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Caracterização funcional do gene *VviAGL11* durante a morfogênese da semente em videira e seu potencial uso biotecnológico

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SEMENTE

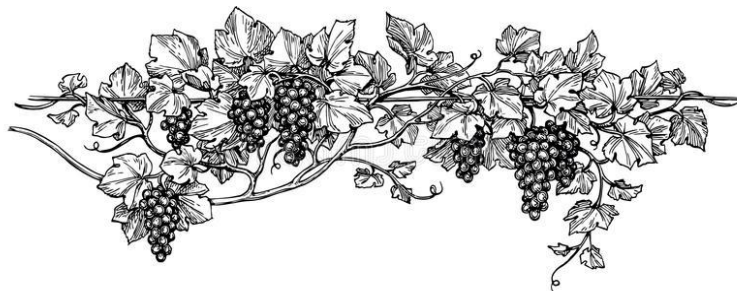
Compositores: Almir Eduardo Melke Sater / Paulo Jorge Simões Correa Filho

Atirei minha semente na terra onde tudo dá
Chuva veio de repente carregou levou pro mar
Quando as águas foram embora plantei sonhos no chão
Mais demora minha gente ter na horta um verde puro
Ou dar fruto bem maduro um pomar

Meu adubo foi amor
Esperança o regador
Bem na hora da colheita
Lá se vai a ilusão
Foi geada e a seca me
Queimando a floração

Me doeu a impotência diante da sorte má
Então eu fiz paciência bem maior do que o azar
Convoquei os meus duendes pra fazer mutirão
Logo um toque de magia passou de mão em mão

Esse ano com certeza
Desengano vai ter fim
Natureza tem seus planos
Mas não sabe ser ruim
Tão seguro quanto o ar
Ser mais quente no verão
Da semente sai futuro
Nem que seja temporão



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LISTA DE ABREVIATURAS, SÍMBOLOS E UNIDADES

% - percentagem

AG - gene *AGAMOUS*

AGL11 – gene *AGAMOUS-LIKE 11*

AP1 – gene *APETALA 1*

AP2 – gene *APETALA 2*

AP3 – gene *APETALA 3*

AtAGL11 - gene *AGAMOUS-LIKE* de *Arabidopsis thaliana*

AVAG2 - gene *AGAMOUS 2* de *Asparagus*

BPC1 - gene *BASIC PENTACYSTEINE 1*

BS - gene *B SISTER*

cDNA – DNA complementar (do inglês, *complementary DNA*)

Col-0 - *Arabidopsis thaliana* acesso Columbia-0

DNA – ácido desoxirribonucleico (do inglês, *deoxyribonucleic acid*)

DAF – dias após a fecundação

DEF - gene *DEFICIENS*

DNase – desoxirribonuclease

EgMADS1 - gene *MADS-Box 1* de *Eustoma grandiflorum*

ESTs – etiquetas ou marcas de sequências expressas (do inglês, *Expressed Sequence Tags*)

FAO – Organização das Nações Unidas para Agricultura e Alimentação (do inglês, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*)

FBP7 - gene codificador da *FLORAL BINDING PROTEIN 7*

FBP11 - gene codificador da *FLORAL BINDING PROTEIN 11*

GFP - proteína verde fluorescente (do inglês *Green Fluorescent Protein*)

GUS - β -glicuronidase

INDEL - mutação de inserção ou deleção de nucleotídeos (do inglês *Insertion or Deletion*)

LMADS2 – gene *MADS-Box 2* de *Lilium*

Mcm1 - gene *minichromosome maintenance 1*

MAS - seleção assistida por marcadores (do inglês, *marker assisted selection*)

mRNA – RNA mensageiro (do inglês, *messenger RNA*)

NT - não tratadas

OGM - Organismos Geneticamente Modificados

OIV - Organização Internacional da Uva e do Vinho (do francês, *Organization Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin*)

OsMADS13 - gene *MADS-Box 13* de *Oryza sativa*

OX- superexpressão (do inglês, *overexpression*)

pb – par(es) de bases

PCR – reação em cadeia da DNA polimerase (do inglês, *polymerase chain reaction*)

PhalAG2 - gene *AGAMOUS 2* de *Phalaenopsis*

PI - gene *PISTILATTA*

QTL- locus de característica quantitativa (do inglês, *quantitative trait locus*)

RNA – ácido ribonucleico (do inglês, *ribonucleic acid*)

RNAi - RNA de interferência

RT-qPCR – PCR quantitativa precedida de transcrição reversa (do inglês, *reverse transcription-quantitative PCR*)

SdI - inibidor do desenvolvimento da semente (do inglês *Seed Development Inhibitor*)

SEP1 – gene *SEPALLATA 1*

SEP2 - gene *SEPALLATA 2*

SEP3 - gene *SEPALLATA 3*

SEP4 - gene *SEPALLATA 4*

SHP1 - gene *SHATTERPROOF 1*

SHP2 - gene *SHATTERPROOF 2*

SNP- polimorfismo de nucleotídeo único (do inglês *Single Nucleotide Polymorphism*)

SOC - gene *SUPPRESSOR OF OVEREXPRESSION OF CONSTANCE 1*

SRF - gene *SERUM RESPONSE FACTOR*

SSR- repetição de sequência única (do inglês *Single Sequence Repeat*)

STK - gene *SEEDSTICK*

stk - mutante de *A. thaliana* que não expressa o gene *STK/AtAGL11*

T1 - primeira geração transgênica (do inglês, *First Filial Generation of Transgenic*)

TYLCV- Vírus do Amarelamento e Enrolamento da Folha do Tomateiro (do inglês, *Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus*)

VviAGL11 - gene *AGAMOUS-LIKE 11* de *Vitis vinifera* (*VvAG3*)

WT - tipo-selvagem (do inglês, *wild-type*)

ZAG2 - gene *AGAMOUS 2* de *Zea mays*

ZMM1 - gene *MADS-BOX 1* de *Zea mays* (*ZMADS1*)

RESUMO

A ausência de semente em videira, também chamada de apirenia, é amplamente apreciada pelo mercado consumidor de uvas de mesa. No entanto, os mecanismos moleculares que controlam a morfogênese da semente não são totalmente compreendidos. Por este trabalho, buscou-se caracterizar funcionalmente o gene candidato *VviAGL11*, avaliando seu papel na morfogênese de sementes de *Vitis vinifera*. Dados prévios permitiram determinar o padrão de expressão de *VviAGL11* na camada da endotesta da casca da semente, que precisa alongar e aumentar o número de células para que haja a lignificação e a determinação do tamanho final da semente. No presente estudo, a função de *VviAGL11* foi avaliada por meio de sua expressão ectópica no mutante de *seedstick (AGL11)* de *Arabidopsis thaliana*, o que restaurou o fenótipo e confirmou o papel direto deste gene no desenvolvimento da semente, sugerindo que a depleção de sua expressão é responsável pelo desenvolvimento errôneo da camada de endotesta da semente, culminando no fenótipo de apirenia típico. Além disso, a função de *VviAGL11* foi avaliada em videira com o uso de plasmídeos vegetais. Os resultados permitiram demonstrar que a alta expressão de *VviAGL11* na cultivar apirênica Linda, após tratamento, está relacionada com a presença de pequenas sementes que não foram encontradas nas amostras-controle não tratadas. Além disso, cachos de ‘Italia’ e ‘Ruby’ tratados com o plasmídeo de silenciamento *VviAGL11* mostraram diminuição da expressão desse gene, número reduzido de sementes e aumento do número de traços de sementes. Em conjunto, os resultados confirmam que *VviAGL11* é um importante regulador da morfogênese de sementes em videira. Em adição, populações segregantes para ausência de sementes foram testadas com cinco marcadores SSR, dos quais três marcadores microsatélites mostraram-se relacionados à ausência de sementes e poderiam ser usados com 100% de eficiência em um haplótipo para seleção assistida. Ao mesmo tempo, nove marcadores do tipo *SNPs* e *INDELS* foram desenvolvidos com base na sequência do alelo de *VviAGL11* associado à ausência de sementes em *V. vinifera*. Para os marcadores *VvAGL11_KASP_2*, *VvAGL11_KASP_3*, *VvAGL11_KASP_8* e *VvAGL11_KASP_9*, polimorfismos foram observados segregando em indivíduos apirênicos genotipados, confirmando sua associação com a ausência de sementes e sugerindo seu uso na estratégia de seleção assistida rápida e eficaz de videiras apirênicas.

ABSTRACT

Grapevine seedlessness, also known as apyreny, is widely appreciated by the table grape's market. Nevertheless, the molecular mechanisms that control seed morphogenesis are not fully understood. This study aimed to characterize the function of the candidate gene *VviAGL11*, evaluating its role in *Vitis vinifera* seed morphogenesis. Previous data allowed us to determine the *VviAGL11* expression pattern in the endotesta layer of the seed coat, which needs to elongate and increase in cell number to accomplish seed lignification and final seed size. In the present study *VviAGL11* function was evaluated by its ectopic expression in *Arabidopsis thaliana seedstick (AGL11)* mutant background, which restored the phenotype and confirmed the direct role of this gene in seed development, suggesting that depletion of its expression is responsible for the erroneous development of the endotesta layer of the seed, therefore culminating in the typical seedless phenotype. Furthermore, we evaluated *VviAGL11* function in grapevine with the use of plant plasmids. The results showed that a high expression of *VviAGL11* in the seedless cultivar Linda, after treatment, was related with the presence of small seeds that were not found in untreated control samples. Additionally, seeded 'Italia' and 'Ruby' bunches treated with a *VviAGL11*-silencing plasmid showed decreased gene expression, reduced number of seeds and increased number of seed traces. Taken together, the results confirm that *VviAGL11* is a key master regulator of seed morphogenesis in grapevine. Moreover, segregating populations for seedlessness were tested with five SSR markers of which three microsatellite markers were proven to be related with seedlessness and could be used with 100% efficiency in a haplotype for assisted selection. Additionally, nine unique *SNPs* and *INDELS* markers were developed based on *VviAGL11* allele associated with the absence of seeds in *V. vinifera*. For the markers VvAGL11_KASP_2, VvAGL11_KASP_3, VvAGL11_KASP_8 and VvAGL11_KASP_9, polymorphisms were observed segregating in genotyped seedless individuals, confirming their seedlessness association and suggesting their use in fast and effective assisted selection strategy for seedlessness grapevines.

1 INTRODUÇÃO

1.1 A CULTURA DA VIDEIRA

A videira (*Vitis* sp. L.) é uma das frutíferas mais cultivadas mundialmente (MARINVAL, 1997; OIV, 2016). Seu uso antrópico possui origens antigas, datando em mais de 8.000 anos, nos quais antigas civilizações manejaram seu cultivo inicialmente na área mediterrânea visando a produção de vinho e, posteriormente, propagando a viticultura mundialmente devido à adaptabilidade de diferentes variedades a diversos solos e condições climáticas (LACIRIGNOLA & DIGIARO, 1999; THIS *et al.*, 2006). Na atualidade, a uva é a 4ª fruta mais produzida no mundo com 75,7 milhões de toneladas de frutos produzidos em 2016, sendo que a Europa é responsável por 40% da produção mundial, seguida pela Ásia (31 %) e pela América (20 %) (OIV, 2016). O grande apelo comercial desta fruta de clima temperado é justificado pelo consumo de suas bagas em diversos produtos como vinhos (48 %), consumo de uvas de mesa *in natura* (36 %), produção de uvas passas (8 %) e produtos de menor impacto como sucos, geleias, etanol, vinagre, óleo de sementes, ácido tartárico e fertilizantes (FASOLI *et al.*, 2012; OIV, 2016). A viticultura é uma atividade tradicional em países de clima temperado e, recentemente, tem ganhado significância em diversas regiões de clima subtropical e tropical. Essa característica abre perspectivas para uma grande expansão na viticultura tropical, principalmente para a produção de uvas de mesa, sendo que o Brasil ocupa o 6º lugar na produção mundial neste quesito (FAO, 2010; OIV, 2016).

Programas de melhoramento de videiras têm focado esforços na geração de cultivares com determinadas características organolépticas como sabor moscatel, suculência e crocância (LAHOGUE *et al.*, 1998; CAMARGO *et al.*, 2005; FANIZZA *et al.*, 2005). Além disso, o tamanho das bagas e a ausência de sementes, denominada apirenia, são as principais características apreciadas por consumidores de uvas de mesa (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000; CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006). Nas últimas duas décadas, a comercialização mundial de uva *in natura* teve um aumento considerável, com a produção mundial de uva de mesa passando de 25 % da produção total de uvas em 2000, para 36 % em 2014, contabilizando ~27 milhões de toneladas por ano, segundo dados da Organização Internacional da Uva e do Vinho (OIV, do francês, *Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin*) e da Organização das Nações Unidas para Agricultura e Alimentação (FAO, do inglês, *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*). Porém, a produção de uvas para essa finalidade cresceu a taxas anuais

próximas de 13 %, não acompanhando a demanda do mercado consumidor (FAO, 2012, OIV, 2016). Essa expansão comercial gerou oportunidades de crescimento aos países produtores de uvas de mesa e criou competitividade entre os mercados exportadores das melhores uvas apirênicas (LAZZAROTTO & FIORAVANÇO, 2012). A compreensão dos mecanismos genéticos e moleculares controladores da apirenia em uvas de mesa possui grande relevância econômica uma vez que, em países altamente consumidores dessa fruta como os Estados Unidos da América e países europeus, as uvas apirênicas já dominam o mercado de uvas de mesa (NACHTIGAL, 2003; DE MELO, 2015).

1.2 MORFOGÊNESE DE SEMENTES E APIRENIA

1.2.1 Desenvolvimento Morfológico de Sementes

O táxon das Angiospermas é distinto dos demais táxons vegetais por possuir importantes características autapomórficas e, entre elas, a presença de flores e frutos. O nome “angiosperma” deriva da palavra grega *angeion*, que significa “vaso” ou “recipiente”, e *sperma*, que significa “semente” (RAVEN *et al.*, 2007). Neste táxon, as sementes encontram-se encerradas no interior de frutos que, por sua vez, são provenientes do desenvolvimento do ovário após a fecundação. Para a formação da semente e do fruto, é necessário que ocorra a dupla fecundação. Nela, o grão de pólen (gametófito masculino) germina em um pistilo que se desenvolve em um tubo no qual dois gametas masculinos são movidos em direção ao saco embrionário (gametófito feminino) que contém em particular a oosfera e os núcleos polares, além das células antípodas. Uma vez que o tubo polínico tenha atingido o saco embrionário, um dos gametas masculinos funde-se com a oosfera para formar um zigoto, e um gameta masculino funde-se aos núcleos polares, fusão tripla, formando um tecido poliploide que se desenvolve no endosperma (JENSEN, 1964; JENSEN & FISHER, 1968).

As sementes das angiospermas são estruturas especializadas que promovem a proteção do embrião, garantindo, assim, a propagação e a manutenção de suas espécies. A semente é composta por tegumentos, endosperma e embrião (BERGER *et al.*, 2006). Os tegumentos desenvolvem-se na casca da semente que se torna responsável por proteger o endosperma e o embrião de situações adversas até que haja condições favoráveis para a

germinação. O endosperma acumula os nutrientes necessários para o desenvolvimento inicial do embrião, e será consumido pelo esporófito em crescimento tanto antes da maturação da semente quanto depois dela. Já o embrião divide-se em duas partes, a radícula e o cotilédono, que germinarão para a formação de uma nova planta (RAVEN *et al.*, 2007). O endosperma e o embrião são ambos de origem tanto materna quanto paterna pois são gerados pela dupla fecundação, sendo o primeiro triplóide, proveniente da fecundação da célula central homodiplóide, e o segundo diploide, originado da fecundação da célula ovo haploide. Diferentemente, a casca da semente, formada pelas camadas de tegumento, possui apenas origem materna (BERGER *et al.*, 2006).

Na planta modelo *Arabidopsis thaliana*, o desenvolvimento da semente é dividido em duas fases distintas (Figura 1). A primeira é caracterizada pela proliferação e crescimento do endosperma, que aumenta o tamanho da semente em cerca de 100 vezes e traz grande contribuição para o seu tamanho final (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000). Em contraste, o crescimento do embrião ocorre durante a segunda fase, quando há a expansão do endosperma (JURGENS & MAYER, 1994). Mais detalhadamente, nos primeiros cinco dias, as duas camadas de células do tegumento externo do óvulo (Figura 1, a, superior, 1,2) e as três camadas de células do tegumento (a, superior, 3-5) sofrem um período de crescimento, visível de (a) para (b). Após essa etapa, as células de camadas individuais diferenciam-se (c) em tipos de células especializadas incluindo endotélio (5), paliçada (2) e epiderme (1), um processo quase completo dez dias após a fecundação (d). No estágio de maturação da semente, em torno de quinze dias após a fecundação (e), todas as células das camadas da casca estão mortas e foram esmagadas juntas, exceto pela epiderme, cuja forma é mantida por uma parede celular secundária espessa (HAUGHN & CHAUDHURY, 2005, Figura 1). Por meio da observação das fases de formação da semente, é possível verificar que o seu crescimento é ditado pelo desenvolvimento conjunto do endosperma e dos tegumentos (GARCIA *et al.*, 2005). Em adição, as camadas da casca da semente possuem um papel relevante na determinação do tamanho final da semente, que derivam de sua capacidade de alongamento, gerando, assim, um forte efeito materno neste processo (BERGER *et al.* 2006).

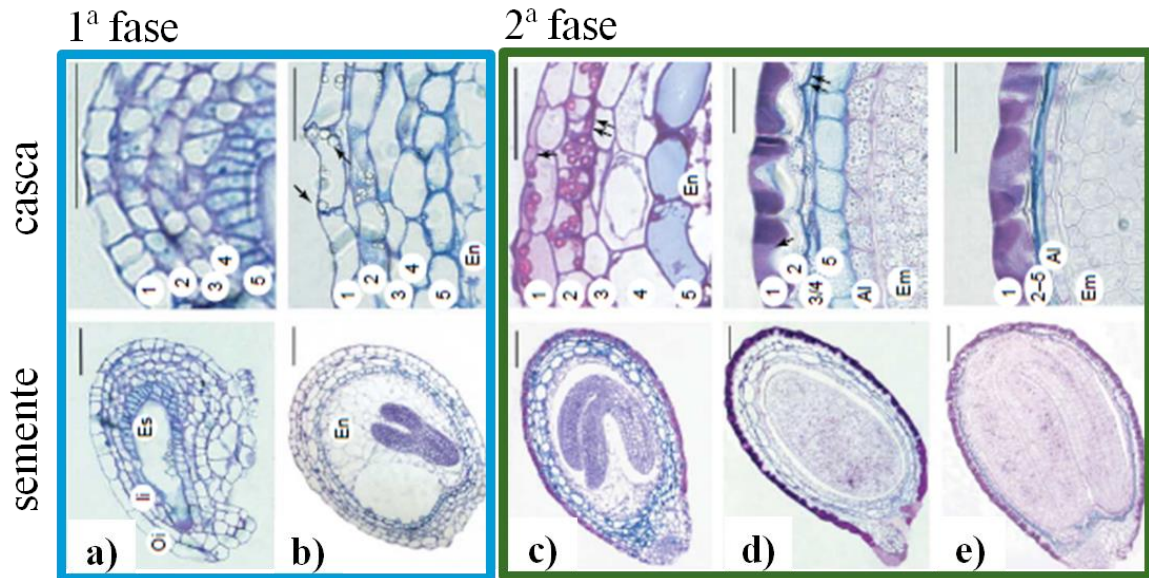


Figura 1. Tegumentos do óvulo em desenvolvimento para a formação da casca da semente, após a fecundação. O painel inferior mostra o desenvolvimento de sementes inteiras de *A. thaliana* enquanto que o painel superior mostra em detalhe as camadas da casca da semente. Sementes dois dias após a fecundação (DAF) (a); cinco DAF (b); sete DAF (c); dez DAF (d) e quinze DAF (e). Setas simples indicam plastídios contendo amido (b), mucilagem no apoplasto (c) ou formação de parede celular secundária na epiderme (d). Camadas de células do tegumento externo do óvulo (1 e 2 em a-b); camadas de células do tegumento (3, 4 e 5 em a-b); células de camadas individuais se diferenciam em tipos de células especializadas incluindo endotélio (5 em d-e), paliçada (2 em d-e) e epiderme (1 em d-e). As setas duplas indicam a parede celular secundária da camada paliçada (c, d). Abreviaturas: Al, aleurona do endosperma; Em, embrião; En, endosperma; Es, saco embrionário; Ii, tegumento interno; Oi, tegumento externo. Escala= 80 μ m (b – e, inferior); 40 μ m (a, inferior, a – e, superior). Adaptado de Haugh & Chaudhury (2005).

Apesar da relevância econômica da videira e do interesse em variedades com características diferenciadas quanto à produção e ao tamanho das sementes, poucos estudos abordaram as fases de desenvolvimento e a importância das camadas da semente de uva. A semente de videira (*V. vinifera*) possui uma forma específica de pera, com cortes transversais em formato de triângulo (CADOT *et al.*, 2006). O entorno da semente é coberto por uma camada de cutícula que se localiza acima de uma camada de epiderme. O tegumento externo pode ser dividido em exotesta e endotesta, que são a camada externa e interna,

respectivamente, do tegumento externo (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017). Já o tegumento interno possui três camadas que envolvem o endosperma e por sua vez o embrião (Figura 2, PRATT, 1971). A cor da semente modifica-se ao longo de seu amadurecimento, iniciando com coloração verde até marrom escuro quando em maturação. Isso ocorre devido ao endurecimento da casca e da concomitante oxidação dos compostos fenólicos (RIBEREAU-GAYON & PEYNAUD, 1980).

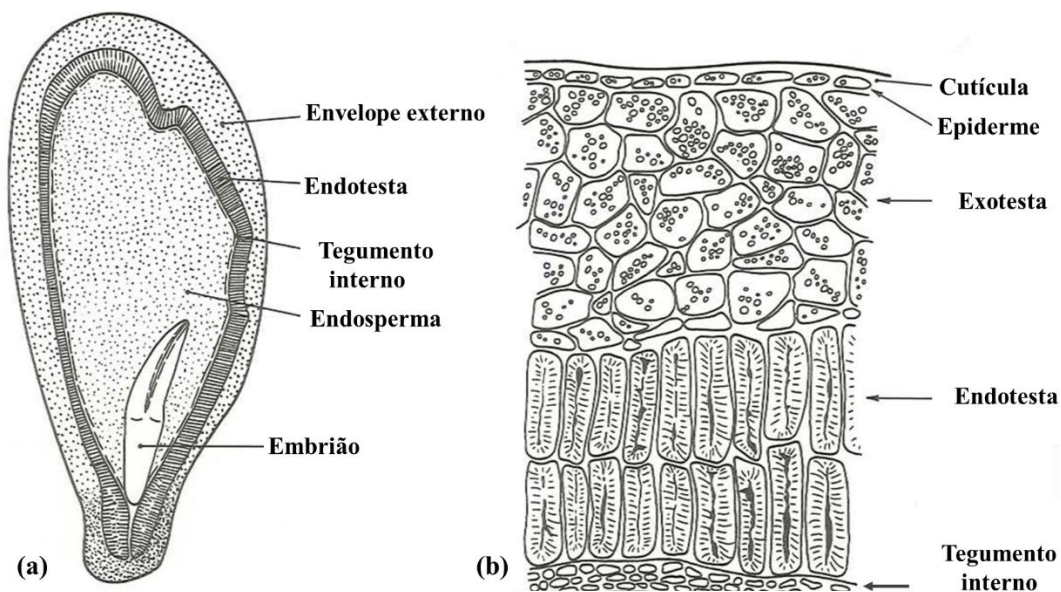


Figura 2. Ilustração da semente de videira. (a) A semente madura apresentada em corte longitudinal, no qual são visualizados o envelope externo, seguido do tegumento externo e interno. A porção central é composta pelo embrião circundado pelo endosperma. (b) Ilustração em detalhe das camadas da casca da semente composta por uma camada de cutícula, uma camada de epiderme seguida pelo tegumento externo, formado pela exotesta e pela endotesta. Abaixo destes, iniciam-se as camadas de tegumento interno. Adaptado de Pratt (1971).

Para que haja o completo desenvolvimento da semente, é necessária a coordenação temporal e espacial de crescimento entre os diferentes tecidos, além da nutrição homogênea de todos os seus componentes (UNGRU *et al.*, 2010). As rotas de passagem de nutrientes e de moléculas como proteínas, mRNAs e micro-RNAs para as diversas camadas da semente ainda não são completamente compreendidas, porém estudos mostram que o fluxo de nutrientes ocorre do tegumento externo para o interno, de forma centrípeta, passando através

de apoplastos para o endosperma e para o embrião (STADLER *et al.*, 2005). A ausência parcial ou total do desenvolvimento de alguma camada da semente pode causar o desenvolvimento errôneo ou a inviabilidade dessa estrutura, um processo denominado de apirenia.

1.2.2 Apirenia

O cultivo de diversas espécies vegetais base da alimentação humana e animal como aveia, arroz, soja e milho depende da produção de grãos (FAO, 2018). Todavia, o mercado consumidor de frutas visa a geração de frutos com características sensoriais necessariamente desconectadas da semente, sendo de grande apreciação a ausência parcial ou total de sementes (EGLI, 1998). A apirenia caracteriza-se pela produção de frutos sem sementes, com traços de sementes ou com sementes reduzidas em número e tamanho (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000). Uma planta apirênica deve possuir ao menos uma das características descritas acima, porém plantas completamente sem sementes ou que apresentem apenas traços de sementes são preferíveis pelos consumidores, sendo consideradas cultivares elite (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000). A geração de frutos apirênicos pode ocorrer por meio de duas formas diferentes de apirenia: por partenocarpia ou por estenoespermocarpia. Esses processos são caracterizados a partir do estágio fenológico no qual a semente ou o óvulo se encontra quando há o encerramento de seu desenvolvimento normal (EMERSHAD *et al.*, 1989). Na partenocarpia, a semente não se desenvolve pois não há fecundação. Todavia, o ovário ainda é capaz de se desenvolver em fruto, apenas a partir do desenvolvimento dos tecidos maternos, o que gera a formação de frutos com ausência total de sementes (STOUT, 1936; BOUQUET & DANGLLOT, 1996). Já no processo de estenoespermocarpia ocorre a produção de frutos com traços de semente pois há fecundação e desenvolvimento inicial da semente. Entretanto, a semente cessa seu desenvolvimento após duas semanas, acarretando na morte do embrião ainda imaturo devido à ausência ou má formação do endosperma (STOUT, 1936; BOUQUET & DANGLLOT, 1996; VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000; MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011).

Frutos estenoespermocárpicos são altamente comercializados e é o caso para diversas cítricas como, por exemplo, laranja, limão e tangerinas, além de tomates, melões, melancias e uvas (VARDI *et al.*, 2008; WANG *et al.*, 2012). Atualmente, diversas variedades de uvas apirênicas são produzidas no mundo, cada qual sendo escolhida por sua adaptabilidade às

condições locais. No Brasil, a produção de uvas de mesa utilizadas principalmente para consumo *in natura* está baseada nas cultivares Itália, Ruby, Benitaka, Brasil e Red Globe, que são uvas pirênicas, e nas cultivares Sultanine, Centennial Seedless, Superior Seedless, Catalunha e Crimson Seedless, que são uvas apirênicas (PROTAS, 2005). Dentre estas, destaca-se a cultivar estenoespermocárpica Sultanine que, devido à sua boa adaptação de cultivo ao cenário europeu e americano, foi amplamente utilizada em cruzamentos visando a geração de novas cultivares apirênicas e, por consequência, tornando-se a cultivar modelo para o estudo da estenoespermocarpia em videira (ADAM-BLONDON *et al.*, 2001; DI GENOVA *et al.*, 2014). A cultivar Sultanine origina frutos com traços de sementes pouco desenvolvidos e macios, imperceptíveis ao consumidor, como é possível observar na Figura 3, sendo fortemente apreciada no mercado de uvas de mesa (STOUT, 1936). Essa cultivar é uma mutante somática natural, proveniente da Pérsia da Ásia Menor, atualmente áreas do Irã e da Turquia, onde era conhecida como ‘Oval Kechmish’. Em 1872, foi iniciado seu cultivo em Marysville, Califórnia, EUA por Willian Thompson do qual descende seu nome mais comum, ‘Thompson Seedless’ (CHRISTENSEN, 2000).

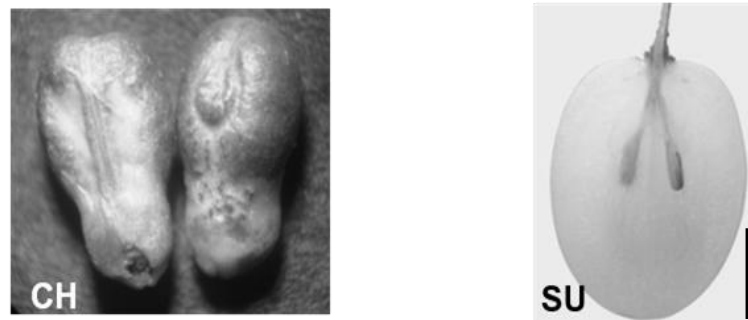


Figura 3. Comparação entre a uma semente com desenvolvimento normal e uma baga estenoespermocárpica. Durante o estágio de maturação dos frutos, ‘Chardonnay’ (CH) apresenta sementes de tamanho adequado e lignificadas enquanto que ‘Sultanine’ (SU) (baga) contém apenas o traço de uma semente. Semente de ‘Chardonnay’ com aumento de 40X. Escala de 1 cm em baga de ‘Sultanine’.

1.3 MECANISMOS MOLECULARES DA MORFOGÊNESE DE SEMENTES

1.3.1 Os genes *MADS-box*

A identificação e a compreensão dos mecanismos genéticos e moleculares que coordenam o desenvolvimento de espécies com ausência de sementes são essenciais para a obtenção de culturas comerciais de alta qualidade e competitividade no mercado (CAMARGO *et al.*, 2005). Diversos são os componentes que regem o desenvolvimento de flores e frutos e muitos estudos de caráter molecular tem foco no desenvolvimento dos órgãos florais e no processo de transição floral (SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012). Neste contexto, a família gênica *MADS-box* é constituída por mais de cem genes em plantas. Em *A. thaliana*, são 107 genes, muitos deles atuando na determinação da identidade dos meristemas florais além de serem importantes para o desenvolvimento da raiz, o controle da floração, a arquitetura floral, o desenvolvimento do pólen e o desenvolvimento de frutos e de sementes (PARENICOVÁ *et al.*, 2003; SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012; GRAMZOW & THEIßEN, 2013).

Essa família de fatores de transcrição é conhecida pelo seu domínio MADS de ligação ao DNA, sendo que seu nome é um acrônimo derivado de quatro genes membros dessa família gênica: **MCM1** de *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, **AGAMOUS (AG)** de *A. thaliana*, **DEFICIENS (DEF)** de *Antirrhinum majus*, e **SRF** de *Homo sapiens* (SCHWARZ-SOMMER *et al.*, 1990). Mesmo estando presente em diversos organismos eucarióticos, os primeiros genes *MADS-box* isolados foram genes homeóticos de desenvolvimento floral (SCHWARZ-SOMMER *et al.*, 1990; CAUSIER *et al.*, 2010). Os fatores de transcrição *MADS-box* contêm domínios de ligação ao DNA e de dimerização conservados em diversas espécies (PELLEGRINI *et al.*, 1995; HUANG *et al.*, 2000). Os genes *MADS-box* são divididos em dois grupos tendo-se por base a estrutura de seus domínios proteicos, denominadas de tipo I e de tipo II (SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012). Outra característica importante é que os genes *MADS-box* formam subfamílias distintas e altamente conservadas do ponto de vista filogenético, sendo que genes da mesma subfamília geralmente possuem funções relacionadas (THEIßEN *et al.*, 2001; BECKER & THEIßEN, 2003; GRAMZOW & THEIßEN, 2015). Um exemplo é o gene SUPPRESSOR OF OVEREXPRESSION OF CONSTANS1 (SOC1) envolvido no controle da floração em eudicotiledoneas, que possui um ortólogo mesmo em arroz, distantemente aparentado (SAMACH *et al.*, 2000).

1.3.2 Os genes MADS-box de determinação floral

Dentre os genes MADS-box mais estudados e caracterizados estão os genes do tipo II, que são genes homeóticos que atuam principalmente no desenvolvimento floral, na embriogênese e no desenvolvimento do fruto (SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012; THEIBEN *et al.*, 2016). Este grupo é caracterizado por sua estrutura denominada *MIKC*, na qual a porção N-terminal é composta pelo domínio MADS (M) de ligação ao DNA, seguido por dois domínios essenciais para a interação com proteínas, as porções I (*intervening*) e K (*keratin-like*). O domínio C-terminal é responsável pela formação e atividade de complexos proteicos e pela regulação transcricional (KAUFMANN *et al.*, 2005). O domínio MADS consiste em um motivo de 56 resíduos que formam um par de alfa-hélices superenroladas antiparalelas, embaladas contra uma folha-beta dupla antiparalela (Figura 4). A folha-beta deste motivo também está envolvida em interações e dimerizações proteicas (LUSCOMBE *et al.*, 2000).

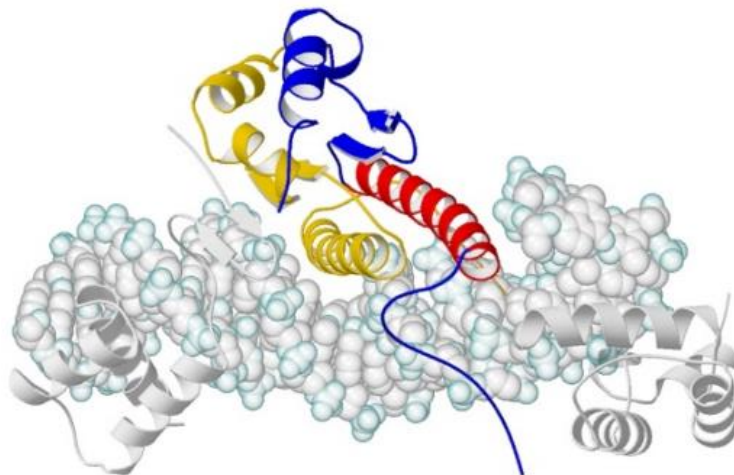


Figura 4. Conformação proteica dos motivos de ligação ao DNA das proteínas MADS-box. Uma folha-beta antiparalela e duas alfa-hélices adjacentes fornecem a interface de dimerização. As alfa-hélices na face oposta da folha divergem do centro do local de ligação para as aberturas principais adjacentes. A molécula de DNA é dobrada em direção à proteína. O motivo de ligação ao DNA está em vermelho. A proteína MADS se liga como um dímero, sendo que um monômero está colorido de azul e o outro de amarelo. O DNA é mostrado como um modelo de preenchimento de espaço. Adaptado de LUSCOMBE *et al.* (2000).

Com base nas características estruturais destes domínios, os genes *MADS-box* do tipo *MIKC* foram ainda divididos em *MIKC^C* (forma canônica) e *MIKC**. Este último apresenta alterações no domínio K, possivelmente pela duplicação de éxons desta região, e forma uma rede de interação de proteínas responsável pela maturação do pólen (ADAMCZYK & FERNANDEZ, 2009).

Nas últimas três décadas, os genes do tipo *MIKC^C* foram amplamente estudados em *A. thaliana*. Eles compõem o “Modelo de Desenvolvimento Floral ABCDE”, e estudos mais recentes demonstram sua maneira de atuação na forma do “Modelo dos Quartetos Florais” conforme apresentado na Figura 5 (THEIBEN, 2001; PARENICOVÁ *et al.*, 2003; SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012). Em ambos os modelos, que são complementares e não divergentes, os genes são divididos em classes, compostas pelas subfamílias as quais pertencem. A identidade de sépalas é determinada por genes da classe A (*APETALA1 - AP1*), enquanto que os genes da classe A juntamente com genes da classe B (*APETALA3 - AP3* - e *PISTILATTA - PI*) determinam a identidade das pétalas. Por sua vez, genes da classe B somados aos genes da classe C (*AG*) são responsáveis pela formação de estames. Os genes da classe C possuem papel na identidade de carpelos (LOHMANN & WEIGEL, 2002) que, quando combinados com os genes da classe D (*SEEDSTICK (STK) - SHATTERPROOF1 (SHP1) - SHATTERPROOF2 (SHP2)*), atuam no desenvolvimento dos óvulos (COLOMBO *et al.*, 1995). As proteínas das classes A, B, C e D são dependentes de proteínas da classe E (*SEPALATTA1 - SEP2 - SEP3 - SEP4*) para possuírem atividade na formação do Modelo de Quartetos Florais de transcrição (THEIBEN & SAEDLER, 2001; DORNELAS & DORNELAS, 2005). Os quartetos florais são, portanto, complexos de alta ordem, normalmente em junções tetraméricas formadas por dois dímeros que podem ser homogêneos ou heterogêneos (THEIBEN *et al.*, 2016). Os complexos quaternários das proteínas *MADS-box* ligam-se a duas sequências de DNA consenso, denominadas CArG-box ($CC(A/T)_6GG$), que podem estar separadas por até 300 pb (LIU *et al.*, 2008). Desta forma, há a geração de um *loop* de DNA entre os dois sítios CArG-box (THEIBEN, 2001; THEIBEN & SAEDLER, 2001; MENDES *et al.*, 2013) (Figura 5).

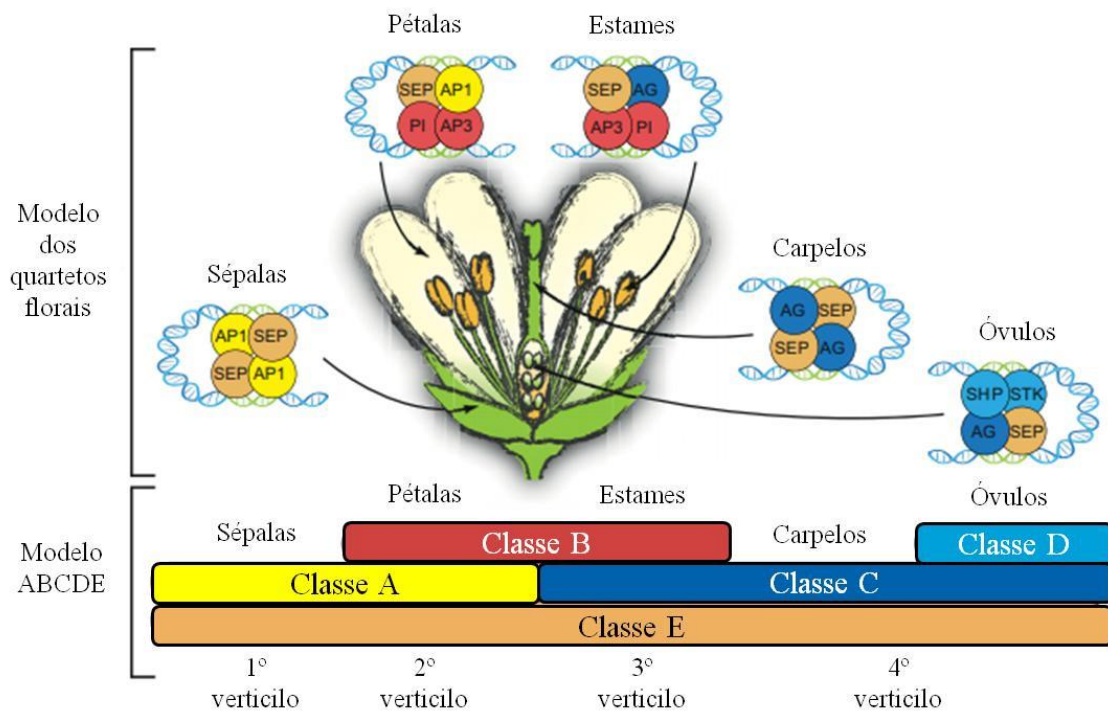


Figura 5. Modelo dos Quartetos Florais e Modelo ABCDE de determinação da identidade dos órgãos florais por proteínas *MIKCC* em *A. thaliana*. Os genes *MIKCC* da classe A (*API*) determinam a formação de sépalas; genes da classe B (*AP3* e *PI*), juntamente com genes da classe A, são necessários para a formação de pétalas. Os genes da classe B também são necessários para a formação de estames junto com os genes da classe C (*AG*) que, por sua vez, são necessários para a formação de carpelos. Os genes da classe D (*STK*, *SHP1* e *SHP2*) são responsáveis pelo desenvolvimento de óvulos. Todas as classes (A, B, C, D) necessitam de ao menos um dos genes da classe E (*SEP1*, *SEP2*, *SEP3* e *SEP4*) para realizarem sua função. As proteínas dos genes *MIKCC* formam complexos quaternários que se ligam em regiões CARG-box dos genes-alvo (painel superior). Adaptado de THEIßEN *et al.* (2016).

A interação entre os complexos quaternários e as sequências CARG-box são essenciais para a atividade desses fatores de transcrição. O genoma vegetal contém inúmeras sequências CARG-box que são devidamente reconhecidas por diferentes conjuntos de proteínas MADS-box atuando na transcrição de genes-alvo distintos (GRAMZOW & THEIßEN, 2013). Acrescido a isso, a formação das diferentes interações proteicas gera inúmeras combinações de multimerização de proteínas que aumentam a diversificação de ligação dos complexos MADS-box ao DNA e, conseqüentemente, promovem a transcrição

de genes de diferentes rotas metabólicas (MELZER & THEIBEN, 2009; SMACZNIAK *et al.*, 2012).

1.3.3 Genes *MIKC^C* responsáveis pelo desenvolvimento de óvulo e semente

O fato dos genes *MADS-box* serem conservados em diversas espécies vegetais e atuarem no desenvolvimento floral os torna excelentes candidatos para o melhoramento de plantas com foco em produção de grãos e de frutos com fenótipos de interesse agrônomico (THEIBEN *et al.*, 2016; SCHILLING *et al.*, 2018). Neste quesito encontram-se os genes *MIKC^C* das classes C e D. Esses genes formam a subfamília monofilética AG, pertencendo a clados irmãos uma vez que foram gerados por um evento de duplicação ocorrido no início da evolução das angiospermas (KRAMER *et al.* 2004). Essa família é distinta pela presença de dois motivos na região C-terminal de suas proteínas conhecidos como motivos AGI e AGII, os quais atuam na formação de complexos quaternários das proteínas *MADS-box* (YUN *et al.*, 2004; SONG *et al.*, 2006).

Os genes *FBP7* e *FBP11* (*FLORAL BINDING PROTEIN 7 e 11*) de *Petunia hybrida*, expressos especificamente nos óvulos, foram os primeiros genes *MADS-box* caracterizados da classe D por meio da geração de duplos mutantes de *A. thaliana* com expressão ectópica, o que levou à formação de óvulos no local de pétalas e sépalas (ANGENENT *et al.*, 1995; COLOMBO *et al.*, 1995; ANGENENT & COLOMBO 1996; COLOMBO *et al.*, 1997). Genes de outras espécies que tendem a especificar a identidade dos tecidos da quarta camada da flor foram propostos como ortólogos aos genes *FBP7* e *FBP11*, como *AtAGL11* (*STK*) em *A. thaliana* (ROUNSLEY *et al.*, 1995; PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003), *ZAG2* e *ZMM1* em *Zea mays* (SCHMIDT *et al.*, 1993; THEIBEN *et al.*, 1995), *OsMADS13* em *Oryza sativa* (LOPEZ-DEE *et al.*, 1999), *PhalAG2* em *Phalaenopsis* sp. (SONG *et al.*, 2006), *AVAG2* em *Asparagus* sp. (YUN *et al.*, 2004), *LMADS2* em *Lilium* sp., *EgMADS1* em *Lisianthus* sp. (TZENG *et al.* 2002), *TAGL11* em *Lycopersicon esculentum* (BUSI *et al.*, 2003) e *VviAGL11* em *V. vinifera* (FAVARO *et al.*, 2003; PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003; REVERS *et al.*, 2010, MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011).

Um dos genes mais bem caracterizados quanto a seu papel no desenvolvimento da semente é o gene *AtAGL11*, também denominado *SEEDSTICK* (*STK*), de *A. thaliana*. Esse gene é responsável pela identidade do óvulo, redundantemente com os outros genes da classe D, *SHATTERPROOF1* e *SHATTERPROOF2* (*SHP1*, *SHP2*). O gene *STK* é uniformemente

expresso nos tegumentos dos óvulos e ao longo do funículo nas fases iniciais de desenvolvimento da semente, enquanto que, na fase de maturação, é fortemente expresso no funículo e fracamente nos tegumentos (ROUNSLEY *et al.*, 1995; PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003; MATIAS-HERNANDEZ *et al.*, 2010). O mutante *seedstick* (*stk*) de *A. thaliana* apresenta sementes diminutas, além de um conjunto de fenótipos defectivos na geração de sementes e na formação da siliqua (PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003; BRAMBILLA *et al.*, 2007). Na Figura 6 estão exemplificados os fenótipos diferenciais de *stk* em comparação a plantas de *A. thaliana* Columbia-0 de fenótipo selvagem (WT). Além de demonstrar diminuição no tamanho das sementes, há o aumento da espessura do funículo (Figura 6d-e). Isso ocorre devido ao gene *STK* também atuar no controle da expansão e da divisão celular do funículo, tornando essa estrutura mais larga e espessa na ausência de sua expressão (ROUNSLEY *et al.*, 1995; PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003). Outra característica são as síliquas de menor comprimento e com apenas metade da quantidade normal de sementes (Figura 6a). O mutante *stk* também apresenta o fenótipo de não abscisão das sementes (Figura 6f), provavelmente pela estrutura diferenciada do funículo que as mantém fortemente ligadas à rafe (PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003).

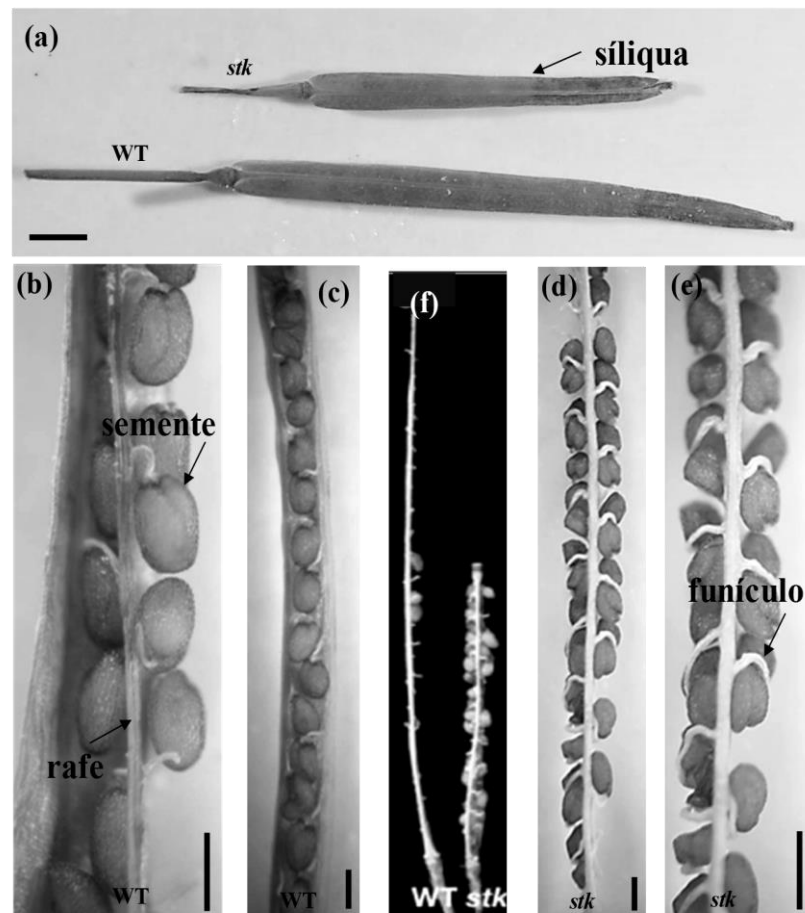


Figura 6. Comparação entre *A. thaliana* Col-0 selvagem e *A. thaliana* Col-0 mutante para o gene *AtAGL11* (*stk*). (a) Diferença entre os tamanhos de siliquas; (b-c) formato e tamanho das sementes WT e espessura e comprimento dos funículos WT; (d-e) formato e tamanho das sementes *stk* e espessura e comprimento dos funículos *stk*; (f) diferença entre WT e *stk* em relação à abscisão das sementes da rafe. Escala = 1 mm (a), 0,5 mm (b-c, d-e). Imagem f copiada de PINYOPICH *et al.* (2003).

O padrão de expressão espaço-temporal dos genes *MIKC^C* demonstra a necessidade de uma regulação fina para a transcrição desses genes em tecidos específicos e, muitas vezes, por curtos períodos durante o desenvolvimento de óvulos e sementes. Estudos da expressão tecido-específica do gene *AG* confirmaram a dependência de elementos *cis* presentes no seu segundo íntron, conhecido por sua grande extensão (3 kb) (DEYHOLOS & SIEBURTH, 2000; HONG *et al.*, 2003). O mesmo ocorre com o gene *AtAGL11*, regulado por elementos *cis* localizados em sua região promotora e em seu grande primeiro íntron (1,3 kb). Esses elementos regulatórios são alvo da proteína BASIC PENTACYSSTEINE 1 (BPC1) que, ao se ligar a *AtAGL11*, gera uma mudança conformacional no DNA que auxilia na formação do precomplexo de ativação da transcrição deste gene (KOOIKER *et al.*, 2005).

Além do interesse na compreensão do controle da expressão de genes *MADS-box* das classes C e D, estudos mais recentes aprofundaram-se na atuação desses genes homeóticos em processos metabólicos. O estudo de MIZZOTTI *et al.* (2014) sugere que o gene *STK* está envolvido no acúmulo de metabólitos secundários pela regulação direta da transcrição do gene BANYULS/ANTHOCYANIDIN REDUCTASE (BAN/ANR), que converte antocianinas em seus correspondentes 2,3-cis-flavan-3-ols, atuando, assim, na rota de síntese de proantocianidinas na casca das sementes, o que as torna mais rígidas.

1.4 CONTROLES GENÉTICO E MOLECULAR DA APIRENIA EM VIDEIRA

Com o aumento da comprovação funcional de genes responsáveis pelo desenvolvimento de semente em plantas modelos como *A. thaliana*, estudos de ortologia gênica em espécies vegetais de interesse agrônomo tornaram-se foco em programas de melhoramento genético (MATIAS-HERNANDEZ *et al.*, 2010). Em frutíferas, o interesse pela geração de variedades apirênicas gerou esforços para a compreensão do processo de

morfogênese de sementes em videira, tomateiro, laranjeira, limoeiro, entre outros (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000).

Nas variedades de videira estenoespermocárpicas, tanto de *V. vinifera* como de *Vitis labrusca*, são identificados diferentes graus de tamanho de sementes, o que demonstra o caráter quantitativo dessa forma de apirenia (BOUQUET & DANGLOT, 1996). O modelo genético proposto para o controle dessa característica sugere que alelos recessivos de três *loci* independentes são regulados por um alelo dominante em um único *locus*, o qual inibiria o desenvolvimento da semente (BOUQUET & DANGLOT, 1996). Carecendo de maiores informações moleculares como o sequenciamento completo do genoma de *V. vinifera* ou de genes candidatos, muitos pesquisadores focaram seus esforços na busca de marcadores moleculares que pudessem ser utilizados como alternativa biotecnológica para a detecção do fenótipo de apirenia prematuramente, utilizando-os em estratégias de seleção assistida por marcadores (MAS, do inglês, *Marker Assisted Selection*) em populações segregantes (LAHOUE *et al.*, 1998; ADAM-BLONDON *et al.*, 2001; MEJÍA *et al.*, 2007; MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011). A partir da produção de mapas genéticos de videira e de estudos genéticos com populações geradas a partir de variedades de videira pirênicas (doadora materna) e apirênicas (doador paterno), foram detectados *QTLs* para tamanho de baga, peso e tamanho de sementes em *V. vinifera* (LODHI *et al.*, 1995; DALBO *et al.*, 2000; DOLIGEZ *et al.*, 2002; RIAZ *et al.*, 2003; ADAM-BLONDON *et al.*, 2004; FISCHER *et al.*, 2004; CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006, MEJÍA *et al.*, 2007). Os *QTLs* detectados para estas características estão localizados na porção distal do grupo de ligação 18, explicando de 50 a 70% da variância fenotípica para estes caracteres (DOLIGEZ *et al.*, 2002; FANIZZA *et al.*, 2005; CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006; MEJÍA *et al.*, 2007; COSTANTINI *et al.*, 2008; REVERS *et al.*, 2010). Posteriormente, este *locus* foi denominado *SdI* (Inibidor do desenvolvimento da semente, do inglês, *Seed development Inhibitor*) (BOUQUET & DANGLOT, 1996; LAHOUE *et al.*, 1998; MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011). Na região do *locus SdI* encontra-se o marcador molecular SSR (repetição de sequência simples, do inglês, *Simple Sequence Repeat*) VMC7F2 que é altamente polimórfico e capaz de identificar videiras apirênicas com ~95 % de eficiência (COSTANTINI *et al.*, 2008).

Atualmente, *V. vinifera* possui seu genoma completamente sequenciado (<http://genomes.cribi.unipd.it/grape/>) em sua forma quase homozigota e, também, em sua forma altamente heterozigota, ambas obtidas a partir da cultivar Pinot Noir (PN40024; JAILLON *et al.*, 2007; VELASCO *et al.*, 2007). Os genes de *V. vinifera* foram inicialmente

nomeados com o prefixo ‘Vv’, porém foram recentemente renomeados com o prefixo ‘Vvi’ para evitar confusão de nomenclatura com a bactéria *Vibrio vulnificus*, que teve seu genoma publicado anteriormente ao de videira (GRIMPLET *et al.*, 2016). O conjunto de dados genômicos disponíveis auxilia no entendimento da função de seus mais de 23 mil genes e em estudos de desenvolvimento de variedades por métodos não tradicionais.

Em relação à morfogênese de sementes, os genes *MADS-box* foram caracterizados em videira quanto à presença e a estrutura dos domínios codificados. Na classe de genes *MIKC^C*, a subfamília AG é composta por três membros, dois deles mais similares a AG, *VviAG1* e *VviAG2*, sendo classificados como classe C, e um terceiro, *VviAGL11* ou *VviAG3*, mais similar a *AGL11/STK*, classificado como classe D (BOSS *et al.*, 2001; BOSS *et al.*, 2002; DÍAZ-RIQUELME *et al.*, 2009; GRIMPLET *et al.*, 2016).

1.4.1 O gene *VviAGL11*

Interessantemente, o gene *AGAMOUS-LIKE 11* de *V. vinifera* (*VviAGL11*, acesso no genoma em <http://genomes.cribi.unipd.it/grape/>: VIV_18s0041g01880) foi mapeado *in silico* no mesmo *contig* que o *locus SdI* e, também, colocalizado com o marcador molecular SSR VMC7F2 que se encontra a montante de *VviAGL11*, mais especificamente a 463 pb de seu códon de início de tradução (COSTANTINI *et al.*, 2008). *VviAGL11* também foi descrito por BOSS *et al.* (2002) como *VvMADS5* e por DÍAZ-RIQUELME *et al.* (2009) como *VvAG3*.

VviAGL11 foi proposto como um possível ortólogo do gene controlador da identidade do óvulo em *A. thaliana*, *AtAGL11/STK*, possuindo 75 % de similaridade (Figura 7; FAVARO *et al.*, 2003; PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003). Estudos iniciais da avaliação da expressão de *VviAGL11* demonstram um acúmulo de transcritos em tecidos florais e em frutos de videira, enquanto que há repressão de sua transcrição em tecidos vegetais como raiz, ramo, folha, gavinha e gema (DÍAZ-RIQUELME *et al.*, 2009). Posteriormente, estudos de MEJÍA *et al.* (2011, 2016) observaram que transcritos de *VvAGL11* são 25 vezes mais abundantes no estágio de fruto em comparação com os estádios de prefloração e floração em genótipos de videira sem sementes. Adicionalmente, o gene *VviAGL11* possui expressão acentuada em genótipos homocigotos correlacionada com a presença do alelo de 198 pb do marcador VMC7F2 (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011).

técnica de hibridização *in situ*, foi observado que o padrão de expressão espaço-temporal de *VviAGL11* é majoritariamente encontrado na casca de sementes de ‘Chardonnay’ com 2 e 4 semanas de desenvolvimento, especificamente na camada dupla da endotesta (ET). Nenhum sinal de hibridização foi observado em ‘Sultanine’ (MALABARBA, 2014; MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017).

Nesse contexto, a presente tese de doutorado é resultado de pesquisas conduzidas para testar a seguinte hipótese: “O gene *MADS-box VviAGL11* é crítico para o controle da morfogênese das sementes de videira”. O conjunto de dados apresentados anteriormente permitem sugerir que a ausência da expressão de *VviAGL11* é responsável pelo desenvolvimento errôneo das sementes de videira. Esta lacuna molecular aparenta gerar a extrema diminuição do tamanho final das sementes devido à não diferenciação da camada ET da casca das sementes, provocando o cessar de seu alongamento e duplicação. Deste modo, com a não diferenciação da camada ET, o endosperma também não teria desenvolvimento normal, interrompendo seu crescimento, causando a posterior morte do embrião e levando à formação de um traço de semente (MALABARBA, 2014; MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017).

A avaliação da ortologia entre os genes *AtAGL11* e *VviAGL11*, somada à caracterização funcional de *VviAGL11* em modelo heterólogo e em videiras, teve o propósito de avaliar se o gene *VviAGL11* é essencial para a morfogênese de sementes e auxiliar na compreensão do processo de apirenia em *V. vinifera*. Este conjunto de resultados poderá ser útil no desenvolvimento de novas variedades de uvas de mesa que atendam às exigentes demandas do mercado de consumo nacional e internacional.

2 OBJETIVOS

2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

Caracterizar funcionalmente o gene *VviAGL11* visando uma maior compreensão de seu papel durante a morfogênese das sementes em videira.

2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

a. Elucidar a função do gene *VviAGL11* em modelo heterólogo e avaliar a ortologia entre *VviAGL11* e *AtAGL11*.

Racionalização: caracterizar a funcionalidade das isoformas de expressão de *VviAGL11* por meio de complementação do mutante *stk* (*seedstick-Atagl11*) de *Arabidopsis thaliana*;

b. Elucidar a função de *VviAGL11* em *Vitis*.

Racionalização: caracterizar funcionalmente *VviAGL11* por meio da superexpressão do gene em cultivares apirênicas e do silenciamento de sua expressão em cultivares pirênicas;

c. Desenvolver ferramentas biotecnológicas para a seleção assistida de videiras apirênicas.

Racionalização: identificar um haplótipo de marcadores moleculares associado e desenvolver e avaliar novos marcadores moleculares candidatos baseados em polimorfismos do alelo *VviAGL11* de ‘Sultanine’ (mut) com potencial para a seleção assistida da apirenia em videira.

Os resultados dos estudos relativos ao objetivo específico **a** foram publicados na forma de artigo e estão apresentados no **Capítulo I**. O conjunto de resultados do objetivo **b**

foi publicado e está apresentado no **Capítulo II**. Finalmente, os dados referentes ao item **c** compõem o **Capítulo III**.

Na sessão de anexos da presente tese encontra-se o manuscrito que aborda a caracterização de genes de resistência ao míldio da videira, que estão colocalizados com o gene *VviAGL11* (Anexo I). Esta parte do trabalho foi realizada adjacientemente aos estudos apresentados nos capítulos que compõem a presente tese.

Durante o período de doutoramento, e considerando a experiência adquirida em genética, fisiologia e biologia molecular de *A. thaliana* e *V. vinifera*, foi oportunizada pela CAPES a realização de doutorado sanduíche nos laboratórios de pesquisa coordenados pelo Dr. Axel Mithöfer do *Department of Bioorganic Chemistry, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology*, em Jena, Alemanha. As atividades de pesquisa realizadas durante os doze meses de doutorado sanduíche culminaram na publicação de dois artigos científicos, os quais se encontram anexos ao final desta tese, anexo II e III. Textos introdutórios a cada um destes artigos estão apresentados junto aos mesmos.

3 CAPÍTULO I

The MADS-box gene *AGAMOUS-like 11* is essential for seed morphogenesis in grapevine

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RESEARCH PAPER

The MADS-box gene *Agamous-like 11* is essential for seed morphogenesis in grapevine

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Abstract

Despite the wide appreciation of seedless grapes, little is known about the molecular mechanisms that drive the stenospermocarpic seedless-type phenotype in grapevine. In order to address the molecular mechanisms that control seedlessness in grapevine, our study aimed to characterize *VviAGL11*, a class D MADS-box transcription factor gene that has been proposed as the major candidate gene involved in *Vitis vinifera* seed morphogenesis. *VviAGL11* allelic variations in seeded and seedless grapevine cultivars were determined, and its correlations with allele-specific steady-state mRNA levels were investigated. *VviAGL11* relative expression was significantly higher in seeds at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set, whereas in the seedless grape its transcript levels were extremely low in all stages analyzed. *In situ* hybridization revealed transcript accumulation specifically in the dual endotesta layer of the seeds, which is responsible for elongation and an increase of cell number, a necessary step to determine the lignification and the final seed size. No hybridization signals were visible in the seedless grapevine tissues, and a morphoanatomical analysis showed an apparent loss of identity of the endotesta layer of the seed traces. Ectopic expression of *VviAGL11* in the *Arabidopsis* *SEEDSTICK* mutant background restored the wild-type phenotype and confirmed the direct role of *VviAGL11* in seed morphogenesis, suggesting that depletion of its expression is responsible for the erroneous development of a highly essential seed layer, therefore culminating in the typical apirenic phenotype.

Key words: Apireny, grapevine, *in situ* hybridization, seedlessness, Sultanine, *VviAGL11*.

Introduction

Seedlessness is one of the most appreciated features in table grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) along with enlarged fruit size, both being the main goals in breeding programs (Varoquaux *et al.*, 2000; Cabezas *et al.*, 2006). In the past two decades, the worldwide

market for *in natura* grapes increased ~26% per year, while the production of such grapes grew at a 13% annual rate (FAO, 2014; OIV, 2014). In grapevine, the absence of seeds, also called apireny, can occur by two distinct biological processes. One is known as parthenocarpy, when fecundation does not occur and there is no seed formation (used in production of raisins). The second process is called stenopermarpy, in which fertilization takes place to form the fruit but is followed by embryo abortion due to the cessation of endosperm development, normally after 4 weeks of fruit growth. The consequence of stenopermarpy is the production of berries with reduced seed size, known as seed traces (Bouquet and Danglot, 1996; Mejía *et al.*, 2011). The Sultanine cultivar is the main donor of the stenopermarpy phenotype among breeding programs worldwide, and most of the commercial table grape varieties descend from this cultivar (Di Genova *et al.*, 2014).

In grapevine, several studies have shown that the presence of a dominant allele in the region of the *Seed Development Inhibitor* (*SdI*) locus, located at the distal portion of chromosome 18, has been responsible for 50–90% of the total phenotypic variance of seedlessness (Bouquet and Danglot, 1996; Cabezas *et al.*, 2006; Mejía *et al.*, 2007; Costantini *et al.*, 2008; Doligez *et al.*, 2013). *In silico* analysis allowed the identification of a MADS-box transcription factor gene *AGAMOUS-LIKE 11* (*VvAGL11*; Vv18s0041g01880; Boss *et al.*, 2002), renamed *VvIAGL11* by Grimplet *et al.* (2014), that mapped to the same locus contig *SdI* (Costantini *et al.*, 2008). The same work also co-located *VvIAGL11* with the molecular microsatellite marker VMC7F2, a highly polymorphic microsatellite marker capable of an efficiency of up to 95% in the detection of seedlessness in grapes (Costantini *et al.*, 2008).

The transcription factors of the MADS-box family have extremely important roles in the development of plants by controlling floral organ identity (Smaczniak *et al.*, 2012). In a study covering the MADS-box family in grapevine, it was demonstrated that *VvIAGL11* is induced in floral and fruit tissues and it is repressed in roots, branches, leaves, buds, and tendrils (Díaz-Riquelme *et al.*, 2012). More recently another study showed that *VvIAGL11* is 25 times more expressed in fruits at the pea size stage compared with flower stages, in seedless grapevines homozygous genotypes, whereas in heterozygous genotypes an intermediate level of *VvIAGL11* expression was observed (Mejía *et al.*, 2011).

The *VvIAGL11* gene was proposed, by our group and others, as a strong candidate gene involved in the absence of seeds in grapevine (Costantini *et al.*, 2008; Mejía *et al.*, 2011; Revers *et al.*, 2014; Ocares and Mejía, 2016). This MADS-box gene was shown to be a possible ortholog of *AGL11* (*STK*) of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, which acts on the identity and control of ovule and seed development (Favaro *et al.*, 2003; Pinyopich *et al.*, 2003; Díaz-Riquelme *et al.*, 2012). The *AtAGL11* mutant *SEEDSTICK* (*stk*) presents a reduced number and size of seeds (Pinyopich *et al.*, 2003; Brambilla *et al.*, 2008).

In this work, we identified several polymorphisms in the *VvIAGL11* allele sequences in the apirenic genotype background including mutations in the intronic regions and a set of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the coding

region of the gene. *VvIAGL11* transcript levels were 65-fold higher in grapevine seeds compared with apirenic grapevine fruits. Spatial and temporal analyses of expression patterns in reproductive tissues demonstrate correlation between abnormal development of a specific seed layer and reduction of *VvIAGL11* expression. Additionally, *VvIAGL11* ectopic expression restored silique and seed development to the wild-type-like standards in the *Arabidopsis stk* mutant, confirming its essential role in seed morphogenesis.

Materials and methods

Plant material

Grapevine samples were harvested from cv. Chardonnay and cv. Sultanine plants located at Embrapa Grape and Wine experimental areas in Bento Gonçalves, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (29°09'48"S, 51°31'42"W, and 616 m altitude). The cultivar plants were at the reproductive stage (6–8 years old), planted on a pergola trellising system and managed with conventional annual pruning and control of pests and diseases. Both cultivars were grafted on Paulsen 1103 rootstock and the phenological scale was followed as described by Baggioini (1952) (Supplementary Table 2 at *JXB* online). The ‘Chardonnay’ cultivar was chosen for comparison with the ‘Sultanine’ cultivar because of similar phenological development. For the *VvIAGL11* transcriptional profile, ‘Chardonnay’ (seeded) and ‘Sultanine’ (seedless) organ and tissue samples were harvested at the stages of flowers at pre-anthesis, fruit set, and fruits at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set in 2010/2011. For *in situ* hybridization and morphological assays, ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’ samples were harvested as described by Baggioini (1952; Supplementary Table S2) at H1, flowers at pre-anthesis, fruit set, and fruits at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set in the 2012/2013 harvest.

Arabidopsis thaliana plants, the wild type (ecotype Columbia) and *stk* mutant, were grown at 21 °C under short-day (8 h light/16 h dark) or long-day (16 h light/8 h dark) conditions. *stk* mutant seeds were kindly provided by L. Colombo (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy).

Sequencing

Genomic DNA was extracted from leaves following the protocol of Lefort and Douglas (1999). Primer sets were designed to amplify sequences in the promoter and in exon/intron regions of *VvIAGL11* (see Supplementary Table S1) in order to sequence the whole gene. Overlapping gene fragments were amplified by a primer walking strategy employing six primer pairs that allowed the assembly of six contigs (Fig. 1). Each projected contig contains 300–500 bp of overlapping sequence. PCR amplifications were performed with 10–25 ng of grapevine genomic DNA using Platinum[®] Pfx DNA polymerase (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) as recommended by the manufacturer. RACE (rapid amplification of cDNA ends) was performed with the SMARTer[™] RACE cDNA Amplification Kit (Clontech, Mountain View, CA, USA) as recommended by the manufacturer. PCR products were cloned into pGEM[®]-T Easy Vector (Promega, Madison, WI, USA) following the manufacturer’s instructions. Plasmid DNA was purified by the boiling miniprep protocol (Sambrook *et al.*, 1987). All PCR products were sequenced with T7 (GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGG) and SP6 (TACGATTTAGGTGACACTATAG) primers and with internal sequence primers (Supplementary Table S1) in an ABI Prism[®] 310 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems) using standard sequencing protocols described by Falavigna *et al.* (2014). Sequence analysis was carried out with DNA Sequencing Analysis Software v5 (Applied Biosystems) and MEGA7 software (<http://www.megasoftware.net/home>). The six contigs were assembled manually and

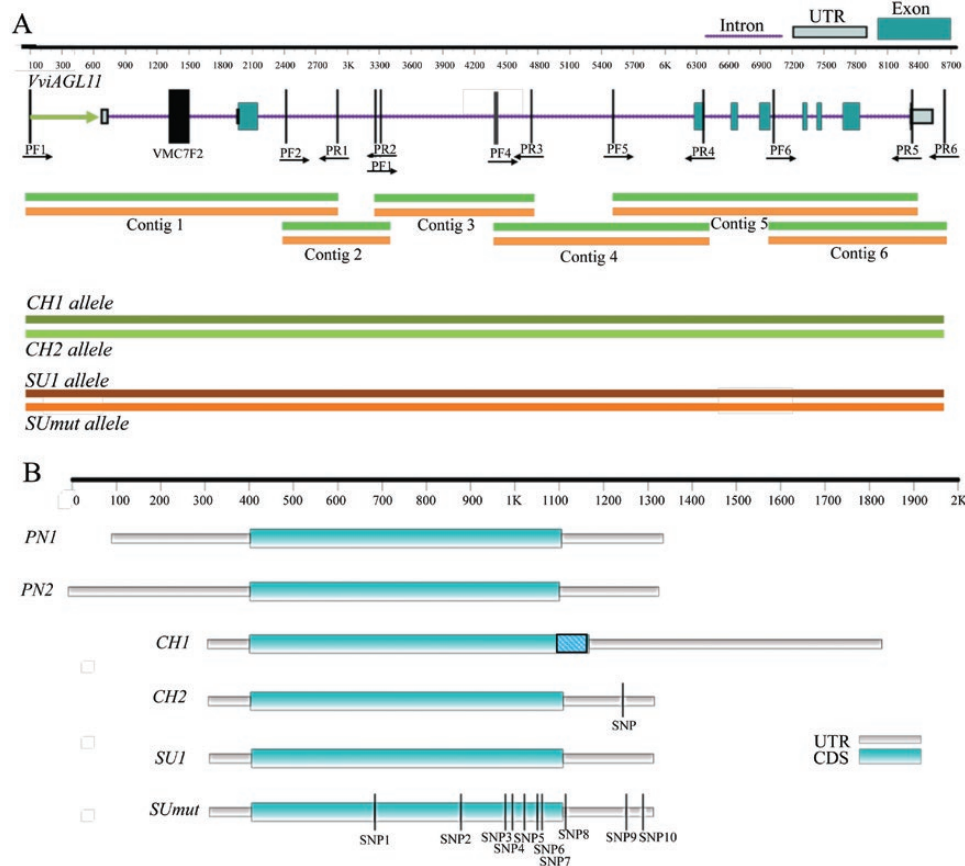


Fig. 1. *VviAGL11* allelic features. (A) Structural representation of *VviAGL11*. DNA structure is composed of a promoter region, 5'-UTR, eight introns, eight exons, and 3'-UTR. The black lines represent the localization of the primers used for allele amplification. Below, the contigs for each cultivar and their assembly, to produce 'Sultanine' and 'Chardonnay' *VviAGL11* alleles. (B) Comparison between *VviAGL11* mRNA alleles. *PN1* and *PN2* represent mRNA versions of *VviAGL11* from the Pinot Noir reference cultivar (VIT_218s0041g01880.1 and VIT_218s0041g01880.2, respectively). 'Chardonnay' allele 1 (*CH1*), 'Chardonnay' allele 2 (*CH2*), and 'Sultanine' allele 1 (*SU1*) are compared with the 'Sultanine' mutant allele (*SUmut*). The box in *CH1* represents the 20 amino acids derived from the 5' alternative splice. SNPs are represented by black stripes (GenBank KM401845, KM401846, KM401847, and KM401848). (This figure is available in colour at JXB online.)

with Codon Code Aligner 6.0. (www.codoncode.com/). The contigs from the same alleles were identified by specific polymorphisms in overlapping sequences. The online program Fancy Gene v1.4 (<http://bio.ieu.eu/fancygene/>) was used to draw the gene and mRNA representations (Fig 1A, B). Sequences were compared with the grapevine reference ('Pinot Noir' PN40024) genome and with the whole-genome sequence from cv. Sultanine (Di Genova *et al.*, 2014).

Identification of putative CARG sequences

Genomic regions located 5 kb upstream of the *VviAGL11* ATG start codon, 377 bp downstream of the stop codon, and exons and introns were analyzed to identify CARG-Box sequences with the New Place Bioinformatic Program 26.0 available at the Sogo website (<http://sogo.dna.affrc.go.jp>).

RNA extraction

Total RNA samples were extracted from frozen material (~200 mg) by LiCl precipitation using the protocol of Zeng and Yang (2002) scaled to 2 ml microcentrifuge tubes. Each sample extraction was performed in triplicate, and their volumes were pooled before the LiCl precipitation step. Genomic DNA in total RNA samples was removed using the TURBO DNA-free Kit (Ambion, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA integrity and quantity were monitored by agarose gel electrophoresis and spectrophotometric quantitation, respectively.

Quantitative reverse transcription-PCR (RT-qPCR)

cDNAs were synthesized using the GeneAmp RNA PCR Core Kit (Applied Biosystems) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Gene-specific primer pairs were designed for the two alleles of the *VviAGL11* gene (*VviAGL11F* 5'-CACTTAATGGGTGATTCTTGGC-3', *VviAGL11R* 5'-AGCAACTCATGCTTCTTCGACC-3'; and *VvAGL3F* 5'-ATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTCG-3', *VvAGL3R* 5'-GGAGATGAAGTTGGCGGATA-3') and evaluated by Oligo Analyzer 3.1 (IDT, <http://www.idtdna.com>), with the standards settings of 0.2 μM oligo concentration, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, and 0.2 mM dNTP. The reproductive tissues evaluated were divided into initial stages of development, represented by flowers at pre-anthesis and fruit set, and by fruit stages at 2, 4, and 6 weeks of development after fruit establishment (fruit set). Seeds were dissected from the pulp in 'Chardonnay' berry samples and the whole berry was evaluated in 'Sultanine' samples. RT-qPCR was performed in a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems). SYBR Green (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) was used to monitor dsDNA synthesis and ROX (Invitrogen) was employed as a passive fluorescence reference. Each biological sample was analyzed in technical quadruplicates. Cycling consisted of one step at 95 °C for 10 min followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s, 60 °C for 1 min, and finished by a dissociation curve between 60 °C and 95 °C. The specificity of PCR amplifications was assessed by the presence of a single peak in melting curves, visualization of single amplification products of the expected size in 1% ethidium

bromide-stained agarose gel electrophoresis, and sequencing of the amplicons. Primer efficiency was calculated by LinRegPCR (version 11.0, Ruijter *et al.*, 2009). Mean relative gene expression was calculated by the method of Pfaffl (2001) employing *ACTIN* (GenBank EC969944) as reference gene (Reid *et al.*, 2006). For the evaluation of *A. thaliana* transformants with the *VviAGL11* coding region, RNA was obtained from leaves, flowers, and siliques, with the same protocols as described above. The expression of *VviAGL11* was analyzed by a specific pair of primers (*VviAGL11OX_F* 5'-AACAAACGAATCTCAAGCAATCAAGC-3' and *VviAGL11SOX_R* 5'-TGATCTCGATCTTCTCTCCCC-3'). Relative enrichment of *VviAGL11* transcripts was calculated normalizing the amount of mRNA against an *ACTIN* fragment (*AtACT2* RTqPCR For 5'-GACCTTGCTGGACGTGACCTTAC-3' and *AtACT2* RTqPCR Rev 5'-GTAGTCAACAGCAACAAAGGAGAGC-3', Locus AT3G18780).

Seed morphoanatomical assay

Seeds and seed traces were transferred into a fixation solution under vacuum (Mcdowell and Trump, 1976). Thereafter, samples were dehydrated in an increasing gradient of ethanol as described by Gabriel (1982), and embedded in 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate resin according to Gerrits and Smid (1983). The 5 µm sections were obtained in a Leica RM 2255 microtome. The metachromatic reagent Toluidine Blue O (Feder and O'Brien, 1968) was used to determine seed structure. For the staining procedure, slides with sections were submerged in the reagent for 1 min, washed with water, and dried on a plate at 45 °C. The count of the number of cells in the endotesta (ET) layer was performed with support of ZEN microscope software from Zeiss.

In situ hybridization analysis

'Chardonnay' and 'Sultanine' samples were fixed in 4% formaldehyde for 16 h. Around 20 samples of the same stage were used from each cultivar. To submerge the samples, a vacuum was applied (~600 mmHg) for 20 min. The material was stored under refrigeration (4–10 °C) after fixation. Thereafter, the tissues were dehydrated in an ethanol series and embedded in paraffin. Longitudinal and transversal sections (8–10 µm) were prepared with a Leica RM 2255 (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany) microtome and mounted on silanized microscope slides. Gene-specific sense and anti-sense probes corresponded to 185 nucleotides of the 3'-untranslated region (UTR) of the *VviAGL11* gene, which were amplified using *VvAG3F* (5'-ATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCG-3') and *VvAG3R* (5'-GGAGATGAAGTTGGCGGATA-3') as primers. Hybridizations were performed with non-radioactive probes (Dornelas *et al.*, 2000). Labeled probes were generated by digoxigenin (DIG) labeling using T7 or SP6 RNA polymerase of the DIG RNA Labeling Kit (Roche, Basel, Switzerland). The hybridization signal was detected by a colorimetric assay in which an anti-DIG antibody coupled with alkaline phosphatase and NBT/BCIP (nitro blue tetrazolium chloride/5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate toluidine) served as a substrate. After the detection of the hybridization signals by immunostaining, slides were washed, dehydrated, and mounted using Entellan® (Merck, product accession code 107961). We performed *in situ* hybridization analysis for two consecutive years.

Functional complementation analysis in *Arabidopsis*

In order to evaluate the competence of *VviAGL11* to complement the *stk* phenotype, *stk* plants were transformed with overexpression plasmids carrying the *VviAGL11* coding region. Two constructs were generated: (i) p*VviAGL11*-OX, an overexpression plasmid harboring the *VviAGL11* 'Chardonnay' allele; and (ii) p*VviAGL11*-OX^{mut}, an overexpression plasmid harboring the *VviAGL11*

'Sultanine' mutant allele (*SUmut*). Both constructions had the same coding region size (672 bp) besides the SNPs in the *SUmut* allele (Supplementary Fig. S2). *VviAGL11* was amplified as described previously and cloned into pENTER/D-TOPO (Invitrogen). The PCR product was obtained with the primers *VviAGL11CDSF* 5'-CACCATGGGGAGAGGAAAGATCG-3' and *VviAGL11CDSR* 5'-TTACCCGAGATGGAGGACCTTCTTATC-3'. Employing the Gateway® LR Clonase™ II Enzyme Mix recombination system (Invitrogen), the insert was transferred into the pH7WG2D vector (Karimi *et al.*, 2002). The T-DNA fragment also encodes a visible selection marker [green fluorescent protein (GFP)] under the control of the promoter RoLD (Karimi *et al.*, 2002). Final constructs were verified by sequencing and used to transform thermocompetent *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain EHA105. The floral dip method (Clough and Bent, 1998) was used to transform *stk* plants, and T₁ seeds were initially germinated in Phytigel™ BioReagent culture medium (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA) and selected for hygromycin resistance (25 µg ml⁻¹). Two-week-old putative transformants were screened for GFP fluorescence, and the T-DNA insertion of the *VviAGL11* alleles on T₁ plants was analyzed by PCR using specific primers targeting the plasmid promoter and the *VviAGL11* coding region (TransF 5'-CTGGGAAGTACTCACACATTA-3' and TransR 5'-CATTGGAGAGGACTCCG-3'). Only T₁ lineages positive for these three steps of selection were used for the phenotype assay: (i) silique length; (ii) seed number in siliques; (iii) seed size; (iv) funiculus thickness; and (v) funiculus length. For each plant, five well-developed siliques at the same stage were used for measurements/counting, and the final score for each plant was composed of their average. Columbia-0 and *stk* plants were used as controls for all measurements. Statistical analysis was performed using Prism 5.1 with one-way ANOVA and Tukey test.

Accession numbers

The nucleotide sequences reported in this paper have been submitted to GenBank under the accession numbers KM401845, KM401846, KM401847, and KM401848.

Results

Sequencing of the *VviAGL11* locus

To distinguish the structural organization of the *VviAGL11* gene in apirenic and seeded grapevines, allelic variations were amplified by PCR with specific primers from genomic DNA extracted from the apirenic 'Sultanine' and from the seeded 'Chardonnay' as previously described. A total of six contigs were assembled for each *VviAGL11* allele as shown in Fig. 1A. The complete *VviAGL11* allelic sequences constituted by their promoter, coding, and intragenic regions (eight exons and eight introns) were sequenced. After allele-specific isolation and sequencing, we identified two alleles for each cultivar. Because 'Chardonnay' is a direct offspring of Pinot Noir, we were able to make comparisons with the 'Pinot Noir' (PN40024) sequence in the publicly available genome database (http://genomes.cribi.unipd.it/gb2/gbrowse/public/vitis_vinifera/).

The two *VviAGL11* alleles from 'Chardonnay' showed 99% sequence identity to the corresponding 'Pinot Noir' genome sequence for *VviAGL11*. One allele from 'Sultanine' also exhibited 99% identity with PN40024. However, the second 'Sultanine' *VviAGL11* allele, linked to the molecular microsatellite marker VMC7F2 198 bp allele (Costantini *et al.*, 2008), presented a different group of polymorphisms when

compared with all the other alleles. This allele was named as *SUmut* ('Sultanine' mutant allele) and contains a group of exclusive polymorphisms composed of 28 INDELS (insertions/deletions) and 105 SNPs (Supplementary Fig. S1).

The sequence alignment of the four *VviAGL11* alleles sequenced within this work, from the PN40024 reference genome and from the newest sequences of the *VviAGL11* locus from 'Sultanine' described by Di Genova *et al.* (2014) is presented in Supplementary Fig. S1. Among the observed alterations in *SUmut*, two SNPs give rise to two amino acid substitutions (R590L and T628A) as shown in Supplementary Fig. S2. We also searched the sequences for MADS-box protein complex-binding sites (CARG-box sequences: perfect CARG-boxes and CARG-boxes with one mismatch deduced by a probability matrix; Smaczniak *et al.*, 2012). We were able to identify 10 putative CARG-box sequences within the *VviAGL11* gene structure, one located in the promoter region, eight in the second intron, and one in the 3'-UTR. The seventh CARG-box putative sequence of 'Sultanine' *VviAGL11 mut* has a nucleotide modification (Supplementary Fig. S1, black arrow).

Allele-specific transcription profiles of VviAGL11 during fruit development

The 3'- and 5'-RACE experiments allowed the identification of two distinct mRNA alleles of *VviAGL11* in apirenic ('Sultanine') when compared with seeded ('Chardonnay') grapevines. Two amplicons of different sizes were obtained from 'Chardonnay' and one amplicon was obtained from 'Sultanine'. After sequencing them, it was possible to confirm the specificity of the amplicons and to characterize each allele transcript present in both cultivars.

The results revealed that 'Chardonnay' has two alleles of *VviAGL11* mRNA. The allele isoform, named *CHI*, spans 1454 bp and contains a 732 bp coding region. This alternative form is longer and has an increased coding region of 60 nucleotides (20 amino acids when compared with the *VviAGL11* gene model in the PN40024 reference genome (Jaillon *et al.*, 2007). The second Chardonnay allele, named *CH2*, spans 958 bp and contains an ORF of 672 bp. 'Sultanine' also has two transcript alleles of the same total length (958 bp) and coding sequence (672 bp), respectively. The differences between the two *VviAGL11* alleles derived from 'Sultanine' are the presence of 10 SNPs found in the mutant allele (*SUmut*). The coding regions of *CH2* and 'Sultanine' allele 1 (*SU1*) are identical to those of the *VviAGL11* gene predicted in the Pinot Noir reference genome (Jaillon *et al.*, 2007); however, none of the 'Sultanine' alleles is identical to the 'Pinot Noir' gene due to the different 5'-UTR sizes, as shown in Fig. 1B.

To evaluate the relative expression of *VviAGL11* alleles during fruit development, RT-qPCR analysis with mRNA samples extracted from the reproductive organs of 'Chardonnay' and 'Sultanine' at critical fruit development stages was performed. Two sets of primers were used in this approach in order to differentiate *VviAGL11* mRNA isoforms. The first *VviAGL11* primer set was designed to amplify the longer

allele (*CHI*) (see the Materials and methods). The second pair of primers was designed to anneal in the first (forward) and in the second (reverse) exons that allowed us to amplify simultaneously the two *VviAGL11* alleles (the shorter *CHI* and longer *CH2*). Considering that in 'Sultanine' the alleles are differentiated only by 10 SNPs, we employed primers flanking the first and second exons, covering both alleles (*SU1* and *SUmut*).

The results showed that *VviAGL11* relative expression was similarly low in all stages sampled from the 'Sultanine' variety (Fig. 2). 'Chardonnay' flowers and berry pulp also presented low transcription levels of *VviAGL11* for isoforms *CHI* and *CH2*. RT-qPCR with primers designed for the intronic region was also performed with 'Sultanine' mRNA samples, and a minor level of expression was detected, probably due to residual pre-mRNA in the samples. Nevertheless, seeds of 'Chardonnay' from fruits at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set exhibited much higher accumulation of *VviAGL11 CH2* transcripts, 15-fold higher than *CH2* transcripts when compared with berries at fruit set and 65-fold higher when compared with 'Sultanine' whole berries. The 'Chardonnay' *CHI* allele relative expression fluctuated from 5- to 11-fold higher throughout seed stages compared with fruit set (Fig. 2).

Morphoanatomical analysis of seeds from apirenic and seeded grapevines

Grapevine seeds have a particular shape resembling a pear, being triangular in cross-section (Fig. 3A, B). The seeds are composed of a cuticle, an epidermis, two layers making up the outer integument (exotesta and ET), both forming the seed coat at the ripening stage, and three inner integument layers that are positioned around the endosperm and embryo (Ribereau-Gayon and Peynaud, 1980). The structure of the seeds from 'Chardonnay' and seed traces from 'Sultanine' was found to be very different in shape, size, and hardness (Fig. 3C). For that reason, a morphoanatomical analysis was conducted to better characterize the development of endosperm, embryo, and seed layers of both cultivars at 2, 4, and 6 weeks of fruit development.

A normal and complete development of the endosperm and the embryo was observed in 'Chardonnay' seeds after 6 weeks of fruit development. 'Sultanine' seed traces showed an undeveloped endosperm, and no embryo could be distinguished at any stage. When analyzing the integuments, three layers of inner integuments were observed in the seeds at the initial stage of fruit development in both varieties (Fig. 3D, E), although only two layers were present at later stages in 'Chardonnay' (Fig. 3F, H) and in 'Sultanine' (Fig. 3G, I).

The epidermis covers the outer integument in both varieties. Parenchyma cells are the main constituent of the outer integument, and cell layers are thicker in the ventral face of the seed. At the ripening stage there is an increase in parenchyma cell volume in 'Chardonnay', but the number of cells does not change. We could also observe the lignification process of the seed (Fig. 3D, F, H). However, in 'Sultanine' seed traces, this layer had no visible development (Fig. 3E, G, I).

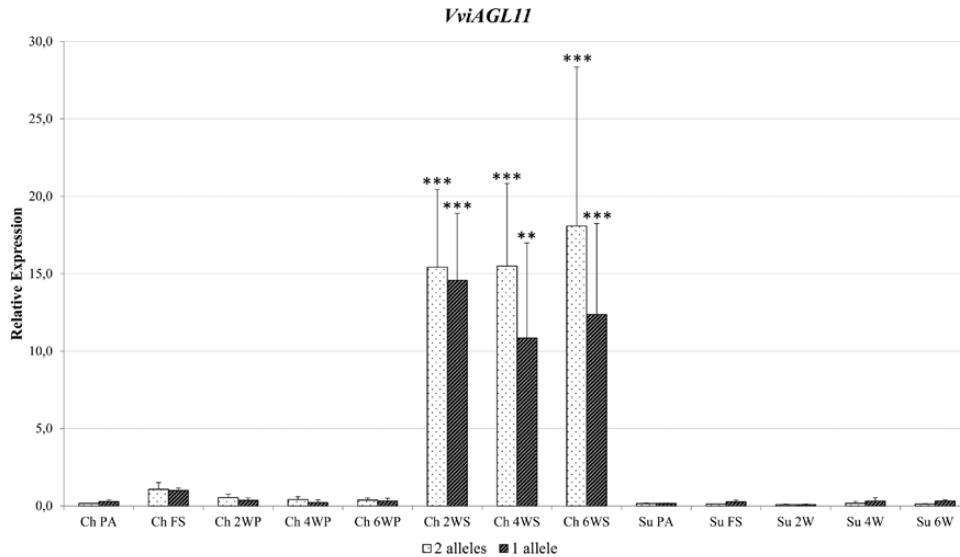


Fig. 2. Relative gene expression of *VviAGL11* alleles from ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’ via RT–qPCR. Two alleles correspond to *CH1* and *CH2*, and also *SU1* and *SUmut*. One allele corresponds to *CH1*. The developmental stages sampled are shown on the x-axis: PA, pre-anthesis flower; FS, fruit set; 2WP–4WP–6WP, pulp from fruits at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set; and 2WS–4WS–6WS, ‘Chardonnay’ seed stages. ‘Sultanine’ stages evaluated at pre-anthesis, fruit set, and fruits at 2, 4, and 6 weeks after fruit set (2W–4W–6W). ‘Chardonnay’ fruit set was used as reference. The relative expression expressed on the y-axis was calculated by the method of Pfaffl (2001). The SD is shown for each stage and sample. Asterisks indicate statistical significance between ‘Chardonnay’ alleles in seed stages compared with other stages evaluated for the ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’ alleles (Tukey test: ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$).

The most interesting morphoanatomical results were found in the ET layer, the inner layer of the outer integument. After 2 weeks of fruit development, one layer of rectangular palisade cells was observed in the seeds from both varieties (Fig. 3D, E). After 4 weeks, two layers were observed in ‘Chardonnay’ ET seeds (Fig. 3F) after a periclinal division, but this duplication was not observed in ‘Sultanine’ seed traces (Fig. 3G). After 6 weeks of fruit development, ‘Chardonnay’ seeds showed a sclerified and thicker ET (Fig. 3H), unlike ‘Sultanine’ seed traces that exhibited the same structures as its initial stage of development, with no lignification of this integument (Fig. 3I). The number of cells making up the ET layer was higher in ‘Chardonnay’, demonstrating a periclinal development. In contrast, this characteristic was not observed in ‘Sultanine’ (Fig. 4).

Spatial and temporal accumulation of *VviAGL11* transcripts

In situ hybridization (ISH) with the *VviAGL11* complementary (antisense) probe reveals no expression at the stages H1 (Fig. 5B), pre-anthesis flower (Fig. 5C), fruit set (Fig. 5D), and at 6 weeks of fruit development (Fig. 5J) in ‘Chardonnay’. *VviAGL11* transcripts exhibited a high accumulation in seeds after 2 (Fig. 5E, F) and 4 weeks (Fig. 5G–I) of development in ‘Chardonnay’. The ISH signal was clearly visible in the ET layer of the seeds (Fig. 5E, I). In ‘Sultanine’, no gene expression was observed at reproductive tissue/organ or stage of development (Fig. 6A–F). The ISH slides with the antisense probe were compared with slides hybridized with the sense *VviAGL11* probe as the control in the analysis of ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’ samples (Supplementary Figs S3 and S4, respectively). At the time of ISH assays, the

transcript isoforms were not known and the probe used for hybridization was designed according to the *VviAGL11* gene predicted model (GSVIVT01025945001) available at <http://www.genoscope.cns.fr>. Therefore, the whole probe (185 bp) hybridizes with the *CH1* mRNA isoform while 38 nucleotides still hybridize with *CH2*, *SU1*, and *SUmut* mRNA isoforms. Therefore, despite the differences within the genomic organization of the locus, the probe employed in the ISH assays is still capable of generating reliable data.

Functional analysis of *VviAGL11*

In order to confirm the role of *VviAGL11* as a key gene for seed morphogenesis in grapevine, we generated Arabidopsis *stk* mutant plants overexpressing *VviAGL11*. Two constructs were made with (i) a *VviAGL11* ‘Chardonnay’ allele (*VviAGL11 CH*); and (ii) a *VviAGL11* ‘Sultanine’ mutant allele (*VviAGL11 SU*). The ‘Sultanine’ mutant allele (*SUmut*) was used to evaluate the importance of the two SNP mutations conferring amino acid substitutions (*VviAGL11* R590L and T628A; Supplementary Fig. S2). Thirty-six well-developed plants were used for transformation with each construct, including controls. The reporter gene contained in the plasmid construct (GFP) was visualized in 3-week-old plants (Supplementary Fig. S5). The GFP-positive selected T_1 plants were tested by PCR for the presence of the complementation construct and the presence of the *VviAGL11* alleles, and resulted in 16 independent lineages transformed with *VviAGL11 CH* and 21 with *VviAGL11 SU*. In general, transformed plants had an increase of 12-fold in *VviAGL11* expression, compared with the wild type (Fig. 7C). Remarkably, an *stk* plant complemented with *VviAGL11* from the ‘Sultanine’ mutant allele presented a relative expression of 400-fold.

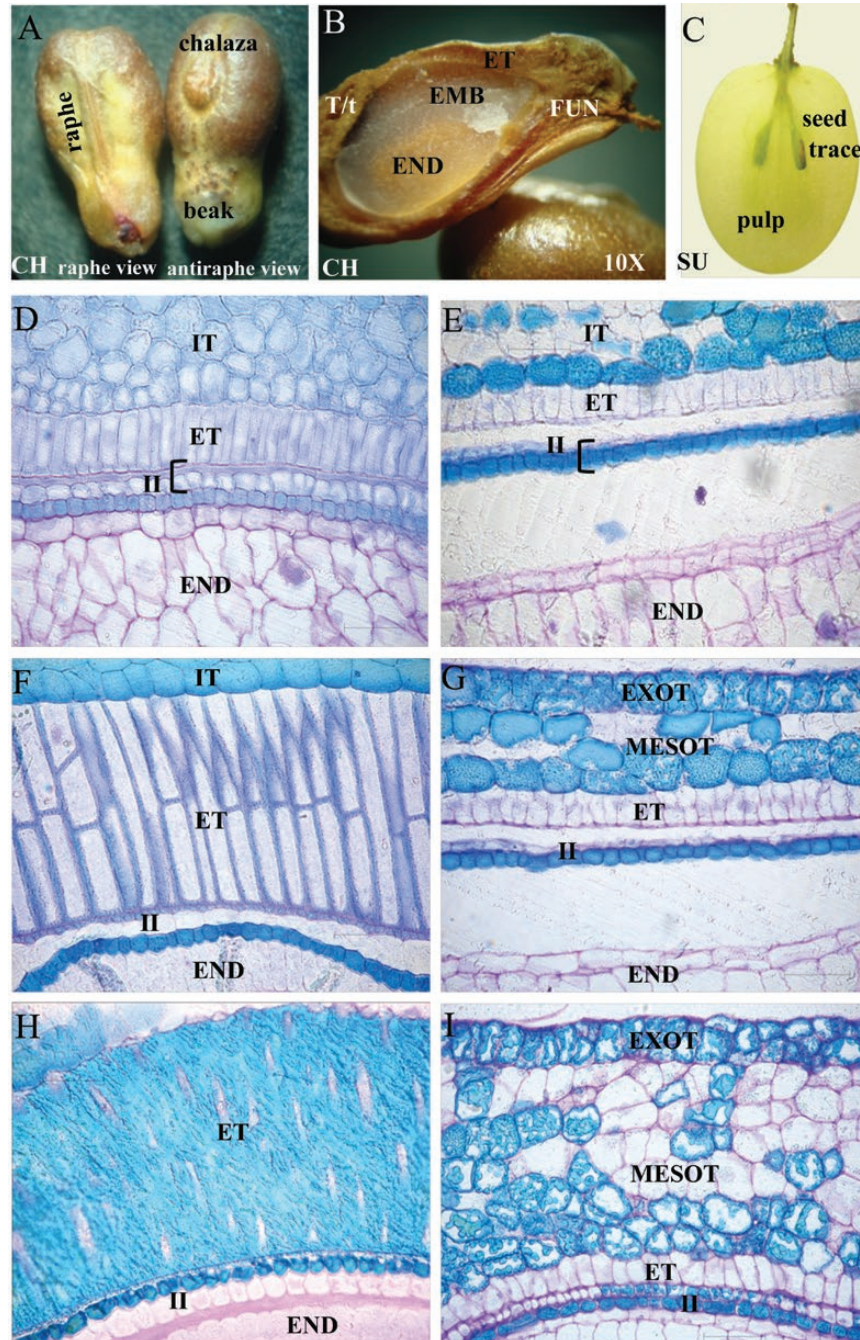


Fig. 3. Seeds and seed traces in *V. vinifera*. (A) Mature ‘Chardonnay’ (CH) seeds at their raphe and antiraphe view. (B) CH seed longitudinal section, with the view exhibiting the testa/tegmen (T/t), endotesta (ET), endosperm (END), embryo (EMB), and funiculus (FUN). (C) Mature ‘Sultanine’ (SU) berry showing its seed traces. Grapevine seed structure development from 2 to 6 weeks after fruit set (D–I). Light micrographs of grape seed cross-sections were stained with Toluidine Blue O. The cross-sections in the median area of the seeds of ‘Chardonnay’ and seed traces of ‘Sultanine’ enable the visualization of two defined integuments. ‘Chardonnay’ seed: (D) 2 weeks, (F) 4 weeks, and (H) 6 weeks. ‘Sultanine’ seed trace: (E) 2 weeks, (G) 4 weeks, and (I) 6 weeks. Endosperm (END), exotesta (EXOT), mesotesta (MESOT), endotesta (ET), inner integument (II), integuments (IT). Scale bar=200 μm.

The *Arabidopsis stk* mutant presents five distinct phenotypes when compared with the wild type: (i) the number of seeds is reduced to half; (ii) the size of the seeds is diminished (including many seed abortions); (iii) the silique length is reduced; (iv) the funiculus shows a thicker conformation; and (v) the funiculus shows an elongated conformation (Pinyopich *et al.*, 2003; Matias-Hernandez *et al.*, 2010). The siliques of T₁ lines present reduced seed abortion, increased seed size, silique length enlargement, and modifications in

the funiculus resembling the wild-type phenotype (Fig. 7C). Among the *VviAGL11 CH*-transformed plants, six showed wild-type-like developed siliques and increased seed number, eight demonstrated wild-type seed size, seven plants showed reduction of the funiculus thickness, and eight showed a shortened funiculus (Fig. 7A, D). Among the *VviAGL11 SU* plants, nine presented wild type-like developed siliques, six plants showed increased seed number, 10 had wild-type seed size, 10 plants presented reduced

funiculus thickness, and nine showed a shortened funiculus (Fig. 7B, D).

These results demonstrate that the ectopic expression of *VviAGL11* is capable of restoring silique and seed morphogenesis in the Arabidopsis *stk* background and that very similar genes have a relatively well conserved function *in planta*,

gathering evidence to support an evolutionary orthology relationship between *AtAGL11* and *VviAGL11*.

Discussion

Spontaneous somatic variants have been selected through grapevine domestication, creating new varieties and cultivars with interesting traits such as berry size, taste, color, and seedlessness (This *et al.*, 2006). A collection of reports in the literature indicated *VviAGL11* as the major candidate involved in the absence of seeds (Costantini *et al.*, 2008; Mejía *et al.*, 2011; Revers *et al.*, 2014; Ocaez and Mejía, 2016). Despite that, no specific and direct functional evidence was reported concerning the role of *VviAGL11* during seed development in grapevine. Therefore, our approach was to explore a combination of methods such as *de novo* sequencing, gene expression, and ISH, combined with anatomical examination and complementation analysis of the Arabidopsis *stk* mutant to gather evidence to address the function of *VviAGL11* during seed morphogenesis.

De novo sequencing based on a PCR strategy of *VviAGL11* allelic variants from ‘Sultanine’ and ‘Chardonnay’ was performed, allowing the identification of a group of polymorphisms that allowed the identification of four *VviAGL11* alleles (Fig. 1; Supplementary Fig. S1). No transposon or large insertion or deletion sequence was found in ‘Sultanine’ that could explain the gene loss of transcription observed in previous data (Mejía *et al.*, 2011). We found two amino

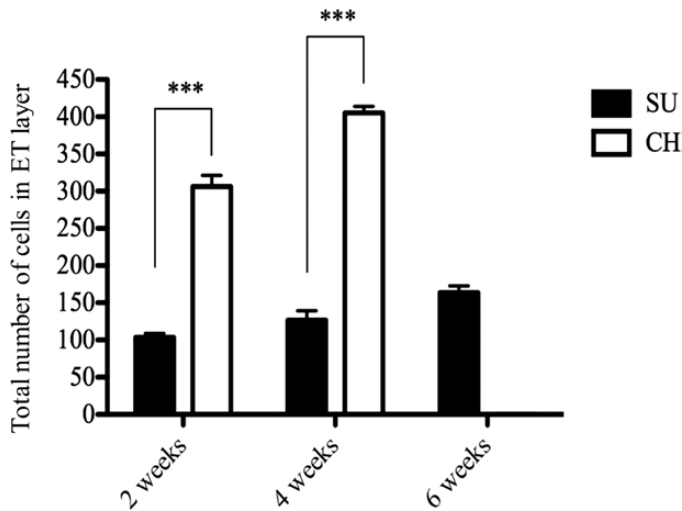


Fig. 4. Analysis of the endostesta (ET) layer of the seed of ‘Chardonnay’ and the seed trace of ‘Sultanine’. The SD is shown for each stage and sample. Asterisks indicate statistical significance between the number of cells in the ET layer of ‘Chardonnay’ compared with ‘Sultanine’ (two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post-test to compare replicate means by row. *** $P < 0.001$).

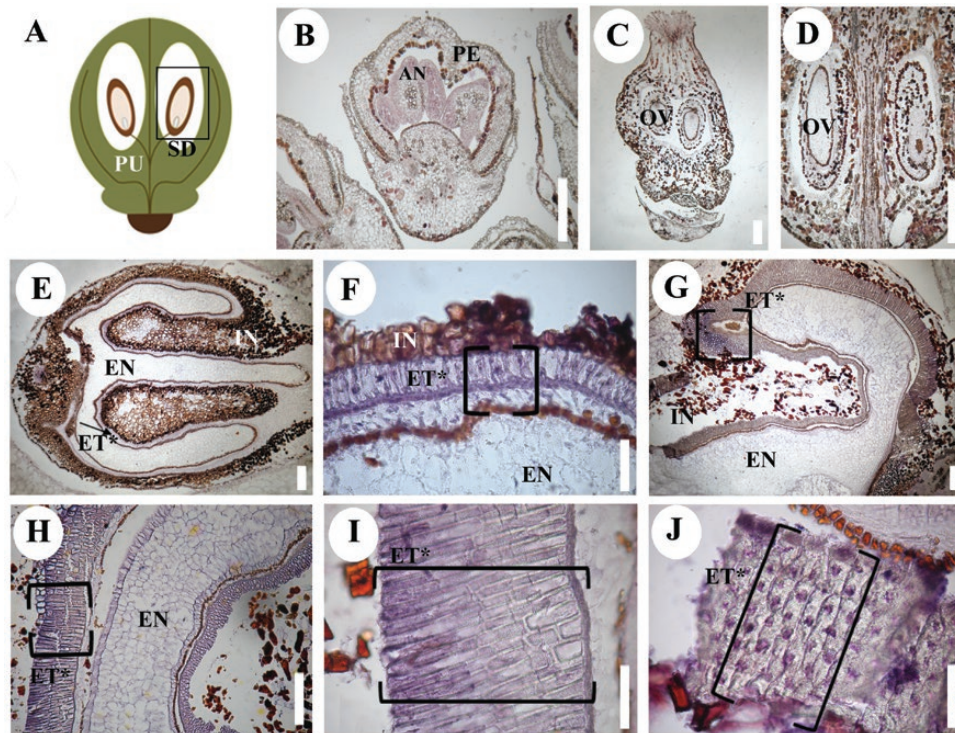


Fig. 5. *In situ* hybridization of *VviAGL11* in ‘Chardonnay’ reproductive tissues and organs, from flowers to seeds after 6 weeks of fruit development. (A) Schematic berry. No hybridization signal is visible in (B) H1 flower stage, (C) pre-anthesis flower stage, and (D) fruit set flower stage. *VviAGL11* expression is detectable in the endostesta of (E and F) seeds at 2 weeks of development and (G–I) seeds at 4 weeks of development (black arrows). No clear hybridization signal is visible in seeds at 6 weeks of development (J) when compared with the control (Supplementary Fig. S3H). Anther (an), endosperm (en), endostesta (et), integuments (it), petal (pe), pulp (pu), seed (sd). Scale bar=200 μ m.

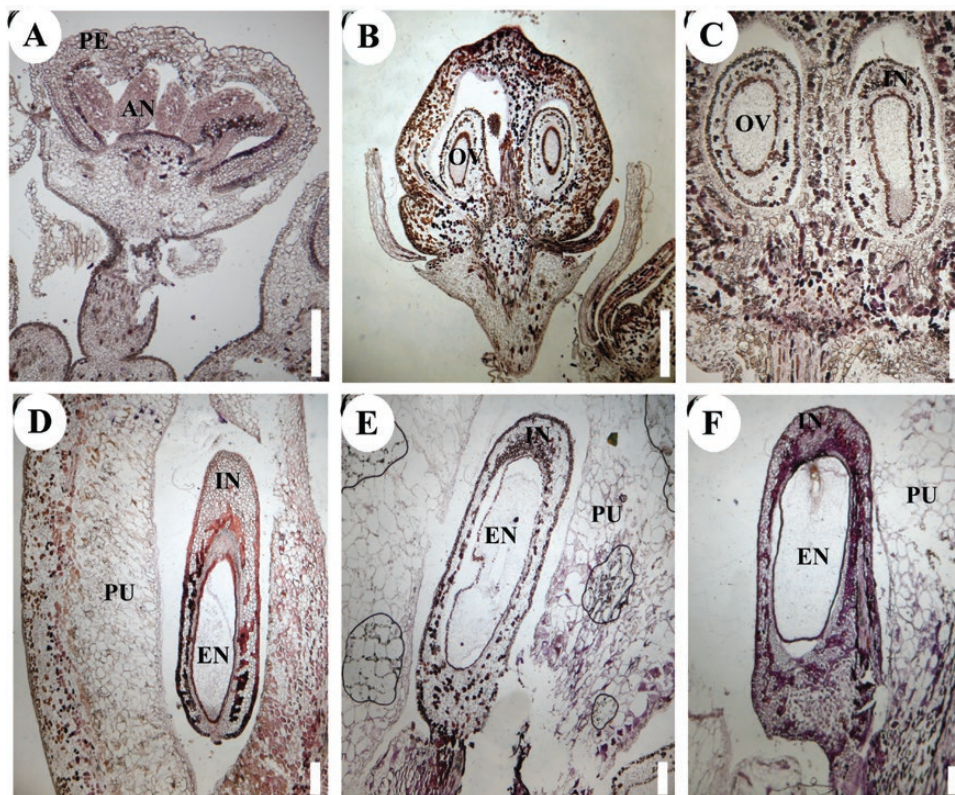


Fig. 6. *In situ* hybridization of *VviAGL11* in 'Sultanine' reproductive tissues and organs, from flowers to fruits and seed traces after 6 weeks of development. No hybridization signal is visible in (A) H1 flower stage, (B) pre-anthesis flower stage, (C) fruit set stage, and in seed traces from fruits of (D) 2, (E) 4, and (F) 6 weeks of development when compared with control slides (Supplementary Fig. S4). Anther (an), endosperm (en), endotesta (et), integuments (it), petal (pe), pulp (pu). Scale bar=200 μ m.

acid modifications in 'Sultanine's' *VviAGL11* coding region (Supplementary Fig. S2). Arginine and threonine were substituted by two more hydrophobic amino acids, leucine and alanine, respectively. These amino acid substitutions were localized in the C-terminal portion of the *VviAGL11* protein, a well-known region responsible for activity and ternary complex formation (Favaro *et al.*, 2003; Matias-Hernandez *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore, 17 INDELS and 53 additional SNPs were identified in the second intron of the 'Sultanine' mutant allele (Supplementary Fig. S1). The second intron of MADS-box AG (AGAMOUS) subfamily members is recognized by the presence of a quite large (*AtAG*, ~3 kb; *AtAGL11*, ~1.8 kb; and *VviAGL11*, ~4 kb) region with important *cis*-elements that may control tissue-specific expression of AG and AG-like genes (Deyholos and Sieburth, 2000; Hong and Hamaguchi, 2003). Interestingly, MADS-box proteins form complexes of high order, often in tetrameric junctions made by two dimers that bind to two DNA consensus sequences called CARG-boxes [CC(A/T)₆GG] separated by up to 300 bp (Liu *et al.*, 2008). A CARG-box modification was observed in the 'Sultanine' mutant (*SUmut*) allele, in the seventh putative sequence. This *cis*-element is only 84 bp distant from its putative partner CARG-box, which would suggest their relevance in *VviAGL11* gene regulation (Supplementary Fig. S1).

The transcription profile of *VviAGL11* isoforms provided complete data for each expression isoform during the development of flowers, fruits, and seeds. 'Sultanine' alleles presented a low level of expression in all organs and stages of

development, including berries, while the 'Chardonnay' alleles were expressed at very low levels in the berry pulp, but highly expressed in seeds (Fig. 2). Of the two 'Chardonnay' alleles, *VviAGL11-CHI* possesses a larger coding region, caused by alternative splicing, resulting in 20 additional amino acids. This alternative splicing is characterized as a 5' splice site and occurs in 7.5% of the Arabidopsis genome (Eckardt, 2013). The sequence of the *CHI* allele transcript was also found in a 'Cabernet Sauvignon' cDNA library derived from early stages of berry development (GenBank CB974197.1). This could cause conformational changes in the C-terminal portion of *VviAGL11* protein, yet no abnormal seed morphogenesis is observed in Chardonnay or Cabernet Sauvignon cultivars. Thus it is clear that these 20 additional amino acid residues are not relevant to seed development.

The relative expression of the *CHI* allele in seeds showed a fluctuation between 5- and 11-fold when compared with fruit set (Fig. 2). These results suggest that *VviAGL11* indeed has a major role in seed development. Without its expression (transcript accumulation) during early fruit developmental stages, there is no normal seed formation.

The interaction of proteins encoded by MADS-box genes of classes A, B, C, D, and E forms the widely accepted model of floral quartets (Theissen *et al.*, 2000; Dornelas and Dornelas, 2005). The AGAMOUS subfamily of MADS-box genes is known to have redundant functions in *A. thaliana*, as is the case for *AtAGL11* which is the major gene involved in the regulation of ovule development along

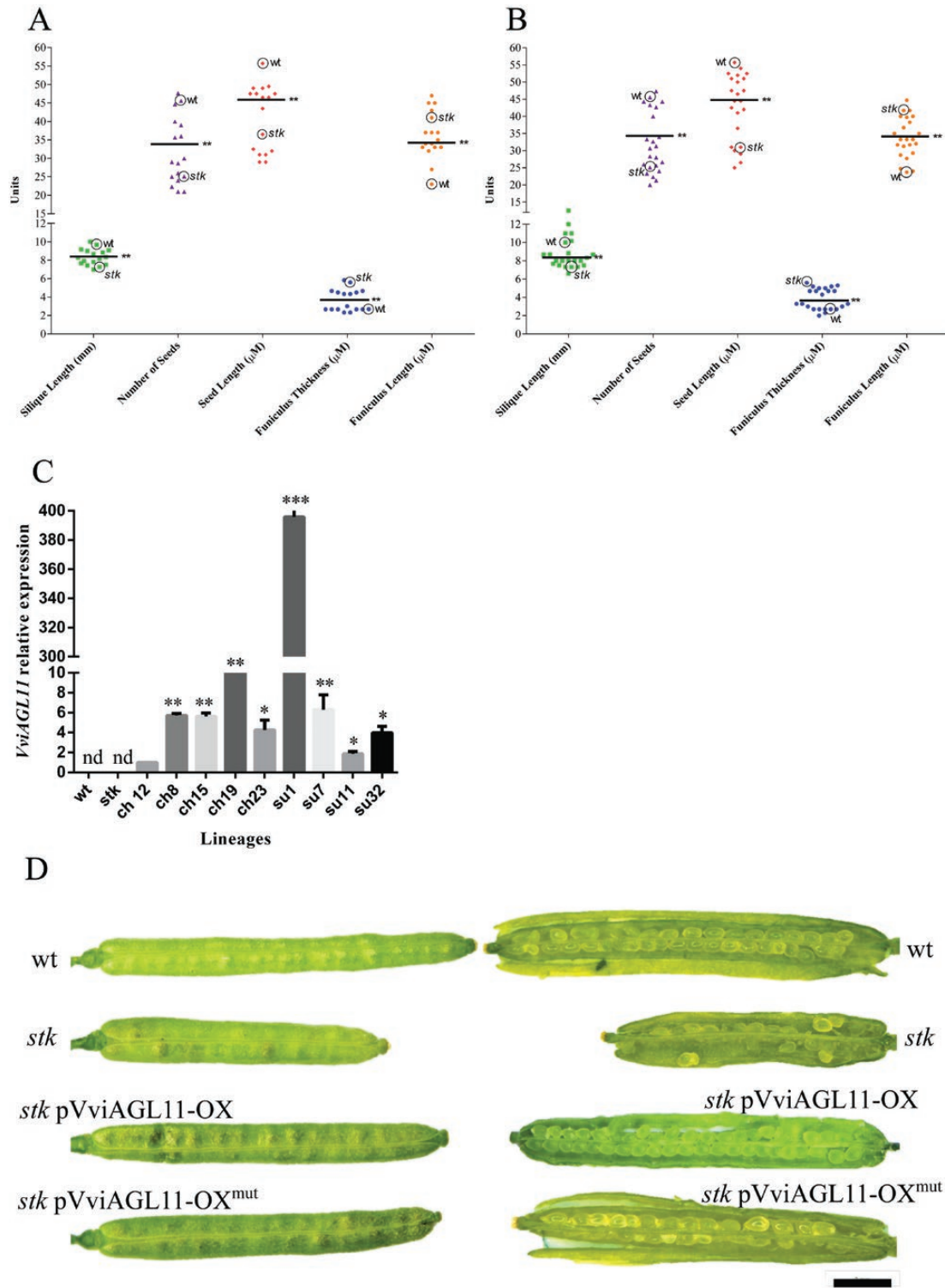


Fig. 7. Complementation analysis in the *Arabidopsis* *stk* mutant. (A) pVviAGL11-OX T₁ distribution by phenotype. (B) pVviAGL11-OX^{mut} T₁ distribution by phenotype. (C) *VviAGL11* relative expression analyzed in wild-type (wt), *stk*, and *stk*-transformed plants with *VviAGL11* constructions. (D) Comparison between controls and *stk*-complemented constructions. A wild-type silique showing full seed set (wt); siliques of *stk* plants containing aborted ovules and aborted seeds; siliques of *stk* pVviAGL11-OX plants complemented with the genomic region of the *VviAGL11* gene from Chardonnay, and siliques of *stk* pVviAGL11-OX^{mut} plants complemented with the genomic region of the *VviAGL11* gene from Sultanine. For each plant, five well-developed siliques at the same stage were evaluated, and the final score was composed of their average. Columbia-0 and *stk* plants were used as controls for measurements. Scale bar=2 mm.

with other two genes of class D, *SHATERPROOF1* and *SHATERPROOF2* (Colombo *et al.*, 1995; Pinyopich *et al.*, 2003). Our evidence together with data from the

literature support that the *VviAGL11* gene can be considered as an ortholog of *AtAGL11*; however, no gene has been identified yet as orthologous to *SHP1* or *SHP2* in

grapevine (Díaz-Riquelme *et al.*, 2012). These data suggest that *VviAGL11* might be the unique class D gene present in grapevine. Therefore, a possible model of the floral quartet could be proposed to be formed by *VvAG1* and *VvAG2* (*AGAMOUS* genes), *VviAGL11* (*VvAG3*), and one of the *SEPALLATA* genes of grapevine (*VvSEPI*, *VvSEP2*, *VvSEP3*, or *VvSEP4*) as previously described by Boss *et al.* (2002) and by Díaz-Riquelme *et al.* (2012). Additional studies of the *VviAGL11* protein, such as employing fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) (Sekar and Periasamy, 2003), are alternatives to confirm this hypothesis.

Previous studies have described grapevine seed anatomy as well as the changes of internal layers in the process of seed ripening; however, no study has demonstrated detailed morphological aspects in seeds of stenospermocarpic grapevines, especially seed traces (Pratt, 1971; Ribereau-Gayon and Peynaud, 1980; Cadot *et al.*, 2006). We compared normal seeds from ‘Chardonnay’ with seed traces from ‘Sultanine’, and the results showed that the most substantial difference was at the ET of the seed coat, which did not develop normally in ‘Sultanine’ seed traces, preserving its initial features until the complete maturation of the fruits. As expected, ‘Chardonnay’ seeds developed correctly with the elongation and cell duplication of the ET cells through periclinal divisions along with normal endosperm growth (Fig. 3). Our complete analysis of seed development showed that grapevine seeds have only two integuments, outer and inner (Figs 3, 5, 6), instead of three integument layers as previously described (Pratt, 1971; Cadot *et al.*, 2006).

García *et al.* (2005) have previously shown that there is a strong maternal effect of the integuments in the control, and determination of final seed size, due to the elongation of these layers, and, in the case of absence of elongation, there is a compensation effect promoted by the duplication of these layers. Furthermore, the nutrient flux in seeds occurs in a centripetal way, from the outer integument to the inner, going through apoplasts to the endosperm and to the embryo (Stadler and Lauterbach, 2005). Formation of seed traces is likely to originate due to disruption of normal development of seed tissues. It is possible that the erroneous formation of the ET seed layer that occurs in stenospermocarpic grapevines could interfere in seed nutrient intake and cause the degeneration of some tissues during seed development, such as the endosperm. Therefore, the crosstalk between seed coat and endosperm could be compromised by the defects on the ET, affecting the normal development of the seed (Figueiredo and Köhler, 2014).

The accumulation of transcripts of *VviAGL11* was localized in the ET layer of ‘Chardonnay’ seeds at 2 and 4 weeks (Fig. 5E–I) of development, while no signal of transcripts was detected in ‘Sultanine’ seed traces (Fig. 6). When ‘Chardonnay’ seeds at 6 weeks after fruit set were examined, it was assumed that no hybridization signals was detected (Fig. 5J). However, *VviAGL11* expression at this stage cannot be excluded because RT–qPCR data indicate that at least until 6 weeks after fruit set *VviAGL11* is still expressed in seed tissues (Fig. 2). Unambiguous interpretation of the hybridization signals (Fig. 5J) during this stage was difficult

to confirm probably due to the initiation of the lignification process that will be part of the mature and hard seed coat (Haughn and Chaudhury, 2005). A large amount of tannins and phenolic compounds turn brown, tending to darken throughout treatments during slide processing, giving a very strong background, which may impede clear signal identification in grapevine ISH analysis from tissues prone to lignification (Fernandez *et al.*, 2007; Colas *et al.*, 2010).

The ISH data are in agreement with the RT–qPCR transcriptional profile, where ‘Sultanine’ shows almost no expression of *VviAGL11* in the stages evaluated. The particular accumulation of *VviAGL11* transcripts in a specific layer of the seed coat in ‘Chardonnay’, combined with the morphological differences in this same layer when comparing ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’, suggests that this gene is essential for the elongation and duplication of the ET of the seed coat. Furthermore, seed growth is dictated by the coordinated development of endosperm and integuments and, hence, a spatial and temporal co-ordination of endosperm and integument growth is critical for normal seed development (García *et al.*, 2005). These results showed the similarities between the expression pattern of *AtAGL11* and *VviAGL11* in the fruit tissues, both being expressed in the ovule integuments. *AtAGL11*, however, has a spatial–temporal expression in the funiculus and in the ovule integuments mainly before fertilization, while *VviAGL11* expression is observed in ovule integument after fertilization (Mejía *et al.*, 2011; Fig. 3).

The overexpression of *AtAGL11* in the Arabidopsis *AGAMOUS* mutant (*ag*) promotes homeotic conversions of sepals into carpeloid structures, achieving ovule development (Favaro *et al.*, 2003). More recently, Mizzotti *et al.* (2014) expressed *AtAGL11* in the mutant *stk* background and observed the complete complementation of the wild-type phenotype, with normal seeds and correct seed abscission. In order to drive the expression of *VviAGL11*, the *Cauliflower mosaic virus* (CaMV) 35S promoter instead of the endogenous promoter of *AtAGL11* was used in the constructions. The *stk* transformants (T₁ generation) with pVviAGL11-OX and pVviAGL11-OX^{mut} restored the wild-type phenotype with both constructions (Fig. 7). The number and seed size increased, the silique achieved its normal size, and the typical morphology of the funiculus was also restored (Fig. 7D). Studies with the *stk* single mutant demonstrated that the funiculus is longer and thicker, wherein *AtAGL11* is also responsible for controlling cell expansion and cell division in this structure (Pinyopich *et al.*, 2003). *VviAGL11* overexpression in *stk* plants demonstrates that the ectopic expression of this gene was able to restore *stk* to the wild-type phenotypes for siliques, seeds, and funiculus (Fig. 7C). These results show that *VviAGL11* is responsible for the control of seed morphogenesis in a similar manner to Arabidopsis *AtAGL11*, providing evidence of an orthology relationship between them. The differences in the coding region conferred by *VviAGL11* *SUmut* (*SUmut*) had no effect during silique and seed development in the transformed T₁ *stk* mutant plants.

The results showing that *VviAGL11* is down-regulated in the apirenic genetic background despite having a wild-type-like

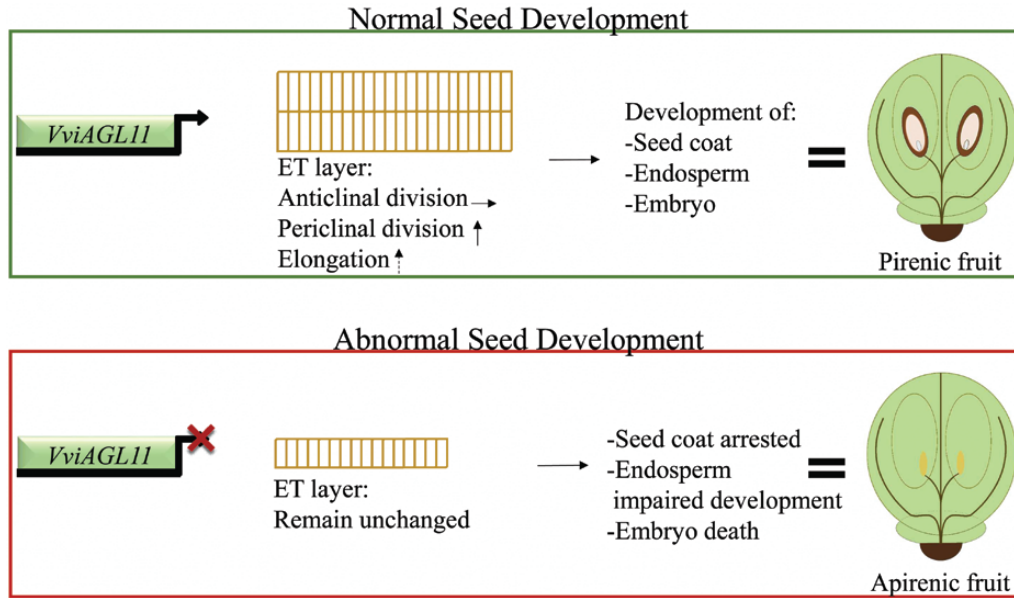


Fig. 8. The effect of *VviAGL11* on grapevine seed development. When *VviAGL11* expression is increased in the ovule after fertilization, the endotesta (ET) layer undergoes several modifications such as cell elongation, and cell duplication in anticlinal and periclinal directions. The correct development of this layer directs the further development of the seed coat, the endosperm, and, consequently, the embryo. Therefore, the seeds have a normal development, resulting in a seeded fruit. However, when *VviAGL11* expression remains low, the ET layer remains without the expected modifications, affecting the development of the seed coat and the endosperm, and causing embryo death. Thus, the final seed has an abnormal development, referred to as seed trace, resulting in an apirenic (seedless) fruit. (This figure is available in colour at *JXB* online.)

allele raises questions about its regulation and indicates that the mutant allele (*VviAGL11 SUMUT*) has a dominant effect in the resulting phenotype, excluding the possibility that the seedless phenotype might be caused by variations in its promoter region as previously proposed by Mejía *et al.* (2011). Based on the general gene structure of the MADS-box genes reported in the literature and the data gathered in this work, our hypothesis is that the CArG-boxes present in the second intron may play a role in *VviAGL11* regulation. In addition, based on the genetic data obtained from sequencing of the *VviAGL11* alleles and in the transcription profile of this gene, we suggest that *VviAGL11* protein may self-regulate *VviAGL11* transcription. *AtAGL11* direct targets are VDD (VERDANDI), BAN (BANYULS/ANTHOCYANIDIN REDUCTASE), ABS (ARABIDOPSIS B SISTER), and EGL3 (ENHANCER OF GLABRA3) genes, but unfortunately there are still no data referring to or testing this class D gene self-regulation (Matias-Hernandez *et al.*, 2010; Mizzotti *et al.*, 2014). Experiments involving the functional study of the polymorphisms between ‘Chardonnay’ and ‘Sultanine’ and analysis of *VviAGL11* proteins, derived from different alleles of *VviAGL11*, are under way in order to test the *VviAGL11* self-regulation hypothesis.

We propose that the lack of increased expression of *VviAGL11* during berry development is responsible for the abnormal development of the seeds. The extremely small final seed size results from the non-differentiation of the ET seed layer, causing the cessation of elongation, division, and duplication of this layer and, consequently, of the lignified seed coat. Moreover, with the loss of identity of the ET layer, the endosperm ceases its growth, causing embryo death and seed trace formation (Fig. 8). Our results are in

agreement with the hypothesis of Bouquet and Danglot (1996) for seed development, in which the inheritance of seedlessness in grapevine is based on a complex system whereby the expression of three independently inherited recessive genes is controlled by a dominant major regulator gene from a single dominant locus named *SdI*. The previous evidence reported by Mejía *et al.* (2011), Revers *et al.* (2014), and Ocares and Mejía (2016) is now reinforced by the data gathered in this work, allowing affirmation that the *SdI* locus phenotype effect is derived from the *VviAGL11* function during seed morphogenesis. Taken together, our results provide functional evidence to show that *VviAGL11* transcription is essential for seed morphogenesis in grapevine during berry development. Despite the valuable literature dedicated to seedlessness in grapevine, our work presents new and solid data towards the understanding of the molecular mechanism driving grapevine seed development with high potential in agriculture use in the generation of seedless grape varieties.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data are available at *JXB* online.

Fig. S1. Complete alignment of *VviAGL11* alleles.

Fig. S2. Alignment of the coding regions of *VviAGL11* alleles.

Fig. S3. *In situ* hybridization of the *VviAGL11* sense probe (control) in ‘Chardonnay’.

Fig. S4. *In situ* hybridization of the *VviAGL11* sense probe (control) in ‘Sultanine’.

Fig. S5. Plants of *Arabidopsis thaliana* under GFP evaluation.

Table S1. Primers designed for the amplification and sequencing of *VviAGL11*.

Table S2. Stages of development of grapevine reproductive organs.

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Author contributions

LFR and JM conceived the original screening and research plans; LFR, VB, MCD, MMP, GP, and JEAM supervised the experiments; JM and VB performed most of the experiments; MCD, MLG, and JEAM provided technical assistance to JM and VB; JM, VB, LFR, and MCD designed the experiments and analyzed the data; JM conceived the project and wrote the article with contributions of all the authors; LFR supervised and completed the writing.

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Supplementary Material

CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment by MUSCLE (3.8)

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CH1 TTATTGCTCTCTCTCTCCCTTTCCCTCTCCCTCTCC--CTCCCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCT
***** * * ***** *****

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CH2 CAAAGTCACTTTCTACATCTGCACCACCCACTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTC-----TCA
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su_wt TATCCGTCTCACATCTCTCCATTGTGGTATATATATATAAAGGACTAAACACAAGTCTTAA
CH1 TATCCGTCTCACATCTCTCCATTGTGGTATATATATAAAGGACTAAACACAAGTCTTAA

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su Di Genova GGCAC^{TTGGCTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGCACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA}
CH2 GGCAC^{TTGGCTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGCACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA}
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GGCAC^{TTGGCTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGCACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA}
su_wt GGCAC^{TTGGCTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGCACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA}
CH1 GGCAC^{TTGGCTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGCACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA}

su_mut AGTCGCCG^{GATTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC}
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CH2 AGTCGCCG^{GATTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC}
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su_wt AGTCGCCG^{GATTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC}
CH1 AGTCGCCG^{GATTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC}

su_mut CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
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CH2 CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
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su_wt CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
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CH2 TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
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su Di Genova TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTGAGTCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
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su_wt TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTGAGTCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
CH1 TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTGAGTCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT


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su_wt      TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTAGATTTCTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTCTCCTGCAA
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su_Di Genova CH2 CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTGTTTCCATTCTT
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su_wt      CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTGTTTCCATTCTT
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su_Di Genova CH2 TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
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su_wt      TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
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su_wt      AAGGGTTATGGGGTTTTTGAGAAATGTG-----GAGAGAGAGA
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su_wt      GGTTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
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su_Di Genova CGGTCGAGTCTATGAGTACTCAAACAACAA GTAATAATTTTCTCCACCATTCTTCAACC
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CH2 AGGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGTACACTC
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su_wt AGGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGTACACTC
CH1 AGGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGTACACTC
* *****

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CH2 CTTCGTCTTTTAAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCATATAAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
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su_wt CTTCGTCTTTTAAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCATATAAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
CH1 CTTCGTCTTTTAAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCATATAAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA

su_mut TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAA CAAAAATTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTAT
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CH2 TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAA CAAAAATTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTGT
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su_wt          GGGAGAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAAATCTTTTCCCATG
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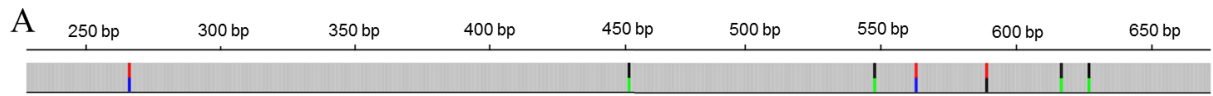
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
su_wt        CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
CH1          CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
*****

su_mut        CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTGTATAACATTATGACATATAATATA
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CH2          CTTGATATTTATCCGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
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su_wt        CTTGGTATTTATCCGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
CH1          CTTGGTATTTATCCGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
**** *****

su_mut        GCCTATTAATAAT
su_Di Genova GCCTATTAATAAT
CH2          GCCTATTAATAAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GCCTATTAATAATATACAATATTCCTAATCT
su_wt        GCCTATTAATAAT
CH1          GCCTATTAATAATATACAATATTCCTAATC
*****

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Supplementary Fig. 1. Multiple sequence alignment of *VviAGL11* alleles. The sequences presented in the alignment are *VviAGL11* from PN40024 (VIT_218S0041G01880.2), *VviAGL11* ‘Chardonnay allele 1’ (*CH1*), *VviAGL11* ‘Chardonnay allele 2’ (*CH2*), *VviAGL11* ‘Sultanine’ mutant allele (*SUmut*), *VviAGL11* ‘Sultanine wt allele’ (*SU wt*) and the sequence from ‘Sultanine’ reported by Di Genova *et al.* (2014). Underlined sequences indicate the SSR marker VMC7F2 position, UTRs are indicated in blue, exons are indicated in red, putative CArG-Box sequences are indicated in green, SNPs in the coding region are highlighted in grey and the black arrow indicates the CArG-Box mutation. Y equals pyrimidine (C or T), R equals purine (A or G) and W equals A or T bases.



B CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment by MUSCLE (3.8)

```

su_mut      MGRGKIEIKRIENTTNRQVTFCKRRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIVFSSRGRVYEYSNN
CH1         MGRGKIEIKRIENTTNRQVTFCKRRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIVFSSRGRVYEYSNN
CH2         MGRGKIEIKRIENTTNRQVTFCKRRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIVFSSRGRVYEYSNN
su_wt      MGRGKIEIKRIENTTNRQVTFCKRRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIVFSSRGRVYEYSNN
VIT        MGRGKIEIKRIENTTNRQVTFCKRRNGLLKKAYELSVLCDAEVALIVFSSRGRVYEYSNN
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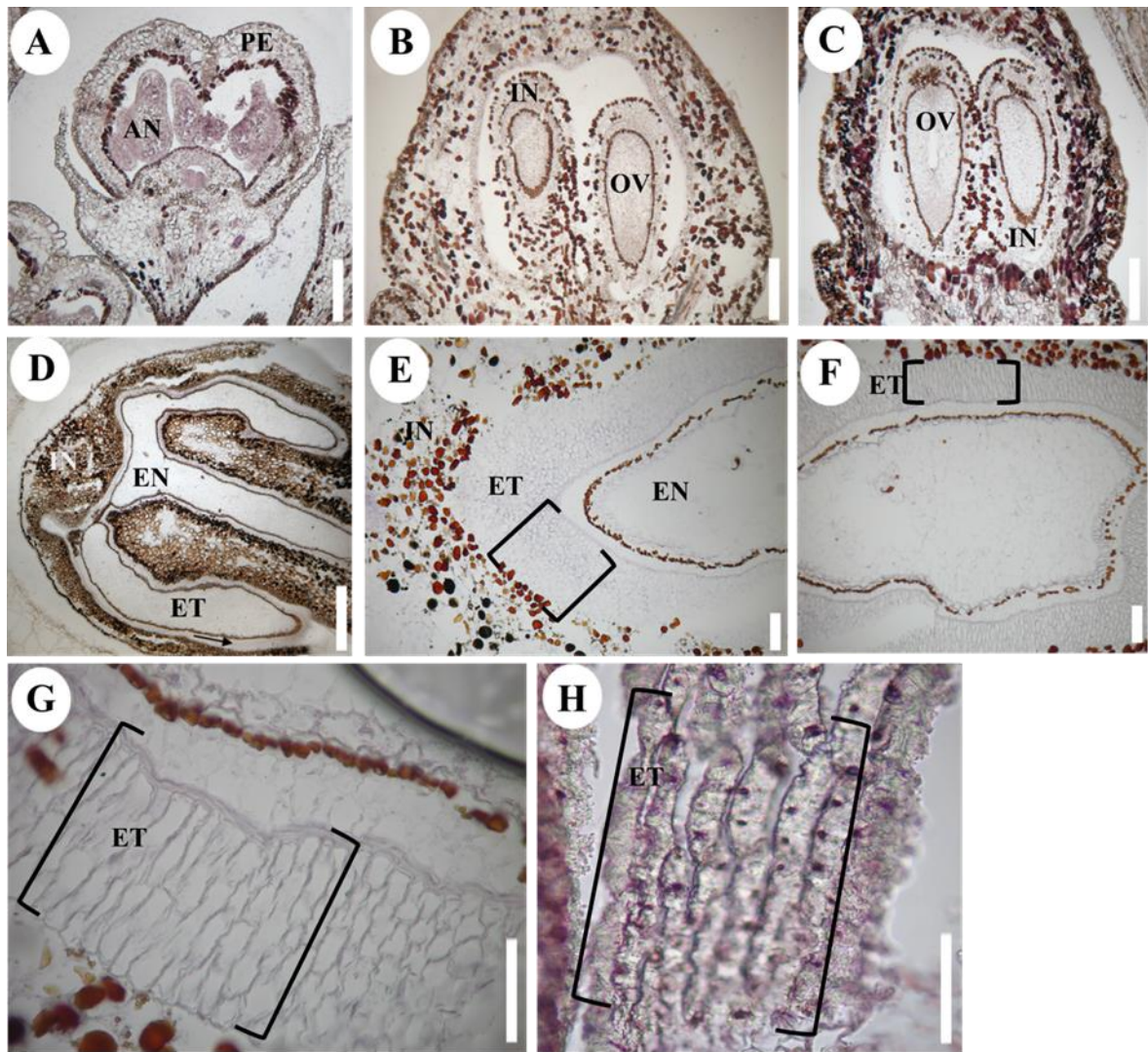
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CH2         NIKSTIDRYKKASSDSTNGGSTMEINAQYYQQESAKLRQQIQMLQNSNRHLMGDSLASLT
su_wt      NIKSTIDRYKKASSDSTNGGSTMEINAQYYQQESAKLRQQIQMLQNSNRHLMGDSLASLT
VIT        NIKSTIDRYKKASSDSTNGGSTMEINAQYYQQESAKLRQQIQMLQNSNRHLMGDSLASLT
su_Di      NIKSTIDRYKKASSDSTNGGSTMEINAQYYQQESAKLRQQIQMLQNSNRHLMGDSLASLT
*****

su_mut      VKELKQLENRLERGITRIRSKKHELLLAEIEYLYQKREIELENESVYLRTKIAEVERLQQA
CH1         VKELKQLENRLERGITRIRSKKHELLLAEIEYLYQKREIELENESVYLRTKIAEVERLQQA
CH2         VKELKQLENRLERGITRIRSKKHELLLAEIEYLYQKREIELENESVYLRTKIAEVERLQQA
su_wt      VKELKQLENRLERGITRIRSKKHELLLAEIEYLYQKREIELENESVYLRTKIAEVERLQQA
VIT        VKELKQLENRLERGITRIRSKKHELLLAEIEYLYQKREIELENESVYLRTKIAEVERLQQA
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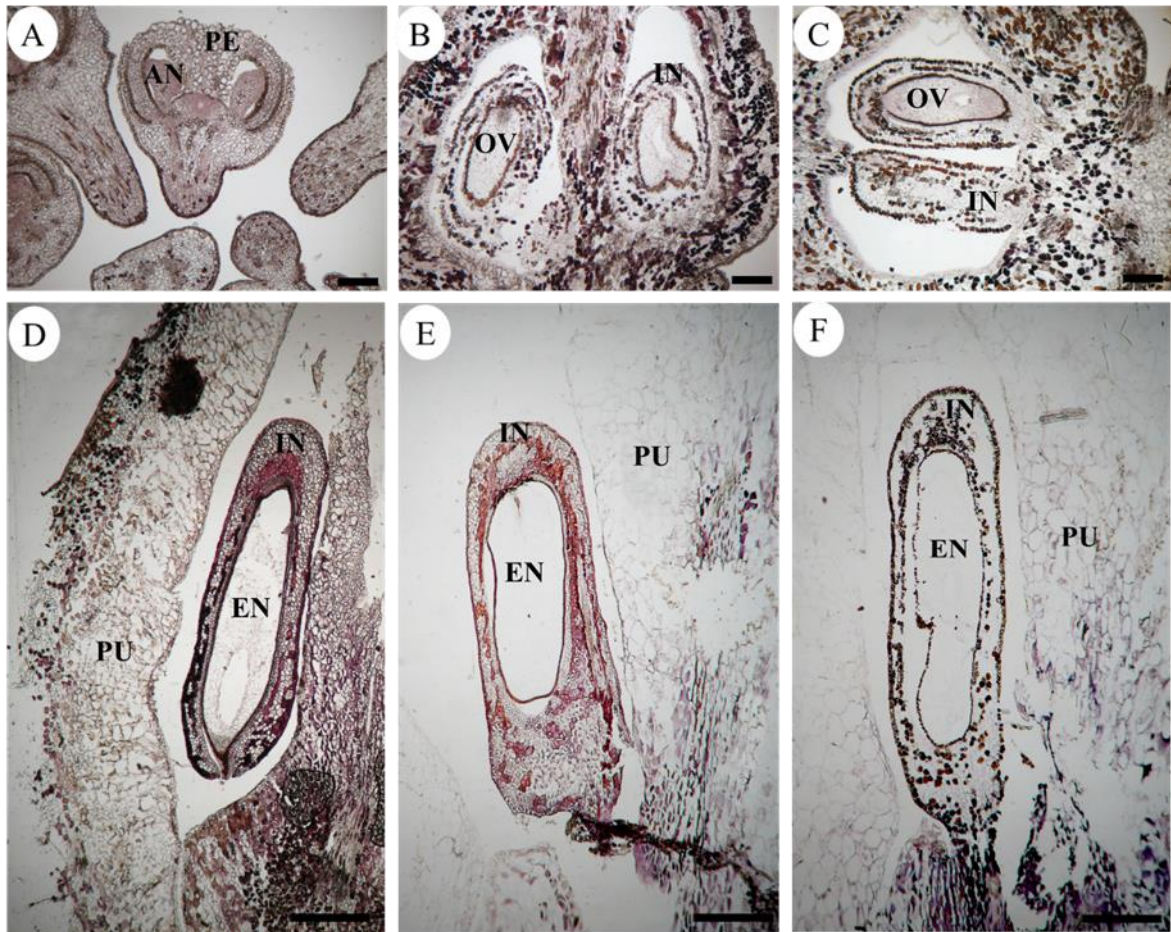
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su_wt      NMVSTHEFNAIQALVSRNFFQPNMIEGGSTGYPLPDKKVLHLG
VIT        NMVSTHEFNAIQALVSRNFFQPNMIEGGSTGYPLPDKKVLHLG
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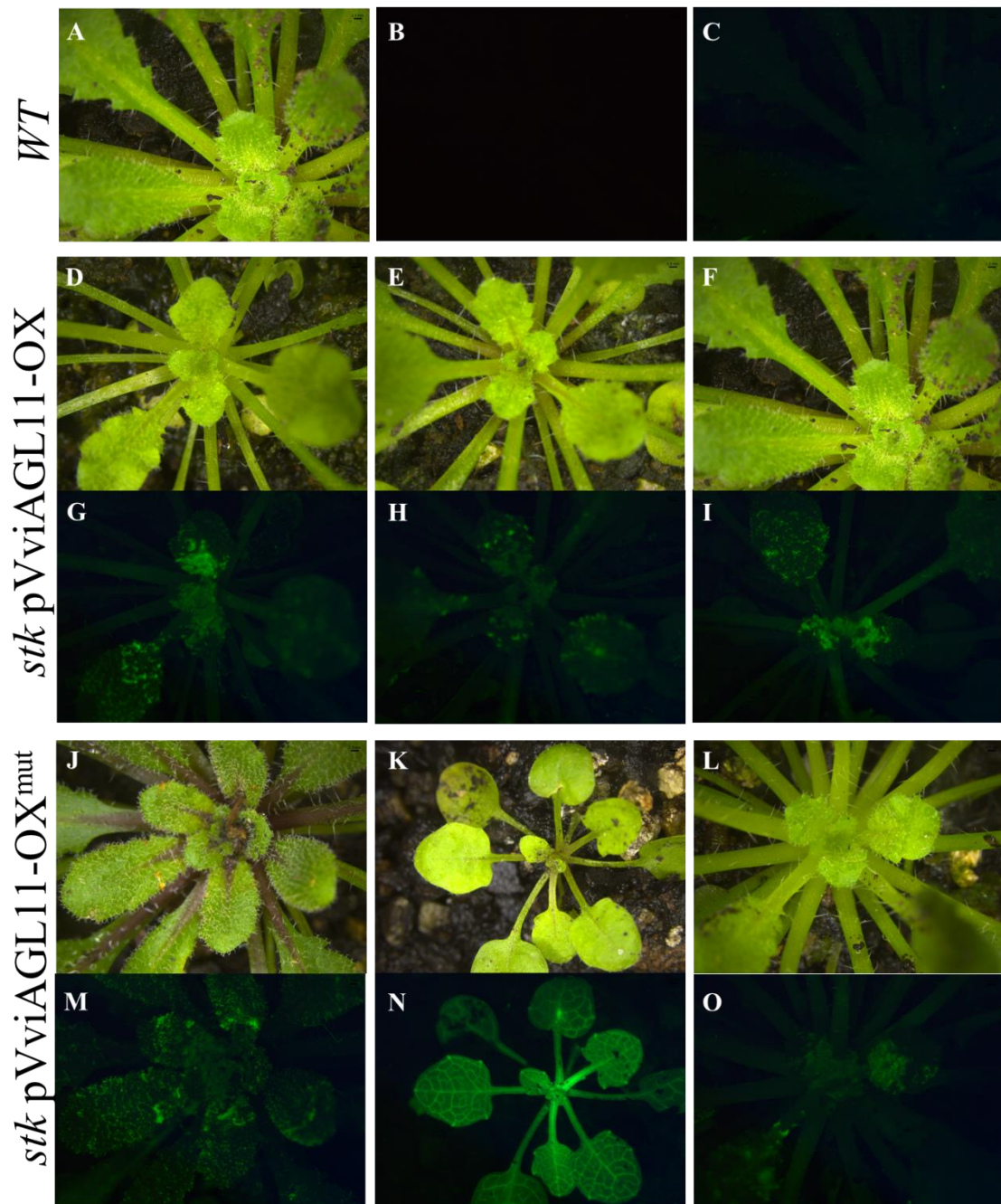
Supplementary Fig. 2. Alignment of thesequences segments from *VviAGL11* alleles. **(A)** Alignments of the alleles from grapevine genome (VIT-PN40024), ‘Chardonnay’ (both *VviAGL11* alleles CH1 and CH2), ‘Sultanine’ wild-type like and mutant alleles (su_wt and su_mut) and ‘Sultanine’ sequence reported by Di Genova *et al.* (2014) (su_Di). Colors stripes represent SNPs (A-green, C-blue, T-red, G-black). **(B)** Protein sequence alignment showing the two amino acid modifications marked in red.



Supplementary Fig. 3. *In situ* hybridization of *VviAGL11* sense probe (control) in 'Chardonnay'. H1 flower stage (A), pre-anthesis flower stage (B), fruit set flower stage (C), 2 weeks (D), 4 weeks (E) and 6 weeks (F) of fruit development. Anther (an), endosperm (en), endotesta (et), integuments (it), ovule (ov), petal (pe), pulp (pu). Scale bar: 200 μ m.



Supplementary Fig. 4. *In situ* hybridization of *VviAGL11* sense probe (control) in 'Sultanine'. H1 flower stage (A), pre-anthesis flower stage (B), fruit set flower stage (C), 2 weeks (D), 4 weeks (E) and 6 weeks (F) of fruit development. Anther (an), endosperm (en), endotesta (et), integuments (it), ovule (ov), petal (pe), pulp (pu). Scale bar: 200 μ m.










Supplementary Fig. 5. Plants of *Arabidopsis thaliana* under GFP evaluation. WT plant (bright field (A); GFP filter for 1 second of exposition (B); GFP filter for 3 seconds of exposition (C)). *stk* plants transformed with pVviAGL11-OX from 'Chardonnay' (bright field (D-F); GFP filter for 1 second of exposition (G-I)). *stk* plants transformed with pVviAGL11-OX^{mut} from 'Sultanine' (bright field (J-L); GFP filter for 1 second of exposition (M-O)).

Supplementary Table 1. Primers designed for the amplification and sequencing of *VviAGL11*.

VviAGL11- PF1	CCA CTG ATA TGG ATT GAT TTG CC
VviAGL11- PR1	GGA CAG TGG AAT ACA GAT TC
VviAGL11- PF2	TAG GAA GGG ATT ACA TGG G
VviAGL11- PR2	GAT GGC ATT GAG CAA ACA
VviAGL11- PF3	CCC ATT ACA TCT TTG TGT GG
VviAGL11- PR3	AAA CCC CAC TGT GAT AGG
VviAGL11- PF4	GGA TGG TGT CAT AAT GAT AGG
VviAGL11- PR4	GAG TTT GTA TGG AGA ATA GCA G
VviAGL11- PF5	GCA AAG CAG TTA TTG AAA GC
VviAGL11- PF6	TGC CCA AGT AAG AAA ACT TC
VviAGL11- PR5	GGC GGA TAT TTT CTC CCA TC
VviAGL11- PR6	TGA TTA TCA ACA CCA AAC ATG GC
SEQ_AGL11_R_1	CAT CAG CAG ATG CCA GAT
SEQ_AGL11_F_1	CAA TAA ACC TAA CAG TGT AGT GAA C
SEQ_AGL11_F_2	CTA GGC AAC AAC CAG TTA G
SEQ_AGL11_R_2	ATA AGG AAG ACT TCT CCC C
SEQ_AGL11_R_3	CTT TTT CTC CTA CTT TTC CTC
SEQ_AGL11_F_3	CGA TCT TAC ATG AGA TTT TAC C
SEQ_AGL11_R_4	TTG GAG CAT CGT CTT AGA G
SEQ_AGL11_F_4	GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAG
SEQ_AGL11_R_5	GAA ATA TCA TAG TCA TCC TCA C
SEQ_AGL11_F_5	TAA GGT GTC GAA GCC ATG
SEQ_AGL11_R_6	TGA GTT TCT TTG TGT GGA C
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SEQ_AGL11_R_8	CAA ATG CTC AGC CAG ATT AG
SEQ_AGL11_R_8	CGG TAT CAA CTG TTG TGC
SEQ_AGL11_F_9	GGT AAC GAC ACC TAG ACA C
SEQ_AGL11_R_9	GCT TGA AAT GTC TCA TTA AGC
SEQ_AGL11_F_10	CGT ATA TCT CCG AAC CAA G
SEQ_AGL11_F_11	CTC GGG TAC ACT CAT CTT TC
SEQ_AGL11_F_12	TTC AAG TTC GAC CTA ATT CCT GG
SEQPromo_AGL11_R_1	GAT CTC GAT CTT TCC TCT CCC
SEQPromo_AGL11_F_1	CCT CAC CCT ATT TTT CGA ACA AC
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SEQPromo_AGL11_F_3	TTG CCT ACA TAT GAA CAT CTG C
SEQPromo_AGL11_R_4	ATT TGG AGA GAT GGG CAC TG
SEQPromo_AGL11_F_4	AAA GTC ACT TTC TAC ATC TGC AC
SEQPromo_AGL11_R_5	GGA GAG ATG TGA GAC GGA TAT G
SEQPromo_AGL11_F_5	AGA AGA AAG TTT GCA GTT TGT G
SEQPromo_AGL11_R_6	CAA AGT CGG ATA CAA GAC ATA GTA G

Supplementary Table 2. Stages of development of grapevine reproductive organs sampled for the evaluation of *VviAGL11* transcriptional profile (except H1) and for the *in situ* hybridization experiment. Dates of harvesting, the phenological stage according to Baggiolini (1952), grapevine cultivars and a representative picture of each sample are represented.

Dates	Phenological stage (Baggiolini, 1952)	Sample	Cultivar	
09/11/12	H1	Flowers at inicial development	Chardonnay	
08/30/12			Sultanina	
10/08/12	Pre anthesis	Flowers before anthesis	Chardonnay	
10/08/12			Sultanina	
10/22/12	Fruit-set	Flowers in anthesis	Chardonnay	
10/08/12			Sultanina	
11/05/12	2 weeks of development	Fruits (Pulp and seeds)	Chardonnay	
11/22/12			Sultanina	
11/19/12	4 weeks of development	Fruits (Pulp and seeds)	Chardonnay	
11/05/12			Sultanina	
12/03/12	6 weeks of development	Fruits (Pulp and seeds)	Chardonnay	
11/19/12			Sultanina	
01/02/13	Maturation	Fruits (Pulp and seeds)	Chardonnay	
12/17/12			Sultanina	

4 CAPÍTULO II

Manipulation of *VviAGL11* expression changes the seed content in grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.)

Artigo científico publicado no periódico 'Plant Science' (FI: 3,43)

MALABARBA, JAIANA¹; BUFFON, VANESSA; MARASCHIN, FELIPE S.; MARIATH, JORGE E.A; MARGIS-PINHEIRO, MÁRCIA; PASQUALI, GIANCARLO; REVERS, LUÍS F. Manipulation of *VviAGL11* Expression Changes the Seed Content in Grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.) Plant Science, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plantsci.2018.01.013>



Manipulation of *VviAGL11* expression changes the seed content in grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.)

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Márcia Margis-Pinheiro^a, Giancarlo Pasquali^a, Luís F. Revers^{b,*}

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^b Laboratory of Plant Molecular Genetics, Embrapa Uva e Vinho, Bento Gonçalves, RS, 95701-008, Brazil

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ARTICLE INFO

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Grapevine
Seed
Silencing
Overexpression
VviAGL11

ABSTRACT

Seedlessness in grapes is a desirable trait, especially for *in natura* consumption. Previously, we showed that *VviAGL11* is the main responsible gene for seed morphogenesis in grapevine. Here we tested the function of this gene in grapevine with the use of plant plasmids. *VviAGL11* was cloned into silencing and overexpression versions of p28iIR plasmid. Reproductive grapevine bunches from different seeded and seedless cultivars were separately treated with *VviAGL11*-harboring plasmids, along with controls. Plasmids were detected in leaves after a month of treatment, and berries, leaves, stems and seeds were analyzed for ectopic gene expression by RT-qPCR after 90 days of plasmid injection. Fruits from the seedless ‘Linda’ treated with the *VviAGL11*-overexpression plasmid showed high expression levels of *VviAGL11* and exhibited small seeds that were not found in the untreated control samples. Mature grapes from seeded ‘Italia’ and ‘Ruby’ bunches treated with the *VviAGL11*-silencing plasmid showed decreased *VviAGL11* expression, reduced number of seeds and increased number of seed traces. The present study confirms that *VviAGL11* is a key master regulator of seed morphogenesis in grapevine and corroborates with the applicability of plant plasmids as promising biotechnological tools to functionally test genes in perennial plants in a rapid and confident way.

1. Introduction

Grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.) is one of the major and oldest cultivated plant species worldwide [1], covering an area of 7.5 million hectares [2–4]. Its world production increased from 59.74 million tons in 1990–73.7 million tons in 2014, of which 2.4 tons were table grapes. The large and increasing consumption of table grapes is accompanied by an increasing demand for better quality, not only relative to the visual aspect of fruits, but also focused on taste, flavour and consistency of berries [5,6]. Moreover, the market for table grapes is expanding its preference for seedless grapes [7–9].

The absence of seeds in grapevine, called apyreny, results from two distinct processes named stenospermocarpy and parthenocarpy. In the process of stenospermocarpy, predominantly selected in breeding programs of table grapes, the development of embryo and endosperm starts after fertilization but the endosperm tissue degenerates prematurely, leading to the production of fruits containing seed traces [10]. In

parthenocarpy, the ovary develops into a fruit without fertilization, i.g., fruits develop from maternal tissues only, and therefore have no seeds [11,12]. A plant is considered apirenic when it is capable of producing (i) seedless fruits, (ii) fruits with seed traces or (iii) fruits with seeds reduced in number and size [12]. To determine the phenotype of seedlessness, a particular grapevine cultivar is classified by the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV) standard descriptor 243, according to which cultivars with a rate of less than 30 mg/seed are considered apirenic. Other useful scale was proposed by Bouquet and Danglot [11] in which the total seed dry matter percentage should be under 40% to be considered as a seedless cultivar.

In silico analysis of the grapevine genome allowed the identification of a candidate gene related to seed morphogenesis called *Vitis vinifera* AGAMOUS-LIKE 11 (*VviAGL11*), mapped at the same *Seed development Inhibitor* (*SdI*) locus where the microsatellite molecular marker VMC7F2 was located. VMC7F2 is a highly polymorphic microsatellite marker associated to seedlessness in grapevines with discrimination efficiency

Abbreviations: OIV, Organisation Internationale de la vigne et du Vin; SdI, seed development inhibitor; STK, seedstick; TYLCV, Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus; RNAi, silencing; OX, overexpression; NT, non-treated; GFP, green fluorescent protein; GUS, beta-glucuronidase protein

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Table 1

Experimental overview of the treated cultivars. The cultivars used in this study, their respective phenotype concerning seed presence and the genotype data for *VviAGL11* alleles. In this work, we used three sets of plant plasmids: the experiment control set (pIR + p1470), the *VviAGL11* overexpression set (pIRVviAGL11OX) and the *VviAGL11* silencing set (pIRVviAGL11RNAi). The number of bunches treated for each cultivar and the final number of bunches evaluated were accounted.

Cultivar	Phenotype	Plasmids	Number of treated bunches	Number of evaluated bunches
Prosecco	Seeded	pIR + p1470	6	6
Alvarinho	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	12	12
Chardonnay	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	13	10
Italia	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	10	10
Moscato giallo	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	19	12
Pinot Noir	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	24	15
Ruby	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	9	9
Trebbiano	Seeded	pIRVviAGL11RNAi + p1470	15	14
Clara	Seedless (scar trace)	pIRVviAGL11OX + p1470	9	5
Linda	Seedless (scar trace)	pIRVviAGL11OX + p1470	13	13
Sultanine	Seedless (seed trace)	pIRVviAGL11OX + p1470	3	0

[13–15]. The *VviAGL11* gene (genome access <http://genomes.tribe.unipd.it/grape/-Vv18s0041g01880>) demonstrated to be an ortholog of the *AtAGL11/STK* gene [12], known to have an important role in seed development in *Arabidopsis* [16,17]. The analysis of the *VviAGL11* transcriptional profile in grapevine showed a large accumulation of transcripts in developing seeds at two, four and six weeks after fruit set, whereas in apirenic varieties, there was an extreme depletion of its expression in all berry tissues evaluated [12,18,19]. *VviAGL11* seems to regulate the differentiation of the endotesta layer of the seed coat. In the absence of *VviAGL11* expression, the endotesta duplication and elongation fail to occur, and the seed development is arrested, forming a seed trace-like structure [12].

Fruits are a major source of fibre, nutrients, and antioxidants which are essential for a healthy diet [3,8,20]. Therefore, fruit crops play a key role in the economy of many countries. Efforts have been made to improve the quality of fruits and crops by using both conventional breeding and genetic transformation approaches [21,22]. Genetic engineering and other biotechnologies to improve plants are mostly dependent on efficient procedures of cell and tissue culture, especially for the obtainment of regenerants via organogenesis or somatic embryogenesis. Tissue culture is laborious and time-consuming. It typically allows the regeneration of only a few lines of genetically modified plants [23]. The grapevine breeding and improvement of commercial cultivars are based on sexual reproduction, vegetative propagation, and somatic mutations [1]. The genetic breeding of grapes is highly dependent on genetic markers and genome association studies which take years in order to obtain segregant generations by crossings. The selection of a specific phenotype, particularly a berry trait, is typically a long process considering the juvenile period (three-to-five years) of grapevine plants. Breeding tools that may be readily applied to cultivated varieties are therefore of great interest, reducing the need for developing new cultivars by crossings that inevitably decharacterizes the original genotype. Grapevine genetic transformation is very inefficient, leading to success rates lower than 10% [22,24,25], and it is highly dependent on the genotype used.

Advances have been made in the plant biotechnology field that may help to circumvent many limitations of the traditional techniques. One of the most interesting and promising new tools, especially for perennial plants, is the expression of genes based on episomal plasmids, such as the IL-60 platform [26]. This platform consists of a universal system of virus-derived vectors for the overexpression or silencing of genes directly in adult plants, opening possibilities for trait delivery in woody species. The IL-60 system is derived from the Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV), a dsDNA that is able to replicate in plant cells and spread to other tissues after inoculation. This so called “plant plasmid” is mechanically introduced into plant tissues and the expression and replication of the episomal DNA occur in a few days. It becomes stable and systemic, eliminating the need for selectable markers, being useful for treating grafting stocks prior to transfer to the field

[26–28]. The system is compatible with many species, including woody fruit trees such as grapevine, citrus, and olive [28,29]. Due to the lack of heritability of the episomal DNA, biosafety control might be easier than that advised to conventional genetically modified plants that undergo pollen-mobile genetic transmission.

In the present study, we aimed to functionally characterize the *VviAGL11* gene in grapevine by its overexpression in seedless cultivars and via silencing through RNAi in seeded genotypes, demonstrating its key role as a determinant of the fruit seed/seedless trait. We describe the successful use of virus-derived plant plasmids as a powerful tool for gene functional characterization and as a fast delivery method of valuable traits in grapevine. With this strategy, we were able to detect the systemic presence of the plant plasmids in grapevine plants and observe changes in *VviAGL11* expression pattern on treated plants. More interestingly, we showed that the overexpression of the *VviAGL11* in apirenic grapevine cultivars was able to partially restore seed development and morphogenesis whereas inhibition by *VviAGL11* silencing in pirenic cultivars resulted in the opposite effect, i.g., seeds were abnormally formed, reduced both in number and size.

2. Methods

2.1. Plant material

Six-to-eight years old grapevine plants of 11 cultivars were selected in fields from the Serra Gaúcha region, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Three plants of each cultivar were transferred into greenhouse pots, after top and root pruning, during winter time. The greenhouse experimental areas were located at Embrapa Uva e Vinho in Bento Gonçalves, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (29°09'48"S, 51°31'42"O and 616 m altitude). The cultivars were grafted on Paulsen 1103 rootstock, planted on pergola trellising system and managed with conventional annual pruning and control of pests and diseases. Cultivars assayed were the pirenic ‘Prosecco’, ‘Alvarinho’, ‘Chardonnay’, ‘Italia’, ‘Moscato giallo’, ‘Pinot Noir’, ‘Ruby’, ‘Trebbiano’ and apirenic ‘Clara’, ‘Linda’ and ‘Sultanine’ (Table 1). Grapevine bunches chosen for treatment with plant plasmids were at the phenological scales D, G and H1 (Supplementary Fig. 1), according to Baggioini [30]. Plants from the same cultivars were also kept under the same conditions and used as controls plants, in which no treatment was performed.

2.2. Vector construction and preparation

VviAGL11 DNA fragments were amplified via PCR from a previous cloned ‘Chardonnay’ seed cDNA [12]. Primers *VviAGL11CDSF* 5'CACC ATGGGGAGAGGAAAGATCG3' and *VviAGL11CDSR* 5'TTACCCGAGAT GGAGGACCTTCTTATC3' were defined, allowing the amplification of a 676 bp fragment that was subsequently cloned into the overexpression plasmid pH7WG2D ([31]; Ghent University, Ghent). Primers

VviAGL11F 5'CACCATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCG3', and VviAGL11R 5'GGAGATGAAGTTGGCGGATA-3' were designed to amplify the initial portion of VviAGL11 gene. with. The resulting 110 bp amplicon was cloned into the silencing plasmid pH7WIWG2D ([31]; Ghent University, Ghent). All PCR amplifications reported in this study were performed with 10–25 ng of grapevine genomic DNA using Platinum[®] Pfx DNA polymerase (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) and reaction conditions recommended by the manufacturer. The 35S CaMV-VviAGL11 cassette and the VviAGL11 hairpin were respectively transferred from pH7WG2D and pH7WIWG2D to the plant plasmid pIR (Morflora) using the restriction enzymes combinations HindIII/XbaI and NsiI/BglII. Final constructs were confirmed by sequencing in an ABI Prism 310 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems) using primers pIRF1 5'TTGCTCACATGTAATG3' and pIRR1 5'AGTTTTTGTCTTGA3'. All primers were synthesized by Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT). The final piIR-derived vectors were named piIR-VviAGL11-OX (overexpression) and piIR-VviAGL11-RNAi (silencing). Both plasmids were prepared in large amounts and purified using the PureLink[®] HiPure Plasmid Filter Maxiprep Kit (Thermo Fischer Scientific) following manufacturer's instructions. Solutions combining the p1470 helper plasmid with either piIR-VviAGL11-OX or piIR-VviAGL11-RNAi were prepared to a final concentration of 20 ng/μL of each plasmid

2.3. Grapevines bunches treatment with plant plasmids

Plant plasmids administration was performed at the base of the grapevine bunch peduncle with a 1 mL hypodermic syringe armed with a needle. A 1:1 proportion solution with 2 μg of the helper plasmid (p1470 [27]) plus 2 μg of the VviAGL11 overexpression vector (piRVviAGL11OX) or of the VviAGL11 silencing vector (piRVviAGL11RNAi) in was injected in each bunch. The treatment in the peduncle was performed at early D or G stages of development as shown in Supplementary video 1 and Supplementary Fig. 1. The treatments with the plant plasmids were repeated after three days, when bunch development was at the H1 stage, to guarantee maximum plasmid distribution in the growing bunches. Grapevine cultivars, combination of plasmids, number of bunches injected and analyzed are presented in Table 1. A total number of 133 bunches were treated with plasmids solutions, and more than 9.000 berries were analyzed molecular and phenotypically. At six weeks of fruit development, three bunches of each cultivar were sampled. Thereafter, all berries from the middle section of the bunch were picked and mixed. Thirty randomly sampled berries were pooled to constitute three representative samples (10 berries each). The replicates were stored into 50 mL Falcon tubes in –80 °C for later RNA extraction and RT-qPCR reactions. At berry maturation, all bunches available for each cultivar were harvested. Posteriorly, all the berries from the bunches were collected and mixed. Three replicates of 100 berries each were used for phenotypic analysis (300 berries per cultivar/per treatment, divided in three replicates). For anatomical purposes, seeds representing distinct phenotype variants were used as described later on this section.

2.4. Reporter genes analysis

GFP: Leaves from grapevine plants (1 m high) were treated with a piRGFP + p1470 combination in a concentration of 200 ng/μL. The visualization of the GFP fluorescence was obtained in a stereo microscope equipped with a GFP filter (Leica 165FC).

GUS: Bunches from adult grapevines were treated with a piRGUS + p1470 combination in a concentration of 1 μg/μL. GUS histochemical assays were performed in different organs of the grapevine plants (berry, seed, leaf, stem, pollen). The tissues were incubated in 1 mM X-Gluc, 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), 2 mM KH₂Fe, and 0.5% Triton X-100. The samples were incubated for 16 h at 37 °C. Thereafter, the tissues were incubated in 70% ethanol for chlorophyll removal.

2.5. Plant DNA/RNA purification

Genomic DNA was extracted from leaves and fruits at six weeks of development after fruit establishment (fruit set), and from seeds after dissection from fruit pulp following the protocol of Lefort and Douglas [32]. RNA extraction from the same organs was performed by LiCl precipitation using the Zeng and Yang [33] protocol scaled to 2 mL micro centrifuge tubes. Each sample extraction was performed in triplicate and final volumes were pooled before the LiCl precipitation step. Genomic DNA was removed using the TURBO DNA-free Kit (Ambion, Foster City) according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA integrity and quantity were monitored by agarose gel electrophoresis and spectrophotometric quantitation, respectively.

2.6. RT-qPCR analysis

For VviAGL11 expression analysis complementary DNAs were synthesized using the GeneAmp RNA PCR Core Kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) according to manufacturer's instructions. We used biological for each cultivar, and also technical quadruplicates for the RT-qPCR evaluation. The gene-specific primers VviAGL11F 5'CACTTAATGGGTGATTCCTTGGC3' and VviAGL11R 5'AGCAACTCATGCTTCTTCGACC3' were designed with the Oligo Analyzer 3.1 tool (IDT, <http://www.idtdna.com>) and synthesized by IDT, with the standards settings of 0.2 μM of oligo concentration, 1.5 mM of MgCl₂ and 0.2 mM of dNTP. The evaluated tissues were leaves and fruits at six weeks of development after fruit establishment (fruit set). Seeds were dissected from the pulp in seeded cultivars samples and the whole berry was evaluated in seedless cultivars. For the plasmid quantification on berries and seeds, we used a serial standard curve produced by piRVviAGL11OX (at initial concentration of 1,2.10⁻⁹g), diluted in five magnitude orders: p1 (10⁻⁹), p2 (10⁻¹⁰), p3 (10⁻¹¹), p4 (10⁻¹²) and p5 (10⁻¹³). 5 ng of total DNA from each sample tested were used for the quantitation assay. All RT-qPCR were performed on a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems, Foster City). SYBR Green (Invitrogen, Carlsbad city) was used to monitor dsDNA synthesis. Each biological sample was analyzed in technical quadruplicates. Cycling consisted of one step at 95 °C for 10 min followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15 s, 60 °C for 1 min, and finished by a dissociation curve between 60 °C and 95 °C. The specificity of PCR amplifications was assessed by the presence of a single peak in melting curves, visualization of single amplification products of expected size in 1% ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel electrophoresis and sequencing of the amplicons. Primer efficiency was calculated by LinRegPCR (version 11.0 [34]). Mean relative gene expression was calculated by the Pfaffl [35] method employing ACTIN (GenBank EC969944), EFl-α (GenBank EC959059), GAPDH (GenBank CB973647) and α-Tubulin (GenBank EC930869) as reference gene [36]. Statistical analysis was performed using Prism 6.1 with a Parametric paired T test.

2.7. Characterization of VviAGL11 among grapevine cultivars

Genomic DNA was extracted from leaves following the protocol from Lefort & Douglas [32]. Grapevines cultivars were genotyped by PCR and sequencing with the employment of primers VviAGL11 F10 5'GCAAAGCAGTTATTGAAAGC3' and VviAGL11 R15 5'GATGGGAGAAATATCCGCC3' for PCR. Amplification products were purified and sequenced with primers VviAGL11 F14 5'CGTATATCTCCGAACCAAG3' and VviAGL11 R14 5'GCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCC3'. Primer design and synthesis were described previously. This strategy enabled us to observe VviAGL11 SNPs in the CDS region for the determination of VviAGL11 allele's composition. The products were sequenced in an ABI Prism[®] 310 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) using standard sequencing protocols described in Falavigna et al. [37]. Sequence analysis was carried with DNA Sequencing Analysis Software v5 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) and MEGA7 software (<http://www>.

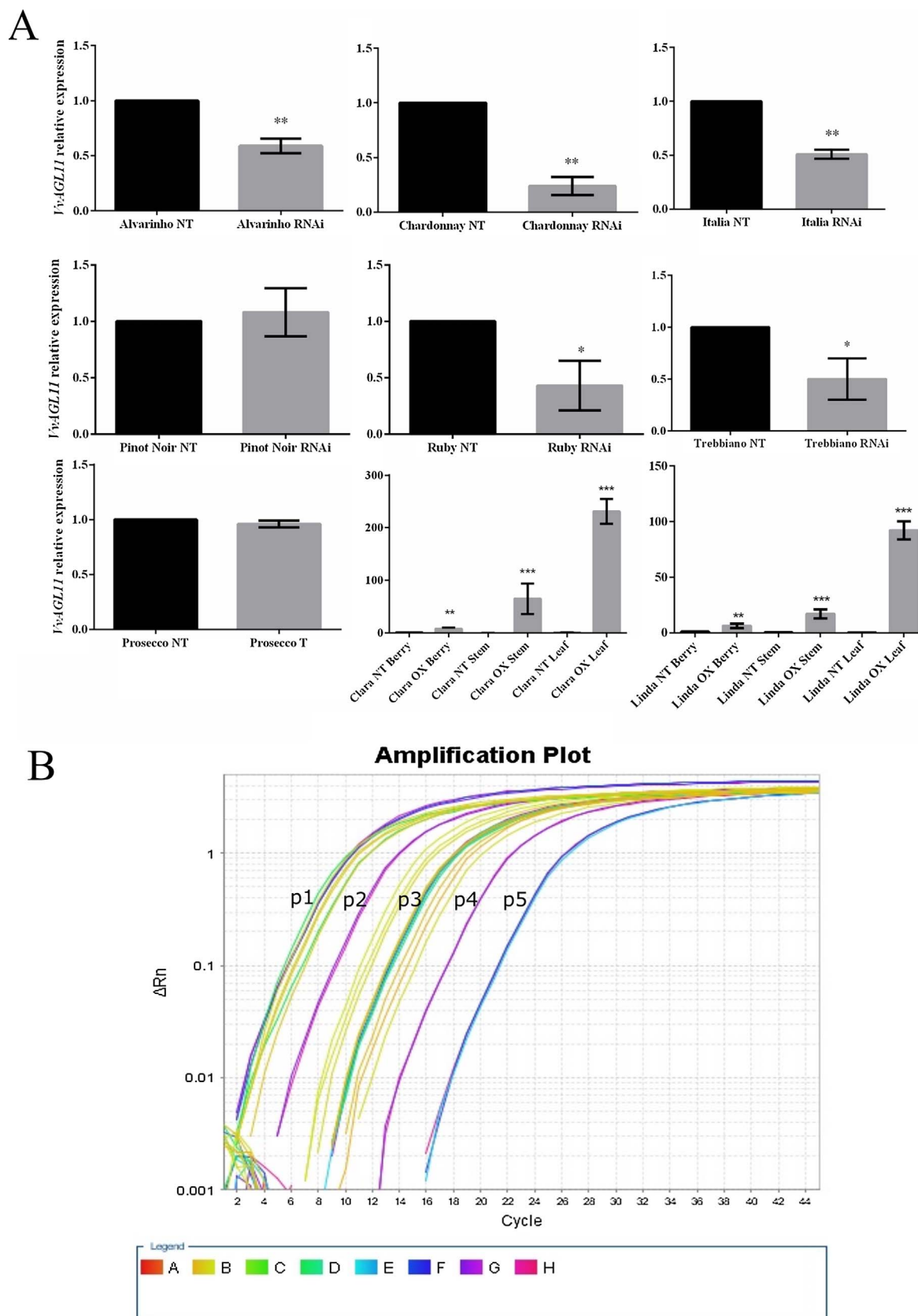


Fig. 1. *VviAGL11* relative expression and vector detection after treatment with plant plasmids. (A) The silenced cultivars, ‘Italia’ and ‘Ruby’, demonstrated a decrease in *VviAGL11* expression in seeds of six weeks of development. Linda cultivar demonstrated an accumulation of *VviAGL11* transcripts in berries, stem and leaves after six weeks of fruit development. Prosecco was used as a control. Bars show standard deviation. α -*Tubulin*, *GAPDH* and *EFl- α* were used as reference genes. OX = Overexpression, RNAi = RNA interference, NT = non-treated and T = treated. Parametric paired T test = * $p < .05$; ** $p < .001$; *** $p < .00001$. (B) Quantitative evaluation of pIRV*VviAGL11* vectors by RT-qPCR. The serial standard curve presents five points: p1 (10^{-9}), p2 (10^{-10}), p3 (10^{-11}), p4 (10^{-12}) and p5 (10^{-13}). The curves from berries and seeds from the treated grapevines shows the high amount of plant plasmids in the samples.

megasoftware.net/home). Sequences were compared with the grapevine reference ('Pinot Noir' PN40024) genome.

2.8. Seed morphological analysis

After grapevine bunches reaches maturity, quantitative and qualitative evaluations of seeds were carried out. The maturation stage of the bunches was determined by Brix degree (°Brix) evaluation in a digital refractometer (Abbe) model 1421 with ten berries from each sampled bunch. The measurements represent an estimate of the total soluble solids on the liquid (mostly sugar), which indicates the sugar content and the phenological maturation of the berries [38]. The total number of seeds and seed traces was estimated from an average of 300 berries from each treated and non-treated cultivar. After determining seed fresh weight, seeds were dried at 50 °C for three days and dry weight was measured, both in a Shimadzu AUX22 analytical balance. We followed the OIV standard descriptor 243 in which the fruit seedlessness classification refers to the seed/seed trace dry weight content, for the classification of resulting fruits of pirenic or apirenic. Statistical analysis was performed using the Prism 6.1 with a Parametric paired T test and χ^2 test.

2.9. Seed morpho-anatomical assay

Fresh seeds and seed traces were transferred to a fixation solution under vacuum [39]. Thereafter, samples were dehydrated in an increasing gradient of ethanol [40] and embedded in 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate resin [41]. The 8 μ m sections were obtained in a Leica RM 2255 microtome. The metachromatic reagent Toluidine Blue O [42] was used to determine seed structure. Slides with sections were submerged in the reagent for 1 min, washed with water and dried on plate at 45 °C. The photographs were obtained with the support of ZEN microscope software from ZEISS.

3. Results

3.1. Reporter gene experiments (GFP and GUS)

Prior to the experiments with adult grapevines, we evaluated the capacity of these vectors to multiply themselves in grapevine leaves and express reporter genes. Our pilot test showed that the leaves were expressing the Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) after one month of the treatment with pIRGFP + p1470 (Supplementary Fig. 2). Furthermore, we tested the expression of the Beta-Glucuronidase protein (GUS) by injecting a combination of pIR/GUS + p1470 vectors on bunches. After a month we were able to observe the blue staining in seed tissues (Supplementary Fig. 2). Nevertheless, we could not see a GUS activity in other organs evaluated, such as leaves, stem and pollen. We believe that these results are due to the place of injection since the treatments were made in the bases of the bunch peduncle and not in leaves. The absence of GUS activity in pollen samples is in agreement with the plant plasmids technology that states that its vector was not reported in the progeny of treated plants [28].

3.2. Plasmid DNA is systemically translocated and retained in grapevine

Seeded grapevine cultivars Alvarinho, Chardonnay, Italia, Moscato giallo, Pinot Noir, Ruby and Trebbiano, were treated with the *VviAGL11* silencing construction (pIRV*VviAGL11*RNAi + p1470) whereas seedless cultivars Clara, Linda and Sultanine, were treated with *VviAGL11* overexpression construction (pIRV*VviAGL11*OX + p1470). After a month of plant plasmid inoculation, leaves proximal to injected bunch peduncles were sampled for plasmid DNA detection. All treated cultivars resulted PCR-positive. 'Prosecco', randomly selected as the control cultivar and injected with the empty plasmid, was also PCR-positive for vectors presence after treatment with pIR + p1470 (Supplementary

Fig. 3). We were able to confirm that all treatments combining different versions of pIR and the helper p1470 plasmid were fully efficient, demonstrating that plasmid DNA was translocated through plant tissues, demonstrating a sectorized branch systemic translocation in treated plants.

3.3. The introduced genes remained stable and functional in grapevine reproductive and vegetative tissues

The expression of *VviAGL11* in Clara and Linda apirenic cultivars was evaluated by RT-qPCR in leaves, stems, and berries. Compared to field plants of the same cultivars, treated 'Clara' and 'Linda' overexpressed *VviAGL11* in all evaluated organs. *VviAGL11* overexpression in 'Linda' ('Linda' OX) berries presented six times more *VviAGL11* transcripts compared to non-treated 'Linda' ('Linda' NT) berries. It was also possible to observe a 17-fold increase in *VviAGL11* relative expression in stems and, in leaves, the expression was up to 90-fold higher than non-treated samples (Fig. 1A). 'Clara' OX also showed a significant increase in *VviAGL11* relative expression. Compared to non-treated plants, the levels of *VviAGL11* mRNA in berries was eight times higher, whereas stems presented a 65-fold increase and leaves demonstrated a remarkable mean of a 231-fold increase in *VviAGL11* relative expression (Fig. 1A). These results show that the plant plasmid harboring the *VviAGL11* overexpression construct was effective in conferring high levels of *VviAGL11* expression in apirenic grapevines. We were able to observe that the introduced gene remained stable and functional after three months of plant treatments.

It was previously demonstrated that *VviAGL11* transcripts accumulate at higher levels in seeds of two, four and six weeks after fruit set [12,19]. We, therefore, evaluated the expression levels of *VviAGL11* in seeds of pirenic cultivars Alvarinho, Chardonnay, Italia, Pinot Noir, Ruby, and Trebbiano treated with the silencing *VviAGL11* construct version (pIRV*VviAGL11*RNAi + p1470) by RT-qPCR. The level of transcripts in plants silenced for *VviAGL11* was statistically lower than those observed in control plants, most of them presenting half or even lower levels of the *VviAGL11* normal expression (Fig. 1A). 'Chardonnay' showed the higher differences between the treated and the control plants. Moreover, 'Pinot Noir' was the only genotype that presented similar levels of *VviAGL11* expression relative to the control plants. The Prosecco plants, treated with an empty vector as control, showed similar levels of *VviAGL11* expression between seeds from treated and non-treated plants (Fig. 1A).

Furthermore, we also quantified the amount of plant plasmids in berries and seeds of the treated cultivar (Fig. 2B). When we compare the amount of plant plasmids in the total DNA extracted from the samples, it is clear that there is a correlation between vector quantity and gene expression. The samples from the cultivars Linda, Clara, Italia and Ruby presents the highest amounts of plant plasmids, almost 1/80 of the total DNA (Supplementary Table 1). These are some of the cultivars that had the most drastic phenotype modifications on their seed content: Linda presenting miniseeds after treatment; and Italia and Ruby presenting significant amounts of seed traces and less total seed dry weight. For the others cultivars, including Prosecco, the rate of plant plasmids versus total DNA varied between 1/600 – 1/800.

3.4. Manipulation of *VviAGL11* expression affects seed morphogenesis in several grape cultivars

Our study aimed to assess the phenotypic effects of altered *VviAGL11* expression on seed characteristics of each grapevine cultivar. Therefore, we analyzed the mature bunches of treated cultivars and their respective non-treated controls. The phenological maturation stage of berries was estimated by the determination of the °Brix from each bunch sample. Because berries from all cultivars exhibited °Brix degrees above 13, they were all characterized as belonging to the mature stage for final seed size evaluation (Supplementary Fig. 4).

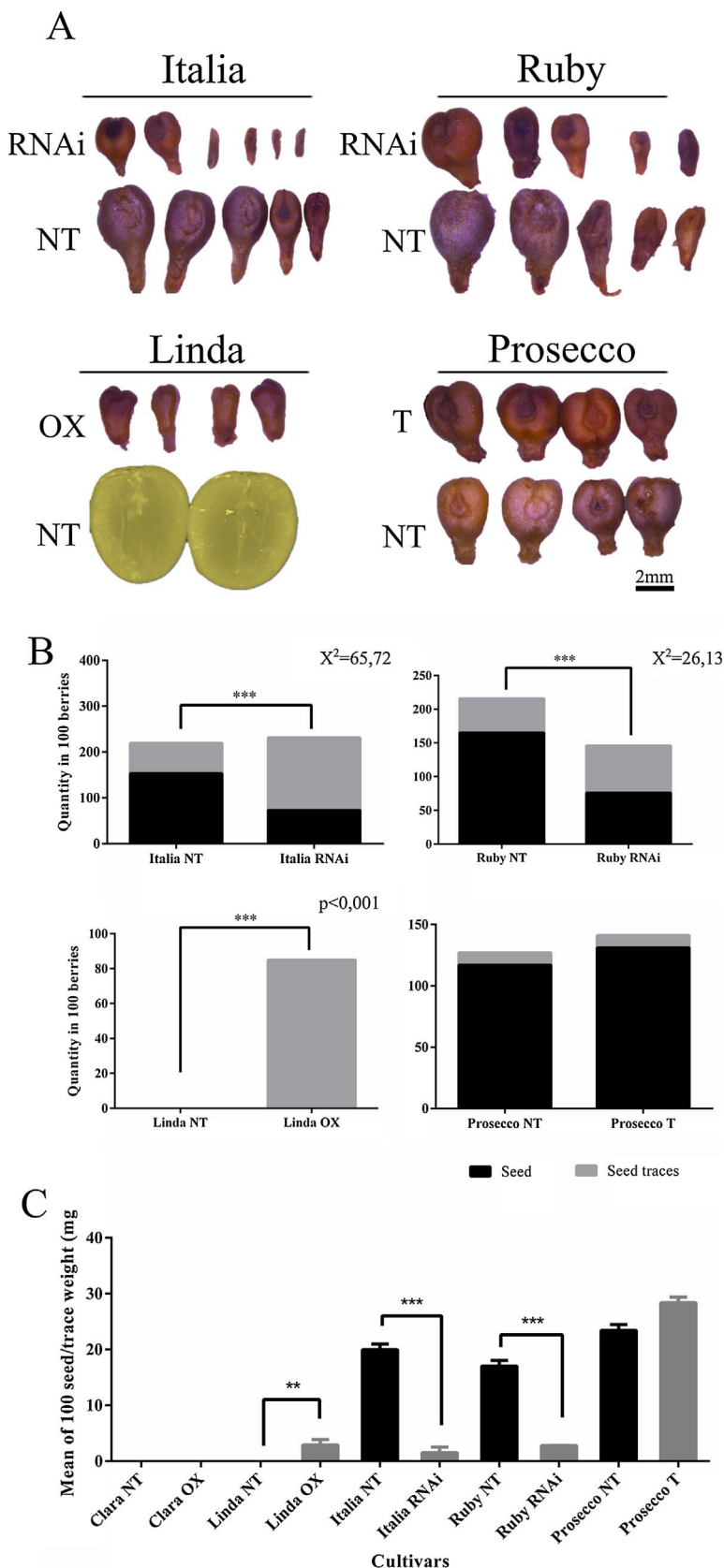


Fig. 2. Seeds and seed traces quantitative evaluation. (A) Seeds and seed traces morphological analysis. ‘Linda’ OX presents miniseeds that do not exist in ‘Linda’ NT. (B) The number of seed and seed traces was counted of 100 berries per cultivar. ‘Italia’ RNAi and ‘Ruby’ RNAi present an increased number of seed traces and fewer seeds, while ‘Linda’ OX presents small seeds (counted as seed traces) that ‘Linda’ NT does not present. ‘Italia’, ‘Ruby’ and ‘Prosecco’ χ^2 test * $p < ,05$; ** $p < ,001$; *** $p < ,00001$. (C) Dry seed/traces weight evaluation. Italia RNAi and Ruby RNAi had a significant decrease in dry seed weight. ‘Linda’ OX presents a dry seed weight that was nonexistent in ‘Linda’ NT. Prosecco was used as a control. OX = Overexpression, RNAi = RNA interference, NT = non-treated and T = treated. Linda Parametric paired T test = * $p < ,05$; ** $p < ,001$; *** $p < ,00001$.

Subsequently, mature bunches were evaluated for quantitative measurements including berry weight, seed/seed-trace number, fresh seed/seed-trace weight, and dry seed/seed-trace weight. The quantitative evaluation of seeds and seed traces showed that cultivars Alvarinho,

Chardonnay, Italia, Linda, Pinot Noir, Moscato giallo and Ruby treated with the silencing version of the *VviAGL11*-harboring plasmid presented a significant reduction in all parameters analyzed between treated and non-treated plants (Fig. 2B and Supplementary Fig. 5).

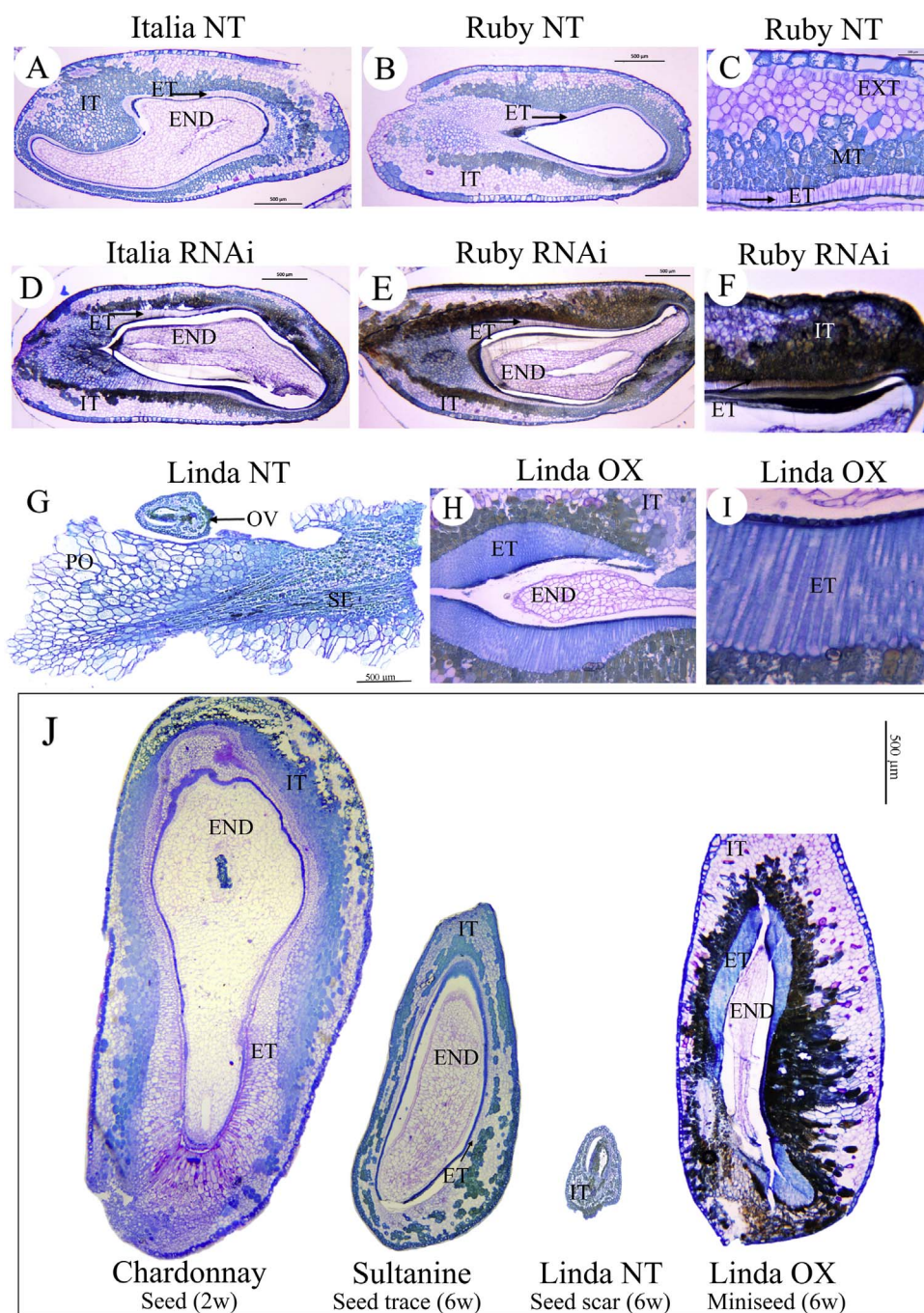


Fig. 3. Comparison of grapevine seed and seed trace morpho-anatomical structure. Seeds were sampled six weeks after fruit set. Light micrographs of grape seed cross sections were stained with toluidine blue O. (A) ‘Italia’ NT; (B) ‘Ruby’ NT; (C) ‘Italia’ RNAi; (D) ‘Italia’ RNAi; (E) ‘Ruby’ RNAi; (F) ‘Ruby’ RNAi (G-I) ‘Linda’ OX. (J) Comparison between a normal seed of ‘Chardonnay’ with two weeks of development, a ‘Sultanine’ seed trace of six weeks after fruit set, the ‘Linda’ NT seed trace scar and the ‘Linda’ OX that presents a miniseed. Endosperm (END), endotesta (ET), mesotesta (MT), exotesta (EXT), integuments (IT), ovule (OV), polp (PO), septum (SE). Scale bar: 500 μm. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Silencing of *VviAGL11* in the seeded cultivars Italia and Ruby rendered a visible and drastic decrease in their total seed dry weight with a reduced number of seeds and a concomitant increase in the number of seed traces (Fig. 2A). Consequently, the reduction in seed size and in number may allow ‘Italia’ RNAi and ‘Ruby’ RNAi to change their classification for the OIV-243 description, being considered seedless (apirenic) cultivars (Fig. 2A–C).

Overexpression of *VviAGL11* in the seedless Linda cultivar (Linda OX) resulted in the formation of miniseeds that were not present in the ‘Linda’ non-treated bunches. Its control, Linda NT, typically presents only seed traces that are almost unobservable to the naked eye (Fig. 2A). The diminutive seeds from ‘Linda’ OX berries were bigger in size than a seed trace, but they did not achieve a normal mature seed size. Despite the miniseed development in the ‘Linda’ OX berry samples, its total dry weight was still classified as seedless following the OIV-243

descriptor (Fig. 2C). This indicates that *VviAGL11* overexpression by plant plasmid delivery did affect seed size, increasing it, but it was not sufficient to restore the complete seed development in the Linda genotype background although it can partially restore the formation of the seed coat (Fig. 3G–J).

Finally, the quantitative evaluation of seeds and of seed traces in berries from cultivars Clara (OX), Trebbiano (RNAi) and Prosecco (control) showed no statistically significant differences in the number of seeds or traits comparing treated and untreated plants (Supplementary Fig. 5).

3.5. Seed traces from *VviAGL11*RNAi-treated plants are anatomically different from non-treated control plants

The seeds from ‘Pinot Noir’ and ‘Chardonnay’ were characterized in

previous studies with a particular pear triangular shape and composed of a cuticle, an epidermis, three layers of outer integument (exotesta, mesotesta and endotesta), two inner integument layers, endosperm and embryo [12,43]. The structure of the seed traces from ‘Sultanine’ was characterized by the undifferentiation of the seed coat inner layer – endotesta (ET), as a consequence of the absence of *VviAGL11* expression, that leads to endosperm and embryo abortion, forming a seed trace [12]. We conducted the morpho-anatomical characterization of seed traces resulting from the treatments of pirenic cultivars Italia and Ruby (*VviAGL11*RNAi treatment). These two cultivars showed the most significant differences in final seed size and dry weight after plasmid treatments for *VviAGL11* silencing.

In ‘Italia’ RNAi (Fig. 3D) and ‘Ruby’ RNAi (Fig. 3E), seed traces presented the same characteristics when compared to ‘Italia’ NT (Fig. 3A) and ‘Ruby’ NT (Fig. 3B). However, the internal layer of the seed coat in seeds from *VviAGL11*RNAi-treated plants exhibited an accumulation of phenolic compounds that were probably involved in the beginning of the lignification process (maximization in Fig. 3F). These cells are stained brown because of their polyphenols content. They are also present in the outer integument, both in the exotesta and in the endotesta layers (maximization in Fig. 3F). This concentration of phenolic compounds did not occur in non-treated seed traces from ‘Italia’ and ‘Ruby’ (Fig. 3C). Also, the endosperm and the embryo were not developed properly, as expected for a normal seed trace. We were able to observe that the ET layer neither elongated nor duplicated in most of the seed traces from ‘Italia’ RNAi and ‘Ruby’ RNAi (Fig. 3D and E). This suggests that *VviAGL11* induces modifications in the seed coat, initiating the lignification of the ET layer and, therefore, producing a high effect on seed development and maturation even without the normal formation of endosperm and embryo.

3.6. *VviAGL11* overexpression induces the development of the endotesta layer in ‘Linda’ miniseeds

In order to evaluate the effect of *VviAGL11* overexpression in the ‘Linda’ seedless cultivar, we first performed an anatomical evaluation of the diminutive seed traces scars present in non-treated plants. These structures present minimal conducting vessels that were identified as septum cells surrounded by parenchyma cells derived from the pulp (Fig. 3G). Additionally, a structure composed of maternal tissues was identified as being the ovule. Within this structure, we were able to observe inner and outer integuments that never developed (Fig. 3G), and that could only be identified after microscopic examination.

‘Linda’ OX miniseeds presented the most interesting morpho-anatomical results when compared to the seed traces scars from ‘Linda’ NT. ‘Linda’ OX miniseeds presented the typical characteristics of seed trace concerning size and death of reproductive tissues, such as endosperm and embryo. However, the seed coat layers were found to be completely different from standard seed traces observed in ‘Sultanine’ [12]. The ET layer was duplicated and elongated (Fig. 3H and maximization on Fig. 3I). It was possible to observe the accumulation of phenolic compounds on the exotesta layer as well (Fig. 3H and I). The miniseeds presented a vulvar form due to ET layer overdevelopment (Fig. 3J). As a result, OX treated seedless plants showed a seed trace that was intermediary in terms of seed size and lignification profile, being bigger than a typical stenospermocarpic seed trace but, nevertheless, not achieving the size nor the shape of a wild-type like seed.

4. Discussion

Since the beginning of grapevine domestication, first by artificial selection and later by intercrossing and vegetative propagation, the main desirable traits selected were the ones involving fruit taste, size, and reduced seed size and number [44]. Unluckily, this was not the easiest trait combination to be achieved due to the seed effects on fruit size in grapevine [45]. Consequently, its improvement was and still is a

laborious and time-consuming work. Furthermore, the molecular mechanisms underlying seed development in grapevine were not fully understood. Previous reports merely stated that the anatomical and morphological changes during normal seed development, from fertilization to maturity, involve three phases (i) rapid cell division; (ii) reserve accumulation and cell expansion due to water uptake; and (iii) slowing down growth and arrest of reserve accumulation [46].

By the time *VviAGL11* was confirmed as a master controlling gene of the seed development in grapevine [12], we then envisaged to use its sequence in a biotechnological approach. In the present study, we constructed vectors for *VviAGL11* ectopic overexpression and silencing through RNA interference. Overall, we treated more than 130 bunches and evaluated more than 9.000 berries from 11 grapevine cultivars. By detecting the plasmid DNA in different plant tissues and organs after months of the original injection, it was possible to confirm that 100% of the plants were multiplying the IL-60 plasmids systemically. Through the evaluation of the *VviAGL11* relative expression, 90% of the cultivars showed a direct correlation between gene expression and plasmid presence. ‘Pinot Noir’ plants treated with the overexpression construction was the exception, in which no differences in the expression of *VviAGL11* were observed comparing treated and non-treated seeds. This might be due to the phenological stage of the ‘Pinot Noir’ plants when treatments were performed. ‘Pinot Noir’ plants presented an early bud break and, at the time of treatment, bunches were at the H1 stage instead of D or G stages like the other cultivars. Therefore, the bunches were more developed. There are no studies suggesting the best combination of time and place of plasmid injection in order to optimize its movement to other tissues in grapevine. For the purpose of our study, plasmids had to reach the ovule integuments in time to allow the overexpression or the silencing of the *VviAGL11* gene during seed formation. It seemed to us that the best stage of bunch development for treatment was the first week after bunch appearance, during grapevine floral development and before ovule fertilization. This stage is typically achieved in a couple of weeks after bud break [30]. Nevertheless, there is room for optimizing the protocol in the DNA delivery strategy, assuring that plasmid constructs will reach the target tissues at the appropriate time.

Treatments with the *VviAGL11*-harboring plasmids led to quantitative and qualitative changes in seeds and/or traits in 78% of the cultivars. Three cultivars showed more evident modifications in the number and characteristics of seeds and/or seed traits. The seeded cultivars ‘Italia’ and ‘Ruby’ are two of the main commercialized table grapes in South America, contributing to the economic success of table grape varieties, but still lacking the desirable seedless trait. In the present work, ‘Italia’ and ‘Ruby’ were treated for *VviAGL11* silencing. The suppression of *VviAGL11* expression caused a reduction in their seed quantity in a way that their total dry weight decreased to a level acceptable as seedless. To access this information, the standard dry matter data of 100 seeds randomly sampled is used, classified in the following order: class 1 – very low (≤ 10 mg/seed); class 3 – low (21–29 mg/seed); class 5 – average (36–44 mg/seed); class 7 – high (51–59 mg/seed) and class 9 – very high (> 65 mg/seed) [47]. The varieties that fit in classes 1 and 3 are the most desired for table grape seedless selection. Both cultivars, after treatment, turned out to be considered as elite seedless because their dry weight from 100 seeds is less than 10 milligrams. Nevertheless, the small seeds could be sensed by chewing during berry consumption because of their unique seed coat development. These results show that the decrease of *VviAGL11* expression on the integuments was sufficient to interrupt normal seed development, and many seeds became seed traces. Furthermore, the analysis of control plants from ‘Prosecco’ allowed us to demonstrate that the empty pIR + 1470 plasmids alone did not promote changes in treated plants, confirming that the modifications were caused directly by the overexpression or silencing of *VviAGL11*.

‘Linda’ (BRS Linda) is a seedless grape developed by the Embrapa Uva e Vinho breeding program. Its berry is elliptical, greenish, with a

tiny seed trace, practically invisible. Exploring the extreme seedless phenotype from this cultivar, it was possible to observe that ectopic *VviAGL11* overexpression during berry development partially restored seed formation, determining elongation and duplication of the ET layer in 'Linda' OX berry samples, leading to the development of miniseeds. Notwithstanding, the novel seeds from *VviAGL11*-overexpressed 'Linda' samples did not achieve a normal final size. Nevertheless, the morpho-anatomical examination of the miniseeds samples allowed to show the critical role of this gene in seed formation and growth, being able to 'open space' for endosperm growth and, consequently, embryo development. These results are in agreement with the findings reported by Garcia et al. [48], showing that integuments are able to control and determine the final seed size, due to the elongation of their layers, producing a strong maternal effect on seed growth and development.

Even though we detected the pIR DNA and also *VviAGL11* transcripts level modifications in seeds, only the ET layer was influenced by *VviAGL11* overexpression; and, as a maternal tissue, this layer does not remain in the progeny. This provides an important biosafety barrier for future field applications in grapevines and other plants. Peretz et al. [28] showed that when the progenies (up to F3) of treated tomato plants were evaluated, the pIR plasmid and p1470 were not present. As it was observed for the ASLV vectors [49], the TYLCV-derived plasmids are not heritable, and the progeny will be devoid of plasmid DNA.

VviAGL11, as a MADS-box protein class D, is able to form the so-called floral quartets protein complexes. In this case, MADS-box proteins will bind other proteins from the same family but different classes (A, B, C and E), which afterwards can bind to two *cis*-elements called CARG-boxes and activate gene transcription [50,51]. The formation of transcription factor dimers and multimeric complexes offers a mechanism to increase the diversity of possible DNA-binding proteins enormously [52]. The fact that only the ET layer of grapevine seeds and seed traces presented a contrasting development after the treatments and that *VviAGL11* is the single class D gene in grapevine [12,18] brings into light how important is the arrangement of the MADS-box proteins complexes in a certain temporal and spatial site. Nevertheless, another point to focus is the amount of *VviAGL11* protein in the ET layer needed for its proper elongation and duplication. For normal seed formation, the expression of the *VviAGL11* gene should be around 15–25-fold higher relatively comparing to seedless cultivars in which this gene is expressed at a very low rate [12,19]. Regrettably, there is still no clear clue about the reasons for the low expression of *VviAGL11* in seedless cultivars. However, in our study, it was possible to see that the ET layer is actively responsive to the expression levels of this gene. With its overexpression provided by plant plasmids, a higher level of *VviAGL11* transcripts was present in 'Linda' OX samples, leading to the formation of miniseeds in a higher number and more developed than seed traces. This probably induced the overdevelopment of 'Linda' OX seed structure causing the duplication and elongation of the ET layer in a faster way and, consequently, initiating the lignification process. Because the timing of the expression of this key gene was not regulated by our approach, the lignification process was rapid and, consequently, stalled seed growth. These unusual processes formed a final structure that is no longer a seed trace and not even a normal seed, and therefore was named 'miniseed' (Fig. 3J).

The significant differences observed in *VviAGL11* transcript levels combined with the phenotypic seed modifications observed both in 'Italia' RNAi and 'Rubi' RNAi samples, and also the restored seed structure in 'Linda' OX, confirm the previous study of *VviAGL11* complementation of *stk* (*AtAGL11* mutant) that was also able to restore seed number and seed size in the *Arabidopsis* heterologous background [12]. In addition, it seems clear that the *VviAGL11* transcript levels can be directly correlated to the rate of plant plasmids versus total DNA. The present work contributes with key functional data about *VviAGL11* in grapevine itself, showing, *in situ*, that this gene is a major regulator of seed morphogenesis in grapevine. Furthermore, these results demonstrated the scientific applicability of the IL-60-derived plasmids to

manipulate the *VviAGL11* gene expression. However, from the results observed, it was possible to verify that the efficiency of this tool is dependent on the context of its application. Nevertheless, this work represents the follow up characterization step of the *VviAGL11* locus as a target for manipulation of seed number and size in grapevine.

Authors contribution

L.F.R. and J.M. conceived original screenings, research plans, designed experiments and analyzed resulting data; L.F.R., V.B., F.S.M., M.M.P., G.P. and J.E.A.M. supervised experiments and writing; J.M. and V.B. performed most experiments; F.S.M. and J.E.A.M. provided technical assistance. J.M. wrote the article with contributions from all authors.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plantsci.2018.01.013>.

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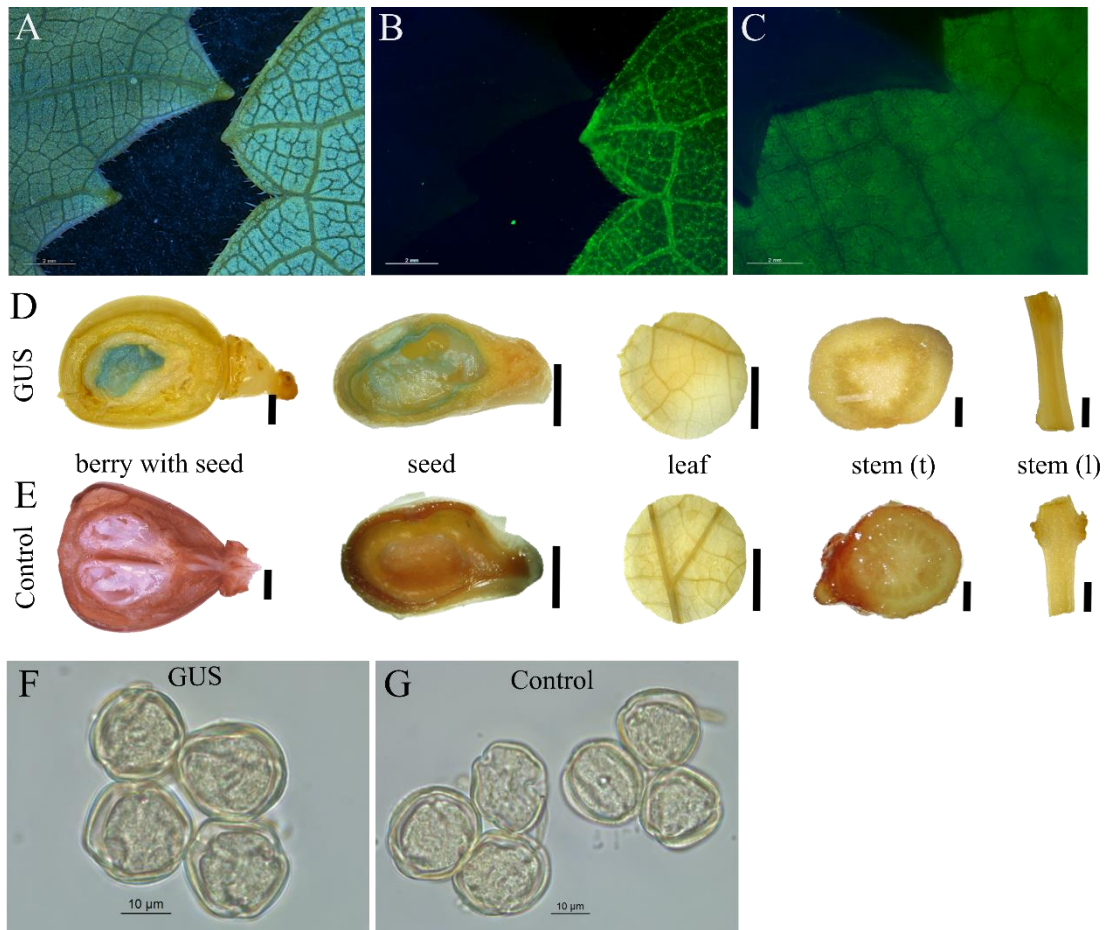
Supplementary material



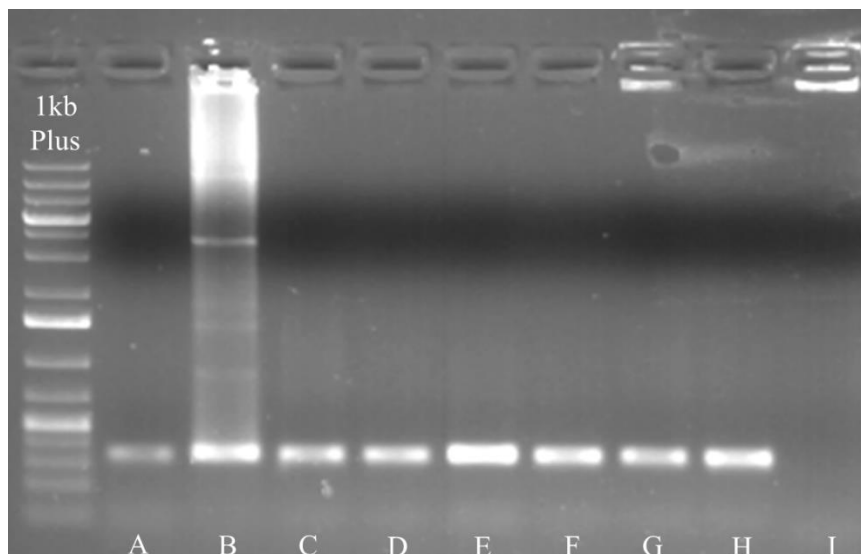
Supplementary video 1. The treatment procedure. The DNA solution was injected into the base of the bunch vascular system with a hypodermic syringe. A 1:1 proportion with 2 μg of the helper plasmid (p1470, [27]) and 2 μg of the *VviAGL11* overexpression vector (pIRVviAGL11OX) or the *VviAGL11* silencing vector (pIRVviAGL11RNAi) was injected in a 100 μL water based solution.



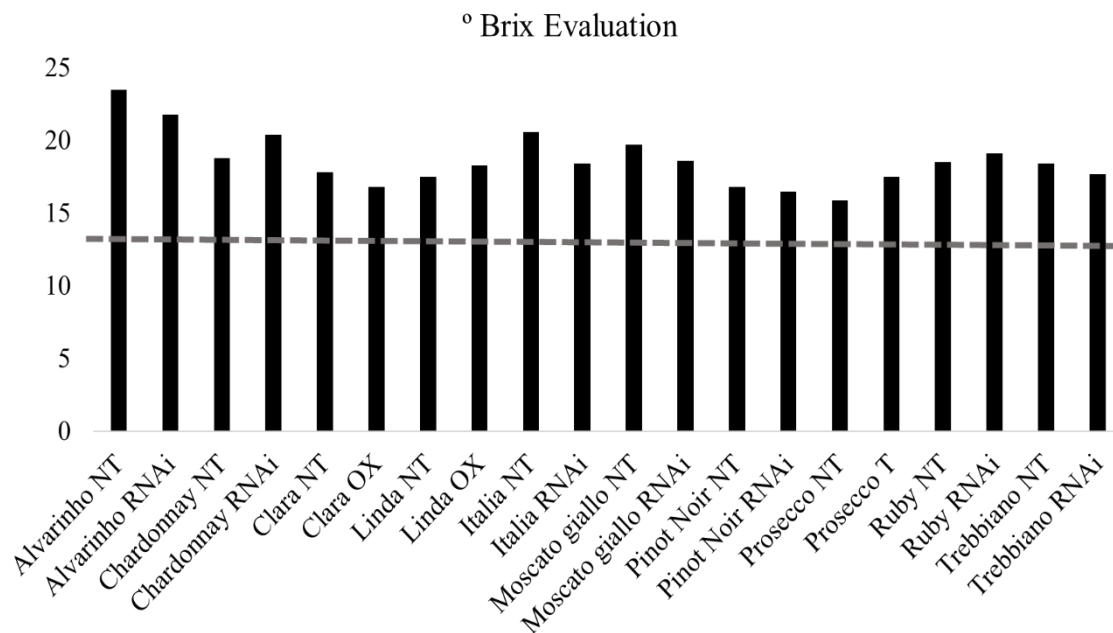
Supplementary figure 1. Stages of grapevine bunch development chosen for treatment with plant plasmids. Initial bunch development stages D and G were mostly used in this study for the first injection of plant plasmids. The H1 stage was used in the second injection. Stage identification was based on Baggiolini [30] phenological scale.



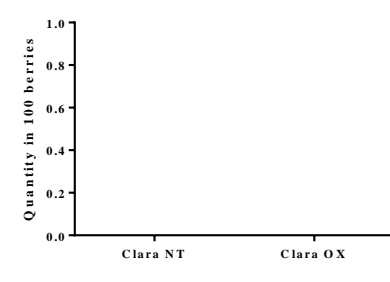
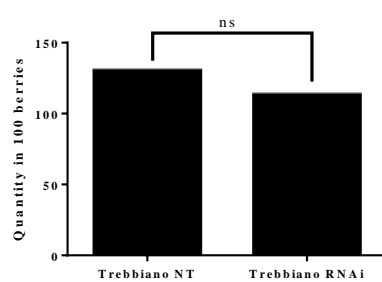
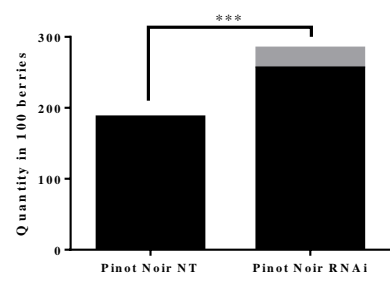
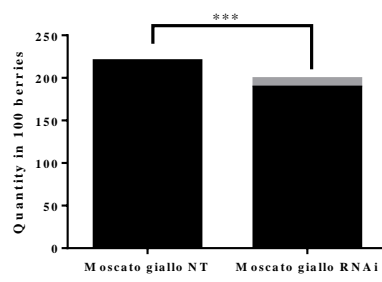
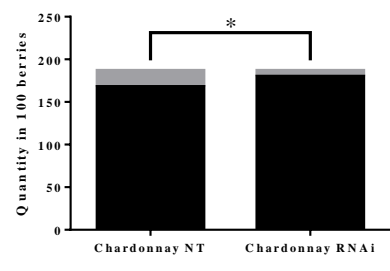
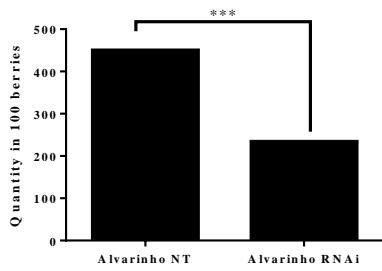
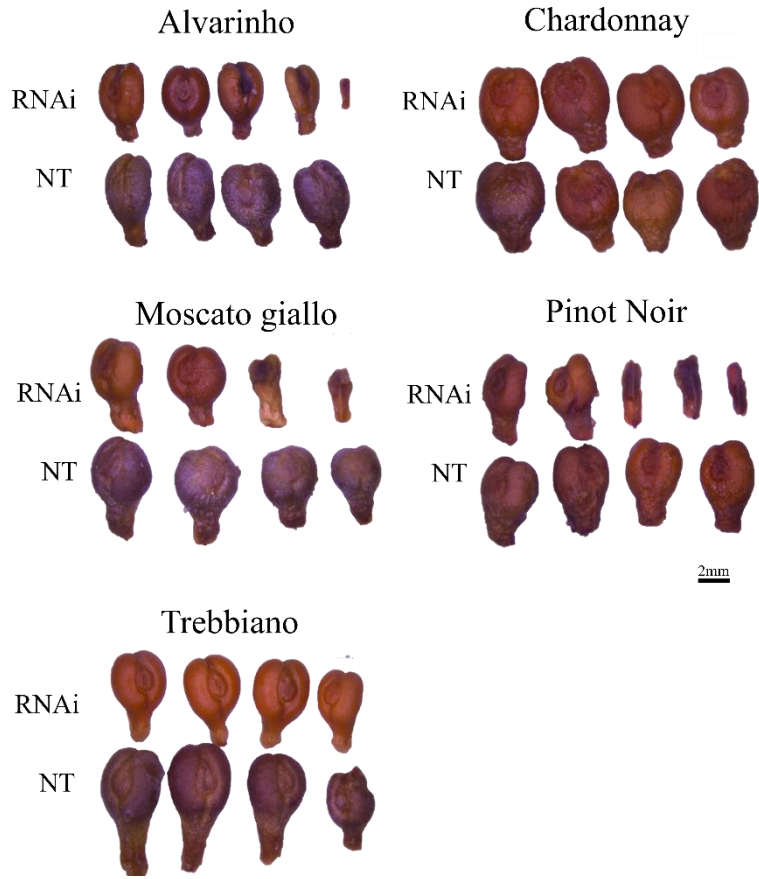
Supplementary figure 2. Reporter genes evaluation on treated tissues with plant plasmids. Grapevine leaves were treated with 1:1 solution of pIR:GFP + p1470 plasmids and after a month it was possible to see GFP fluorescence on the treated leaf (right) (A-B). (A) bright field, (B) GFP filter. (C) Leaf above the treated leaf, demonstrating a systemic presence of the plant plasmids. (D) Tissues from grapevine bunches treated with pIRGUS+p1470. (E) Control samples. Scale bar: (A-C) 2 mm; (D-E) 0,5 cm; (F-G) 10µm.



Supplementary figure 3. Gel image of the pIR PCR of the treated cultivars. PCR detection of pIR in treated grapevines. All the cultivars are positive for the pIR presence in their leaves after a month of treatment with the plant plasmids (*pIR* F1 5' – TTGCTCACATGTAATG - 3' e *pIR* R1 5' - AGTTTTTTGTCTTGCA - 3'). First lane: molecular weight marker 1kb plus (Invitrogen, Carlsbad city); lane A: Alvarinho, B: Chardonnay, C: Clara, D: Linda, E: Pinot Noir, F: Ruby, G: Italia, H: Prosecco, I: negative control of the PCR reaction. 1% agarose with ethidium bromide.



Supplementary figure 4. °Brix Values for the tested cultivars. The bunches were sampled after complete fruit and berry development. The dashed line on the 13 °Brix represents the establishment of the maturation stage. OX= Overexpression, RNAi= silencing, NT= non-treated and T= treated.



■ Seed
 ■ Seed traces

Supplementary figure 5. Seeds and seed traces quantitative evaluation. The upper panel shows images from seeds and seed traces morphological analysis. The lower panel shows a graphic comparison between treated and not treated cultivars showing the number of seed and seed traces. This data was achieved by counting this structures in 100 berries per cultivar. OX= Overexpression, RNAi= silencing, NT= non-treated and T= treated. ns: not significant. (Alvarinho $\chi^2 = 68,21$; Chardonnay $\chi^2 = 5,67$; Moscato giallo $\chi^2 = 19,64$; Pinot Noir $\chi^2 = 11,05$)

5 CAPÍTULO III

Desenvolvimento de marcadores moleculares com potencial para a seleção assistida de videiras apirênicas

Desenvolvimento de marcadores moleculares com potencial para a seleção assistida de videiras apirênicas

Resumo

O desenvolvimento de novas cultivares de videiras apirênicas é uma prioridade dos programas de melhoramento de uvas de mesa, e o método baseado na seleção assistida por marcadores moleculares (MAS) é de grande importância agrônômica. Estudos sobre os mecanismos moleculares que controlam a morfogênese de sementes demonstraram evidências que sustentam o papel essencial do gene *VviAGL11* no desenvolvimento da semente de videira. O objetivo deste trabalho foi desenvolver marcadores moleculares do tipo *SNPs* e *INDELS* baseados nos alelos do gene *VviAGL11* e avaliar o potencial uso desses marcadores na seleção assistida de apirenia em indivíduos e populações de videiras. Inicialmente, a avaliação de uma população segregante para apirenia com cinco marcadores SSR foi realizada e demonstrou que a porção distal do cromossomo 18, onde está localizado o gene *VviAGL11* possui alta associação com a ausência de sementes, sendo que três marcadores microssatélites, VMC7F2, P3_VVAGL11 e VVIN16, foram significativamente associados à apirenia e poderiam ser usados na forma de haplótipos para seleção assistida. Baseados em mutações do tipo *SNPs* e *INDELS* alelo-específicas de *VviAGL11*, nove marcadores foram desenvolvidos e testados por meio do método da PCR competitiva alelo-específica (KASP[®]) em indivíduos apirênicos e em uma população de videiras. Para os marcadores VvAGL11_KASP_2, VvAGL11_KASP_3, VvAGL11_KASP_8 e VvAGL11_KASP_9 foram observados polimorfismos segregando nos indivíduos apirênicos genotipados (A_T / T_C / G_T / G_A), respectivamente. Os outros marcadores testados (VvAGL11_KASP_1, 4, 5, 6 e 7) foram homocigotos nesses indivíduos. Os resultados de associação de marcadores com a apirenia em videira (VvAGL11_KASP_2, 3, 8 e 9), sugerem a potencialidade do uso dessas marcas em uma estratégia de seleção assistida rápida e eficaz para videiras sem sementes.

Palavras-chave: Apirenia, seleção assistida por marcadores, KASP, *V. vinifera*.

Introdução

A viticultura é uma atividade tradicional em países de clima temperado e nas últimas décadas ganhou grande importância em várias regiões de clima tropical e subtropical. Esta característica abre perspectivas para uma grande expansão na viticultura tropical, principalmente para a produção de uvas de mesa para consumo *in natura* (AMARAL *et al.*, 1999). A produção mundial de uva de mesa atingiu 2,1 milhões de toneladas em 2010 (FAO, 2010) e a ausência de sementes, denominada apirenia, é uma das características mais apreciadas pelos consumidores (BERGAMINI *et al.*, 2013). Independentemente do crescente mercado mundial de uvas *in natura*, com até 26% de aumento ao ano nas últimas três décadas, há apenas um crescimento anual de 13% na produção de uvas apirênicas (FAO, 2012; OIV, 2012; LAZZAROTTO & FIORAVANÇO, 2012). Portanto, faz-se necessário uma adaptação do setor produtivo de uvas de mesa para suprir a demanda por esse produto. Por essa razão, muitos programas de melhoramento concentraram esforços na geração de uvas de mesa combinando a apirenia com outras características de interesse agrônomo, como o aumento no tamanho das bagas e o sabor de Moscatel (VAROQUAUX *et al.* 2000).

Uma planta é considerada apirênica quando é capaz de produzir frutos sem sementes, com traços de sementes ou com reduzido número e tamanho de sementes (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000). Uma cultivar de videira apirênica pode apresentar uma ou mais das características citadas. Além disso, existem duas formas de apirenia: partenocarpia e estenospermocarpia (STOUT, 1936). Na partenocarpia, o ovário é capaz de se desenvolver em fruto sem que ocorra a fecundação dos óvulos, apenas a partir do desenvolvimento de tecidos maternos, caracterizando seus frutos pela ausência total de sementes (BOUQUET & DANGLLOT, 1996). Em contraponto, na estenospermocarpia a fecundação ocorre normalmente e o desenvolvimento da semente se inicia. No entanto, após algumas semanas, o embrião imaturo morre devido à malformação do endosperma. Esse fato caracteriza a estenospermocarpia pela produção de frutos com apenas traços de sementes o que faz desta forma de apirenia a mais selecionada em programas de melhoramento de uva de mesa pela possibilidade da aplicação de técnicas de cultura *in vitro* baseadas no resgate do embrião (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2003; MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017).

Para auxiliar na seleção de cultivares elite, melhoristas de videiras podem utilizar a seleção assistida por marcadores moleculares (do inglês, **Marker Assisted Selection, MAS**), que é baseada em marcadores de DNA derivados de pesquisas em biologia molecular e genômica

(BERGAMINI *et al.*, 2013). Os marcadores microsatélites se tornaram um tipo popular de marcador molecular para estudar genomas de plantas e ainda são o sistema escolhido para várias aplicações, como estudos de mapeamento, diversidade genética, estrutura genética, impressão digital de indivíduos e estudos de parentesco (JAKSE *et al.*, 2013). Os microsatélites de repetições de sequências simples (do inglês, *Single Sequence Repeat*, **SSR**) são os marcadores mais eficazes para a genotipagem de videira devido a sua elevada taxa de polimorfismo, o que se reflete em padrões multialélicos em um *locus* específico (THOMAS & SCOTT, 1993; CIPRIANI, 1994; SEFC *et al.*, 2000; JAKSE *et al.*, 2013).

Contudo, surgiram recentemente novas técnicas que forneceram vários avanços na metodologia de genotipagem, permitindo automatizar parcialmente o processo de seleção, preencher dados em tempo real e comparar e armazenar os dados de genotipagem de uma maneira fácil e eficiente (JAKSE *et al.*, 2013). Este é o caso da tecnologia KASP® baseada na reação da polimerase em cadeia (PCR) de forma competitiva e alelo específica. A técnica de KASP combina um sistema homogêneo de informação baseado em fluorescência para a identificação e medição de variações genéticas para detectar polimorfismos de nucleotídeo único (*SNPs*) ou inserções e deleções (*INDELS*) (HE *et al.*, 2014).

Recentemente, a compreensão dos mecanismos genéticos e moleculares que controlam a morfogênese de semente em videira foi parcialmente elucidada pela caracterização funcional do gene MADS-box classe D de *Vitis vinifera*, *VviAGL11*. A expressão do gene *VviAGL11* foi comprovada como essencial para o desenvolvimento da camada de endotesta da casca da semente, sendo que a diminuição extrema de transcritos desse gene durante a morfogênese da semente ocasiona má formação das camadas tegumentares dessa estrutura e a geração de traços de sementes ao invés de sementes de tamanho normal (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017). Este gene está localizado na porção distal do cromossomo 18, no *locus SdI* (Inibidor do Desenvolvimento de Sementes), que é o principal *locus* de características quantitativas (*QTL*) relacionado à ausência de sementes (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011, MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017).

Com o isolamento e sequenciamento alelo-específico de *VviAGL11* em cultivares apirênicas e pirênicas, diferentes mutações em alelos foram identificadas. Um dos alelo de "Sultanine", a cultivar apirênica, apresentou 99% de similaridade com a sequência do genoma, PN40024. No entanto, o outro alelo de *VviAGL11* de 'Sultanine' apresentou um grupo de polimorfismos que o diferencia dos demais, sendo denominado alelo mutante (SU mut). Este conjunto de polimorfismos consistiu em 28 *INDELS* e 105 *SNPs* (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017).

Mutações como *SNPs* e *INDELS* são a base genética da maioria das variações alélicas e podem ser tratadas como marcadores bialélicos, tendo amplas aplicações em mapeamento genético de alta resolução e em testes diagnósticos (GUIMARÃES *et al.*, 2009). Portanto, surgiu a possibilidade da avaliação dessas mutações em uma abordagem de MAS para a apirenia de videiras.

O objetivo que norteou o presente trabalho foi desenvolver novos marcadores moleculares baseados na sequência *VviAGL11*. Assim, avaliamos o potencial biotecnológico de nove marcadores candidatos do tipo *SNP/INDELS* pela técnica KASP para a seleção de indivíduos de videira apirênicos.

Material e Métodos

Material vegetal

Noventa e quatro genótipos resultantes da população CNPUV692 ('Villard Blanc' X 'Crimson Seedless') e com segregação para a ausência de sementes foram utilizados para avaliação de marcadores SSR.

Para a avaliação dos marcadores KASP, foram utilizados cem indivíduos da população autofecundada VB ('Villard Blanc X' Villard Blanc '), além de genótipos de Chardonnay, Pinot Noir e Villard Blanc (pirênicos), Sultanine, Concord Seedless e Crimson Seedless (apirênicos). A população VB e os indivíduos utilizados para esse estudo estão localizados na área experimental da Embrapa Uva e Vinho, em Bento Gonçalves, no Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil (29 ° 09 '48 "S, 51 ° 31 '42" W e 616 m de altitude).

O critério de classificação de apirenia seguiu o método descrito por Bouquet e Danglot, 1996, no qual o peso seco de sementes foi utilizado. Neste método são utilizados dados de matéria seca de 100 sementes amostradas aleatoriamente, classificadas na seguinte ordem: classe 1 - muito baixa (40-48 mg / semente); classe 3 - baixa (49-56 mg / semente); classe 5 - média (56-64 mg / semente); classe 7 - alta (64-72 mg / semente) e classe 9 - muito alta (72-80 mg / semente). As variedades que se enquadram nas classes 1 e 3 são as mais desejadas na seleção de uvas de mesa apirênicas, porém as classe 1, 3 e 5 são consideradas igualmente apirênicas.

Avaliação de marcadores SSR

Os indivíduos que compõem a população CNPUV692 foram utilizados neste ensaio. O DNA de cada indivíduo foi purificado conforme descrito por LEFORT & DOUGLAS (1999) e usado em reações de PCR para cada *locus*, conforme descrito por Revers *et al.* (2010). Os marcadores SSR P2_VVAGL11 (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011); P3_VVAGL11 (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011); VMC7F2 (GenBank BV005171); VVIN16 (GenBank BV140662) e UDV108 (GenBank BV097037) foram utilizados (Tabela 1). Os amplicons foram resolvidos em gel de poliacrilamida a 6% e corados com prata, como descrito por CRESTE *et al.* (2001). Os desvios entre as segregações genótípicas observadas e esperadas e as possíveis associações entre os fenótipos e os alelos avaliados foram testados por concordância e independência de qui-quadrado (χ^2).

Tabela 1: Sequência de iniciadores utilizada na avaliação dos marcadores microssatélites.

Marcador molecular SSR	Sequência dos iniciadores forward/reverse	Temperatura de anelamento (°C)
P2_VVAGL11	TGTACACCAATACGGGTTTCAT/ GTTTGCTGGATTTCGGATGT	61 °C
P3_VVAGL11	CTCCCTTCCCTCTCCCTCT/ AAACGCGTATCCCAATGAAG	61 °C
VMC7F2	AAGAAAGTTTGCAGTTTATGGTG/ AAGATGACAATAGCGAGAGAGAA	56 °C
VVIN16	ACCTCTATAAGATCCTAACCTG/ AAGGGAGTGTGACTGATATTTC	56 °C
UDV108	TGTAGGGTTCCAAAGTTCAGG/ CCTTTTATATGTGGTGGAGC	56 °C

Avaliação de marcadores SNP/INDELS

Os nove marcadores do tipo *SNP/INDELS* testados neste trabalho foram escolhidos com base nas mutações de *VviAGL11* identificadas no alelo mutante de Sultanine (SU mut) e denominadas de VvAGL11_Kasp_1 ao 9. Discos foliares dos indivíduos e da população VB avaliada foram coletados e após liofilizados por 24 horas a 4°C e enviados a empresa LGC Genomics (<http://www.lgcgroup.com>), Inglaterra. Para realizar a técnica de KASP, o DNA foi

extraído das amostras e três primers foram adicionados na reação de PCR, dois primers forward específicos para cada alelo, cada um com uma sequência única e marcados com fluorescência, e um primer reverso complementar a ambos, permitindo a leitura-ponto final de fluorescência. A fluorescência resultante foi medida e os dados brutos foram interpretados para permitir a atribuição de genótipos a cada amostra de DNA. O sinal fluorescente individual das amostras de DNA é representado como um ponto de dados independente para a identificação da homoziguidade ou heteroziguidade da amostra. Com a obtenção dos resultados foi possível realizar a análise das marcas genotipadas através dos programas *SNPviewer* e *Kluster caller*, disponibilizados pela empresa (LGC Genomics), conforme visualizado no painel esquerdo da figura 3.

Resultados

Avaliação de marcadores SSR para a ausência de sementes em videira

Os marcadores moleculares SSR selecionados para este estudo (UDV108, VMC7F2, VVIN16, P2_VVAGL11 e P3_VVAGL11) foram previamente descritos como eficientes para a seleção de videiras apirênicas (DOLIGEZ *et al.* 2002, CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006, MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011). Nossa avaliação da utilização dos marcadores na população CNPUV692, observou que os marcadores UDV108 e P2_VVAGL11 não apresentaram a segregação esperada e estes foram excluídos da análise. Para os *loci* VMC7F2, VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11 foram observados quatro alelos segregantes na população genotipada. A análise da distribuição fenotípica das características avaliadas *versus* a frequência dos alelos dos marcadores SSR genotipados mostra claramente ($p < 0,0001$) a associação entre os alelos P3_VVAGL11 de 198 bp (χ^2 calc = 28,72), VVIN16 de 153 pb (χ^2 calc = 26,64) e VMC7F2 de 198 bp (χ^2 calc = 40,96) com a ausência de sementes em videira (Figura 1).

Por meio da avaliação desses marcadores, foram identificados haplótipos que podem ser utilizados na estratégia de MAS. Ao formarmos o haplótipo VVP, que combina os três marcadores SSR VMC7F2, VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11, a seleção de indivíduos apirênicos torna-se 100% precisa, uma vez que elimina a presença de falsos positivos. O mesmo é observado com o uso do haplótipo VP, composto por VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11, que pode selecionar os indivíduos que apresentem ausência de sementes com 100% de eficiência (Tabela 2).

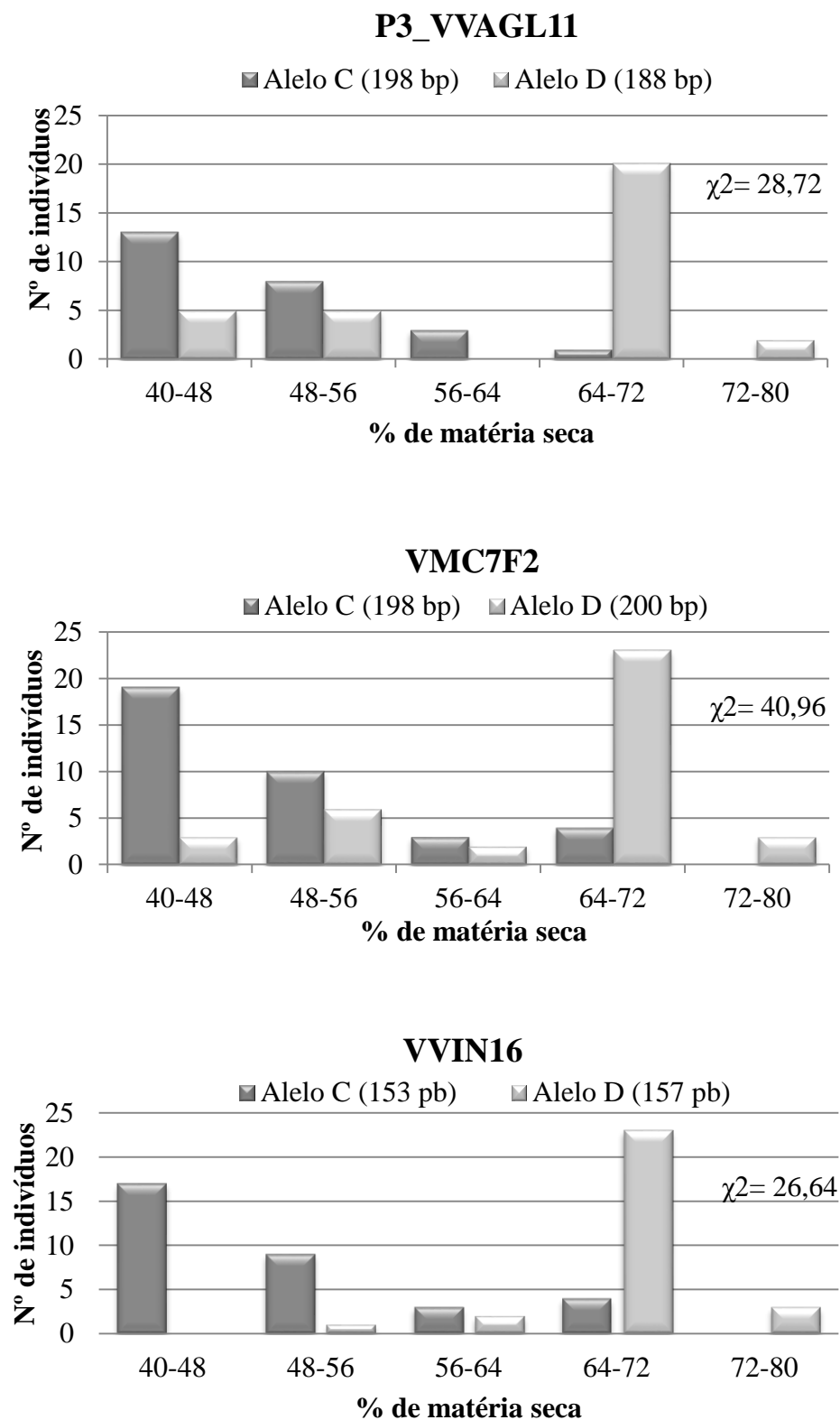


Figura 1: Avaliação dos marcadores moleculares SSR P3_VVAGL11, VMC7F2 e VVIN16. Número de indivíduos e seus alelos associados à apirenia foi calculado por qui-quadrado (χ^2).

Segundo Bouquet e Danglot (1996), os indivíduos que possuem porcentagem de matéria seca baixa (até 64) são consideradas apirênicos. Os indivíduos que se classificam nas classes 7 e 9 (>64) apresentam porcentagem de matéria seca mais elevada e são cultivares consideradas pirênicas.

Tabela 2: Haplótipos de marcadores SSR para seleção assistida de apirenia em videiras. Haplótipo **VVP**= VMC7F2, VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11; Haplótipo **VP**= VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11.

	VVP	VP	VMC7F2
	Tamanho do alelo (pb)		
P3_VVAGL11	198	198	
VMC7F2	198		198
VVIN16	153	153	
Número de indivíduos selecionados	12	23	36
% de indivíduos (sem falso positivo)	100%	100%	91,7%

Desenvolvimento e avaliação de marcadores SNP/INDEL para seleção assistida da apirenia

Visando a melhor exploração do *locus Sdi* para a geração de novos e mais eficientes marcadores moleculares para a seleção assistida de apirenia, marcadores do tipo *SNPs* e *INDELS* foram desenvolvidos. Nove sequências gênicas foram selecionados baseadas no sequenciamento completo do *VviAGL11* e na identificação de mutações exclusivas de *SNPs* e *INDELS* para o alelo do cultivar apirênica Sultanine, descrito por Malabarba *et al.*, (2017). As nove mutações utilizadas para a genotipagem pela técnica de KASP estão localizadas em diferentes regiões do gene *VviAGL11* (Tabela 3), sendo nomeadas em ordem crescente em relação a sua localização na sequência *VviAGL11*, no sentido 5' - 3' do gene: VvAGL11_KASP_1; VvAGL11_KASP_2; VvAGL11_KASP_3; VvAGL11_KASP_4; VvAGL11_KASP_5; VvAGL11_KASP_6; VvAGL11_KASP_7; VvAGL11_KASP_8; VvAGL11_KASP_9 (Figura 2 e Figura Suplementar 1). VvAGL11_KASP_1 e VvAGL11_KASP_5 são baseados em mutações *INDELS* enquanto os outros marcadores são baseados em *SNPs*. As sequências dos marcadores estão

localizadas em íntrons do gene *VviAGL11*, como VvAGL11_KASP_1, 2, 3, 4, 5 e 7, em éxons, como os marcadores VvAGL11_KASP_6 e 8 e na região 3' UTR, na qual se encontra o marcador VvAGL11_KASP_9 (Figura 2 e Figura Complementar 1).

Tabela 3: Sequências dos marcadores KASP desenvolvidos com base nas mutações do gene *VviAGL11* presentes no alelo de ‘Sultanine’ (SU mut). Mutações destacadas em negrito.

Marcador	Sequência
VvAGL11_KASP_1	TGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGTGAAGGCATGAACGAA GTTGATTACTGAARATATTAGCAACACTAGGGTTTT GGC - JGGAGATGAGACTGTAAAGTTGGCTAAAACCCTAGAGGCATGTTGNTTTTTAATAATTGG AGATACCATATATGTATGTTGCGAGTGCAG
VvAGL11_KASP_2	TCTCTCCTCTCTCCTCTTACCCTCTACAAAAACACANATTTTTTCGGTAGATCTTCTCTC ACAAATTACATGCATTATTACCCTTCATNTGTCCTCATACTTCA T/A JTTNNNNNTTTTT TNTTTTTAAAGCTTGANCAGATCTCCAACCTTTTCTCTAGTATTTTGTAACTTTTAGCAGTT TCATAAAGAGATGCTTTGGTAAWTTTTTCTAATATTTTCAGTTGGTGATATAATA
VvAGL11_KASP_3	AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTCACTG CAGATTATGATTTTTTA C/T JGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGGATT ACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGATNATTTTCTTTNATCAAAATTTA
VvAGL11_KASP_4	GGGGAGAAGTCTTCCTTATTATTTATTAATTTAATGCATTATTTTAGTCAAATCCAATTI T/A JATTGCATAAAATTAATTAACATCATCTTTGATCATCTTTAAATCATATGGATTAAT CGTATTGTTGCTTATTTTCCTTATTCAAATAGAATAAAAA
VvAGL11_KASP_5	GATGAAACANACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTANGAACAAAATTTTAAAAATGCT TTAATAANTAGTGAGGATGACTATGATATTTCA[AAAAAAATTATTAATTT/JAAAAAANTT TACTAACAAAATGTCGATAAATCATTTATAAGTGTATCTANATGNCCTTAAAATCACTT ATTTAAATAATAGAAATTAAG
VvAGL11_KASP_6	TGTTAAAATCATTATNCTACTTTCTTTTTCTTTTTGGATTATCCCATTGAACCTTTCTCGAA TTCTGTNGTTGAACATAGTA T/C JTACCAGCAAGAATCAGCAAAGCTGCGCCAGCAAATA CAGATGCTGCAGAATTCTAACAGGTACCCTTGATTCATATTTTCATTTTCTCACATG
VvAGL11_KASP_7	AGACAAGTGATCACTAGATCAGCAAAGCCTATCTTTTTTCCTTTGTTCTAATGTNGTGCTT GTTCTNATGCAATAGCATGAGTTGCTGTTGGCTGAGATTGA A/G JTACTGCGAGAAAAGG GTAATCTCTGTCTAAACATCAATTTCCATGKGGTTCCCTTCTTTATGATTTTNCAGAA ATTCTTTATCGAGCA
VvAGL11_KASP_8	TTCATTGAGCTCTGCTGCAYTAACTTTCAGATTGCAGAAGTGGAGAGGCTTCAGCAAGC AAACATGGTRTCAACACATGAGTTYAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTC T/G CAATTTT TTTCAGCCCAATATGATTGARGGTGGATCCRCAGGCTACCCACTTCTGATAAGAAGGTC CTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
VvAGL11_KASP_9	GTTTTCTTTTGGCTTACAATAAGATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGGCTTTTT GTTTTATGTAGGTAAATGATGG A/G JGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGT TTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATGCTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGT TGT

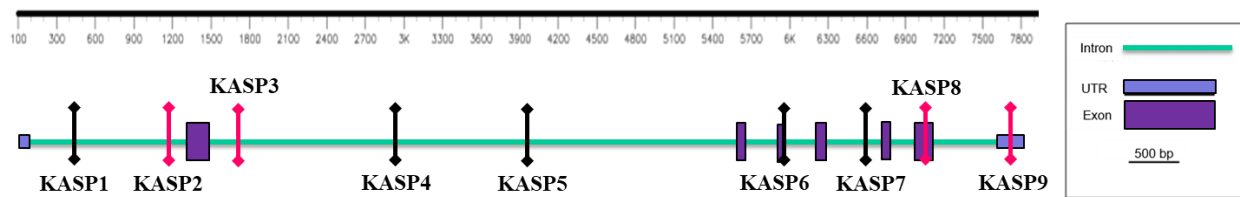


Figura 2. Representação do gene *VviAGL11* gene com a localização dos nove marcadores do tipo KASP. As setas rosas representam os marcadores que demonstraram associação com apirenia (*VvAGL11_KASP2*; *VvAGL11_KASP3*; *VvAGL11_KASP8* and *VvAGL11_KASP9*). As setas pretas representam os marcadores KASP que não possuem associação com a ausência de sementes (*VvAGL11_KASP1*; *VvAGL11_KASP4*; *VvAGL11_KASP5*; *VvAGL11_KASP6* and *VvAGL11_KASP7*).

Após avaliação pela técnica KASP, os marcadores *VvAGL11_KASP_2*; *VvAGL11_KASP_3*; *VvAGL11_KASP_8* e *VvAGL11_KASP_9* apresentaram segregação com genótipo heterozigótico mostrando uma correlação com o fenótipo de apirenia (Figura 3). Esses quatro marcadores foram heterozigotos (A_T / T_C / G_T / G_A, respectivamente) para as cultivares apirênicas Sultanine, Concord Seedless e Crimson Seedless e se o genótipo relacionado as cultivares pirênicas Chardonnay, Pinot Noir e a população Villard Blanc autofecundada foi homozigoto (A_A/ T_T/ G_G/ G_G, respectivamente). Interessantemente, o marcador *VvAGL11_KASP_8* seleciona os indivíduos pelo *SNP* do alelo *VviAGL11* mutante de ‘Sultanine’ que ocasiona uma troca de aminoácidos na proteína *VviAGL11* no momento da tradução, de Arginina para Leucina (Figura Suplementar 1).

Com a utilização destes marcadores na técnica MAS é possível identificar o genótipo de cada indivíduo, que pode ser homozigoto para o alelo normal sendo assim pirênico, ou pode ser heterozigoto, sendo selecionado como apirênico. Os demais marcadores KASP não apresentaram segregação dos indivíduos analisados, mostrando um genótipo homozigoto em todos os indivíduos exceto na cultivar Sultanine, na qual as mutações foram selecionadas. A cultivar Concord Seedless é descendente da cultivar Concord (Catawba X *Vitis labrusca* L.) e Crimson Seedless é derivada do cruzamento entre Emperor X Fresno C33-199, ambas contendo mutação(ões) ainda não identificada(s) que confere(m) a apirênia ao genótipo Concord Seedless e Crimson Seedless e que aparentemente não está(ão) relacionada(s) aos *SNPs* e *INDELS* utilizados nesse trabalho.

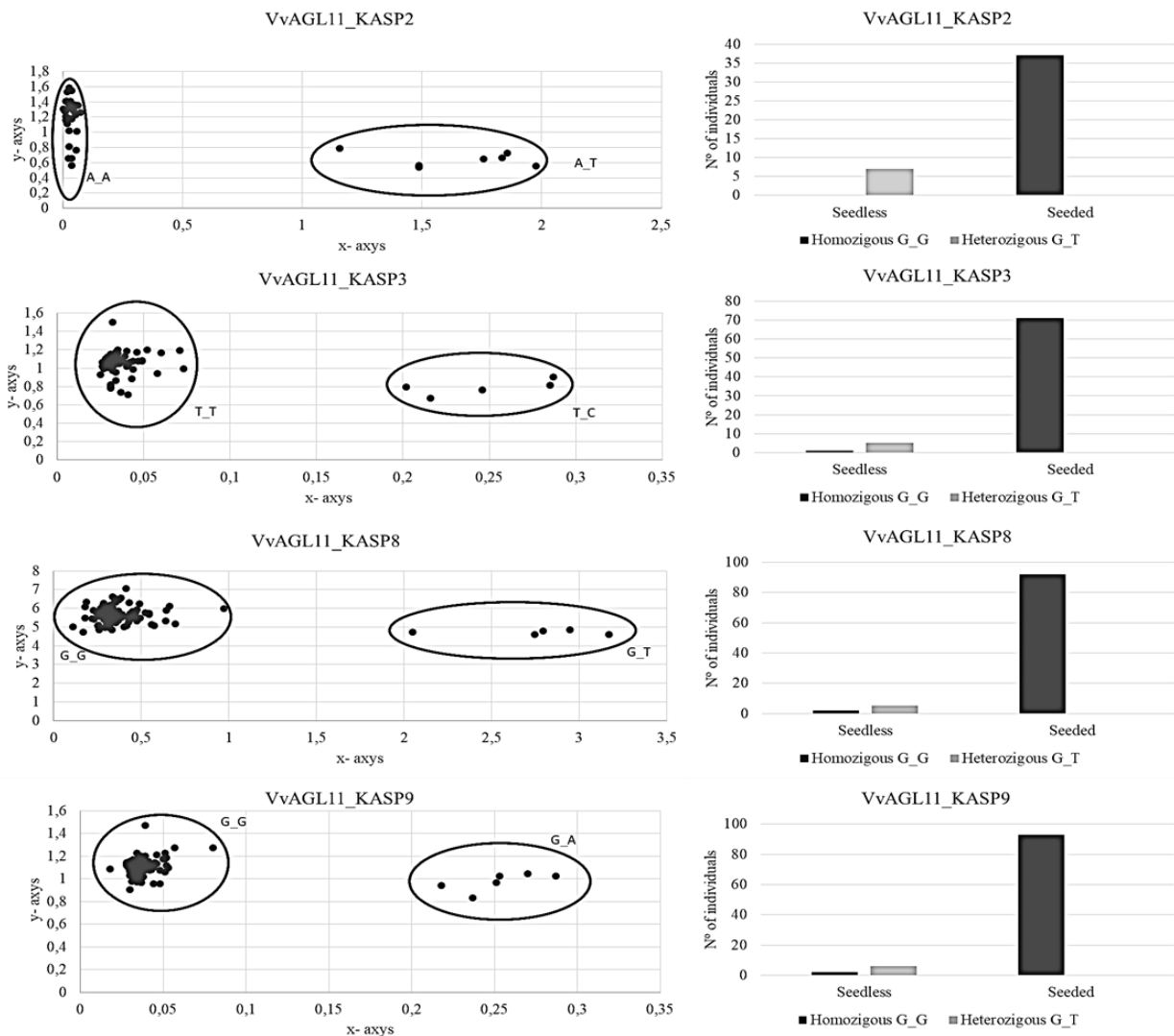


Figura 3. Resultados de marcadores KASP heterozigotos em cultivares apirênicas e na população autofecundada e pirênica VBxVB. O painel esquerdo demonstra os valores da fluorescência de FAM e HEX nos eixos x e y, respectivamente. O painel da direita mostra a relação entre o número de indivíduos versus a característica. Dentro dos círculos estão os indivíduos que foram classificados como pirênicos (grupos densos) e apirênicos (grupos esparsos). Nos grupos esparsos se encontram as cultivares apirênicas, sendo que mais de uma amostra de cada cultivar for analisada.

Discussão

O uso de *QTLs* proporciona uma vantagem para grupos de pesquisa que visam compreender as bases genéticas e moleculares de diferentes processos metabólicos e/ou

estruturais, como é o caso da apirenia. No entanto, além de entender quais são os genes envolvidos na morfogênese das sementes, é imperativo desenvolver métodos para a seleção de indivíduos apirênicos. As aplicações da MAS em programas de melhoramento de plantas são amplas, sendo uma das mais importantes a seleção de características de interesse nas primeiras gerações e em plântulas.

A abordagem de MAS é de grande impacto em programas de melhoramento de espécies perenes, como a videira, macieira, pereira, etc., devido ao longo período de juvenilidade dessas espécies, uma vez que plantas perenes de interesse agrônômico requerem diversos anos de acompanhamento a campo para avaliações fenotípicas precisas, especialmente para fenótipos que só podem ser rastreados em plantas que já atingiram a maturação, como os fenótipos desejados em bagas de videira (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011). A partir da seleção de plantas jovens por marcadores moleculares, melhoristas podem descartar indivíduos que apresentam uma combinação genética indesejável ou desfavorável, podendo dedicar seus esforços para a obtenção de outros objetivos.

Neste estudo, a avaliação da apirenia realizada inicialmente por meio dos marcadores microssatélites P2_VVAGL11, P3_VVAGL11, UDV108, VVIN16 e VMC7F2, demonstrou ser uma técnica confiável. Para três dos cinco marcadores SSR a segregação esperada foi obtida e os alelos demonstraram correlação com a presença ou ausência de sementes. Estudos comprovam que marcadores de repetições de sequência simples estão entre os mais confiáveis que podem ser utilizados para MAS, para mapeamento de genoma de videira e para detectar loci de características quantitativas (DOLIGEZ *et al.* 2002; ADAM-BLONDON *et al.* 2004; FANIZZA *et al.*, 2005).

Os resultados mostram que o melhor marcador entre os SSRs testados é o marcador VMC7F2. Este marcador está localizado no *locus SdI*, mais precisamente a 463 pb a montante do códon de início da tradução *VviAGL11*, sendo altamente polimórfico e capaz de identificar diferenças entre os alelos do gene *VviAGL11*. A eficácia deste marcador neste estudo foi de 91%, o que está próximo do trabalho de Costantini *et al.* (2008) que descreveu VMC7F2 sendo capaz de selecionar indivíduos de videira apirênicos com 95% de eficácia. A diferença entre a eficácia da seleção pode ser explicada pelo fato de os microssatélites possuírem diferentes taxas de mutação entre *locus* e diversos fatores potenciais podem contribuir para a dinâmica das sequências de microssatélites como o número de repetições, a sequência da repetição, o comprimento de unidades de repetição, interrupções em microssatélites, regiões flanqueadoras e taxa de recombinação (DI RIENZO, *et al.*, 1998; JAKSE *et al.*, 2013).

Estudos prévios mostraram que o marcador P3_VVAGL11 desenvolvido por Mejía e colaboradores foi validado com 100% de efetividade, tornando-se o melhor para seleção precoce negativa de estenoespermocarpia em populações de *V. vinifera* derivadas de cruzamentos entre indivíduos apirênicos e pirênicos (MIKLOS & JOHN, 1979; AKAGI *et al.*, 1996; BERGAMINI *et al.*, 2013). No entanto, o marcador P3_VVAGL11 não é capaz de discriminar entre as diferentes classes sem sementes, selecionando apenas os indivíduos que certamente não são apirênicos (BERGAMINI *et al.*, 2013). Levando esse fato em consideração, sugerimos a aplicação de haplótipos para seleção inequívoca de videiras sem sementes. Esses haplótipos poderiam ser compostos pelos marcadores P3_VVAGL11, VVIN16 e VMC7F2, ou ainda por P3_VVAGL11 e VVIN16 (Tabela 2), para criar uma alternativa a ser explorada em programas de melhoramento.

Atualmente, técnicas mais eficientes para MAS, do que a análise de SSRs em gel poliacrilamida, têm surgido. Uma delas é o ensaio de genotipagem KASP, que apresenta diversas vantagens, como menor erro de genotipagem em comparação a outras técnicas, geração de dados em grande escala de forma automatizada e genotipagem de menor custo para seleção assistida por marcadores (7.9 - 46.1 % mais barato) (GUIMARÃES *et al.*, 2009; SEMAGN *et al.*, 2014). A PCR competitiva alelo-específica foi recentemente aplicada na seleção de características de interesse em trigo (CHHETRI *et al.*, 2017; TAN *et al.*, 2017), soja (SHI *et al.*, 2015), milho (SEMAGN *et al.*, 2014), arroz (THOMSON *et al.*, 2014), e amendoim (KHERA *et al.*, 2013) utilizando marcadores do tipo *SNP* em estudos de MAS visando melhorias nessas culturas.

No presente estudo, os marcadores *SNP/INDELS* foram selecionados com base na sequência do gene *VviAGL11* devido ao seu envolvimento no desenvolvimento de sementes e em sua localização no *locus SdI*, o qual explica 50-70% da variância fenotípica da apirênica (BOUQUET & DANGLLOT, 1996; DOLIGEZ *et al.*, 2002; CABEZAS *et al.*, MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011). Com a avaliação dos nove marcadores moleculares por meio de KASP foi possível identificar quatro marcadores com segregação diferenciada entre cultivares apirênicas e pirênicas. A forma heterozigótica dos marcadores VvAGL11_KASP_2, 3, 8 e 9 está fortemente associada aos indivíduos apirênicos.

Os resultados apresentados neste estudo contribuem com dados-chave sobre os marcadores relacionados à apirenia e ao gene *VviAGL11*, demonstrando sua potencial aplicabilidade biotecnológica em uma estratégia de seleção assistida por marcadores moleculares. No entanto, outros ensaios devem ser realizados em populações maiores e mais

diversificadas para garantir o uso desses marcadores em uma abordagem confiante de MAS. Com esse objetivo futuro, acessos apirênicos e populações segregantes para apirenia provenientes do Banco de Ativo de Germoplasma (BAG) da Embrapa Uva e Vinho serão genotipadas. Em adição, uma população com ~200 indivíduos, gerada por meio do cruzamento entre as cultivares Villard Blanc X Sultanine nas safras de 2012/2013 e 2013/2014, está em desenvolvimento em campos experimentais da Embrapa Uva e Vinho. Os indivíduos desta população poderão ser fenotipados em relação à presença ou à ausência de sementes nos próximos anos e concomitantemente avaliados quanto ao seus genótipos para os marcadores VvAGL11_KASP_2, 3, 8 e 9.

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Material Suplementar

CLUSTAL multiple sequence alignment by MUSCLE (3.8)

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su_mut          CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
su_Di Genova    CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
ch2             CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
su_wt          CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
ch1            CCACTGATATGGATTGATTTGCCTTTTTAATTGAAGACCCTTTTCTGTTGGTAACTTTGT
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ch2             GAAGGCATGAACGAAGTTGATTACTGAAGATATTAGCAACATTACTAGGGTTTGGGGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAAGGCATGAACGAAGTTGATTACTGAAGATATTAGCAACATTACTAGGGTTTGGGGA
su_wt          GAAGGCATGAACGAAGTTGATTACTGAAGATATTAGCAACATTACTAGGGTTTGGGGA
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VvAG11_KASP1

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ch2         GATGAGACTGTAAAGTTGGCTAAAACCCCTAGAGGCATGTTGTTTTTAATAATTGGAGAT
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su_wt      GATGAGACTGTAAAGTTGGCTAAAACCCCTAGAGGCATGTTG-TTTTTAATAATTGGAGAT
ch1        GATGAGACTGTAAAGTTGGCTAAAACCCCTAGAGGCATGTTG-TTTTTAATAATTGGAGAT
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su_wt      ACCATATATGTATGTTGCGAGTGCAGATATACGTGGAAAGCACAAAAATCCTAACCTGTT
ch1        ACCATATATGTATGTTGCGAGTGCAGATATACGTGGAAAGCACAAAAATCCTAACCTGTT
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ch1        AAAGTGTAAATTTGGGAAGATATTGTTTCTTTTACGTGTTGGATACAACATTTGGGTTGT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTCGGAAGTCTTTTTCTTCTCAACCC-----CTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTTTGAAGAAG
su_wt      TTCGGAAGTCTTTTTCTTCTCAACCC-----CTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTTTGAAGAAG
ch1        TTCGGAAGTCTTTTTCTTCTCAACCC-----CTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTTTGAAGAAG
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su_Di Genova  TCATTTTCTTTCATCTGCACCGCCCATTCCTCTCTCGCTATTGTCATCTTTCTCCTC--TTC
ch2         TCATTTTCTTTCATCTGCACCGCCCATTCCTCTCTCGCTATTGTCATCTTTCTCCTC--TTC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCATTTTCTTTCATCTGCACCGCCCATTCCTCTCTCGCTATTGTCATCTTTCTCCTC--TTC
su_wt      TCATTTTCTTTCATCTGCACCGCCCATTCCTCTCTCGCTATTGTCATCTTTCTCCTC--TTC
ch1        TCATTTTCTTTCATCTGCACCGCCCATTCCTCTCTCGCTATTGTCATCTTTCTCCTC--TTC
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su_Di Genova  TCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTATTGTAATATCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCT
ch2         TCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTATTGTAATATCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCT
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su_wt      TCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTATTGTAATATCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCT
ch1        TCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTATTGTAATATCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCTCT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GGCATTTGGCTTTCATTGGGATACGCGTTTTTGACAGCCCGAAATTTCCGAAAGCTGA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AGTCGCCGGATTTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC
su_wt     AGTCGCCGGATTTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC
ch1       AGTCGCCGGATTTTGGAAACAAGGTGTGTAGGTGATCTTTTAAACAGAAACGTTTCACCAC
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su_Di Genova CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTCTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
ch2       CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTCTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTCTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
su_wt     CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTCTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
ch1       CAAAATTTCCACAATCAACCATTCTCTCTCTGTGAAAACGTTTCGTGCATAACTGGGTAA
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su_Di Genova TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
ch2       TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
su_wt     TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
ch1       TCTTAGATCTGCTCCCCTCCACACCACAGAATCTACTTTTGCCCTACATATGAACATCTGC
*****
```

```
su_mut    TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
su_Di Genova TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
ch2       TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
su_wt     TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
ch1       TTTCCATTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTTGTCAGTGCCCATCTCTCCAAATTTACTTCCACCTCT
*****
```

```
su_mut    TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
su_Di Genova TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
ch2       TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
su_wt     TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
ch1       TACATTTTCTTACCATTCTTTTTAGATTTCTTTGGCTTGATTTACTCTCTCTTCCCTGCAA
*****
```

```
su_mut    CACTTACTCTTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
su_Di Genova CACTTACTCTTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
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ch2          CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
su_wt       CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
ch1         CACTTTACTCTTCAGTTCTTGATTCTCTTTTGCCTTCTTCATGCATTTGTTCCATTCTT
*****

su_mut      TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
su_Di Genova TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
ch2         TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
su_wt       TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
ch1         TAATTAGTCATTTTCTTATTCTAAACTTTCTTTTCCCTTTTTCGTTATTTTCAGAATGC
*****

su_mut      AGTTTGATTATTTTGCCTTTTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
su_Di Genova AGTTTGATTATTTTCC-TTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
ch2         AGTTTGATTATTTTGCCT-TTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AGTTTGATTATTTTCC-TTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
su_wt       AGTTTGATTATTTTCC-TTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
ch1         AGTTTGATTATTTTCC-TTTTTTTCATGTTAAAACAGTATTTGTTTTGGTAGTTCTCAG
***** ** *****

su_mut      TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
su_Di Genova TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
ch2         TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
su_wt       TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
ch1         TTTATTTTTTCCATAAAATTTCTGTTTCAAAAACCTCTTGAAGGGAAAAAGCCAGAATTTT
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su_mut      TTTTCCTGCGTTCGGTCTTAAGCTTCTCATCCATATCCTGGGTTTATGGGAAATGTGTT
su_Di Genova TTTTCCTGCGTTCGGTCTTAAGCTTCTCATCCATATCCTGGGTTTATGGGAAATGTGTT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTTCCTGCGTTCGGTCTTAAGCTTCTCATCCATATCCTGGGTTTATGGGAAATGTGTT
su_wt       TTTTCCTGCGTTCGGTCTTAAGCTTCTCATCCATATCCTGGGTTTATGGGAAATGTGTT
ch1         TTTTCCTGCGTTCGGTCTTAAGCTTCTCATCCATATCCTGGGTTTATGGGAAATGTGTT
*****

su_mut      AAGGGTCATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG----GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA
su_Di Genova AAGGGTTATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG----GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA
ch2         AAGGGTCATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG-----GAGAGAGAGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AAGGGTTATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG-----GAGAGAGAGA
su_wt       AAGGGTTATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG-----GAGAGAGAGA
ch1         AAGGGTTATGGGGTTTTTGGAGAAATGTG-----GAGAGAGAGA
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su_mut      GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
su_Di Genova GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
ch2         GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
su_wt       GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
ch1         GAGAGAGATGTGTAGACATGCACCCACTTGTAGTAGTATTAGTAGTGGAGATAGATCCTG
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su_mut      GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
su_Di Genova GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
ch2         GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
su_wt       GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
ch1         GGTGATTTTTCAAATGGTAGATCATGTTCTCTTCTCTTTGTTCTCATCTCTTCATGTTT
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su_mut      TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
su_Di Genova TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
ch2         TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
su_wt       TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
ch1         TTTTTTCCCTCAGTGGCTTACAGATTTTCTGTCTCCCAATCTTTGGTTTCCATCTCTTTT
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su_mut CCAAGATCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC
su_Di Genova CCAAGATCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC
ch2 CCAAGGTCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CCAAGATCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC
su_wt CCAAGATCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC
chl CCAAGATCTCCTTATTTTCTACATTATCATCATTATTTTATTATATACACAAGCCTCAC

su_mut CCTATTTTCAACAACATCTAACTTTCTCATTCTCAGTCTATCATCATTCAGA-----
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CCTATTTTCAACAACATCTAACTTTCTCATTCTCAGTCTATCATCATTCAGATCTCT
su_wt CCTATTTTCAACAACATCTAACTTTCTCATTCTCAGTCTATCATCATTCAGATCTCT
chl CCTATTTTCAACAACATCTAACTTTCTCATTCTCAGTCTATCATCATTCAGATCTCT

su_mut --TCTCTCCTCTCCTCTTCACCTCTACCAAAAACACACATTTTTCGGTAGATCTTC
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ch2 CCTCTCTCCTCTCCTCTTCACCTCTACCAAAAACACAAATTTTTCGGTAGATCTTC
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su_Di Genova TCTCACAATTACATGCATTATTACCCTTCATATGTCACCTCATACTTCAATTTT-----TT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCTCACAATTACATGCATTATTACCCTTCATATGTCACCTCATACTTCAATTTT-----TT
su_wt TCTCACAATTACATGCATTATTACCCTTCATATGTCACCTCATACTTCAATTTT-----TT
chl TCTCACAATTACATGCATTATTACCCTTCATATGTCACCTCATACTTCAATTTT-----TT

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ch2 TTTT-----TTTAAAGCTTGAACAGATCTCCAACCTTTTCTCTAGTATTTTGTAACTTTAG
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su_wt TTTT-----TTTAAAGCTTGAACAGATCTCCAACCTTTTCTCTAGTATTTTGTAACTTTAG
chl TTTT-----TTTAAAGCTTGAACAGATCTCCAACCTTTTCTCTAGTATTTTGTAACTTTAG

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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CAGTTTCATAAAGAGATGCTTTGGTAATTTTCTAATATTTTTCAGTTGGTGATATAATA
su_wt CAGTTTCATAAAGAGATGCTTTGGTAATTTTCTAATATTTTTCAGTTGGTGATATAATA
chl CAGTTTCATAAAGAGATGCTTTGGTAATTTTCTAATATTTTTCAGTTGGTGATATAATA

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su_Di Genova WAACAATGTATAGTACTACAAAAATTTTGTCTTATATACCTAAGCCATTTTCTTTTG
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chl TAACAATGTATAGTACTACAAAAATTTTGTCTTATATACCTAAGCCATTTTCTTTTG

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su_Di Genova CGAAAACACGACCAACCGTCAGGTCACATTCTGCAAGCGAAGGAATGGGCTTTTGAAGAA
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su_Di Genova GGCTTATGAATTATCAGTGCTATGTGATGCAGAAGTTGCCCTCATCGTCTTCTCCAGCCG
ch2 GGCTTATGAATTATCAGTGCTATGTGATGCAGAAGTTGCCCTCATCGTCTTCTCCAGCCG
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su_Di Genova CGGTCGAGTCTATGAGTACTCAAACAACAAGTAATAATTTTCTCCACCATTCTTCAACC
ch2 CGGTCGAGTCTATGAGTACTCAAACAACAAGTAATAATTTTCTCCACCATTCTTCAACC
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ch1 CGGTCGAGTCTATGAGTACTCAAACAACAAGTAATAATTTTCTCCACCATTCTTCAACC

su_mut ATCTGCTGAATTTTCTATGTTTCATCTTTTCTCCATTTTGGTGCATCATACGGGCAATTAAT
su_Di Genova ATCTGCTGAATTTTCTATGTTTCATCTTTTCTCCATTTTGGTGCATCATACGGGCAATTAAT
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ch1 ATCTGCTGAATTTTCTATGTTTCATCTTTTCTCCATTTTGGTGCATCATACGGGCAATTAAT

su_mut GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC
su_Di Genova GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC
ch2 GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC
su_wt GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC
ch1 GGTTTTATATTGATGAGATTAATATCATCAGAAGTTGCAGAACCCTAATGTTATTAAGC

su_mut AAAG-AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
su_Di Genova AAAG-AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
ch2 AAAGAAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AAAG-AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
su_wt AAAG-AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
ch1 AAAG-AAAAAAAAAAGAACAGTGAAGGAGGAGATGCAATAAAATTTGAAAATCTAACTC
*** *****

su_mut ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG
su_Di Genova ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG
ch2 ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG
su_wt ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG
ch1 ACTGCAGATTATGATTTTTTATGAGGGGAGTCAGATTCCTTTTGCTTTATTTAGGAAGGG

VvAG11_KASP3

su_mut ATTACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGAT-ATTTTCTTTTCATCAAAATTTAATTAAT
su_Di Genova ATTACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGAT-ATTTTCTTTTCATCAAAATTTAATTAAT
ch2 ATTACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGAT-ATTTTCTTTTCATCAAAATTTAATTAAT
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su_wt ATTACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGATAATTTTCTTTTATCAAAATTTA---AAT
ch1 ATTACATGGGTACCTGCTTTGATATTTATGATAATTTTCTTTTATCAAAATTTA---AAT

su_mut GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA
su_Di Genova GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA
ch2 GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA
su_wt GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA
ch1 GAAGGAAAATGCAGATAAATTTCTGACATTTTCATCAGGCATCTGCTGATGAATCTGAGAA

su_mut AACAAATGCTTCTTCAAGATTTTTCTACTAATTACATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT

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su_Di Genova      AACAAATGCTCTTCTTCAAGATTTTTTCACTAATTACATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT
ch2               AACAAATGCTCTTCTTCATGATTTTTTCACTAATTGCATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AACAAATTTCTTCTTCATGATTTTTTCACTAATTACATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT
su_wt             AACAAATTTCTTCTTCATGATTTTTTCACTAATTACATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT
ch1               AACAAATTTCTTCTTCATGATTTTTTCACTAATTACATCTTTGACTGATATAAGGAAAATAT
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su_mut            GAGAAAGAACACTATACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
su_Di Genova      SAGAAAGAACACTATACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
ch2               CAGAAAGAACACTTTACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CAGAAAGAACACTATACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
su_wt             CAGAAAGAACACTATACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
ch1               CAGAAAGAACACTATACCTATAGTTAGAAACTTCTTCAAAGATTAECTATCAGAGGGTTC
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su_mut            TTTTATTGTATGTTTAGTGCATTAATA-----AAAAATATAATGAAAAATAAAAAATA
su_Di Genova      TTTTATTGTATGTTTAGTGCATTAATAAAAAATAAAAAATATAATGAAAAATAAAAAATA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTTATTGTATGTTTAGTGCATTAATAAAAAATAAAAAATATAATGAAAAATAAAAAATA
su_wt             TTTTATTGTATGTTTAGTGCATTAATAAAAAATAAAAAATATAATGAAAAATAAAAAATA
ch1               TTTTATTGTATGTTTAGTGCATTAATAAAAAATAAAAAATATAATGAAAAATAAAAAATA
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su_mut            AAATA-GCAAAAAAACCGAAAAAGTTGAAATCCAACATCAGTTACACTGGTAGTACTGA
su_Di Genova      AAATAGGAAAAAAAATCGAAAAAGTTGAAATCCAACATCAGTTACACTGGTAGTACTGA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AAATAGGAAAAAAAATCGAAAAAGTTGAAATCCAACATCAGTTACACTGGTAGTACTGA
su_wt             AAATAGGAAAAAAAATCGAAAAAGTTGAAATCCAACATCAGTTACACTGGTAGTACTGA
ch1               AAATAGGAAAAAAAATCGAAAAAGTTGAAATCCAACATCAGTTACACTGGTAGTACTGA
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su_mut            TATGCATGCAAGGGAAGACAATCTAGGCAACAGCCAGTTAGGGTTTCTTGTCTAGCTAG
su_Di Genova      TATGCATGCAAGGGAAGACAATCTAGGCAACARCCAGTTAGGGTTTCTTGTCTAGCTAG
ch2               TATGCATGCAAGGGAAGACAATCTAGGCAACAGCCAGTTAGGGTTTCTTGTCTAGCTAG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TATGCATGCAAGGGAAGACAATCTAGGCAACAACCAGTTAGGGTTTCTTGTCTAGCTAG
su_wt             TATGCATGCAAGGGAAGACAATCTAGGCAACAACCAGTTAGGGTTTCTTGTCTAGCTAG
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su_mut            TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
su_Di Genova      TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
ch2               TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
su_wt             TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
ch1               TTCTTCCCATCTCTCCTTACTGTTCCTTTCCAATAATATTTAACATTGTAATCTGTGAGA
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su_mut            ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
su_Di Genova      ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
ch2               ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
su_wt             ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
ch1               ATCTGTATTCCACTGTCCACAGTACAGTATTTAAGAAAAGGGTTATGGCCCTTTTCCTCT
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su_Di Genova      TCCACTCTTTGTTCAAGTCTCAGTTTCTCTGCTCTTCTCTTTCCATTTCCAGCTTTGGGA
ch2               TCCACTCTTTGTTCAAGTCTCAGTTTCTCTGCTCTTCTCTTTCCATTTCCAGCTTTGGGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCCACTCTTTGTTCAAGTCTCAGTTTCTCTGCTCTTCTCTTTCCATTTCCAGCTTTGGGA
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su_Di Genova      GGCTTGGAGCCCATGTATCATAAATCCTTCCCTTGTTTTTCTCCATCTTTTGTGTTGGG
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GGCTTGGAGCCCATGTATCATAAATCCTTCCCTTGTTTTTCTCCATCTTTTGTGTTGGG
su_wt             GGCTTGGAGCCCATGTATCATAAATCCTTCCCTTGTTTTTCTCCATCTTTTGTGTTGGG
ch1               GGCTTGGAGCCCATGTATCATAAATCCTTCCCTTGTTTTTCTCCATCTTTTGTGTTGGG
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su_Di Genova   TTTCTTCAGCCTAAAAGCTGTGAACCTTTCAATGGAGTCTTTTGGTCCCTCTCTTCTCTTT
ch2            TTTCTTCAGCCTAAAAGCTGTGAACCTTTCAATGGAGTCTTTTGGTCCCTCTCTTCTCTTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTCTTCAGCCTAAAAGCTGTGAACCTTTCAATGGAGTCTTTTGGTCCCTCTCTTCTCTTT
su_wt          TTTCTTCAGCCTAAAAGCTGTGAACCTTTCAATGGAGTCTTTTGGTCCCTCTCTTCTCTTT
ch1            TTTCTTCAGCCTAAAAGCTGTGAACCTTTCAATGGAGTCTTTTGGTCCCTCTCTTCTCTTT
*****

su_mut          CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
su_Di Genova   CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
ch2            CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
su_wt          CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
ch1            CCCATTCTCATTTAAAGTGCAGTAAAGTGATCACCTTTCAGTCTCTTTGTTTTTTTCAC
*****

su_mut          TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
su_Di Genova   TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
ch2            TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
su_wt          TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
ch1            TTGGTGTGGGCAATTTGTGGATATCAAAA--TCAGAAATGGGACGGTGTACATCAGCACCC
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su_mut          ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
su_Di Genova   ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
ch2            ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
su_wt          ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
ch1            ATTACATCTTTGTGTGGGTTTGAATAAATATTTTCATATCAATCATTTTCATGTTTGTCTCAA
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su_mut          TGCCATCCAAGATTTTTTTTCTTCACTTCATGTCTCATTTTCCCTCCCGATTTCTCCCTT
su_Di Genova   TGCCATCCAAGATTTTTTTTCTTCACTTCATGTCTCATTTTCCCTCCCGATTTCTCCCTT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TGCCATCCAAGATTTTTTTTCTTCACTTCATGTCTCATTTTCCCTCCCGATTTCTCCCTT
su_wt          TGCCATCCAAGATTTTTTTTCTTCACTTCATGTCTCATTTTCCCTCCCGATTTCTCCCTT
ch1            TGCCATCCAAGATTTTTTTTCTTCACTTCATGTCTCATTTTCCCTCCCGATTTCTCCCTT
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su_mut          GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
su_Di Genova   GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
ch2            GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
su_wt          GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
ch1            GTTCAAGGAAAATTGAAGATCTTCTCATAGTTGAGATAGTATTTAAAATAGGACATTGAT
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su_mut          CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
su_Di Genova   CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
ch2            CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
su_wt          CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
ch1            CTTACATGAGATTTTACCTTTTTTTTCAAAAATTTAAATTATTTTTTATACTTTTTAA
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su_mut          AAATACTTGTTTTTACCCTTAATCAATTAACAAAAAATAAAAATGAAAAAAGAC
su_Di Genova   AAATACTTGTTTTTACCCTTAATCAATTAACAAAAAATAAAAATGAAAAAAGAC
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AAATACTTGTTTTTACCCTTAATCAATTAACAAAAAATAAAAATGAAAAAAGAC
su_wt          AAATACTTGTTTTTACCCTTAATCAATTAACAAAAAATAAAAATGAAAAAAGAC
ch1            AAATACTTGTTTTTACCCTTAATCAATTAACAAAAAATAAAAATGAAAAAAGAC
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su_mut          CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG
su_Di Genova   CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG
ch2            CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG
su_wt          CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG
ch1            CAATTTGAATTTTTTTTTTAATGTTGAGGGTGCA-----TGGGGGTGGGGGGG

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su_mut AGAAGTCTTCCTTATTATTATTTAATTTTAAATGCATTATTTTGTAGTCAAATCCAATTTTA
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ch2 AGAAGTCTTCCTTATTATTATTTAATTTTAAATGCATTATTTTGTAGTCAAATCCAATTTA
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su_wt AGAAGTCTTCCTTATTATTATTTAATTTTAAATGCATTATTTTGTAGTCAAATCCAATTTA
ch1 AGAAGTCTTCCTTATTATTATTTAATTTTAAATGCATTATTTTGTAGTCAAATCCAATTTA

VvAG11_KASP4

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su_wt ATATATGAGAGAAAAATAAAGAAATAAATTTGATAAAAATATGTGAAAAAATTATTAAGT
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su_wt TCCTCTTAAATTTTGAAGATTTAAATGCAACCCCTACACTTTACACCTAAGAGAGTTT
ch1 TCCTCTTAAATTTTGAAGATTTAAATGCAACCCCTACACTTTACACCTAAGAGAGTTT

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su_Di Genova GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAGAAAACAAAGAAGAAAAATGAAAGAAAGAAAAAGAAAAAT
ch2 GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAGAAAACAAAGAAGAAAAATGAAAGAAAGAAAAAGAAAAAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAGAAAACAAAGAAGAAAAATGAAAGAAAGAAAAAGAAAAAT
su_wt GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAGAAAACAAAGAAGAAAAATGAAAGAAAGAAAAAGAAAAAT
ch1 GAGGAAAAGTAGGAGAAAAAGAAAACAAAGAAGAAAAATGAAAGAAAGAAAAAGAAAAAT

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su_Di Genova AAAGAAATATGTTTAAATTCATAAATTTGTTATTACTTATTTTTCTAAAATTATTTTTAT
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su_wt AAAGAAATATGTTTAAATTCATAAATTTGTTATTACTTATTTTTCTAAAATTATTTTTAT
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su_mut TCCTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAATAATTTTGTATATAGTTT
su_Di Genova TCCTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAATAATTTTGTATATAGTTT

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ch2          TCTTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAAAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAAAATTTTGGATATAGTTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCTTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAAAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAAAATTTTGGATATAGTTT
su_wt       TCTTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAAAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAAAATTTTGGATATAGTTT
ch1         TCTTTTCTCTCATATACAACCAAAACAAAATTTCAAAAATGTAAAATTTTGGATATAGTTT
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su_mut      TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACC
su_Di Genova TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACY
ch2         TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACT
su_wt       TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACC
ch1         TCATTAGATTTGATTTTTTCATACTTTCCATAATAATCCAAACAAGATCAATTAATAAAACC
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su_mut      GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
su_Di Genova GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
ch2         GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
su_wt       GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
ch1         GAAACAAAACCTACAATGACTTCATAATAACGGAAGTTTAAAGGAACTAAGGATGAATTG
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su_mut      AGATAGATTCGAGGATGGTGTCTATAATGATAGGAGTCCAAATTTGGAGGTAAGAATAAAC
su_Di Genova AGATAGATTCGAGGATGGTGTCTATAATGATAGGAGTCCAAATTTGGAGGTAAGAATAAAC
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AGATAGATTCGAGGATGGTGTCTATAATGATAGGAGTCCAAATTTGGAGGTAAGAATAAAC
su_wt       AGATAGATTCGAGGATGGTGTCTATAATGATAGGAGTCCAAATTTGGAGGTAAGAATAAAC
ch1         AGATAGATTCGAGGATGGTGTCTATAATGATAGGAGTCCAAATTTGGAGGTAAGAATAAAC
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su_mut      TTAATAAACTCTAAGATGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
su_Di Genova TTAATAAACTCTAAGATGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
ch2         TTAATAAACTCTAAGACGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTAATAAACTCTAAGACGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
su_wt       TTAATAAACTCTAAGACGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
ch1         TTAATAAACTCTAAGACGATGCTCCAATGATGAATTTCTTTTTTAAAAATATTTGAGTAG
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su_mut      ACATTTGTCATTAATTTTTCTAACTACAATAGATTACCAATAAAATGATCATTATCCCT
su_Di Genova GCATTTGTCATTAATTTTTCTAACTACAATAGATTACCAATAAAATGATCATAATCCCT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GCATTTGTCATTAATTTTTCTAACTACAATAGATTACCAATAAAATGATCATAATCCCT
su_wt       GCATTTGTCATTAATTTTTCTAACTACAATAGATTACCAATAAAATGATCATAATCCCT
ch1         GCATTTGTCATTAATTTTTCTAACTACAATAGATTACCAATAAAATGATCATAATCCCT
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su_mut      TTCTACGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
su_Di Genova TTCAACCGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
ch2         TTCAACCGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTCAACCGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
su_wt       TTCAACCGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
ch1         TTCAACCGAACCTTGTCGATTGTTGTATTGTTTTTATGATATTTTTATGTAACATGTTAA
*** ** *****

su_mut      ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
su_Di Genova ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
ch2         ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
su_wt       ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
ch1         ATTATAAAATAAAATAAATAAGTTATAAGAAGAAAGAAAAACCAATTCAATCCAATAAA
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su_mut      AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTG--AGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTTGAT
su_Di Genova AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTGATAGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTTGAT
ch2         AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTGATAGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTCAAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTGATAGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTCAAT
su_wt       AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTGATAGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTCAAT
ch1         AACCTTTGAAATTAATAAATGGTGGGATATGTGATAGAGGTGCAAAGTCTTGGGTTCAAT
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su_mut          TACCATCATTAAGAATCCCTGGATTACTCGGAGTTGATTCTAATGGGTGTCGTTGGAATC
su_Di Genova   TACCATCATTAAGAATCCCTGGATTACTCGGAGTTGATTCTAATGGGTGTCGTTGGAATC
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su_wt          TACCATCATTAAGAATCCCTGGATTACTCGGAGTTGATTCTAATGGGTGTCGTTGGAATC
ch1            TACCATCATTAAGAATCCCTGGATTACTCGGAGTTGATTCTAATGGGTGTCGTTGGAATC
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su_mut          CCTAAGGTGTCGAAGCCATGGGTGGATTTGAAAGGCCCTATCACAGTGGGGTTCCGGGT
su_Di Genova   CCTAAGGTGTCGAAGCCATGGGTGGATTTGAAAGGCCCTATCACAGTGGGGTTCCGGGT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CCTAAGGTGTCGAAGCCATGGGTGGATTTGAAAGGCCCTATCACAGTGGGGTTCCGGGT
su_wt          CCTAAGGTGTCGAAGCCATGGGTGGATTTGAAAGGCCCTATCACAGTGGGGTTCCGGGT
ch1            CCTAAGGTGTCGAAGCCATGGGTGGATTTGAAAGGCCCTATCACAGTGGGGTTCCGGGT
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su_mut          TATCAAAAAAAAAAACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAATTGAG
su_Di Genova   TATCAAAAAAAAAAACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAAKTGAG
ch2            TAT----AAAAAACACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAAGTGAG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TAT--AAAAAACACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAAGTGAG
su_wt          TAT-----AAAAAACACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAAGTGAG
ch1            TAT--AAAAAACACACACACACACAATTTTCATAATAGAAGGTAGAAAAAGTGAG
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su_mut          AATAAGGTAGAGAAGATGTTTTTCC-----TAGGTACTCTAGGGTTTTGTGATAATAG
su_Di Genova   AATAAGGTAGAGAAGATGTTTTTCCCTAGCTATAGGTACTCTAGGGTTTTGTGATAATAG
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su_mut          ATTTGGATTTTTTCCCAATAATTCAAATTTAATTC AATTATAATAAATAAAAA
su_Di Genova   ATTTGGATTTTTTCCCAATAATAATTCAAATTTAATTC AATTATAATAAATAAAAA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATTTGGATTTTTT-CCCAATAATAATAAATTTAATTC AATTATAATAAATAAAAA
su_wt          ATTTGGATTTTTT-CCCAATAATAATAAATTTAATTC AATTATAATAAATAAAAA
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su_mut          TCAATGAGAAATCCATGGAAAACCCAAATCAAATGTTGCAATATAGATCAAGATTAGCA
su_Di Genova   TCAATGAGAAATCCATGGAAAACCCAAATCAAATGTTGCAATATAGATCAAGATTAGCA
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ch1            TCAATGAGAAATCCATGG-AAACCCAAATCAAATGTTGCAATATAGATCAAGATTAGCA
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su_mut          TTTACTTATATGCATGCATGTTAATTAGTTTGACCTTAAAGATCTTGTAGTACTGGTTCC
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ch2            TTTACTTATATGCATGCATGTTAATTAGTTTGACCTTAAAGATCTTGTAGTACTGGTTCC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TTTACTTATATGCATGCATGTTAATTAGTTTGACCTTAAAGATCTTGTAGTACTGGTTCC
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ch1            TTTACTTATATGCATGCATGTTAATTAGTTTGACCTTAAAGATCTTGTAGTACTGGTTCC
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su_Di Genova   CAATATAAAAAATGAGAGCCTATTTGGGATAACTTTTTAACTCCTGCATCTAGTAATTAGA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CAATATAAAAAATGAGAGCCTATTTGGGATAACTTTTTAACTCCTGCATCTAGTAATTAGA
su_wt          CAATATAAAAAATGAGAGCCTATTTGGGATAACTTTTTAACTCCTGCATCTAGTAATTAGA
ch1            CAATATAAAAAATGAGAGCCTATTTGGGATAACTTTTTAACTCCTGCATCTAGTAATTAGA
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su_mut          GATGAAACAGACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTACGAACAAAATTTAAAAATGC
su_Di Genova   GATGAAACAGACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTACGAACAAAATTTAAAAATGC
ch2            GATGAAACATACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTACGAACAAAATTTAAAAATGC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GATGAAACATACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTACGAACAAAATTTAAAAATGC

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su_wt GATGAAACATACATTATTTGTATTATGTAATCTATTTTATGAACAAAATTTTAAAAATGC
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su_wt TTTAATAAATAGTGAGGATGACTATGATATTTCA-----AAAAATTTT
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VvAG11_KASP5

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su_Di Genova ATTGGACTAGGATCTGGTCAACAGTTCGATTGATT-----GATCAATTCGGTCCGATCTT
ch2 ATTGGACTAGGATCTGGTCAACAGTTCGATTGATT-----GATCAATTCGGTCCGATCTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATTGGACTAGGATCTGGTCAACAGTTCGATTGATT-----GATCAATTCGGTCCGATCTT
su_wt ATTGGACTAGGATCTGGTCAACAGTTCGATTGATT-----GATCAATTCGGTCCGATCTT
ch1 ATTGGACTAGGATCTGGTCAACAGTTCGATTGATT-----GATCAATTCGGTCCGATCTT

su_mut TAAAACATTACAAATAACTTATCTTATCTGAGTTTTGATGCATCTCATAATGCAAAGTA
su_Di Genova TAAAACATTACAAATAACTTATCTTATGTGAGTTTTGGTGCATCTCATAATGCAAAGCA
ch2 TAAAACATTACAAATAACTTATCTTATGTGAGTTTTGGTGCATCTCATTTCATGCAAAGCA
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su_wt TAAAACATTACAAATAACTTATCTTATGTGAGTTTTGGTGCATCTCATAATGCAAAGCA
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ch2 GTTATTGAAAGCCAATACATATTTTCATACAAAGTCCACACAAAGAACTCAAATAAAAAA
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su_wt GTTATTGAAAGCCAATACATATTTTCATACAAAGTCCACACAAAGAACTCAAATAAAAAA
ch1 GTTATTGAAAGCCAATACATATTTTCATACAAAGTCCACACAAAGAACTCAAATAAAAAA

su_mut ATAAAAAATCAGAGAATAAAATCCTCATGGTAAAGTTGCACCAATAAGACCTATACTGC
su_Di Genova ATAAAAAATCAGAGAATAAAATCCTCATGGTAAAGTTGCACCAATAAGACCTATACTGC
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su_wt ATAAAAAATCAGAGAATAAAATCCTCATGGTAAAGTTGCACCAATAAGACCTATACTGC
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su_mut ATACAGTTGCAGAGTGGCAGTGCTCTCCATTGTTCTTTCTTCTTCTTTCAGTGGTGCAA

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su_Di Genova      ATACAGTTGCAGAGTGGCAGTGCCTCTYCATTTGTTCTTTCTCTTGCTTTTCAGTGGTGCAA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATACAGTTGCAGAGTGGCAGTGCCTTTCATTGTTCTTTCTCTTGCTTTTCAGTGGTGTA
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ch1               ATACAGTTGCAGAGTGGCAGTGCCTTTCATTGTTCTTTCTCTTGCTTTTCAGTGGTGTA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TCCATGAGAATCTGAACCCTCTGGCAGTGTCTGAAAAAGGGAGGTCATAGCAGTACAACC
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AACCACTCATTTTTTCATCTTTCCCTTGATCTTCCCTTGTTTGCAAAATCTCAGTTTTTCT
su_wt             AACCACTCATTTTTTCATCTTTCCCTTGATCTTCCCTTGTTTGCAAAATCTCAGTTTTTCT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTTTGCCTCTCAAAGCTGCAATCACTGCCTTTTTTTAGTGCTGGAGAGGAGAAACCAAGA
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su_Di Genova      GTGTTTGTACTGTTACTTTCATCTTTCTCATATCAAGTCATAGTCCTTTCCAAAACCTGTG
ch2               GTGTTTGTACTGTTACTTTCATCTTTCTCATATCAAGTCATAGTCCTTTCCAAAACCTGTG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GTGTTTGTACTGTTACTTTCATCTTTCTCATATCAAGTCATAGTCCTTTCCAAAACCTGTG
su_wt             GTGTTTGTACTGTTACTTTCATCTTTCTCATATCAAGTCATAGTCCTTTCCAAAACCTGTG
ch1               GTGTTTGTACTGTTACTTTCATCTTTCTCATATCAAGTCATAGTCCTTTCCAAAACCTGTG
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su_mut            CTGTCATCTCCCATCATATATGGTTTCCCTCCTTTAGGGTTTTGCTTTCCGCCTTCACTTT
su_Di Genova      CTGTCATCTCCCATCATATATGGTTTCCCTCCTTTAGGGTTTTGCTTTCCGCCTTCACTTT
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTGTCATCTCCCATCATATATGGTTTCCCTCCTTTAGGGTTTTGCTTTCCGCCTTCACTTT
su_wt             CTGTCATCTCCCATCATATATGGTTTCCCTCCTTTAGGGTTTTGCTTTCCGCCTTCACTTT
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su_wt TGACTACTTTTGGAGCAATTTTCTCTCTTGAATTCTATGGTATGTAATATTTCAATCCAT
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su_wt          GCTGCGCCAGCAAATACAGATGCTGCAGAATTCCTAACAGGTACCCTTGATTTCATATTTCA
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su_mut        TTTTCTCACATGTAATTGAGTGTATATATATATGTCAATTTGCATTTTCCTTCTGCTTG
su_Di Genova  TTTTCTCACATGCAGTTGAGTGTATATATATATGTCAATTTGCATTTTCCTTCTGCTTG
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su_wt        TTTTCTCACATGCAGTTGAGTGTATATATATATGTCAATTTGCATTTTCCTTCTGCTTG
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TGCTTTAACTAGGTTTTTGGCATCAGTTCCCATGCAAAAATTTCAAATATTACTTAACG
su_wt        TGCTTTAACTAGGTTTTTGGCATCAGTTCCCATGCAAAAATTTCAAATATTACTTAACG
ch1           TGCTTTAACTAGGTTTTTGGCATCAGTTCCCATGCAAAAATTTCAAATATTACTTAACG
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su_mut        ATCTTAATTAGGTATGTTAAGACTTAAGAGCAGGTTATACTAAGACATTTTGTCTGTGTT
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su_mut        TATAGGCACTTAATGGGTGATTCCTTGGCTTCCTTGACTGTGAAGGAGCTAAAGCAGCTC
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su_wt        TATAGGCACTTAATGGGTGATTCCTTGGCTTCCTTGACTGTGAAGGAGCTAAAGCAGCTC
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su_mut        GAGAACAGGCTTGAACGAGGCATCACAAGAATCAGGTCGAAGAAGGTAACGACAC--ATA
su_Di Genova  GAGAACAGGCTTGAACGAGGCATCACAAGAATCAGGTCGAAGAAGGTAACGACAC--ATA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GAGAACAGGCTTGAACGAGGCATCACAAGAATCAGGTCGAAGAAGGTAACGACACCTAGA
su_wt        GAGAACAGGCTTGAACGAGGCATCACAAGAATCAGGTCGAAGAAGGTAACGACACCTAGA
ch1           GAGAACAGGCTTGAACGAGGCATCACAAGAATCAGGTCGAAGAAGGTAACGACACCTAGA
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su_mut        CACTAATTCTAATCTGGCTGGGCATTTGACTTTGTGACTTAAATGAAATGAAAAAAAAA
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VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATGGTATCATTCACTGATTAATAATAATAACTTGAAGGTTGAATTAATTTAAGATACCGC
su_wt        ATGGTATCATTCACTGATTAATAATAATAACTTGAAGGTTGAATTAATTTAAGATACCGC
ch1           ATGGTATCATTCACTGATTAATAATAATAACTTGAAGGTTGAATTAATTTAAGATACCGC
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ch2 CACTAAACTTTTCAGATTGCAGAAGTGGAGAGGCTTCAGCAAGCAAAACATGGTGTCAACAC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CACTAAACTTTTCAGATTGCAGAAGTGGAGAGGCTTCAGCAAGCAAAACATGGTGTCAACAC
su_wt CACTAAACTTTTCAGATTGCAGAAGTGGAGAGGCTTCAGCAAGCAAAACATGGTGTCAACAC
ch1 CACTAAACTTTTCAGATTGCAGAAGTGGAGAGGCTTCAGCAAGCAAAACATGGTGTCAACAC
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su_mut          ATGAGTTTAAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
su_Di Genova   ATGAGTTCAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
ch2            ATGAGTTCAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATGAGTTCAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
su_wt          ATGAGTTCAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
ch1            ATGAGTTCAATGCCATCCAGGCATTAGTTTCTCTCAATTTCTTTTCAGCCCAATATGATTG
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VvAGL11_KASP8

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su_mut          AAGGTGGATCCGCAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
su_Di Genova   AAGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
ch2            AAGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 AAGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
su_wt          AAGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
ch1            AAGGTGGATCCACAGGCTACCCACTTCCTGATAAGAAGGTCCTCCATCTCGGGTACACTC
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su_mut          ATCTTCCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
su_Di Genova   ATCTTTCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
ch2            ATCTTTCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATCTTTCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
su_wt          ATCTTTCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
ch1            ATCTTTCGCCATGTTTATTCATTTGCATTCTTTCTCGGTCTAATATTGAAGATTAAGA
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su_mut          GCACATAAATCTCCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
su_Di Genova   GCACATAAATCWCCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
ch2            GCACATAAATCACCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GCACATAAATCACCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
su_wt          GCACATAAATCACCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
ch1            GCACATAAATCACCAAGTAGCCTTAGGTCTGCTAAATTCATCACTACAAATGGTATATGC
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su_mut          ATGAATAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
su_Di Genova   ATGAAYAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
ch2            ATGAACAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 ATGAACAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
su_wt          ATGAACAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
ch1            ATGAACAGCTTAATGAGACATTTCAAGCCATGCATTGGGTAGAAAAAGTTGTGAGATTT
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su_mut          CTTCGTCTTTTAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
su_Di Genova   CTTCGTCTTTTARAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
ch2            CTTCGTCTTTTAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTTCGTCTTTTAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
su_wt          CTTCGTCTTTTAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
ch1            CTTCGTCTTTTAAATACTGCATAGTCATTGACTACCCTATATAATCTTGCTGTGAATTA
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su_mut          TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTAT
su_Di Genova   TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTAT
ch2            TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTGT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTGT
su_wt          TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTGT
ch1            TATACTAATTATGATGGGCAAAACAAAAATTTGTTCTCCAAATCCTCCTCAAGTTCCTGT
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su_mut          GATGTGTATGACGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
su_Di Genova   GATGTGTATGACGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
ch2            GATGTGTATGAGGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GATGTGTATGAGGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
su_wt          GATGTGTATGAGGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
ch1            GATGTGTATGAGGGCCTAAAGATGATTGTTTCATCTGGGCATTTTCGATTTTTGCTCATCCT
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su_mut          TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAGTAGATTTCATGTTTTCTTTTGCTTACAATAA

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su_Di Genova      TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAAGTAGATTTCCATGTTTTCTTTGGCTTACAATAA
ch2              TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAAGTAGATTTCCATGTTTTCTTTGGCTTACAATAA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAAGTAGATTTCCATGTTTTCTTTGGCTTACAATAA
su_wt            TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAAGTAGATTTCCATGTTTTCTTTGGCTTACAATAA
ch1              TAATAATCAGTACTTCTCCAAAGTAAGTAGATTTCCATGTTTTCTTTGGCTTACAATAA
*****

su_mut           GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
su_Di Genova     GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
ch2              GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
su_wt            GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
ch1              GATTCAAGTTCGACCTAATTCCTGGGGTTTTTGTCTTTTGTGTTTATGTAGGTAAATGAT
*****

su_mut           GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
su_Di Genova     GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
ch2              GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
su_wt            GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
ch1              GCAGGAAAAATATCCGCCAACTTCATCTCCTTATGATGTTTAAATAAATCTTTCCCATG
*****
VvAGL11_KASP9
su_mut           CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
su_Di Genova     CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
ch2              CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
su_wt            CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
ch1              CTATCCAAACTGTTATGTAACGGAGAATTAATGTCATTGTTGTATTTGGGGTTTCTATGA
*****

su_mut           CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
su_Di Genova     CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
ch2              CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
su_wt            CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
ch1              CTTGGTATTTATCAGCTAGCAACCAGTACTGTTTTGTATAACATTATGATATATAATATA
****

su_mut           GCCTATTTAAAAAT
su_Di Genova     GCCTATTTAAAAAT
ch2              GCCTATTTAAAAAT
VIT_218S0041G01880.2 GCCTATTTAAAAATATACAATATTCCTAATCT
su_wt            GCCTATTTAAAAAT
ch1              GCCTATTTAAAAATATACAATATTCCTAATC
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Figura Suplementar 1. Mutações selecionadas usadas para o desenvolvimento de marcadores KASP. As sequências apresentadas no alinhamento são referentes ao gene *VviAGL11* de PN40024 (VIT_218S0041G01880.2), *VviAGL11* 'alelo Chardonnay 1' (CH1), *VviAGL11* 'alelo Chardonnay 2' (CH2), alelo mutante *VviAGL11* de 'Sultanine' (SU mut), *VviAGL11* 'alelo wt de Sultanine' (SU wt) e a sequência disponível de 'Sultanine' por Di Genova (2014). A sequência sublinhada representa o marcador SSR VMC7F2, as sequências cinzas claras representam UTRs.

6 DISCUSSÃO

A busca e a seleção de características de interesse em videiras como sabor, tamanho do fruto e tamanho de sementes teve início a partir de sua domesticação por seleção artificial e, posteriormente, por cruzamento e propagação vegetativa (VAROQUAUX *et al.*, 2000). Com o advento do descobrimento e do sequenciamento de DNA, diversos fenótipos vegetais de interesse comercial tiveram seus mecanismos moleculares e genéticos melhor compreendidos (HUANG *et al.*, 2013). Apesar do interesse em variedades de videira apirênicas, os mecanismos moleculares subjacentes ao desenvolvimento da semente na videira não foram totalmente elucidados. Estudos anteriores apenas demonstraram as mudanças anatômicas e morfológicas durante o desenvolvimento normal da semente, desde a fertilização até a sua maturação, que pode ser caracterizada por fases como (i) divisão celular rápida; (ii) acumulação de reserva e expansão celular devido à absorção de água; e (iii) diminuição do crescimento e retenção do acúmulo de reserva (CADOT *et al.*, 2006).

Com o intuito de avaliar a função do gene candidato *VviAGL11* durante a morfogênese da semente de videira, foram realizados estudos de genética reversa utilizando plantas de *A. thaliana* homozigotas para a mutação do gene *SEEDSTICK* (*stk*). A técnica de transformação genética “*Floral Dip*” (ZHANG *et al.*, 2006) mediada por *A. tumefaciens*, foi empregada para a geração de plantas transgênicas de *A. thaliana* com expressão ectópica de *VviAGL11*, como apresentado no Capítulo I. A introdução de genes exógenos utilizando *Agrobacterium* é o método mais popular de transformação e se tornou uma ferramenta essencial para os estudos de transferência de genes por meio de engenharia genética, podendo ser utilizado em plantas-modelo para a comprovação funcional de genes candidatos bem como em plantas de interesse agrônomico (ZIEMIENOWICZ, 2014). Esse método possui diversas vantagens em relação as metodologias de introdução direta de DNA como, por exemplo, o baixo número de cópias inseridos no genoma, a estabilidade e a herdabilidade da integração do transgene ao DNA endógeno, além de ser um método reprodutível e que apresenta protocolos eficientes em plantas como *A. thaliana* que, por sua vez, são vantajosos modelo de estudo gênico por gerarem grande quantidade de sementes em ciclos de vida relativamente curtos (RIVERA *et al.*, 2012).

Setenta e duas plantas mutantes *stk* de *A. thaliana* foram utilizadas para a transformação com construções vetoriais que induzissem a superexpressão de formas alélicas de *VviAGL11*. Uma das construções foi constituída da sequência codificadora da

proteína VviAGL11 da cultivar com semente Chardonnay (CH). A outra construção possuía a sequência codificadora de *VviAGL11* proveniente do alelo mutante da cultivar apirênica Sultanine (SU mut) com sete *SNPs*, dois deles causadores de modificações de aminoácidos no momento da tradução. Plantas T1, previamente selecionadas por meio da resistência ao antibiótico higromicina e pela expressão de gene repórter GFP (do inglês *Green Fluorescent Protein*), foram testadas por PCR para detecção da presença da construção de complementação e a presença dos alelos de *VviAGL11*, o que resultou em 15 linhagens independentes transformadas com o alelo *VviAGL11* CH e 21 linhagens independentes com o alelo *VviAGL11* SU.

Para a avaliação da complementação do fenótipo e da ortologia entre os genes *VviAGL11* e *AtAGL11*, a caracterização fenotípica foi realizada nas linhagens T1 em comparação com os fenótipos *stk* e WT. O mutante *stk* de *A. thaliana* apresenta cinco fenótipos distintos do tipo selvagem: i) o número de sementes é reduzido pela metade devido ao aborto de sementes ainda imaturas; ii) o tamanho das sementes é diminuído; iii) o tamanho da siliqua também é afetado, reduzindo o seu comprimento; iv) o funículo é mais longo e; v) mais espesso (PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003, MATIAS-HERNANDEZ *et al.*, 2010). Com a análise quantitativa das síliquas das linhagens T1, foi possível observar um número reduzido de sementes abortadas, aumento do tamanho das sementes, aumento do comprimento das síliquas e modificações nos funículos que se assemelharam ao fenótipo de tipo selvagem.

Dentre as plantas transformadas com o alelo *VviAGL11* CH, seis apresentaram síliquas bem desenvolvidas e aumento do número de sementes, oito demonstraram sementes do tamanho semelhante ao tipo selvagem, sete plantas apresentaram redução da espessura dos funículos e oito mostraram funículos mais curtos. Entre as plantas transformadas com o alelo mutante *VviAGL11* SU, nove apresentaram síliquas como as do tipo selvagem, seis plantas apresentaram aumento do número de sementes, dez demonstraram sementes de tamanho selvagem, dez plantas apresentaram redução da espessura dos funículos e nove apresentaram funículos menores.

A expressão gênica relativa de *VviAGL11* foi avaliada nas plantas transformadas e se identificou um aumento significativo da expressão do respectivo gene, que é ausente em WT e *stk*, correlacionado com as plantas T1 que obtiveram melhor complementação fenotípica. As duas formas alélicas tiveram a capacidade de restaurar o fenótipo no modelo heterólogo, o que não descarta a possibilidade de que as mutações presentes em um dos alelos de ‘Sultanine’ sejam importantes na formação da proteína VviAGL11 e sua posterior atividade

celular como fator de transcrição. Para a comprovação do efeito dessas mutações, experimentos de expressão gênica como a transativação em protoplastos poderão ser realizados futuramente.

Os resultados compilados no Capítulo I permitiram revelar que a expressão ectópica de *VviAGL11* é capaz de controlar a morfogênese de sementes em *A. thaliana* na ausência de expressão de *AtAGL11*, demonstrando que estes dois genes muito semelhantes têm a mesma função *in planta*, sendo verdadeiros ortólogos. Entretanto, em *A. thaliana*, a morfogênese da semente é dependente da expressão de três genes principais, *AGL11*, *SHP1* e *SHP2*, cuja redundância é considerada essencial para manter a robustez da atividade dos genes *MADS-box* no desenvolvimento de órgãos florais (RIJPKEMA *et al.*, 2007). Todavia, em videira, não foram descritos genes candidatos ortólogos aos genes *SHATTERPROOF*. Logo, o gene *VviAGL11* pode ser o único gene *MIKC^c* da classe D atuando ativamente na determinação da identidade do óvulo e da semente.

Após a comprovação do papel de *VviAGL11* no desenvolvimento de sementes em modelo heterólogo, o objetivo principal deste estudo tornou-se a avaliação funcional desse gene em videiras. Para tal, fez-se necessário a geração de videiras transformadas e a posterior avaliação de seus frutos com o intuito de fenotipá-los de acordo com características relacionadas às sementes como número, tamanho e forma. Dentre os diversos métodos de transformação de plantas, a transformação indireta por *A. tumefaciens* em embriões somáticos é amplamente empregada (DALE & IRWIN, 1995; DE ANDRADE, 2003). Essa técnica foi utilizada para diversos fins no melhoramento vegetal e, dentre eles, estudos de desenvolvimento e crescimento vegetal, metabolismo, regulação e expressão de genes, extração de produtos medicinais, vacinas transgênicas e produção de anticorpos (BRASILEIRO & DUSI, 1999). Entretanto, esse método é baseado no cultivo celular *in vitro* para a obtenção de plantas completas a partir dos tecidos transgênicos, sendo extremamente laborioso e delongado, ainda mais quando aplicado em plantas perenes com fases juvenis longas como é o caso da macieira e da videira (YAMAMOTO *et al.*, 2004; VIDAL *et al.*, 2010). A transformação genética de videiras via *A. tumefaciens* apresenta ainda baixa eficiência em comparação a culturas não-perenes como milho, soja, arroz, devido a problemas na regeneração das plantas transgênicas pois suas células embriogênicas são altamente recalcitrantes, apresentando alta atividade nucleosídica que pode degradar o DNA no momento da realização de experimentos de transferência gênica (BARANDIARAN *et al.*, 1998).

Felizmente, muitos avanços atingidos no campo da biotecnologia vegetal permitiram auxiliar a contornar as limitações das técnicas tradicionais. Uma das ferramentas mais interessantes e promissoras, especialmente para plantas perenes, é a expressão de genes baseados em plasmídeos episômicos, como a plataforma IL-60 (MOZES-KOCH *et al.*, 2012). Essa plataforma consiste em um sistema universal de vetores derivados do vírus TYLCV (do inglês *Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus*) em sua forma assintomática, devido à inativação de proteínas causadoras de danos celulares por meio da deleção de 60 aminoácidos da proteína do capsídeo viral. Neste método de transformação genética, os vetores são compostos por DNA dupla fita sendo capazes de se replicar em células vegetais e de se espalhar para outros tecidos após a inoculação, não havendo a inserção de DNA exógeno no genoma das plantas transformadas (PERETZ *et al.*, 2007). Dois vetores, chamados de "plasmídeos vegetais", um deles com o gene de interesse e o outro com sequências virais de expressão de proteínas auxiliaadoras da mobilidade dos vetores, são introduzidos mecanicamente em tecidos vegetais e a expressão e a replicação do DNA episomal ocorre em alguns dias, tornando a expressão do gene de interesse estável e sistêmica (PERETZ *et al.*, 2007; MOZES-KOCH *et al.*, 2012). Devido à falta de herdabilidade do DNA episômico, aspectos de biossegurança podem ser mais fáceis do que o recomendado para plantas convencionalmente modificadas que sofrem transmissão genética pelo pólen e pelas sementes (MOZES-KOCH *et al.*, 2012). Estes vetores são usados para a superexpressão ou silenciamento de genes diretamente em plantas adultas, abrindo possibilidades de modificação de características em espécies lenhosas (GOVER *et al.*, 2014). O sistema é compatível com muitas espécies, incluindo espécies frutíferas como videiras, cítricos e oliveiras (PERETZ *et al.*, 2007; LI *et al.*, 2011).

Em relação à denominação das plantas transfectadas com os vetores da plataforma IL-60, sua definição é variável e dependente de leis de biosseguranças regentes em cada país. De maneira generalizada, a transformação genética consiste na transferência controlada de genes para o genoma de um organismo vivo por via não sexual, o que pode gerar variabilidade genética não disponível via métodos de melhoramento convencionais (JONES & CASSELLS, 1995; TORRES *et al.*, 2000). Deste modo, define-se planta transgênica como aquelas que apresentam genes diferentes do genoma original obtidos por técnicas de engenharia genética (GANDER & MARCELLINO, 1997; TORRES *et al.*, 2000). No Brasil, porém, a Lei n. 11.105 de 24 de março de 2005, que regulamentou os incisos II, IV e V do § 1º do art. 225 da Constituição Federal do Brasil e estabelece normas para o uso das técnicas

de engenharia genética e liberação no meio ambiente de organismos geneticamente modificados (OGMs), definiu alimentos transgênicos da seguinte forma: Art. 3º Para os efeitos desta Lei, considera-se: “[...] V – organismo geneticamente modificado – OGM: organismo cujo material genético – DNA/RNA tenha sido modificado por qualquer técnica de engenharia genética” (BRASIL, 2005). Portanto, pela regulamentação brasileira, as plantas derivadas do método de expressão de genes de interesse via plasmídeos vegetais possuem seu RNA modificado, mesmo sem haver a inserção do transgene no genoma endógeno, sendo, assim, consideradas transgênicas.

No Capítulo II, são apresentados os resultados da caracterização funcional de *VviAGL11* em videira com a utilização de plasmídeos vegetais, promovendo sua superexpressão em cultivares sem sementes e via silenciamento por meio de RNAi (RNA de interferência) em genótipos com semente. Após um mês da inoculação dos plasmídeos vegetais, foi possível confirmar que todos os tratamentos foram totalmente eficientes, demonstrando que o DNA dos plasmídeos vegetais foi translocado através de tecidos vegetais, atingindo uma translocação sistêmica do ramo setorizado em plantas tratadas. Essa observação também se fez possível com a avaliação da expressão do gene repórter GFP em folhas jovens transfetadas após trinta dias, e da atividade da proteína GUS (β -glicuronidase) em sementes de videira de quatro semanas de desenvolvimento, tendo sido transfetadas seis semanas antes, ainda quando em estágio de formação do cacho.

A avaliação da expressão gênica relativa de *VviAGL11* permitiu mostrar que o plasmídeo vegetal que abriga a construção de superexpressão desse gene foi eficaz na conferência de níveis elevados de expressão, como foi possível observar em bagas de 'Linda' ('Linda' OX), que apresentou seis vezes mais transcritos de *VviAGL11* em comparação com as bagas de 'Linda' não tratadas ('Linda' NT). Também foi possível observar um aumento de 17 vezes na expressão relativa de *VviAGL11* em ramos e, nas folhas, a expressão foi até 90 vezes maior que as amostras não tratadas. Os níveis de transcrito em plantas silenciadas para *VviAGL11* foi estatisticamente inferior ao observado nas plantas-controle, a maioria apresentando metade ou, mesmo, níveis mais baixos da expressão normal de *VviAGL11*. As plantas da cultivar Prosecco, tratadas com um vetor vazio como controle, apresentaram níveis semelhantes de expressão de *VviAGL11* entre as sementes de plantas tratadas e não tratadas.

Pelo presente estudo também teve-se por objetivo avaliar os efeitos fenotípicos da expressão alterada de *VviAGL11* nas características de semente de cada cultivar de videira.

Portanto, cachos maduros das cultivares tratadas e seus respectivos controles não tratados foram avaliados. A avaliação dos cachos maduros deu-se de forma quantitativa com a obtenção de dados incluindo peso de baga, número de semente/traços de semente, peso fresco e seco de sementes/traço de semente. O silenciamento de *VviAGL11* nas cultivares pirênicas Italia e Ruby provocou uma diminuição visível e drástica do peso seco total das sementes, com número reduzido de sementes e aumento concomitante no número de traços de sementes. De maneira inversa, a superexpressão de *VviAGL11* na cultivar apirênica Linda (Linda OX) resultou na formação de minisementes que não estavam presentes nos cachos não tratados da Linda. Linda NT geralmente apresenta apenas vestígios de sementes que são praticamente inobserváveis a olho nu. As sementes diminutas das bagas de "Linda" OX exibiram-se maiores em tamanho do que traços de sementes, mas não atingiram um tamanho normal de semente madura. Apesar do desenvolvimento das minisementes nas amostras de 'Linda' OX, seu peso seco total ainda foi classificado como apirênica. Esses resultados permitiram indicar que a superexpressão de *VviAGL11* por meio de plasmídeos vegetais afetou o tamanho das sementes, aumentando-as, mas não foi suficiente para restaurar o desenvolvimento completo da semente no genótipo Linda.

Quando avaliados por meio de ensaios histológicos, os traços de semente resultantes das cultivares pirênicas Italia e Ruby tratadas com os vetores de silenciamento de *VviAGL11* apresentaram um acúmulo de compostos fenólicos nas camadas da casca, provavelmente envolvidos com o início do processo de lignificação. Foi possível identificar a presença de células preenchidas com polifenóis no tegumento externo, tanto na exotesta como na camada da endotesta (ET), local específico da expressão de *VviAGL11*. Essa concentração de compostos fenólicos não ocorreu em traços de sementes não tratados de 'Italia' e 'Ruby'. Adicionalmente, a camada ET não se alongou nem se duplicou na maioria dos traços de sementes de 'Italia' RNAi e 'Ruby' RNAi. Já as minisementes de 'Linda' OX apresentaram os resultados morfoanatômicos mais interessantes quando comparadas às cicatrizes de traços de sementes de 'Linda' NT. As minisementes de 'Linda' OX apresentaram as características típicas de traços de sementes quanto ao tamanho e à morte dos tecidos reprodutivos como endosperma e embrião. No entanto, as camadas do revestimento das sementes foram completamente diferentes dos padrões de traços de sementes observados em 'Sultanine' (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017). A camada ET apresentou duplicação e alongamento. Também foi possível observar o acúmulo de compostos fenólicos na camada exotesta. Esses dados permitiram sugerir que a expressão de *VviAGL11* induz modificações na casca da semente,

iniciando a lignificação da camada ET e, portanto, produzindo um alto efeito no desenvolvimento e na maturação das sementes, mesmo sem a formação normal de endosperma e embrião.

As diferenças significativas nos níveis de transcrição de *VviAGL11* combinadas com as modificações fenotípicas observadas tanto em cultivares com semente quanto em cultivares apirênicas confirmaram o estudo prévio da complementação de *VviAGL11* em mutantes *stk*, apresentado no Capítulo I, que foi capaz de restaurar o número e o tamanho de sementes no modelo heterólogo *Arabidopsis* (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017). Os dados apresentados no Capítulo II contribuem com dados funcionais fundamentais sobre *VviAGL11* na própria videira demonstrando, *in loco*, que esse gene é um importante regulador da morfogênese das sementes. Ademais, os resultados obtidos com a plataforma IL-60 demonstraram a aplicabilidade científica e biotecnológica dos plasmídeos vegetais em plantas perenes.

Apesar do contínuo avanço no descobrimento dos mecanismos moleculares vegetais que regem processos biológicos importantes, o desenvolvimento e a seleção de variedades de uva de mesa são considerados investimentos de longo prazo e de alto custo. Visando a inovação deste sistema, a geração de plantas que apresentem caracteres de interesse por técnicas de engenharia genética é vantajosa para os grandes mercados produtores de frutíferas perenes, além da utilização de ferramentas biotecnológicas como marcadores moleculares, que auxiliem na aceleração da geração e seleção de novas cultivares (CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006). Como ferramenta-suporte na seleção indireta, são utilizados dados de marcadores moleculares juntamente com dados fenotípicos para a identificação de marcadores ligados a *QTLs*, que possam ser testados e utilizados posteriormente na seleção assistida por MAS (DE MORAIS JÚNIOR, 2013).

Interessantemente, *QTLs* relacionados com a ausência de sementes (locus *Sdl*) e com a resistência ao fungo *Plasmopara viticola* (locus *Rpv3*), causador do míldio, foram detectados na porção distal do cromossomo 18 de *V. vinifera* (REVERS *et al.*, 2010). No Capítulo III, estão demonstrados os resultados do desenvolvimento e utilização de marcadores moleculares para a seleção da apirenia em videira, enquanto os estudos realizados com marcadores moleculares para resistência ao míldio, além da avaliação de genes localizados no locus *Rpv3*, estão apresentados junto ao Anexo I desta tese. Inicialmente, uma população segregante (POP692) para a resistência a doenças e para a ausência de sementes foi genotipada com cinco marcadores microssatélites associados aos

QTLs colocalizados no cromossomo 18. Após a realização dos testes de ajustamento χ^2 , dois dos cinco marcadores, UDV108 e P2_VVIAGL11, não apresentaram a segregação esperada e foram excluídos das análises. Para os loci VMC7F2, VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11 foram observados quatro alelos segregando na população genotipada. A análise da distribuição fenotípica dos caracteres avaliados *versus* a frequência de alelos dos marcadores SSR genotipados, mostraram claramente ($p < 0,0001$) a associação entre os alelos P3_VVAGL11-198 pb ($\chi^2 = 28,72$), VVIN16-157 pb ($\chi^2 = 26,64$) e VMC7F2-198 pb ($\chi^2 = 40,96$) com os indivíduos apirênicos. Além disso, os mesmos marcadores demonstraram possuir forte correlação com a resistência ao míldio: P3_VVAGL11-185 pb ($\chi^2 = 28,9$), VVIN16-154 pb ($\chi^2 = 26,81$) e VMC7F2-210 pb ($\chi^2 = 36,93$).

Com a avaliação destes marcadores, foram identificados haplótipos para a resistência ao míldio e para o caractere apirênico. Com a utilização do haplótipo VVP, composto pelos três marcadores ou, ainda, o haplótipo VP (VVIN16 e P3_VVAGL11) na MAS, todos os indivíduos selecionados foram verdadeiramente apirênicos, eliminando falsos positivos. A utilização do haplótipo RM de resistência ao míldio (do inglês *Mildew Resistance*), que é composto pelos três marcadores, apresentou 100% de exatidão na seleção de indivíduos resistentes, também eliminando falsos positivos.

Apesar da eficácia da seleção de indivíduos com a utilização dos marcadores microssatélites citados acima, atualmente surgiram técnicas de MAS mais eficientes do que a análise de SSRs por gel de poliacrilamida. Uma delas é o ensaio de genotipagem KASP[®]. Esse ensaio utiliza a PCR competitiva alelo-específica combinada com um sistema de informação homogênea à base de fluorescência para a identificação e a medição da variação genética que ocorre ao nível de nucleotídeos para detectar *SNPs* ou inserções e deleções (*INDELS*) (HE *et al.*, 2014). Essa técnica apresenta várias vantagens como menor erro de genotipagem em amostras de DNA de controle positivo quando comparada com outras técnicas e menor custo de genotipagem (7,9- 46,1% mais barato) (SEMAGN *et al.*, 2014). Assim, tais marcadores têm gerado dados em larga escala de maneira automatizada e a custos reduzidos, sendo úteis para a construção de mapas genéticos de alta densidade para estudos de associação genética e para a seleção assistida de caracteres de interesse (GUIMARÃES *et al.*, 2009).

A partir da confirmação da função de *VviAGL11* como um gene essencial para o desenvolvimento das sementes na videira, foi iniciada uma abordagem biotecnológica com a utilização de sua sequência para a geração de marcadores moleculares de alta eficiência.

Com o sequenciamento completo do gene *VviAGL11* e a identificação de mutações do tipo *SNPs* e *INDELS* únicos para o alelo da cultivar apirênica, foram desenvolvidas nove marcas para a genotipagem de populações segregantes para apirenia. Além disso, 41 marcas foram desenvolvidas para a seleção de indivíduos resistentes ao míldio, uma vez que, conforme informado anteriormente, um conjunto de genes de resistência está localizado na porção distal do cromossomo 18. Essas marcas foram baseadas no painel GrapeReSeq_Illumina_20K

(https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Species/Vitis/GrapeReSeq_Illumina_20K).

As marcas foram desenvolvidas tendo em vista a versatilidade de utilização da técnica de PCR competitiva alelo específica (KASP[®]) para serem testadas em populações segregantes para apirenia e/ou resistentes ao míldio. Os marcadores VvAGL11_KASP 1 ao 9 foram avaliados na população ‘Villard Blanc’ X ‘Villard Blanc’ e em genótipos apirênicos. Após avaliação pela técnica de KASP, os marcadores VvAGL11_KASP2, VvAGL11_KASP3, VvAGL11_KASP8 e VvAGL11_KASP9 demonstraram correlação com o fenótipo de apirenia. Em relação aos marcadores desenvolvidos para a seleção de indivíduos resistentes ao míldio, dois marcadores, Rpv3_15 e Rpv3_33, demonstraram segregação heterozigótica com forte associação à resistência ao *P. viticola*. Em ambos os casos, na seleção de indivíduos apirênicos e/ou resistentes ao míldio, faz-se necessária a avaliação das marcas selecionadas em diferentes populações segregantes para as características de interesse e com parentais distintos dos utilizados até o momento. Esses experimentos já estão em andamento e poderão acrescentar dados ao estudo descrito no Capítulo III. Somente assim os marcadores desenvolvidos neste estudo poderão ser comprovados como boas alternativas para programas de melhoramento de videira auxiliados por MAS.

Muitas questões sobre o funcionamento de *VviAGL11* ainda não foram respondidas. Os estudos mais recentes permitiram comprovar que o gene *AGL11* é atuante na casca das sementes em videira (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017; MALABARBA *et al.*, 2018), à semelhança de seu ortólogo em *A. thaliana* (*AtAGL11*) (PINYOPICH *et al.*, 2003) e, também, como seu ortólogo em tomate (*TAGL11*) que apresenta 85% de similaridade com *AtAGL11* e possui expressão preferencial nas camadas de tegumento interno da casca (OCAREZ & MEJÍA, 2016). Além de sua função na morfogênese de sementes, com a indução do alongamento e a divisão de células do tegumento, o gene *AGL11* pode ter papel fundamental na produção de metabólitos secundários, como na produção de

proantocianidinas (MIZZOTTI *et al.*, 2014). Esses compostos fenólicos, antes classificados como taninos condensados, são encontrados nas cascas de sementes e conferem rigidez e proteção para essa estrutura (MICHAUD *et al.*, 1971). A colocalização de transcritos de *AGL11* e de compostos fenólicos relacionados à maturação das sementes, como observado em ensaios histológicos apresentados nos Capítulos I e II, pode ser estudada em videiras de uma maneira mais aprofundada para a maior compreensão da atuação deste gene nas rotas metabólicas do desenvolvimento das sementes de uva.

Complementarmente, estudos relacionados com a proteína VviAGL11 podem identificar seus genes-alvo e avaliar sua preferência por elementos *cis* (CArG-box) críticos às interações proteicas da família MADS-box. Ao mesmo tempo, pode-se realizar a caracterização das proteínas MADS-box de videira que interagem com a proteína VviAGL11 para a formação dos complexos quaternários de ativação da transcrição de genes-alvo. Durante o desenvolvimento da presente tese de doutorado, foram realizados ensaios laboratoriais visando a expressão da proteína VviAGL11 em procariotos, porém não houve sucesso na purificação dessa proteína até o momento. A geração de anticorpos para o reconhecimento de uma sequência peptídica única para o gene *AGL11* de videira foi realizada por uma empresa contratada. Infelizmente, os anticorpos aparentam apenas reconhecer o peptídeo quando em sua forma pura, não sendo capazes de identificar a proteína VviAGL11 no extrato proteico total (resultados não apresentados).

Outro ponto importante é que, por meio do presente estudo, houve a comprovação da função de *VviAGL11*, demonstrando que a expressão deste gene na camada ET da semente é necessária para o desenvolvimento normal da estrutura. No entanto, ainda não há a compreensão da causa da baixa expressão de *VviAGL11* em cultivares apirênicas. Com o sequenciamento alelo-específico completo deste gene foi possível observar que a causa não está baseada em grandes inserções provenientes de elementos genéticos móveis, como transposons ou retrotransposons. Apenas pequenas mutações foram encontradas nos alelos da cultivar apirênica Sultanine, juntas formando um conjunto de polimorfismos únicos, com alguns *SNPs* modificando sequências consenso CArG-box ou com *INDELS* aumentando a distância entre os elementos *cis* encontrados na maior região intrônica de *VviAGL11* (MALABARBA *et al.*, 2017). Ademais, para desenvolvimento futuro, sugerem-se estudos com as proteínas MADS-box de videira visando responder se *VviAGL11* possuiu um *feedback* de regulação e se suas regiões intrônicas são importantes para o desencadeamento e para a manutenção de sua expressão durante o desenvolvimento das sementes.

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8 ANEXO I

Structure and molecular characterization of the *Rpv3* locus and its relation to downy mildew resistance in grapevine (*Vitis* spp.)

Manuscrito a ser submetido ao periódico 'Theoretical and Applied Genetics' (FI: 4,132)

1 **Title**

2 Structure and Molecular Characterization of the *Rpv3* Locus and its Relation to Downy
3 Mildew Resistance in Grapevine (*Vitis* spp.)

4

5 **Short-title**

6 *P. viticola* resistance genes from the *Rpv3* locus in *Vitis vinifera*

7

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24 **Number of figures: 7**

25 **Number of supplementary figures: 1**

26 **Number of supplementary tables: 3**

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29 **Abbreviations:** DPI: Days Post Inoculation; HAI: Hours After Inoculation; HR:

30 Hypersensitivity reaction; OIV: Organisation Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin; LG:

31 Linkage Group; RG: Resistance genes.

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36 **Abstract**

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38 *Plasmopara viticola* is the oomycete that causes downy mildew in grapevine. This
39 disease implies in large economic and environmental impacts, due to its pathogenicity
40 causing partial or total crop losses and demanding repeated fungicide sprays as a control
41 measure. Varying levels of resistance to *P. viticola* allowed quantitative trait loci and
42 major resistance genes to be mapped. The *Rpv3* locus is located on chromosome 18, on
43 a region enriched in TIR-NBS-LRR genes, and the phenotype associated is a high
44 hypersensitive response to downy mildew inoculation on resistant genotypes. In this
45 work, we aimed to identify candidate genes associated with resistance to downy mildew
46 located inside the *Rpv3* interval and to evaluate their transcriptional profiles in a
47 susceptible (Cabernet Sauvignon) and a resistant (Villard Blanc) grapevine cultivar after
48 *P. viticola* inoculation. Candidate genes were identified by representational differential
49 analysis and also by *in silico* functional enrichment tests. Many functional genes were
50 found at the *Rpv3* locus that are putatively associated with resistance to diseases. In
51 total, seventeen genes were evaluated by RT-qPCR. Differences in the steady-state
52 expression of these genes were observed between the two grapevine cultivars.
53 Moreover, four genes were found to be expressed only for Villard Blanc, which can
54 indicate their association to the hypersensitivity reaction. Based on *Rpv3*-located
55 polymorphic SNPs we identified forty-one markers for for potential assisted selection.
56 After genotypic and phenotypic evaluations on segregant populations, two markers,
57 *Rpv3_15* and *Rpv3_33*, were classified as efficient for downy mildew resistance
58 identification. The present study confirms the involvement of the *Rpv3* locus in
59 conferring resistance to *P. viticola* infection and presents a promising biotechnological
60 tool for the selection of young resistant individuals.

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62 **Keywords:** Downy mildew resistance, *Plasmopara viticola*, RT-qPCR, *Rpv3* locus, *V.*
63 *vinifera*.

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69 **Introduction**

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71 Fungal diseases are one of the main constraints to grape production, both
72 quantitatively and qualitatively (GARRIDO, 2008). In humid subtropical areas the
73 major diseases causing pathogens in the grapevines aerial parts and limiting cultivation
74 are the fungi *Elsinoe ampelina* and *Uncinula necator*, causing the anthracnose, and
75 powdery mildew, respectively, and the oomycota *Plasmopara viticola*, responsible for
76 the downy mildew disease (IBRAVIN, 2012). *Plasmopara viticola* (Berk. Et Curt.)
77 Berl. et de Toni. is a major biotrophic oomycete belonging to the Peronosporaceae
78 (Chromalveolata), known to be a large family of phytopathogenic microorganisms
79 (GRENVILLE-BRIGGS & VAN WEST, 2005). Downy mildew infection can cause
80 total production loss by the destruction of inflorescences and/or fruits and by early plant
81 defoliation (ERWIN & RIBEIRO, 1996). In addition, even after controlled, *P. viticola*
82 infection may still trigger future crop damages, due to the poor formation of the
83 branches and consequent plant weakened development (TESSMANN & VIDA, 2005;
84 GARRIDO & SÓNEGO, 2007). When in the grapevine tissues, mainly leaves and
85 bunches, *P. viticola* develop by obtaining nutrients from the infected plant cells with the
86 help of specialized structures, the haustories. These structures also allow the exchange
87 of signals involved in the compatibility infection establishment (POLESANI *et al.*,
88 2010). *Vitis vinifera* cultivars are completely susceptible to the attack of this pathogen,
89 therefore to reduce losses, the intense application of multiple fungicides becomes
90 necessary during each new season (CADLE-DAVIDSON, 1998; BELLIN *et al.*, 2009).
91 Nevertheless, these palliative actions increased production costs, pose a risk factor for
92 human health and generate environmental impacts in the application areas, such as
93 contamination of soil with chemical residues (BLASI *et al.*, 2011). Besides, there are
94 some strains with resistance to certain fungicides, which leads to a decrease in the
95 efficiency of disease control (WANG *et al.*, 2013; BLUM *et al.*, 2010).

96 Plant defense responses to pathogens are triggered by the recognition of
97 pathogen exogenous chemical signatures by the host, followed by the immune response
98 signal transduction mechanisms resulting in a significant reprogramming of the plant
99 cell metabolism, which involves changes in gene expression activity (DÍEZ-NAVAJAS
100 *et al.*, 2008; PINTO *et al.* 2012). This response triggered by plants does not inhibit
101 colonization of the pathogen, but it limits the extent of propagation since the action of
102 resistance proteins (R) accelerates and amplifies the innate basal response process

103 (BELKHADIR *et al.*, 2004). The downy mildew resistance mechanism includes cell
104 wall strengthening, pathogenesis-related (PR) protein synthesis, production of
105 antimicrobial compounds, such as phytoalexins, and the assembly of complex responses
106 such as the hypersensitivity reaction (HR), which consists of the programmed cell death
107 of the cells around the infected region, blocking the pathogen progression (POLESANI
108 *et al.*, 2010). North American grapevine species (*V. riparia*, *V. cinera*, *V. labrusca*, *V.*
109 *rupestris*, *V. berlandieri*, *V. lincedumii* and *Muscadinia rotundifolia*) present variable
110 resistance levels to *P. viticola* attack (KORTEKAMP & ZYPRIAN, 2003; UNGER *et*
111 *al.*, 2007; DÍEZ-NAVAJAS *et al.*, 2008). More than 200 resistance genes (R) were
112 identified by the construction of systematic genome maps (VELASCO *et al.*, 2007) and
113 the genomic DNA sequencing of *V. amurensis* and *V. riparia* (DI GASPERO &
114 CIPRIANI, 2003). Many of these genes are located in genomic regions associated with
115 resistance to *P. viticola* in wild *Vitis* species and many have orthologous genes in
116 *Arabidopsis thaliana* that regulate pathways of defense against pathogens (POLESANI
117 *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore, the variable levels of resistance to *P. viticola* presented by
118 North American species allowed the mapping of resistance genes and quantitative
119 character loci (QTLs) as already identified by Merdinoglu *et al.* (2003); Fischer *et al.*
120 (2004); Welter *et al.* (2007), Revers *et al.* (2010), Blasi *et al.* (2011), Moreira *et al.*
121 (2011) and Schwander *et al.* (2012). Eight major loci were detected with great effect on
122 downy mildew resistance in grapevines: *Rpv1* (MERDINOGLU *et al.*, 2003), *Rpv2* e
123 *Rpv3* (BELLIN *et al.*, 2009), *Rpv5* (MARGUERIT *et al.*, 2009), *Rpv8* (BLASI *et al.*,
124 2011), *Rpv10* (SCHWANDER *et al.*, 2012), *Rpv11* (SALMASO *et al.*, 2008;
125 SCHWANDER *et al.*, 2012) e *Rpv12* (VENUTI *et al.*, 2013).

126 The *Rpv3* locus is located in the LG 18 and was identified by different research
127 groups as being a QTL associated with a strong HR against downy mildew, in resistant
128 individuals (FISCHER *et al.*, 2004; WELTER *et al.*, 2007; BELLIN *et al.*, 2009;
129 REVERS *et al.*, 2010; SCHWANDER *et al.*, 2012). This locus accounts for up to 75%
130 of the phenotypic variation, and more than 30 R genes encoding TIR-NBS-LRR
131 proteins and receptor proteins of the LRR-kinase type are located within the *Rpv3*
132 region (VELASCO *et al.*, 2007; BELLIN *et al.*, 2009). The TIR-NBS-LRR proteins are
133 related to the so-called gene-to-gene resistance response. This mechanism is based on
134 the presence of the proteins encoded by the R genes that act in the recognition of
135 specific race effectors, the Avr proteins (TAKKEN *et al.*, 2006; DÍEZ-NAVAJAS *et al.*,
136 2008; DRY *et al.*, 2010). TIR-NBS-LRR proteins are responsible for monitoring the

137 integrity of components of the basal immune system, based on the recognition pathogen
138 Avr proteins. Any perturbation of the components by the effector action/Avr proteins
139 can trigger a greater expression of the TIR-NBS-LRR proteins (TAKKEN *et al.*, 2006).
140 These proteins are composed of three major domains: 1) an amino-terminal variable
141 domain (coiled-coil (CC) or a homologous domain Toll/Interleukin -1- Receptor (TIR),
142 2) a central nucleotide binding site (NBS), and 3) leucine-rich repeats (LRR), which is
143 responsible for the recognition of pathogen effectors (TAKKEN *et al.*, 2006). With the
144 increase in TIR-NBS-LRR levels, the induction of a rapid defense response initiates,
145 characterized by calcium and ion fluxes, extracellular oxidative burst, and
146 transcriptional reprogramming in the infected sites and in the peripheral regions,
147 culminating with the HR, ceasing the growth of the pathogen (BELKHADIR *et al.*,
148 2004; JONES & TAKEMOTO, 2004; GREENBERG & VINATZER, 2003). Therefore,
149 these proteins are determinants of the specificity of the immune response (TAKKEN *et*
150 *al.*, 2006; DÍEZ-NAVAJAS *et al.*, 2008; DRY *et al.*, 2010).

151 In this work we aimed to identify candidate genes associated with resistance to
152 downy mildew at the *Rpv3* locus in grapevine and evaluate the transcriptional profiles
153 of these genes in a susceptible cultivar, Cabernet Sauvignon, and in a resistant cultivar,
154 Villard Blanc, after challenging with *P. viticola*. Moreover, we evaluated the
155 biotechnological applicability of 41 SNP-type candidate markers, located within the
156 *Rpv3* locus and associated to the resistance phenotype.

157

158 **Materials and methods**

159

160 *P. viticola* challenge assay

161 Leaves from the cultivar Isabel (*V. labrusca*) infected with downy mildew were
162 harvested from a vineyard in the district of Faria Lemos (29°06'13,09 " South and
163 51°36'26,10 " West - 362 meters altitude) in Bento Gonçalves – RS, Brazil.. The leaves
164 were humidified and stored in a humid chamber at 25 °C and in the absence of light,
165 until sporangia formation. For *P. viticola* challenge assay, 20 young branches of
166 'Cabernet Sauvignon', a *V. vinifera* cultivar, susceptible to mildew, and of 'Villard
167 Blanc', a complex hybrid resistant to mildew, were harvested at Embrapa Uva e Vinho
168 (29°09'48" South and 51°31'53.95" West – 640 meters altitude) and rooted on a
169 Styrofoam box. A suspension containing 3×10^5 sporangia / mL of *P. viticola* was
170 sprayed onto the abaxial surface of leaves from these two cultivars. This experiment

171 was carried out in biological triplicates, under controlled environmental conditions
172 (temperature of 25 ± 2 °C and 100% relative humidity). Ten leaves per biological
173 replicate were sampled at 0 (time which was used as a control) 6, 12, 24, 48 and 72
174 hours after inoculation (HAI). These leaves were frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at
175 -80 °C until processing.

176

177 *Representational difference analysis (RDA)*

178 Young branches of 'Villard Blanc' and 'Cabernet Sauvignon' were challenged
179 with *P. viticola* sporangia as described above. Leaf samples were obtained at 0, 6, 12,
180 24, 48 and 72 hours after inoculation (HAI). Total RNA was isolated (as described in
181 *Plant RNA extraction* section) and equimolar aliquots from each 'Villard Blanc' sample
182 points were assembled and used for the synthesis of a cDNA pool. This pool was
183 assayed to obtain a collection of differentially expressed genes using representational
184 difference analysis (RDA). Two steps of subtractive hybridization were performed. At
185 first, an RNA pool from mock-inoculated 'Villard Blanc' was used as driver and an
186 RNA pool from downy mildew-inoculated 'Villard Blanc' was used as tester. In the
187 second subtraction, the driver was the same and tester was the differential product of the
188 first subtraction. Amplicons from the second subtraction were cloned into pGEM-T
189 Easy vectors (Promega, Madison). A total of 2,229 transformants were obtained, of
190 which 384 were randomly chosen for sequencing. The resulting sequences were then
191 analyzed using the SisGen Automatized System of Sequence Analysis
192 (<http://genoma.embrapa.br/genoma/>), a unified tool that dynamically integrates data
193 from various databases.

194

195 *P. viticola* resistance-related candidate genes selection

196 For candidate genes selection, Fisher's test was performed using the online software
197 Blast2Go (B2G) (GÖTZ *et al.*, 2008). All genes located at the distal portion of
198 chromosome 18, corresponding to the *Rpv3* locus region, were evaluated for enrichment
199 in functional annotation terms (GO) related to resistance, taking the entire grapevine
200 gene set as a reference. Direct and reverse primers specific for each candidate gene were
201 designed manually, limiting the size of amplicons to the maximum of 200 base pairs.
202 The candidate genes were named according to their position at the *Rpv3* locus in the
203 12X version of the genome (Jaillon *et al.*, 2007).

204 *Plant RNA extraction*

205 Total RNA was isolated from grapevine leaves by LiCl precipitation using the
206 Zeng and Yang (2002) protocol scaled to 2 mL volumes. Each sample extraction was
207 performed in triplicate and final volumes were pooled before the LiCl precipitation step.
208 Genomic DNA was removed using the TURBO DNA-free Kit (Ambion, Foster City)
209 according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA integrity and quantity were monitored
210 by agarose gel electrophoresis and spectrophotometric quantitation, respectively.

211

212 *RT-qPCR analysis*

213 Complementary DNAs were synthesized using the GeneAmp RNA PCR Core
214 Kit (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) according to manufacturer's instructions. The
215 gene-specific primers were designed using the Oligo Analyzer 3.1 tool (IDT,
216 <http://www.idtdna.com>) and synthesized by IDT, with the standard settings of 0.2 μ M
217 of oligo concentration, 1.5 mM of MgCl₂ and 0.2 mM of dNTP (Supplementary Table
218 1). RT-qPCR was performed on a StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR System (Applied
219 Biosystems, Foster City). SYBR Green (Invitrogen, Carlsbad) was used to monitor
220 dsDNA synthesis. Each biological sample was analyzed in technical quadruplicates.
221 Cycling consisted of one step at 95 °C for 10 min followed by 40 cycles of 95 °C for 15
222 s, 60 °C for 1 min, and finished by a dissociation curve between 60 °C and 95 °C. The
223 specificity of PCR amplification was assessed by the presence of a single peak in
224 melting curves, visualization of single amplification products of expected size in 3%
225 ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel electrophoresis and sequencing of the amplicons.
226 Primer efficiency was calculated using LinRegPCR software (version 11.0). Mean
227 relative gene expression was calculated by the Pfaffl (2001) method employing *ACTIN*
228 (GenBank EC969944) as a reference gene (REID *et al.*, 2006). All data are represented
229 as averages of four replicates techniques and three biological replicates. Statistical
230 analysis of the significant differences between the genes and the samples was performed
231 using One-way ANOVA followed by Dunett's test ($p < 0.05$), in which the 0h time-point
232 of each cultivar was used as a control for comparison to the following time-points of the
233 same cultivar samples.

234

235 *Evaluation of P. viticola resistant individuals*

236 Ninety-four grapevine genotypes resulting from the CNPUV692 population
237 ('Villard Blanc' X 'Crimson Seedless') and segregating for downy mildew resistance

238 were used for SSR markers evaluation. For the KASP markers, two hundred individuals
239 from the self-fertilized population VB ('Villard Blanc' X 'Villard Blanc') were used.
240 Moreover, 'Villard Blanc' leaves were used for resistance control evaluation and leaves
241 from 'Cabernet Sauvignon' were used as a positive control of the infection. For
242 phenotyping their resistance to *P. viticola*, sixteen leaf discs of 1 cm in diameter were
243 detached from each individual and a suspension containing 3×10^5 sporangia/mL of *P.*
244 *viticola* was sprayed onto the abaxial surface of the discs. Next, they were incubated in
245 Petri dishes under humid conditions, at 25°C and medium light ($\sim 150 \mu\text{molm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$). The
246 phenotypic classification of downy mildew resistance was determined according to the
247 descriptor OIV - 452 (ANONYMOUS, 1983), in which the most resistant individuals
248 are classified as 1 and the most susceptible as 9. Individuals are considered resistant if
249 scored 1 to 3. Disease progression was monitored for nine days. Five days post
250 inoculation (DPI), photographs from the dishes were taken until the ninth day and a
251 score was given for each individual by the end of the experiment (9 DPI) (Figure 4).
252 These experiments were done in two distinct years.

253

254 *SSR markers evaluation*

255 Individuals from the CNPUV692 population were used in this assay. Each
256 individual DNA was purified as described by LEFORT & DOUGLAS (1999) and used
257 in PCR amplifications for each locus as described by Revers *et al.* (2010). The SSR
258 markers P2_VVAGL11 (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011; F- 5' TGTACACCAATACGGGTTTCAT
259 3' and R- 5' GTTTGCTGGATTTCCGATGT 3'), P3_VVAGL11 (MEJÍA *et al.*, 2011;
260 F- 5' CTCCCTTCCCTCTCCCTCT3' and R- 5' AAACGCGTATCCCAATGAAG
261 3'), VMC7F2 (GenBank BV005171; F- 5' AAGAAAGTTTGCAGTTTATGGTG 3'
262 and R- 5' AGATGACAATAGCGAGAGAGAA 3') and VVIN16 (GenBank
263 BV140662; F- 5' ACCTCTATAAGATCCTAACCTG 3' and R- 5'
264 AAGGGAGTGTGACTGATATTC 3') UDV108 (F- 5'
265 TGTAGGGTTCCAAAGTTCAGG and R 5'CTTTTTATATGTGGTGGAGC 3') were
266 used. The amplicons were resolved on 6% polyacrylamide gel and stained with silver
267 nitrate as described by CRESTE *et al.* (2001). Deviations between the observed and
268 expected genotype segregations and the possible associations between the phenotypes
269 and the alleles evaluated were tested by concordance and chi-square independence (χ^2).

270

271

272 *SNP markers evaluation*

273 The forty-one SNP-type markers tested in this work were chosen based on the
274 GrapeReSeq_Illumina_20K chip
275 (https://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/Species/Vitis/GrapeReSeq_Illumina_20K). Leaf discs
276 from the two hundred individuals from the self-fertilized population VB ('Villard
277 Blanc' X 'Villard Blanc') were shipped to LGC Genomics (<http://www.lgcgroup.com>,
278 England). To perform the KASP technique, DNA was extracted from the samples and
279 three primers were added in the PCR, two allele-specific forward primers, each with a
280 single tail sequence, labelled with fluorescence, and a reverse primer complementary to
281 both, allowing end-point fluorescence reading. The resulting fluorescence was measured
282 and the raw data was interpreted to allow the assignment of genotypes to each DNA
283 samples. The fluorescent signal of each individual DNA sample is represented as an
284 independent data point, whereby the identification of the allele is homozygous or
285 heterozygous for a particular sample.

286

287 *DNA amplicons sequencing*

288 All the DNA amplicons sequenced for this work were analyzed in an ABI
289 Prism[®] 310 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems, Foster City) using standard
290 sequencing protocols described in Falavigna *et al.* (2014). Sequence analysis was
291 carried with DNA Sequencing Analysis Software v5 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City)
292 and MEGA7 software (<http://www.megasoftware.net/home>). Sequences were compared
293 with the grapevine reference ('Pinot Noir' PN40024) genome.

294

295 **Results**

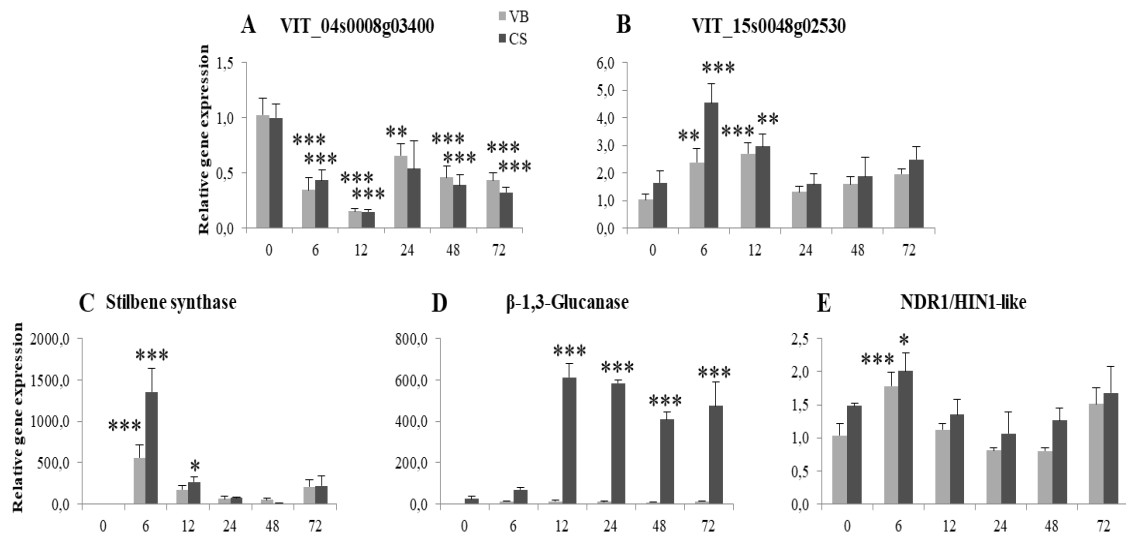
296

297 *Identification and characterization of associated resistance genes for downy mildew*
298 *disease*

299 In this study we researched differentially expressed genes after a challenge with
300 *P. viticola* in leaves of 'Villard Blanc' and 'Cabernet Sauvignon'. Amongst all specific
301 cDNAs from the RDA approach, two candidate genes were identified,
302 VIT_04s0008g03400 and VIT_15s0048g02530. The gene VIT_04s0008g03400 is an
303 ethylene-responsive transcription factor from the DREB sub-A-4 family of ERF/AP2
304 transcription factors (AGUDELO-ROMERO *et al.*, 2015). When compared to 0 HAI,
305 this gene had a high decrease in relative expression at 6 and 12 HAI, and kept a low

306 expression in all time-points for both cultivars (Figure 1A). The other candidate,
307 VIT_15s0048g02530 is predicted to be a hairpin-induced 1 gene and a possible
308 Arabidopsis ortholog of an L-TYPE LECTIN RECEPTOR KINASE S4
309 (AT3G55550.1), described to be involved with defense response to bacterium and
310 oomycetes and with protein phosphorylation (Bouwmeester & Govers, 2009;
311 Eggermont *et al.*, 2017). After challenge with *P. viticola*, VIT_15s0048g02530
312 presented a significant increase in relative expression at 6 and 12 HAI. Moreover, the
313 expression was induced in both cultivars in the following time-points, 24, 48 and 72,
314 showing a pattern of increase in transcript levels (Figure 1B).

315 Next, we characterized the transcriptional profile of genes described in the
316 literature to be associated with defense response against fungi: Stilbene Synthase
317 (VIT_16s0100g00990), β -1,3-glucanase (PR3, VIT_08s0007g06060) and NDR1/HIN1-
318 like (VIT_16s0098g00890). Relative gene expression profiles using RT-qPCR were
319 obtained for these genes from each sample point of the two cultivars challenged with
320 downy mildew. The expression profile of Stilbene Synthase gene was similar for both
321 cultivars, with an increase in relative expression at 6hs, and with significantly higher
322 levels at 12hs for ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’ (Figure 1C). For the β -1,3-glucanase gene, the
323 induction of gene expression in ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’ was delayed, starting at 12hs
324 after infection with *P. viticola*. Nevertheless, this induction was significant in all
325 posterior time-points when compared to ‘Villard Blanc’ samples (Figure 1D). For
326 NDR1/HIN1-like the effect of inoculation time was similar between the resistant and
327 susceptible cultivars and the expression peak occurred at 6 hours, with no significant
328 differences after this time-point (Figure 1E). According to bioinformatics analysis,
329 NDR1/HIN1-like is a probable ortholog of the Arabidopsis NDR1 gene which belongs
330 to the large family of NHL (for NDR1/HIN1 like) (DÖRMANN *et al.*, 2000). AtNDR1
331 is involved in the induction of systemic acquired resistance salicylic acid-dependent,
332 after pathogen infection and many CC-NBS-LRR proteins require NDR1 to trigger
333 multiple signalling defense pathways in Arabidopsis (CENTURY *et al.*, 1997).



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Figure 1. Transcriptional profile of candidate genes after *P. viticola* inoculation. Candidate genes selected from the RDA (A and B). Candidate genes from the literature (C-E). Actin gene expression was used as a reference. Axys *x* shows hours after *P. viticola* inoculation (HAI). VB= Villard Blanc; CS= Cabernet Sauvignon. One-way ANOVA followed by Dunett's test, in which the 0h time-point of each cultivar was used as a control for comparison to the following time-points, * $p < 0,05$; ** $p < 0,001$; *** $p < 0,0001$.

Identification of *Rpv3* associated resistance genes for downy mildew disease

We also aimed to test a set of genes that are located in the *Rpv3* locus, LG18. According to Fisher's test, the genomic region of the *Rpv3* locus is enriched with genes associated with defense responses, programmed cell death, signal transduction, immune system processes and responses to stress. About 70 genes were found at the *Rpv3* locus, of which 40 had at least one of the TIR-NBS-LRR domains, while eight genes had all three domains. From this set of 40 predicted candidate genes, 24 were selected for RT-qPCR evaluation (Table 1), 8 of them for having the 3 TIR-NBS-LRR domains and 16 for having more GO terms associated with programmed cell death and defense responses, besides being located close to the apyreny selection molecular marker VMC7F2 (CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006) and having at least one of the TIR-NBS-LRR domains. Fisher's test results for each of the 70 *Rpv3* genes are described in detail in supplementary table 2. The location of the 24 genes on the *Rpv3* locus selected for the accomplishment of the present work is demonstrated in figure 2.

358 *Rpv3* candidate genes characterization

359 To characterize the candidate genes, conventional PCR reactions based on
360 genomic DNA were performed to confirm their presence in the genome of both
361 cultivars, Villard Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as to confirm the size of the
362 amplification product of each gene, based on the grapevine genome cultivar. Of the 24
363 candidate selected genes, 22 presented amplification product. ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’
364 DNA presented the 22 genes, dissimilar to ‘Villard Blanc’ that presented only 17
365 candidate genes, under the conditions tested. This allowed us to confirm the presence of
366 the selected candidate genes in the genomes of the two cultivars (Supplementary Figure
367 1). A few genes presented differences in the amplification product sizes, between
368 cultivars. The gene locus, specific primers and expected amplification products are
369 described in Supplementary Table 1.

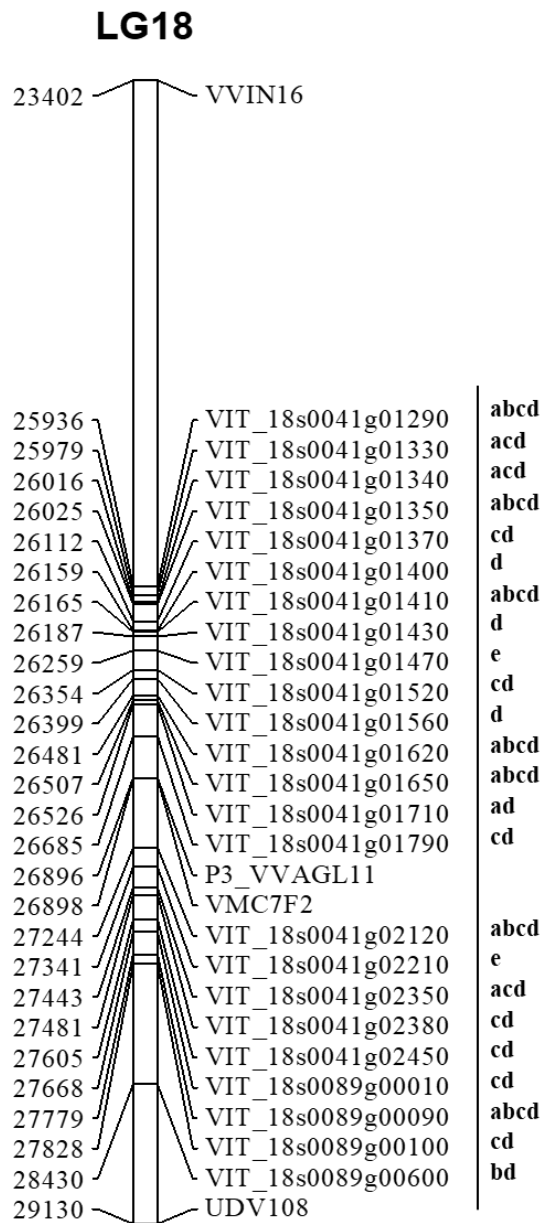
370

371 *Rpv3* candidate genes expression in response to *P. viticola* infection

372 The transcriptional profile of the candidate genes was obtained by RT-qPCR
373 after spraying *P. viticola* sporangia on the susceptible cultivar Cabernet Sauvignon and
374 the resistant cultivar Villard Blanc. *Actin* gene expression was used to normalize the
375 data from all genes and zero hours after inoculation (0 HAI) was used as a calibrator. Of
376 the twenty-two pairs of specific primers used to evaluate the candidate genes, nine did
377 not show RT-qPCR amplification. For twelve genes it was observed amplification
378 products on expected sizes (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The genetic specificity of the twelve
379 sequenced PCR products were all confirmed by sequencing.

380 The twelve genes that presented expression were divided into three groups,
381 according to their expression pattern: 1) the ones that presented expression in both
382 cultivars samples (seven genes); 2) the ones that only had expression in the Villard
383 Blanc cultivar samples (four genes) and the 3) one gene that was only expressed in
384 ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’ samples (Figure 3).

385 From the first group, the transcriptional profile of the genes
386 VIT_18s0041g01350, VIT_18s0041g01620 and VIT_18s0089g00090 demonstrated an
387 increase in relative gene expression after challenge with *P. viticola* in both cultivars.
388 The gene VIT_18s0041g01350 presented a transcriptional profile with high levels for
389 ‘Villard Blanc’ samples with statistical differences after 6-12 HAI (Figure 3B).



390

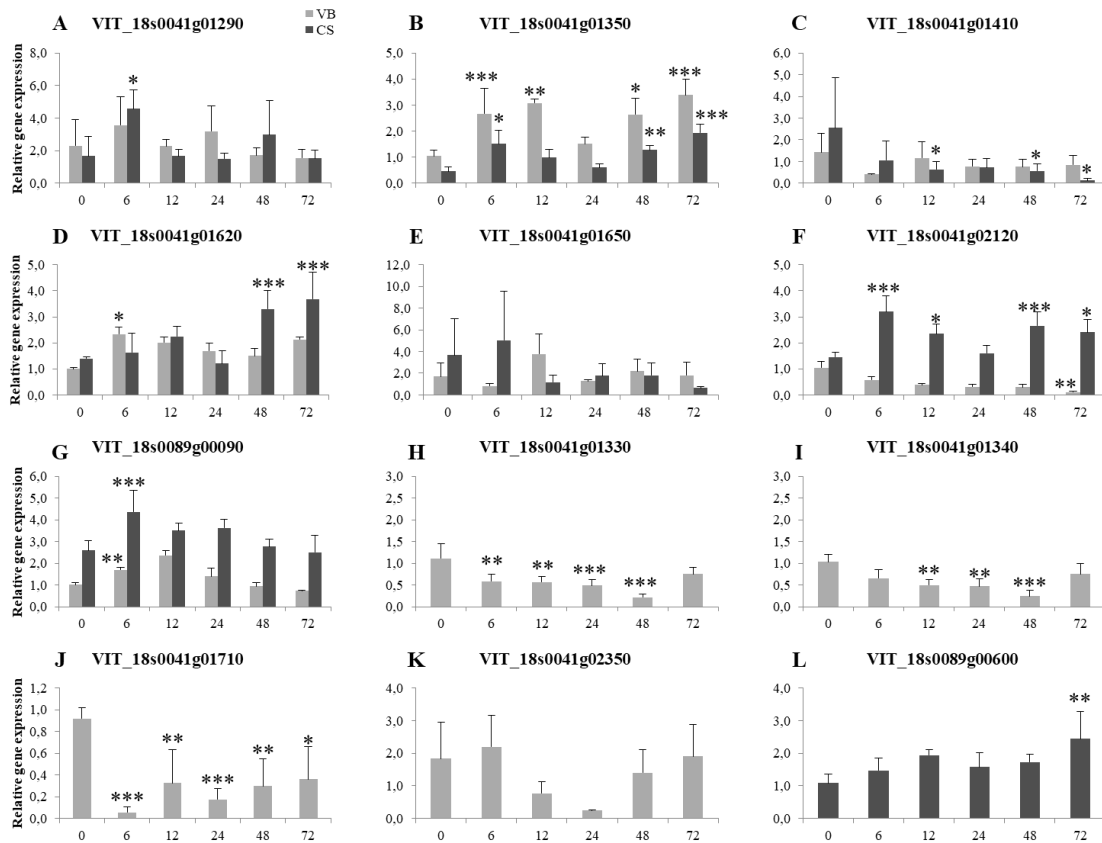
391

392 **Figure 2. The position of the candidate genes at *Rpv3* locus on the distal portion of**
 393 **chromosome 18.** Letters represent the presence of amplification products for each
 394 cultivar, Villard Blanc (VB) and Cabernet Sauvignon (CS), by PCR and by RT-qPCR
 395 (a= RNA VB; b= RNA CS; c= DNA VB and d= DNA CS).

396

397 Furthermore, for the Cabernet Sauvignon cultivar, the gene
 398 VIT_18s0089g000090 increased in expression showing a significant difference of
 399 approximately 2-4X more expression after 6 HAI (Figure 3G). Gene
 400 VIT_18s0041g01620 presented a significant difference in 48 and 72 HAI when
 401 compared to 0 HAI showing an approximately 2.5X increase in expression in ‘Cabernet

402 Sauvignon' (Figure 3D). Gene VIT_18s0041g02120 presented a higher level of
 403 transcripts for Cabernet Sauvignon samples in most of the time-points while for Villard
 404 Blanc cultivar its expression decreased after *P. viticola* inoculation (Figure 3F). This
 405 tendency of differential expression, with a decrease curve happened for other genes,
 406 such as VIT_18s0041g01290, VIT_18s0041g01410 and VIT_18s0041g01650 (Figure
 407 3A, 3C and 3E, respectively).
 408



409
 410 **Figure 3. Transcriptional profile of candidate genes at the *Rpv3* locus after *P.***
 411 ***viticola* inoculation.** Actin gene expression was used as a reference. Axis x shows hours
 412 after *P. viticola* inoculation (HAI). VB= Villard Blanc; CS= Cabernet Sauvignon. One-
 413 way ANOVA followed by Dunett's test, in which the 0h time-point of each cultivar was
 414 used as a control for comparison to the following time-points, * p < 0,05; ** p < 0,001;
 415 *** p < 0,0001.

416
 417 Interestingly, four genes presented expression only for the resistant cultivar
 418 Villard Blanc after *P. viticola* challenge, representing the second group. Genes
 419 VIT_18s0041g01330 and VIT_18s0041g01340 showed a gradual decrease in relative
 420 gene expression in the period between 0 and 48hs after challenge with *P. viticola*

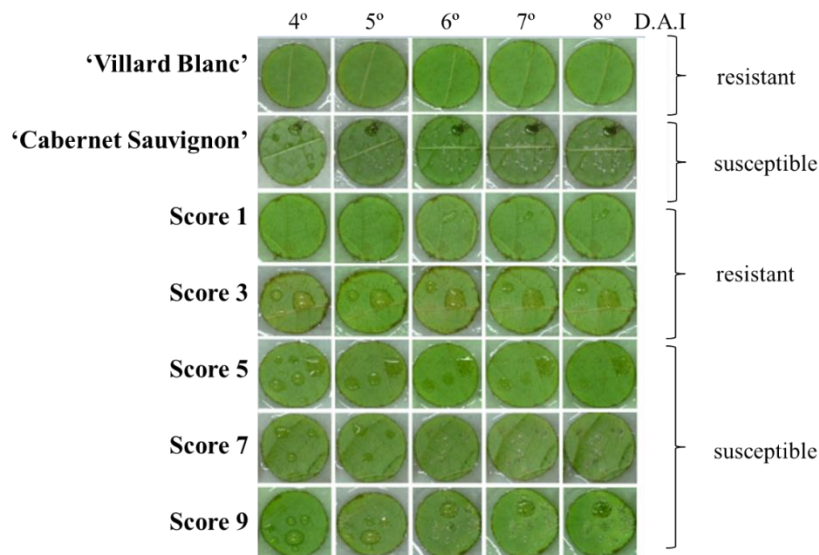
421 (Figure 3H and Figure 3I). Moreover, gene VIT_18s0041g01710 presented a statistical
422 difference in relation to 0 HAI with significant decrease at all time-points for resistant
423 cultivar Villard Blanc (Figure 3J).

424 The VIT_18s0089g00600 gene, that composes the third group, was the only one
425 that was expressed uniquely in the susceptible cultivar samples. This gene showed a
426 slight increase in expression after challenge with *P. viticola*, demonstrating 2.5X more
427 expression at 72 HAI when compared to 0 HAI (Figure 3L).

428

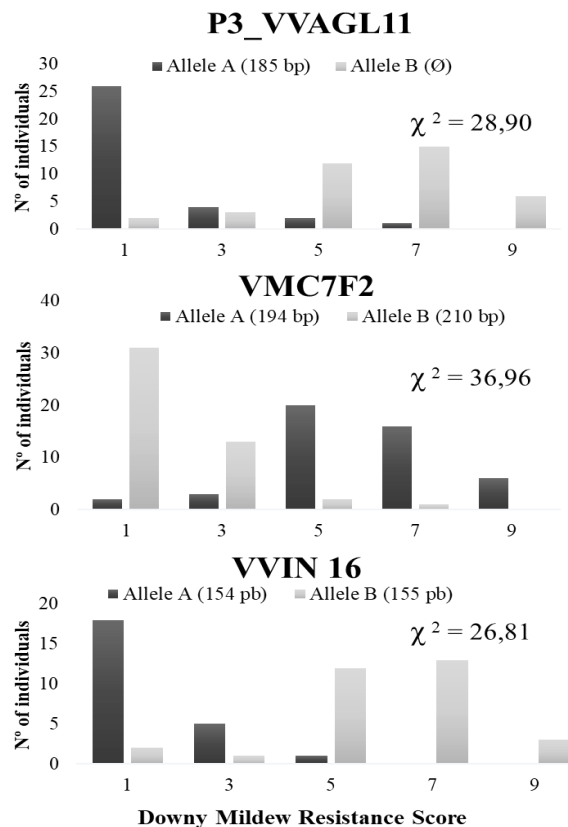
429 *Evaluation of SSR markers for downy mildew resistance*

430 The co-localization of the *Rpv3* locus and the *SdI* locus (Seed development
431 Inhibitor) gave us the opportunity to test molecular markers that were already established
432 for seedlessness assisted selection. These markers (UDV108, VMC7F2, VVIN16,
433 P2_VVAGL11 and P3_VVAGL11) were efficiently described for their >80% selection
434 of apirenic grapevines (DOLIGEZ *et al.* 2002, CABEZAS *et al.*, 2006, MEJIA *et al.*,
435 2011). For this analysis, we performed the phenotyping of the resistance individuals by
436 a *P. viticola* challenge assay which is described in Material and Methods section in
437 figure 4. After performing the χ^2 adjustment tests, UDV108 and P2_VVAGL11 did not
438 present the expected segregation and were excluded from the analysis. For the loci
439 VMC7F2, VVIN16 and P3_VVAGL11 four segregating alleles were observed in the
440 genotyped population. Analysis of the phenotypic distribution of the evaluated
441 characters versus the allele frequency of the genotyped SSR markers shows the
442 association between the alleles P3_VVAGL11-185 bp (χ^2 calc = 28.9), VVIN16-154 bp
443 (χ^2 calc = 26.81) and VMC7F2-210 bp (χ^2 calc = 36.93) with downy mildew resistance
444 (Figure 5). By these markers evaluation, haplotypes were identified for resistance to
445 downy mildew. The use of the haplotype, that combines the three SSR markers,
446 VMC7F2, VVIN16 and P3_VVAGL11, presents 100% accuracy in the selection of
447 resistant individuals, also eliminating false positives.



448

449 **Figure 4. Downy Mildew infection progression on leaf discs.** Leaf discs were
 450 monitored for 8 days after *P. viticola* inoculation. Leaf discs from the parental ‘Villard
 451 Blanc’ were used as the resistance control and ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’ was used as
 452 positive control for the infection.



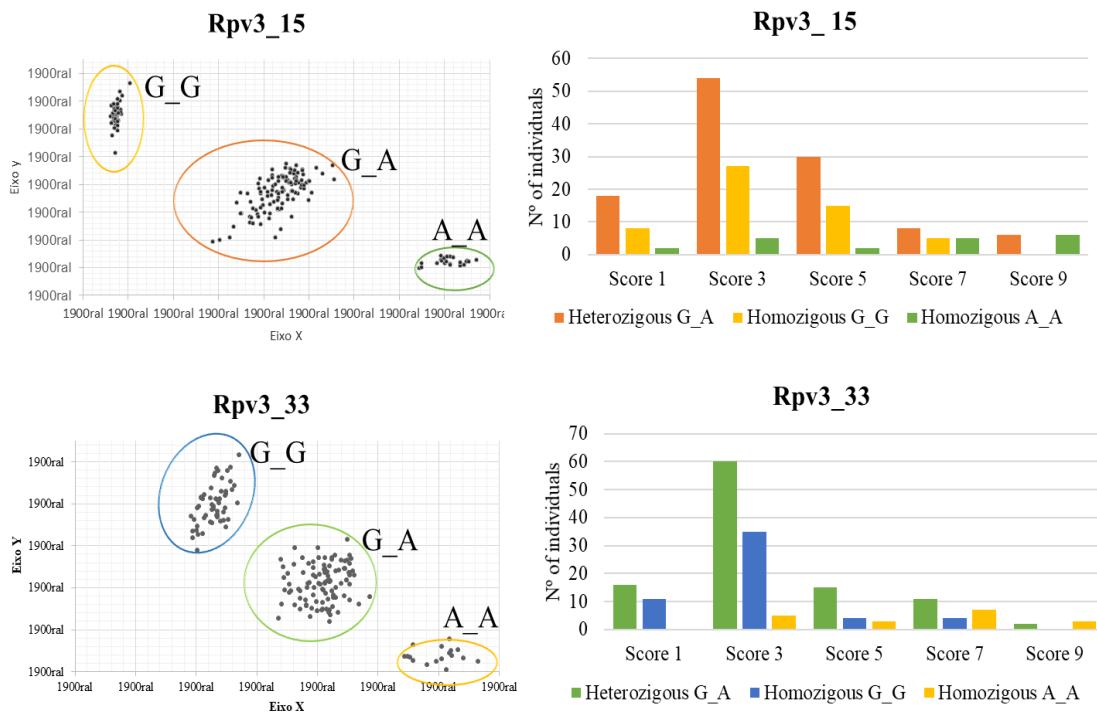
453

454 **Figure 5. SSR markers evaluated for downy mildew resistance.** Number of
 455 individuals and their genotypes versus the score for *P. viticola* resistance (OIV - 452).

456 *Development and evaluation of SNPs markers for P. viticola resistance assisted*
 457 *selection*

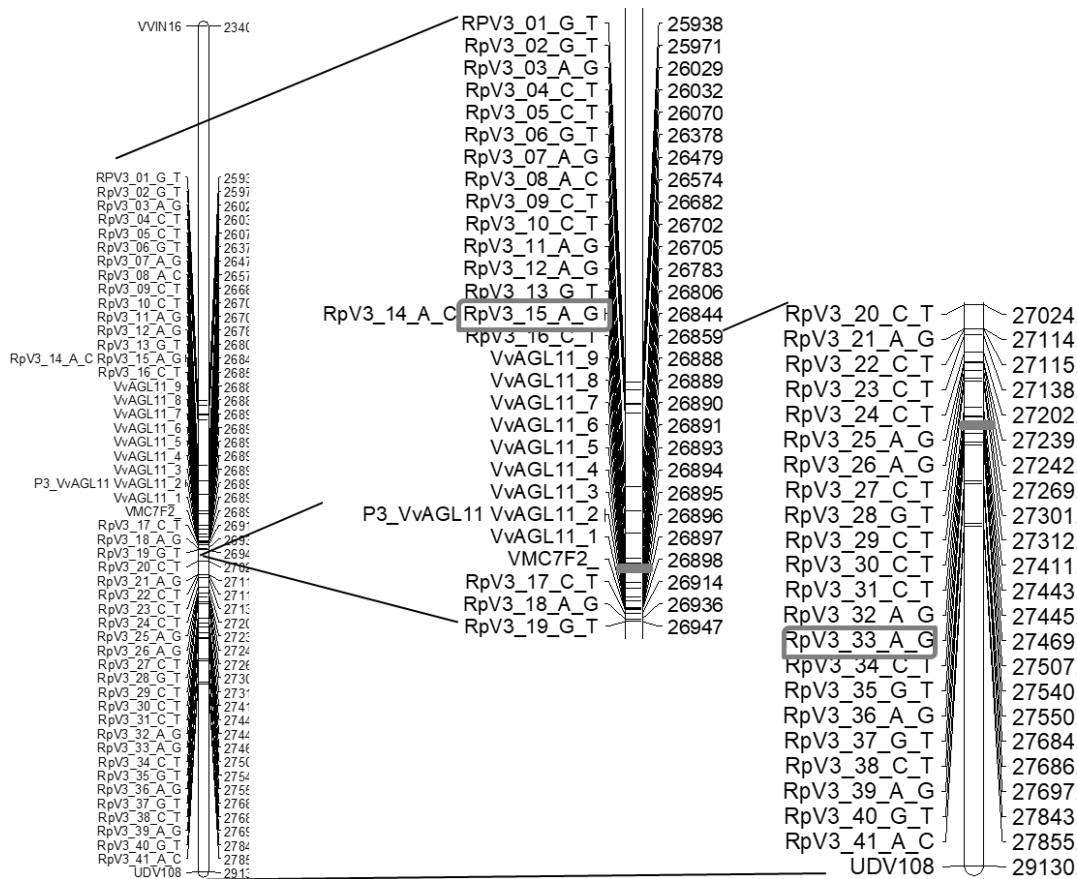
458 In order to develop new and efficient molecular markers for assisted selection of
 459 downy mildew resistance, we choose SNPs that are located in the *Rpv3* locus. These
 460 selected mutations were based on a high throughput genotyping of different grapevine
 461 backgrounds (Supplementary Table 3). We developed forty-one markers to be tested by
 462 allele competitive PCR. Of those, *Rpv3_15* and *Rpv3_33* loci presented segregating
 463 polymorphisms in the genotyped population. The other markers tested were
 464 homozygous in this population. Analysis of the phenotypic distribution versus allele
 465 frequency clearly showed ($p < 0.0001$) the association between the *Rpv3_15* (χ^2 calc=
 466 59.81, position chr18_26844557) and the *Rpv3_33* (χ^2 calc= 119.9, position
 467 chr18_27469511) with mildew resistance (Figure 6). All the candidate markers tested
 468 are represented at chromosome 18 in figure 7.

469



470

471 **Figure 6. Evaluation of SNP-type markers in downy mildew resistant segregating**
 472 **population.** The left panel shows the fluorescence results for FAM and HEX in the axis
 473 *x* and *y*, respectively. Right panel demonstrates the relation between the number of
 474 individuals and their genotype versus the score for downy mildew resistance (OIV -
 475 452).



476

477 **Figure 7. SNP-type candidate marker's position at the *Rpv3* locus.** The markers
 478 were developed for competitive allele-specific PCR (KASP) for the evaluation of
 479 downy mildew resistant segregation. The SSR markers on the distal portion of
 480 chromosome 18 are the ones tested in this work (VVIN16, P3_VVAGL11, VMC7F2
 481 and UDVI08).

482

483 **Discussion**

484 In this work we aimed to establish favourable conditions for *P. viticola*
 485 development for a precise evaluation of its effect on gene expression of two cultivars
 486 that presents contestants responses to pathogen attack. It was imperative that the
 487 experiments would present high humidity conditions due to the necessity of free water
 488 for the production and release of sporangia, formation of zoospores, and subsequent
 489 infection of healthy tissues (TESSMANN & VIDA, 2005). Furthermore, to guarantee
 490 the assay reproducibility the temperature for fungal growth was adjusted at 25°C
 491 because this pathogen has broad optimal growth temperature ranges, from 6°C to 28°C.
 492 Nevertheless, the optimum temperature for the development and fruiting of the
 493 pathogen are between 18°C and 25°C, where the sporangia can form in up to 8 hours

494 (RIBEIRO, 2001). With these standards, during our phytoassays, we were able to
495 identify reddish-brown tissue of necrotic spots, corresponding to the oil stain, in the
496 upper region of the infected leaves in all the performed assays. These stains are due to
497 the pathogen recognition system which triggers localized resistance reactions such as
498 the hypersensitivity reaction (DURRANT & DONG, 2004). When in nature, over time,
499 these stains increase in size and unite occupying much of the leaf blade with the tissue
500 in the spot's area becoming dry, causing the affected leaves to fall prematurely and
501 depriving the plant to generate photoassimilates (RIBEIRO, 2001; GARRIDO &
502 SÔNEGO, 2007).

503 We chose to work with the cultivar Cabernet Sauvignon, which is one of the
504 most prestigious *V. vinifera* varieties in the world, being cultivated in all the producing
505 regions (BATALHA, 2013). It is used mainly for the elaboration of wines by its
506 capacity to maintain characteristics like aromas and flavours independently of the
507 region where it is cultivated (FIGUEIRA, 2013). However, this variety is totally
508 sensitive to a series of biotic stresses, for example, to the attack of grapevine pathogens
509 such as *P. viticola* and *U. necator* (FIGUEIRA, 2013). Contrasting to 'Cabernet
510 Sauvignon', the downy mildew resistant cultivar selected for this study is Villard Blanc,
511 also known as Seyve Villard 12,375 is a member of the Seyve Villard family. During
512 the 60's, in France, this cultivar was one of the most cultivated varieties (INRA, IFV,
513 Montpellier SupAgro, 2013). 'Villar Blanc' is a complex hybrid composed by accesses
514 of six *Vitis* species: *V. aestivalis*, *V. berlandieri*, *V. cinera*, *V. lincecummi*, *V. rupestris*
515 and *V. vinifera* (INRA, IFV, Montpellier SupAgro, 2013). This cultivar presents a
516 strong HR that does not allow the spread of infection beyond the infected cell, which
517 may delay the growth of the pathogen in many interactions, particularly those involving
518 haustoria parasites (JONES & DANGL, 2006).

519 Our candidate gene expression analysis results demonstrate the intricacy of the
520 downy mildew resistance mechanism. Studies show that the time and intensity with
521 which the infected organism develops the defense process presents a major genotypic
522 component, thus the process of resistance induction is functional, spatially and
523 temporally complex (BELLIN *et al.*, 2009; PINTO *et al.*, 2012). From the two genes
524 selected by the RDA approach, VIT_15s0048g02530 shows that 'Cabernet Sauvignon'
525 and 'Villard Blanc' had a fast but transient response against *P. viticola*. In addition, the
526 expression analysis of genes selected from the literature demonstrates the triggering of
527 'Cabernet Sauvignon' defense response. Especially for β -1,3-glucanase transcriptional

528 profile, 'Cabernet Sauvignon' presented extremely high levels when compared to
529 'Villard Blanc' showing that some defense pathways are being activated, but their
530 products are not sufficient to prevent mildew infection.

531 In this work we also tested candidate genes located at the *Rpv3* locus region that
532 were annotated as related to fungi resistance. All genes tested are predicted to be
533 resistance genes (R) against fungi, which are determinants of plant immune response
534 specificity. Some of the PCR performed did not show amplification for one of the
535 cultivars (Supplementary Figure 1). The absence of amplification products for the
536 Villard Blanc cultivar may be related to the fact that this cultivar is a complex hybrid
537 and, as a consequence, has when compared with the Pinot Noir cultivar, from which the
538 full genome was sequenced.

539 The results comprising genes that were expressed in both cultivars shows
540 interesting data for genes VIT_18s0041g01350, VIT_18s0041g01620,
541 VIT_18s0089g00090 genes. These genes were expressed in both cultivars with
542 significant differences between time-points. According to Blast2GO, the
543 VIT_18s0041g01350 and VIT_18s0041g01620 are related to processes of apoptosis,
544 ATP binding, innate immune response, transmembrane activity receptor and signal
545 transduction. The gene VIT_18s0089g00090 presents GO terms related to apoptosis
546 processes, transmembrane activity receptors, binding nucleotides and signal
547 transduction. In addition, the two genes, VIT_18s0041g01620 and
548 VIT_18s0089g00090. present the three TIR-NBS-LRR domains. The results suggest
549 that these three genes may be related to the effector-triggered immune response process
550 that results in the assembly of the hypersensitivity (HR) reaction in resistant individuals.
551 A transcriptional profile for the genes VIT_18s0041g01330 and VIT_18s0041g01340
552 were only visible in the resistant cultivar. Both genes present the three domains, TIR,
553 NBS and LRR and according to Blas2GO, both have GO terms related to processes of
554 apoptosis, binding proteins, innate immune response and stress-causing factors, among
555 others. Their transcriptional profiles suggest that these genes may be related to the
556 process of immune response triggered by the effector that results in HR. The decrease
557 gene expression levels, as compared to 0 HAI, presented by these two genes might be
558 related to part of the infection response, as already reported in a study by Soanes &
559 Talbot (2008). Moreover, genes VIT_18s0041g02350 and VIT_18s0041g01710
560 presented a transcriptional profile only in the mildew resistant 'Villard Blanc' cultivar
561 after challenge with the pathogen. Both genes present GO terms associated with the

562 process of apoptosis, ATP binding, defense responses and stress, among others. Their
563 transcriptional profile suggests that they may be associated with the defense response
564 against *P. viticola* as seen for this cultivar. This set of genes that only present transcripts
565 for the Villard Blanc resistant cultivar have two possible explanations: on one hand a
566 different set of primers might be needed to amplify these genes in ‘Cabernet
567 Sauvignon’, maybe due to differences in their mRNA on this cultivar. Nevertheless,
568 ‘Cabernet Sauvignon’ is closely related to the genome cultivar, Pinot Noir. On the other
569 hand, these four genes could be the main responsible genes for the ‘Villard Blanc’
570 effective defense response upon downy mildew infection related to *Rpv3* locus.

571 Our results deviate from the work of Polesani and collaborators (2010) in which
572 they observed that the resistant cultivar, in their case cultivar Gloire (*V. riparia*), starts
573 assembling the defense response mechanism against downy mildew in the first 24 hours
574 after contact with the pathogen. This is the period in which the establishment of the
575 compatible plant-pathogen interaction is taking place (POLESANI *et al.*, 2010). In our
576 evaluation of the candidate genes transcriptional profiles, it was possible to observe that
577 the Villard Blanc cultivar presented almost a constant expression of the genes tested,
578 saved the induction of gene VIT_18s0041g01350. This shows that the resistant cultivar
579 is, in a way, always producing the necessary defense response compounds against the
580 pathogen. In the case of *V. vinifera* cultivars, it is known that they are susceptible to the
581 attack of *P. viticola*, although they present defense responses against other pathogens,
582 thus indicating that the defense components are not activated in response to this specific
583 pathogen (KORTEKAMP, 2006). This fact can be confirmed by the presence of the
584 selected candidate genes in the genome of both cultivars, demonstrating the absence of
585 one or more components in *V. vinifera* that would be necessary to trigger *P. viticola*
586 defense response, like the four genes expressed only in Villard Blanc cultivar. This
587 probably happens because the resistance mechanism is dependent on the activation of R
588 genes, which encode cellular receptors that detect the presence of a particular pathogen,
589 leading to the activation of the signal transduction pathways (WANG *et al.*, 2013). In
590 addition, the susceptibility of this and other species may occur due to failure to mount
591 the effective defense response, which leads to defective recognition of the pathogen
592 (VELASCO *et al.*, 2007). Fung *et al.* (2008) evaluated the interaction between the *V.*
593 *vinifera* and *V. aestivalis* species and the *E. necator* pathogen, which is the agent that
594 causes powdery mildew. These authors observed that for the *V. aestivalis* species only
595 three genes presented modulation as a consequence of the infection, whereas for the *V.*

596 *vinifera* species, reprogramming occurred in a high number of genes before the
597 pathogen infection, which justifies the increase in the level of expression presented by
598 the Cabernet Sauvignon cultivar for some genes.

599 Our results upon SSR markers confirmed that the markers P3_VVAGL11,
600 VVIN16 and VMC7F2 appear to be sufficiently close to the *Rpv3* locus to allow their
601 use in a molecular marker-assisted selection strategy for downy mildew. These three
602 molecular markers have now a dual purpose; as they can be used in the previously
603 known diagnosis of the character of seedlessness, also known as apyreny, and also in
604 the evaluation of downy mildew resistance in grapevine. Even though we achieved good
605 results with the SSR, nowadays there are more efficient marker-assisted selection
606 techniques than SSR analysis by polyacrylamide gel. One of these is the KASP[®]
607 genotyping assay. This assay uses a unique form of PCR (competitive allele-specific
608 PCR) combined with a homogeneous fluorescence-based information system for the
609 identification and measurement of genetic variation occurring at the nucleotide level to
610 detect single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) or insertions and deletions (INDELs)
611 (HE *et al.*, 2014). With the evaluation of our forty-one SNP based molecular markers,
612 we were able to identify two that are heterozygous and segregate in the ‘Villard Blanc’
613 self-fertilized population. Markers Rpv3_15 and Rpv3_33 allow the selection of
614 resistant individuals by a technique that has several advantages such as a lower
615 genotyping error in positive control DNA samples compared to other techniques and
616 lower cost of KASP genotyping for marker-assisted selection (7.9-46.1% cheaper)
617 (SEMAGN *et al.*, 2014). Thus, these markers can generate data on a large scale, in
618 an automated way and at reduced costs (GUIMARÃES *et al.*, 2009). Moreover, our data
619 on KASP markers presenting the Rpv3_15 and Rpv3_33 markers as strongly associated
620 with downy mildew resistance could be combined with other markers, such as the
621 VMC7F2 microsatellite marker, to create an alternative to be explored in breeding
622 programs. Taken together, the results presented by our work contribute with key
623 functional data about the *Rpv3* locus and its associated-resistant genes, demonstrating
624 the biotechnological applicability of molecular markers in an assisted selection strategy.

625

626 **Authors contribution statement**

627

628 L.F.R, J.M., A.W. and V.B. conceived original screenings, research plans,
629 designed experiments and analyzed resulting data; L.F.R and V.B. supervised

630 experiments and writing; J.M., A.W and V.B. performed most experiments; L.F.R and
631 D.D.P provided technical assistance. J.M. and A.W wrote the article with contributions
632 from all authors.

633

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635

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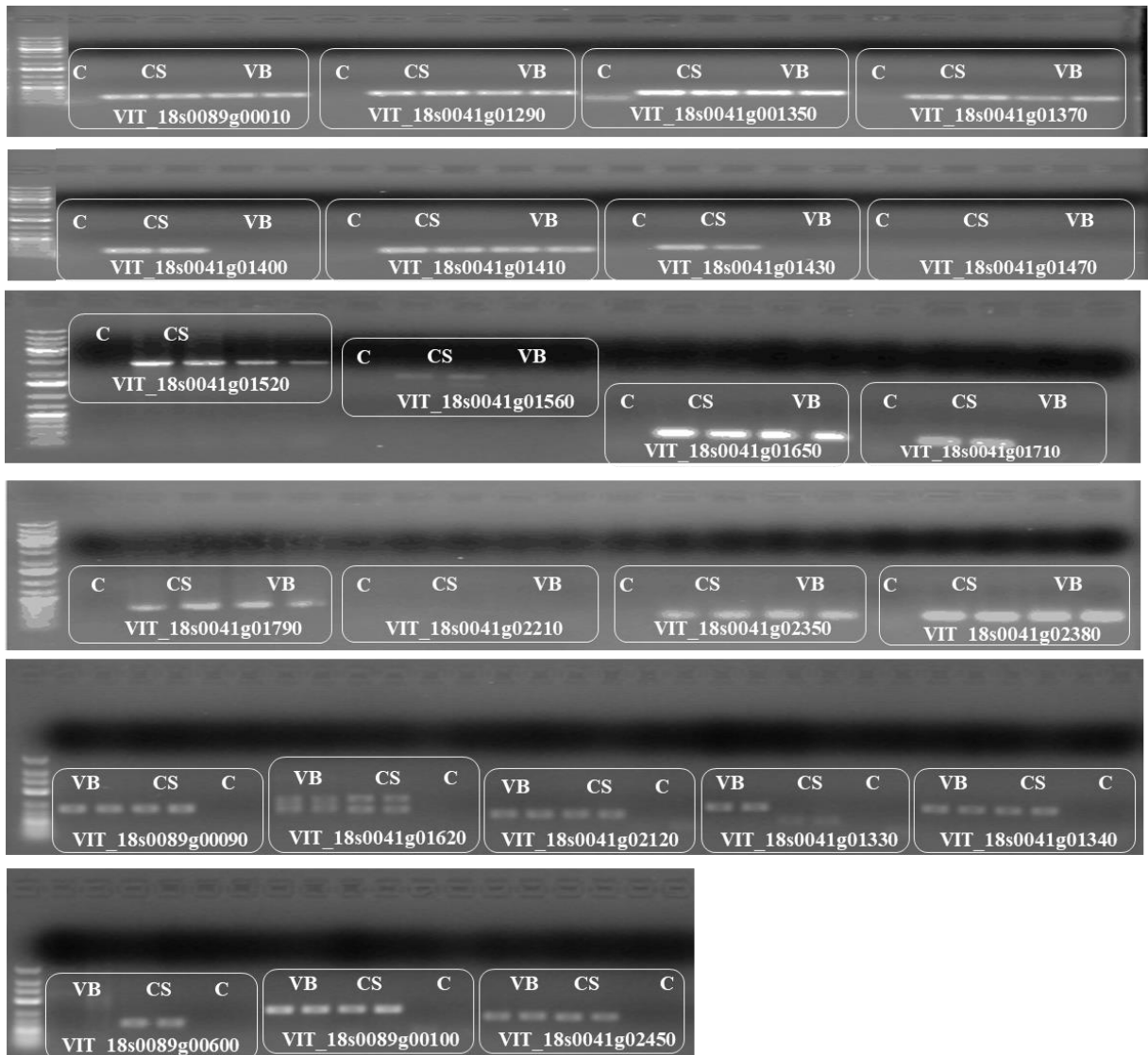
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836 **Supplementary Material**



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 838 **Supplementary Figure 1. Amplification products of the candidate genes located in**
 839 ***Rpv3* locus.** PCR from genomic DNA of the cultivar Villard Blanc (VB) and Cabernet
 840 Sauvignon (CS). On the left the molecular ladder marker (GeneRuler™ Low Range
 841 DNA Ladder and 1 Kb Plus DNA Ladder). C = negative control.

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848 **Supplementary Table 1 – Specific primers for candidate genes.** The first column
 849 contains the candidate genes names, followed by their specific primers sequence and the
 850 expected product size. The Vv04s0044g00580 is the reference gene Actin.

<i>Locus</i>	Primers forward/reverse	Amplification product size (expected)
VIT_18s0089g00090	CCA GAG GAA GGA GGA ACC C GGC AAT GAG ATC CCA ATT GAG	166 bp
VIT_18s0089g00100	CCA CCA AAC TTT CAT CCA AAT G GCT GTT GTG AAT CAT TGA GAT TG	127 bp
VIT_18s0089g00600	CCA CTT TCT CTC GCA AGT C ATC AAG ATT CTG GAG GTC C	138 bp
VIT_18s0041g01340	CCA CAG AAA CGC TTG AAA TG TCT CAG TTA TTT TAT TCG TTC GTC	178 bp
VIT_18s0041g01620	GGT GAG CAT GGA TCA GTA AGA GA GAT GCA AGT GTG GTT GAG CC	152 bp
VIT_18s0041g02120	ACT TTA TTG AAT TTA AGA GGG TGC C GAT GTA TTG AGG AGG GCA ATT CG	127 bp
VIT_18s0041g02450	ATC GGC AGG TGA TGC TAA G TCT TCC CCA ACA TTT TCA ATG G	156 bp
VIT_18s0041g01400	GCT AGT CAT TTA TTA TCT GGC AAA C CGA TTG GAG TGT GGA AGT GAT	154 bp
VIT_18soo41g01370	GTA TTC CAC AAT GTT TAT TCC ACA ATG TAT GAT AAG CCA CTA ACC CAA TAT C	123 bp
VIT_18s0041g01410	GGA GAG GCA TTT TCC ATT CAT G CAA ATT AAG GAA GTT GAA GTT ACC C	133 bp
VIT_18s0041g01430	GGC TCT TTA CCC TTT TCG TG CTC CAA TCC ATG AAA CTG CTA	189 bp
VIT_18s0041g01470	GCA CTA CCA AGT AGC ATT GTG ATC CCA CTC CTG TTG AAA TAA AG	137 bp
VIT_18s0041g01520	CTC TTC TTC TAC CTC AGT CCG GAT TCA AAC TTC ATG CTG GAT G	102 bp
VIT_18s0041g01560	CGC CCA AGA TCA GAA GCA G CCA CCC TTC CAA TTC CAA AAC	175 bp

VIT_18s0041g01650	CAT GCC AAC ATT GAA ACC TTC A GAC GAG TTC ATC CAA GCA CC	156 bp
VIT_18s0041g01710	GCT TTA CTT CTC ATC TCT ACT CGG GAC AAG AAT GGC TAT CCT TGA TTC	140 bp
VIT_18s0041g01790	CGA CTG TAT CAT CTG ACA TCA CT TCA CAA TAC AAA TTC CGT TGC C	196 bp
VIT_18s0041g02210	CAC TGA AGT TGC TAA TGT ATC TGG CAC AAT ACT CGG TGA AGT AGG AAT A	187 bp
VIT_18s0041g02350	GGT GAA CTC AGG GAA CTT AGA T CGC TGG CAA AGA TGG TAG G	106 bp
VIT_18s0041g02380	GGG GTT GGT CCA CCT ACT G ATT GTC GTA TCT TCA AGT TGG C	127 bp
VIT_18s0041g01350	GAC ATT GGG ACT GCC AGC GGG ATT GAT CCT GTG AGC G	212 bp
VIT_18s0041g01290	CCT CCA GAA GTG CGG AAC GTC TGT CGT TGG CTT AGA CC	209 bp
VIT_18s0089g00010	CTT GTT CGG TAC AAT CTC GCC CGA TAT TTC GGG GGA TCA GG	176 bp
VIT_04s0044g000580	CTT GCA TCC CTC AGC ACC TT TCC TGT GGA CAA TGG ATG GA	82 bp

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852 **Supplementary Table 2 – Fisher’s test results.** The first column contains the
853 candidate genes names, followed by their GO terms from the Fisher’s test and by their
854 domain.

Gene – Locus	Fisher’s test	Domains
<u>VIT_18s0041g01370</u>	Defense response, Programmed cell death Apoptosis, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Activity receptor transmembrane, Ligation de nucleotide, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside trifosfatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, Signal transduction activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	LRR
VIT_18s0041g01400	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system	No TIR-NBS-LRR domain

	process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	
VIT_18s0041g01410	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pirofosfatase activity Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR
<u>VIT_18s0041g01430</u>	Defense responses, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0041g01460	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	No TIR-NBS-LRR domain
<u>VIT_18s0041g01470</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction	LRR

	activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	
<u>VIT_18s0041g01520</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor	LRR
<u>VIT_18s0041g01560</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, Signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	No TIR-NBS-LRR domain
VIT_18s0041g01570	Defense response, Apoptose, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, defense response, Apoptose, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, Signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR
<u>VIT_18s0041g01650</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR
<u>VIT_18s0041g01710</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed	TIR

	cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	
<u>VIT_18s0041g01790</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	LRR
VIT_18s0041g02120	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR LRR Disease resistance protein NB-ARC
<u>VIT_18s0041g02210</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR

	Transmission signal, Signaling process	
VIT_18s0041g02310	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	No protein
<u>VIT_18s0041g02350</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	LRR
VIT_18s0041g02370	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation	No data
<u>VIT_18s0041g02380</u>	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	LRR
VIT_18s0041g02450	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune	TIR, NB-ARC, C-terminal leucine-rich

	response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation	repeats, N-terminal AAA+ (ATPases)
<u>VIT_18s0089g00010</u>	Defense response, Cytoplasmic Portion, Organelles, Organelles Intracellulares, Intracellular Portion, Organelle de Ligation de Membrane Intracellular, Stress response, Ligation, Transmission signal, Sinal de tradução, Signaling process	TIR, NB-ARC, C-terminal leucine-rich repeats, N-terminal AAA+ (ATPases)
VIT_18s0089g00060	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR
VIT_18s0089g00090	Defense response, Apoptosis, Programmed cell death, Cell death, Death, Immune system process, Immune response, Innate immune response, Transmembrane activity receptor, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Activity receptor, Ligation, Pyrofosfatase and activity, Nucleoside-triphosphatase activity, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, Hydrolase activity, acting on acid anhydrides, in phosphorus-containing anhydrides, Transduction signal, Molecular transduction activity, signal transducer activity, Transmission signal, Signaling process	TIR LRR NB-ARC
<u>VIT_18s0041g02030</u>	No data	
VIT_18s0041g01300	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Organelle ligada a Membrane Intracellular, Nucleotide binding, Ligation	No TIR-NBS-LRR domain
<u>VIT_18s0041g01350</u>	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Organelle associated to Membrane Intracellular, Nucleotide-binding, Activity receptor, Ligation, Transduction signal, Activity of molecular transduction, Signal transduction activity, Signaling process	LRR Kinase-like protein
VIT_18s0041g01550	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Organelle linked to Intracellular membrane, Nucleotide-	Tubulin family

	binding, Stress response, Ligation, Activity de pirofosfatase, Activity Nucleoside trifosfatase , Hydrolase activity	
VIT_18s0041g01780	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Stress response,	Proteases
VIT_18s0041g01920	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Activity pirofosfatase, Activity Nucleoside trifosfatase, Hydrolase activity	Kinase protein
VIT_18s0041g01930	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion	PPR Family protein; Aldolase
VIT_18s0041g02150	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion	Lipases, Esterases
VIT_18s0041g02220	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion	No data
VIT_18s0041g02270	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	Reduction or oxidation process and aldolases
VIT_18s0041g02300	Cytoplasmatic Portion, Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Activity de pirofosfatase, Activity Nucleoside trifosfatase, Hydrolase activity	No data
VIT_18s0041g01420	Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Activity pirofosfatase, Activity Nucleoside trifosfatase, Hydrolase activity	No data
VIT_18s0041g01880	Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion, Ligation	MADS domains, K-box domain
VIT_18s0041g02150	Organelle, Organelle Intracellular, Intracellular Portion	Lipase, Esterase
VIT_18s0041g01780	Intracellular Portion, Stress response	Acid proteases
VIT_18s0041g02050	Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN oxidation-reduction; TIM-Aldolase;
VIT_18s0041g02070	Intracellular Portion, Nucleotide-binding, Stress response, Ligation, FMN Ligation	TIM Aldolase; FMN – oxidoreduction
VIT_18s0041g01290	Nucleotide binding, Ligation	Kinase protein
VIT_18s0041g01860	Nucleotide binding, Ligation	AIG1 (Bacteria resistance protein)
VIT_18s0041g02010	Nucleotide binding, Stress response, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN (oxidation-reduction) TIM (aldolase)
VIT_18s0041g02020	Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g02040	Nucleotide binding, Stress response, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM

VIT_18s0041g02060	Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g02080	Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g02090	Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g02260	Nucleotide binding, Ligation, Ligation FMN	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g02400	Nucleotide binding, Ligation	FMN, TIM
VIT_18s0041g01380	Ligation, DNA integration	TIR
VIT_18s0041g01510	Ligation	Cytochrome P450
VIT_18s0041g01530	Ligation	Cytochrome P450 – site conserved
VIT_18s0041g01580	Ligation	Cytochrome P450 – site conserved
VIT_18s0041g01590	Ligation	Cytochrome P450 – site conserved
VIT_18s0041g01620	Ligation	Domain TIR, Disease resistance protein, NB-ARC domain, LRR
VIT_18s0041g01720	Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0041g01800	Ligation	Cytochrome P450 – site conserved
VIT_18s0041g01810	Ligation	Cytochrome P-450 grup E class I
VIT_18s0041g01820	Ligation, DNA integration	No data
VIT_18s0041g02190	Ligation	Disease resistance protein, NB-ARC
VIT_18s0041g02320	Ligation	No data
VIT_18s0041g02360	Ligation, DNA integration	No data
VIT_18s0041g02440	Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0041g02470	Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0089g00040	Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0089g00050	No data	LRR
VIT_18s0089g00080	Ligation	LRR
VIT_18s0089g00110	Ligation	unintegrated

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Marker	Sequence
chr18_25931148 _G_T	AAAACATGATAAGAAAAGCATAAGTAATCTTCATCTAG CTTTTATAAAA[T/G]TACTCTTCCTTCCATCATTGTATTGC AGCTTGTTATGAATTGTGATACAC
chr18_25938392 _G_T	TACGAAACCCTCTCCACGGCAATACCCGAAAAGTCTGA CTGTACGCTGG[T/G]ATTGAAACCTCGCCATTGCCAGCAG TGAAGGATATTAGTACCATTGACAA
chr18_25971906 _A_G	ATTATACGCCATACCCTAAAATAGTTTGAAGATGATGAA GACCTTGACTC[A/G]AGAACCTTGACAATTACATGAAGAT AATTAAGGTCTTAAGCATCCCTTAA
chr18_26029420 _A_G	AGGGACAGAGAAACCAACCAGTCAAATTTGTCACCCAA GACGGGAATGG[A/G]CCAGAAAAGTAGTTTATCGACAAA TCCAGAGTCCGTAAGTTGCTCAACTC
chr18_26032150 _C_T	TTTGAATATCAAACAACGGTTGAAACTGTCAATTCATA ATTTGGATATA[T/C]GCATAATGTCACAGACACTAGTCAG CACAGAGTTTTTAGAAAGCATGACA
chr18_26070570 _C_T	AGGAGTACATTCATCAGTACATTCCTTATGTTTCGCTTTA TTTTGGATGG[T/C]TGAATACCTACACTTTACATTTCTCTT CAACATTTTTTTTTTGGGTTTAT
chr18_26378128 _G_T	ATATATAATATTAAGGGTCAGTAATCAACTGGCATGCAA GAATCAGGCTC[T/G]TCAAGAACTGAGAAATAGAGGGT TGTATATTTTAAACATTTTCTAATAC
chr18_26479543 _A_G	GAAAAAGAATATGAATGGTAGTTGTAAGAAAATTA AAAA ATAAAATCATT[A/G]ACTCTTCACTCTACCAA ACTAGGGA TGACAACGAGGCGAGTTTGGGATGG
chr18_26574837 _A_C	AGTCTTCTTTCAACA ACTAAGCTCTGTGCCTTAATGACTG AATTTTCTTT[A/C]ACAGACCTTCTCTAGCAACCAGCCATC TCTGAGCCTTCTGCTTCCATCGC
chr18_26682879 _C_T	TTTAGTCAGTTCAAAAAA ACCTATAACTCTATTTTGCTGT GAGGCCCTGG[T/C]GATTGAATGATGTCTATGAATTTCTT GCTCACCTATTGCAAAGATTCTCA
chr18_26702868 _C_T	GAGGGA ACTTGCATTCTAATAGAAATAAGGAAACAAATC CGATTACGGGT[T/C]AACTTCCCCCTGGCAATGTCCTGTA GAATATAAATTAAGGAAGCTTCCGT
chr18_26705069 _A_G	ATGCCAAGATGGAAAAAAGTGTAGGACATTCAAGACAA GGTATCTTGTGT[A/G]GAGTTTATACCATCAATACAATTG ACTTATGCATGTTATACAAATGCGGA
chr18_26783449 _A_G	ATAACCTGATGCCAAATGGCACAACCTTCCATACCTCCA AAAAA AAAAA[A/G]AGGTGGTAATTATTGTGAAAAACA CTTGAATGAAAAACCTAGGTGCACAG
chr18_26806875 _G_T	GGTCTTCTATTTTATGATGCGAATGAACTTTGGGGCTAAT ATGAAGGGAA[T/G]AATTGGCAGAGCAGGAATTAAGAAG TTGGTTTTGCAGAAAGGGAGTGAAA
chr18_26844263 _A_C	AAGATGAGTGATGGTAGTAGTAGTGTATTACCATATTT ATGTCTGTGT[A/C]CCATGATGGTGTGTAGAGTTAAGAAA ATTGTATCTTGGGATGCATGGTTT

chr18_26844557 _A_G	TTTAAATCAAGGGCCAGCTCTTCTGGCGTTACAAGCACTT GTGAATTACA[A/G]AGAACTATATTGAGAGATGGCCAAAT TGTTAATGTCATTGACACTCCTGG
chr18_26859467 _C_T	GCATAAATGTGGTGTGGTAACTATTTCCCTATGAACTCC AACCTAGCCC[T/C]GATAAACTTTGGATGTTATTGCATATT GGCTCAACAACACTGTTGCATGCAT
chr18_26914334 _C_T	CGCATCAACTAAATTACAGCCCCTATATGAACAAAGGAA GAACCTCAATC[T/C]CGAATGCCAAGTTCGACTTCAAGCT CATCATCATCTTCAAAAAGCTTTAG
chr18_26936099 _A_G	ATCCATTGCTCAATATGAGCCTGCCAAAACCAATTATACA AGGTAGCATC[A/G]TAAGAACTCTATTTTGGTGGAAAAC ATATCAAAATTTTTCTTGAGGATA
chr18_26947500 _G_T	TCTAAAAGACAACAACAAAATCCCAGATAGGATACAGT CTGCAAAATCT[T/G]TTGGCTCTGATTTTGATCATCTACAT TGTCCCTTAAAAATCCCTAGGAGT
chr18_27024319 _C_T	CAGAAGAAATATCCCAAAAACAATCACTTATTGTTGAAT CAATATCTGAA[T/C]CTTACGAGTTAAATGAGTTGGAGCG AGTTCACGAGAGTCGAAGAAAGACT
chr18_27114046 _A_G	TGTTGGATAGCATAAATCTCCACAAGGAGACAATAATAA CTTAAATGAAG[A/G]AGTTAGCTAAATAAGCTTGTGACTA TTCTGATATTCACCACATTGCCCTT
chr18_27115054 _C_T	CCACTAGGAAAGTAAGTTAAAAGATTAAGATTAACAA TGTCAAACCCA[T/C]CATTTTCATCCCAAAAGAGCATGTTT GGTGAGTAGGAAACAAATAAGGGC
chr18_27138071 _C_T	TGTACAAGCACTCAAGCGCTATCTCTGACCGATGTGGGA TTCAGATACCA[T/C]TTCTCATATTTAAAAAATTAATTGAA CTAAACGGTCCACCCGCACAAGAG
chr18_27202895 _C_T	TTGATTATTGATAGGTAAACATCAAATGTTCTTTGGCTTT CACCATGCCT[T/C]AAAAATCTTATCAACTCAATTTAAAA GATATTATGAACATATGGAAAGAG
chr18_27239329 _A_G	ACCACTCTGGAGTAGTTATGGTACACAAGTGGTTGATTCA TACATCCTTC[A/G]CCAAAACATGGAAATGTTCTCTTTGTA ACTATTTTACTAACTTTCTTGCC
chr18_27242809 _A_G	TTCTCAGAAGCATTGCCACATAAATCACACTCCAAACCC ATATTAGAGC[A/G]ACACGAATATCCCAAGAACAAGCAG AACATAAAAAGCCATTGTTTCTGC
chr18_27269431 _C_T	GGTATGTTACCTTGCCACATCCTTACTAGATCAAACATCA TCTCAGTTCT[T/C]TCTCTATGCAAAGCTTTAAGGTGTGGA AGGAATCTTATTTTATTCAAAAA
chr18_27301869 _G_T	GCACACAAACATATTTATGAGACTCAGCTGCCCATCCTTC GTCAGTGTGG[T/G]GCATCCAAGCGAGCTTCTGTTGAAAG TTTTCTTTCTTTTGAATTGACTCA
chr18_27312437 _C_T	ATCAGTTAGCCTTTGAGTGAATAAATTAGGGAGATAAAA TGAGTATTACT[T/C]CTTGGATCATTGGAGTTGAGACAAT CCAATGGAGCAGAGCTTTTGGCTTT
chr18_27411386 _C_T	TCGCCTTTTCGGTTTGTGAACTTCTAGTGGGTTAATGGAA AAATAGAACT[T/C]ACAATTGGTAGATGAAGATGAGAGT GAGCTGAGAAGACGGAGGAGCGAAG
chr18_27443784	ATCATTTTCCTTTTATATGGGTAATGACAGAAAAATGATC

_C_T	AAATACAAAG[T/C]CTGTCTGCGTAATGATTACGCCTCAT CTAAGAAGATGATAAAAATTTCTT
chr18_27445707 _A_G	ATGATCAAAAAGTAAAATGCTTGAAGTTCAAATATTTTTTA TGAAAAATAA[A/G]TTCTTGTATTAGTCCTCACCGTATGCT TTTCTAATACATGATAGATGTCC
chr18_27469511 _A_G	CAAAACACAAGAGTGATTCCAATTCCTTTATGCAGGAGT CAACTCCCCT[A/G]GGTTCTGAGCATCATTTGAGGATGC ACAATTTAAATATTTTGAAATATCT
chr18_27507736 _C_T	AATCGAAGAACTATTAAGAAAGAGAGAGTGATATGACTG CAGCTCATGTG[T/C]GTATATATAGAAAATAAACACACA ATTAACGAGCAATAAAGCTTTA
chr18_27540333 _G_T	ACGACTCGACCGATTTGAACCAGACCCTGCTGATACTTTG AACCTGACT[T/G]CTTCAAAATGGATGCTTCTTCTTCTC TCAACATTGGAGGTATGATGCCT
chr18_27550063 _A_G	GTAGGTGTCCATCCATCATAAAACCATCTCCTAATTCAAG AACTAAATA[A/G]GTAATTACACGTAAATTCATCCACAA ATGAAGTAAATGAAGATAAAAAA
chr18_27684016 _G_T	ATGAATTGGTAATCCGTTTGTGACTCAAAGATTTAGTTT GTGCCATTT[T/G]TTTGAATTAATTAGAAGAATGGCCA TTTGATGTGCATTGTCTTTTGTGT
chr18_27686573 _C_T	ATCATATCCTTGCACTAGAGATTTCTTTATTATTGTGTTAG AGAATGTTA[T/C]ATCCATGAATTGTCTGGCTATTATTCC TGATCAATTTGGCCTGTGCAGG
chr18_27697956 _A_G	CTCTAAACAAAAACCCTGCTGAACTAATTTTATATTTTAT GGTGAGAAAG[A/G]GACCCTCAAAGATGGCCACAAAAAC ATGGCATCCTTACATCAGCAAAAGG
chr18_27843004 _G_T	TTTTCTCTAGCTCTTAGGCCCTATGATCAACTAAGGCTTTT AGGTTCTCC[T/G]TAACCCAGATTTTCTTTCCAATGGGCGA TTTAAAACCTATTCAAGAATTG
chr18_27855218 _A_C	TGGATGCTAAGGGAGGCCATGGTTGAACAGAAATCGGAG GAAAAATAAAA[A/C]ATATAAAATTATCAAGTCCATGGG GTATTTAATTAGGCCATAAGAGATCG

9 ANEXO II

Tendrill coiling in grapevine: Jasmonates and a new role for GABA?

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Tendrils Coiling in Grapevine: Jasmonates and a New Role for GABA?

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Abstract

Grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L., Vitaceae) belongs to the genus *Vitis*, and is characterized as a vine due to the presence of tendrils, which are located opposite to leaves. Tendrils are thigmo-responsive organs, able to carry out delicate mechanosensory responses upon touch and related stimuli. These organs are an adaptation of the plant to climb with the help of support to higher places and finally remain at a position with favorable light quality. In previous studies on *Bryonia dioica* (Cucurbitaceae), phytohormones of the jasmonate class were identified as the endogenous hormone signals to initiate coiling of the tendrils. Strikingly, this is still the only example for jasmonate-induced tendril coiling. In grapevine, three compounds (12-oxo-phytodienoic acid, jasmonic acid (JA), and JA isoleucine conjugate) of the jasmonate class were found at higher concentrations in non-coiled tendrils when compared with coiled ones. Upon treatment with phytohormones, we could confirm the activity of jasmonates on tendril coiling in grapevine. However, not jasmonates but a non-proteinogenic amino acid, γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA), was detected to accumulate in grapevine tendrils at significantly higher levels than in all other tissues, independent of their coiling status. For GABA we detected a significant, transient positive effect on tendril coiling. Use of a GABA synthesis blocker, 3-mercaptopropionic acid, caused reduced GABA- but not JA-induced coiling scores. No additive effect of JA plus GABA was detectable on the tendrils' coiling score. Thus, for grapevine, our data demonstrate a strong activity of jasmonates in tendril coiling induction even without mechanical stimuli and, furthermore, the data also suggest that GABA can independently promote tendril coiling.

Keywords γ -Aminobutyric acid · Jasmonic acid · *Vitis* · Tendril · Coiling

Introduction

From ancient times until today, grapevines have had a significant and intricate relation with mankind (This et al. 2006). These species, mainly from the *Vitis* genus, have a high agronomical importance and are consumed worldwide *in natura* and are appreciated as a divine drink: wine

(Lacirignola and Digiario 1999). The grapevine family, Vitaceae, is one of the plant families described as vines due to a peculiar plant organ known as the tendril. Grapevines were classified by Darwin as tendril-bearers-type plants because their tendrils are long, slender, and filiform structures (Darwin 1865). These specific organs are adapted for climbing on a support object or host plant (Bowling and Vaughn 2009). This allows the plant to use stable structural supports, finally being able to grow in various ecological niches and also to reach sunlight (Isnard and Silk 2009).

Tendrils might have different evolutionary backgrounds depending on the plant family. In *Vitis*, meristematic protuberance primordia, which are formed by the terminal and axillary bud meristems—give rise to both grapevine tendrils and inflorescences (Pratt 1971; Srinivasan and Mullins 1979). For that reason, grapevine tendrils are morphologically homologous to inflorescences. This was elegantly demonstrated by treating grapevine tendrils with cytokinins, which converted them into inflorescences and bunches, showing its evolutionary

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background and the potential of tendrils to become reproductive organs (Srinivasan and Mullins 1979).

Tendrils are highly sensitive and can quickly coil around objects in response to mechanical stimuli (Braam 2004; Fukano and Yamawo 2015). This is due to their thigmo-responsive capability, promoting a directional (thigmotropism, for example, grapevine) or non-directional (thigmonasty, for example, *Bryonia dioica*) growth movement, which occurs as a mechanosensory response to a touch stimulus (Jaffe et al. 2002). The coiling mechanism of the tendril is classified into three main movements: (1) circumnutation, a movement increasing the probability to contact supports; (2) contact coiling, in which the stimulated tendril coils around a support; and (3) free coiling, in which the tendril develops helical coils along its axis. This last step allows the plant to get closer to the support (Jaffe and Galston 1968).

The coiling response appears to be mediated by phytohormones. Many studies characterized the importance of phytohormones in tendril coiling based on the Cucurbitaceae plant *B. dioica* (for example, Falkenstein et al. 1991; Weiler et al. 1993). The phytohormones mainly described in tendril coiling include jasmonates and auxin (Blechert et al. 1999; Stelmach et al. 1999; Engelberth 2003). Applying methyl jasmonate (MJ) or jasmonic acid (JA) was sufficient to induce tendril coiling in *B. dioica* even in the absence of mechanical stimuli (Falkenstein et al. 1991). The JA-induced response in tendril coiling is not rapid, starting after a lag-phase of several hours (Weiler et al. 1993). Additional studies suggested that the JA-precursor, 12-oxo-phytodienoic acid (OPDA), might be the endogenous signal transducer, not JA (Weiler 1997; Stelmach et al. 1999). However, JA-Ile as the most active jasmonate was not known at that time. All those studies showed the importance of jasmonates for tendril coiling—at least in *B. dioica*; interestingly, tendrils of *Pisum sativum* do not respond (Engelberth 2003). To our knowledge, *B. dioica* is still the only plant in which jasmonates were shown to induce tendril coiling.

Here, we aimed to study whether grapevine tendril coiling is also influenced by phytohormones, in particular jasmonates. We further analyze a role for GABA in the coiling process of this organ. Therefore, we determined the levels of various stress-related phytohormones and GABA in different grapevine organs with a focus on coiled and non-coiled tendrils. In addition, we performed experiments with grapevine tendrils to analyze the role of JA and GABA in the tendril coiling process.

Materials and Methods

Plant Material

We performed the experiments in two vineyards. The first one is located close to the city of Freyburg, Germany

(51°14'51.3"N 11°40'53.9"E, ~110 m above sea level), and the second one is located in Bento Gonçalves, Brazil (29°09'44"S 51°31'50"W, ~640 m above sea level). The Guttedel cultivar, also known as Chasselas, was chosen for the experiments. On both sites the temperature on the vineyards was around 25–28 °C. The plants were in the reproductive stage between 5 and 7 years old. The grapevines were at the pre-anthesis and fruit-set stage at the time of harvest, due to slightly different phenological development between the different plants. Nevertheless, all bunches were sampled at the fruit-set stage. Samples of leaves ($n=7$), bunches ($n=7$), branches ($n=7$), and tendrils (coiled and non-coiled, $n=10$ each) (Supplementary Fig. 1) were collected in liquid nitrogen and kept at -80 °C until further analysis. For the tendril coiling assay, non-coiled tendrils were cut at the tendril's base with a small scissor.

Extraction and Quantification of Phytohormones

We analyzed the following compounds: JA; *cis*-(+)-OPDA; JA-L-isoleucine conjugate (JA-Ile), 12/11-hydroxy-JA (OH-JA), 12/11-hydroxyl-JA-L-isoleucine (OH-JA-Ile), and 12-carboxy-JA-L-isoleucine (COOH-JA-Ile). Around 250 mg of fresh tissue from either leaves, bunches, branches, and tendrils (coiled and non-coiled) were frozen in liquid nitrogen, ground, and weighed for phytohormones analysis. The extraction procedure and determination of JA and JA-Ile were carried out as described before (Vadassery et al. 2012; Scholz et al. 2017) with small changes. In this study, a different mixture of labeled jasmonates was used as the internal standard. Instead of 15 ng of JA-[¹³C₆]-Ile conjugate used in the previous study, 60 ng of D₆-JA-Ile (HPC Standards GmbH, Cunnorsdorf, Germany) was used. Additionally, the 60 ng of 9,10-D₂-9,10-dihydro JA was replaced by 60 ng of D₆-JA (HPC Standards GmbH, Cunnorsdorf, Germany). Phytohormones were quantified on an API 5000 LC-MS/MS system (Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany). Because it was observed that both the D₆-labeled JA and D₆-labeled JA-Ile contained 40% of the corresponding D₅-labeled compounds, the sum of the peak areas of the D₅- and D₆-compound was used for quantification.

Extraction and Quantification of GABA

Similar to phytohormones quantification, 250 mg of fresh tissue from either leaves, bunches, branches, and tendrils (coiled and non-coiled) were frozen in liquid nitrogen and weighed for the determination of GABA content per g fresh weight. The material was homogenized by maceration. Later on, the amino acids (including GABA) were extracted twice with a total of 2 ml of methanol. Supernatants were combined and dried using a Concentrator plus (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) and re-suspended in 500 µl of methanol.

The extract was diluted 1:20 (v/v) with water containing the internal standard. The algal amino acid mix ^{13}C , ^{15}N (Isotec, Miamisburg, USA) was used as a standard at a concentration of $10\ \mu\text{g}$ of the algal amino acid mix ml^{-1} . The content of GABA was analyzed by LC–MS/MS according to previous studies (Scholz et al. 2017). An API 5000 tandem mass spectrometer (Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany) was operated in positive ionization mode with multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) to monitor analyte parent ion→product ion: GABA (m/z 104.1→87.1; DP 51, CE 17) an MRM specific for GABA. GABA in the sample was quantified using $\text{U-}^{13}\text{C}$, ^{15}N -Ala applying a response factor of 1.0.

Tendrils Coiling Assay

We used tendrils from 20 different plants. The whole experiment was independently performed twice to ensure maximal reproducibility. Each time we incubated ten non-coiled tendrils, five being selected as short ones (5–6 cm) and five as long ones (8–10 cm), in water or different solutions containing either GABA (Sigma-Aldrich), 3-mercaptopropionic acid (3-MPA) (Sigma-Aldrich), JA (Sigma-Aldrich), or combinations thereof: (1) deionized water; (2) GABA (50 μM); (3) JA (50 μM); (4) GABA and JA (50 μM each); GABA and 3-MPA (50 μM each); JA and 3-MPA (50 μM each); 3-MPA (50 μM each). After harvesting, the tendrils were directly transferred into the respective solutions. Five Petri dishes, with 20 ml of each solution, were used for incubation of two tendrils per plate, in a total of forty plates in each experimental replicate. The plates were placed in a phytochamber during the time of tendril coiling evaluation. The growth chamber was adjusted to 50–60% humidity and 21 °C with a 10-h-light/14-h-dark photoperiod with a light intensity of $100\ \text{mmol m}^{-2}\ \text{s}^{-1}$. Tendrils were evaluated at 0, 5, 20, 30, and 48 h; the 0 h time point was taken immediately after transfer into the solutions. The coiling scale (CS, for clarification see Fig. 1a) was set according to the work of Weiler et al. (1993) and calculated as follows: multiply the number of tendrils in each scale by the percentage of the scale and sum it up, then divide the sum by five sum of scales (0, 25, 50, 75, and 100%), in each time point for each treatment. For example, time point: 0 h, treatment: water, tendrils at 0%: 6, tendrils at 25%: 4; coiling score = $(0 \times 6) + (25 \times 4)/5 = 20$.

Statistics

The statistical analyses are indicated in the respective figure legends. Two-way ANOVA, the Student's test, or a Chi-square test was used. All experiments were repeated two times to ensure reproducibility and 10–20 plants were used in each treatment for each experimental time point. Different letters indicate significant differences between treatments.

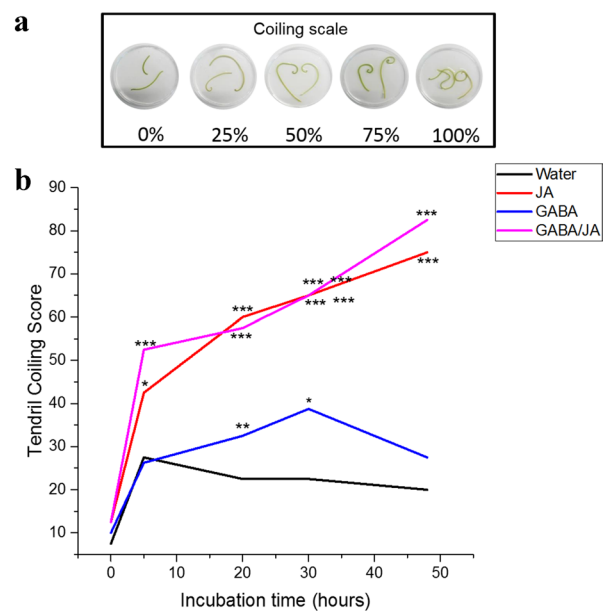


Fig. 1 Tendril coiling abilities of exogenously applied JA and GABA on non-coiled grapevine tendrils at different time points. **a** Coiling scale for grapevine tendrils. 0% = no observable effect; 25% = coiling only at apical, but not basal (cut) end; 50% = coiling at apical as well as basal (cut) end, but median part straight; 75% = fully coiled, loose spiral; and 100% = tendril fully coiled, tight spiral on both ends. Photos were taken at 48 h after starting the incubation. **b** Quantitative score on tendril coiling induction upon treatments with water; GABA (50 μM); JA (50 μM); GABA/JA (50 μM each). Statistically significant differences between treatments and water control were analyzed by Chi-square with four degrees of freedom ($*p \leq 0.05$; $**p \leq 0.01$; $***p \leq 0.001$) and found for GABA at 20 h $\chi^2 = 10.00$; JA at 20 h $\chi^2 = 62.5$; at 30 h $\chi^2 = 80.27$; at 48 h $\chi^2 = 151.25$; GABA/JA at 5 h $\chi^2 = 22.7$; at 20 h $\chi^2 = 54.44$; at 30 h $\chi^2 = 80.27$; at 48 h $\chi^2 = 195.31$

We used GraphPad Prism 6 and Origin Pro for data analysis and graph composition.

Results and Discussion

Phytohormone Analysis in Various Grapevine Tissues

Jasmonates are known to be involved in plant defense against herbivore attack and mechanical wounding but these signaling molecules can also work as regulatory compounds in growth and development of a non-stressed plant (Wasternack 2007). Before specifically addressing the question of whether or not jasmonates might play a role in grapevine tendril coiling, we first determined the general levels of jasmonate-related compounds in different grapevine organs, that is, leaves, bunches, branches, and tendrils. As expected, for leaves, bunches, and branches, we observed some differences in the phytohormones levels, very likely representing tissue-specific characteristics

(Table 1 and Supplementary Table 1). We next investigated whether the conformation of the tendril-influenced jasmonate levels. For that reason, we sampled two types of grapevine tendrils: (1) tendrils that were already coiled and (2) tendrils that were not coiled, but fully expanded (Supplementary Fig. 1D). For all jasmonates including OPDA, the non-coiled tendrils showed higher (between 2.5- and 7.2-fold) levels than coiled ones (Table 1). The degradation metabolites (OH-JA, OH-JA-Ile and COOH-JA-Ile) of jasmonates followed the same trend (Supplementary Table 1). These observations can be explained by a certain capacity of non-coiled tendrils to sense the environment and maybe to defend itself from a herbivore attack, whereas a coiled tendril has already fulfilled its main objective of being attached to a support.

We also tested other stress-related hormones, SA and ABA, on the same samples used for jasmonate evaluation. SA is known to be mainly involved in stress responses against biotrophic and hemibiotrophic pathogens (Grant and Lamb 2006; Bari and Jones 2009). The roles of ABA are vast, from drought stress resistance to regulation of plant development processes (Wasilewska et al. 2008; Bari and Jones 2009). For both phytohormones we observed a kind of tissue-specific distribution for the particular hormones (Table 1). The levels of SA were highest in branches and elevated in tendrils, independently of their coiling conformation. This suggests that stem-related tissues might have a generally high level of SA compared with other tissues. Furthermore, ABA showed smaller differences in the accumulation levels between all tissues evaluated. Bunches and branches presented the highest levels, whereas tendrils and leaves had almost the same ABA concentrations (Table 1). Nevertheless, uncoiled tendrils possess higher concentrations of ABA than coiled ones (Table 1). These results are similar to those observed for jasmonates, in which non-coiled tendrils seem to have a higher amount of defense molecules, which could mean that these structures can be more resilient to biotic and/or abiotic stress. However, Bangerth (1974) stated that ABA beside gibberellins and kinetin did not induce tendril coiling in cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*).

Tendrils Show Higher GABA Levels

Another stress-related molecule we analyzed is GABA (γ -aminobutyric acid). This four-carbon non-proteinogenic amino acid is present in microorganisms, animals, and plants. It acts as an inhibitory neurotransmitter in the mammalian central nervous system by regulating ion channels (Shelp 2012). However, in plants, GABA was reported to be involved in diverse processes, such as influencing cell respiration by regulating the Krebs cycle and acting as a compound for signaling development and growth (Bouché and Fromm 2004; Bown and Shelp 2016). In *Arabidopsis* and tobacco, optimal pollen, pistil, and root growth were described to be dependent on GABA levels (Mirabella et al. 2008; Renault et al. 2011; Yu et al. 2014). GABA can accumulate in plants upon abiotic stress such as salt and cold (Wallace et al. 1984; Ramputh and Bown 1996). It also was proven to be involved in defense responses against herbivore attack and mechanical wounding in a jasmonate-independent manner (Ramputh and Bown 1996; Scholz et al. 2015; Bown and Shelp 2016). In addition, there is evidence for a GABA-induced GABA accumulation (Scholz et al. 2017).

Thus, we also included GABA in our analyses of grapevine tissues. Our results show that GABA is present in leaves, bunches, and branches in equivalent amounts (Fig. 2). Strikingly, GABA levels were up to fivefold higher in tendrils, with apparently no difference between coiled and non-coiled tendrils. These data suggest that GABA could have a role in tendril development or growth.

Impact of JA and GABA on Tendril Coiling in Grapevine

To examine the effects of JA and GABA on tendril coiling in grapevine, we performed experiments with non-coiled tendrils that were treated with different solutions of these particular compounds. Thereafter, we applied a coiling scale for the classification of the tendril coiling process (Fig. 1a). Our treatments demonstrate that JA can induce coiling in grapevine tendrils without touching. This effect is visible already after 5 h (Fig. 1b). We furthermore observed that

Table 1 Phytohormone levels (ng g⁻¹ FW) in different grapevine tissues

	<i>cis</i> -OPDA	JA	JA-Ile	SA	ABA
Leaf	133 ± 75.4	9.0 ± 4.5	0.7 ± 0.9	63.5 ± 19.4	354 ± 105
Bunch	158 ± 90.2	8.5 ± 5.0	2.3 ± 1.9	129 ± 30.8	913 ± 200
Branch	459 ± 163	32.9 ± 6.5	0.9 ± 0.4	1012 ± 440	894 ± 150
Tendril non-coiled	203 ± 86**	30.2 ± 7.2***	2.9 ± 1.7***	328.4 ± 72.85 ns	559.6 ± 90.6***
Tendril coiled	80.3 ± 49.7**	7.0 ± 2.0***	0.4 ± 0.1***	294.4 ± 79.73 ns	393.7 ± 69.98***

Shown are average levels ± SE ($n=7$ for leaf, branch, bunch; $n=10$ for tendrils, coiled and non-coiled). Statistically significant differences for the same phytohormones between the tendrils were analyzed by Student's *t* test: ns non-significant; ** $p < 0.001$; *** $p < 0.0001$

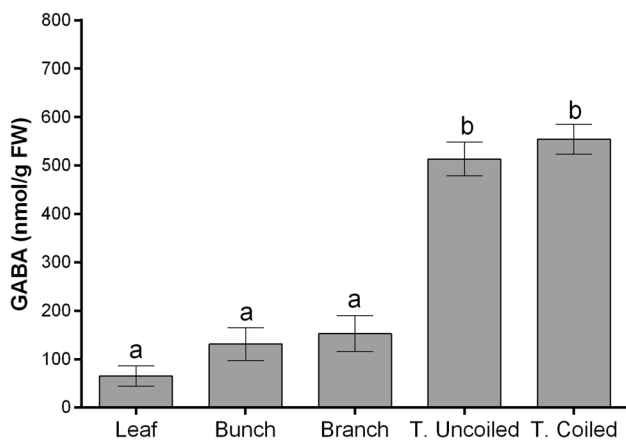


Fig. 2 GABA levels in different grapevine tissues. Fully expanded leaves, bunches in fruit-set stage, non-lignified branches, tendrils (coiled and non-coiled) were analyzed. Shown are average levels \pm SE, $n = 7$ for leaf, branch, bunch; $n = 10$ for tendrils. Significant differences between the tissues for the samples were analyzed by two-way ANOVA ($p < 0.05$, Mann–Whitney-U test) and indicated by different letters. Each individual tendril was harvested from individual plants. Samples were harvested around noon and immediately frozen

after the first 5 h the JA-induced effect on tendril coiling increased a bit slower but continuously (Fig. 1b). The fast initial coiling phase (between 0 and 5 h) that can be seen in all approaches is very likely a result of rapid water uptake and the predetermined tendril anatomy; obviously, in the presence of JA a combined effect of water uptake and JA-mediated coiling seems to take place (Fig. 1b). GABA also induced coiling of tendrils without any touch although in the early phase not to the same extent as JA (Fig. 1b). However, between 5 and 30 h of incubation, the increase of the GABA-induced coiling score is similar to that of JA-induced coiling. Later on, the GABA effect on tendrils faded suggesting that this process is transient and reversible. To get an impression about the distribution of tendrils with respect to the particular CS, we did a more detailed analysis as shown in Fig. 3. In the water control, the majority of the tendrils did belong to 0 and 25% CS and only a few were found having 50% CS. Upon GABA treatment, a few tendrils with a 75% coiling score appeared rapid and transiently while the majority of the tendrils belonged to the 25 and 50% coiling CS. The latter also disappeared but at later time. JA treatment caused a majority of tendrils with a CS of higher than 50% already after 20 h. Here, after 30 h, for the first time tendrils with 100% of CS were detected but never a transient effect (Fig. 3). To find out whether GABA and JA have additive or synergistic effects on tendril coiling, we treated them with a combination of both compounds. Neither additive nor synergistic effects were found. Instead, we observed that only after 5 h the coiling score was slightly more pronounced due to a higher number of tendrils belonging to 75% CS. Later on, there were no more clear differences to the treatment

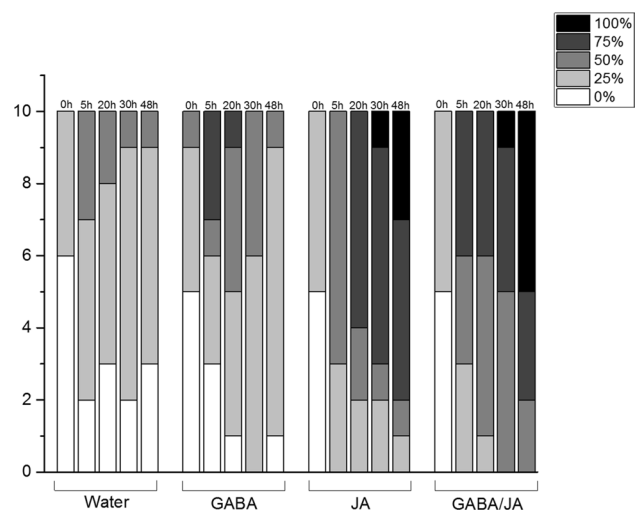


Fig. 3 Distribution of coiled tendrils between the coiling scales (see Fig. 1a) at different time points. Tendril coiling induction upon treatments with water; GABA (50 μ M); JA (50 μ M); GABA/JA (50 μ M each) with scores based on the tendril coiling scale for grapevine tendrils (0% = no observable effect; 25% = coiling only at apical, but not basal (cut) end; 50% = coiling at apical as well as basal (cut) end, but median part straight; 75% = fully coiled, loose spiral; and 100% = tendril fully coiled, tight spiral on both ends)

with JA alone (Figs. 1b, 3). However, still an open question is whether cutting of the tendrils might induce a higher jasmonate level, which in turn could prime the tendril tissue towards GABA sensitivity and GABA-induced coiling response. This possibility will be tested in further experiments using GABA and/or JA on intact tendrils.

To further evaluate the effects of GABA on grapevine tendrils, we tested if its absence would affect tendril coiling by applying 3-MPA. This compound was described first to inhibit the GABA-generating enzyme glutamate decarboxylase (GAD) in vitro and in vivo, causing a decrease in GABA content in rat brains (Lamar 1970; Karlsson et al. 1974). In plants, the application of 50 μ M 3-MPA was shown to affect GABA synthesis, causing an abnormal formation of pollen tubes due to the disruption of actin organization in these organs. With higher amounts (2 mM), 3-MPA completely inhibited pollen germination (Yu et al. 2014). Using 50 μ M 3-MPA, our results show that the GABA-induced tendril coiling score was significantly reduced by the inhibitor after 20 and 30 h (Fig. 4). This seems to conflict with the inhibitory effect of 3-MPA on GABA synthesis. However, the work of Scholz et al. (2017) demonstrated a GABA-induced endogenous GABA accumulation in *Arabidopsis* leaves. Thus, applying GABA from outside would also increase GABA synthesis in tendrils, which will be inhibited in the presence of 3-MPA. Moreover, treatment with 3-MPA alone reduced the coiling score at the same time points compared with the water

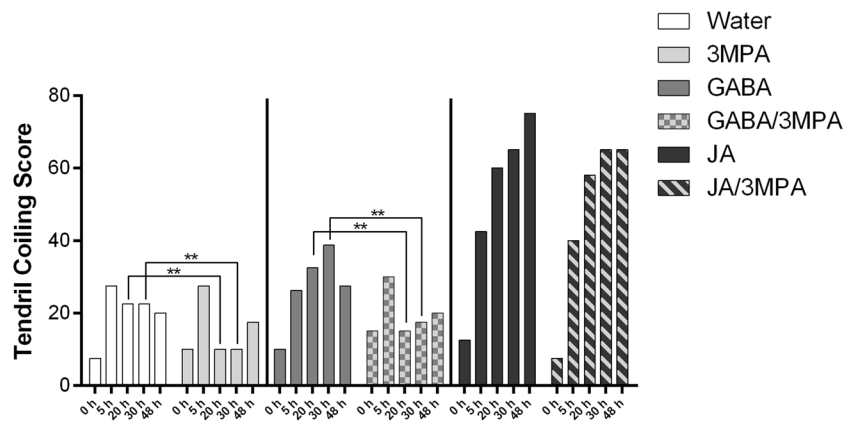


Fig. 4 Effect of 3-MPA on GABA-mediated coiling induction on grapevine tendrils at different time points. Coiling score was determined upon treatments with water; 3-MPA (100 μ M); GABA (50 μ M); GABA/3-MPA (50 μ M/100 μ M); JA (50 μ M); and JA/3-MPA (50 μ M/100 μ M). Statistically significant differences between

treatments were analyzed by Chi-square with four degrees of freedom (** $p < 0.001$). Water X 3-MPA at 20 h $\chi^2 = 15.625$ and at 30 h $\chi^2 = 15.625$; GABA X GABA/3-MPA at 20 h $\chi^2 = 9.423$ and at 30 h $\chi^2 = 11.653$

control (Fig. 4). Both results suggest that a continuous synthesis of GABA seems necessary for tendril coiling. Interestingly, when 3-MPA was applied along with JA it reduced the effect of JA only slightly after 48 h (Fig. 4) suggesting that 3-MPA indeed affects the GABA pathway and does not have a non-specific effect on tendril coiling. Because of the selective effect of 3-MPA together with the finding that there is no combined effect of JA and GABA (Fig. 1b), it is tempting to speculate that both compounds act independently. A similar observation was made before in *Arabidopsis* plants, which were challenged with herbivores (Scholz et al. 2015).

Taken together, our results show that JA has a strong impact on grapevine tendril coiling, similar to what has been described for *B. dioica* tendrils (Blechert et al. 1999; Stelmach et al. 1999). Moreover, also for GABA tendril coiling-inducing activity could be shown. Although the JA effect was progressive and more pronounced, the GABA effect was weaker and transient. Whether and how both signaling compounds may act together or independently from each other remains an open question and will be addressed in further studies.

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Author Contributions JM and AM conceived and designed the research; JM, MR, GP, and AM performed the experiments; JM and AM wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to the manuscript.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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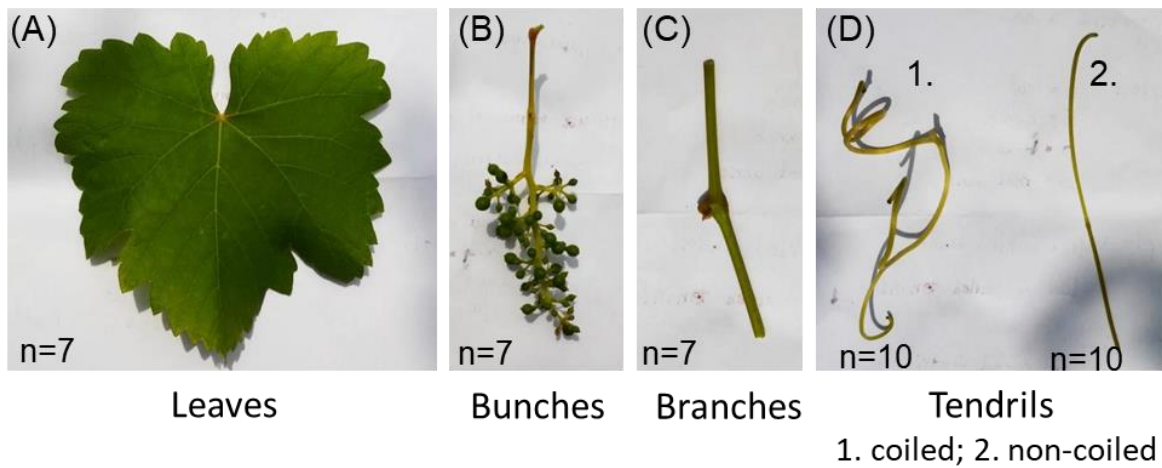
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Tendrils coiling in grapevine: Jasmonates - and a new role for GABA?

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Supplementary Figures and Tables



Supplementary Fig. 1 Grapevine organs samples for phytohormones evaluation. (A) Fully expanded leaves, (B) Bunches in the fruit-set stage, (C) Unlignified branches (D) Tendril coiled and non-coiled were sampled for phytohormones measurements

Supplementary Table 1. Evaluation of jasmonate metabolites (ng g⁻¹ FW) in different grapevine tissues.

	OH-JA	OH-JA-Ile	COOH-JA-Ile
Leaf	3.7 ± 2.0	0.8 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.1
Bunch	34.6 ± 15.5	9.6 ± 4.2	0.7 ± 0.5
Branch	11.7 ± 6.0	1.7 ± 1.4	0.2 ± 0.1
Tendrils non-coiled	73,4 ± 42,9 ns	34,3 ± 14,7 *	2,02 ± 0,8 ***
Tendrils coiled	42,4 ± 23,76 ns	19,7 ± 12,3 *	0,51 ± 0,4 ***

Shown are average levels ± SE (*n* = 7 for leaf, branch, bunch; *n* = 10 for tendrils, coiled and non-coiled). Statistically significant differences for the same phytohormones between the tendrils were analyzed by Student's t-test: ns, non-significant; * = *p*<0.01; *** = *p*<0.0001

10 ANEXO III

Evidence for GABA-Induced Systemic GABA Accumulation in *Arabidopsis* upon Wounding

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Evidence for GABA-Induced Systemic GABA Accumulation in *Arabidopsis* upon Wounding

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The non-proteinogenic amino acid γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) is present in all plant species analyzed so far. Its synthesis is stimulated by either acidic conditions occurring after tissue disruption or higher cytosolic calcium level. In mammals, GABA acts as inhibitory neurotransmitter but its function in plants is still not well understood. Besides its involvement in abiotic stress resistance, GABA has a role in the jasmonate-independent defense against invertebrate pests. While the biochemical basis for GABA accumulation in wounded leaves is obvious, the underlying mechanisms for wounding-induced GABA accumulation in systemic leaves remained unclear. Here, the *Arabidopsis thaliana* knock-out mutant lines *pop2-5*, unable to degrade GABA, and *tpc1-2*, lacking a wounding-induced systemic cytosolic calcium elevation, were employed for a comprehensive investigation of systemic GABA accumulation. A wounding-induced systemic GABA accumulation was detected in *tpc1-2* plants demonstrating that an increased calcium level was not involved. Similarly, after both mechanical wounding and *Spodoptera littoralis* feeding, GABA accumulation in *pop2-5* plants was significantly higher in local and systemic leaves, compared to wild-type plants. Consequently, larvae feeding on these GABA-enriched mutant plants grew significantly less. Upon exogenous application of a D₂-labeled GABA to wounded leaves of *pop2-5* plants, its uptake but no translocation to unwounded leaves was detected. In contrast, an accumulation of endogenous GABA was observed in vascular connected systemic leaves. These results suggest that the systemic accumulation of GABA upon wounding does not depend on the translocation of GABA or on an increase in cytosolic calcium.

Keywords: γ -aminobutyric acid, herbivory, *Spodoptera littoralis*, MecWorm, calcium, plant defense, systemic signaling

INTRODUCTION

The four carbon non-proteinogenic amino acid γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) is present in a multitude of organisms and was also detected in all plant species analyzed so far (Shelp et al., 2009). In contrast to mammals – where GABA acts as inhibitory neurotransmitter by regulating ion channels – its function in plants is still not completely understood. It seems that the role of GABA

in plants is quite diverse. Several studies indicate that GABA is not only involved in regulating metabolic pathways like the Krebs cycle, it additionally acts as a signaling molecule in plant growth and development (Bouche and Fromm, 2004; Fait et al., 2008). For example, it was reported that a tightly regulated GABA level is required for optimal root and pollen tube growth (Palanivelu et al., 2003; Mirabella et al., 2008; Renault et al., 2011). Additionally, it was shown that various abiotic as well as biotic stress stimuli induce an elevation of the GABA level in plant tissue (Bown and Shelp, 1997; Kinnersley and Turano, 2000). For example, it was observed that salt and cold stress or tissue damage of soybean (*Glycine max*) leaves leads to rapid accumulation of GABA up to 25-fold (Wallace et al., 1984; Ramputh and Bown, 1996). *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants producing a lower constitutive level of GABA showed a higher susceptibility to drought stress due to a stomata closure defect which could be rescued by increasing the internal GABA level (Mekonnen et al., 2016). Also, external application of GABA to *Oryza sativa* seedlings and *Piper nigrum* plants could enhance the individuals' performance under heat and drought stress conditions, respectively (Nayyar et al., 2014; Vijayakumari and Puthur, 2016).

Previous studies suggest that GABA acts as a player in plant defense against insect herbivores, although the exact impact of an elevated GABA concentration on the invertebrates is not clear (Ramputh and Bown, 1996; Bown et al., 2006; Scholz et al., 2015; Bown and Shelp, 2016). On the one hand, insects feeding on high concentration of GABA show a reduced performance. Rearing lepidopteran *Choristoneura rosaceana* cv Harris larvae on artificial diet supplemented with 1.6–2.6 μmol GABA (g fresh weight)⁻¹ reduced growth and survival of the insects and delayed their development (Ramputh and Bown, 1996). Similar, *Spodoptera littoralis* larvae fed with a GABA concentration up to 1 μmol (g food)⁻¹ gained less weight compared with the control group (Scholz et al., 2015). On the other hand, attacked plants had an elevated level of GABA in plant tissue in response to herbivore contact. The movement of crawling insects on the leaf surfaces of *Nicotiana tabacum* and *Glycine max* plants was sufficient to stimulate the local GABA level by five-fold after 5–10 min (Bown et al., 2002). In *Arabidopsis thaliana* Col-0 plants, feeding of *S. littoralis* larvae for 3 h increased the local GABA concentration by two-fold (Scholz et al., 2015). Interestingly, continuous mechanical wounding with the robotic caterpillar MecWorm (Mithöfer et al., 2005) resulted in an up to 10-fold elevation of the local endogenous GABA level (Scholz et al., 2015).

In *Arabidopsis*, GABA is mainly produced from L-glutamate; the decarboxylation reaction is catalyzed by glutamate decarboxylases (GADs), which are encoded by five genes. GAD1 and GAD2 are the most abundantly expressed members of this family (Shelp et al., 2012; Scholz et al., 2015). It was shown that GAD activity is induced by two different mechanisms: (i) in intact plant tissue and neutral pH GAD activity is stimulated in a Ca^{2+} -dependent manner by binding of calmodulin to the CAM-binding site (Snedden et al., 1995); (ii) after wounding of plant cells the vacuolar content is released and the cytosol is acidified which leads to a Ca^{2+} -independent activation of GADs (Carroll et al., 1994). The degradation of GABA is carried

out in the mitochondrial matrix by a GABA-transaminase (GABA-T/POP2). In *Arabidopsis*, GABA-T is encoded by only one gene whose knock-out results in constitutive elevated level of GABA in the *pop2-5* plant (Palanivelu et al., 2003).

In recent studies, the focus in plant wounding-induced stress signaling shifted from only analyzing the locally treated leaf to considering the whole plant response including the systemic leaves (Farmer et al., 2013; Mousavi et al., 2013; Kiep et al., 2015). When the plant was wounded or attacked by a herbivore on one leaf, a spike in cytosolic calcium, $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$, was generated locally as well as in adjacent leaves with vascular connections to the treated leaf. In *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants, wounding leaf 8 including its midrib, caused a $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation in vascular connected leaves 5, 8, and 13 (Dengler, 2006; Kiep et al., 2015). The response in the local leaf was immediate whereas the response in the systemic leaves showed a delay of 1–2 min. A similar response pattern was observed for plants fed by *S. littoralis* larvae (Kiep et al., 2015). Strikingly, the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation in adjacent leaves after wounding is dependent on the presence of the Ca^{2+} -permeable vacuolar channel TWO PORE CHANNEL 1 (TPC1-2) (Kiep et al., 2015). The systemic signaling is quite complex and the elevation of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ was accompanied by e.g., an increase in ROS and electrical signals moving to systemic tissues of the plant (Gilroy et al., 2016). Additionally, it was observed that a precursor of the defense-related phytohormone jasmonic acid (JA) was able to travel from the wounded local tissue to unwounded systemic leaves when applied exogenously (Jimenez-Aleman et al., 2015). Similarly, a systemic accumulation of GABA in unwounded adjacent leaves was detected after mechanical wounding of one single defined leaf in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Scholz et al., 2015).

Thus, the open question is how insect feeding or wounding initiates the systemic accumulation of GABA in the plant. Two different mechanisms are conceivable. First, the observed systemic cytosolic calcium elevation could trigger the production of GABA in the systemic leaves by interaction of GADs with calmodulin. Second, no signaling is involved but GABA itself can travel from the treated leaf through the vascular system to the systemic leaves. Here, we addressed and challenged these hypotheses. Therefore, we used an *Arabidopsis tpc1-2* mutant lacking a systemic cytosolic calcium signal after wounding to study the impact of calcium. In addition, we characterized the *pop2-5* mutant upon wounding and herbivore attack and, due to its inability to degrade GABA, employed this mutant line in transport studies with D₂-labeled GABA.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Growth and Treatment

Four to 5-week-old plants grown in 10 cm round pots were used for all experiments. *Arabidopsis thaliana* Columbia-0 wild-type and mutant plants (*tpc1-2* and *pop2-5*) were kept at short day conditions after stratification for 2 days at 4°C. The growth chamber was adjusted to 50–60% humidity and 21°C with a

10-h-light/14-h-dark photoperiod using FLUORA® L 36W/77 bulbs (OSRAM, Garching, Germany) with a light intensity of $100 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. Seeds of *tpc1-2* were kindly provided by Prof. Edgar Peiter (University Halle) and *pop2-5* seeds (GK_157D10) were purchased from GABI-Kat directly (Kleinboelting et al., 2012). To ensure the same starting conditions, all plants used for one assay were sown and germinated on the same day and were kept in the same growth chamber. For experiments investigating the systemic response and translocation of metabolites the leaves of each plant were counted according to their age (Dengler, 2006; Farmer et al., 2013; Kiep et al., 2015).

MecWorm treatment was used for mechanical wounding of the plant with punches every 5 s, totaling 12 punches per minute on treated leaf 8 (Mithöfer et al., 2005; Scholz et al., 2015). To investigate the systemic response upon treatment of leaf 8, the local and systemic leaves 5, 8, 9, 11, and/or 13 were analyzed. Untreated plants, kept exactly as the treated plants, were used as controls. The duration of the MecWorm treatment used is indicated in the respective figures. To study the wounding-induced systemic translocation of GABA in the plant, a double-deuterated GABA (Sigma–Aldrich, Munich, Germany) was used and applied to *pop2-5* mutant plants. The *pop2-5* mutant was used for this assay since it cannot degrade GABA due to the knock-out of the *GABA-T* gene (Palanivelu et al., 2003). According to (Jimenez-Aleman et al., 2015), 20 μl of 50 μM D₂-GABA or water was applied to local wounds on leaf 8, which were generated with a pattern wheel (PRYM_610940, Prym, Stolberg, Germany) without wounding the midrib. On each side of the midrib, the leaf was wounded with six vertical motions. D₂-GABA and water-treated plants were kept for 1.5 and 3 h with a cover to prevent evaporation. Samples of leaf 8 and chosen systemic leaves were harvested after the indicated time points. To avoid additional accumulation of GABA due to the cutting and harvesting process, all samples were harvested in less than 1 min and directly stored in liquid nitrogen. For all plants the leaves were harvested from oldest to youngest leaf (starting with leaf 5). All samples were kept at -80°C till further analysis.

Insect Material and Feeding Assays

Larvae of the generalist herbivore *Spodoptera littoralis* were hatched and reared on artificial diet (Bergomaz and Boppre, 1986) at $23\text{--}25^{\circ}\text{C}$ with 10-h-light/14-h-dark cycles. For the 1 week long-term feeding assay, three larvae of first instar were placed on every wild-type and mutant plant. To achieve similar starting conditions, all larvae determined for one plant genotype were pooled and weighed prior to the experiment. The minimal starting weight of 30 larvae was set to 60 mg to ensure a survival of all larvae. After 1 week the weight of every larva was recorded separately. For the short-term feeding assay third instar larvae were used after they were kept overnight without food. This treatment ensures an immediate start of feeding after placement on the plant. The locally fed leaves were collected after the indicated time points and kept at -80°C till further analysis.

Extraction and Quantification of GABA

Two hundred and fifty milligram of fresh leaves were frozen in liquid nitrogen and weighed to enable a GABA determination

per g fresh weight. If multiple leaves of a plant were collected, then leaves were cut according to their age starting with the oldest (leaf 5). The leaf material was homogenized in a Geno/Grinder® 2010 (Spex Sample Prep, Stanmore, UK) equipped with aluminum racks. The racks were cooled in liquid nitrogen prior to usage to prevent a thawing of leaf material during the whole homogenization process. The amino acids (including GABA) were extracted twice with a total of 2 ml of methanol on ice. Supernatants were combined and dried using a Concentrator plus (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) and re-suspended in 500 μl of methanol. The extract was diluted 1:20 (v/v) with water containing the internal standard. The algal amino acid mix ¹³C, ¹⁵N (Isotec, Miamisburg, OH, USA) was used as internal standard at a concentration of 10 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ in all samples. The concentration of unlabeled and D₂-GABA (M + 2) was analyzed by LC-MS/MS according to previous studies (Scholz et al., 2015). An API 5000 tandem mass spectrometer (Applied Biosystems, Darmstadt, Germany) was operated in positive ionization mode with multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) to monitor analyte parent ion → product ion: GABA (*m/z* 104.1 → 87.1; DP 51, CE 17); this MRM is specific for GABA and does not detect any α -aminobutyric acid, D₂-GABA (*m/z* 106.1 → 89.1+ *m/z* 106.1 → 88.1; DP 51, CE 17).

Extraction and Quantification of Phytohormones

Like the quantification of GABA, 250 mg of leaf material was used for phytohormone analysis. The extraction procedure and determination of JA and JA-Ile was carried out on ice as described before (Vadassery et al., 2012) with small changes. In this study, a different mixture of labeled jasmonates was used as internal standard. Instead of 15 ng of JA-[¹³C6]-Ile conjugate used in the previous study, 60 ng of D₆-JA-Ile (HPC Standards GmbH, Cunnorsdorf, Germany) was used. Additionally, the 60 ng of 9,10-D₂-9,10-dihydrojasmonic acid was replaced by 60 ng of D₆-JA (HPC Standards GmbH, Cunnorsdorf, Germany). Since it was observed that both the D₆-labeled JA and JA-Ile contained 40 % of the corresponding D₅-labeled compounds (which were not included in the analysis method), the obtained results were divided by 1.7 to exclude this inaccuracy.

Statistics

All plants of different mutant lines used for one experiment were grown in the same growth chamber. Independent experiments were treated as a completely randomized design. Experiments were repeated three times to ensure reproducibility and 5–10 plants were used in each treatment for each experiment time point. Data of all independent experiments were pooled and analyzed. For comparison of two groups, the Student's *t*-test or Mann Whitney *U*-test was applied. For statistical analyses of multiple groups, one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA) or two-way analysis of variance (two-way ANOVA) were used as indicated in the figure legends. Different letters indicate significant differences between treatments. GraphPad

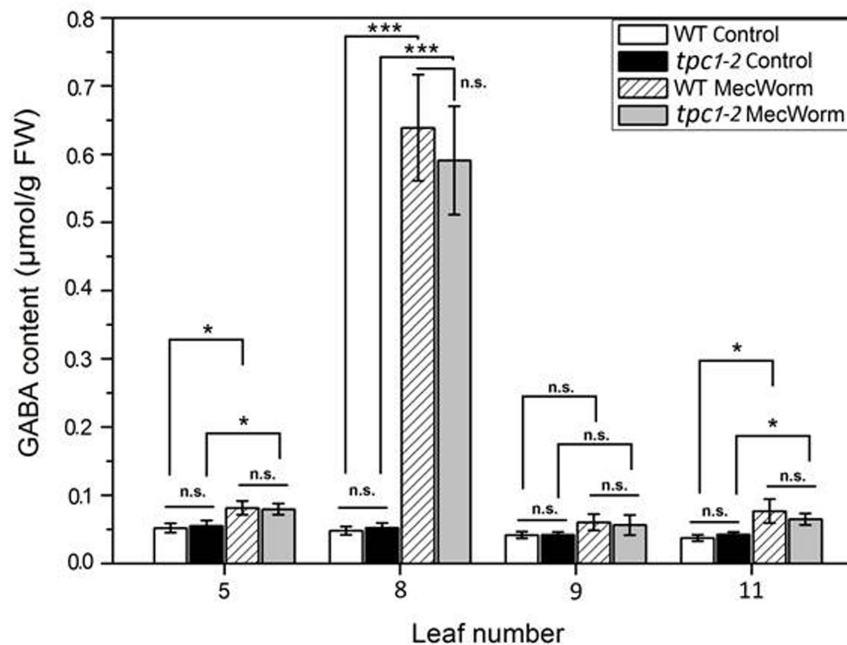


FIGURE 1 | Accumulation of GABA in individual *Arabidopsis* leaves of wild-type (WT) and *tpc1-2* plants after MecWorm treatment. Mean \pm SE, $n = 6$ (control), 8 (MecWorm)] levels of GABA were determined in individual leaves of untreated control plants and plants after 1.5 h treatment with MecWorm. In treated plants, leaf 8 was subjected to mechanical damage and systemic leaves 5, 9, and 11, and treated leaf 8 were analyzed for GABA level. Significant differences between the GABA level in the same leaf of the control and treated plant were analyzed by *t*-test (for each leaf separately, $p < 0.05$, Mann–Whitney *U*-test), * $P \leq 0.05$; *** $P \leq 0.001$.

Prism 6 and Origin Pro were used for data analysis and graph composition.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

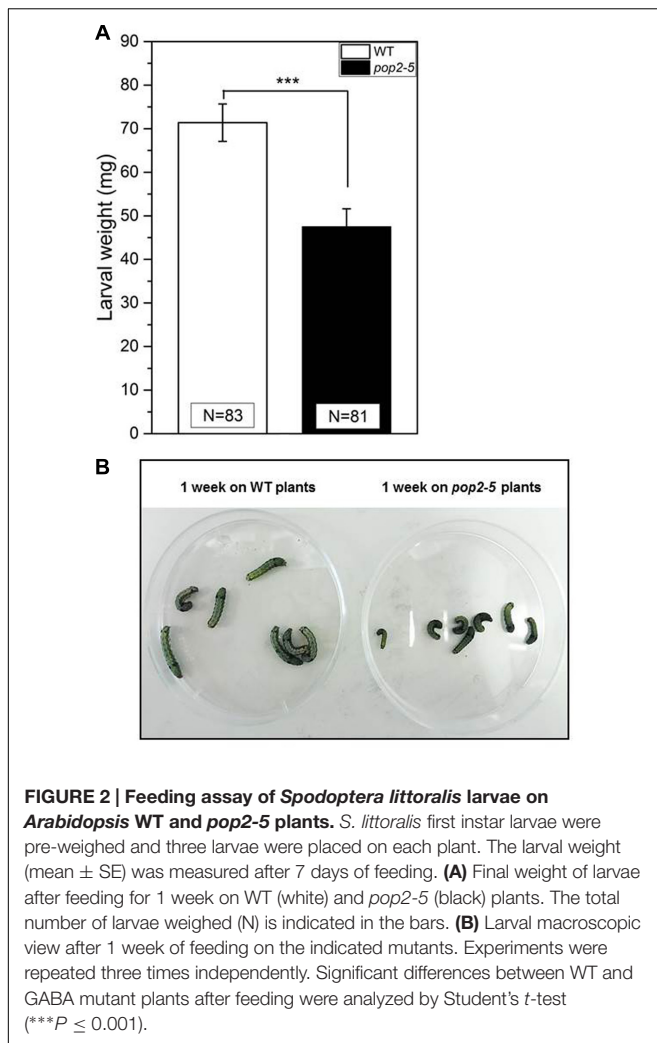
GABA Accumulates in Systemic Untreated Leaves in the Calcium-Channel Mutant *tpc1-2*

To examine if the production of GABA in untreated systemic leaves is induced in a Ca^{2+} /calmodulin-dependent manner (Snedden et al., 1995), the systemic GABA accumulation was analyzed after MecWorm treatment in the *tpc1-2* mutant. Recently, it was observed, that the *tpc1-2* mutant did not show a systemic $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation after mechanical wounding (Kiep et al., 2015). Thus, *tpc1-2* is a good model to study whether or not the systemic GABA accumulation depends on the systemic calcium signal. As expected, after 1.5 h of MecWorm treatment on WT leaf 8, this leaf showed the highest GABA accumulation. However, a significant increase in GABA concentration was also observed in systemic leaves 5 and 11 (Figure 1). With $0.05 \mu\text{mol g FW}^{-1}$ the *tpc1-2* plants showed the same basic GABA level in control plants as the WT and also a comparable increase in systemic leaves 5 and 11 (Figure 1). This indicates that the insect-like wounding-induced systemic $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation has no or limited influence on the amount of GABA produced in

systemic leaves. For soybean GAD it was observed that an increase in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ up to 7–11 μM is necessary to decrease the enzyme's K_m value about 55% (Snedden et al., 1995). The determined stress-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevations in *Arabidopsis* showed an increase to a maximum of 0.6–2 μM (Knight et al., 1996, 1997; Whalley and Knight, 2013). Hence, the wounding-induced systemic $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation appears to be insufficient to account for the increasing GAD activity observed in the present study.

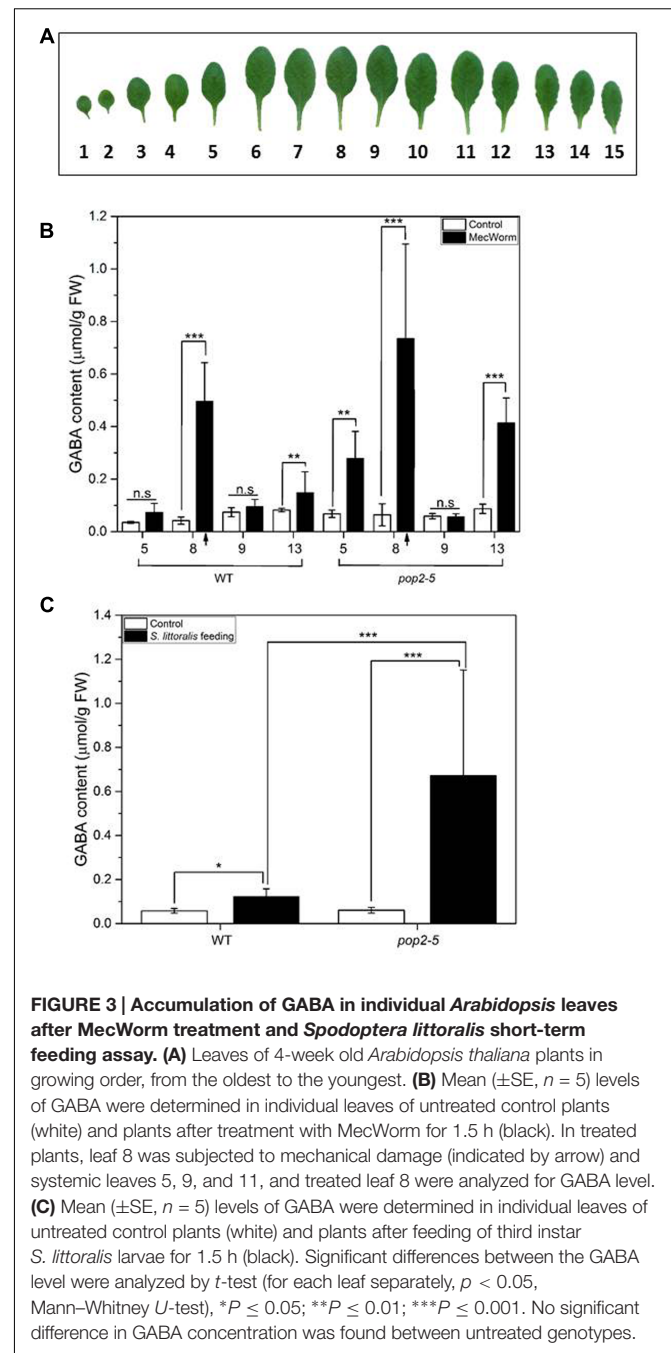
The GABA Accumulating *pop2-5* Mutant Responds Efficiently to Mechanical Wounding and *Spodoptera littoralis* Feeding

Due to the results obtained with *tpc1-2* plants, the possibility of direct GABA transport to systemic leaves was investigated. Therefore, we employed the GABA-transaminase knock-out mutant line, *pop2-5*. This mutant has not been used and characterized in the context of herbivory. Previous studies observed that increased concentrations of GABA can affect insect's development (Ramputh and Bown, 1996; MacGregor et al., 2003; Bown et al., 2006; Scholz et al., 2015). We used the *pop2-5* mutant to further evaluate the effect of high endogenous GABA concentration *in planta* on the herbivorous larvae of *Spodoptera littoralis* in a feeding assay (Figure 2). Our results demonstrate that the larvae, feeding 1 week on *pop2-5* plants, gained significantly less weight than the larvae



feeding on WT plants (Figure 2A). The difference could also be observed by macroscopic inspection (Figure 2B). In previous experiments with GABA-supplemented artificial diet it was shown, that larvae of *C. rosaceana* and *S. littoralis* feeding on high levels of GABA showed decreased survival, delayed development and decreased gain of weight, respectively (Ramputh and Bown, 1996; Scholz et al., 2015). This indicates that the constitutive GABA accumulation in *pop2-5* plants seems to contribute to the enhanced resistance against *S. littoralis* larvae attack while the exact effect of GABA on the insects is not known. Enhanced GABA levels in the insect might lead to permanent activation of GABA-activated Cl^- -channels resulting in hypertension or paralysis (Sattelle, 1990; Bown et al., 2006).

We further investigated the GABA response upon MecWorm wounding in well-developed leaves of *pop2-5* plants (Figure 3A). With MecWorm we are able to investigate the impact of the isolated wounding process without the contribution of insect-derived compounds in oral secretions (Mithöfer et al., 2005). As shown in Figure 3B, continuous mechanical wounding of leaf 8 significantly elevated the amount of GABA in the treated leaf



in both WT and *pop2-5* plants. For WT plants, apart from the local GABA accumulation, we observed a significant increase of GABA in leaf 13, which is directly connected to leaf 8 and a non-significant increase in the indirectly connected leaf 5 (Dengler, 2006). For *pop2-5* plants the local GABA accumulation of leaf 8 was followed by a significant increase of GABA in leaves 5 and 13. In preliminary experiments we observed that the GABA elevation in the adjacent leaves is a time-dependent response, and after 90 min of feeding-like wounding of leaf 8 a significant increase of GABA was detectable in leaf 13. As expected, there was no significant increase of GABA on leaf 9,

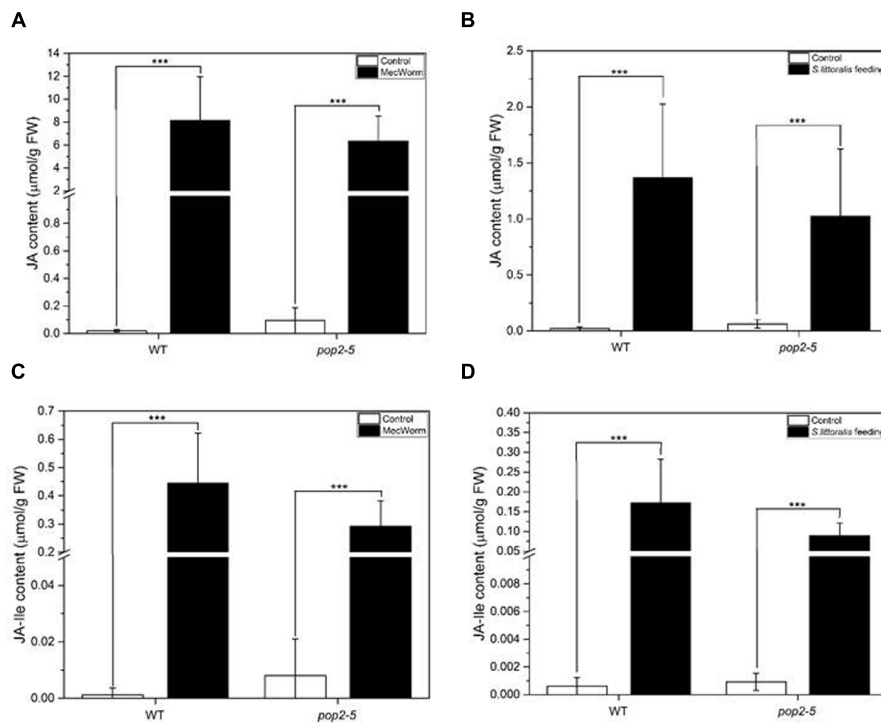


FIGURE 4 | Accumulation of jasmonates in *Arabidopsis* leaves after *Spodoptera littoralis* short time feeding assay and MecWorm treatment. JA levels were analyzed after mechanical wounding for 1.5 h (A) and after *S. littoralis* feeding for 3 h (B). JA-Ile levels were analyzed after mechanical wounding for 1.5 h (C) and after *S. littoralis* feeding for 3 h (D). For MecWorm treated plants, leaf 8 was subjected to mechanical damage and analyzed for jasmonate level. For quick feeding assay hormone level was analyzed from local fed leaves of third instar *S. littoralis* feeding for 1.5 h. Untreated leaves from untreated plants were used as controls. Statistically significant differences between the JA and JA-Ile levels of the control and treated plant were analyzed by Student's *t*-test (*** $P \leq 0.001$). No significant differences in JA and JA-Ile levels were found between the analyzed genotypes.

as it is not connected to treated leaf 8. Analysis of the GABA concentration after 1.5 h of *S. littoralis* feeding revealed that the larvae caused a 6-fold higher GABA accumulation in *pop2-5* compared to WT plants, in the fed leaves (Figure 3C). The synthesis of GABA in *pop2-5* plants during treatments should be the same but in WT there is more GABA degradation by the transaminase during the assay, so the accumulation at the end was lower in the WT (Figure 3C). Here, it should be mentioned that in this set of experiments no clear difference in GABA concentrations between untreated WT and *pop2-5* plants was found. This contradicts earlier findings including our own study (Palanivelu et al., 2003; Miyashita and Good, 2008; Clark et al., 2009; Scholz et al., 2015) where in *pop2-5* plants a higher GABA level was detected. However, this might be explained by different growth conditions, i.e., long vs. short day. Nevertheless, taken together, the results indicate that also in *pop2-5* mutant plants GABA is an efficient inducible systemic defense factor against insect feeding.

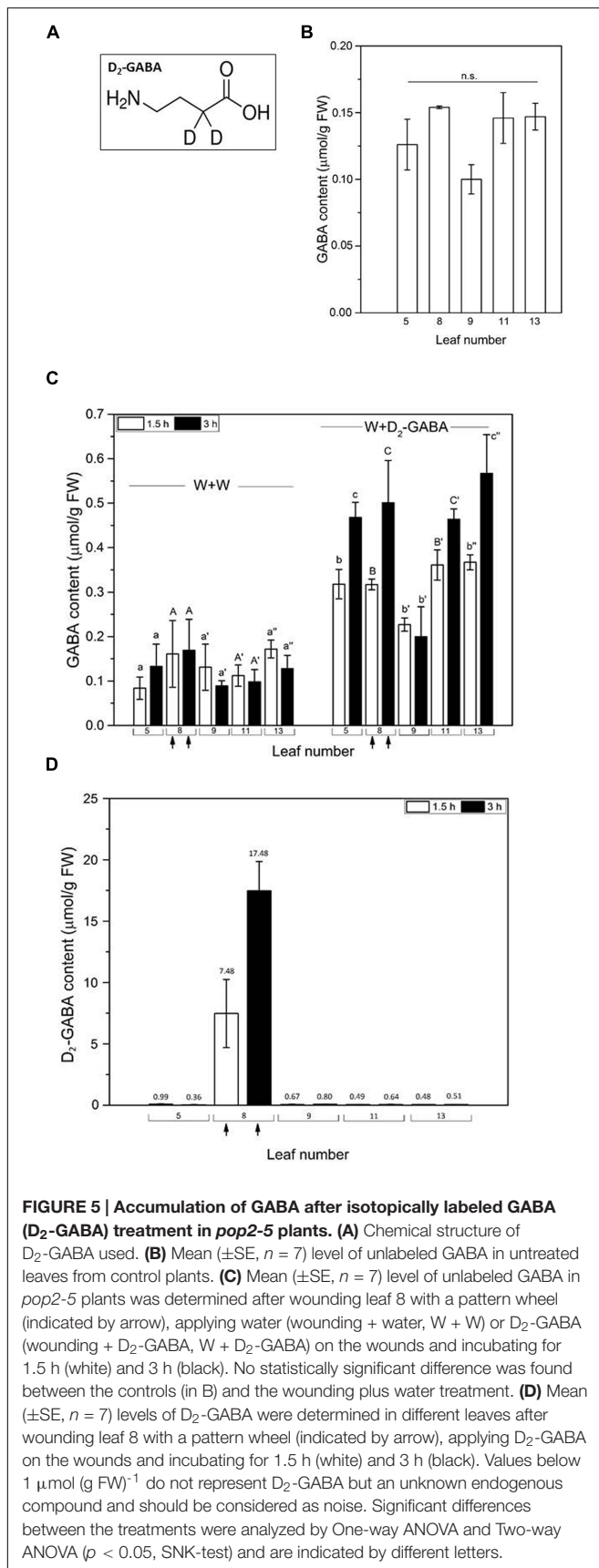
Jasmonate Levels Are Not Affected in the *pop2-5* Mutant

The accumulation of jasmonates was not influenced by different GABA levels in *gad1/2* and *gad1/2 x pop2-5* mutants. Similarly the accumulation of GABA was not changed in

jar1, a JA-Ile jasmonate signaling mutant (Scholz et al., 2015). We decided to further test the involvement of jasmonates on GABA accumulation also in the non-GABA-degrading *pop2-5* mutant. Therefore we measured the levels of JA and its bioactive derivative, (+)-7-*iso*-jasmonoyl-L-isoleucine (JA-Ile), in *Arabidopsis* WT and in *pop2-5* plants both upon mechanical wounding and herbivore treatment. The concentration of JA and JA-Ile significantly increased after feeding assay with *S. littoralis* and after MecWorm treatment in both tested genotypes (Figure 4). In all cases the MecWorm treatment caused higher jasmonate accumulation but the non-treated controls showed no differences between WT and *pop2-5* plants. These data support earlier results suggesting that GABA accumulation is not jasmonate-dependent (Scholz et al., 2015) and *vice versa*. However, we cannot completely rule out that an octadecanoic dependent, but JA/JA-Ile independent, signaling pathway might still be involved in GABA accumulation.

D₂-GABA Treatment Increases GABA Concentration in Systemic Adjacent Leaves

To further investigate if GABA is transported to or synthesized in the adjacent leaves, we treated *Arabidopsis pop2-5* plants



with the double-deuterated D₂-GABA (**Figure 5A**) on a leaf that was wounded with a pattern wheel. This approach would enable us to observe any translocation of GABA in the plant leaves, because no D₂-GABA degradation takes place in the *pop2-5* mutant. The basic GABA levels in different leaves of control *pop2-5* plants were comparable (**Figure 5B**). Leaves of the *pop2-5* plants that were slightly pattern wheel-wounded and incubated with water, showed a GABA concentration similar to control plants (**Figures 5B,C**), indicating that the weak single mechanical wounding had no effect compared to continuous mechanical wounding achieved with MecWorm treatment. Interestingly, when GABA was measured in leaf 8-wounded *pop2-5* plants that were treated with D₂-GABA, an increase of non-labeled GABA was detected, with the accumulation of GABA in directly connected (leaf 13) and indirectly connected (leaves 5 and 11) leaves. GABA accumulation was significantly higher after 1.5 h and increased more after 3 h (**Figure 5C**). Even leaf 9 showed, compared to wounding and water treatment (W + W), a slight elevation of unlabeled GABA after the application of D₂-GABA (W + D₂-GABA). These results suggest that GABA synthesis was stimulated by the combination of the pattern wheel wounding and D₂-GABA incubation in both the treated leaf and systemic leaves (**Figure 5C**). When we further analyzed the concentration of D₂-GABA on *pop2-5* treated plants it was only possible to detect higher D₂-GABA level in the locally treated leaf 8 indicating that D₂-GABA was taken up. However, the fact that in the adjacent leaves D₂-GABA was detected not even nearly as in leaf 8 (**Figure 5D**) suggests that it is not transported from the local wounded leaf to the systemic leaves. This result, combined with the observation that also the systemic cytosolic calcium elevation after wounding is not responsible for activation of GABA synthesis in systemic unwounded leaves, demonstrates that there has to be a different signal initiating GABA synthesis and accumulation in systemic leaves. Previous studies in animals presented data concerning GABA-mediated positive feedback loop (Kamermans and Werblin, 1992; Fenalti et al., 2007) and also in plants a several-fold endogenous accumulation of GABA after external application of GABA has been found for different tissues (Shi et al., 2010; Shang et al., 2011; Malekzadeh et al., 2014; Vijayakumari and Puthur, 2016). Further studies are required to establish a role for phloem B-type cells in long-distance signaling in plants (Shelp, 2012). In a study concerning drought stress tolerance with a Poaceae species, *Agrostis stolonifera*, GABA was shown to enhance the accumulation of GABA and of other amino acids (glycine, valine, proline, 5-oxoproline, serine, threonine, aspartic acid and glutamic acid) (Li et al., 2017). Interestingly, in barley plants it was shown that external application of GABA was able to induce action potentials (APs) accompanied by cytoplasmic acidification short of the position of the stimulus (Felle and Zimmermann, 2007). APs and other electrophysiological reactions represent conceivable signaling candidates for systemic leaves because they have been shown to be involved in wound-induced leaf-to-leaf signaling (Zimmermann et al., 2009, 2016; Mousavi et al., 2013).

CONCLUSION

Wounding of plant tissue and cell disruption caused by feeding insects demonstrated that GABA synthesis and accumulation can be a rapid defense response against invertebrate pests. Other studies proposed that GABA might have a role as signaling molecule, activated upon abiotic stresses. Our results demonstrate that under stress-conditions GABA cannot only act as a defense metabolite, but also as a signaling molecule. The approach with isotopically labeled GABA demonstrates in addition that a high local concentration of GABA in the challenged leaf can trigger a *de novo* synthesis of GABA in systemic untreated leaves. This systemic accumulation of GABA is neither dependent on the systemic cytosolic calcium elevation induced by the wounding nor on the direct transport of GABA from wounded to systemic leaves. The signal responsible for this observation remains still unclear but electrophysiological reactions might represent conceivable signaling candidates.

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SS, JM, and AM conceived and designed the research; SS, JM, MR, and MH performed the experiments; SS, JM, FL, and AM wrote the manuscript. All authors contributed to the manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest Statement: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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HISTÓRICO CURSO
BIOLOGIA CELULAR E MOLECULAR - Doutorado – início em 01/08/2014

Período Letivo	Código	Disciplina	Créditos	Conceito	Situação
2017/01	BCM10201	Redação Científica - Manuscrito	1	A	Aprovado
2016/02	BCM11001	Orientação de Estagiários de Iniciação Científica	1	A	Aprovado
2016/02	BCM10301	Seminário do Centro de Biotecnologia	1	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM10101	Atividade Didática	2	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM079	Curso de Bioestatística	3	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM10301	Seminário do Centro de Biotecnologia	1	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM10401	Seminários de Dados Experimentais - Apresentação	1	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM10401	Seminários de Dados Experimentais - Frequência	1	A	Aprovado
2016/01	BCM10501	Tópicos Avançados	2	A	Aprovado
2015/02	BCM13040	Biossegurança e Boas Práticas de Laboratório	2	A	Aprovado
2015/01		Plant Development and hormones: a crash course	1	A	Aprov. Ext.
2015/01	BCM10301	Seminário do Centro de Biotecnologia	2	A	Aprovado
2015/01	BCM10501	Tópicos Avançados	2	A	Aprovado
2014/02	BCM13001	Purificação de Proteínas	4	A	Aprovado
2014/01	BCM15000	Aproveitamento de Créditos do Mestrado	12	A	Aprovado
2015/02		Exame de Qualificação	-	-	Aprovado
2013/01		Proficiência em Inglês	-	-	Aprovado
2015/01		Proficiência em Francês	-	-	Aprovado
Créditos Cursados com Aprovação neste curso:				35	
Créditos por Aproveitamento Externo:				1	
Total:				36	