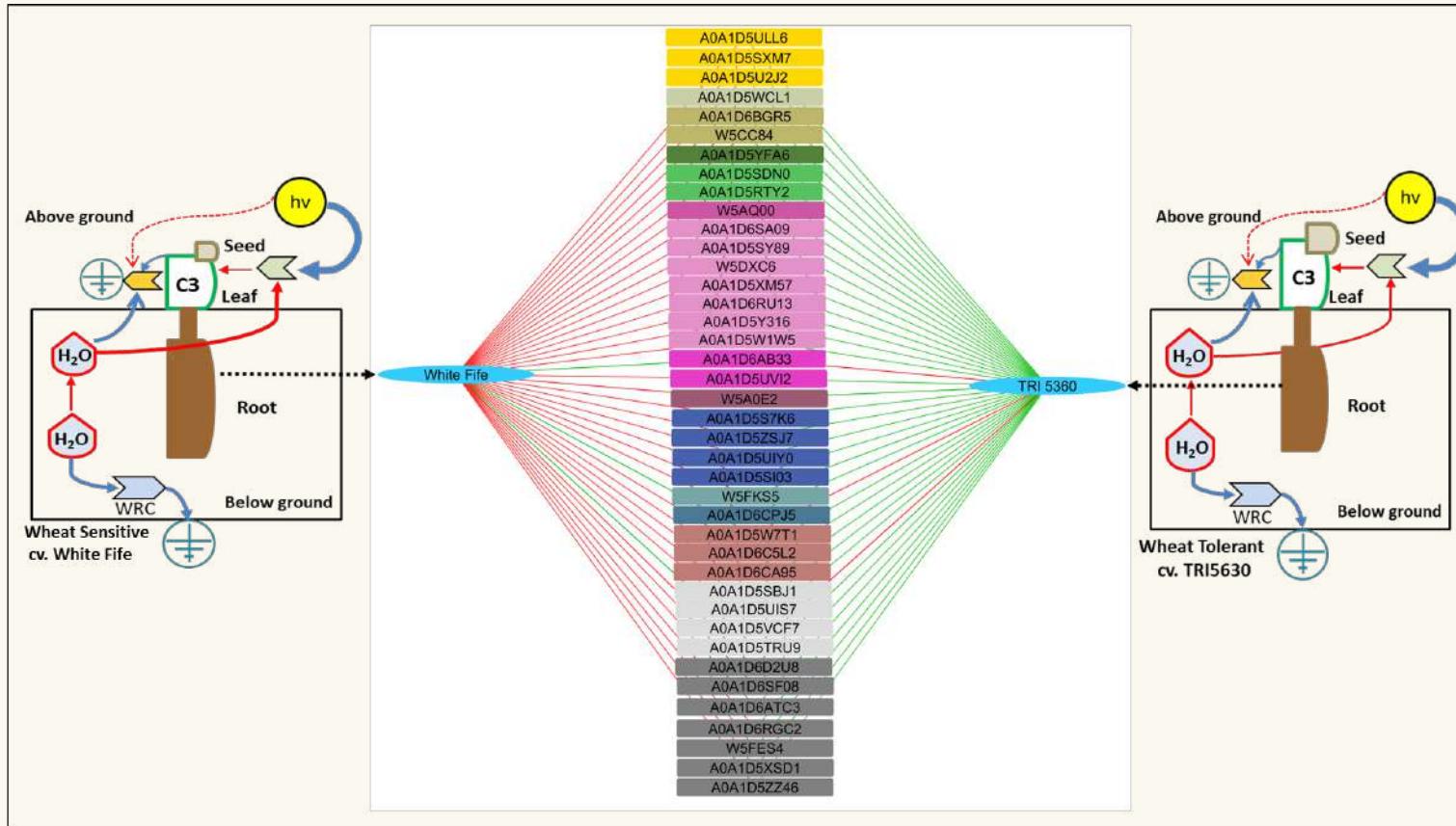
Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



Ghatak, Chaturvedi et al.

Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress

Sparse Partial Least Square analysis: **Predictors for root physiology in wheat**

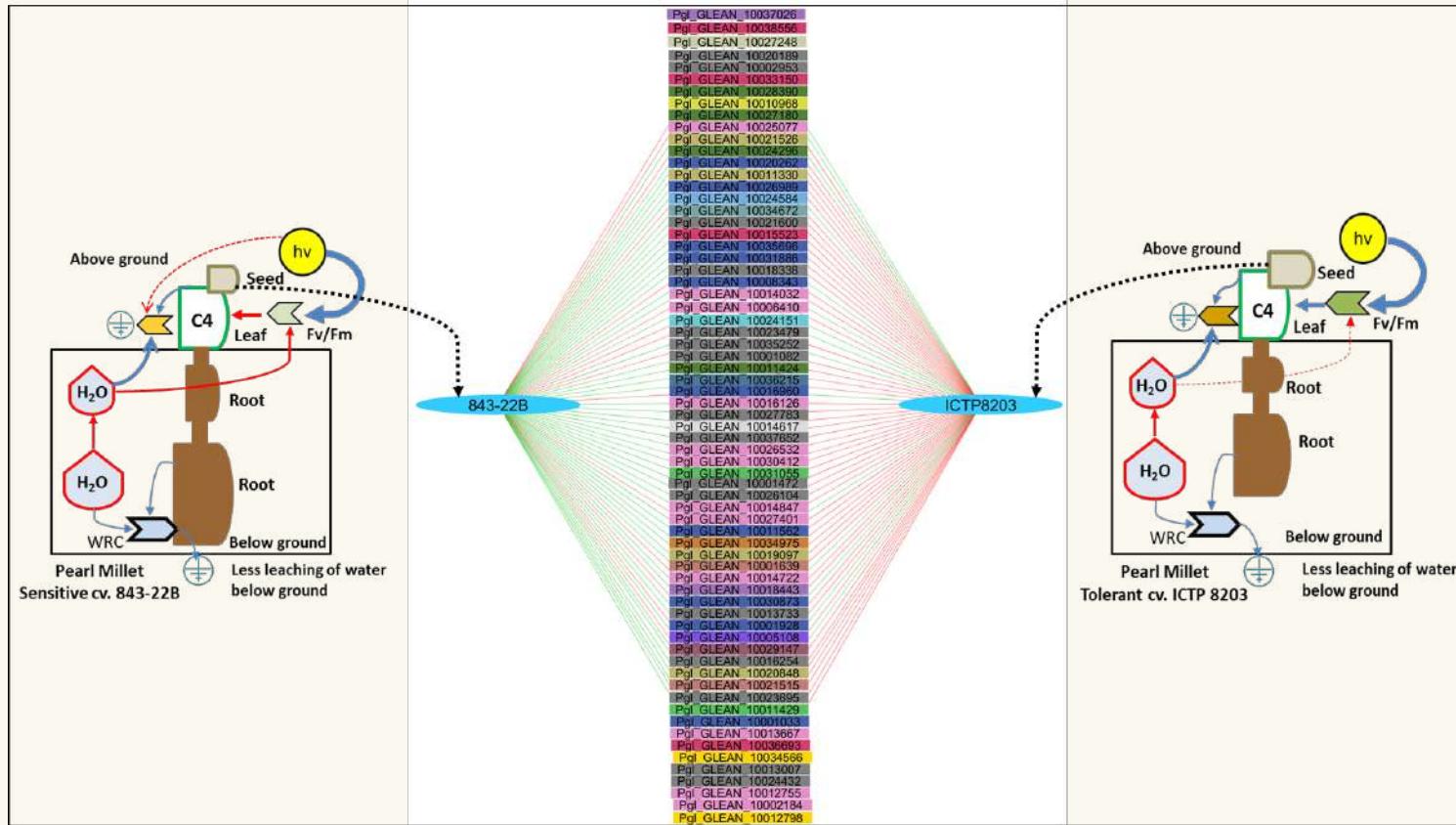


Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress

Sparse Partial Least Square analysis: **Predictors for seed yield in Pearl millet**



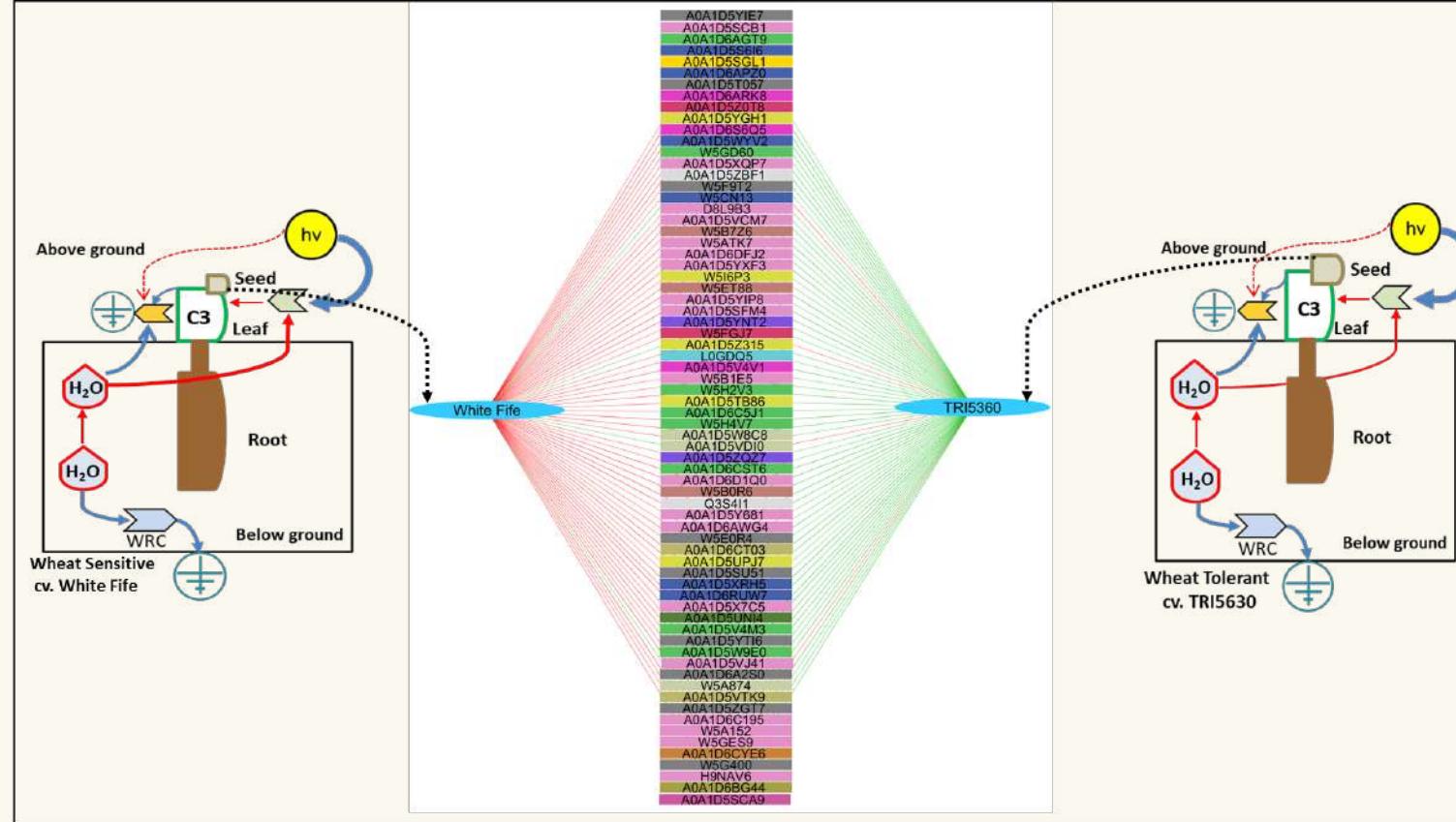
Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



Ghatak, Chaturvedi et al.

Proteome plasticity of resistant and susceptible wheat and pearl millet genotypes under drought stress

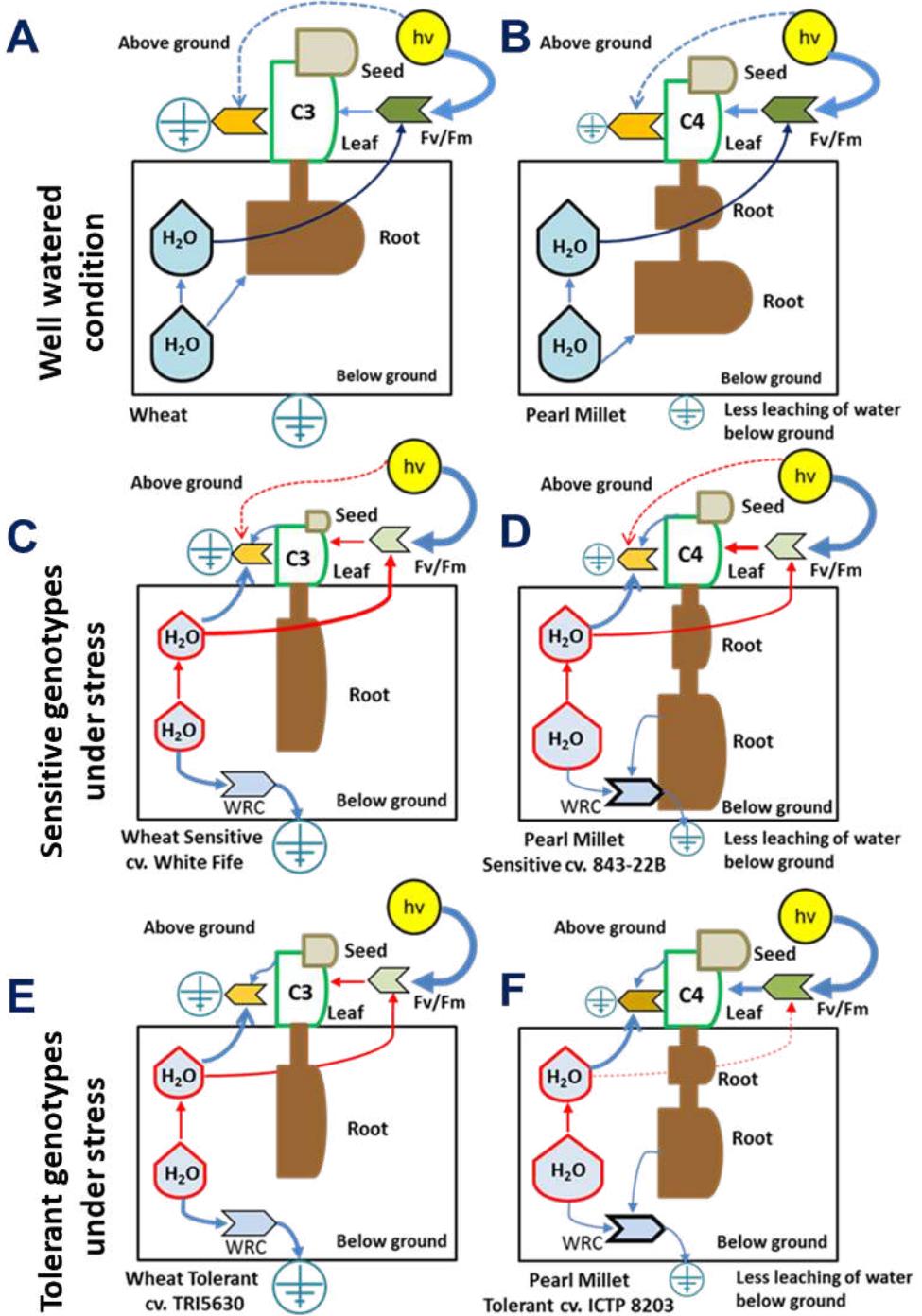
Sparse Partial Least Square analysis: **Predictors for seed yield in wheat**



Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



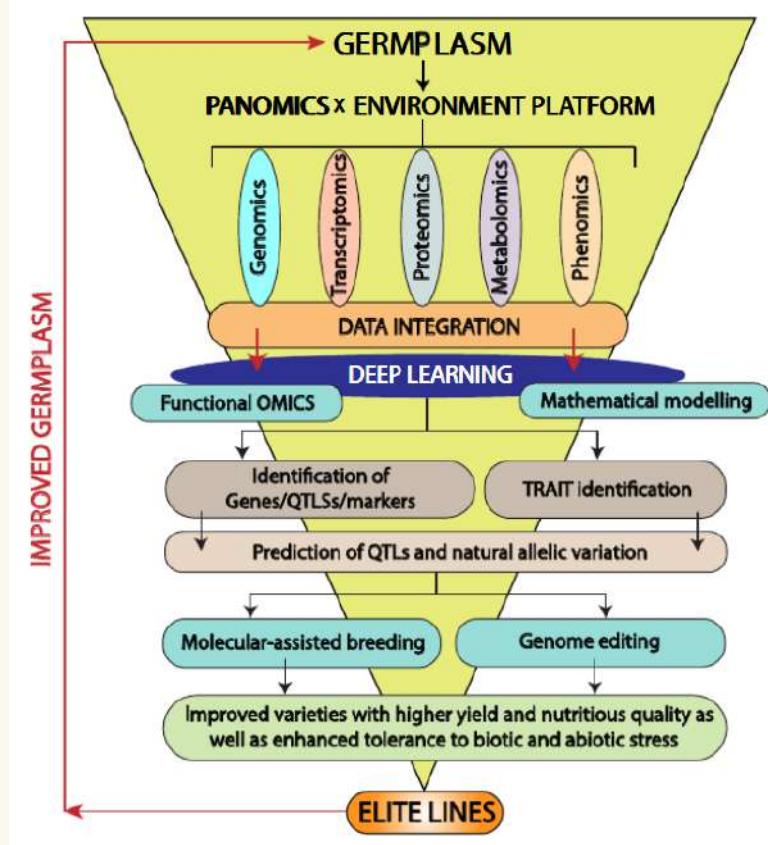
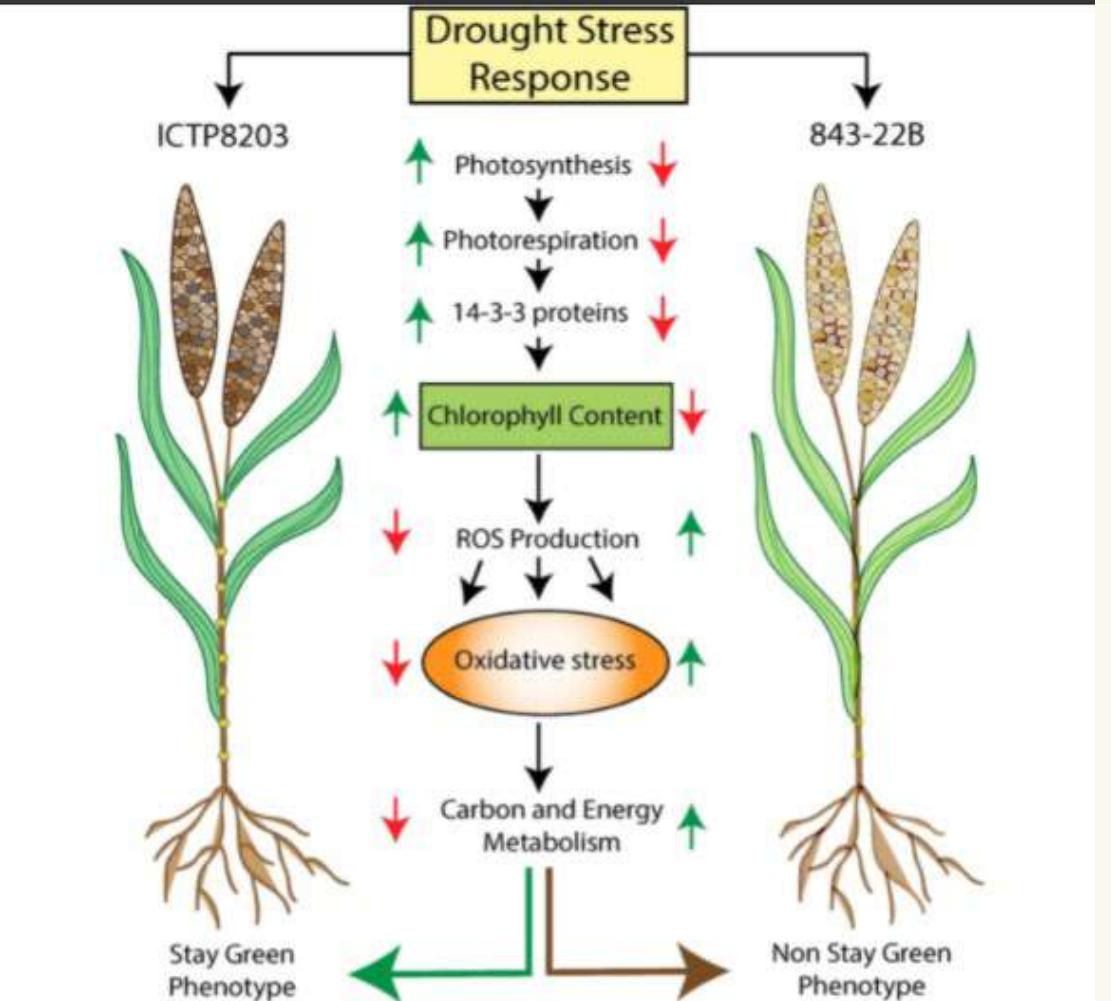
Molecular-physiological models of drought resistant and susceptible Pearl millet and Wheat genotypes



Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science



Germplasm collections offer „climate smart crops“ – stress resilience



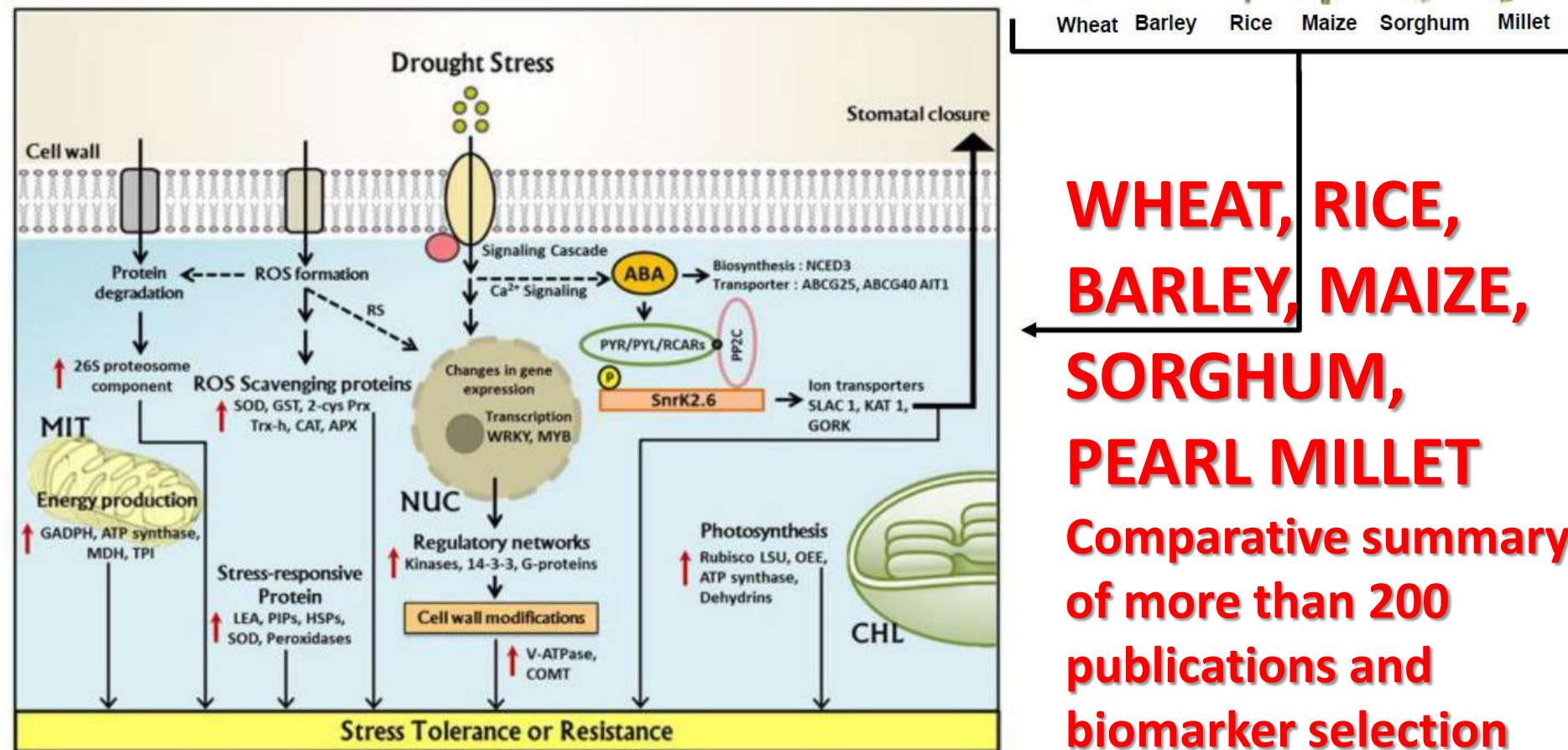
Ghatak et al. 2021
Frontiers in Plant Science

Weckwerth et al. 2020
Plant Biotechnology

Cereal Crop Proteomics: Systemic Analysis of Crop Drought Stress Responses Towards Marker-Assisted Selection Breeding

Arindam Ghatak¹, Palak Chaturvedi¹ and Wolfram Weckwerth^{1,2*}

¹ Department of Ecogenomics and Systems Biology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, ² Vienna Metabolomics Center, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria



HYPOTHESIS

Agriculture contributes to the mitigation of climate change due to its nature as carbon sequestration process - photosynthesis and CO₂-fixation

versus current state:

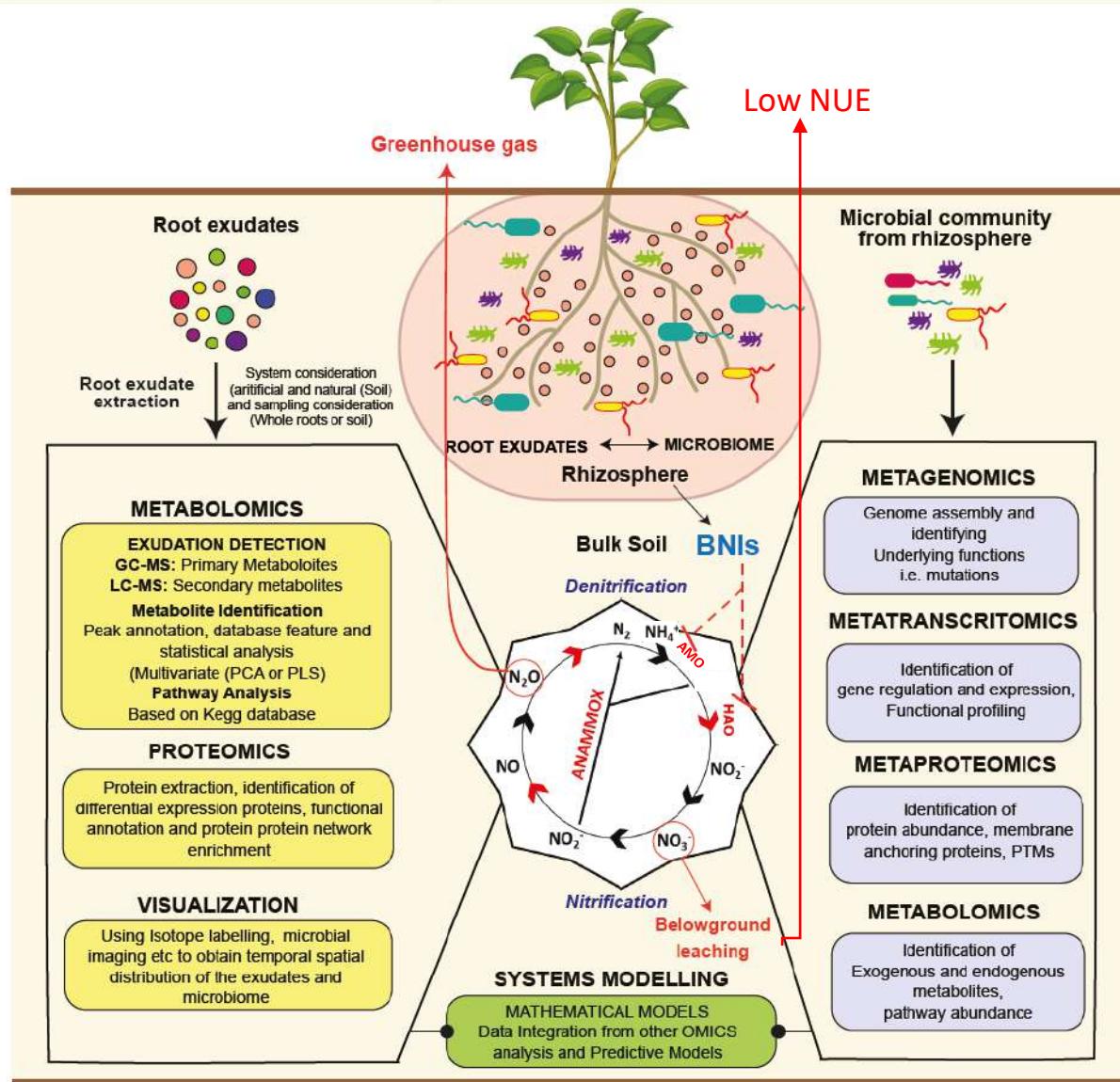
1. Harsh climate reduces plant growth and productivity leading to inefficient CO₂-neutral biomass and food production
2. High demand on industrial nitrogen fertilizer for productivity but low nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) due to losses (50-70%) in the soil – nitrification processes and GHG emissions (N₂O)
3. Food production – industrial processes



**Net GHG
emission
instead of
sequestration**



Germplasm collections offer climate smart crops – Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)



Ghatak et al. PANOMICS meets root soil microbiome under review



Germplasm collections offer climate smart crops – Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)

Biology and Fertility of Soils
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00374-021-01578-w>

ORIGINAL PAPER



Root exudation of contrasting drought-stressed pearl millet genotypes conveys varying biological nitrification inhibition (BNI) activity

Arindam Ghatak¹ · Florian Schindler¹ · Gert Bachmann¹ · Doris Engelmeier¹ · Prasad Bajaj² · Martin Brenner^{1,3} · Lena Fragner^{1,3} · Rajeev K. Varshney^{2,4} · Guntur Venkata Subbarao⁵ · Palak Chaturvedi¹ · Wolfram Weckwerth^{1,3}

Received: 30 July 2020 / Revised: 10 June 2021 / Accepted: 12 June 2021
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Abstract

Roots secrete a vast array of low molecular weight compounds into the soil broadly referred to as root exudates. It is a key mechanism by which plants and soil microbes interact in the rhizosphere. The effect of drought stress on the exudation process and composition is rarely studied, especially in cereal crops. This study focuses on comparative metabolic profiling of the exudates from sensitive and tolerant genotypes of pearl millet after a period of drought stress. We employed a combined platform of gas and liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry to cover both primary and secondary metabolites. The results obtained demonstrate that both genotype and drought stress have a significant impact on the concentration and composition of root exudates. The complexity and function of these differential root exudates are discussed. To reveal the potential effect of root exudates on the soil microbial community after a period of drought stress, we also tested for biological nitrification inhibition (BNI) activity. The analysis revealed a genotype-dependent enhancement of BNI activity after a defined period of drought stress. In parallel, we observed a genotype-specific relation of elongated root growth and root exudation under drought stress. These data suggest that the drought stress-dependent change in root exudation can manipulate the microbial soil communities to adapt and survive under harsh conditions.

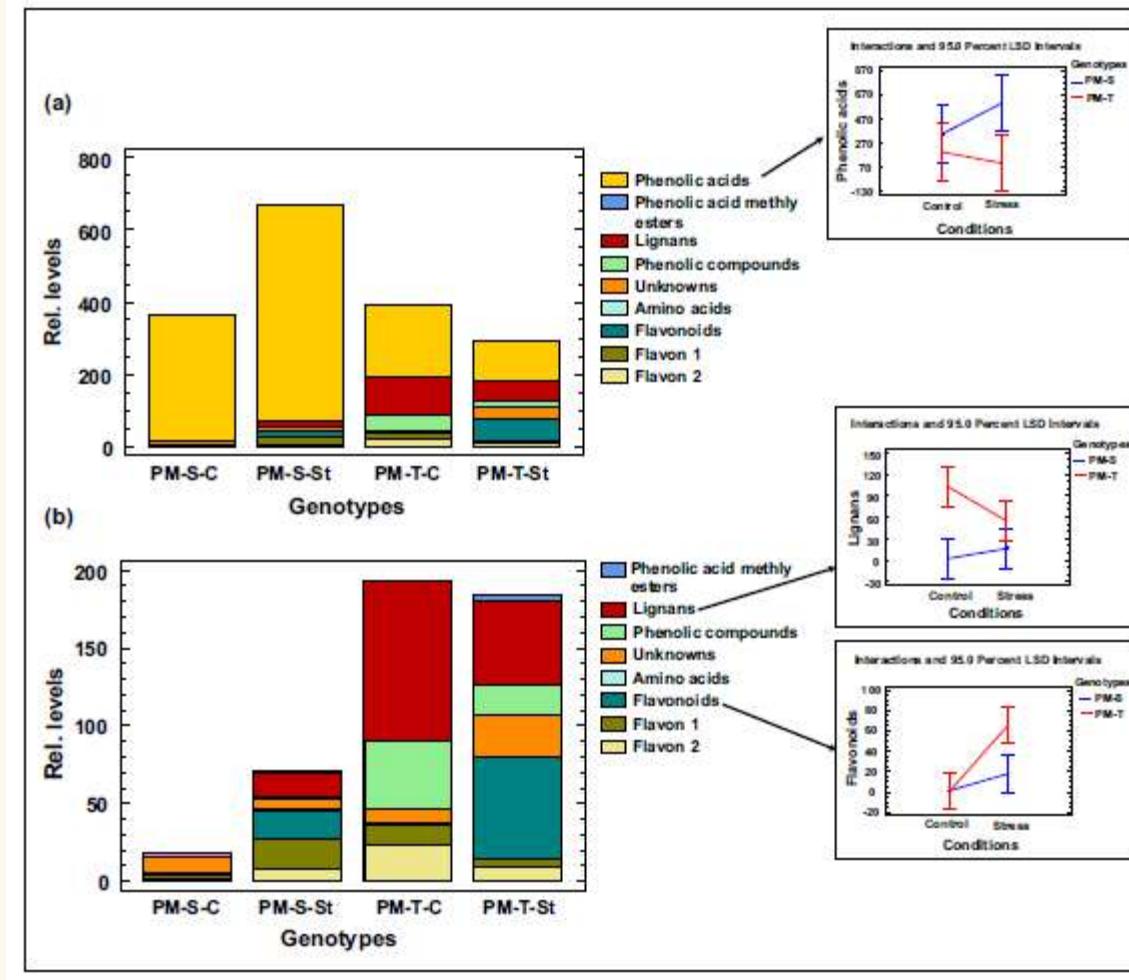


Root exudate metabolomics

Ghatak et al. 2021
Biology and Fertility of Soils



Germplasm collections offer climate smart crops – Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)

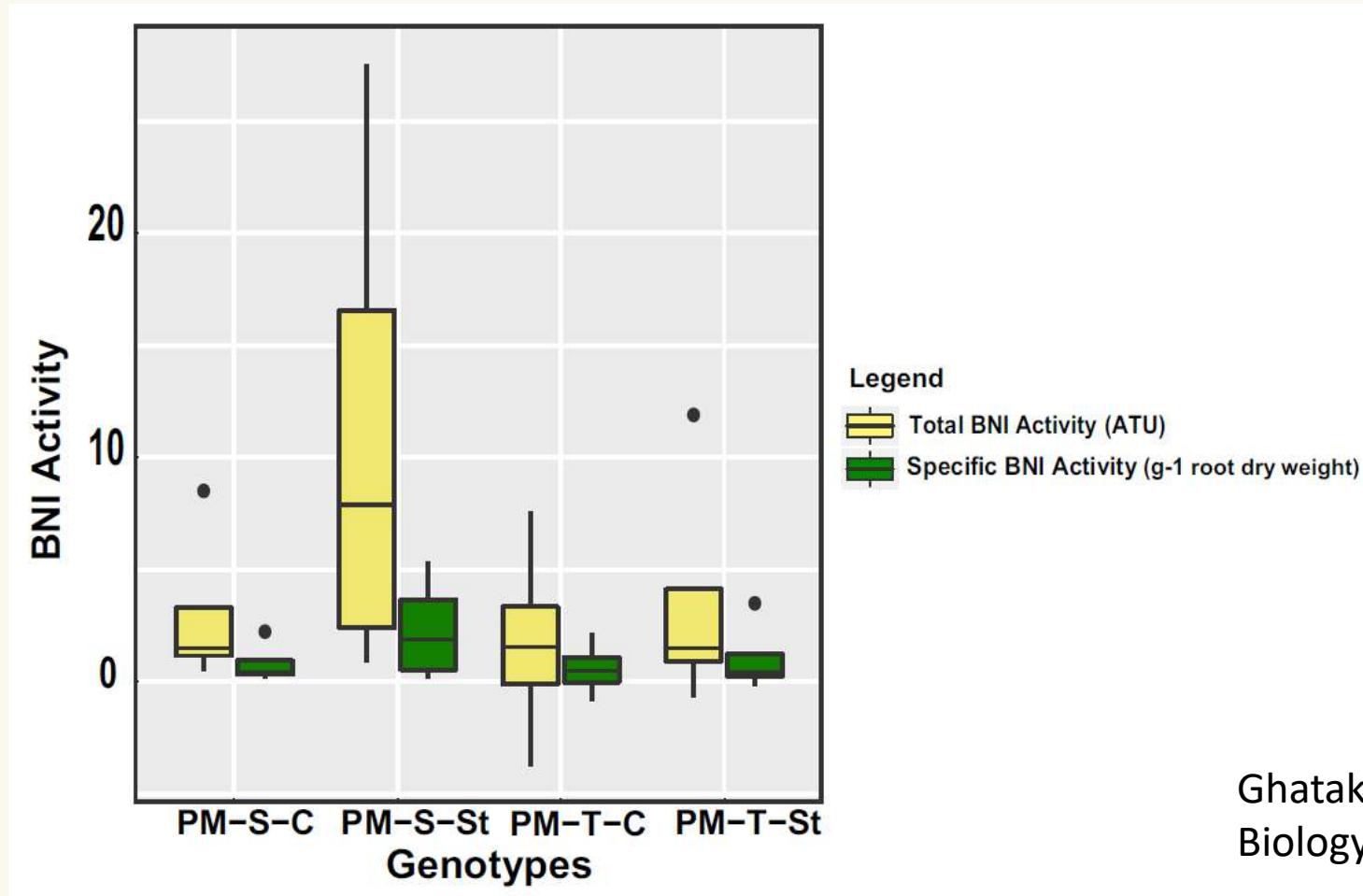


Root exudate metabolomics

Ghatak et al. 2021
Biology and Fertility of Soils



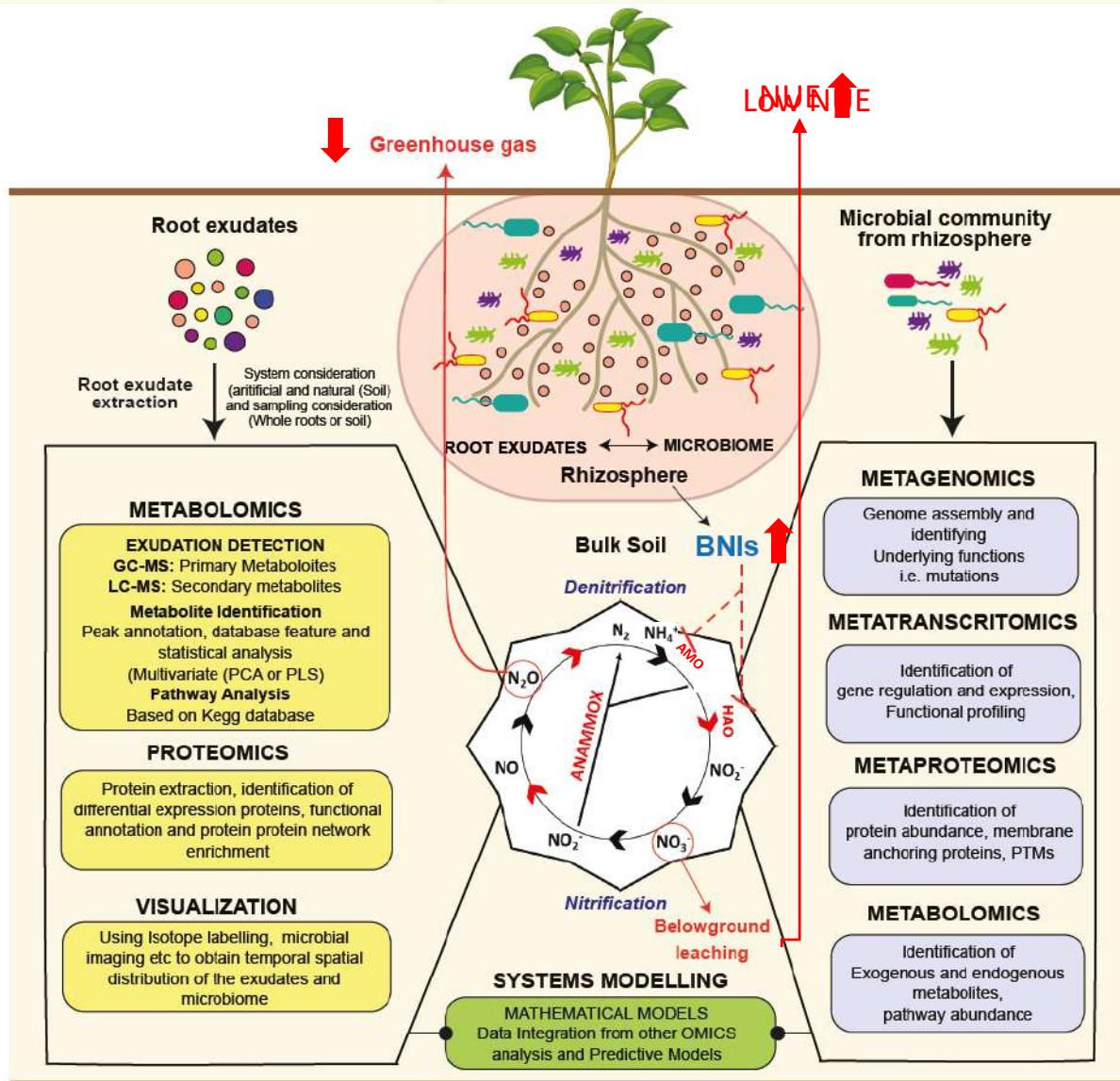
Germplasm collections offer climate smart crops – Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)



Ghatak et al. 2021
Biology and Fertility of Soils



Germplasm collections offer climate smart crops – Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)



Plant Soil (2016) 404:61–74
DOI 10.1007/s11104-016-2822-4



REGULAR ARTICLE

Identification of several wheat landraces with biological nitrification inhibition capacity

Cathryn A. O'Sullivan · Ian R. P. Fillery · Margaret M. Roper · Richard A. Richards

Received: 21 October 2015 / Accepted: 29 January 2016 / Published online: 13 February 2016
© Springer International Publishing Switzerland 2016

Abstract

Background and aims Nitrification is the first step in several pathways that lead to losses of nitrogen from agricultural systems. Biological nitrification inhibition (BNI) refers to the ability of some plant species to release chemicals from their roots that inhibit microbial ammonia oxidation thereby decreasing nitrification rates. BNI has been found in the wheat relative *Leymus racemosus* but not in *Triticum aestivum*. The aim of this work was to assess a number of landraces of *Triticum aestivum* for BNI ability.

Results The vast majority of the landraces tested caused some level of inhibition. However, of the 96 wheat landraces tested, 26 produced root exudates which caused a statistically significant reduction in nitrification rates of the two ammonia oxidising bacteria. Root exudates from four of the BNI positive landraces were shown to significantly inhibit nitrification rates in a sandy loam soil.

Conclusions This is the first evidence of significant levels of BNI in *Triticum aestivum*. The discovery of landraces with BNI ability raises the potential for breeding this trait into modern, elite wheat cultivars.

Keywords Biological nitrification inhibition · Wheat

Ghatak et al. PANOMICS meets root soil microbiome under review



PANOMICS resolution at subtissue and cellular level

In the framework of Green Systems Biology we propose three fundamental pillars for future breeding strategies:

- (i) combining genome selection with environment-dependent PANOMICS analysis and deep learning to improve prediction accuracy for marker-dependent trait performance
- (ii) PANOMICS resolution at subtissue, cellular and subcellular level provides information about fundamental functions of selected markers
- (iii) combining PANOMICS with genome editing and speed breeding tools

Weckwerth et al. 2020 Panomics meets germplasm



PANOMICS resolution at subtissue and cellular level

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Weckwerth et al. 2020 Panomics meets germplasm



Wheat grain filling process

Shuang et al 2021 Plant Journal

Publication in “The Plant Journal” explains grain filling process in wheat

02.09.2021

The recent research published by Shuang Zhang, Palak Chaturvedi and Wolfram Weckwerth highlights the astonishing molecular complexity of the grain filling process using the multiomics approach.

In this analysis, we have integrated the proteome and metabolome at four sequential developmental stages of the grain, i.e., 12, 15, 20, and 26 DAA, in the seed coat, embryo, endosperm, and cavity fluid.

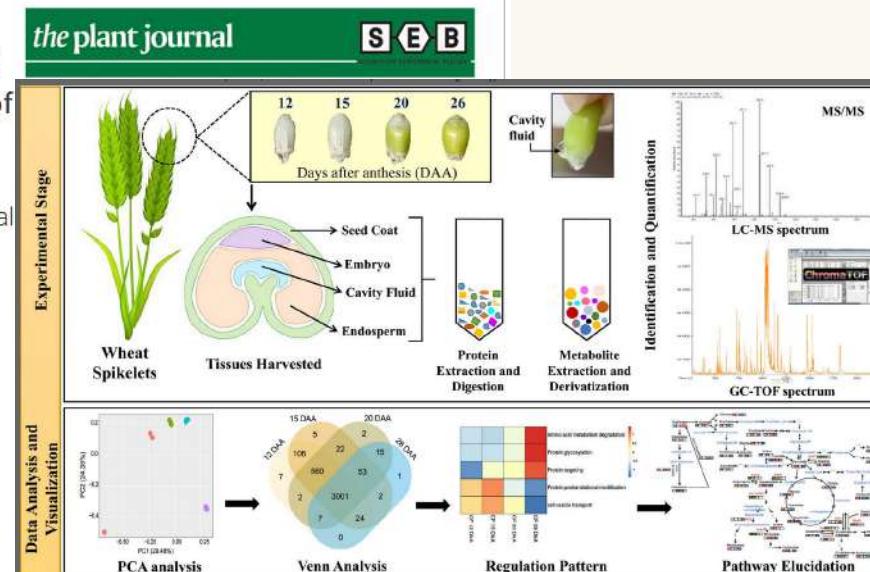
Significant quantitative changes of protein abundance and, based on the appearance of unique proteins in the compartments, spatially defined proteome changes in the seed tissues during the four stages of grain development.

The temporal and spatial dynamics of the proteome were accompanied by significant changes in the metabolome.

Read the full paper here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/tpj.15410>

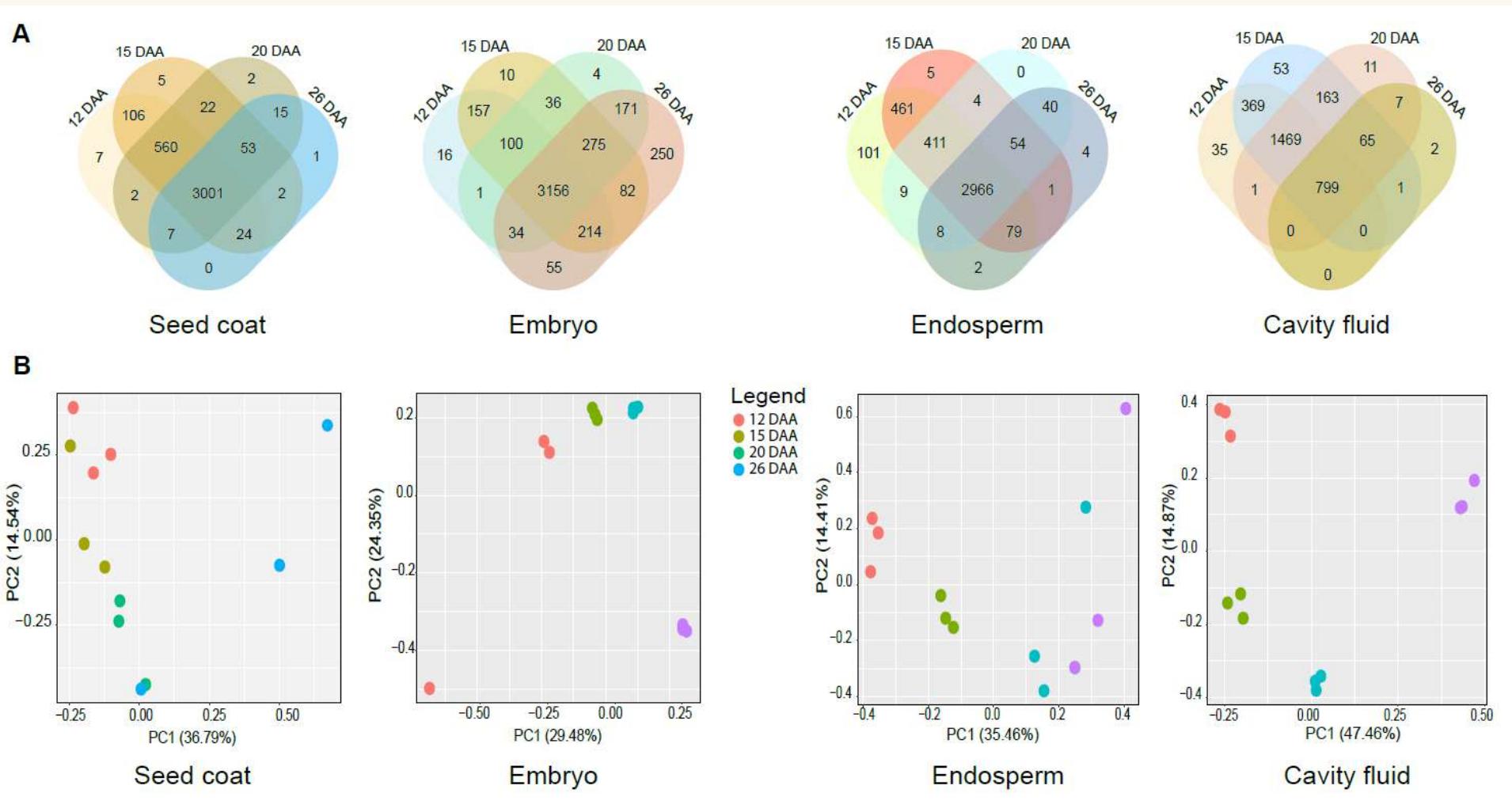
Read Research highlight Published by the Senior Editor Federica Brandizzi of The Plant Journal, where she highlights our research briefly explaining the importance of the multiomics approach in deciphering grain filling process.:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tpj.15422>



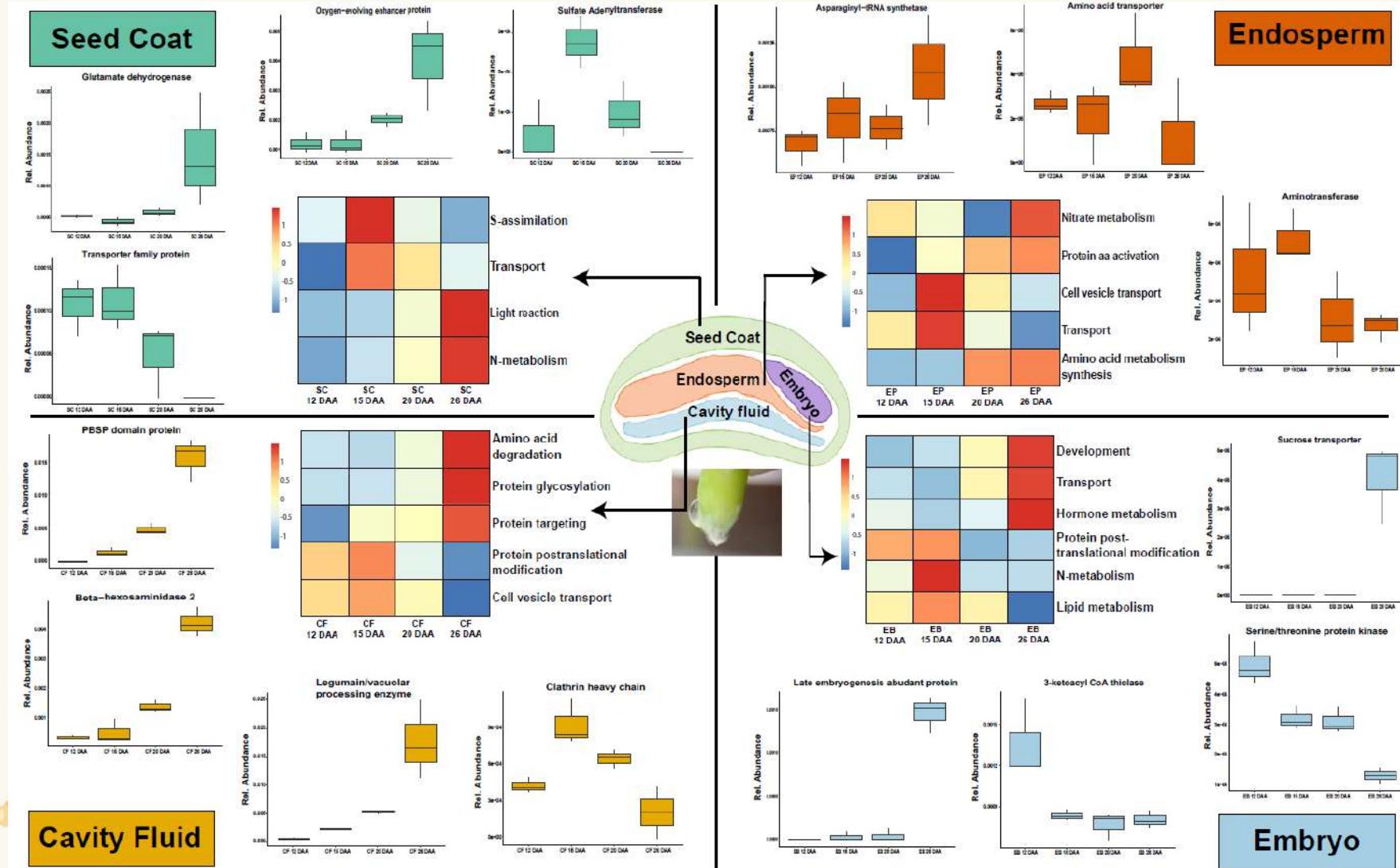
Wheat grain filling process at the tissue level

Shuang et al 2021 Plant Journal



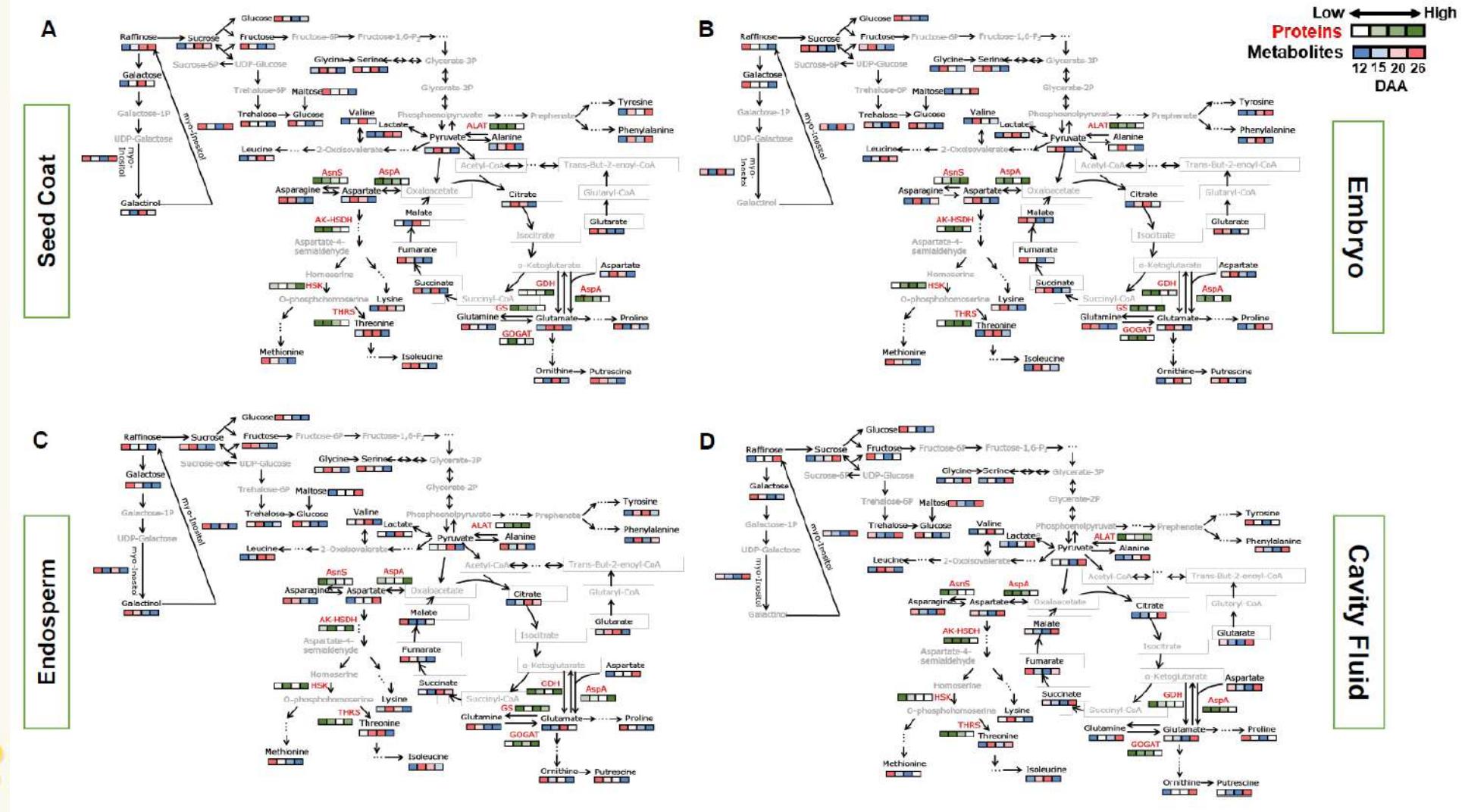
Wheat grain filling process at the tissue level

Shuang et al 2021 Plant Journal



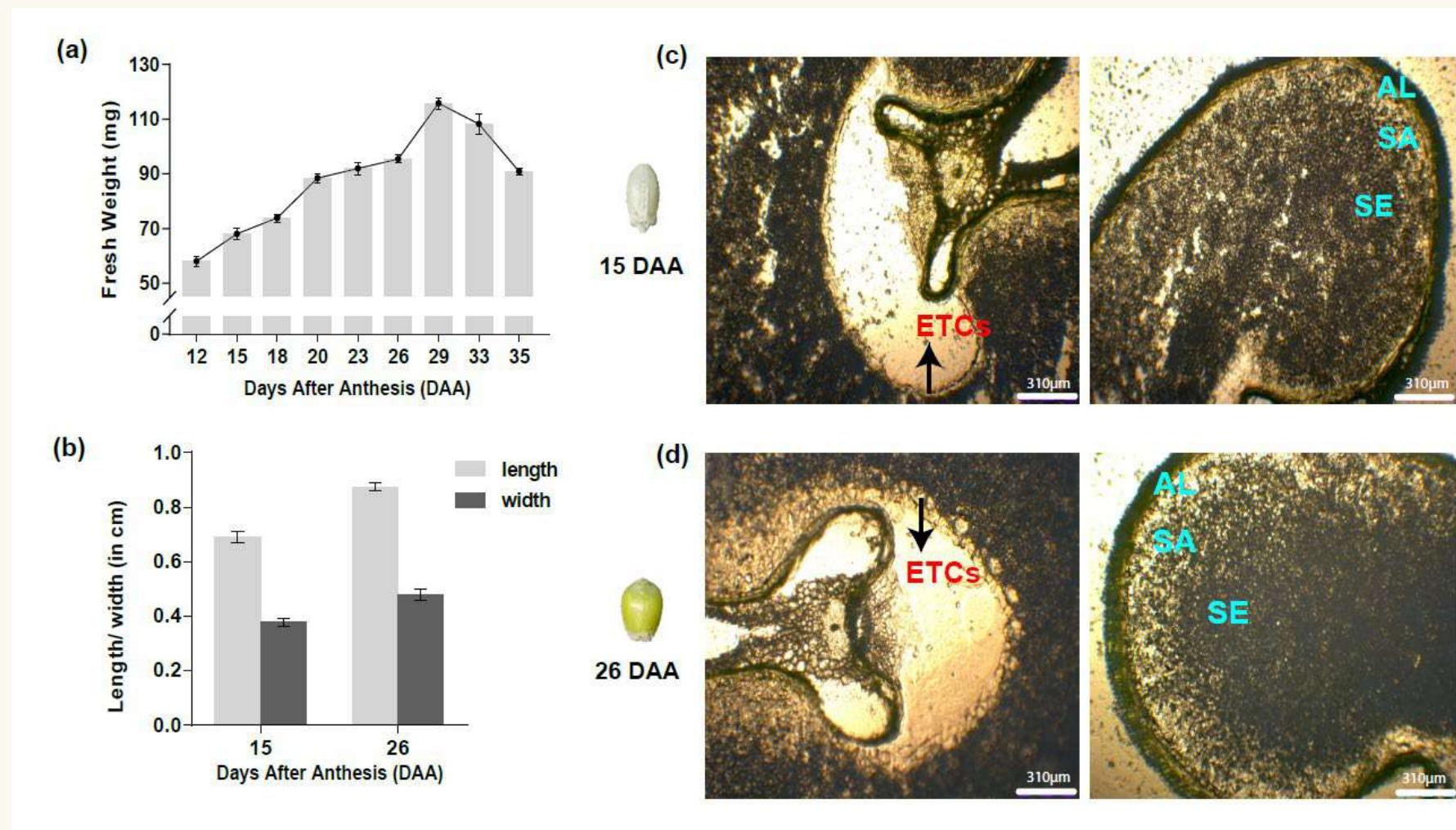
Wheat grain filling process at the tissue level

Shuang et al 2021 Plant Journal



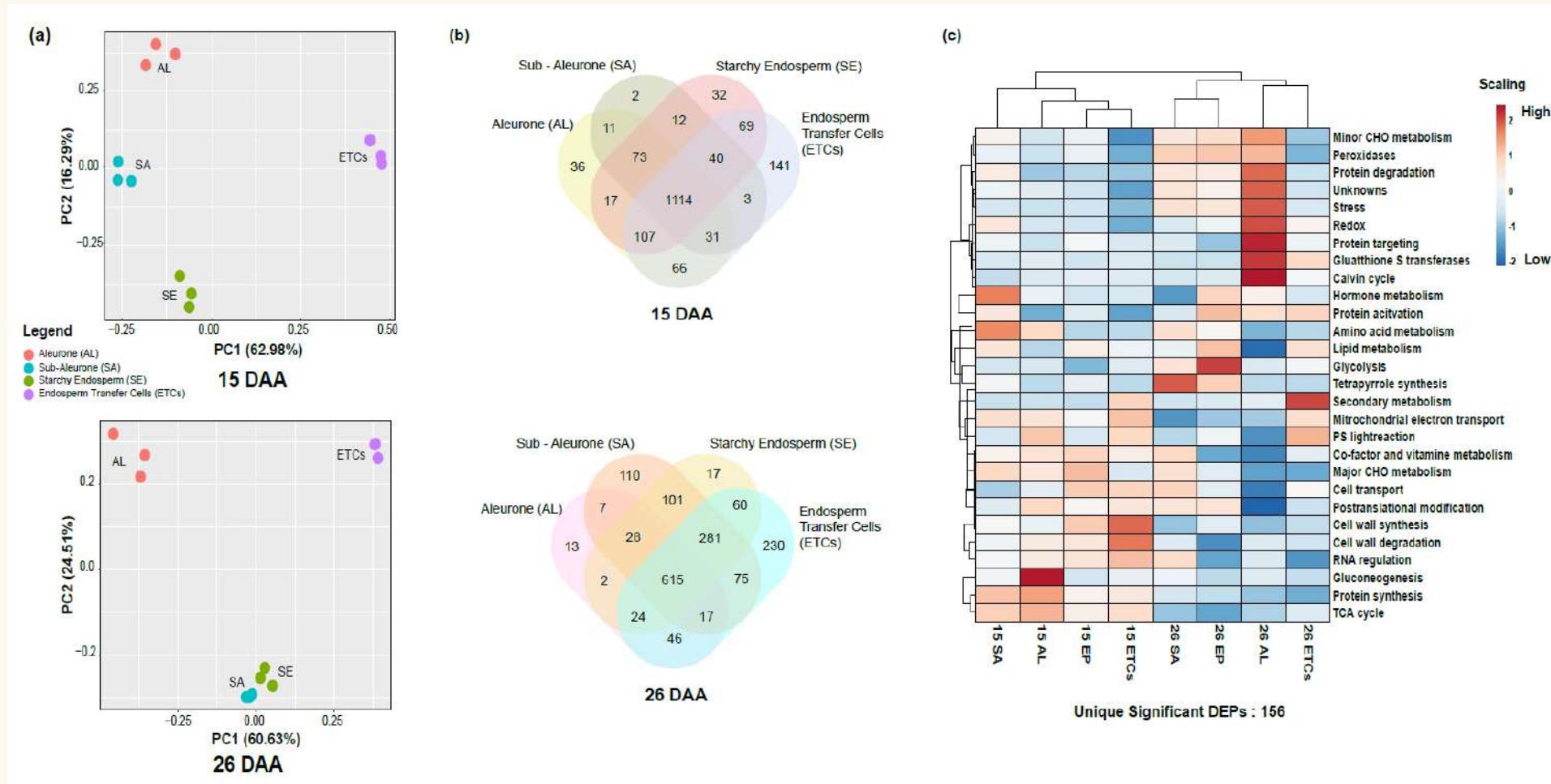
Wheat grain filling process at the cellular level

Shuang et al 2021 in preparation



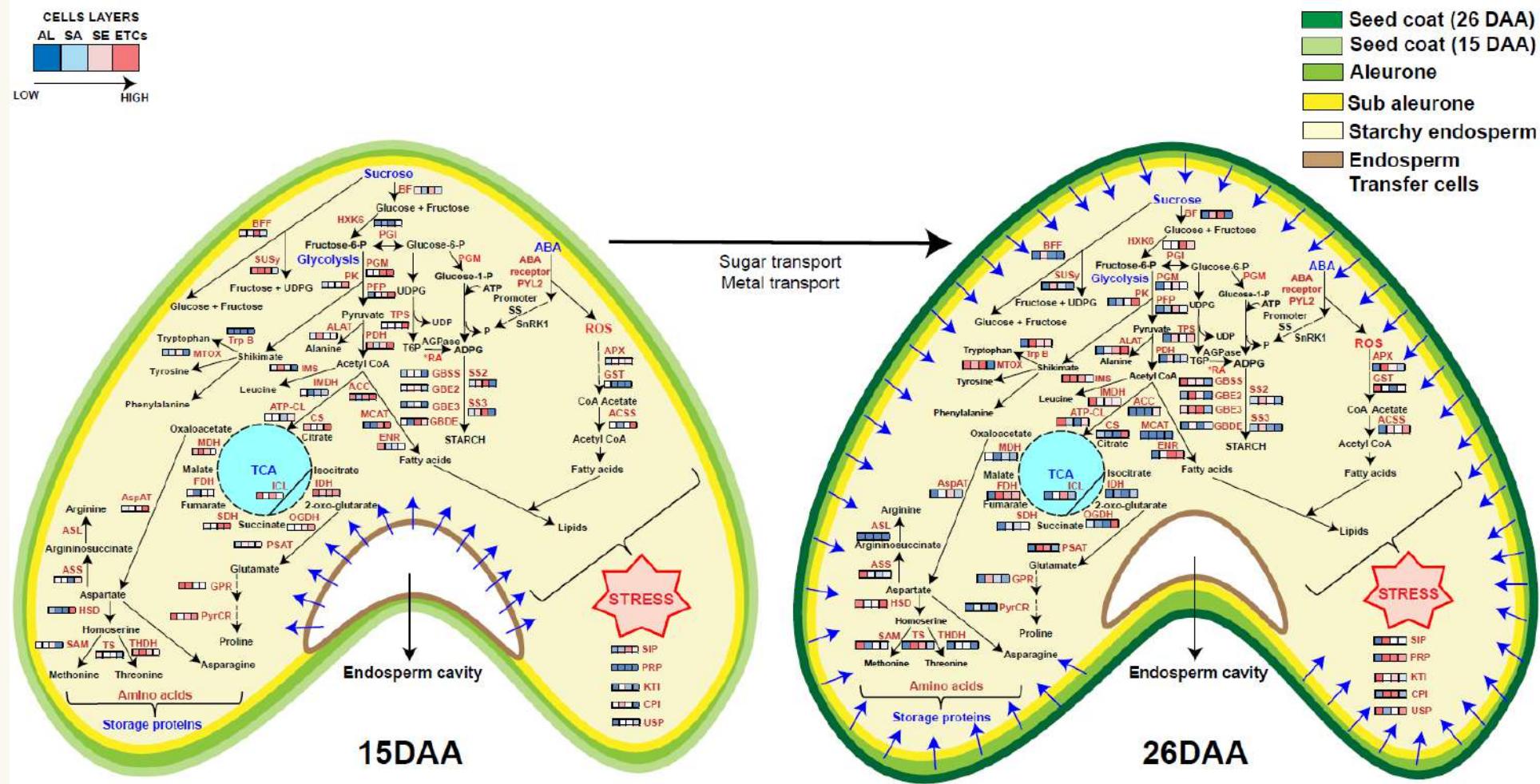
Wheat grain filling process at the cellular level

Shuang et al 2021 in preparation



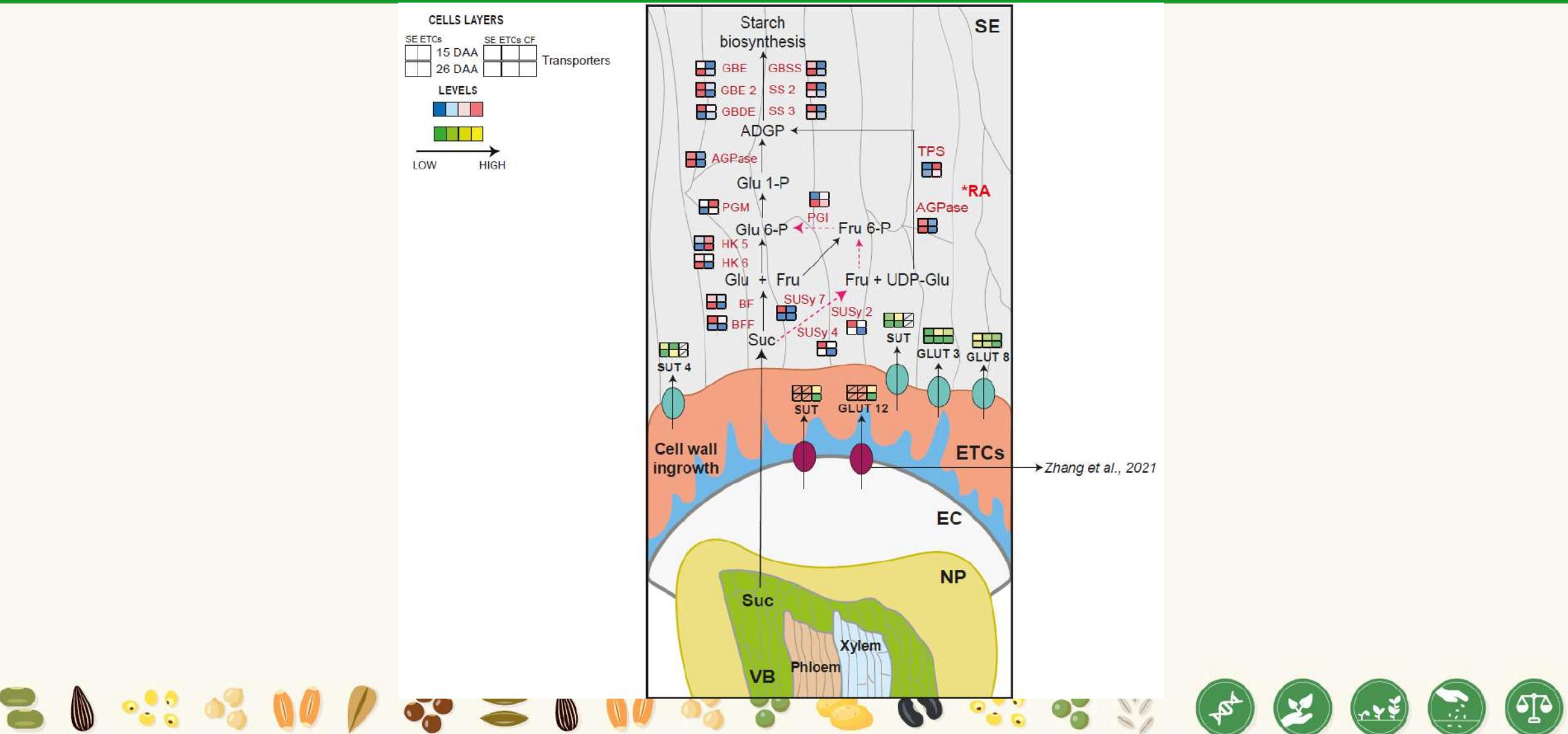
Wheat grain filling process at the cellular level

Shuang et al 2021 in preparation



Wheat grain filling process at the cellular level

Shuang et al 2021 in preparation



SUMMARY

- More than 60% of phenotypic plasticity, pleiotropy, polygenic traits, physiology etc. is not explained by genomics – application of metabolomics, proteomics, phosphoproteomics and biochemical modelling for genomic prediction
- In situ molecular phenotype plasticity is enormous: Application of multiomics technology and Systems Biology from lab to field conditions reveals a new picture of the genotype-environment-phenotype, phenotypic plasticity in a natural/agricultural environment and stress adaptation mechanisms
- Application to crop plants and natural ecosystems reveal different adaptation strategies of the plant and can be used for correlation with traits, yield, stress tolerance, morphology, physiology etc.



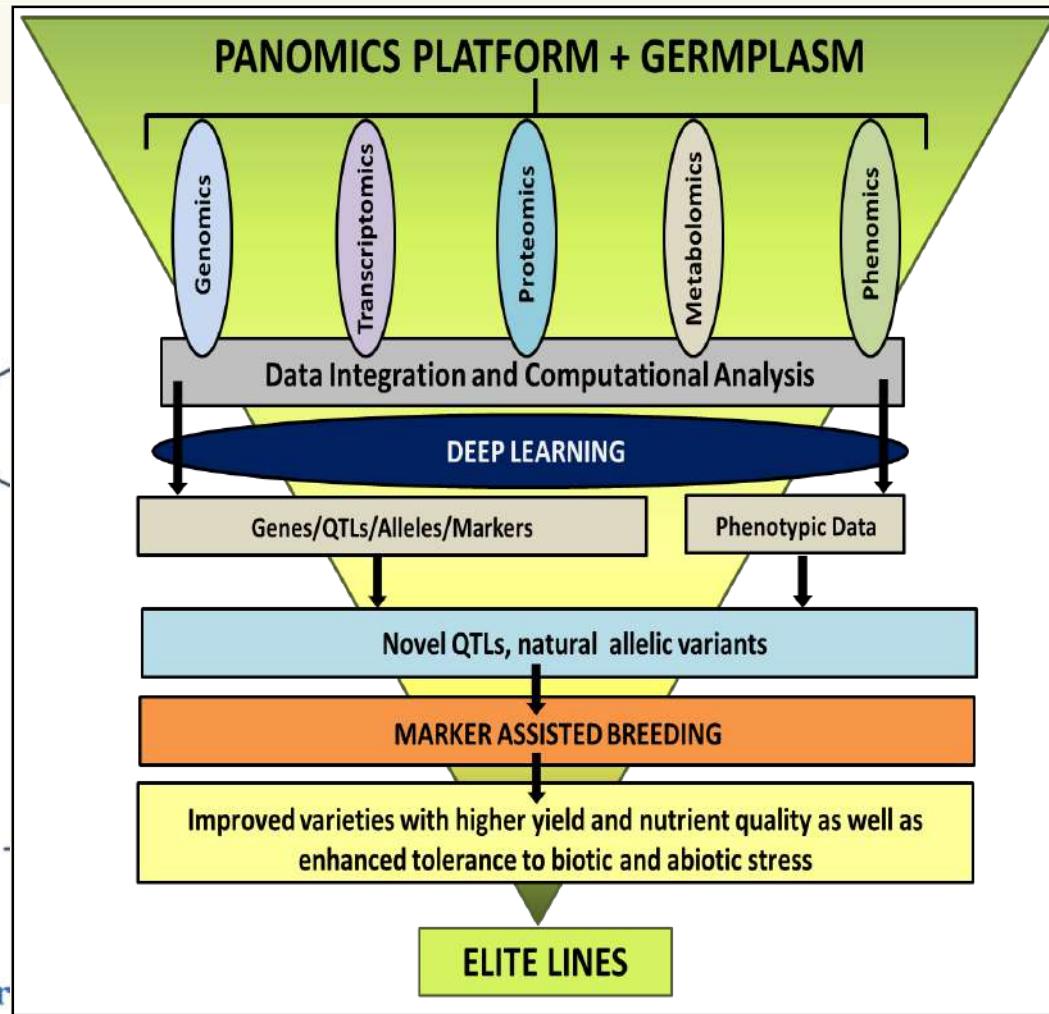
International Cooperations



Rajeev Varshney



Dong Jiang





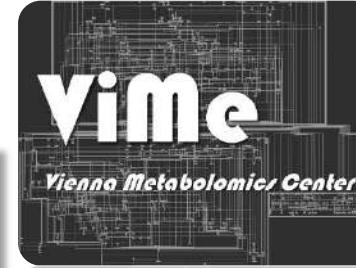
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Arindam Ghatak



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LIFE SCIENCES

FWF

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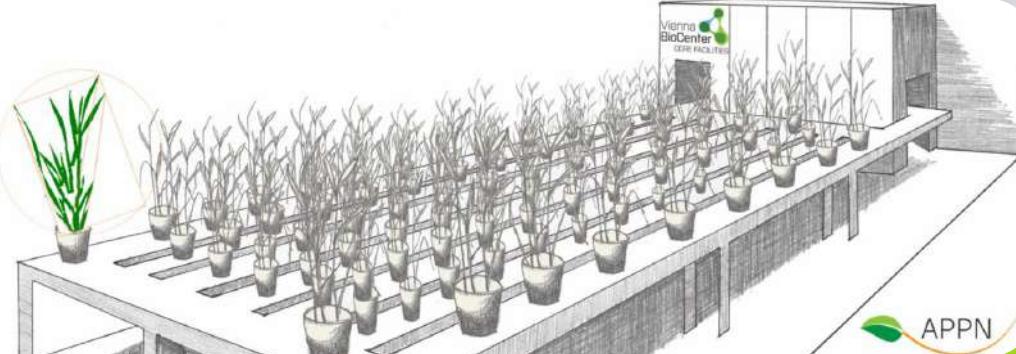


<http://www.univie.ac.at/mosys/team.html>

DOC.FUNDS PhD school: MENTOR – Plant resilience in the climate crisis



PHENOPlant
launching
2021



APPN



Universität für Bodenkultur Wien
University of Natural Resources
and Life Sciences, Vienna



MENTOR (First Plant PHD School in Austria)
Molecular Mechanisms to Improve Plant Resilience
Funding by FWF doc.funds (2.3 Million Euro)

Coordinated by
Wolfram Weckwerth



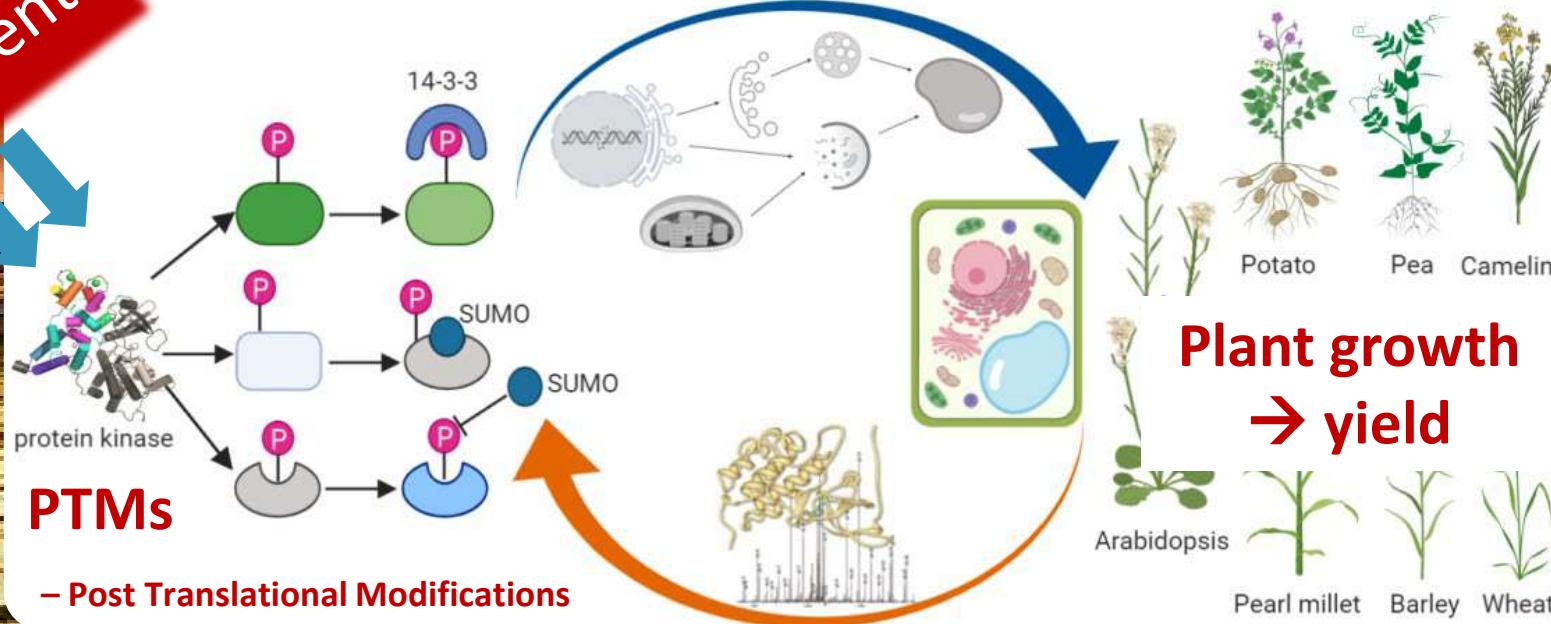
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DOC.FUNDS PhD school: MENTOR – Plant resilience in the climate crisis

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