

Identification of Transcriptional Responses in Root and Leaf of *Prunus persica* Under Conditions of Drought Stress Using RNA Sequencing

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Estación Experimental de Aula Dei (EEAD-CSIC)

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1- Introduction

Family: *Rosaceae*

Subfamily: *Prunoidae*

Subgenus: *Amygdalus*

Genus: *Prunus*



Almond
P. dulcis (Mill) D.A.



Apricot
P. armeniaca L.

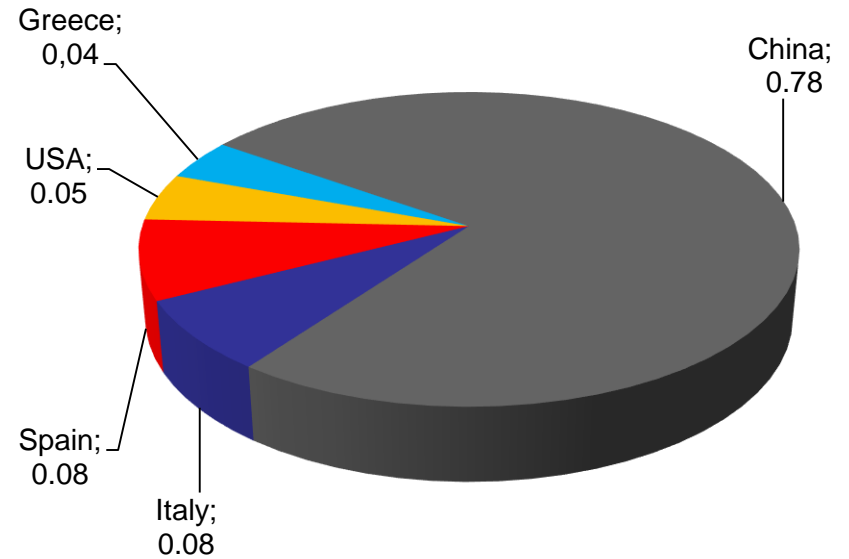


Plum
P. domestica L.

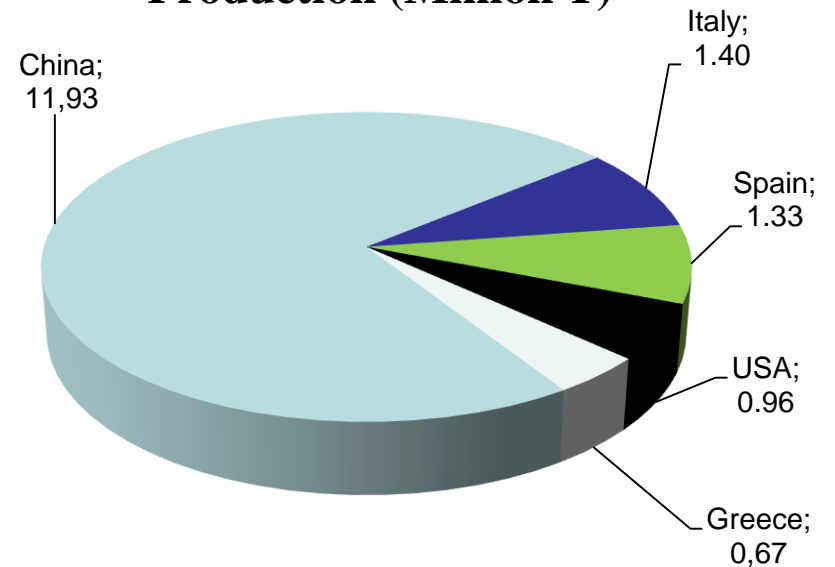
1.1 Economic interest



Area (Million ha)



Production (Million T)



(FAOSTAT, 2016)

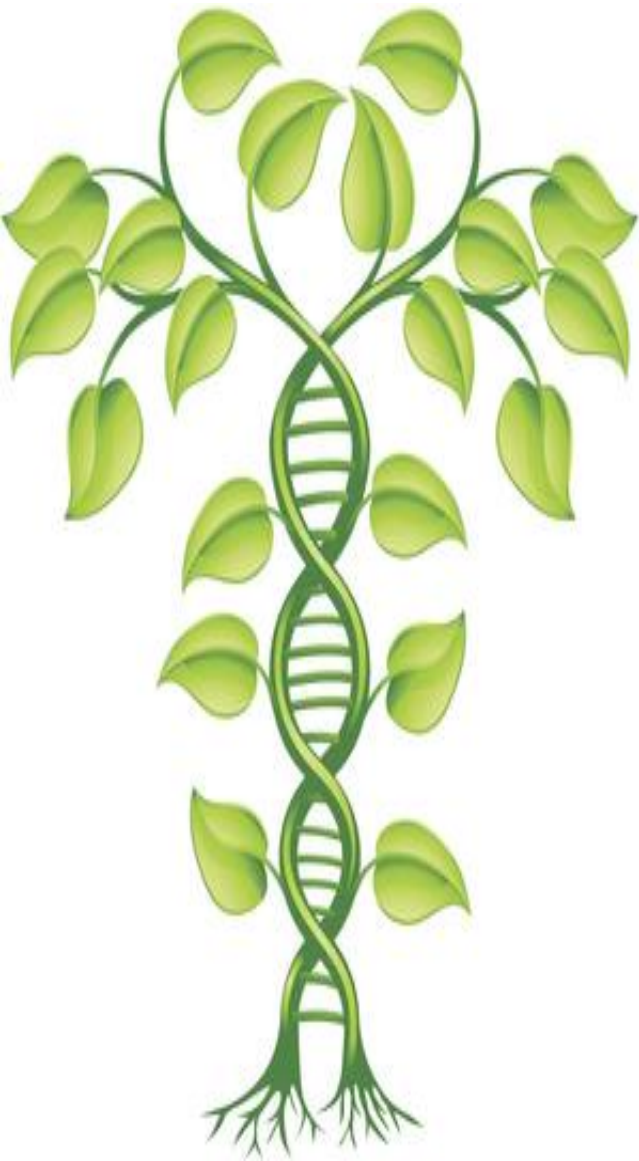
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1.2 Genetic interest



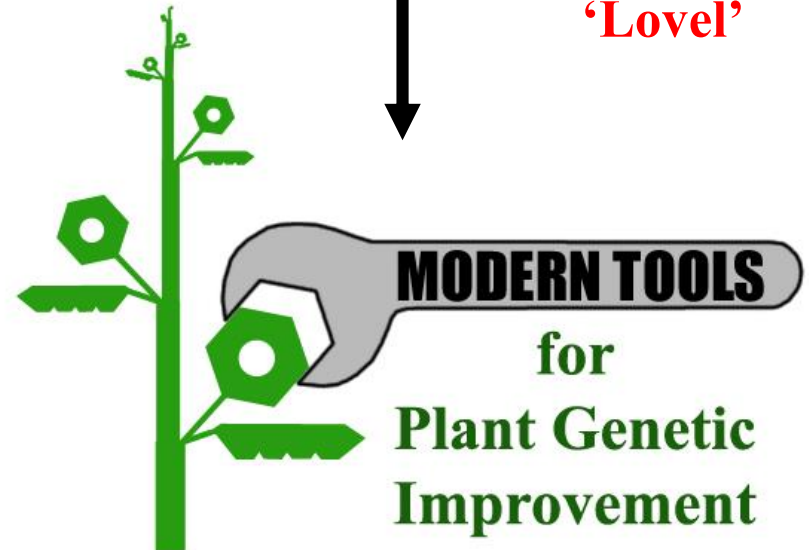
- Diploid species $2x = 2n = 16$
- Small genome ≈ 230 Mbp
- Short juvenile phase
- Self-compatibility



Plant model of the *Rosaceae*

Genetic maps

*Sequenced Genome
'Lovel'*



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1.3 Importance of water for cultivation



87% of water

Report of (IPCC, 2014)

Drought to 30%



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1.4 Fruit rootstocks (*Prunus*)



Seedling
rootstock



Interspecific
hybrids



Peach × Almond
GF677

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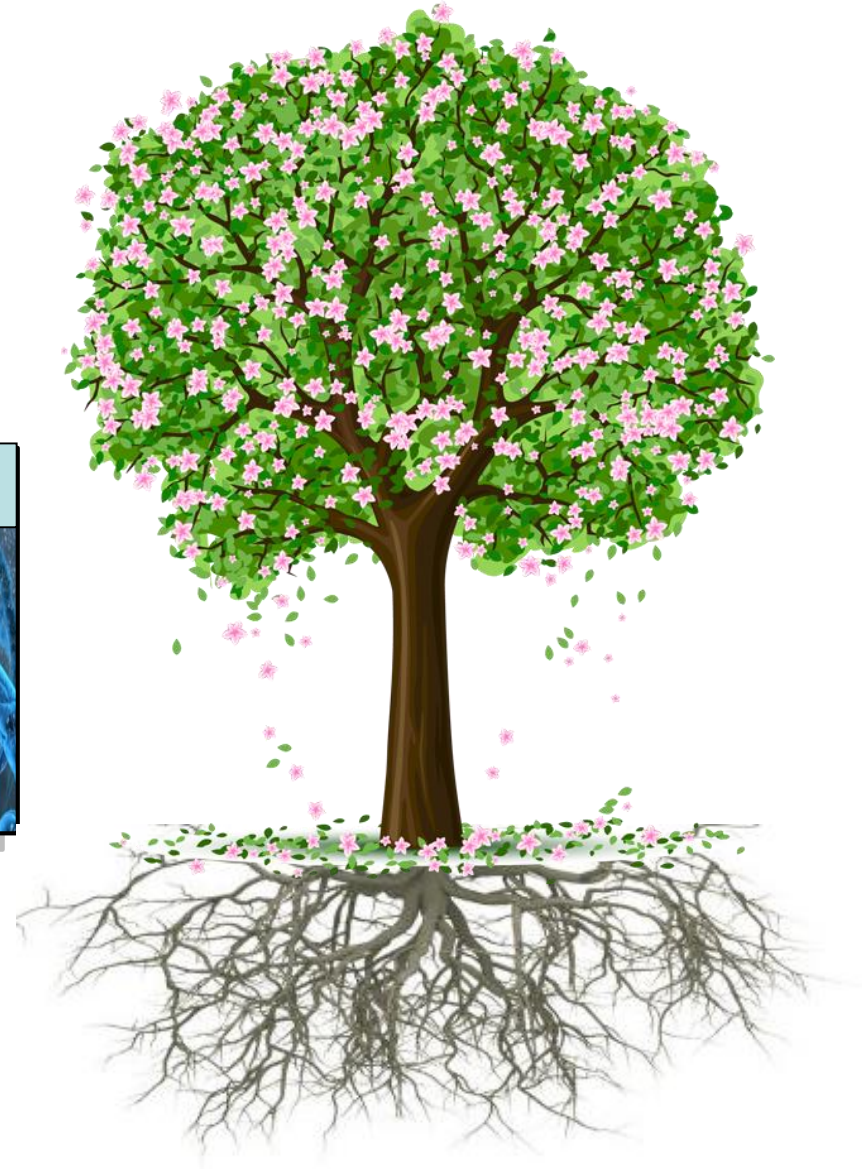
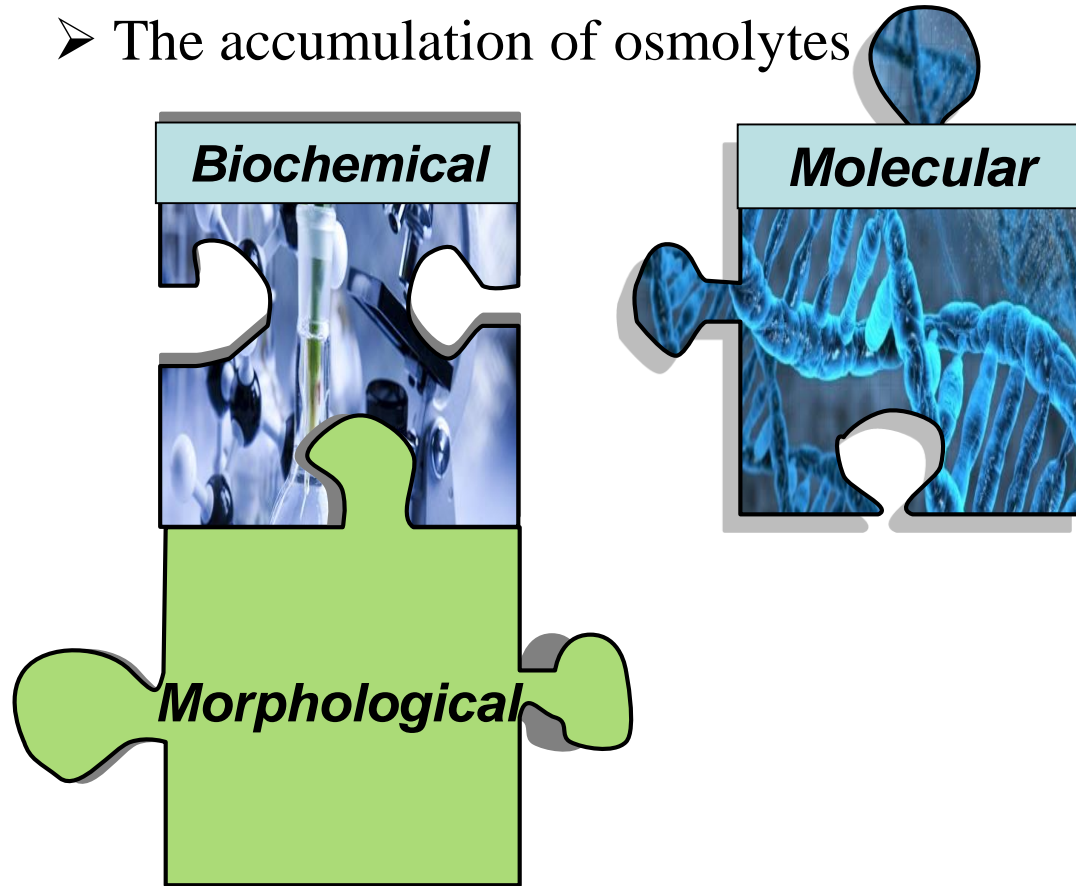
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1.5 Influence of the rootstock on the variety

- Vigour of the rootstock
- Root system well developed
- The accumulation of osmolytes



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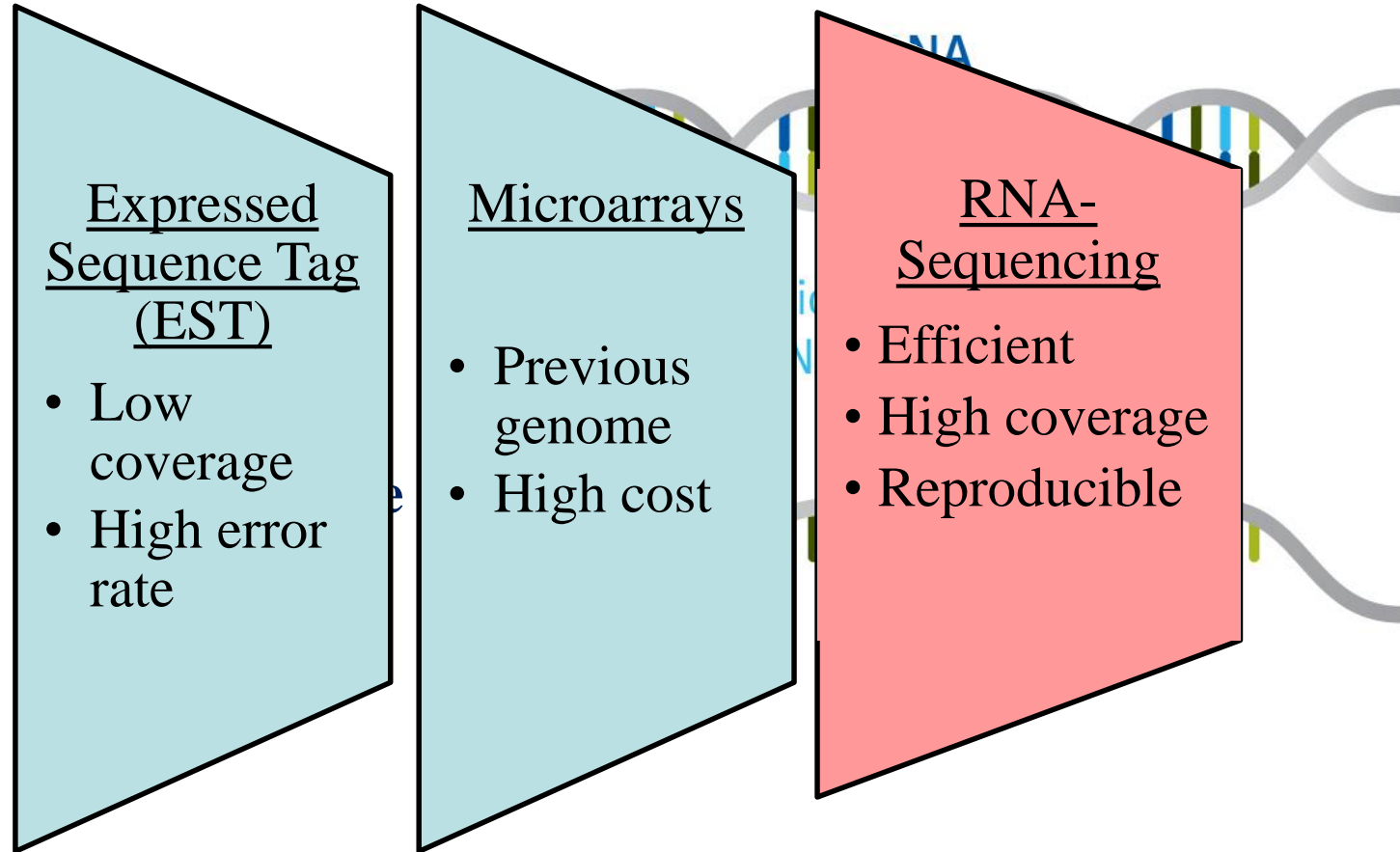
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1.6 Transcriptome analysis



- Infection by *Xanthomonas arboricola* (Juglard et al., 2013)
- Infection by Plum pox Virus en *P. domestica* (Rubio et al., 2014)
- Hypoxia in *P. persica* (Arismendi et al., 2015)

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2- Objectives

General objective

Investigate the molecular mechanisms involved in the response of *P. persica* to drought and identifying the associated candidate genes.

Specific objectives

- Exploration of the transcriptomic variations between control and drought-affected plants using RNA-seq.
- Identification of the differentially expressed genes (DEGs).
- Annotation and functional classification of DEGs, then investigation of the metabolic pathways involved.
- Validation of the reliability of the RNA-seq analysis by RT-qPCR .

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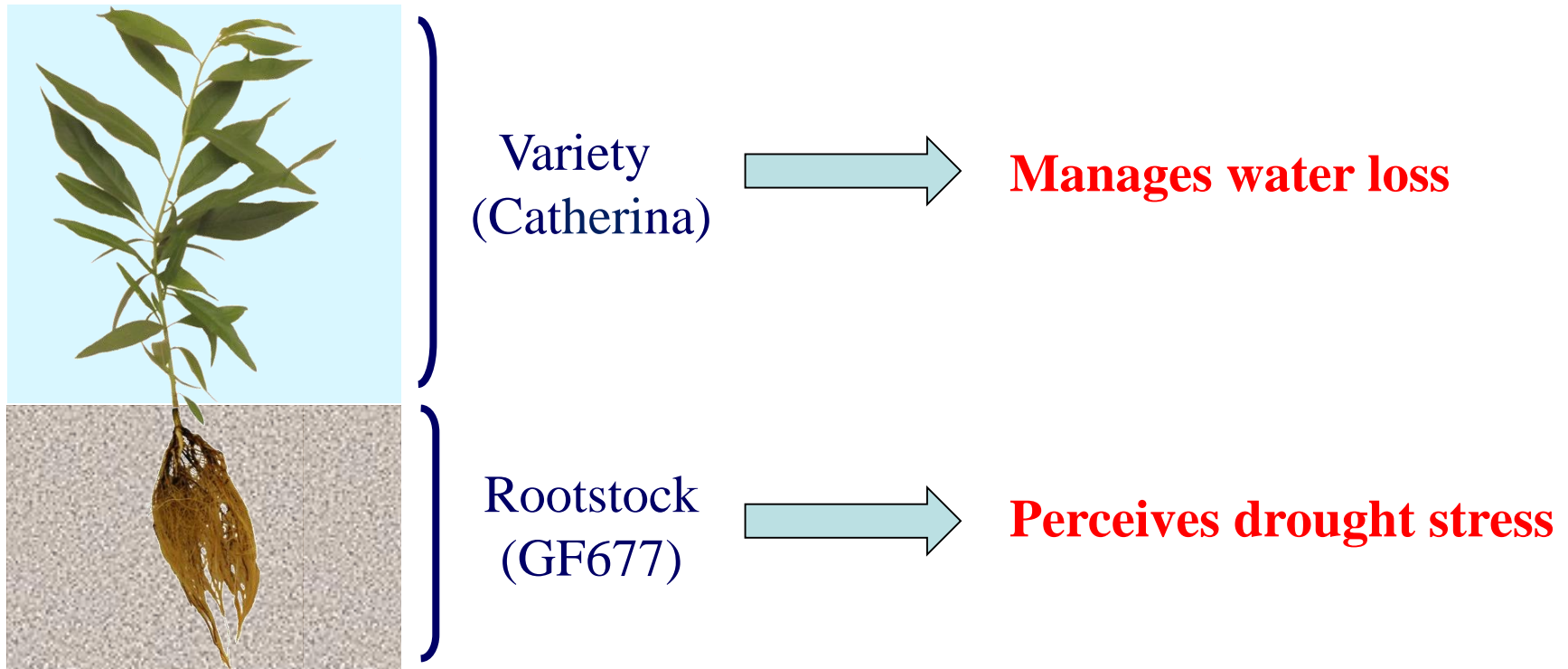
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2.1 Originality of the research in peach

Characterization of transcriptional response to drought stress in root and leaf



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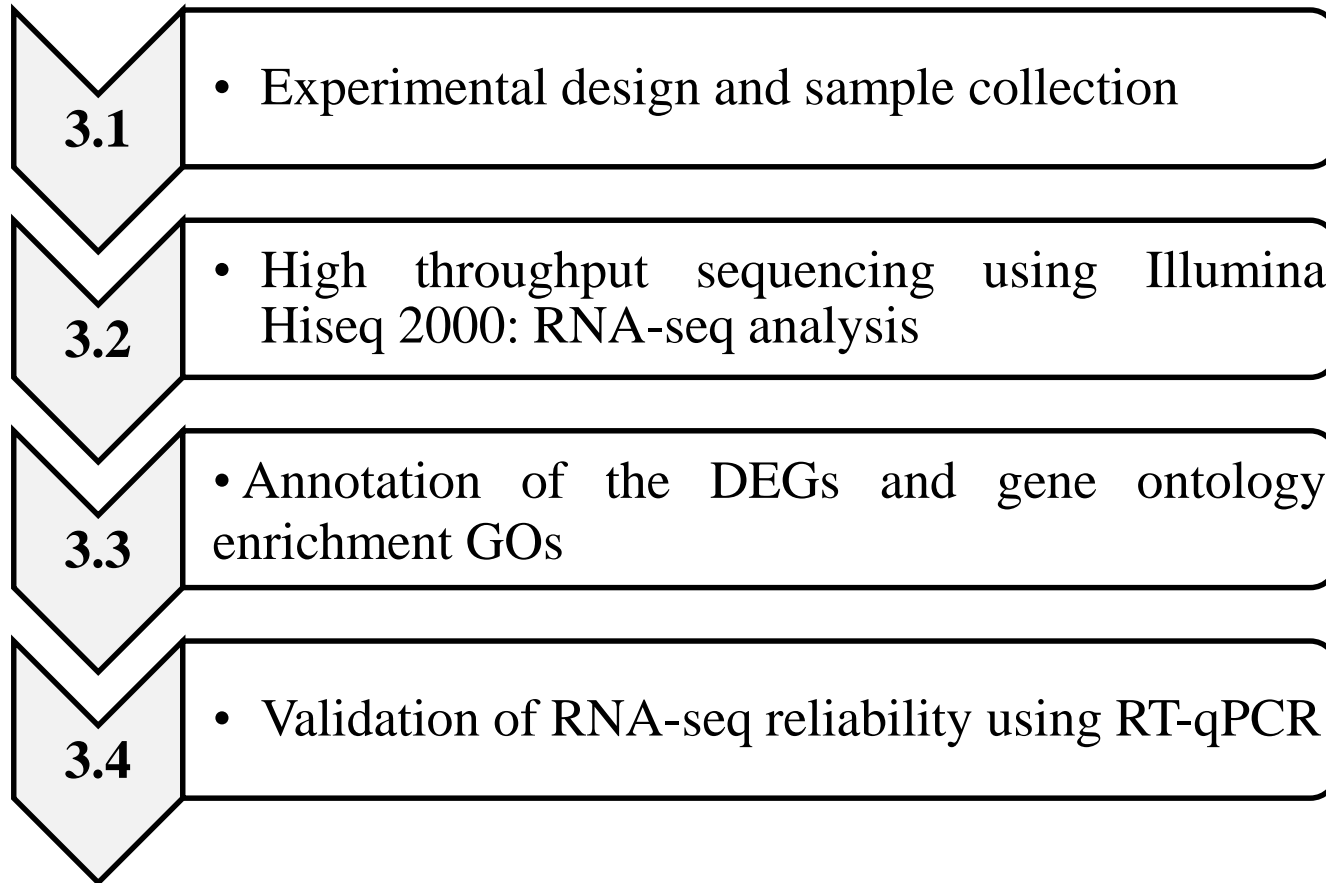
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3- Methodology



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3.1 Plant material: rootstock GF677 and variety Catherina



Micropropagation

2 weeks
pots 300 cm³
(peat)



Micrografted with 'Catherina'

- Temperature 23°C day / 18°C night
- 14 h light / 10 h dark



3 weeks
30 plants

(Jiménez et al., 2013)

pots 15 L peat : sand (1:1)

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3.2 Experimental design and sample collection



Drought (80% of evapotranspiration)



Control

Start of
Treatment

**Measurements of physiological parameters
Days (0, 7, 12, 16) (Jiménez et al., 2013)**



Day 16 of the
Treatment

(Jiménez et al., 2013)

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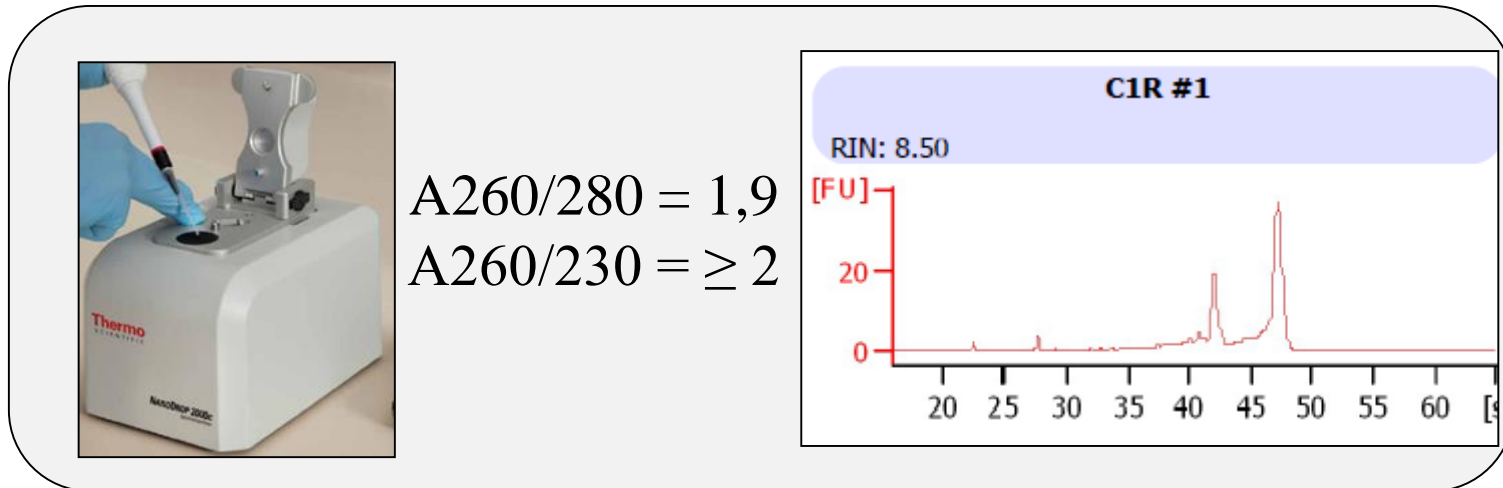
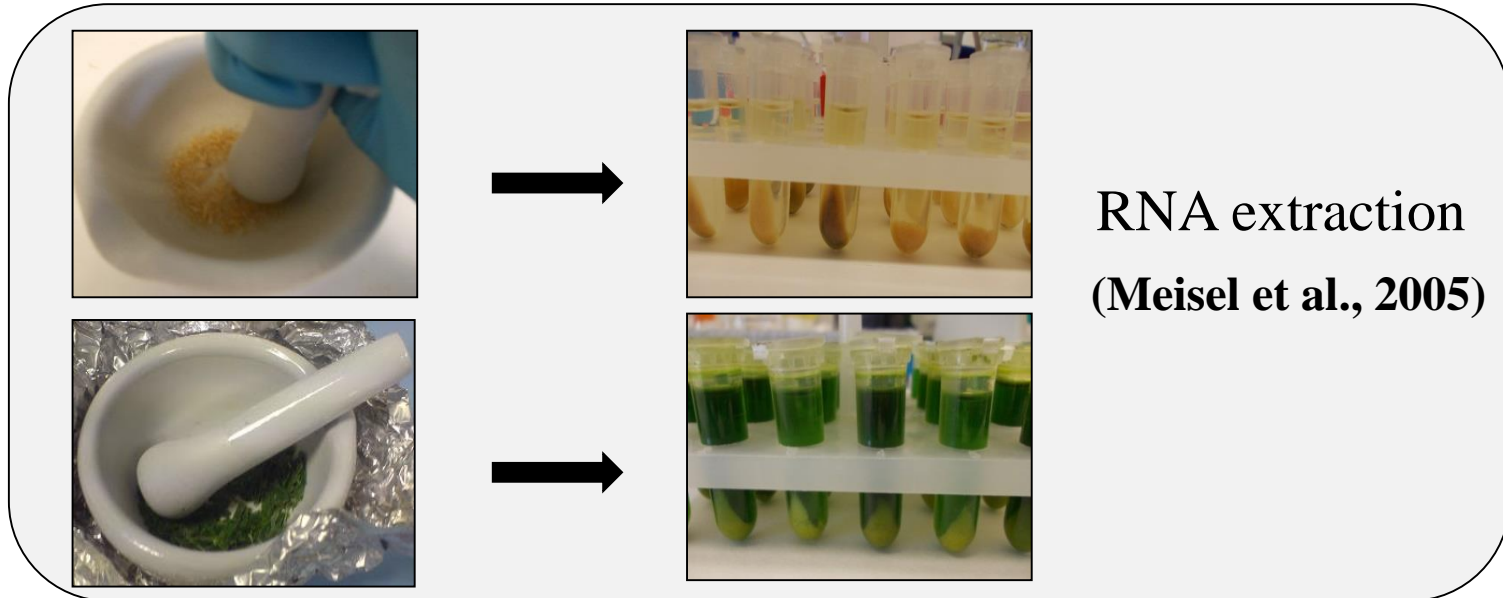
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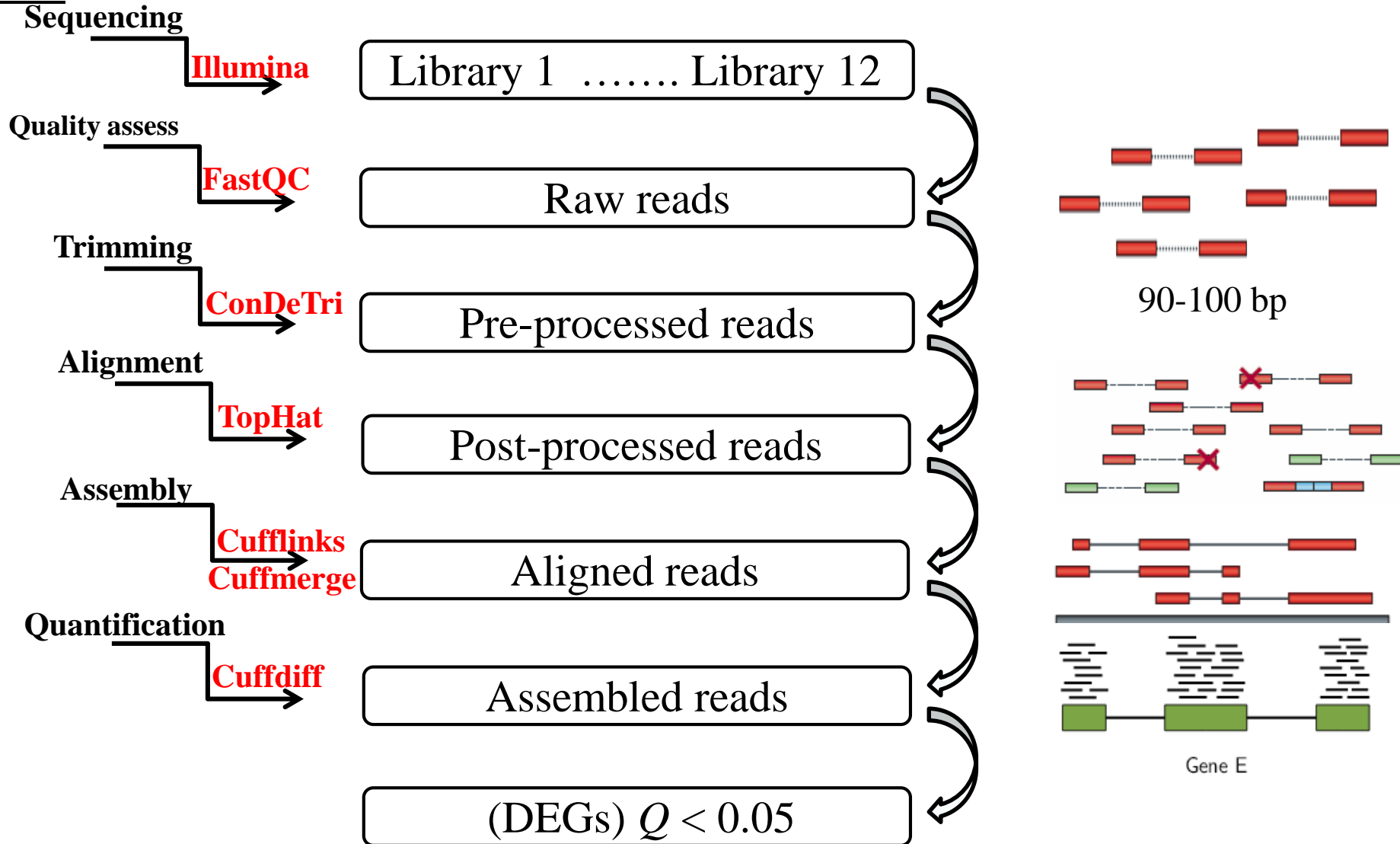
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3.2 Experimental design and sample collection (II)



3.2 High throughput sequencing using Illumina Hiseq-2000



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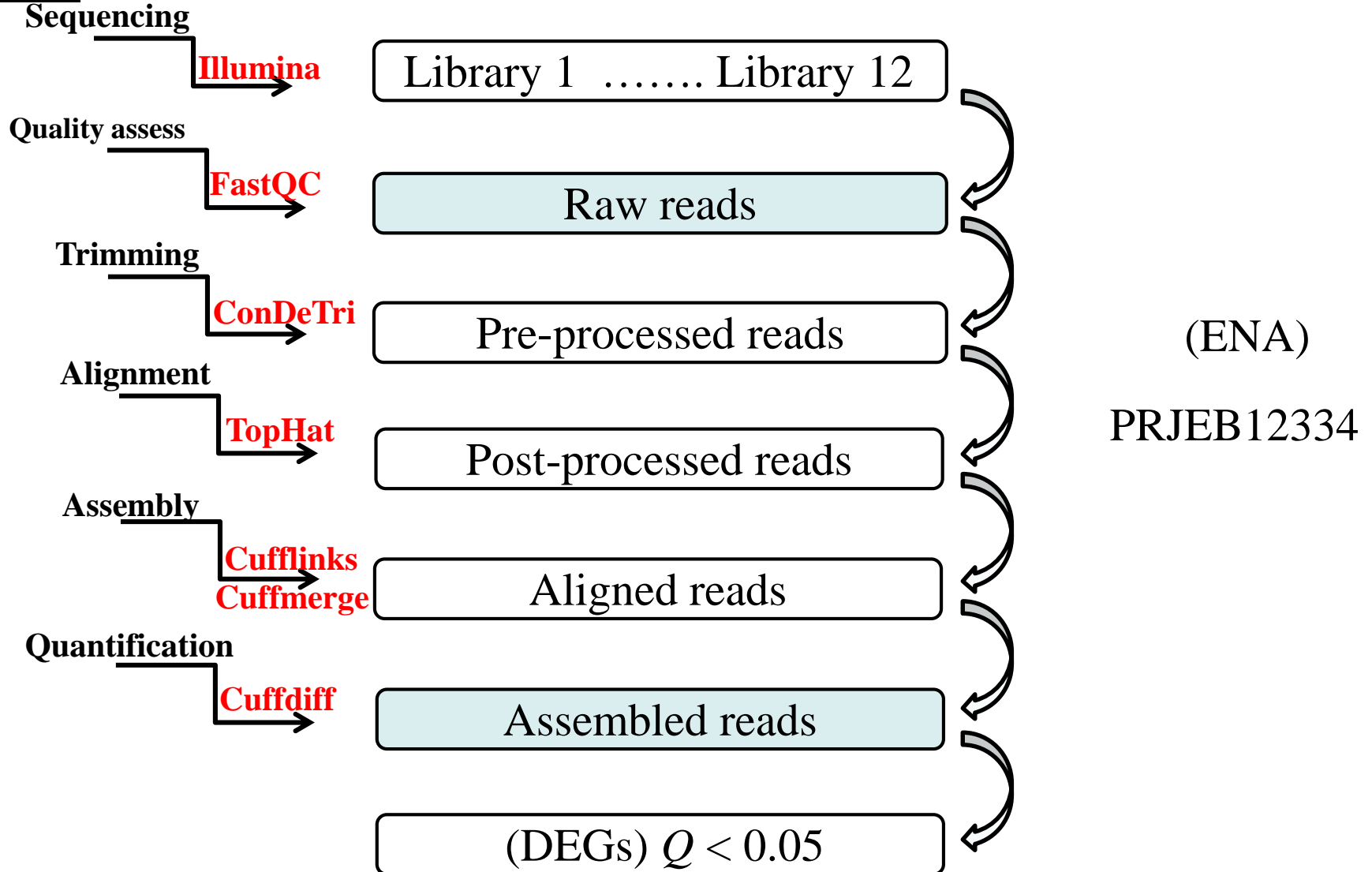
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3.2 High throughput sequencing using Illumina Hiseq

2000



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3.3 Annotation of the DEGs and GO enrichment

Homology based

Blastx

DEGs $Q < 0.01$

GO annotation

Blast2GO



Distribution of 11 Blast Hits on the Query Sequence

Mouse over to see the title, click to show alignments

Color key for alignment scores



Molecular
(MF)

Biological
(BP)

Gene
ontology
GO

Celular
(CC)

NCBI nr

Phytozome

GDR

KEGG

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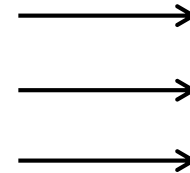
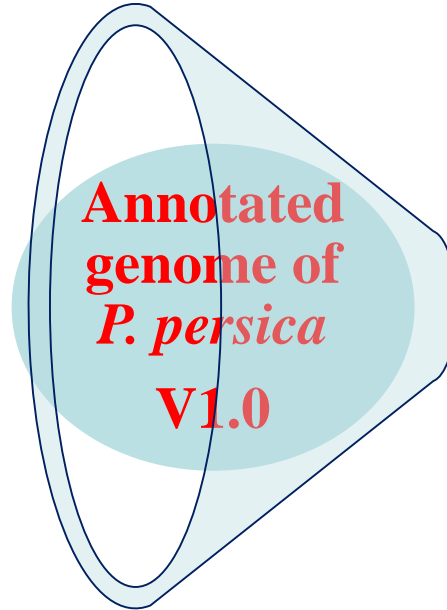
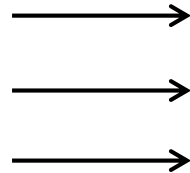
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3.3 Annotation of the DEGs and GO enrichment (II)



Input

DEGs



Output

MF

BP

CC

SEA analysis

Fisher and Benjamini-Hochberg multiple testing
(Q -value < 0.05)

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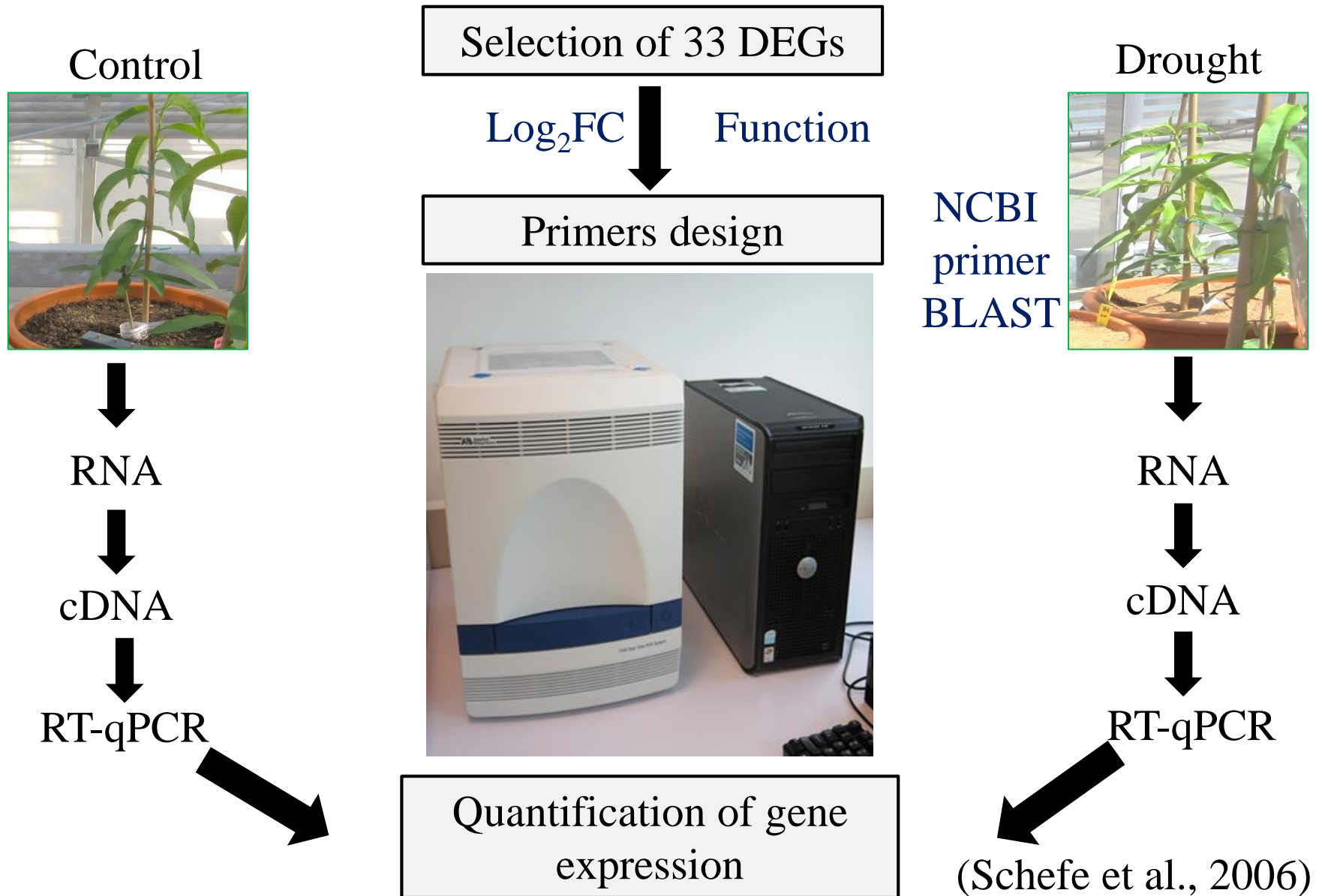
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3.4 Validation of RNA-seq reliability using RT-qPCR



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4.1 Physiological responses to drought stress



16 days
of drought



- Wilting
- Defoliation

(Jiménez et al., 2013)

| Treatments | SWC % | Ψ_s MPa | g_s mol H ₂ O m ⁻² s ⁻¹ | C_i μmol CO ₂ mol ⁻¹ | A_N μmol CO ₂ m ⁻² s ⁻¹ |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Well-watered | 26.63 ± 0.18 ^b | -0.73 ± 0.05 ^b | 0.56 ± 0.03 ^b | 277.30 ± 2.17 ^b | 20.82 ± 0.54 ^b |
| Water-deprived | 10.69 ± 0.28 ^a | -1.08 ± 0.02 ^a | 0.37 ± 0.03 ^a | 261.27 ± 4.27 ^a | 18.35 ± 0.42 ^a |

(Data are mean ± SE of n=6 replicates)

(Rahmati et al., 2015)

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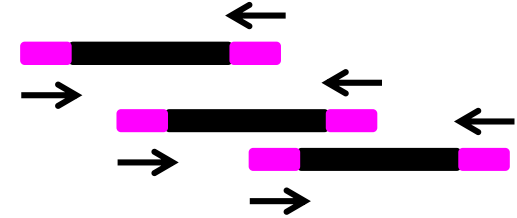
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4.2 Transcriptomic profile

Sequencing
(Paired-end)



| | Libraries | Raw reads (M) | Clean reads (M) | | | Mapped reads (M) | | |
|------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|------------------|----------|--------|
| | | | Paired | Unpaired | Total | Paired | Unpaired | Total |
| Root | RC 1 | 61.30 | 28.54 | 12.31 | 40.85 | 10.71 | 4.16 | 14.78 |
| | RC 2 | 25.52 | 10.10 | 5.15 | 15.25 | 7.83 | 4.07 | 11.90 |
| | RC 3 | 22.69 | 8.48 | 4.75 | 13.23 | 7.03 | 3.95 | 10.98 |
| | RD 1 | 24.97 | 9.37 | 5.04 | 14.41 | 7.49 | 4.05 | 11.54 |
| | RD 2 | 24.49 | 7.76 | 5.47 | 13.23 | 5.89 | 4.29 | 10.18 |
| | RD 3 | 20.81 | 8.14 | 4.79 | 12.93 | 6.51 | 3.81 | 10.32 |
| Leaf | LC 1 | 23.12 | 8.72 | 5.44 | 14.16 | 7.14 | 4.57 | 11.71 |
| | LC 2 | 23.02 | 9.05 | 5.30 | 14.35 | 7.48 | 4.51 | 11.99 |
| | LC 3 | 22.30 | 8.01 | 4.76 | 12.77 | 6.63 | 4.07 | 10.70 |
| | LD 1 | 22.00 | 8.33 | 4.42 | 12.75 | 6.77 | 3.75 | 10.84 |
| | LD 2 | 22.86 | 6.20 | 5.51 | 11.71 | 5.37 | 4.93 | 10.30 |
| | LD 3 | 22.00 | 8.63 | 4.33 | 12.96 | 7.20 | 3.78 | 10.38 |
| | Total | 315.08 | 121.33 | 67.27 | 188.60 | 86.05 | 49.94 | 135.99 |

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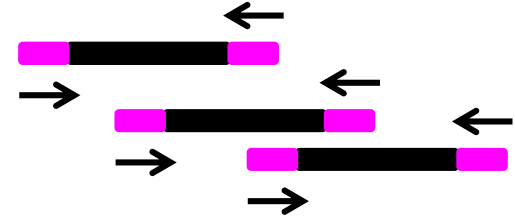
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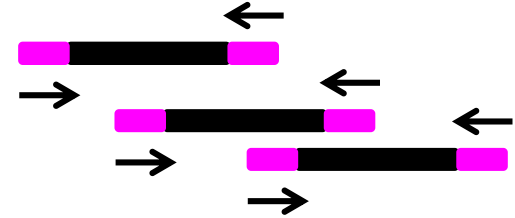
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| | Total | 315.08 | 121.33 | 67.27 | 188.60 | 86.05 | 49.94 | 135.99 |

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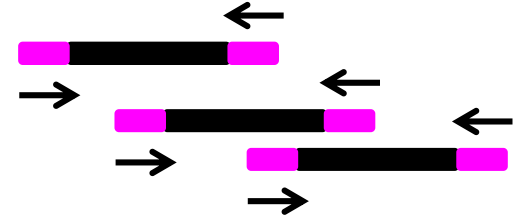
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| | LD 3 | 22.00 | 8.63 | 4.33 | 12.96 | 7.20 | 3.78 | 10.38 | |
| Total | | 315.08 | 121.33 | 67.27 | 188.60 | 86.05 | 49.94 | 135.99 | 72.34% |

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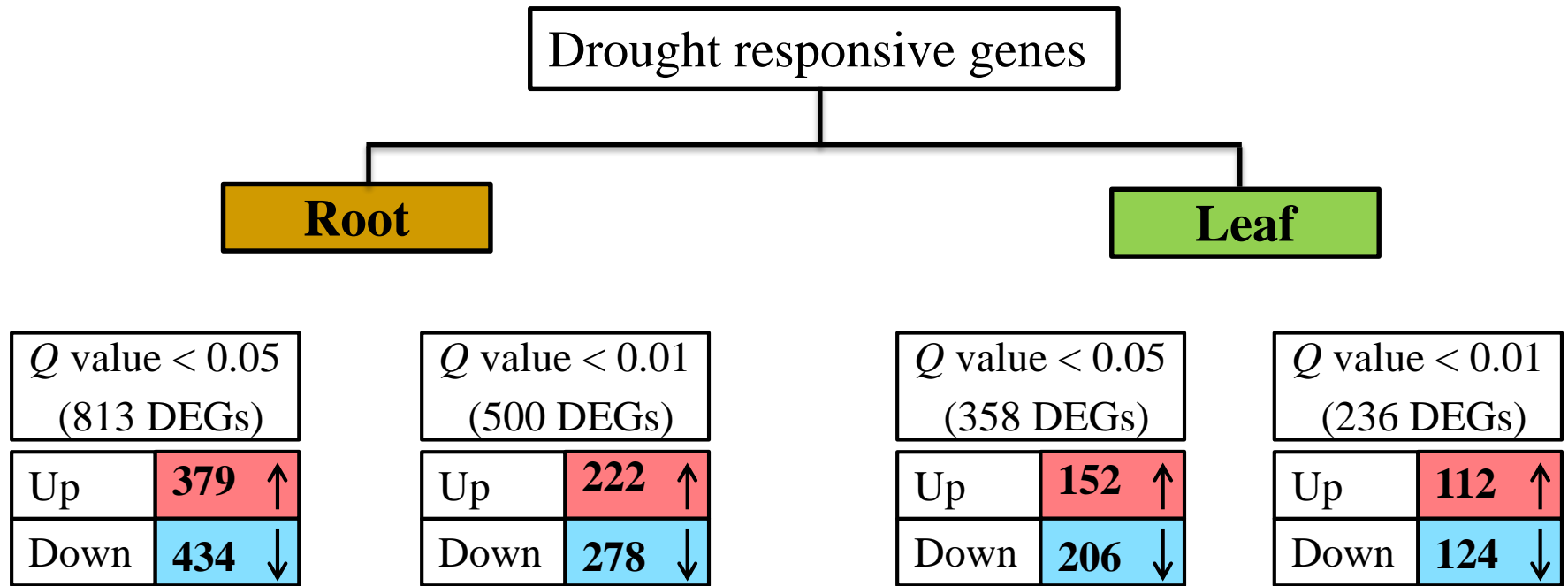
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4.3 Analysis of differentially expressed genes (DEGs)



x 2

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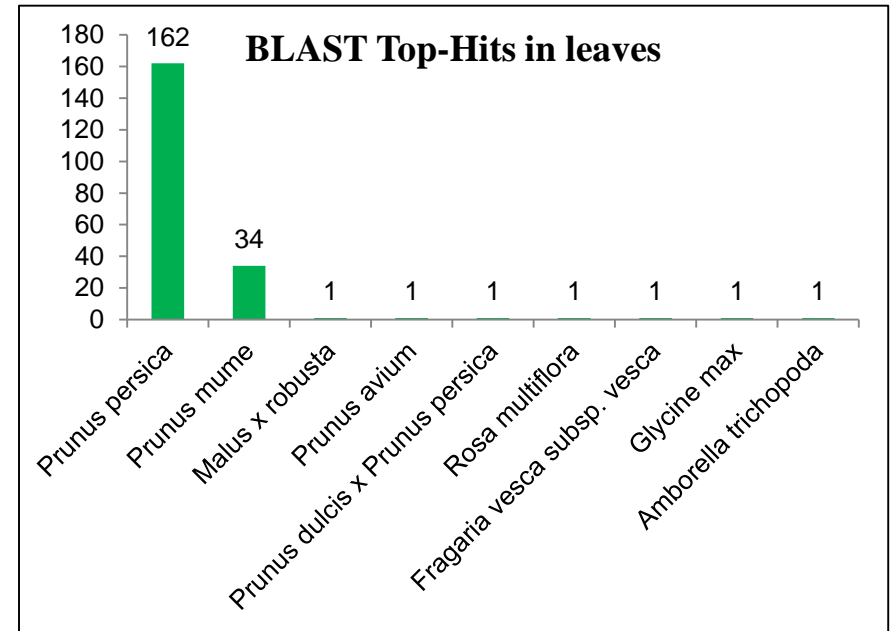
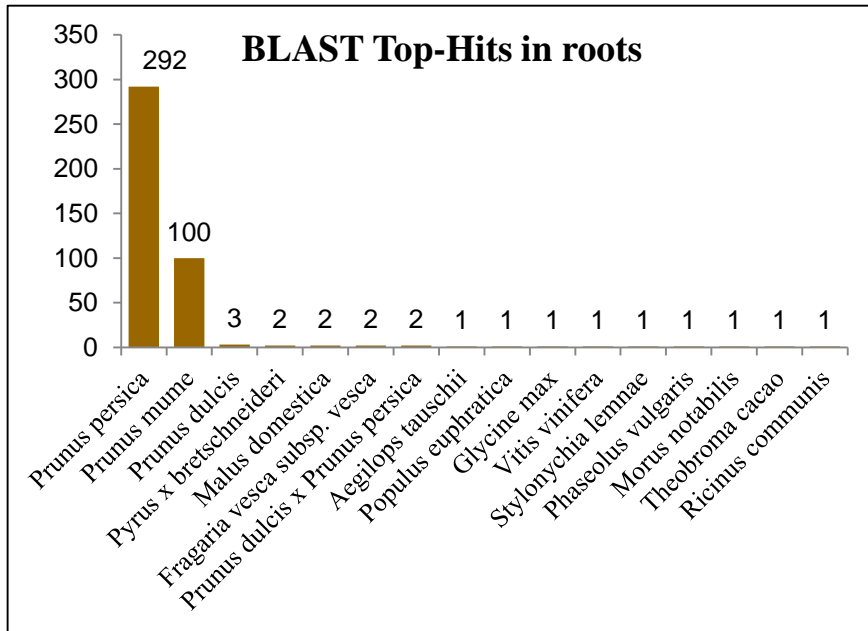
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4.4 Sequence homology searches



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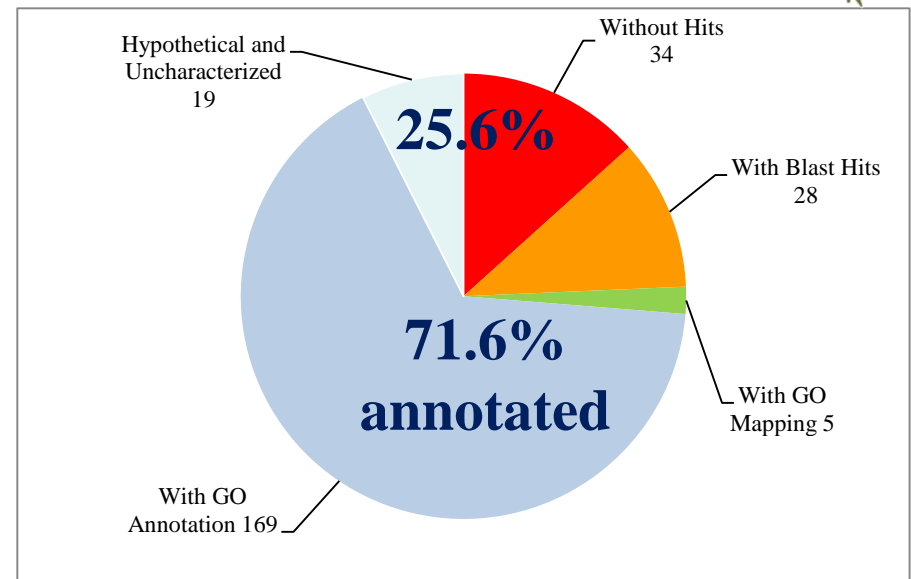
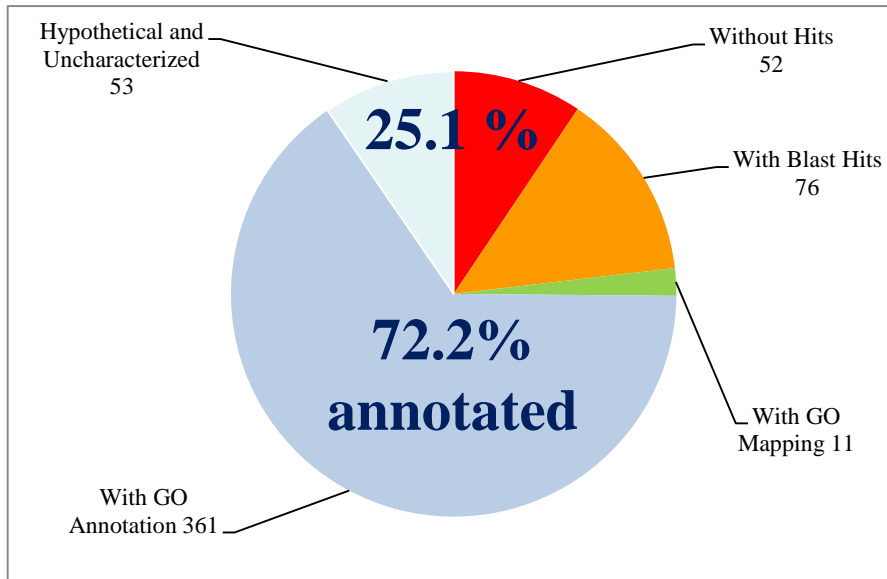
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4.5 Functional annotation of DEGs

Q value < 0.01
(DEGs) → GO annotation
Blast2GO



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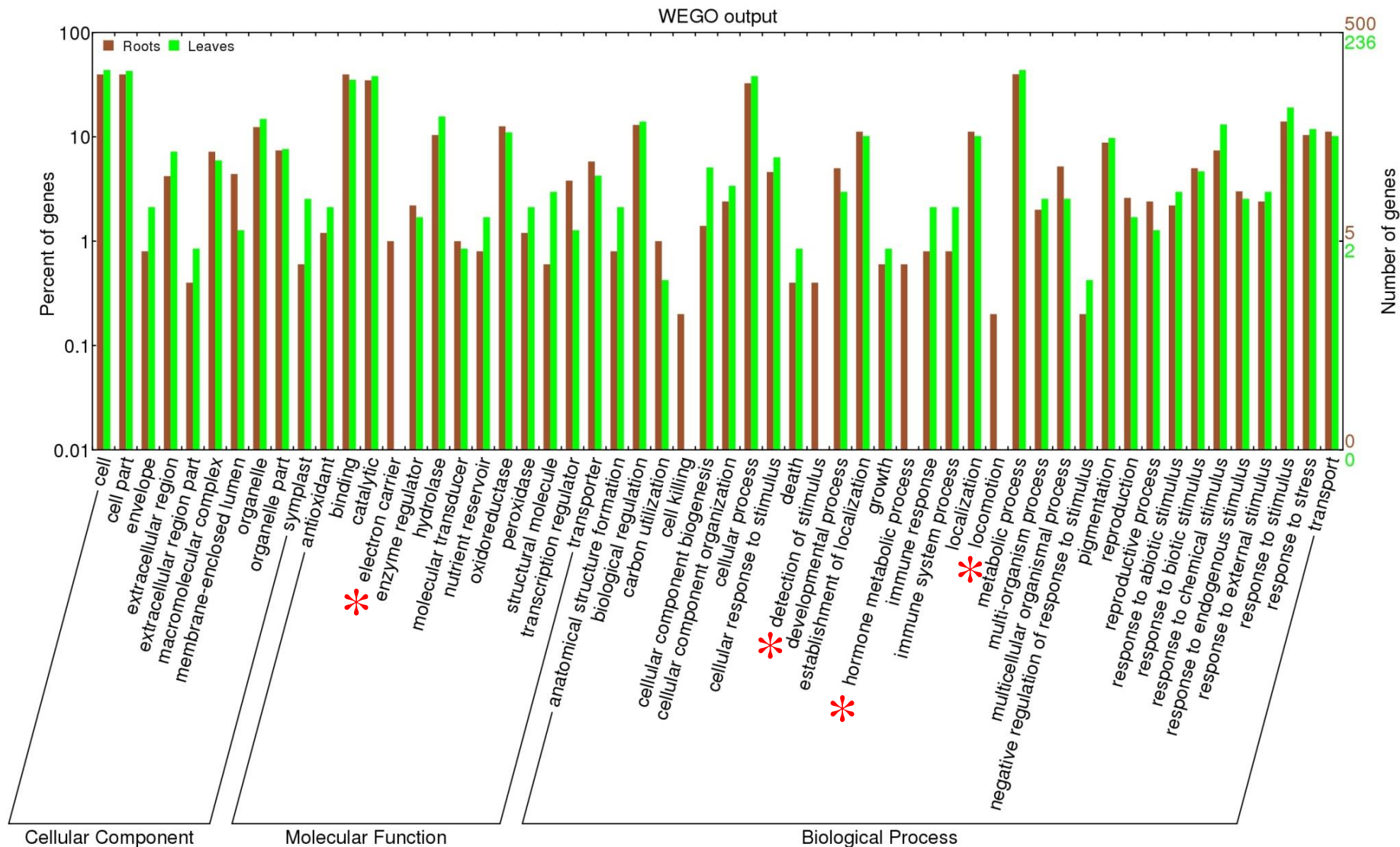
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4.5 Functional annotation of DEGs (56 GOs)



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4.6 Gene ontology enrichment GOs



3 GO terms (data not shown)



26 GO terms (Biological process and molecular function)

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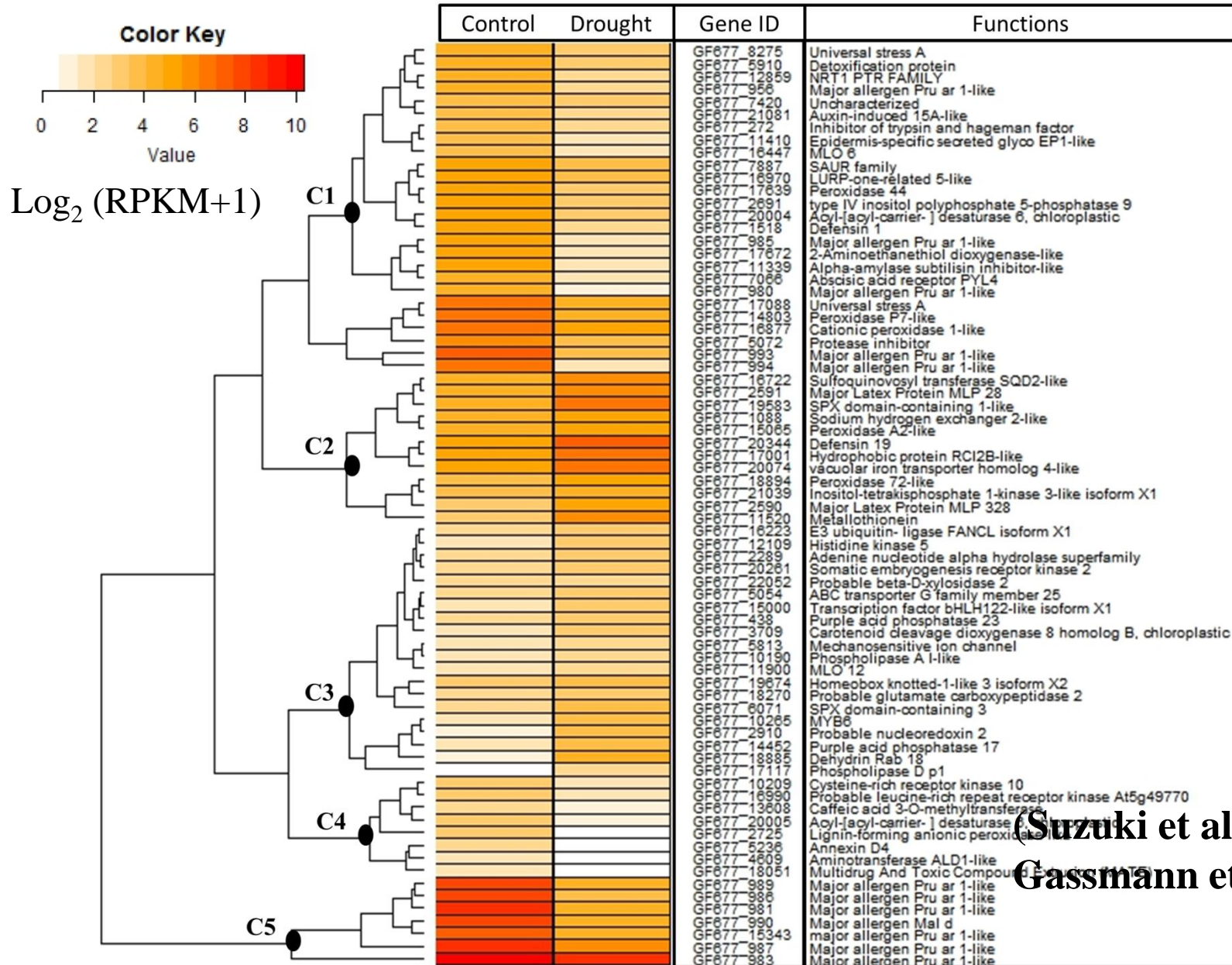
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4.6 Gene ontology enrichment GOs (II)



(Suzuki et al., 2013;
Gassmann et al., 2016)

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4.7 Functional characterization of DEGs

Regulatory

- Signaling and transcriptional regulation

Functional

- Cell protection and damage repair

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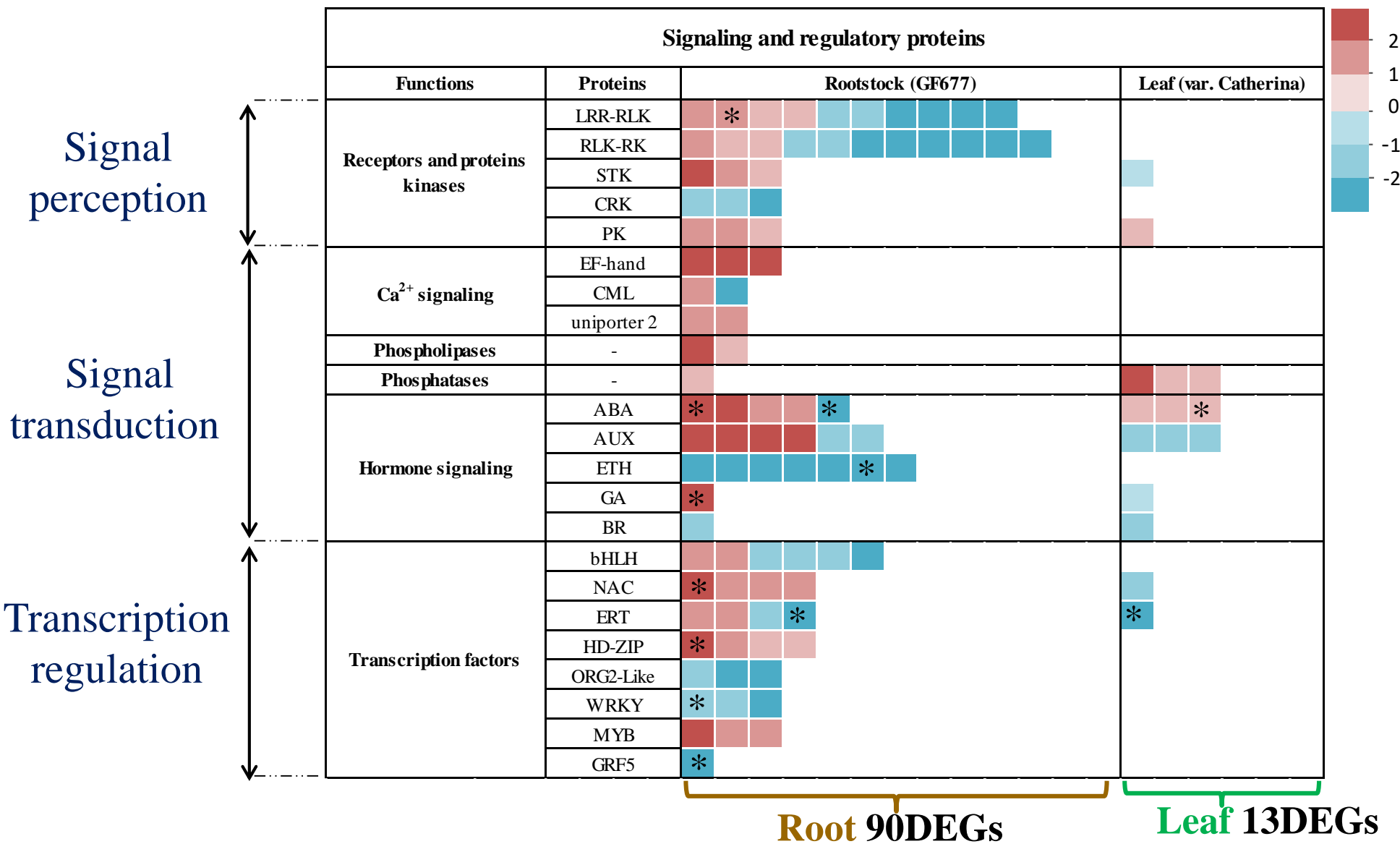
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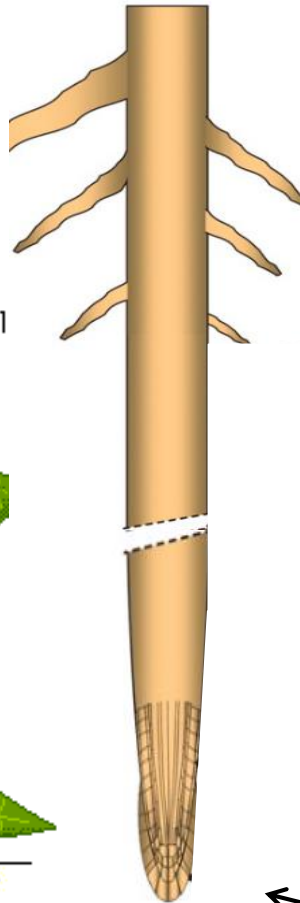
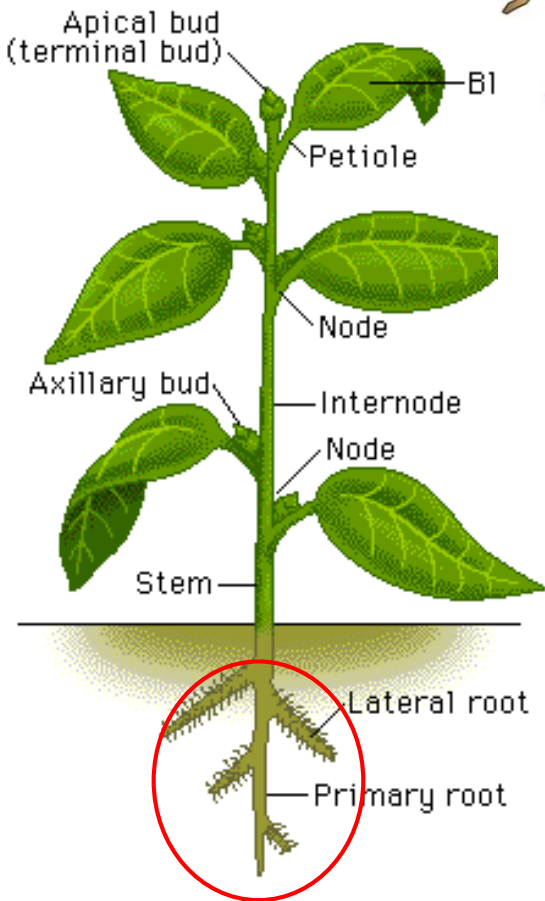
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4.7.1 Regulatory role of DEGs

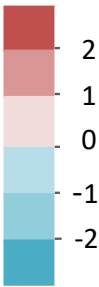




| Signaling and regulatory proteins | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
| AUX | | |

AUX

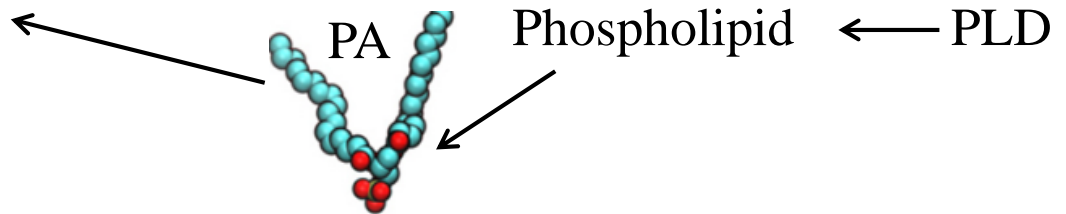
(Böttcher et al., 2012)



| Signaling and regulatory proteins | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
| NAC | | |
| HD-ZIP | | |

(Huang et al., 2015; Ré et al., 2014)

| Signaling and regulatory proteins | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
| Phospholipases | | |



(McLoughlin and Testerink, 2013)

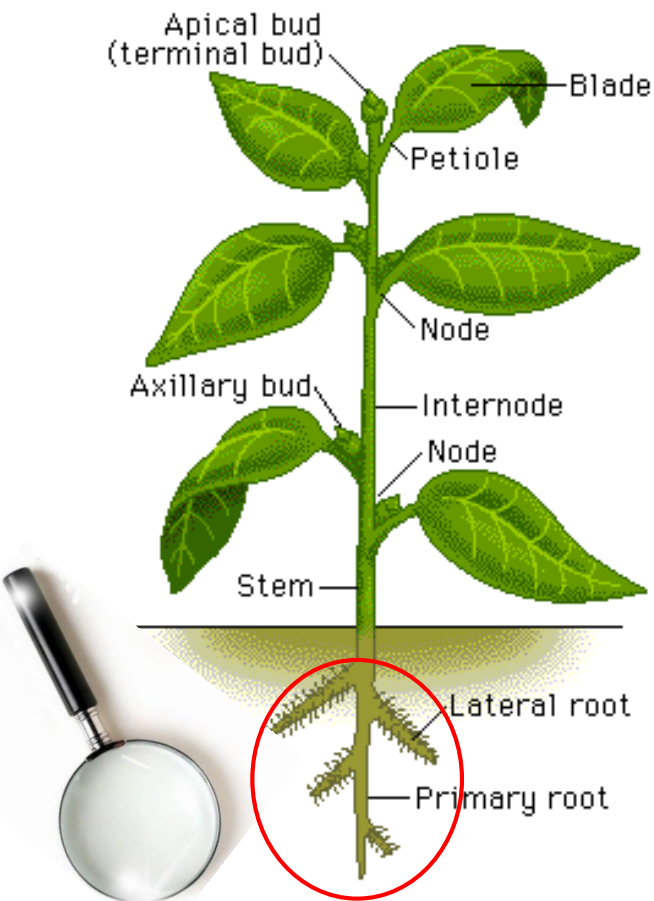
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| Signaling and regulatory proteins | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
| ABA | 2 | 1 |
| AUX | 2 | -1 |
| ETH | -2 | -1 |
| GA | 2 | -1 |
| BR | -1 | -1 |

Hormone metabolism

Biosynthesis

ABA (NCED3)
ETH (ACO1)

Catabolism

AUX (GH.3) |
GA (GA2OX2) |

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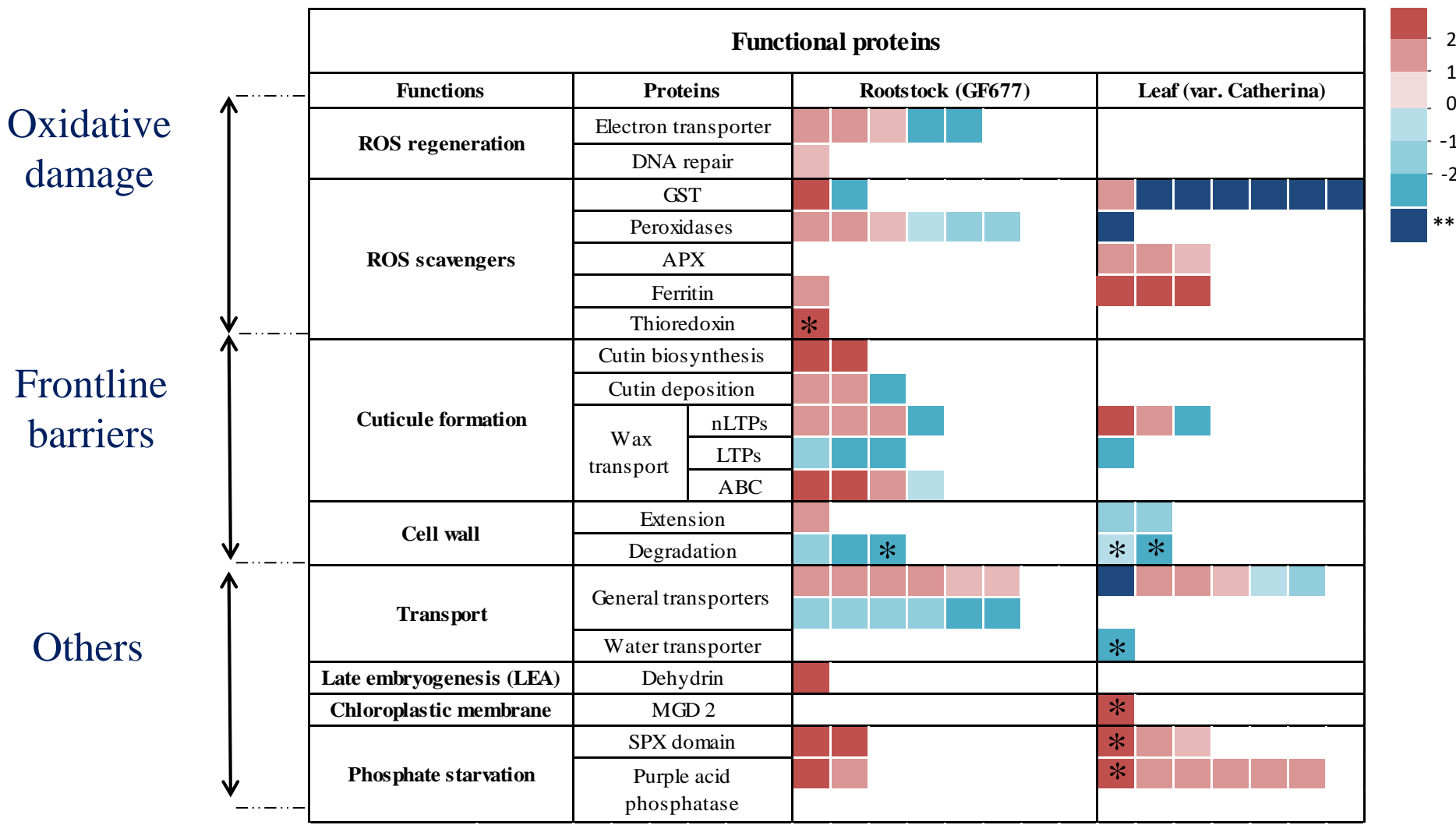
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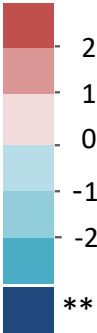
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4.7.2 Functional role of DEGs

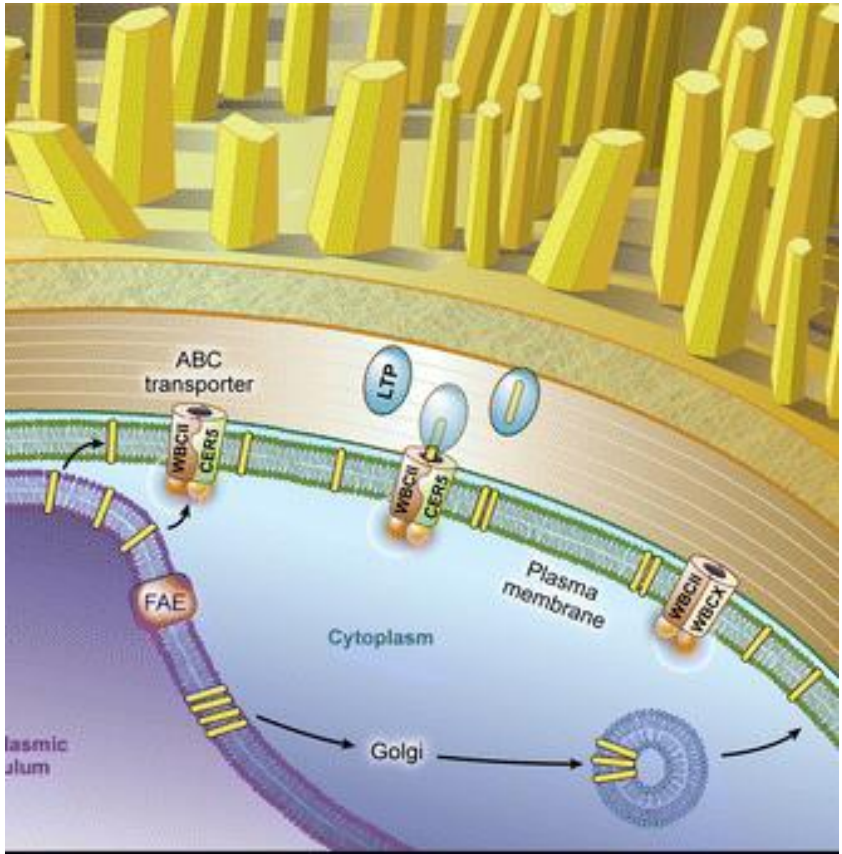


4.7.2 Functional role of DEGs

| Functional proteins | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Functions | Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
| ROS regeneration | Electron transporter | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |
| | DNA repair | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | |



| Functions | Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ROS scavengers | GST | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| | Peroxidases | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| | APX | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| | Ferritin | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |
| | Thioredoxin | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> | <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> |



| Functions | Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cuticle formation | Cutin biosynthesis | ■ ■ ■ | |
| | Cutin deposition | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ | |
| | Wax transport | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ |
| | | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ | ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ |

Cuticle

Cell wall

| Functions | Proteins | Rootstock (GF677) | Leaf (var. Catherina) |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Cell wall | Extension | ■ | ■ ■ ■ |
| | Degradation | ■ ■ ■ * | * ■ * |

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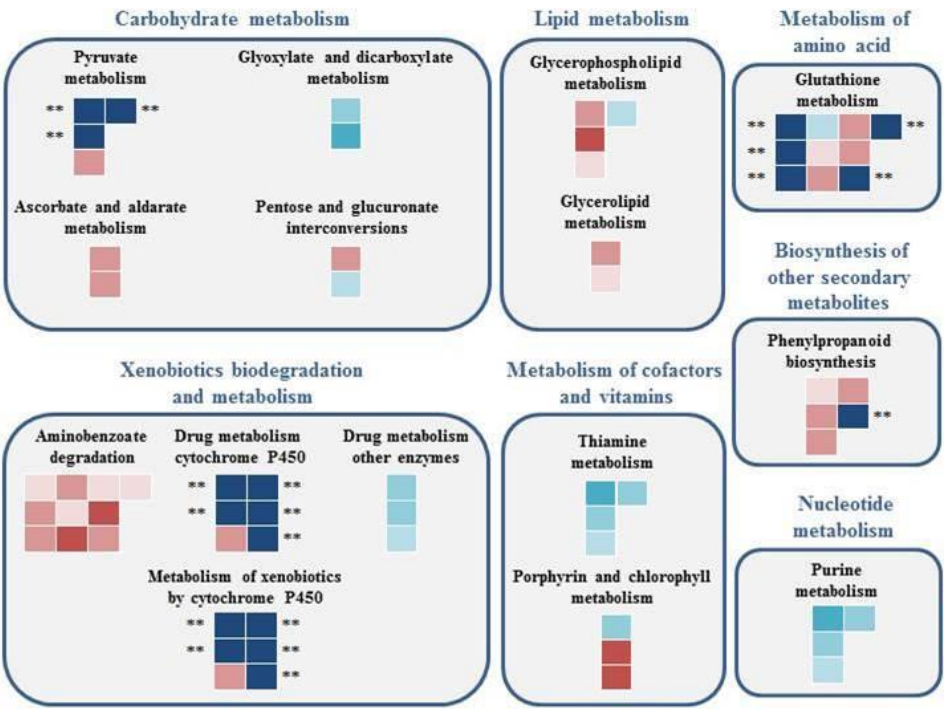
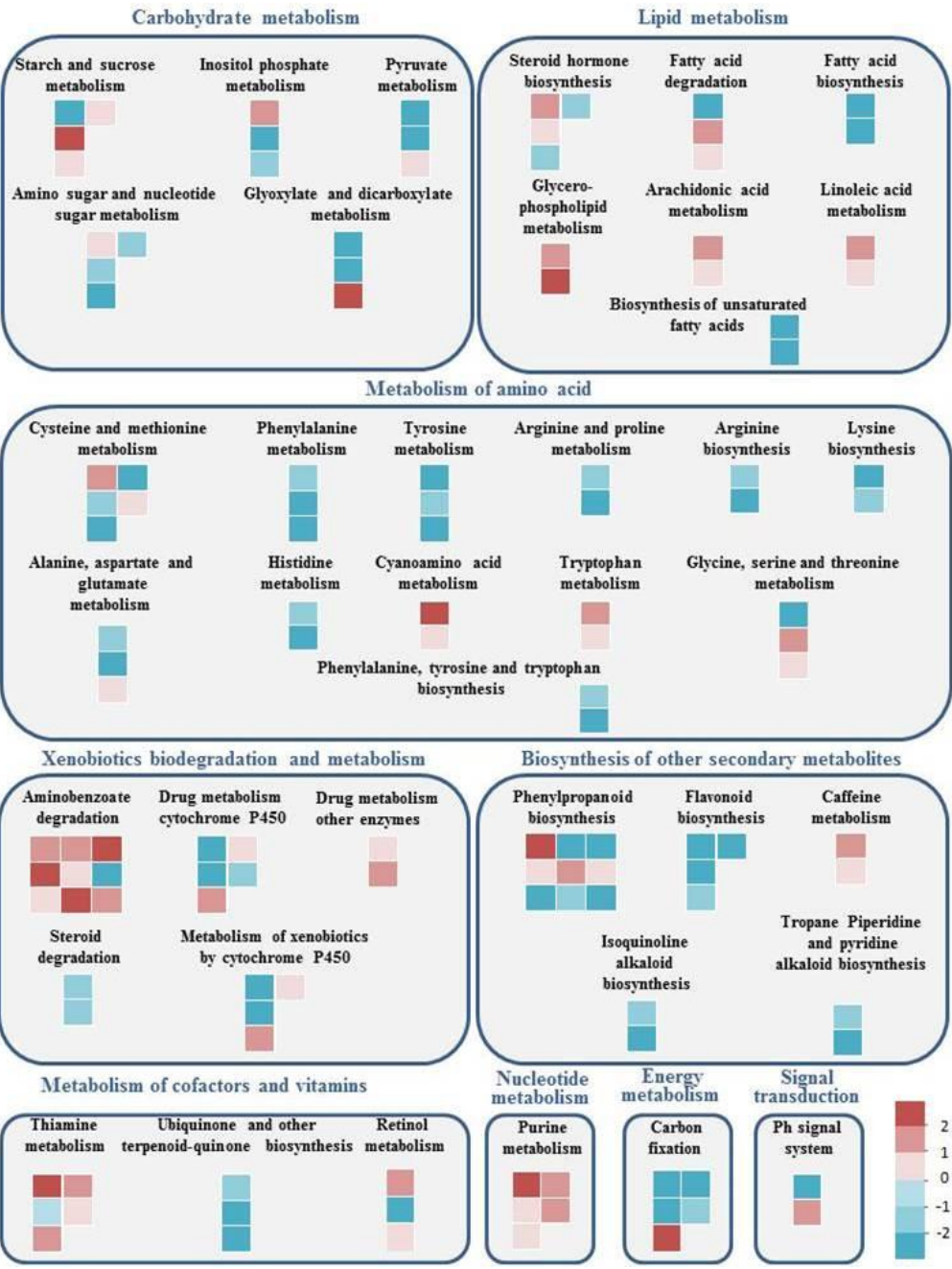
Results and
Discussion

Conclusions

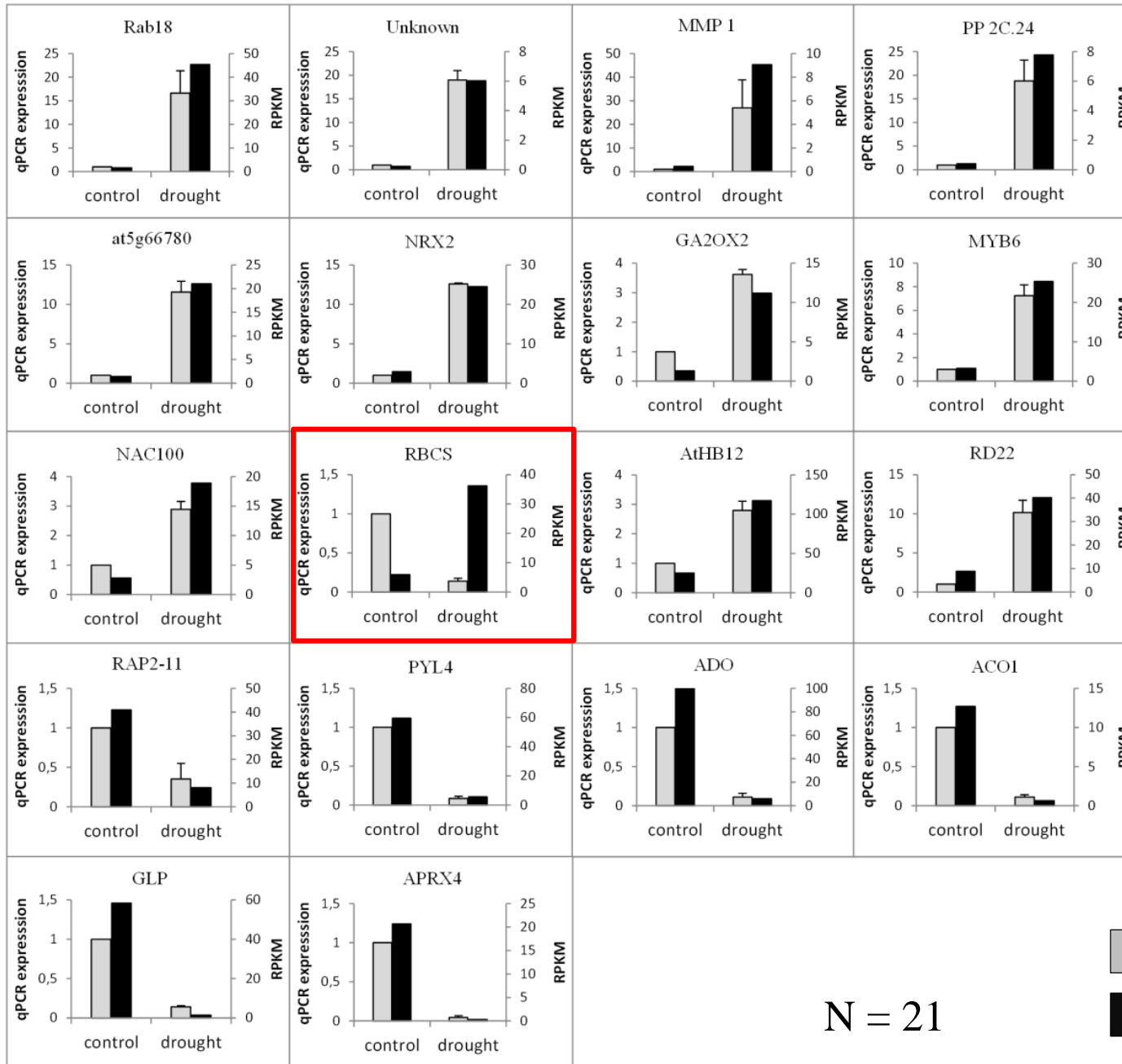
4.8 Metabolic pathways

Root

Leaf



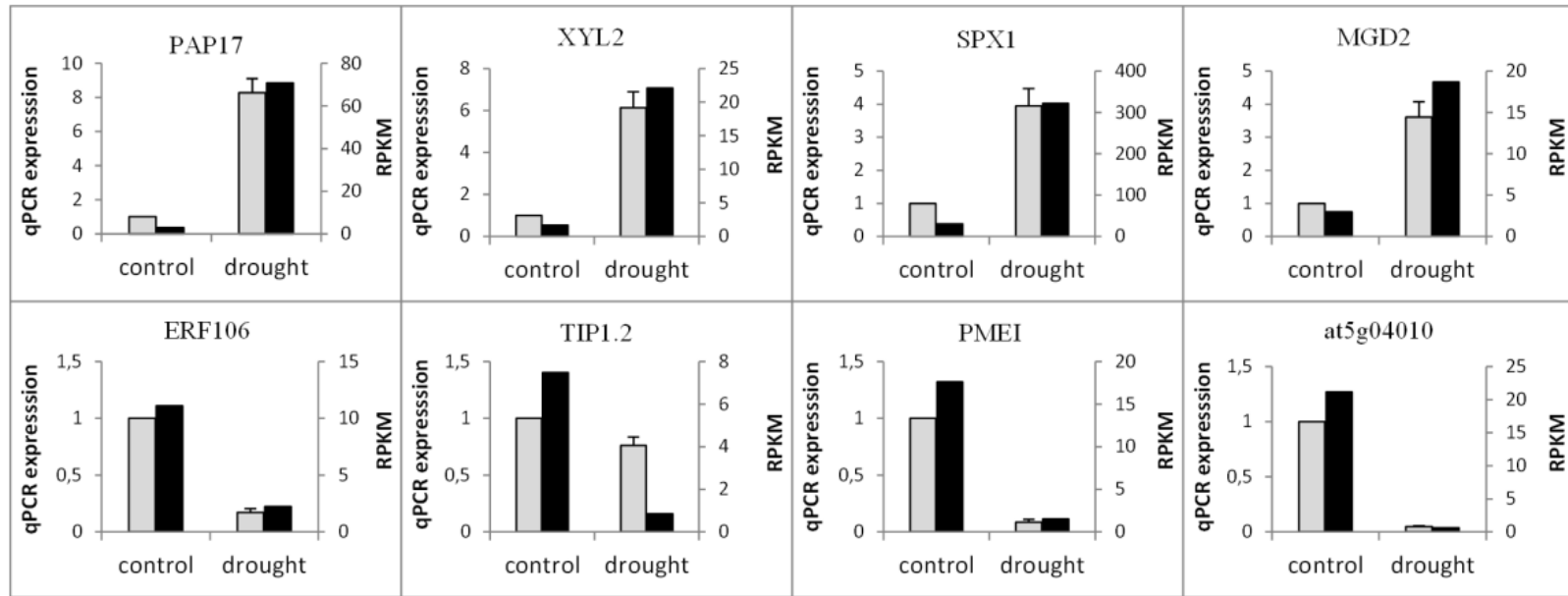
4.9 Validation of RNA-seq reliability using RT-qPCR



N = 21

RT-qPCR
RPKM

4.9 Validation of RNA-seq reliability using RT-qPCR



N = 12

RT-qPCR
RPKM

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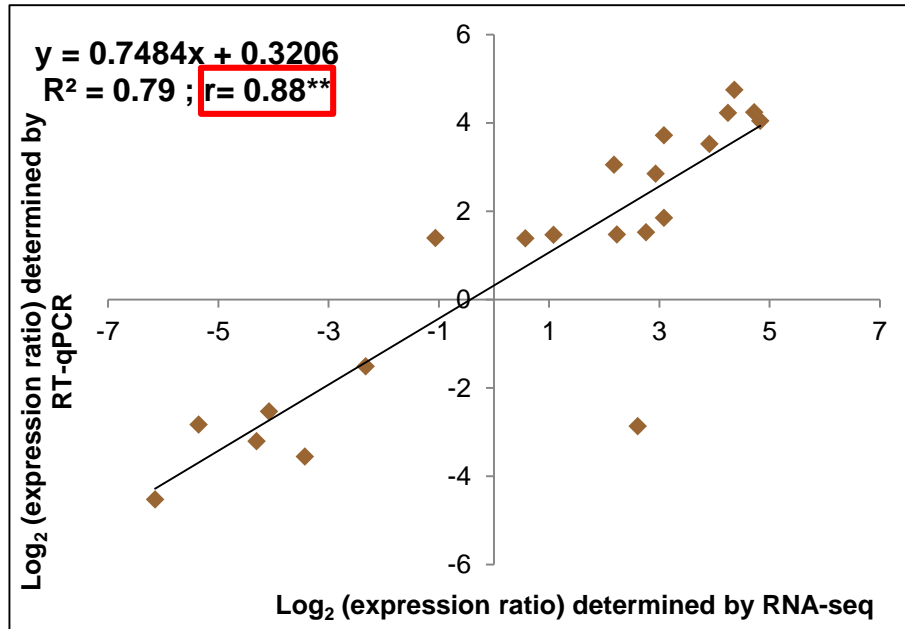
Conclusions

4.9 Validation of RNA-seq reliability using RT-qPCR (II)



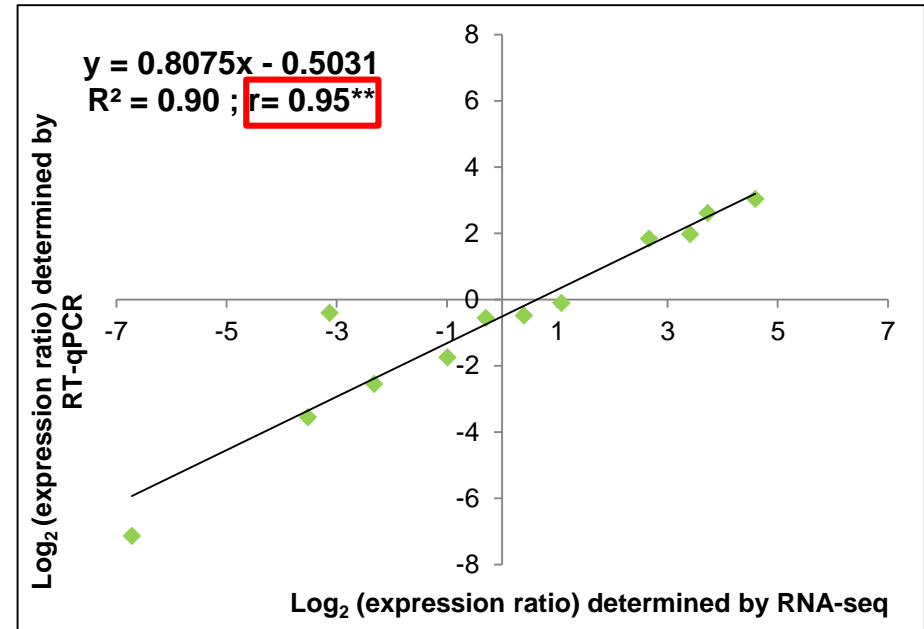
Root

N = 21



Leaf

N = 12



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5- *Conclusions*

1. RNA-seq is a powerful tool for exploring the diversity of differentially expressed genes expressed in different tissues, however, the analysis of these results is complex and should be validated through other approaches such as RT-qPCR.
2. This study is the first that simultaneously evaluates the effect of drought on roots and on leaves of a grafted variety of peach, observing changes at the physiological and transcriptional level.
3. The differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in roots are approximately twice the number of DEGs found in leaves, suggesting thereby that roots undergo more complex gene regulation, highlighting the role of rootstock as stress buffer during water deprivation.

5- Conclusions (II)

4. Functional annotation allows dissecting molecular aspects of drought responses, selection of candidate genes, and the formulation of hypotheses that can be validated experimentally.
5. Absciscic acid (ABA) is the only inducible hormone under drought stress conditions, while other hormones, and their associated metabolic pathways, are repressed.
6. GRF5 and AtHB12 are candidate genes potentially involved in drought stress adaptation providing thus a good starting point for investigation in *P. persica*.

Transcriptional Responses in root and leaf of *Prunus persica* Under Drought Stress Using RNA Sequencing

Ksouri et al., 2016

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Thank you for your attention

