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## **Insight into the control of nodule immunity and senescence during *Medicago truncatula* symbiosis**

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1 **Insight into the control of nodule immunity and senescence during *Medicago***  
2 ***truncatula* symbiosis**

3  
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32 **Short title:** Immunity and senescence in symbiotic nodules

33 **One-sentence summary:**

34 Analyses of *Medicago* mutants with non-functional nodules highlight the relationship and mechanisms  
35 controlling the establishment of the immune and senescence programs during nodule organogenesis.

36

37 **Abstract**

38 Medicago (*Medicago truncatula*) establishes a symbiosis with the rhizobia *Sinorhizobium sp.*,  
39 resulting in the formation of nodules where the bacteria fix atmospheric nitrogen. Loss of  
40 immunity repression or early senescence activation compromises symbiont survival and leads to  
41 the formation of non-functional nodules (fix-). Despite many studies exploring an overlap  
42 between immunity and senescence responses outside the nodule context, the relationship between  
43 these processes in the nodule remains poorly understood. To investigate this phenomenon we  
44 selected and characterized three Medicago mutants developing fix- nodules and showing  
45 senescence responses. Analysis of specific defense (*PATHOGENESIS-RELATED PROTEIN*) or  
46 senescence (*CYSTEINE PROTEASE*) marker expression demonstrated that senescence and  
47 immunity seem to be antagonistic in fix- nodules. Growth of senescence mutants on non-sterile  
48 (sand/perlite) substrate instead of sterile *in vitro* conditions decreased nodule senescence and  
49 enhanced defense, indicating that environment can affect the immunity/senescence balance.  
50 Application of wounding stress on WT fix+ nodules led to the death of intracellular rhizobia and  
51 associated with co-stimulation of defense and senescence markers, indicating that in fix+ nodules  
52 the relationship between the two processes switches from opposite to synergistic to control  
53 symbiont survival during response to the stress. Our data show that the immune response in  
54 stressed WT nodules is linked to repression of *DEFECTIVE IN NITROGEN FIXATION 2*  
55 (*DNF2*), *Symbiotic CYSTEINE-RICH RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASE (SymCRK)* and *REGULATOR*  
56 *OF SYMBIOSOME DIFFERENTIATION (RSD)*, key genes involved in symbiotic immunity  
57 suppression. This study provides insight to understand the links between senescence and  
58 immunity in Medicago nodules.

59

## 60 **Introduction**

61 Under nitrogen starvation, the legume plant *Medicago* (*Medicago truncatula*) is able to perform a  
62 symbiotic association with the soil nitrogen-fixing bacteria *Sinorhizobium sp.* During this  
63 interaction a root organ, the nodule, is formed (Oldroyd, 2013). *Medicago* produces  
64 indeterminate nodules characterized by the presence of a persistent meristem at the apex (zone I;  
65 ZI) responsible for nodule growth. Below the ZI, in the infection zone (zone II; ZII), the rhizobia  
66 infect the plant cells. Thanks to the action of the NODULE-SPECIFIC CYSTEINE-RICH (NCR)  
67 antimicrobial peptides produced by the host plant, a differentiation process occurs in ZII leading  
68 to an increase in size and genome endoreduplication of the bacteroids (Mergaert et al., 2006; Van  
69 de Velde et al., 2010). In the fixation zone (zone III; ZIII) the differentiated bacteroids convert  
70 atmospheric nitrogen into an organic form assimilated by the plant (Paau et al., 1980).

71 Despite the massive invasion of the rhizobia, the symbiotic nodule cells do not produce apparent  
72 defense reactions (Gourion et al., 2015). Thanks to direct genetic studies of the *Medicago*-  
73 *rhizobium* interaction, several genes that regulate defense responses in nodules have been isolated  
74 (Kang et al., 2016; Berrabah et al., 2018b) including the *DEFECTIVE IN NITROGEN FIXATION*  
75 *2* (*DNF2*, Bourcy et al., 2013), *Symbiotic CYSTEINE-RICH RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASE*  
76 (*SymCRK*, Berrabah et al., 2014b), *REGULATOR OF SYMBIOSOME DIFFERENTIATION*  
77 (*RSD*, Sinharoy et al., 2013) and *NODULES WITH ACTIVATED DEFENSE 1* (*NAD1*, Wang et  
78 al., 2016; Yu et al., 2018) that encode respectively a PHOSPHATIDYL INOSITOL SPECIFIC  
79 PHOSPHOLIPASE C-LIKE PROTEIN, a CYSTEINE-RICH RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASE, a  
80 C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR and a protein acting positively in the maintenance of the  
81 bacteroids. *Medicago* mutants for these genes produce non-fixing nitrogen (fix-) nodules  
82 exhibiting necrotic tissues with typical defense features like phenolic compounds accumulation  
83 and stimulation of defense genes. Activation of this immune responses results in the death of the  
84 undifferentiated bacteroids (Bourcy et al., 2013; Sinharoy et al., 2013; Berrabah et al., 2014b;  
85 Wang et al., 2016). Historically, the first up-regulated defense gene was identified in *dnf2* and  
86 correspond to the *PATHOGENESIS-RELATED PROTEIN 10* (*PR10*, *Medtr2g035150.1*, Bourcy  
87 et al., 2013). This *PR10* belongs to the *PR* gene family linked to plant-pathogen responses (Ali et  
88 al., 2018) and is stimulated in nodules of the necrotic mutants. Based on the diversity of their  
89 biochemical activities, the *PR* proteins can be classified into 17 groups (van Loon et al., 2006;  
90 Sels et al., 2008). Within each group, members share a specific protein domain used for the *PR*

91 classification. For example, the PR1, PR5, PR8 and PR10 members include respectively a  
92 CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN (CAP; Schreiber et al., 1997), THAUMATIN-LIKE  
93 (Wang et al., 2010), CHITINASE TYPE III (Métraux et al., 1988) and BET V1 DOMAIN  
94 proteins (Liu and Ekramoddoullah, 2006).

95 During symbiosis, *DNF2*, *SymCRK*, *RSD* (Berrabah et al., 2015) and potentially *NADI*  
96 (Domonkos et al., 2017) act sequentially to prevent the immune response in nodules. Different  
97 factors can influence the stimulation of defenses in these mutants including the environment that  
98 can change the defense response of nodules after rhizobium internalization. For example, the  
99 Medicago *dnf2* mutant grown on agarose-based medium loses the immune responses and restores  
100 nitrogen fixation (*fix+*). The addition of the plant defense elicitor ulvan (Jaulneau et al., 2010) to  
101 this agarose-based medium primes defense responses and *dnf2* recovered the *fix-* phenotype  
102 (Berrabah et al., 2014a).

103 Nodule senescence is also an important process that controls nodule functioning and bacteroid  
104 survival. Early activation of the senescence results in bacteroid death (Berrabah et al., 2015) and  
105 nitrogen-fixing inability of the nodules (Zimmerman et al., 1983). This phenomenon can be  
106 triggered in WT nodules during developmental aging (Van de Velde et al., 2006), by addition of a  
107 nitrogen source (e.g. nitrate) to the growth substrate (Chen and Phillips, 1977) or by treatment of  
108 nodulated plants with the herbicide phosphinothricin that inhibits the glutamine synthase (Seabra  
109 et al., 2012). Moreover, suppression of genes involved in essential nodule functions like iron  
110 transport (Walton et al., 2020), sulfate transport (Krusell et al., 2005) or implicated in the  
111 nitrogen fixation (Oke and Long, 1999; Maunoury et al., 2010) may also result in the formation  
112 of *fix-* nodules with early senescence features. During the senescence, the formation of a  
113 senescent zone (zone IV; ZIV) is observed at the base of the *M. truncatula* nodules in which  
114 bacteria and host cells are degraded (Van de Velde et al., 2006). In the ZIV, cellular compounds  
115 are recycled thanks to CYSTEINE PROTEASES (CPs, Wyk et al., 2014) such as CP2 to CP6  
116 (Pérez Guerra et al., 2010) belonging to the papain cysteine protease family (Pierre et al., 2014).  
117 These *CP* genes are specifically expressed in senescent nodules (Fedorova et al., 2002) and the  
118 corresponding proteins are involved in proteolytic activities (Malik et al., 1981; Pladys and  
119 Vance, 1993). CPs can be inhibited by PHYTOCYSTATINS, which are proteins involved in  
120 control of the cellular proteolytic activities during various developmental processes (Martínez et  
121 al., 2012; Díaz-Mendoza et al., 2014). Members of the *PHYTOCYSTATIN* gene family are indeed

122 induced during nodule senescence in soybean (*Glycine max*, Wyk et al., 2014) and *Medicago*  
123 (Lambert et al., 2020).

124 The interconnection between immunity and senescence in legume nodules is poorly studied, in  
125 contrast to leaves where a co-activation of these process is observed in many species (Zhang et  
126 al., 2016; Patharkar et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2018; Ma X et al., 2018; Kusch et al., 2019; Zhang et  
127 al., 2020) including soybean in which analysis of leaf senescence revealed the expression of  
128 defense-related genes (Gupta et al., 2016).

129 Here we investigated the relationship between nodule immunity and senescence using different  
130 substrates and *Medicago* mutants producing *fix*<sup>-</sup> nodules or in WT *fix*<sup>+</sup> nodules exposed to  
131 wounding stress. Our results show versatile behaviors of immunity and senescence relationship  
132 between *fix*<sup>-</sup> and *fix*<sup>+</sup> condition, opposite and co-activation of these processes are observed in  
133 respectively *fix*<sup>-</sup> nodules and during *fix*<sup>+</sup> stress responses and both correspond to bacteroids  
134 suppression. Furthermore we observed that growth substrate composition also affects defenses  
135 and senescence stimulation in *fix*<sup>-</sup> nodules.

136

## 137 **Results**

### 138 **Medicago fix<sup>-</sup> mutants used to study the defense and senescence interaction in nodules**

139 To study the relationship between defense and senescence, we use three mutants (*nf583*, *nf2100*  
140 and *nf2210*) developing fix<sup>-</sup> nodules selected from a forward genetic screen of Medicago (*M.*  
141 *truncatula*) *Tnt1* insertion mutant collection of the Noble Research Institute ([https://medicago-](https://medicago-mutant.dasnr.okstate.edu/mutant/index.php)  
142 [mutant.dasnr.okstate.edu/mutant/index.php](https://medicago-mutant.dasnr.okstate.edu/mutant/index.php), Pislariu et al., 2012; Yarce et al., 2013). Nodule  
143 nitrogenase activity was measured in plants cultivated *in vitro* on an agar-gelified medium  
144 (Figure 1A) and in sand/perlite in a non-sterile growth chamber (Figure 1B) using the acetylene  
145 reduction assay. Nitrogenase activity was not detected in these *Tnt1* mutant plants, confirming the  
146 fix<sup>-</sup> status of the nodules. To investigate the senescence feature of the symbiotic organ, 14 days  
147 post inoculation (dpi) nodule sections were prepared from plant inoculated with the *S. medicae*  
148 strain *WSM419* constitutively expressing *lacZ* (Figure 1C). Bacteroids are present above a large  
149 senescence zone (ZIV) in the nodules of the mutants compared to the wild-type (WT). We will  
150 refer to these fix<sup>-</sup> mutants as senescence mutants in contrast to *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* mutants, also  
151 used in this study and producing necrotic fix<sup>-</sup> nodules (Berrabah et al., 2015).

152 To study the bacteroid differentiation state in the senescence mutants, we performed a DAPI  
153 staining on bacteroids extracted from WT or fix<sup>-</sup> mutant nodules (Figure 1D). Differentiated  
154 bacteroids were detected in the nodules of these senescence mutants. Furthermore, the  
155 intracellular survival of the endosymbionts was studied using the live/dead staining based on a  
156 mixture of two fluorescent probes, SYTO9 and propidium iodide (PI). *nf583*, *nf2100* and *nf2210*  
157 mutants displayed differentiated dead (red) bacteroids compared to the WT (Figure 1E). This  
158 staining further confirms the differentiation of the bacteroids in the senescence mutants.  
159 Altogether, our analyses indicated that *nf583*, *nf2100* and *nf2210* develop early senescent fix<sup>-</sup>  
160 nodules eliciting premature death of the differentiated bacteroids.

### 161 ***nf583* and *nf2210* display *Tnt1* insertions in the sulfate transporter *MtSULTR3.5* that shows** 162 **high expression in nodules**

163 To identify the potential genes responsible for the *nf583*, *nf2100* and *nf2210* phenotypes, we  
164 searched for their *Tnt1* Flanking Sequence Tags (FSTs) in the Medicago *Tnt1* mutant database  
165 (<https://medicago-mutant.dasnr.okstate.edu/mutant/index.php>). In order to increase the

166 probability of selecting the genes responsible of the mutant phenotypes, we focused our analysis  
167 on the FSTs with high confidence and located in the Open Reading Frames (ORF). Using this  
168 approach, 52, 28 and 5 tagged-genes were respectively identified for *nf583*, *nf2210* and *nf2100*.  
169 Interestingly, the gene *Medtr6g086170* (coding a SULFATE TRANSPORTER) is tagged with  
170 *Tnt1* in lines *nf583* and *nf2210*. Similarly, the gene *Medtr4g005270* (coding a BETA-AMYRIN  
171 SYNTHASE) is tagged with *Tnt1* in line *nf2210* and *nf2100* (Figure 1F, Supplemental Table S1).  
172 These two genes represent potential candidates for the symbiotic genes tagged in these mutant  
173 lines. Expression analysis using the Genevestigator database (<https://genevestigator.com/>, Hruz et  
174 al., 2008 ; Supplemental Table S1) revealed that *Medtr6g086170* shows high expression in the  
175 WT nodules (Figure 1G) and especially in the zone III (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/GEA>).  
176 By contrast all the other tagged-genes with available expression data (Supplemental Table S1)  
177 including the *nf2100* tagged-genes, display low variations of their expression or reduced  
178 expression in the nodule compared to the roots. *Medtr6g086170* corresponds to the *SULFATE*  
179 *TRANSPORTER MtSULTR3.5* and the sequence analysis of the associated *Tnt1* insertions in the  
180 *nf583* and *nf2210* backgrounds reveal insertions in the first exon (+36) and first intron (+892)  
181 respectively (Figure 1H). The PCR genotyping confirms the *Tnt1* insertion in *nf583* and *nf2210*,  
182 moreover the mutant plants are homozygous for the mutations in *MtSULTR3.5* (Supplemental  
183 Figure S1). Our data suggest that the insertions in *MtSULTR3.5* are potentially responsible for the  
184 *nf583* and *nf2210* phenotypes.

## 185 ***PATHOGENESIS-RELATED (PR) genes are key markers for the assessment of nodule*** 186 ***immunity***

187 In order to define appropriate defense markers for the evaluation of nodule immunity, we focused  
188 our attention on the *PR* gene family associated with plant responses against pathogens. Genomic  
189 data mining was done using key words and blast search on two databases: phytozome and *M.*  
190 *truncatula* A17 r5.0 genome portal (see materials and methods). This analysis revealed the  
191 presence of 106 *PR* genes in the *Medicago* genome of which *PR5*, *PR10* and *PR1* are the most  
192 represented groups with 44, 35 and 16 members, respectively (Supplemental Table S2).

193 To select *PR* candidates for nodule defense studies, the expression of the identified *PR* genes was  
194 analyzed using data from the *Medicago truncatula* Gene Expression Atlas (*MtGEA*) database  
195 (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/MtExpress>) after identification of the corresponding probe



196 sets (Supplemental Table S2). We noticed that genes showing hybridization signals (HS) values  
197 lower than 100 are usually not reproducible in the qPCR analysis in our laboratory conditions.  
198 Thus, in order to select *PR* genes with robust expression, a filtering step was applied and the  
199 probesets displaying HS lower than 100 in both test and control conditions were excluded.

200 With the aim to identify *PR* genes potentially participating to the nodule physiology, we further  
201 selected *PR* genes expressed in the symbiotic organ with or without senescence stimulation.  
202 Based on the *Mt*GEA profiles, eight different probesets (Supplemental Table S3) were selected,  
203 corresponding to *PR* genes induced at least two folds in the symbiotic context (WT nodules vs.  
204 roots, Supplemental Figure S2A) and/or in nodules of WT plants treated with either nitrate  
205 (KNO<sub>3</sub>, Supplemental Figure S2A, Benedito et al., 2008) or phosphinothricin (Supplemental  
206 Figure S2B, Seabra et al., 2012) compared to the controls. This resulted in the selection of twelve  
207 *PR* genes belonging to the *PR5*, *PR8*, *PR10* and non-determined classes.

208 To check the expression of the selected *PR* genes in our conditions, we then examined their  
209 expression by RT-qPCR analysis using cDNA of *Medicago* nodules. Expression was detected for  
210 ten *PR* genes (Supplemental Table S3). The expression of these *PR* genes was then evaluated in  
211 nodules collected from *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* mutants displaying exacerbated defense reactions in  
212 the symbiotic organ (Supplemental Figure S3). Five *PR* genes (one *PR8*, two *PR5* and two *PR10*)  
213 showed a significant induction in *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* compared to the WT and were finally  
214 selected to study defense activation in nodules. *PR5.3*, *PR8* and *PR10* are stimulated in nodules  
215 infected by the root pathogen *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Benezech et al., 2020), supporting the  
216 choice of these markers for defense tracking in the nodules. It is also worth noting that the  
217 sequence analysis of the identified *PR10* (*PR10.2* and *PR10.3*, Table S3) revealed the same  
218 Coding Direct Sequence (CDS) despite different chromosome locations (chromosome 4 and 6,  
219 Supplemental Figure S4). As we could not discriminate *PR10.2* and *PR10.3* expressions by RT-  
220 qPCR, we commonly named these genes *PR10* in the manuscript.

## 221 ***PR* and *CP* genes show distinct expression patterns**

222 In addition to the selected *PR* genes used to assess immunity activation in the nodule, the  
223 expression of four typical senescence markers (*CP2*, *3*, *4* and *5*) was monitored to follow nodule  
224 senescence stimulation. To estimate the overlap between *PR* and *CP* gene expressions in

225 Medicago, the expression of corresponding genes was compared in different physiological  
226 contexts using the Genevestigator software. Expression analysis at different developmental stages  
227 revealed a high expression level of the *PR* genes in the whole plants until the beginning of the  
228 flowering stage (Supplemental Figure S5). The initiation of flowering is associated with a  
229 reduction in most of the *PR* gene expressions. By contrast the *CP* genes show low to medium  
230 expression levels throughout the life cycle of the plants and they are less expressed than *PR*  
231 genes.

232 In order to compare *PR* and *CP* gene expressions in response to different biotic and abiotic  
233 elicitations ('perturbation set', Genevestigator), we used a scatter blot analysis (Figure 2).  
234 Comparison of the *PR* or *CP* gene expression patterns revealed substantial number of conditions  
235 showing co-expression of the genes in the same group (Figure 2, intragroup comparison). By  
236 contrast, comparison of *PR* to *CP* expressions revealed low level of expression overlap (Figure 2,  
237 intergroup comparison). Pearson analysis (Figure 2 and Supplemental Table S4) showed  
238 correlation of 0.91 to 0.97 for *CPs* and 0.37 to 0.65 for *PR* genes, whereas a strong reduction of  
239 the correlations (-0.06 to -0.11) was observed when *PR* and *CP* gene expressions were compared.  
240 Together these results indicate that *PR* and *CP* genes display distinct expression patterns in  
241 Medicago.

#### 242 **Expression analysis of *PR* and *CP* genes reveals an opposite behavior between senescence** 243 **and immunity in nodules of *nf583* and *nf2210* mutants**

244 To evaluate the interconnection between immunity and senescence in nodules, the expression of  
245 the selected *PRs* and *CP* 2 to 5 genes, was evaluated in mutants cultivated *in vitro* and producing  
246 nodules with exacerbated defenses (*dnf2-4* and *symCRK*, Figure 3A) or displaying early  
247 senescence (*nf583* and *nf2210*, Figure 3B). Due to a distinct behavior, *nf2100* is discussed in a  
248 dedicated section. The *PR* genes were highly expressed in *symCRK* and *dnf2-4* nodules compared  
249 to the WT (Figure 3A). In the nodules of the *nf583* and *nf2210* early senescence mutants, the *PR*  
250 expressions remained low (Figure 3B). Unlike the defense markers, the *CP* genes were expressed  
251 at low level in nodules of the necrotic mutants compared to the WT even if a slight but not  
252 statistically significant induction of *CP* genes was observed in *dnf2-4* (Figure 3A). By contrast,

253 the expression of all *CP* genes was induced in *nf583* and *nf2210* compared to the control (Figure  
254 3B).

255 Together these data indicate an opposite behavior between immunity and senescence markers in  
256 nodules of *in vitro* cultured mutants. No overexpression of defense genes was observed during  
257 senescence while no induction of senescence markers occurred in nodules showing defense  
258 responses.

### 259 **The balance between defense and senescence is influenced by the environment**

260 To assess whether more complex conditions can have an impact on the immune and/or  
261 senescence status of nodules, expressions of *PR* and *CP* genes were analyzed in fix- mutants  
262 cultivated on sand/perlite (Figure 3, C and D). This non-sterile substrate displays more elicitors  
263 than the cleaner agar-jellified medium used for *in vitro* culture (Berrabah et al., 2014a). *PR* gene  
264 induction levels were similar in nodules of *symCRK* and *dnf2-4* cultivated in sand/perlite  
265 compared to those observed during *in vitro* culture (Figure 3A vs. Figure 3C). Interestingly,  
266 *nf583* and *nf2210* showed an increased expression of all *PR* genes in the sand/perlite contrary to  
267 that of agar-jellified media (Figure 3B vs. Figure 3D). In contrast to *PR* gene induction, *CP* gene  
268 expression levels were reduced in the nodules of the senescence mutants grown on sand/perlite  
269 (Figure 3D) compared to *in vitro* conditions (Figure 3B). In addition, the analysis of *nf583* and  
270 *nf2210* nodules inoculated with the *S. medicae LacZ* strain revealed some necrotic cells at 21-dpi  
271 in the sand/perlite conditions whereas no necrosis was observed *in vitro* (Figure 3E).

272 Together these data suggest that, in contrast to *in vitro* conditions, when fix- mutants are  
273 cultivated on a non-sterile sand/perlite substrate, plant defense responses are activated in the  
274 nodules rather than senescence.

### 275 **Expression pattern of *MtPHYTOCYST32* supports the hypothesis of the opposite** 276 **relationship between defense and senescence in fix- nodules**

277 To test the hypothesis of a reduction of the senescence during defense activation in fix- nodules,  
278 we identified potential *CP* inhibitors acting during nodule defense response. For this purpose, co-  
279 expressed genes with *PR5.3*, *PR5.6*, *PR8* and *PR10* were isolated using the Phytomine tools of  
280 the Phytozome database (<https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/phytomine/begin.do>) and the genes with

281 a Pearson correlation higher than 0.85 were selected. This analysis uncovered two  
282 *PHYTOCYSTATINS* encoded by the *Medtr2g026040* (*MtPHYTOCYST5*) and *Medtr5g088770*  
283 (*MtPHYTOCYST32*; *PHYTOCYST32*) genes co-expressed with *PR5.3/PR5.6/PR10* and  
284 *PR5.3/PR10* respectively (Supplemental Table S5). Expression analysis of these  
285 *PHYTOCYSTATINS* in the nodules of fix- mutants revealed that *MtPHYTOCYST5* was weakly  
286 but significantly down-regulated in *symCRK* and *dnf2-4* *in vitro* (Supplemental Figure S6A) and  
287 in sand/perlite (Supplemental Figure S6B). In addition, no significant variation in the senescence  
288 mutants was observed *in vitro* and in sand/perlite, except for *nf2210* showing a small repression  
289 of *MtPHYTOCYST5* expression *in vitro* (Supplemental Figure S6A). By contrast,  
290 *MtPHYTOCYST32* was induced in *symCRK* and *dnf2-4* cultivated *in vitro*, whereas low or no  
291 induction was detected in *nf583* and *nf2210*, respectively, compared to the reference (Figure 3F).  
292 Nodule *MtPHYTOCYST32* expression increased in all fix- mutants compared to the WT (Figure  
293 3F) when plants were grown on sand/perlite. The *MtPHYTOCYST32* expression pattern agrees  
294 with the hypothesis of a reduction of senescence during the defense activation in fix- nodules.  
295 Furthermore, the behaviors of *MtPHYTOCYST5* suggest that only some members of the  
296 *PHYTOCYSTATINS* family are stimulated during the nodule immunity.

### 297 ***nf2100* displays a complex phenotype contrasting with the other senescence mutants**

298 The expression of defense and senescence markers was studied on *nf2100* nodules of plants  
299 cultivated *in vitro* (Figure 4A). Surprisingly, despite the formation of nodules with typical  
300 senescence features, *nf2100* exhibits a much higher expression of defense than senescence  
301 markers. The increased expression of all *PR* genes together with the *MtPHYTOCYSTATIN32* was  
302 observed in this mutant (Figure 4A). By contrast *CP* genes showed low level of expression  
303 compared to those observed in *nf583* and *nf2210* (Figure 4A vs. Figure 3B) with only two *CP*  
304 genes (*CP2* and *CP5*) showing significant up-regulation compared to WT (Figure 4A).  
305 Cultivation of *nf2100* in sand/perlite strongly increased all *PRs* expression in nodules (Figure 4B)  
306 with levels similar to those observed in *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* (Figure 4B vs. Figure 3C).  
307 Moreover, *nf2100* displays slight induction of *CP3* and repression of *CP4* (Figure 4B) in  
308 sand/perlite substrate. Analysis of the necrosis in 21-dpi nodules of *nf2100* grown *in vitro* reveals  
309 the presence of reduced necrotic zones (Figure 4C), which are greatly enlarged in sand/perlite  
310 (Figure 4D).

311 Together these data indicate that *nf2100* produces senescent nodules with more stimulation of  
312 defenses associated with reduction of the *CP* expression and that the growth substrate has a  
313 higher impact on *nf2100* immunity than on the other senescence mutants.

#### 314 **Defense and senescence display simultaneous activation in nitrogen-fixing nodules under** 315 **stress**

316 In contrast to the opposite relationship observed between immunity and senescence in the fix-  
317 mutants described above, expression data from nodules treated with nitrate (Supplemental Figure  
318 S7A) or phosphinothricin (Supplemental Figure S7B) showed concomitant induction of *CP* and  
319 *PR* genes (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/MtExpress>, Benedito et al., 2008; Seabra et al.,  
320 2012) suggesting simultaneous activation of the two processes in the WT nodule upon certain  
321 circumstances. Among the main differences between the fix- mutants and the senescence  
322 induction experiments is the state of nodule development; in the former the nodules do not fix  
323 nitrogen whereas in the latter the chemical treatments were carried out on fix+ nodules. To check  
324 if co-activation of the immunity and the senescence can occur once nitrogen fixation takes place  
325 in nodule, we evaluated defense and senescence response of WT nodules during stress response.  
326 Wounding was previously shown to stimulate defense and stress responses in various plants and  
327 organs (van Loon et al., 2006; Sinha et al., 2014; Shen et al., 2018). To trigger a mechanical  
328 stress on WT nodules, we cut the nodules from the roots (Figure 5A) and we vacuum infiltrated  
329 them in liquid BNM (see materials and methods).

330 The *PR* and *CP* gene expressions were evaluated on dissected WT nodules at 0, 1, 3, 5 or 24  
331 hours of incubation (Figure 5, B and C). Induction of all *PR* (except *PR5.3*) occurred 1h after  
332 treatment. *PR8* and *PR5.6* were stimulated in all the incubation times, while *PR5.3* was induced  
333 at 5 and 24h after treatment (Figure 5B). Interestingly all *CPs* are stimulated at 3h and expression  
334 increased over time (Figure 5C). Altogether, these results indicate that wounding stimulates  
335 defense and senescence processes in WT mature nodules with defense stimulation taking place  
336 earlier than senescence.

#### 337 **Stimulation of defense and senescence in fix+ nodule is associated with the death of** 338 **differentiated bacteroids**

339 To determine if the activation of defense and senescence in fix+ nodules can trigger bacteroids  
340 death, live and dead staining was performed on WT nodules at 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 and 24h after  
341 wounding (Figure 5D and Supplemental Figure S8). After 1h, differentiated bacteroids exhibiting  
342 red staining were observed in zone III. The abundance of these dead differentiated bacteroids  
343 increased with time. At 24h the number of dead bacteroids was increased compared to alive  
344 bacteroids. Quantification of the green/red ratio in zone III from the nodules sections was  
345 evaluated using the Corrected Total Fluorescence Cell (CTFC). It revealed a significant  
346 accumulation of red staining in wounded nodules 1, 3, 5 and 24h after treatment compared to the  
347 control (Figure 5E). To check if infected host cells accumulated preferentially dead bacteroids  
348 during the treatment, a counting of host cells showing High Density of Live Bacteroids (HDLB)  
349 versus High Density of Dead Bacteroids (HDDB) was realized in zone III (Figure 5F). After 1h,  
350 the proportion of the cells with HDDB raised compared to the control. The proportion of HDDB  
351 cells increased with time and reached 70% of infected cells at 24h. Altogether these observations  
352 indicate that the stimulation of defense and senescence following wounding is associated with  
353 death of the differentiated bacteroids.

#### 354 **Connection of the nodules to their roots reduces wounding effects and delays defense and** 355 **senescence stimulation**

356 To test the effect of wounding on defense and senescence responses in a less destructive context,  
357 nodulated WT plants were used instead of detached nodules. To this end, the wounding treatment  
358 was applied to root-attached WT nodules (Figure 5G), which were then incubated 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5,  
359 24 and 72h. Bacteroids started to die 5h after the incubation at the cutting site and the death  
360 increased around the treated zone upon the time of incubation (Figure 5H and Supplemental  
361 Figure S9). In this context, most *PR* (Figure 5I) and *CP* (Figure 5J) are induced after 24h of  
362 treatment. These observations contrast with the behavior of detached nodules where a strong  
363 induction of *PRs* and *CPs* was observed already after 1h (Figure 5, B and C). Altogether, these  
364 data confirm the observations realized on detached nodules and, reveal a delay of defense and  
365 senescence responses and moderate amplitude of bacteroid death when the wounded nodules  
366 remain attached to the plants.

367 **Stimulation of defense in the fix+ nodules is accompanied by down-regulation of symbiotic**  
368 **genes repressing defense reactions**

369 In order to investigate the mechanism controlling the activation of defense in fix+ nodules during  
370 stress response, expression of the symbiotic genes *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* was assessed in  
371 wounded detached nodules at different time points (Supplemental Figure S10). *DNF2* expression  
372 was not affected by nodule dissection (Supplemental Figure S10A), while the expressions of  
373 *SymCRK* and *RSD* were drastically reduced (Supplemental Figure S10B). Likewise, expression of  
374 *SymCRK*, *RSD* and *DNF2* was also reduced in fix+ nodules treated with nitrate (Supplemental  
375 Figure S11A, Benedito et al., 2008) or in the nodules of plants exposed to phosphinothricin  
376 (Supplemental Figure S11B, Seabra et al., 2012), two conditions in which *PR* genes are up-  
377 regulated (Supplemental Figure S7). These data suggest an antagonistic behavior between the  
378 genes involved in the defense repression (*SymCRK*, *RSD*, *DNF2*) and the *PRs* in fix+ nodules  
379 under stress response or senescence stimulation.

380 **Discussion**

381 To investigate the relationship between immunity and senescence in the nodules, we analyzed the  
382 expression of *PR* and *CP* genes in Medicago (*M. truncatula*) mutants forming fix- nodules with  
383 senescence or exacerbated defense. Five *PR* genes were identified as stimulated during nodule  
384 defense responses and were used for the tracking of defense activation. Among them, *PR10* is  
385 involved in the control of the programmed cell death during plant response to pathogens (Ma H et  
386 al., 2018) and the PR5 homolog of THAUMATIN-LIKE proteins from Arabidopsis (*Arabidopsis*  
387 *thaliana*) displays an antimicrobial activity (Hu and Reddy, 1997). The soybean line displaying  
388 the loci *Rj4* which carried a PR5-like gene, *THAUMATIN-LIKE PROTEIN* shows an arrest of the  
389 roots infection with its symbiont *Bradyrhizobium elkanii* strain *USDA61* (Hayashi et al., 2014;  
390 Tang et al., 2016; Yasuda et al., 2016). It is proposed that *Rj4* restricts nodulation of the soybean  
391 through activation of defense signaling (Yasuda et al., 2016). PR8 is the last identified class and  
392 corresponds to a class III CHITINASE (Sels et al., 2008) showing homology with lysozyme, an  
393 enzyme well known for its antibacterial effect (Stintzi et al., 1993). Altogether, these  
394 observations suggest the recruitment of a wide range of defense genes by the legume probably for  
395 the control of the bacteroid persistence. Moreover, the up-regulation of *PRs* genes (*PR5.3*, *PR8*,

396 and *PR10*) in nodules infected by *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Benezech et al., 2020) indicates that  
397 at least a part of the described defense genes participate in nodule protection against pathogens.

398 Our data revealed an opposite behavior between *PR* and *CP* expressions in mutants showing  
399 nodules with early senescence or exacerbated defenses. In mutant nodules displaying typical  
400 defense responses (*dnf2* or *symCRK*), *PR* genes are strongly induced in contrast to the majority of  
401 the *CPs* that show no stimulation. The opposite was observed in the mutants producing senescent  
402 nodules and cultivated *in vitro*, in which *PR* genes are not (*nf583*, *nf2210*) or moderately (*nf2100*)  
403 induced, while *CP* expressions are significantly increased. The defense gene induction is  
404 associated with nodule necrosis, which is absent and occasionally observed *in vitro* in  
405 *nf583/nf2210* and *nf2100* respectively. These data indicate that in the fix- mutants studied here,  
406 when the defenses are increased, generally the *CPs* expression is reduced. This led us to propose  
407 an opposite behavior between defense and senescence in fix- nodules and to hypothesize that  
408 these processes are preferentially stimulated in necrotic and senescent nodules, respectively.

409 Interestingly, the defense genes are expressed at similar levels in the *nf2100*, *dnf2* and *symCRK*  
410 mutants when grown in sand/perlite and this is linked to a large necrotic zone. Likewise, the other  
411 senescence mutants also show enhanced *PR* expressions and reduced *CP* expressions with the  
412 apparition of few and disparate necrotic cells in sand/perlite compared to the *in vitro* growth  
413 conditions. Agar-jellified media are sufficient to induce expression of *PR10* (*Medtr2g035150.1*)  
414 in nodules (Berrabah et al., 2014a). As agar contains agaropectin and impurities in addition to  
415 agarose, it was proposed that it displays defense elicitors that are able to prime defense reactions  
416 in the nodules. According to this hypothesis, Fukui *et al.*, (1983) showed that agaropectin  
417 contained in the agar can stimulate defenses in *Lithospermum erythrorhizon*. Based on these  
418 observations, we postulate that sand/perlite contain potentially more defense elicitors than agar,  
419 enhancing the immune response and reducing senescence in nodules. In agreement with this, the  
420 behavior of the *nf2100* mutant could be explained by a greater sensitivity to environmental  
421 elicitors. Its cultivation on agar-jellified media is sufficient to initiate the low level of defenses, in  
422 contrast to the behavior of the *nf2210* and *nf583* mutants. The CP-inhibitor  
423 *MtPHYTOCYSTATIN32* shows an expression pattern similar to the *PR* ones in the fix- mutants, *in*  
424 *vitro* and in sand/perlite conditions, suggesting a reduction of CP activities during defense  
425 activation in fix- nodules. The contrasted results obtained in our study for fix- mutants grown *in*



426 *in vitro* or in sand/perlite suggest that *in vitro* studies, convenient for the control of the microbial  
427 and chemical plant environment, are clearly different from the natural situations mimicked by the  
428 sand/perlite substrate, in which plants face a more complex environment that can strongly impact  
429 their responses.

430 *nf583* and *nf2210* share FSTs in *MtSULTR3.5*, a sulfate transporter gene whose expression is  
431 stimulated in *Medicago* nodules. Both mutants display similar phenotype characteristics and  
432 defense vs. senescence responses, supporting the hypothesis of a common target gene  
433 corresponding to two mutated alleles. Interestingly, inactivation in *Lotus japonicus* of  
434 *SYMBIOTIC SULFATE TRANSPORTER1 (SST1)*, a homolog of *MtSULTR3.5*, also leads to the  
435 formation of fix- nodules and early senescence (Krusell et al., 2005), thereby reinforcing  
436 *MtSULTR3.5* as candidate responsible for *nf583* and *nf2100* phenotypes. However, a potential  
437 combined effect of other mutations with *MtSULTR3.5* cannot be excluded without isolation of  
438 additional alleles or complementation of the mutation. For *nf2100*, based on the expression  
439 pattern of the five identified tagged-genes, we failed to isolate the gene responsible for *nf2100*  
440 dysfunction. Thus, the gene involved in the mutant remains to be identified.

441 Surprisingly, during nodule senescence induced by phosphinothricin, a co-stimulation of *CP* and  
442 *PR* genes was observed (Seabra et al., 2012). This behavior is supported by an RNAseq analysis  
443 of *Glycine max* nodules which revealed the presence of *PR* transcripts in these organs during  
444 natural senescence (Chen et al., 2017), suggesting activation of defense in determinate as well as  
445 indeterminate nodules during induced and natural senescence. These results contrast with our  
446 observations in the fix- mutants that show an opposite pattern between expressions of defense  
447 and senescence markers in the nodules. In these previous studies, transcriptomic analyses were  
448 performed on mature fix+ nodules (Seabra et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2017), whereas in our work,  
449 the nodules of the fix- mutants are characterized by an incomplete organogenesis and early  
450 senescence. These observations prompt us to study the role of nodule development and/or the  
451 state of nitrogen fixation on the immunity and senescence relationship. To this end, we have  
452 induced a defense-like stimulation on fix+ nodules by two wounding approaches: i) cutting of  
453 isolated nodules separated from the roots and ii) cutting the root-attached nodules. Both  
454 treatments result in bacteroid death and co-induction of *PR* and *CP* genes. Remarkably, the delay  
455 of gene induction is accompanied by a reduction of bacteroids death when the nodules remain

456 connected to the roots. These observations support the hypothesis that a co-occurrence between  
457 immunity and senescence activation is operating in functional nodules. In addition to the  
458 differences in nodule development between our study and previous transcriptomic analyses  
459 (Seabra et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2017), the plant genotype and the type of treatment also  
460 represent important changes. Despite these differences, the co-activation of *PRs* and *CPs*  
461 observed in all these situations indicates that the co-occurrence between immunity and  
462 senescence activations is probably an ubiquitous process rather than a specific response.  
463 Similarly, accumulation of *PR* transcripts takes place during leaf senescence in different plants  
464 species (Azumi and Watanabe, 1991; Hanfrey et al., 1996; Walter et al., 1996; John et al., 1997;  
465 Wingler et al., 2005). The high degree of overlap of transcriptional responses between nodule-  
466 and leaf-senescence in *Medicago* (Van de Velde et al., 2006) may suggest that activation of some  
467 of the *PR* defense genes is a common feature between leaf and nodule senescence. We show that  
468 nodule wounding similar to nitrate or phosphinothricin treatments reduced the expression of  
469 genes that repress defense reactions in the nodule (*SymCRK*, *RSD* and *DNF2*) and enhanced *PR*  
470 expression. These data allow us to propose that defense activation in the nitrogen-fixing nodules  
471 may result from down-regulation of *SymCRK*, *RSD* and *DNF2*, that may act before and during  
472 nitrogen fixation by various ways (Sinharoy et al., 2013, Berrabah et al., 2018a).

473

474 **Conclusion**

475 This work deciphers the relationship between immunity and senescence. The use of mutants  
476 producing non-fixing nitrogen (fix-) nodules uncovers the mechanisms controlling the dynamic  
477 of the establishment of the immune and the senescence programs during nodule organogenesis. In  
478 *symCRK* and *dnf2* nodules, which display symbiotic arrest prior to bacteroid differentiation,  
479 defense is stimulated more than the senescence (Figure 6). By contrast, under *in vitro* growth  
480 conditions, senescence is more promoted than defense in the senescence mutants *nf583* and  
481 *nf2210* containing differentiated fix- bacteroids. The senescence mutant *nf2100* in the same  
482 growth substrates shows a greater defense than senescence response. The growth of the fix-  
483 mutants in sand/perlite enhances greatly defenses and reduces senescence, pointing out the  
484 influence of the environment in the defense/senescence balance. Finally, when the nodule  
485 becomes functional (fix+), a co-activation of defense and senescence in response to stresses  
486 (wounding, phosphinothricin) or induced senescence (nitrate) is observed and is associated with  
487 suppression of the fixing-nitrogen bacteroids at least during nodule responses to wounding.

488

489 **Materials and methods**

490 **Bacterial material and growth conditions**

491 *Sinorhizobium medicae* strains *WSM419* (Ma and Ewing, 1986) and *WSM419* expressing *lacZ*  
492 provided by G. Endre (Horvátha et al., 2015) were used. The bacteria were cultivated in yeast  
493 extract broth (YEB) medium (Krall et al., 2002) supplemented with the appropriate antibiotics for  
494 24-48h at 30°C. The following antibiotics were added to the media: chloramphenicol at 12.5  
495  $\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$  for *WSM419*, chloramphenicol at 12.5  $\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$  and tetracycline at 5  $\mu\text{g.mL}^{-1}$  for  
496 *WSM419* expressing *lacZ*.

497 **Plant material**

498 *Medicago (Medicago truncatula)* ecotype R108 (Hoffmann et al., 1997) and the derived *Tnt1*  
499 transposon tagged-lines (provided by the Noble Research Institute) *nf583*, *nf2100* and *nf2210*  
500 isolated in a community screen (Tadege et al., 2008; Pislariu et al., 2012; Cheng et al., 2014) as  
501 well as *nf737 (symCRK)*, Berrabah et al., 2014b) were used in this study. In addition, the *MERE1*  
502 insertion mutant line *ms240 (dnf2-4)* corresponding to a somaclonal variant obtained by  
503 regeneration of a T-DNA-tagged *Medicago* line was used (Bourcy et al., 2013).

504 **Growth conditions and plant inoculation**

505 *Medicago* seeds were surface sterilized as previously described by Berrabah et al. (2015) and  
506 vernalized for at least 48h at 4°C in the dark on solid medium (Bacto-agar 1% w/v). Seeds were  
507 then germinated for 24h in the dark at 24°C before transfer to Buffered Nodulation Medium  
508 (BNM, Ehrhardt et al., 1992) solidified with 1.5% (w/v) bacto-agar for plants cultivated *in vitro*  
509 or in a mixture of sand/perlite (2/1, v/v). The plants are cultivated into a growth chamber  
510 conditions at 24°C and 60% humidity under a photoperiod of 16h light /8h dark (150  $\mu\text{E}$   
511 intensity).

512 Overnight cultures of the bacterial strains were pelleted and washed twice in sterile water. OD600  
513 nm was adjusted to 0.1 in water. Roots of eight seedlings per plate (*in vitro* culture) or five  
514 seedlings per pot (growth in sand/perlite) were inoculated with 1 mL or 10 mL of bacterial cell  
515 suspension, respectively.

516 **Plant treatments**

517 ***Wounding treatment***

518 Twenty-one days post-inoculation (dpi) nodules from WT plant inoculated with *S. medicae*  
519 *WSM419* were collected using forceps and scalpel or wounded with one wound on the nodule  
520 attached to the plant and incubated in 5 mL of liquid BNM. Immediately after harvesting, to  
521 enhance the mechanical stress with nodules integrity preservation, the collected nodules or  
522 nodulated plants were vacuum-infiltrated for 15 min and collected (control) or incubated for 1, 3,  
523 5, 24 and 72h (hours) under checking in multiwell plates filled with BNM.

524 **Nitrogenase activity**

525 Acetylene Reduction Assays (ARA) were conducted on individual plants with a modified  
526 protocol from Koch and Evans (1966). Plants were harvested after *in vitro* growth at 21-dpi or in  
527 a growth chamber at 24-dpi. Individual whole plants (*in vitro*) or nodulated roots (growth  
528 chamber) were incubated with 500  $\mu$ L of acetylene for 2h at room temperature in a 21 mL air-  
529 tight glass vials sealed with rubber septa. After incubation, 200  $\mu$ L of gas samples was removed  
530 from the vial and was injected into a gas chromatography system (7820A; Agilent Technology)  
531 to determine the ethylene production. For each test 14 plants were used for ARA analysis (See  
532 “Replicates and statistical tests” part).

533 **Histological analysis**

534 ***LacZ staining***

535 Nodules were embedded into agarose 6% (w/v, Bourcy et al., 2013) and 60  $\mu$ m sections were  
536 prepared using the vibratome VT1200S (Leica Biosystems GmbH, Germany). For LacZ activity  
537 detection, the slices were incubated for 15 min in Z' buffer (phosphate buffer pH 7 [100 mM],  
538 MgCl<sub>2</sub> [1 mM] and KCl [10 mM]). The slices were then incubated for 2h under darkness, at  
539 28°C in reaction buffer (Z' buffer, potassium ferricyanide [5 mM], potassium ferrocyanide [5  
540 mM], 45  $\mu$ m filtrated 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- $\beta$ -D-galactopyranoside [X-gal, 2,4 mM]). The  
541 samples were observed using AZ10 microscope (Nikon).

542 ***DAPI staining***

543 The bacteroids were purified from 17-dpi aged nodules cultivated *in vitro* and stained with DAPI  
544 as described in Mergaert et al. 2006. Free-living bacteria or bacteroids were incubated for 10 min  
545 in 50  $\mu$ g.mL<sup>-1</sup> of DAPI at 60°C and then observed using an epifluorescent microscope

546 (AxioImager Z2, Zeiss) with the following setup: 365 nm and 420 nm – 470 nm respectively for  
547 filter excitation and emission wavelengths, 47.89% for light source intensity. The contrast and the  
548 brightness are equally adjusted between the test and the control in each experiment.

#### 549 ***Live and dead staining***

550 The nodules were embedded in 6% (w/v) agarose and sliced into 70 µm sections using the  
551 vibratome VT1200S. Live and dead stainings were carried out as previously described by Haag *et*  
552 *al.* (2011). Nodule sections were incubated in a 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2) containing 30  
553 µM Propidium Iodide (PI) and 5 µM SYTO9 (Life Technology) for 20 min. Stained sections  
554 were then mounted between slide and slip cover with a few Tris-HCl buffer drops and observed  
555 using the confocal microscope LSM880 (Zeiss) with the following setup: 561 nm and 488 nm for  
556 laser wavelengths, 594 nm - 687 nm and 508 nm – 553 nm for detection wavelengths, 550 V and  
557 600 V for detector gains. The images were not subjected to erasure; the contrast and the  
558 brightness are equally adjusted between the test and the control in each experiment.

559 Quantification of PI and SYTO9 fluorescence in nodule sections was carried out using the  
560 Corrected Total Fluorescence Cell (CTCF) as described by Jakic *et al.*, (2017) in the ImageJ  
561 software (<https://imagej.net/Bio7>). The following equation was used for CTCF calculation:  
562  $CTCF = \text{Integrated Density} - (\text{Area of selected cell} \times \text{Mean fluorescence of background readings})$

#### 563 **RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and expression analysis**

564 RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and RT-qPCR were performed as previously described  
565 (Berrabah *et al.*, 2018a). After freezing in liquid nitrogen, the nodules collected from 16 plants (*in*  
566 *vitro* growth) or 5 plants (sand/perlite growth) per experiment were ground in a 2 mL tube with  
567 beads and the total RNA was extracted using a TRI Reagent® procedure recommended by the  
568 manufacturer (Molecular Research Center). DNA was removed from the samples using the  
569 DNase I kit (Invitrogen) as recommended by the manufacturer. The concentration and the RNA  
570 quality were checked using the NanoDrop ND-1000 (Thermo Scientific).

571 Reverse transcription was performed on 0.5 or 1 µg of total RNA (DNA free) using oligo dT and  
572 SuperScript II (Life Technology) according to the supplier in a final volume of 20 µL.

573 For each tested genes, the primers amplified 200 to 300 nucleotides of the cDNA sequence and  
574 the quantification was made using quantitative PCR on a LightCycler® 480 (Roche Life Science)  
575 with the LightCycler® FastStart DNA Master SYBR green I kit according to manufacturer's  
576 instructions (Roche). The temperatures of 94°C, 58 to 62 °C and 72°C were used respectively for  
577 the denaturation, annealing and extension steps. In all analyzed samples, expression levels were  
578 normalized using the housekeeping gene *MtACT* (*Actin 11*, Supplemental Table S6, Plet et al.,  
579 2011).

### 580 **Identification of *PATHOGENESIS-RELATED* genes and sequence analyses**

581 Identification of *PR* genes was realized using two genome databases: phytozome  
582 (<https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html>) and Medicago A17 r5.0 genome portal  
583 (<https://medicago.toulouse.inra.fr/MtrunA17r5.0-ANR/>). Key word search was done on the used  
584 databases with the term "Pathogenesis". The genes corresponding to *PRs* were then isolated. A  
585 complementary approach of identification was realized by blasting the coding DNA sequence  
586 (CDS) of identified *PR*. To confirm the classification of the *PRs*, functional domains were  
587 detected on full-length protein sequences using the NCBI prediction domain tool  
588 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Structure/cdd/wrpsb.cgi>). The identified *PR*, their corresponding  
589 groups and their domains used for the classification are reported in Supplemental Table S1.  
590 Sequence comparison between *PR10.2* and *PR10.3* was performed on the Coding Direct  
591 Sequence (CDS) using ClustalW method in the BioEdit software  
592 (<https://bioedit.software.informer.com>).

### 593 **Replicates, statistical tests and data representation**

594 ARA tests were analyzed using three independent experiments with 14 plants per experiment. For  
595 all microscopic analyses, at least two independent replicates with at least 10 samples were  
596 observed. Expression analyses were carried out on two to three independent experiments with  
597 two technical replicates, for each experiment 16 and 5 plants were analyzed for respectively *in*  
598 *vitro* and sand/perlite condition. In all RT-qPCR data, mean expression is represented with  
599 standard error. For RT-qPCR data a Mann-Whitney statistical test was performed and only  
600 experiments with a p-value <2.5% were considered as statistically significant. Student's t-tests  
601 were realized for ARA experiments, SYTO9 and PI fluorescence quantification and the  
602 evaluation of bacteroids death, and only variations with p-value <5% were considered as

603 significant. All graphics were generated using the Prism8 software  
604 (<https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/>), with the exception of graphics in Figures  
605 5E and 5F for which an Excel software was used ([https://www.microsoft.com/fr-fr/microsoft-  
606 365/excel](https://www.microsoft.com/fr-fr/microsoft-365/excel)).

607

#### 608 **Accession Numbers**

609 Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank/EMBL data libraries under accession  
610 numbers:

611 *Medtr4g107930: CP3; Medtr4g079770: CP4; Medtr5g022560: CP2; Medtr4g079470: CP5; TC106667:*  
612 *Actine; Medtr1g099310.1: PR8; Medtr4g120970.1/ Medtr6g033450.1: PR10; Medtr5g010640.1: PR5.3;*  
613 *Medtr8g096910.1: PR5.6; Medtr5g088770.1: PHYTOCYSTATIN32; Medtr2g026040.1:*  
614 *PHYTOCYSTATIN5; Medt4g0044681: DNF2; Medt3g0119041: SymCRK; Medt7g0239441: RSD.*

615



616 **Supplemental Data**

617 **Supplemental Figure S1.** PCR genotyping of the *Tnt1* insertion in *nf583* and *nf2210*.

618 **Supplemental Figure S2.** Expression patterns of *PR* candidate genes in wild-type nodules in  
619 response to nitrate and phosphinothricin.

620 **Supplemental Figure S3.** Validation by RT-qPCR analysis of 10 *PR* genes selected for defense  
621 monitoring in the *Medicago* nodules.

622 **Supplemental Figure S4.** Comparison of CDS sequences between *PR10.2* (*Medtr4g120970.1*)  
623 and *PR10.3* (*Medtr6g033450.1*).

624 **Supplemental Figure S5.** Expression analyses of *PRs* and *CPs* during the development of  
625 *Medicago*.

626 **Supplemental Figure S6.** Expression pattern of *PHYCYST5* in *Medicago* fix- nodules mutants in  
627 response to different environmental conditions.

628 **Supplemental Figure S7.** Expression pattern of senescence and defense markers in *Medicago*  
629 wild-type nodules in response to nitrate and phosphinothricin treatments.

630 **Supplemental Figure S8.** Live and dead staining of wild-type inoculated nodules separated from  
631 the roots.

632 **Supplemental Figure S9.** Live and dead staining of *Medicago* wild-type inoculated nodules  
633 attached to the roots.

634 **Supplemental Figure S10.** Expression patterns of *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* in *Medicago* wild-  
635 type nodules in response to wounding.

636 **Supplemental Figure S11.** Expression pattern of *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* in *Medicago* wild-  
637 type nodules in response to nitrate and phosphinothricin treatments.

638 **Supplemental Table S1.** List of *nf583*, *nf2210* and *nf2100* genes with FSTs.

639 **Supplemental Table S2.** List of the identified *PR* genes in the *M. truncatula* genome.

640 **Supplemental Table S3.** List of *PR* genes validated by RT-qPCR for the study.

641 **Supplemental Table S4.** Pearson correlation analysis of the *PRs*, *CPs* and *PRs* vs. *CPs*  
642 expression.

643 **Supplemental Table S5.** Co-expressed *PHYTOCYSTATIN* genes with the studied *PR*.

644 **Supplemental Table S6.** List of primers used in this study.

645

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655

656 **Figure legends**

657 **Figure 1. New *M. truncatula* fix- mutants producing early senescent nodules**

658 (A) Nodules of three *M. truncatula* *Tnt1* lines (*nf583*, *nf2100* and *nf2210*) show no nitrogenase  
659 activity *in vitro* at 21-dpi and (B) in sand/perlite at 24-dpi growing conditions. The results are  
660 represented by boxplots showing the mean nitrogenase activity of three independent experiments  
661 with 14 plants per experiment. The central line of the box shows the median, the box limits  
662 display the upper and the lower quartiles, the whiskers show the minimum and the maximum  
663 values. The letters show statistical groups between genotypes using Student tests (p-value < 5%).  
664 (C) Analysis of 17-dpi *in vitro* nodules infected with *S. medicae* WSM419 strain expressing *lacZ*  
665 reveals a senescent zone in the nodules of the three *fix*- mutants (*nf583*, *nf2100*, *nf2210*). The  
666 asterisk indicates the senescent zone and the scale bars represent 500  $\mu$ m. (D) Exploration of the  
667 bacterial differentiation with the DAPI staining of bacteroids extracted from 17-dpi *in vitro*  
668 nodules of WT or the isolated *fix*- mutants reveals an increase of the bacteroids size  
669 (corresponding to bacteroids differentiation) in *nf2100*, *nf2210*, *nf583* and WT nodules compared  
670 to free living bacteria. The white arrows show the bacteroids, the scale bars indicate 5  $\mu$ m. (E)  
671 The differentiation state is confirmed by the live and dead staining of 18-dpi *in vitro* nodules  
672 sections of the WT and the mutants. In this staining method, living rhizobia are stained in green  
673 with SYTO9 whereas dying cells are stained in red with Propidium Iodide (PI). Death of  
674 differentiated bacteroids is observed in *nf2100*, *nf2210* and *nf583*. The images were taken in the  
675 fixation zone (WT) or the putative ZIII (mutants). The scale bars indicate 10  $\mu$ m. The  
676 observations in D and E are realized on plants of three independent experiments (8 plants per  
677 experiments). (F) The identification of the FSTs reveals the presence of 52, 28 and 5 genes  
678 showing a *Tnt1* insertion in an ORF for *nf583*, *nf2210* and *nf2100* respectively. One gene is  
679 shared between *nf583* - *nf2210* (*Medtr6g086170*, blue) and one between *nf583*- *nf2100*  
680 (*Medtr4g005257*, red). (G) The expression analysis of the common genes in roots and nodules of  
681 *M. truncatula* shows that *Medtr6g086170* is induced, while *Medtr4g005257* is down regulated in  
682 the nodules compared to the roots. Expressions were determined from three independent  
683 experiments and the data are downloaded from Genevestigator. (H) *Medtr6g086170* encodes the  
684 sulfate transporter MtSULTR3.5 and displays *Tnt1* insertions in first exon (+36) and intron  
685 (+892) in *nf2210* and *nf583* mutant lines, respectively.

686 **Figure 2. Selected *PR* and *CP* display distinct pattern expressions**

687 Scatterplot analysis of *PR* or *CP* (intragroup comparison) and *PR* vs. *CP* (intergroup comparison)  
688 expression. The results display the average of the gene expressions in log2 of ratio between the  
689 test and the control obtained for 290 conditions of perturbations (response to abiotic and biotic  
690 stress, symbiosis, elicitors, defense hormones, seeds development, effect of the nutrients and the  
691 genotypes). The data are downloaded and analyzed using the Genevestigator database. The r  
692 numbers show the Pearson correlation values between the genes. *PRs* are represented in black.  
693 *CP2*, *CP3* and *CP4/5* are represented in blue, red and black.

694 **Figure 3. Senescence and immunity activation in *fix*- mutants**

695 (A) Analyses of 21-dpi nodules of plant cultivated *in vitro* reveal induction of all selected *PRs* in  
696 *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* compared to the WT. By contrast no significant variation of *CP* expressions  
697 is observed in the same condition. (B) In the opposite to *dnf2-4* and *symCRK*, *PR* expression is  
698 largely reduced in the nodules of the *nf583* and *nf2210* senescence mutants, while expression of  
699 used *CPs* increased in these mutants compared to the WT. (C) Analysis of 24-dpi nodules from  
700 *fix*- plants cultivated in sand/perlite revealed the stimulation of *PRs* and reduction of *CPs*  
701 expression in *dnf2-4*, *symCRK*. (D) In the same way *nf583* show up-regulation of all *PRs* and  
702 *nf2210* display significant stimulation of *PR8*, *PR5.3*, *PR5.6*. *CPs* expression is reduced in the  
703 senescence mutants, *nf583* and *nf2210*, which show stimulation of *CP2/CP3* and *CP4/CP5*  
704 respectively. (E) Analysis of 21-dpi *in vitro* and sand/perlite nodules induced by *S. medicae*  
705 *WSM419 lacZ* reveals that *nf583* and *nf2210* produce senescent nodules without necrosis *in vitro*.  
706 By contrast in sand/perlite a slight necrosis is observed and the arrows show necrotic cells. The  
707 scale bars represent 500  $\mu$ m. (F) Expression analysis of the *PHYTOCYSTATIN32*  
708 (*MtPHYTOCYSTATIN32*) *CP* inhibitor in *fix*- mutant nodules compared to the WT cultivated  
709 respectively *in vitro* (21-dpi) or in sand/perlite (24-dpi) reveal induction of *PHYTOCYSTATIN32*  
710 in *dnf2-4* and *symCRK* *in vitro*, whereas cultivation of plants in sand/perlite shows up-regulation  
711 of *PHYTOCYSTATIN32* in the necrotic mutants as well as in *nf583* and *nf2210*. Values represent  
712 the mean of induction folds in the tested mutants compared to the WT, dashed line represent the  
713 value of gene expression in the WT. The RT-qPCR analyses in A-D and F were made on three  
714 biological repetitions with two technical replicates. For each experiment, 16 and 5 plants were  
715 analyzed for *in vitro* and sand/perlite conditions, respectively. The actin housekeeping gene was

716 used for expression normalization. Error bars indicate SE and the asterisks represent significant  
717 variations compared to the WT using Mann-Whitney statistical test (p-value < 2.5%).

718 **Figure 4. *nf2100* produces senescent nodules with higher immunity stimulation than the**  
719 **other senescence mutants**

720 (A) Expression analysis of *PRs* and *CPs* in 21-dpi nodules of WT or *nf2100* cultivated *in vitro*  
721 show up-regulation of these genes in *nf2100*. (B) Cultivation of *nf2100* or the WT on sand/perlite  
722 led to increase of *PR* expression and reduction of *CP* expression in 24-dpi nodules of *nf2100*  
723 compared to the WT. Values in A and B represent the mean of induction folds in the tested  
724 mutants compared to the WT. The RT-qPCR analyses in A and B were made on three biological  
725 repetitions with two technical replicates. For each experiment 16 and 5 plants were analyzed for  
726 respectively *in vitro* and sand/perlite conditions. The actin housekeeping gene is used for the  
727 expression normalization. Error bars indicate SE and the asterisks represent significant variations  
728 (p-value < 2.5%) compared to the WT using Mann-Whitney statistical test. (C) Analysis of 21-  
729 dpi *in vitro* nodules induced by *S. medicae* WSM419 *lacZ* reveals that *nf2100* produce nodules  
730 with few necrotic cells. (D) By contrast sand/perlite cultivation leads to the apparition of a large  
731 necrotic areas. The arrow shows necrotic cells and the scale bars in C and D represent 500  $\mu$ m

732 **Figure 5. Wounding triggers defense and senescence activation in fix+ nodules associated**  
733 **with the death of the differentiated bacteroids**

734 (A) In the first wounding treatment the WT nodules at 21-dpi inoculated with *S. medicae*  
735 WSM419, nodules were separated from the roots. Expression analysis of (B) *PR* and (C) *CP*  
736 genes after incubation of 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 and 24h (hours) revealed that *PRs* and *CPs* are  
737 respectively induced after 1 and 3h. (D) Observation of bacteroid survival using live (green  
738 (SYTO9)) and dead (red (Propidium Iodide)) staining in wounded 21-dpi nodules after 0 (Ctr), 1,  
739 3, 5 and 24h of incubations reveals a death of the differentiated bacteroids 1h after incubation  
740 which increases with time. Top panel displays the nodule sections (scale bars are 200  $\mu$ m) and  
741 bottom panel shows the bacteroids in the fixation zone III (scale bars are 20  $\mu$ m). Asterisks  
742 indicate the nitrogen-fixation zone and the arrows show dead bacteroids. (E) The Corrected Total  
743 Fluorescence Cell (CTFC) of SYTO9 and Propidium Iodide (PI) staining calculated from nodule  
744 section of wounded nodules reveals more PI than SYTO9 staining in 1, 3, 5 and 24h compared to  
745 the reference (Ctr). The CTFC were calculated for each time of incubation on five to seven

746 sections of independent nodules and error bars show the SE. Asterisks show significant variation  
747 between SYTO9 and PI fluorescence and the letters show statistical groups between incubations  
748 times using Student tests (p-value < 5%). (F) The percentage of nodule infected cells with High  
749 Density of Dead Bacteroids (HDDB) or High Density of Live Bacteroids (HDLB) is calculated in  
750 the ZIII of sections from wounded nodules at 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 and 24h. Augmentation of HDDB  
751 cell proportion is observed as early as 1h and increases during the time of incubation. The  
752 proportions of HDDB and HDLB were calculated on the nodules section used in the CTFC  
753 determination. The analysis was performed on five to seven sections collected from nodules of  
754 independent plants. The letters show statistical groups between incubations times using Student  
755 tests (p-value < 5%). (G) The second wounding treatment consists of cutting WT nodules  
756 attached to the roots at 21-dpi with *S. medicae* WSM419. (H) Observation of bacteroid survival  
757 using live (green) and dead (red) staining in wounded 21-dpi nodules after 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5, 24 and  
758 72h of incubation reveals that bacteroid death starts at 5 h after incubation and is located around  
759 the wounded zones. The arrows show the wounded zones and the scale bars represent 250  $\mu$ m.  
760 Expression analysis of the *PRs* (I) and the *CPs* (J) shows up-regulation of most of these genes  
761 after 24 h of incubation. The expression analysis in B, C, I, and J corresponds to the mean  
762 expression of three independent experiments (8 plants per experiment) with two to three technical  
763 replicates. The actin housekeeping gene was used for expression normalization. Error bars  
764 indicate SE and asterisks represent significant variation (p-value < 2.5%) compared to the WT  
765 using the Man-Whitney statistical test.

## 766 **Figure 6. Defense and senescence activation in Medicago nodules**

767 After rhizobia internalization, failure in defense repression can lead to death of undifferentiated  
768 bacteroids in *dnf2* and *symCRK* producing non-fixing nitrogen (fix-) nodules showing necrosis  
769 and low stimulation of senescence. By contrast the senescence mutants show degradation of  
770 differentiated bacteroids in a fix- senescent nodule associated with senescence marker expression  
771 and low defense responses in *nf583* and *nf2210*, two potential mutated alleles of *MtSULTR3.5*.  
772 Interestingly *nf2100* displays more defense stimulation than the other senescence mutants. The  
773 environment (as sand/perlite substrate) can stimulate immunity and reduce senescence  
774 stimulation in the senescence mutants. In the sand/perlite conditions, *nf2100* show *PR* stimulation  
775 similar to that observed in *dnf2* and *symCRK* with accumulation of necrotic tissues. Finally, in  
776 nitrogen-fixing (fix+) nodules, stress conditions (wounding, phosphinothricin) or induction of

777 senescence with addition of nitrate to the growth medium, lead to a co-activation of defense and  
778 senescence and suppression of nitrogen-fixing bacteroids.

779

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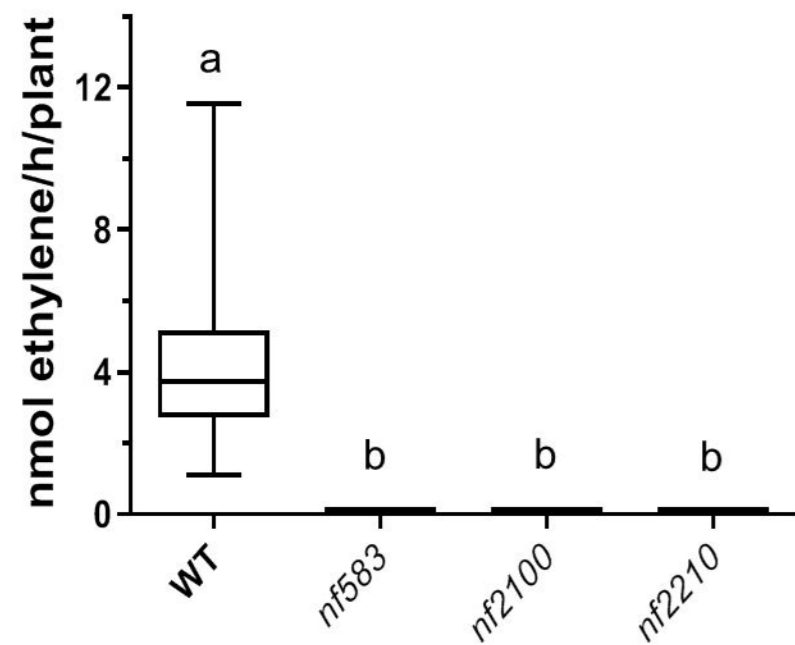
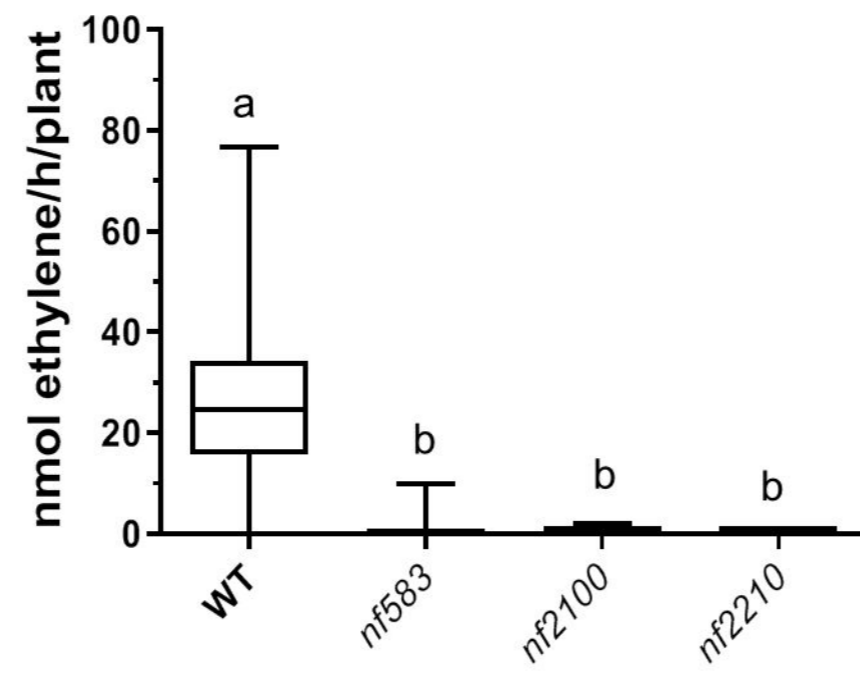
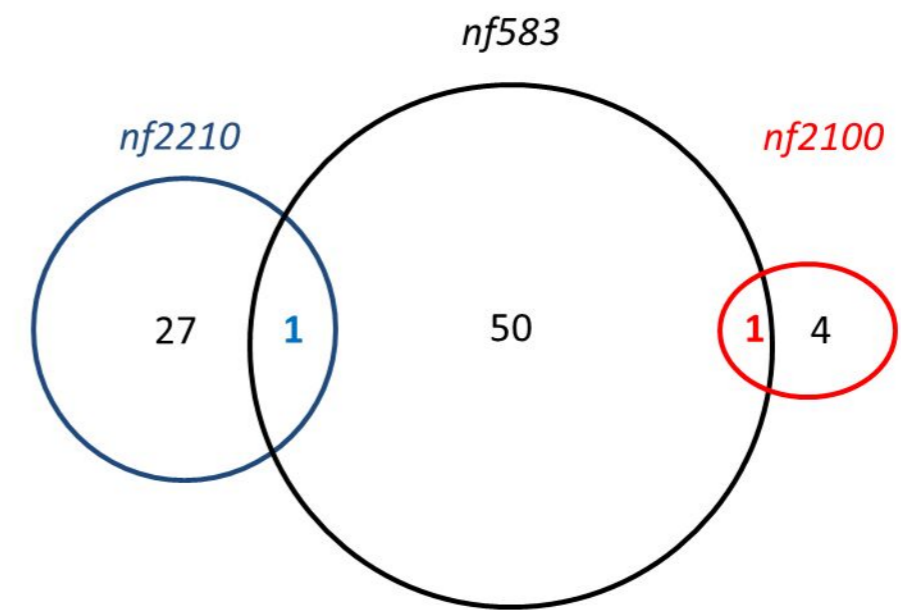
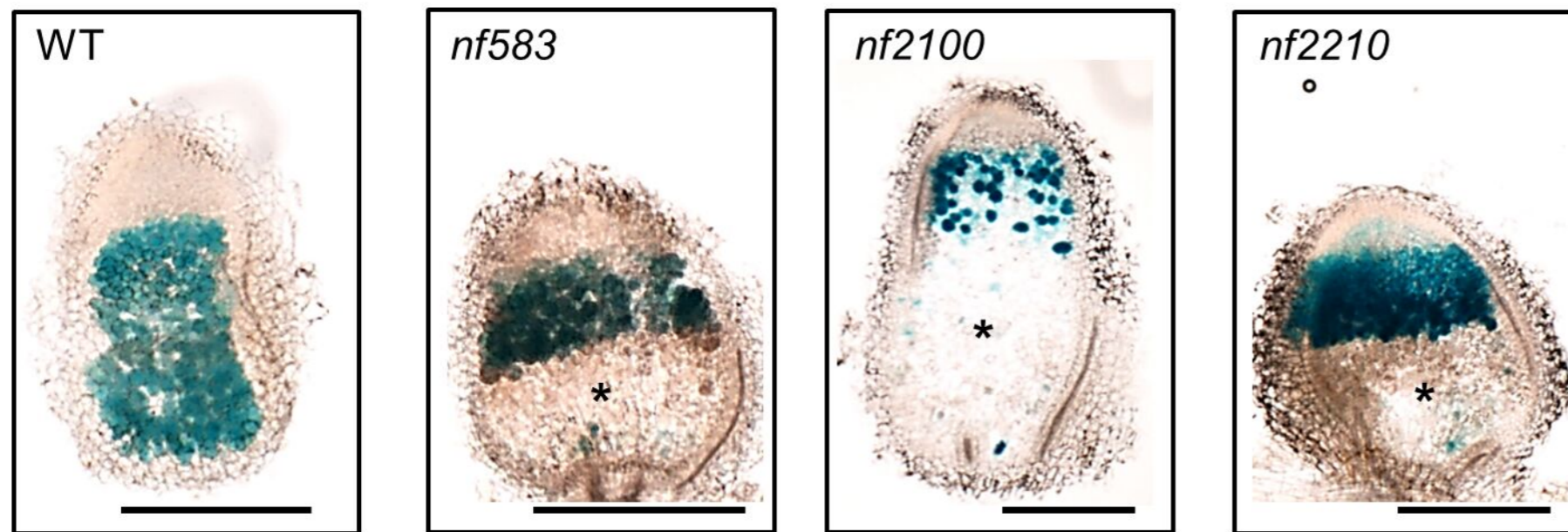
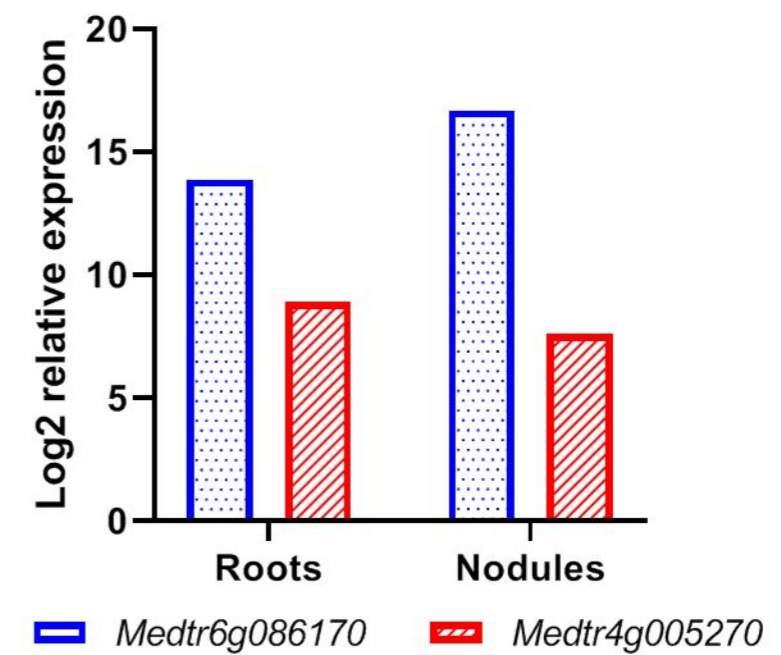
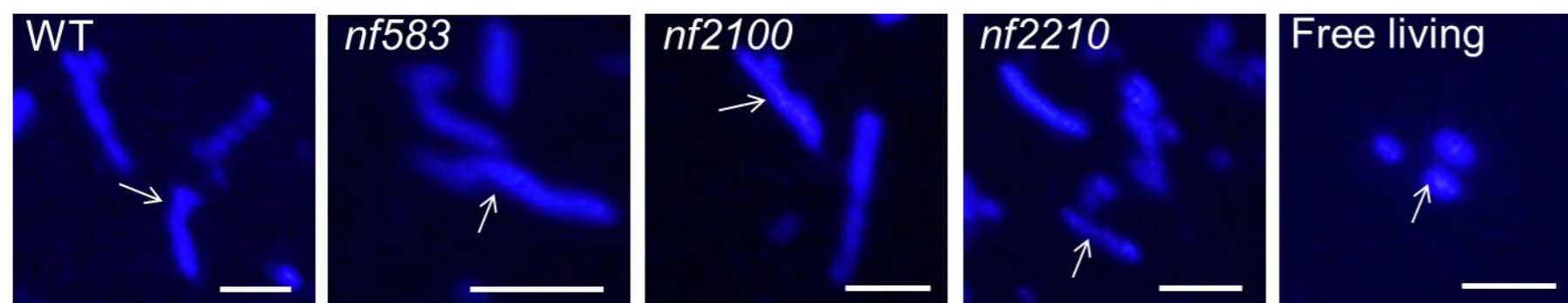
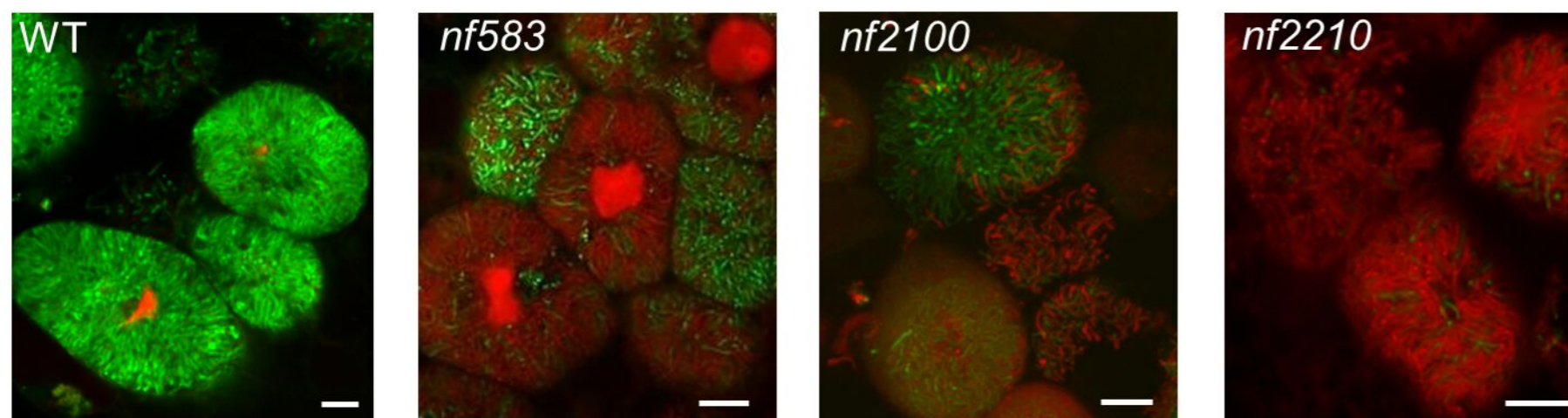
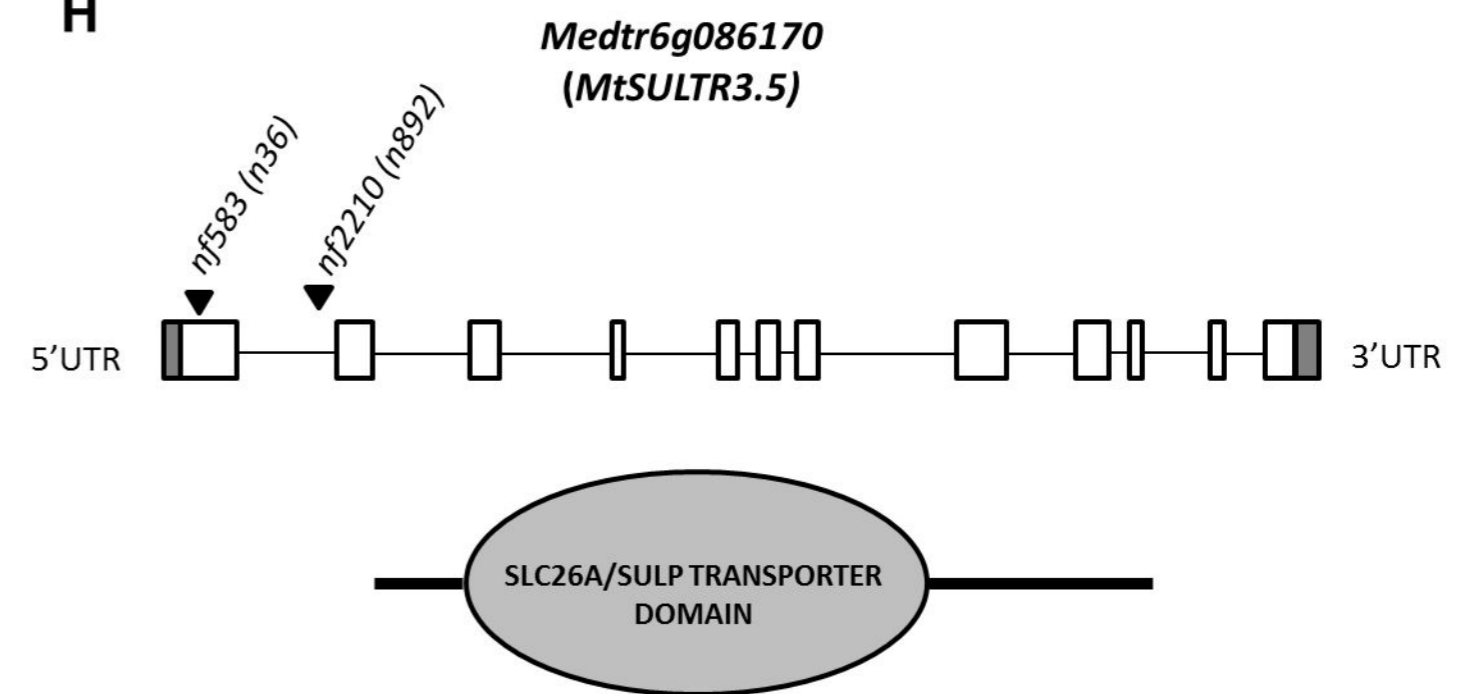
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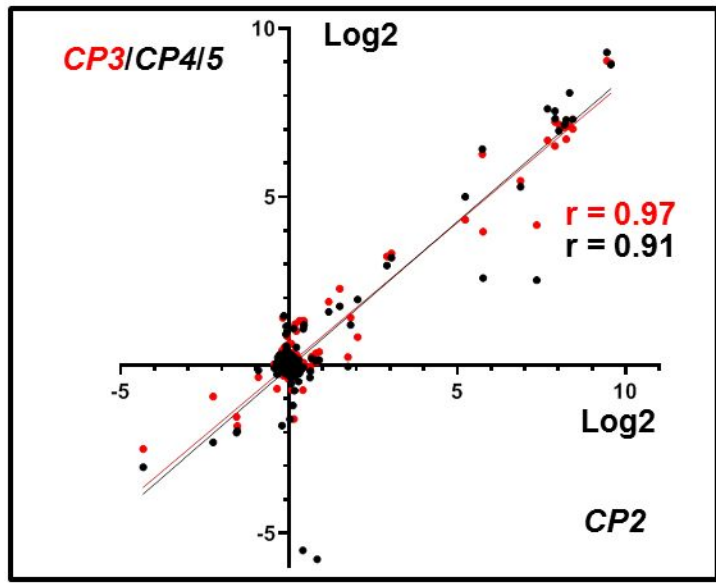
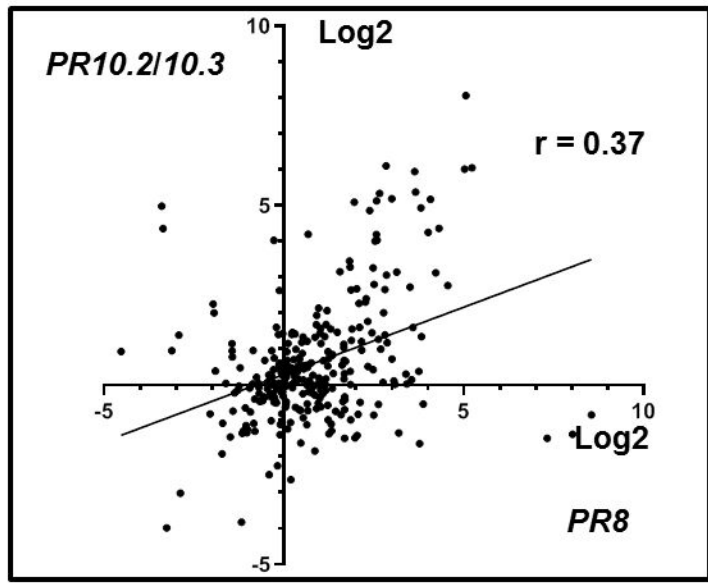
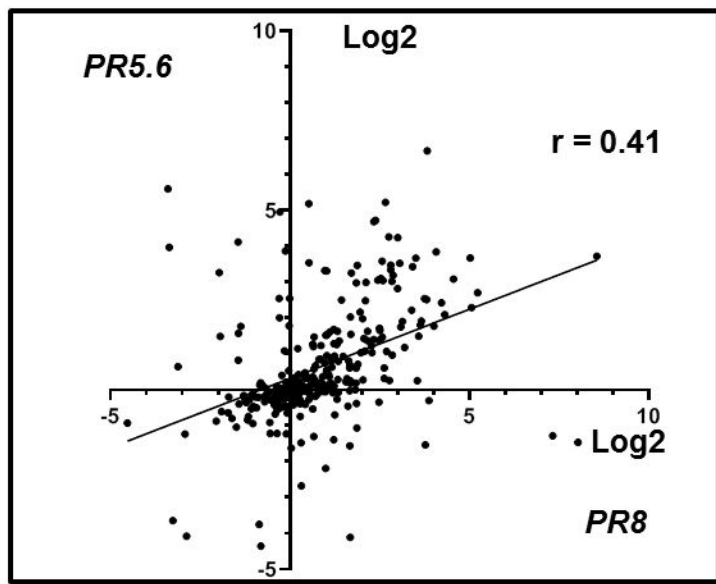
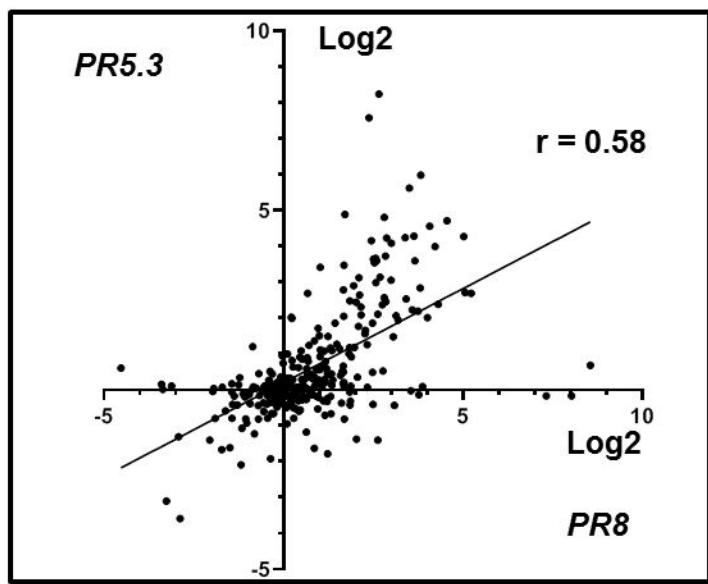
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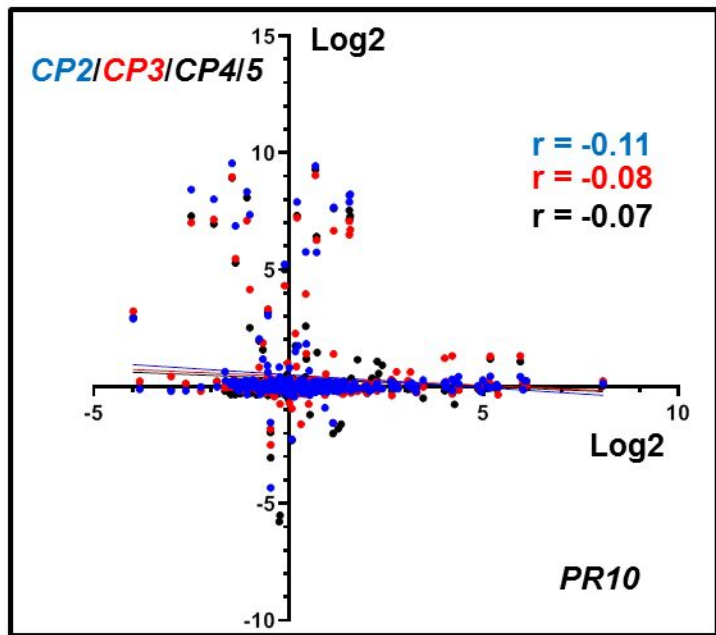
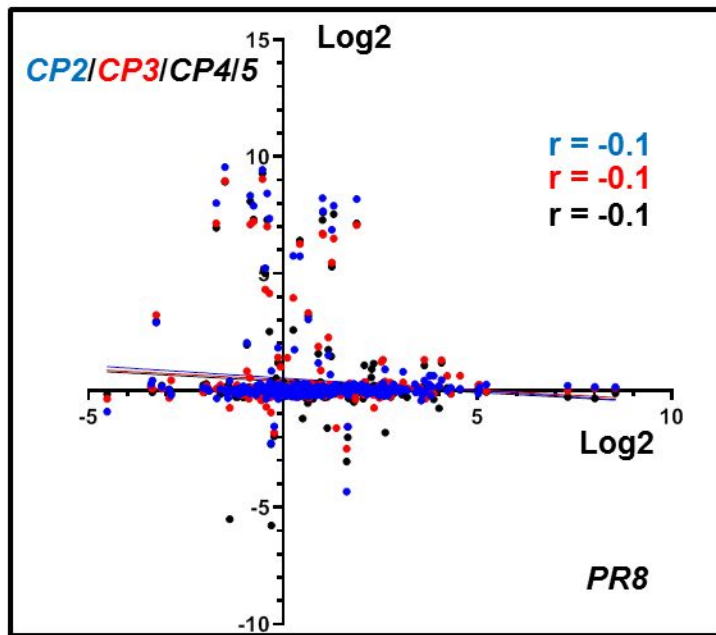
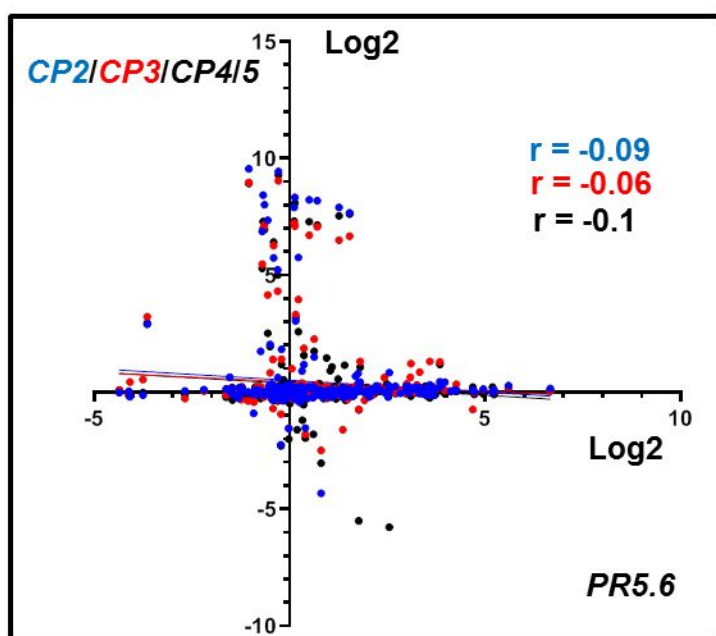
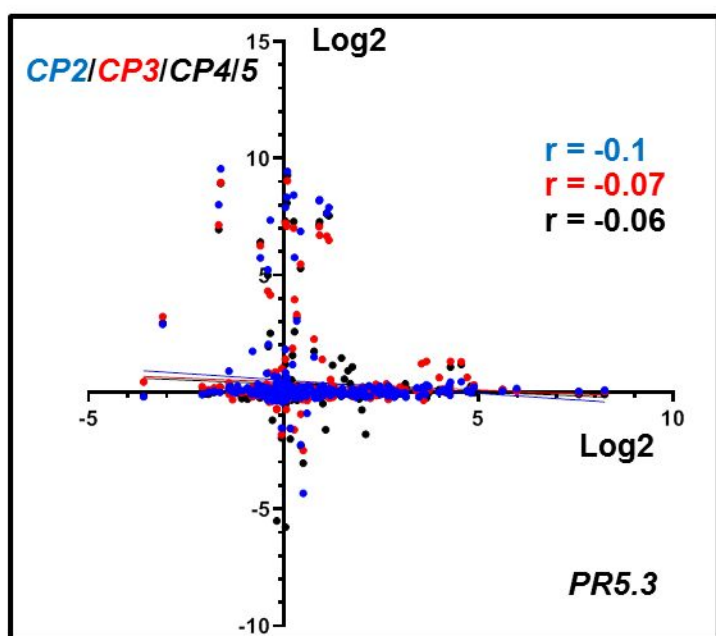


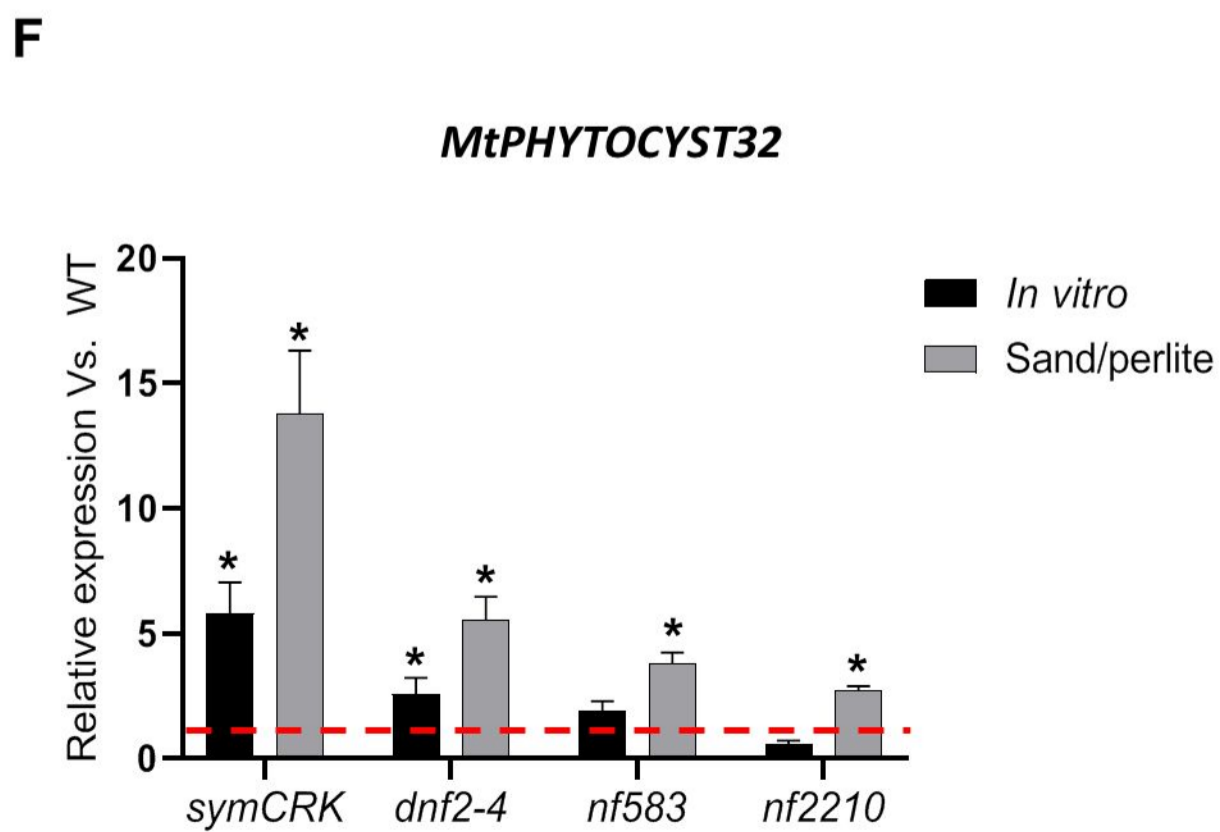
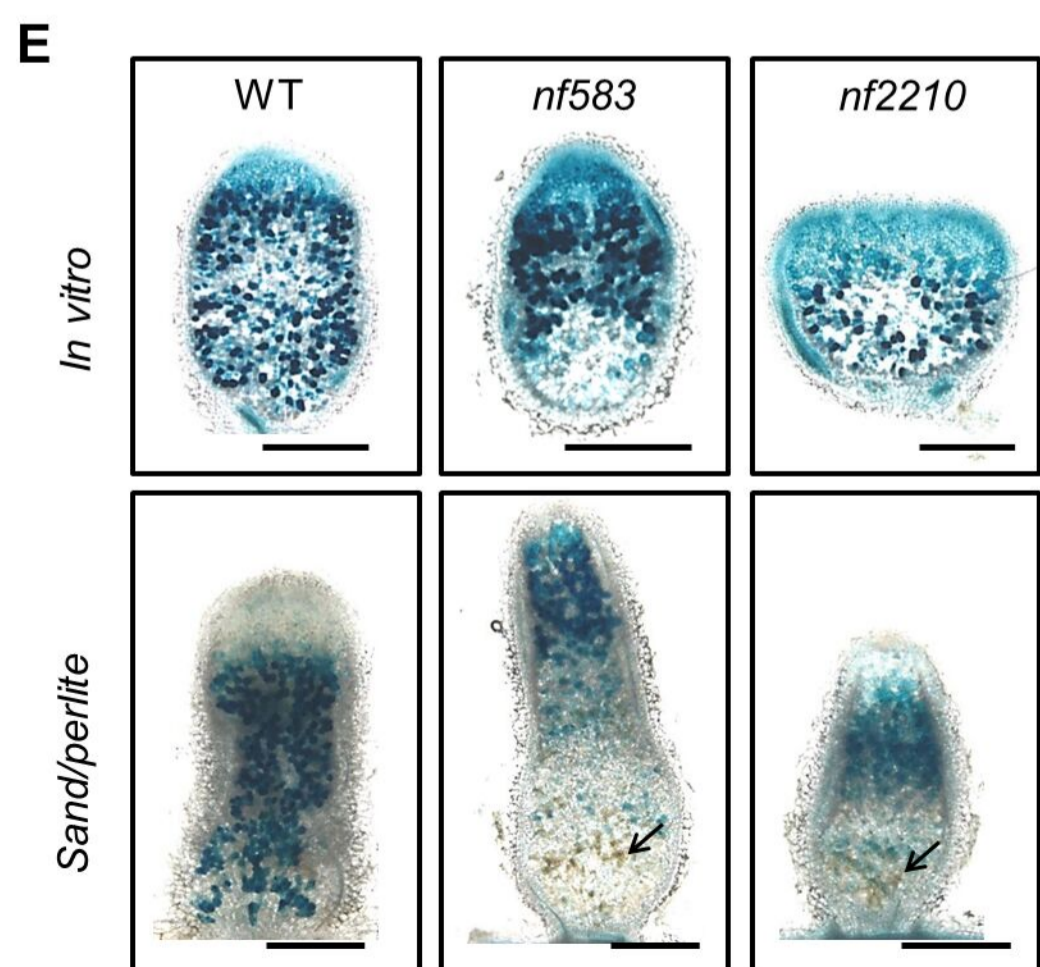
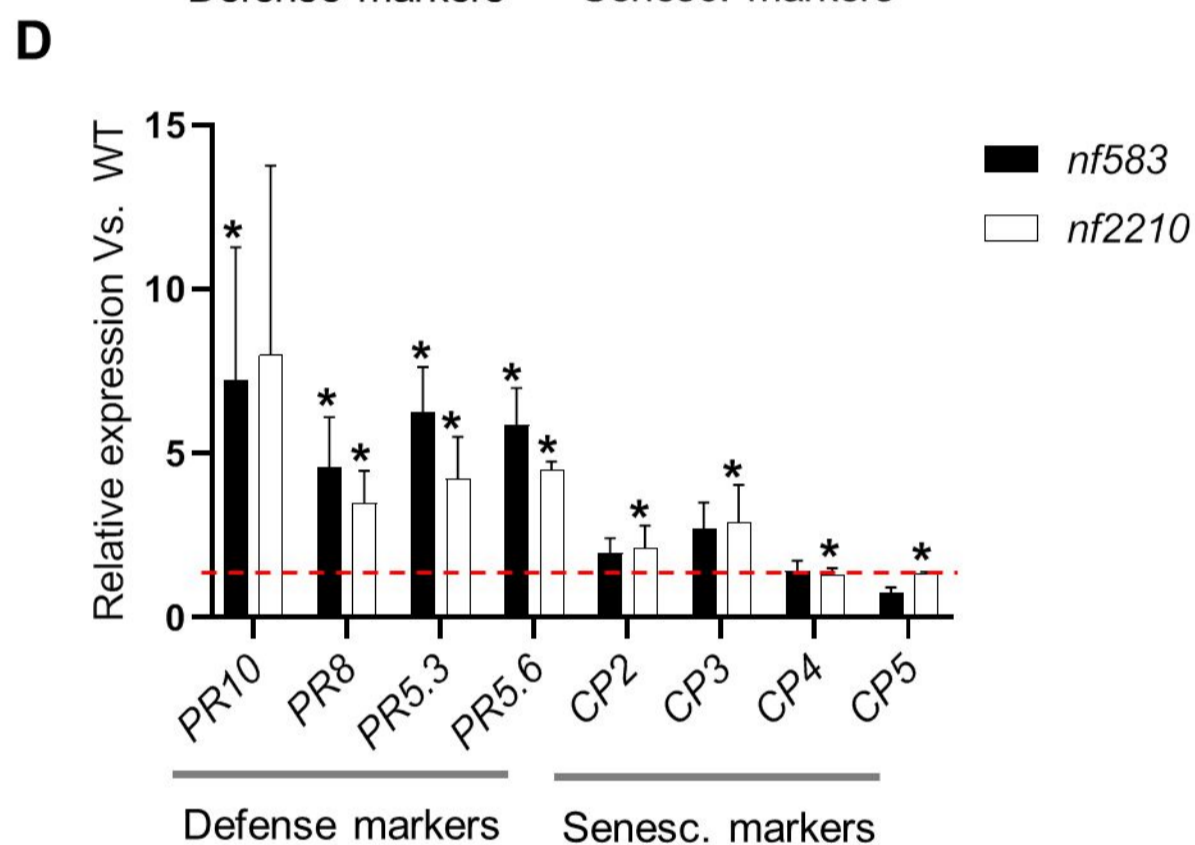
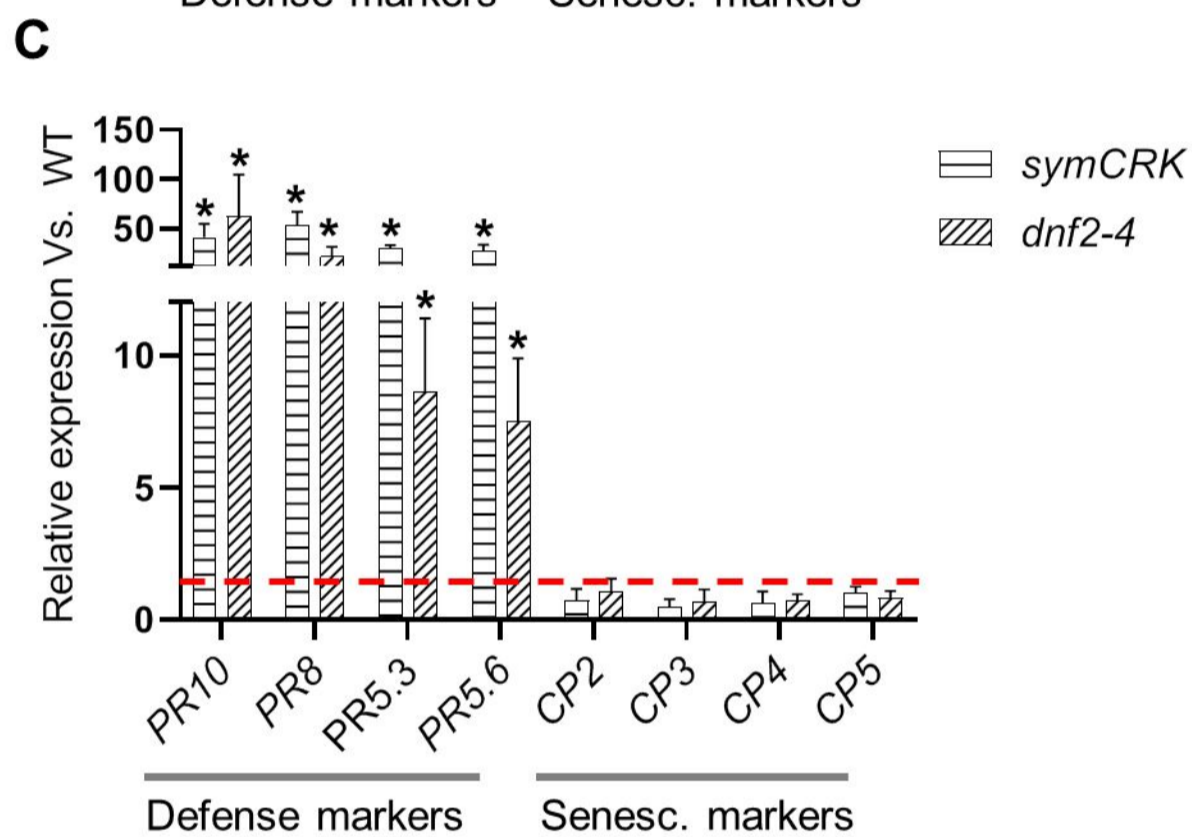
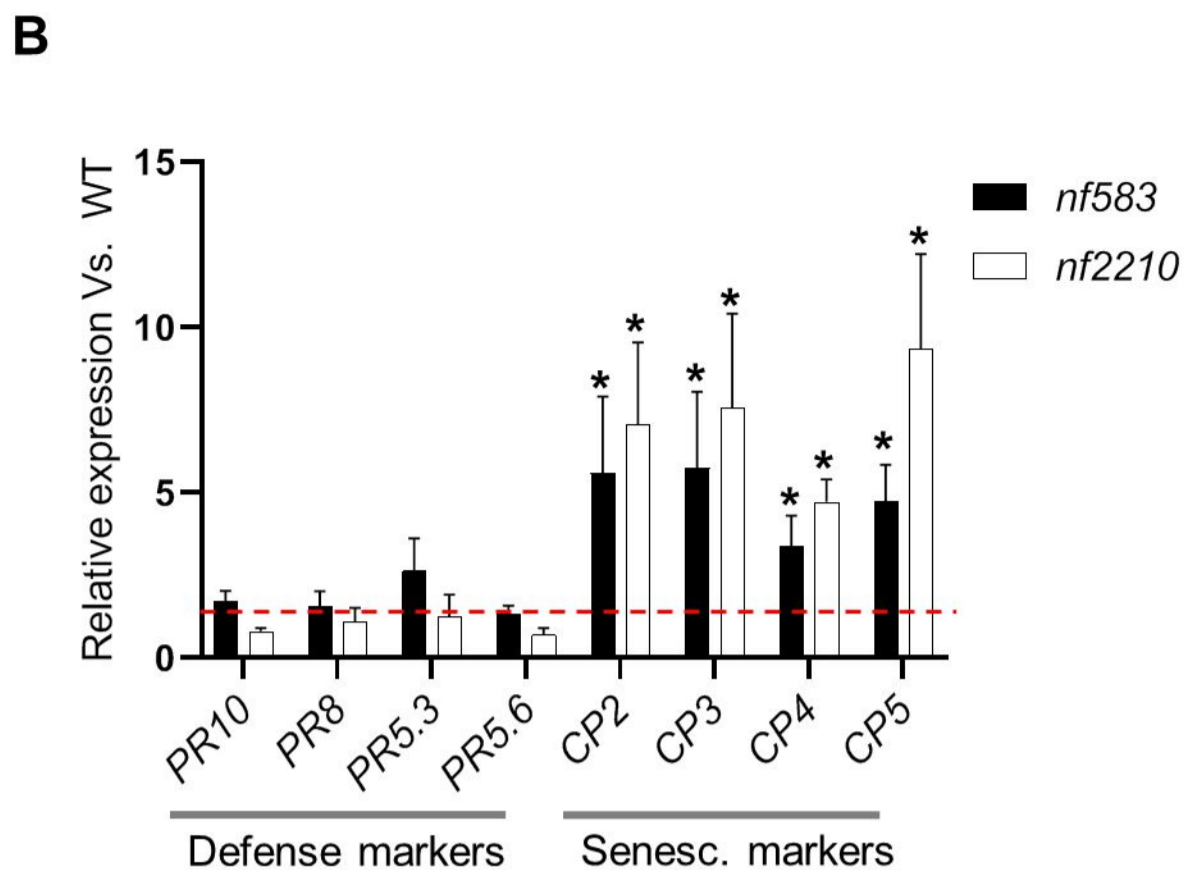
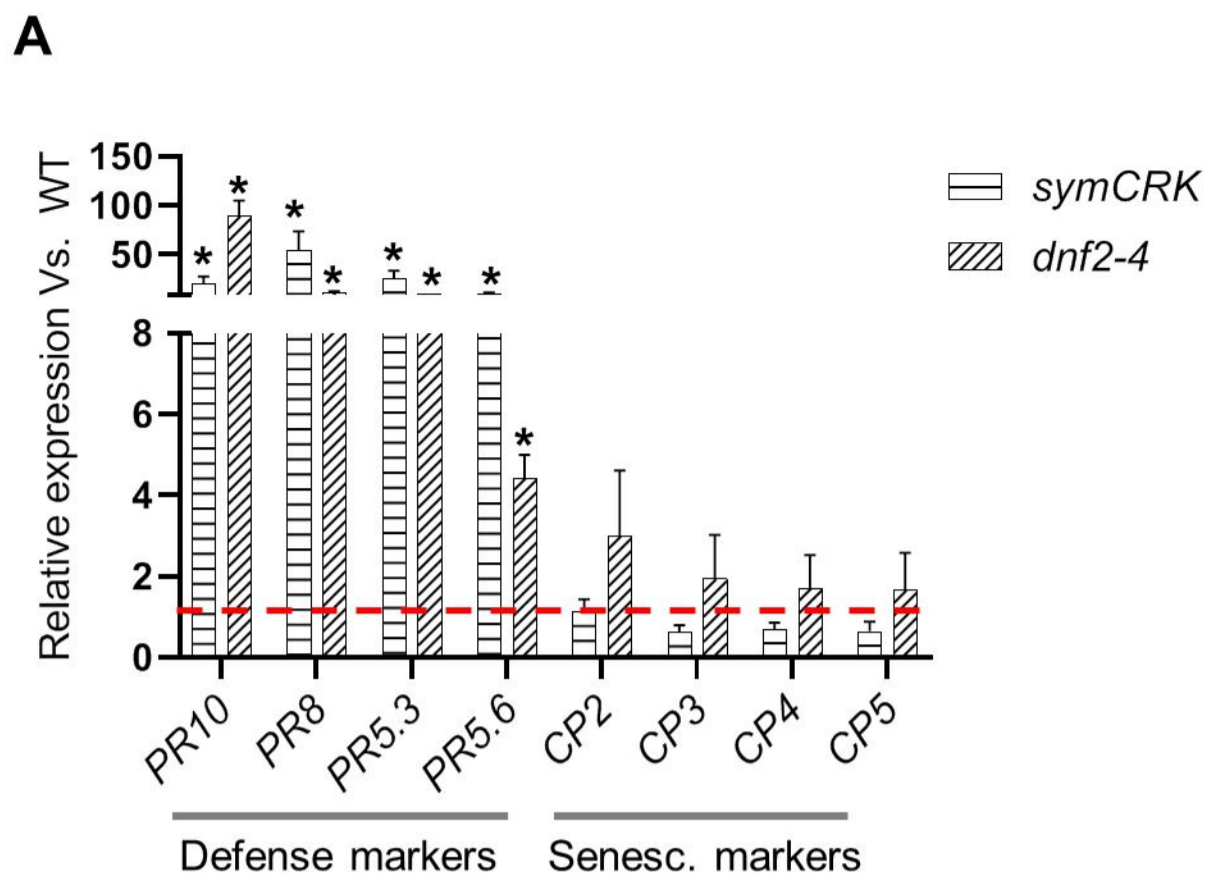
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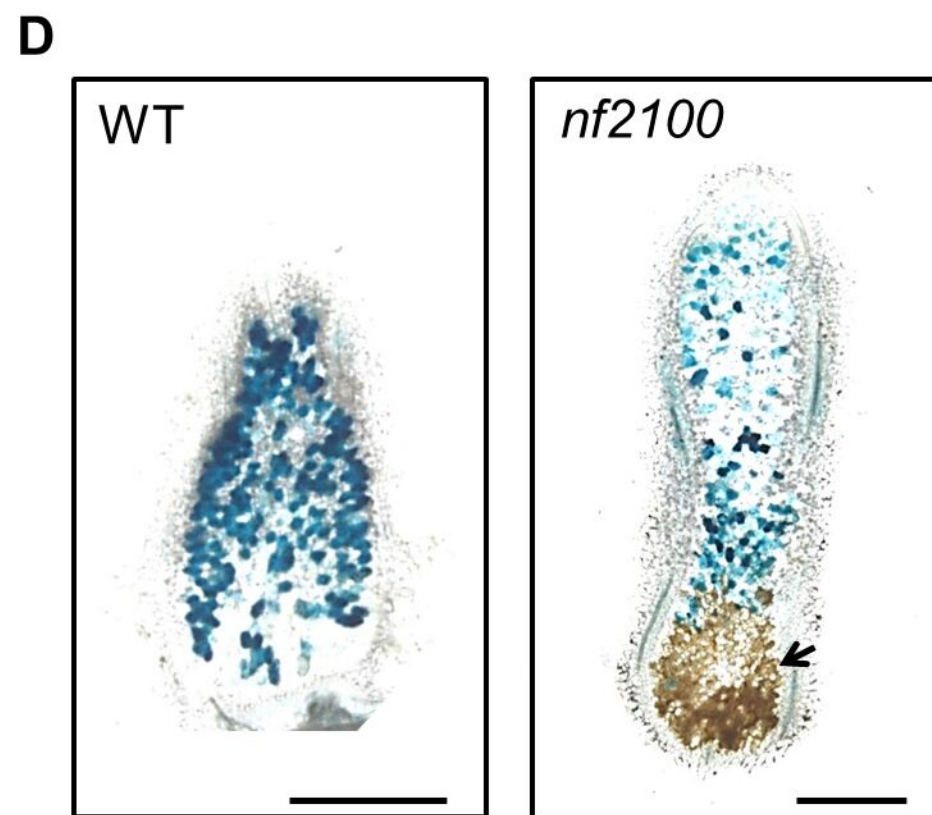
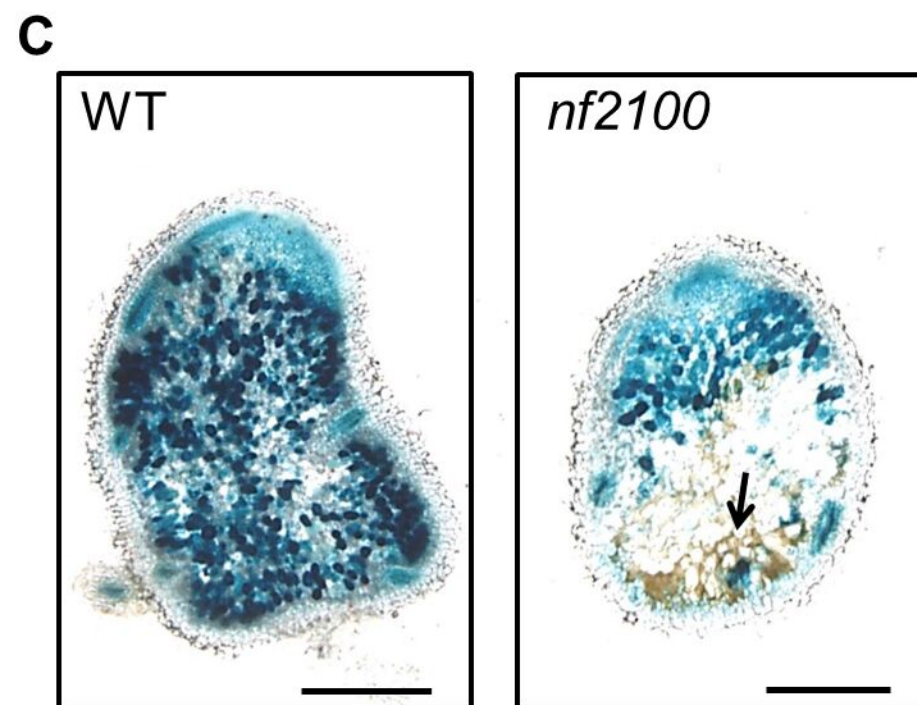
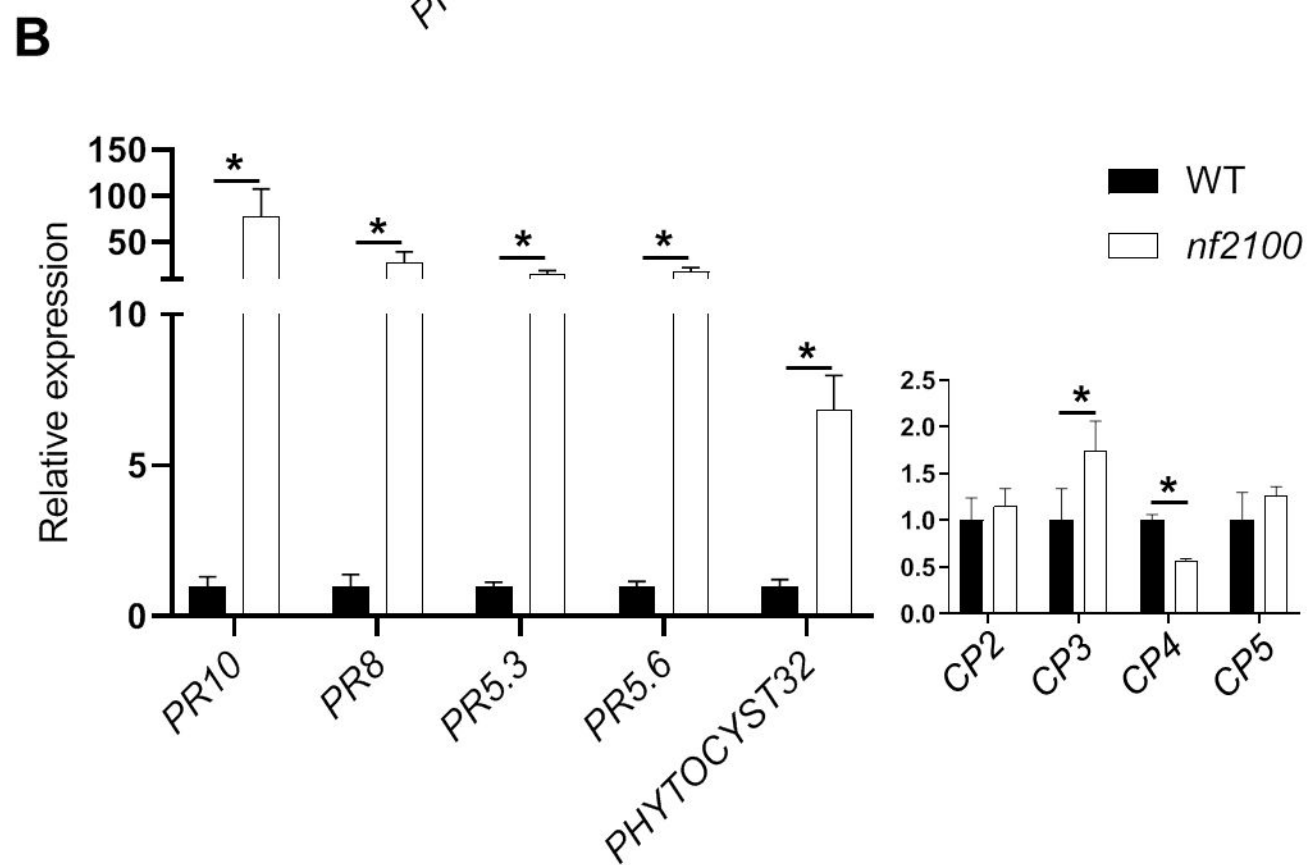
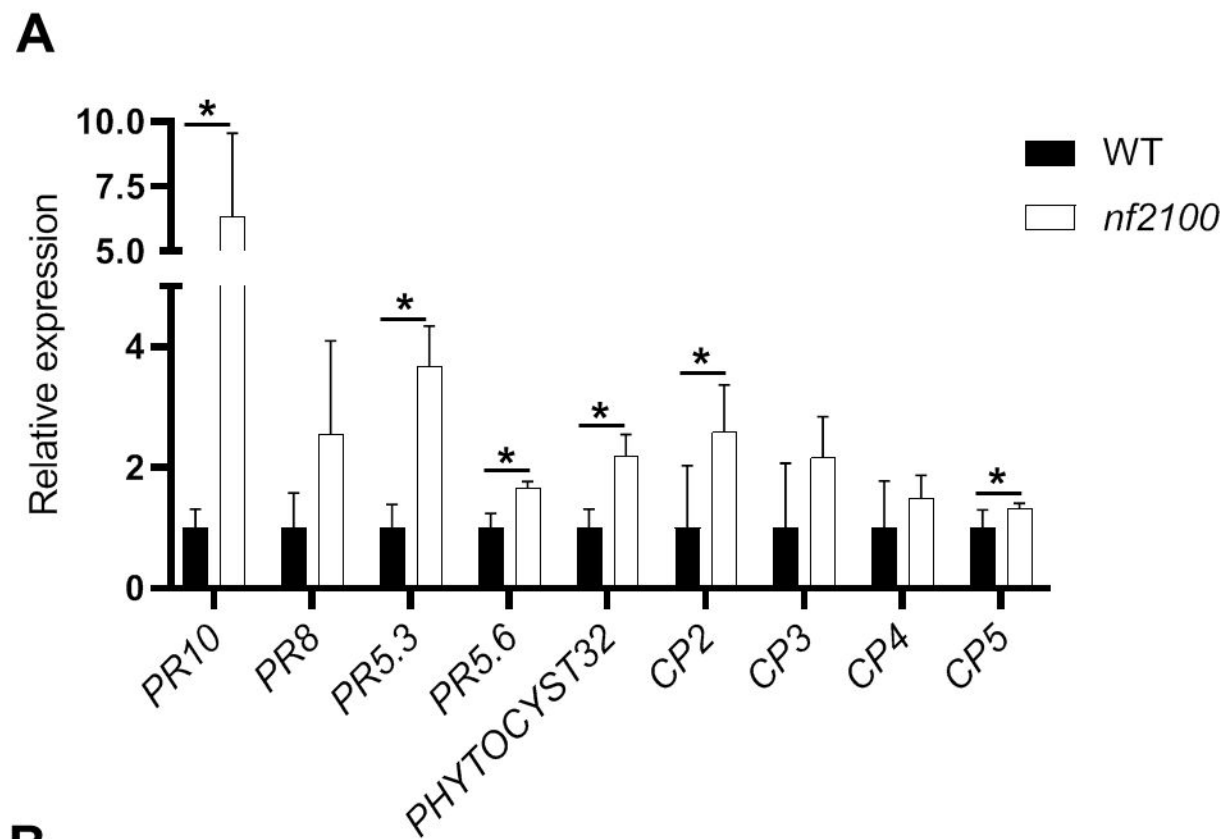
Intragroup comparison

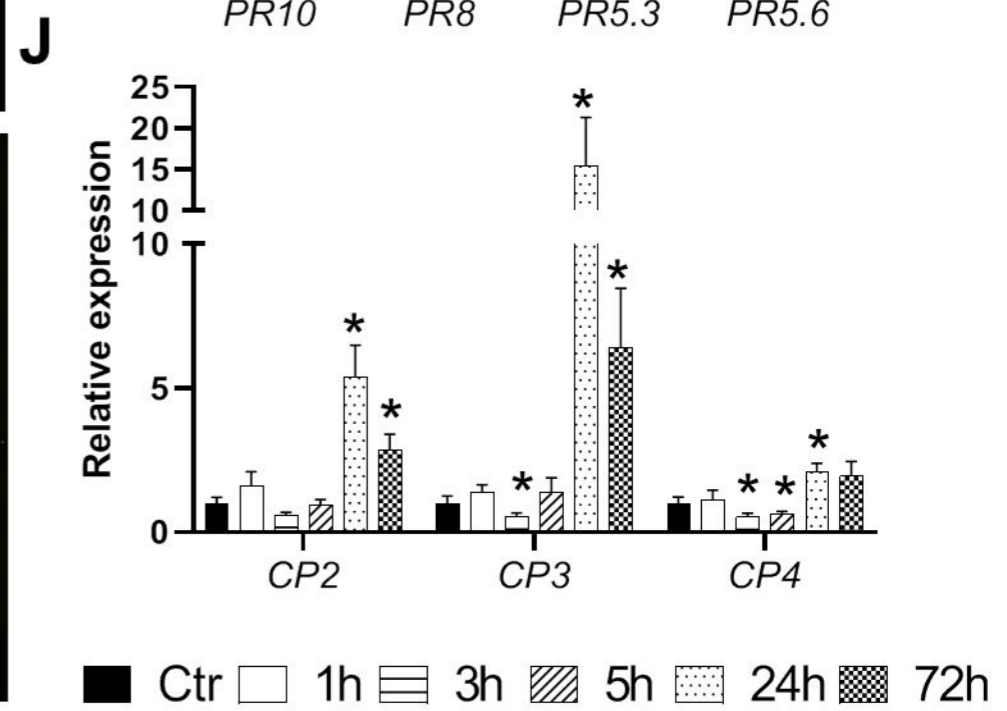
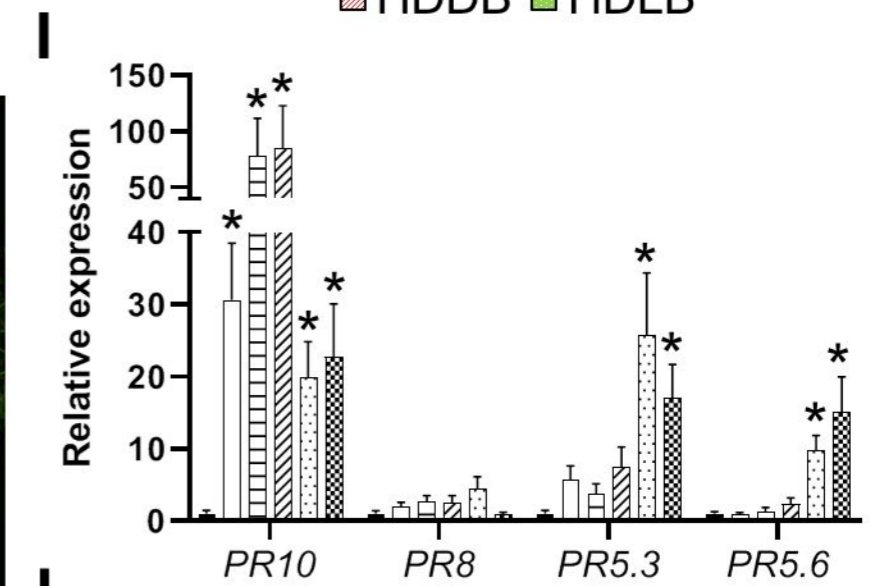
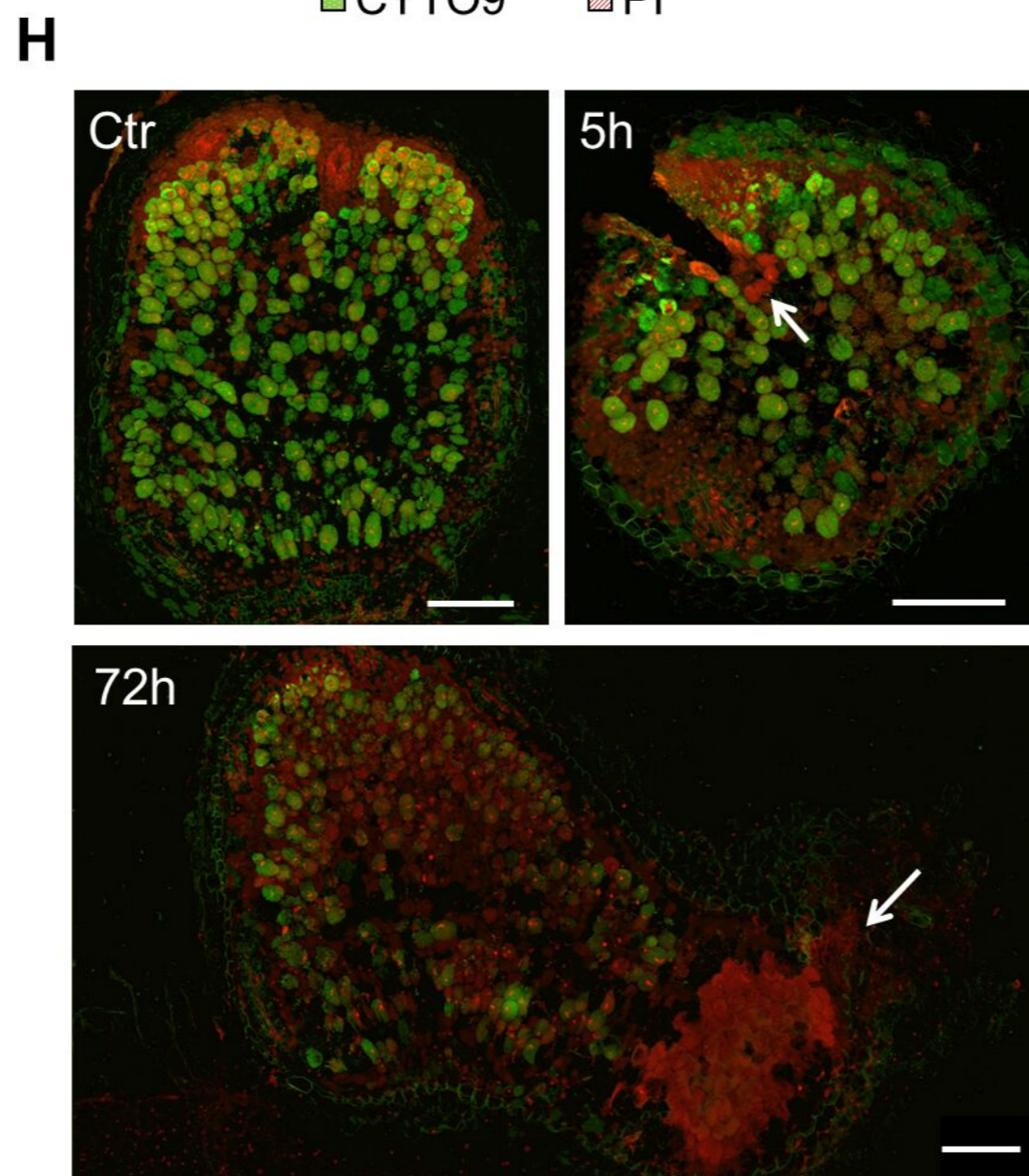
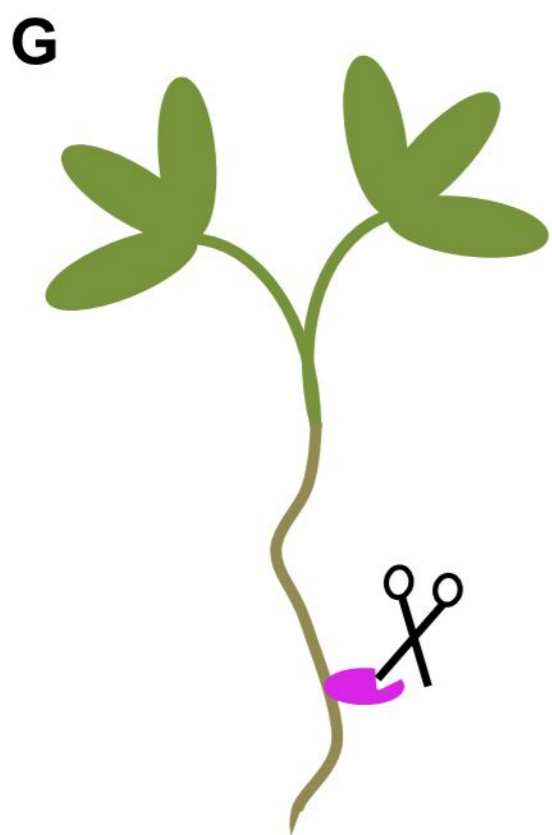
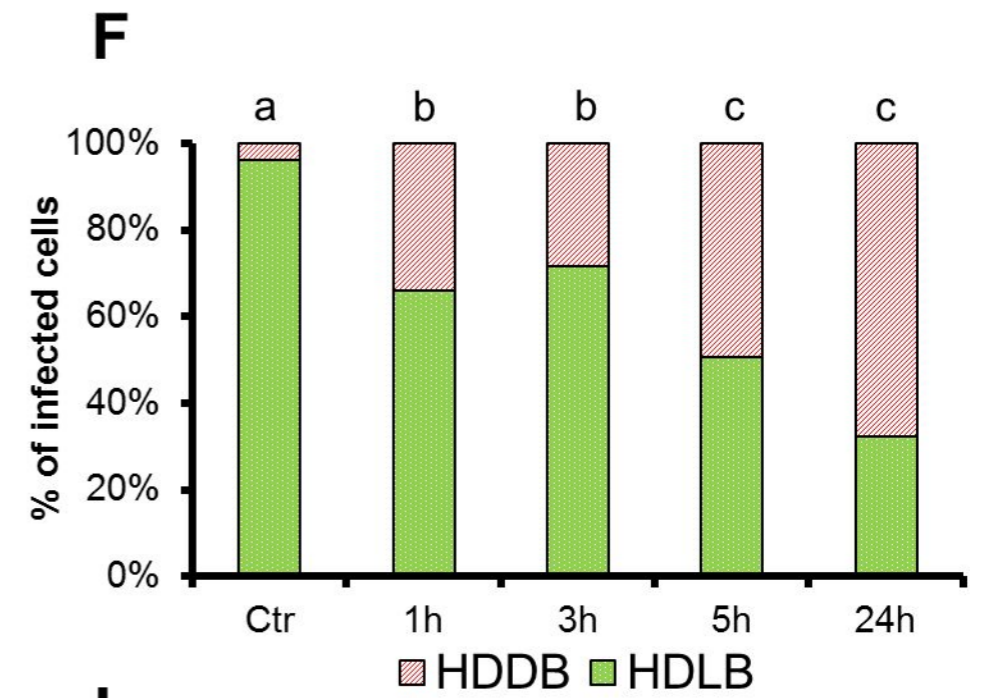
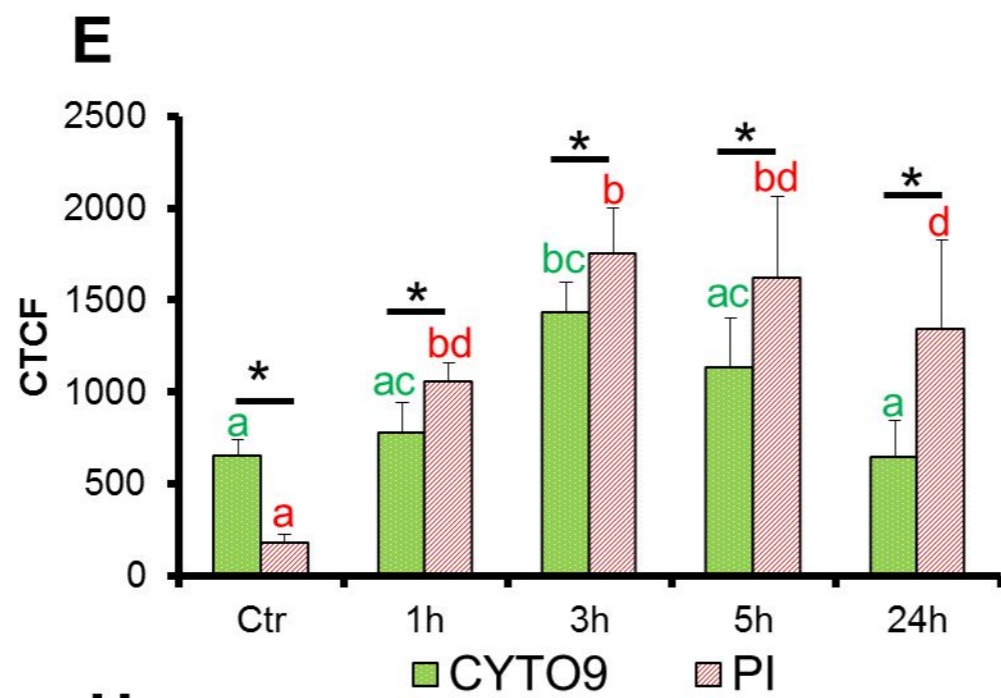
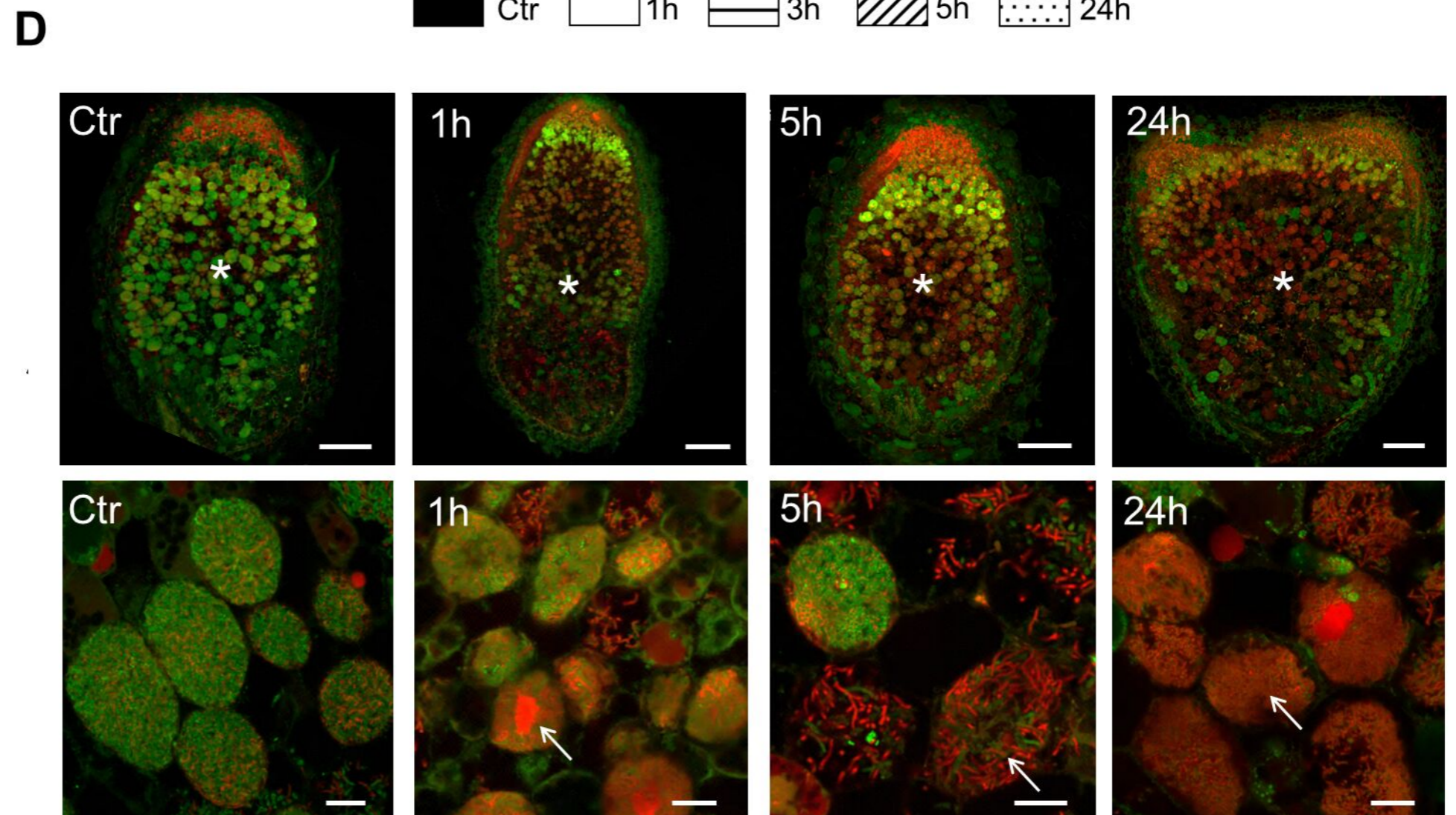
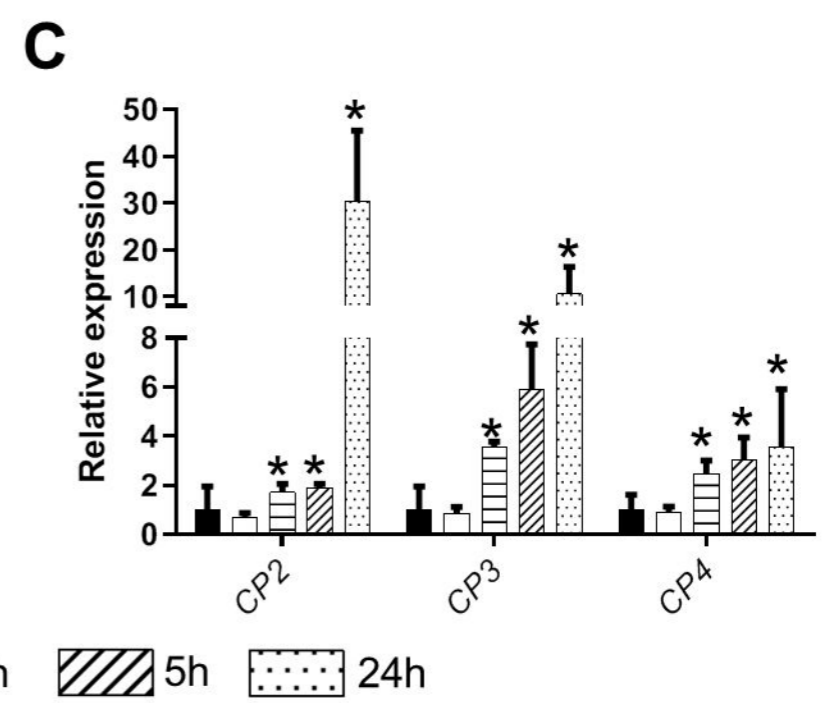
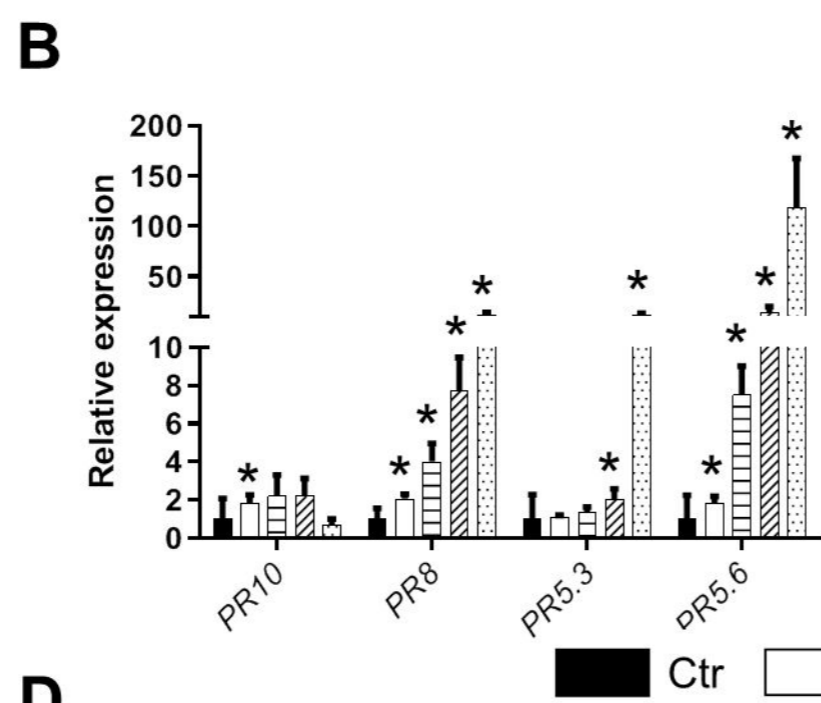
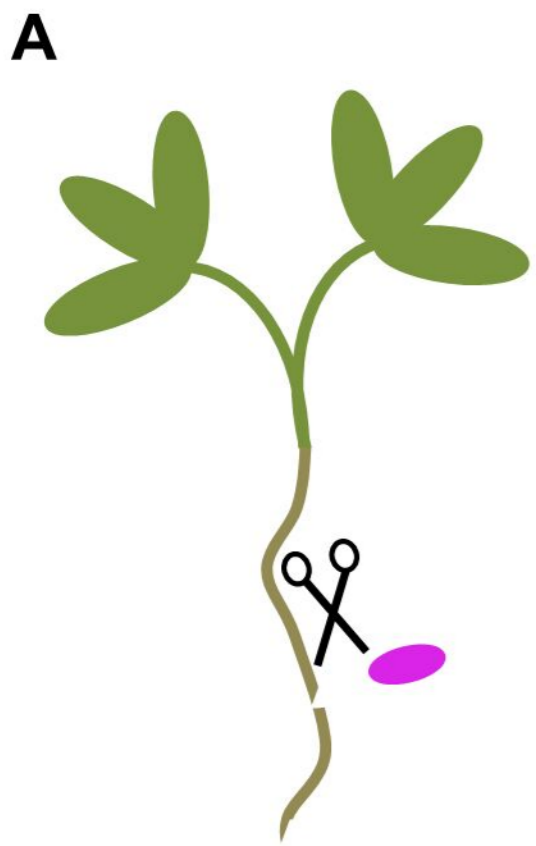


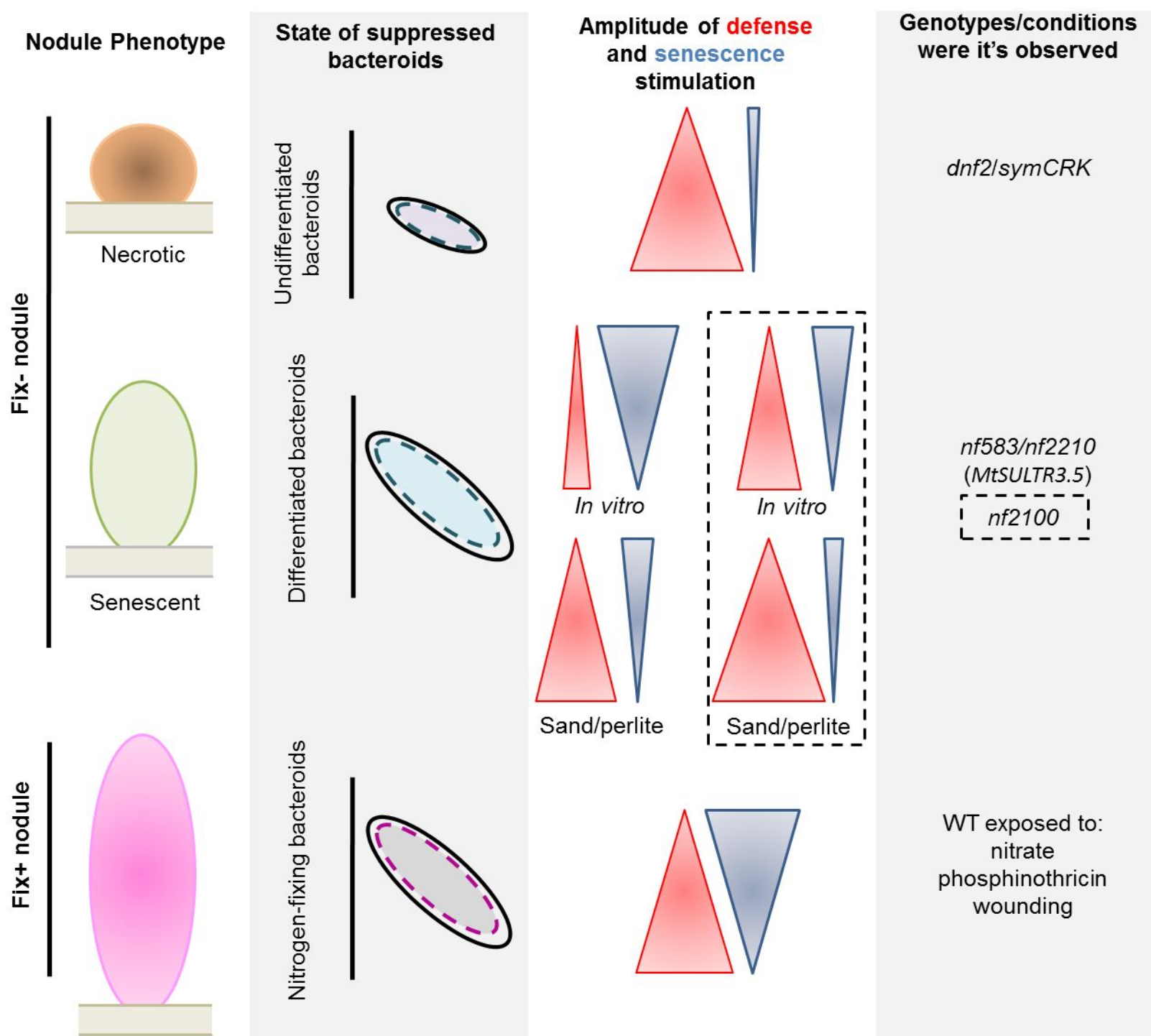
Intergroup comparison











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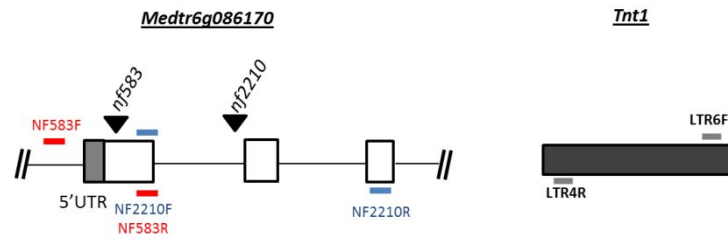
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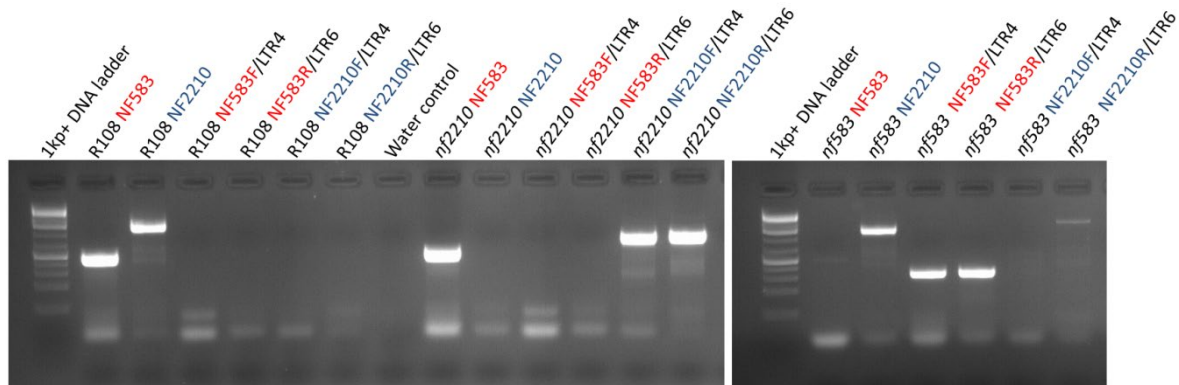
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A

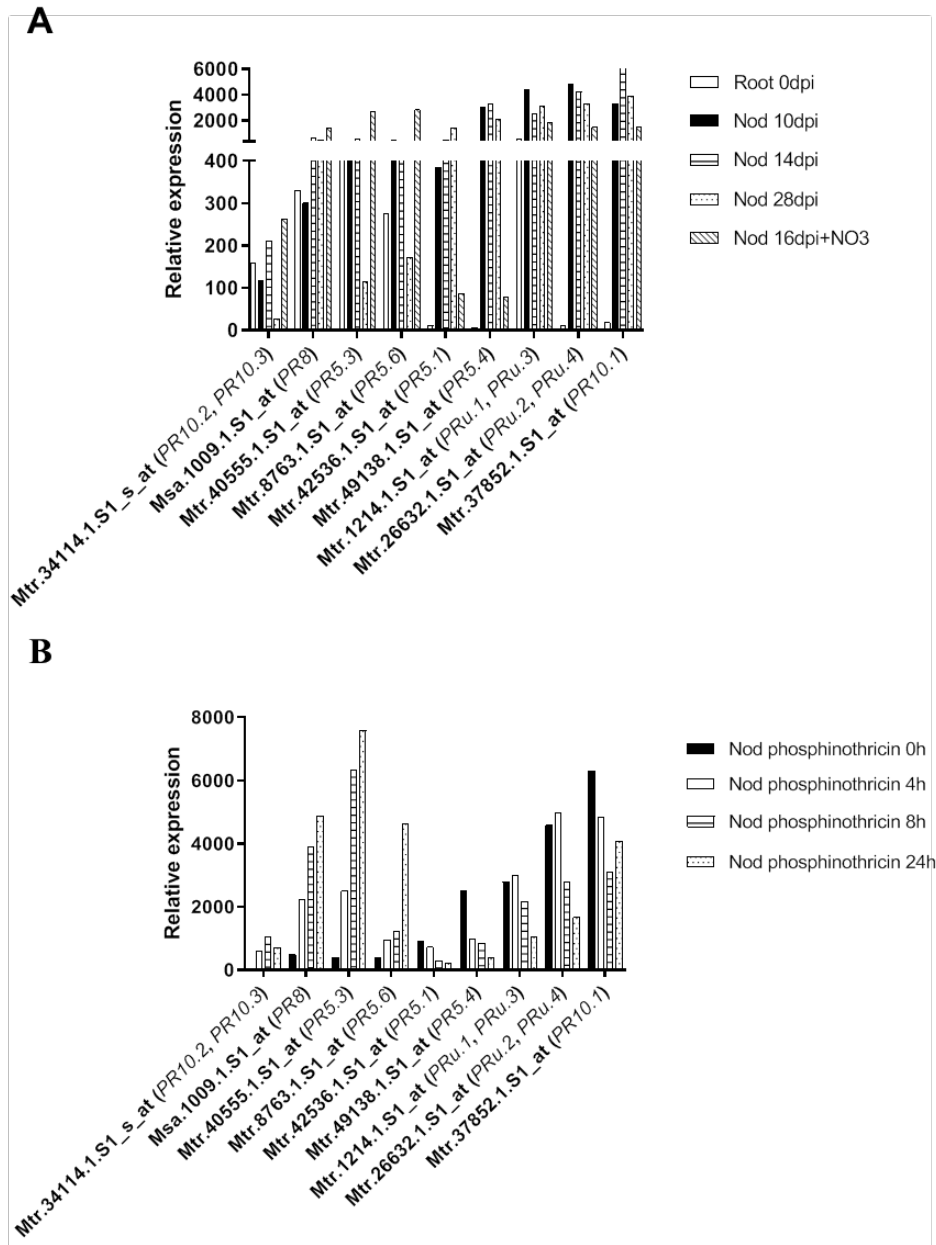


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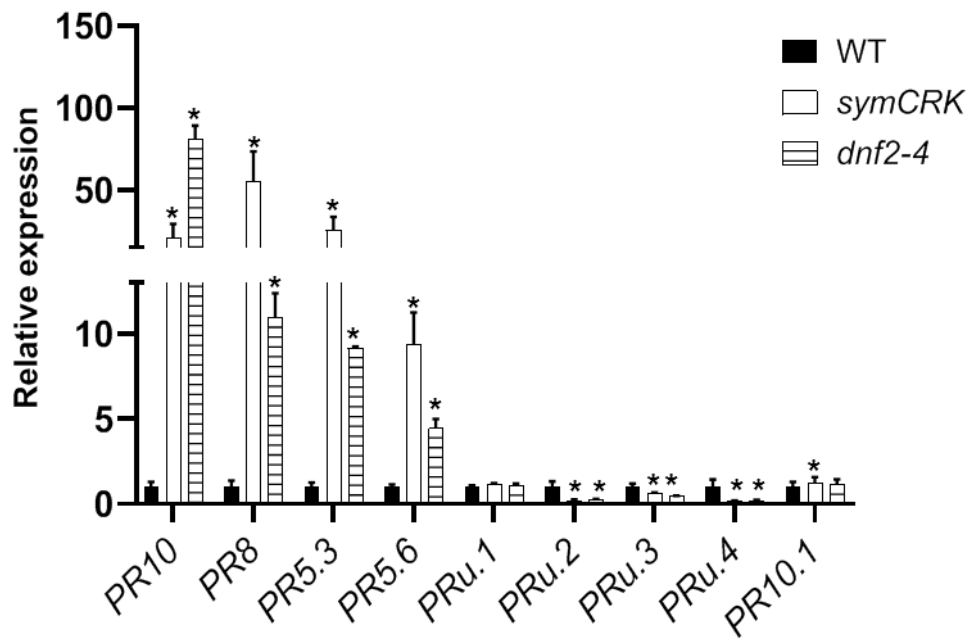
### Supplemental Figure S1. PCR genotyping of the *Tnt1* insertion in *nf583* and *nf2210*

(A) Location of the primers used for the genotyping of *Medtr6g086170* and *Tnt1* sequences.  
(B) PCR products generated in WT (R108), *nf583*, *nf2210* using different combination of primers. The primers colored in blue and red are respectively used for the genotyping of the *Tnt1* insertion in *nf2210* and *nf583* background. The primers colored in grey recognize the *Tnt1* sequence.



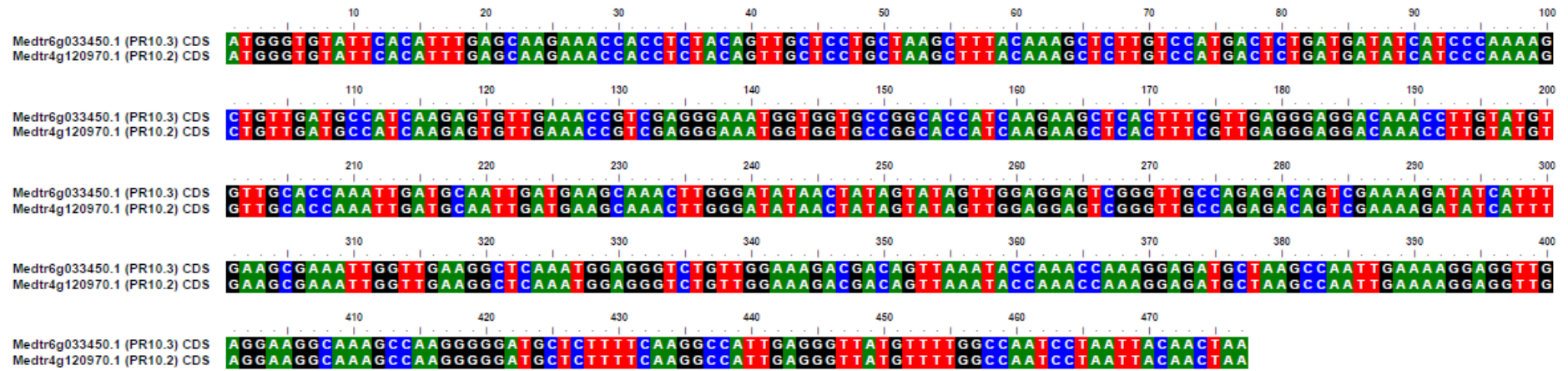
**Supplemental Figure S2. Expression patterns of *PR* candidate genes in wild-type nodules in response to nitrate and phosphinothricin.**

(A) Expression patterns of *PR* candidate genes for defense studies in *Medicago* roots (0-dpi (day post-inoculation) or nodules (10, 14 or 28-dpi) inoculated with *S. meliloti* or in 16-dpi nodules treated with nitrate (KNO<sub>3</sub>, Benedito et al., 2008). (B) Expression of *PR* candidates in nodules of plants at 0, 4, 8 and 24 h after treatment with inhibitor of glutamine synthase, the phosphinothricin [0.25 mM] (Seabra et al., 2012). Expression profiles are based on data available on the *MtGEA* database (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/MtExpress>, Noble Research Institute). Relative expression corresponds to mean signal of cDNA hybridization on the microarray for three independent experiments.

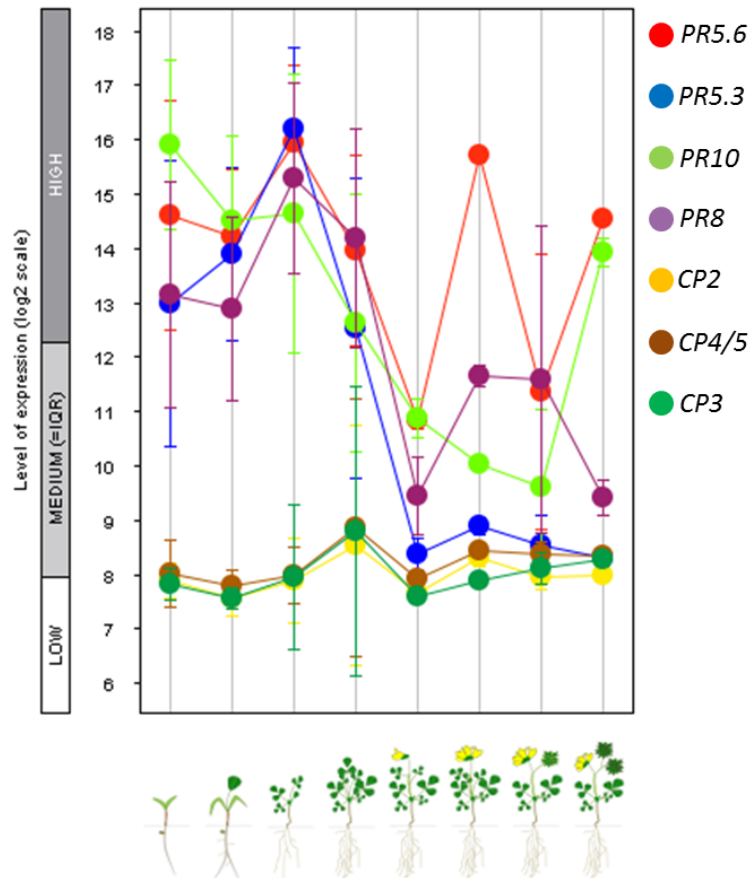


**Supplemental Figure S3. Validation by RT-qPCR analysis of 10 *PR* genes selected for defense monitoring in the *Medicago* nodules.**

Expression analysis in WT, *symCRK* and *dnf2-4* was done on 21-dpi (day post-inoculation) nodules from plants cultivated *in vitro*. *PRu*: unclassified in a PR group. Error bars show the standard error (SE) and the asterisks represent significant variation (p-value < 2.5%) compared to the WT using Man & Whitney statistical test. The RT-qPCR analyses were made on plants from three biological repetitions (16 plants per repetition) with two technical replicates.



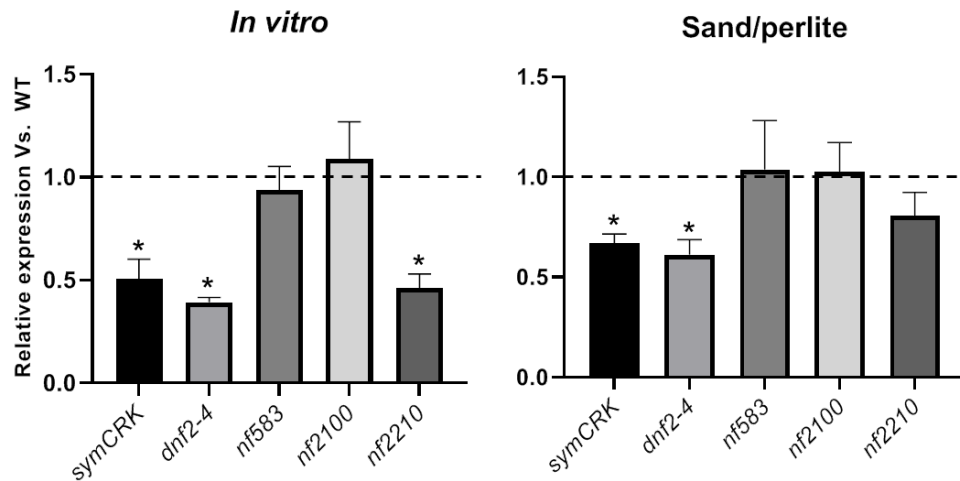
**Supplemental Figure S4. Comparison of CDS sequences between *PR10.2* (*Medtr4g120970.1*) and *PR10.3* (*Medtr6g033450.1*).**  
 Sequence alignment was realized using ClustalW method on Bioedit tool (<https://bioedit.software.informer.com>).



**Supplemental Figure S5. Expression analyses of *PRs* and *CPs* during the development of *Medicago*.**

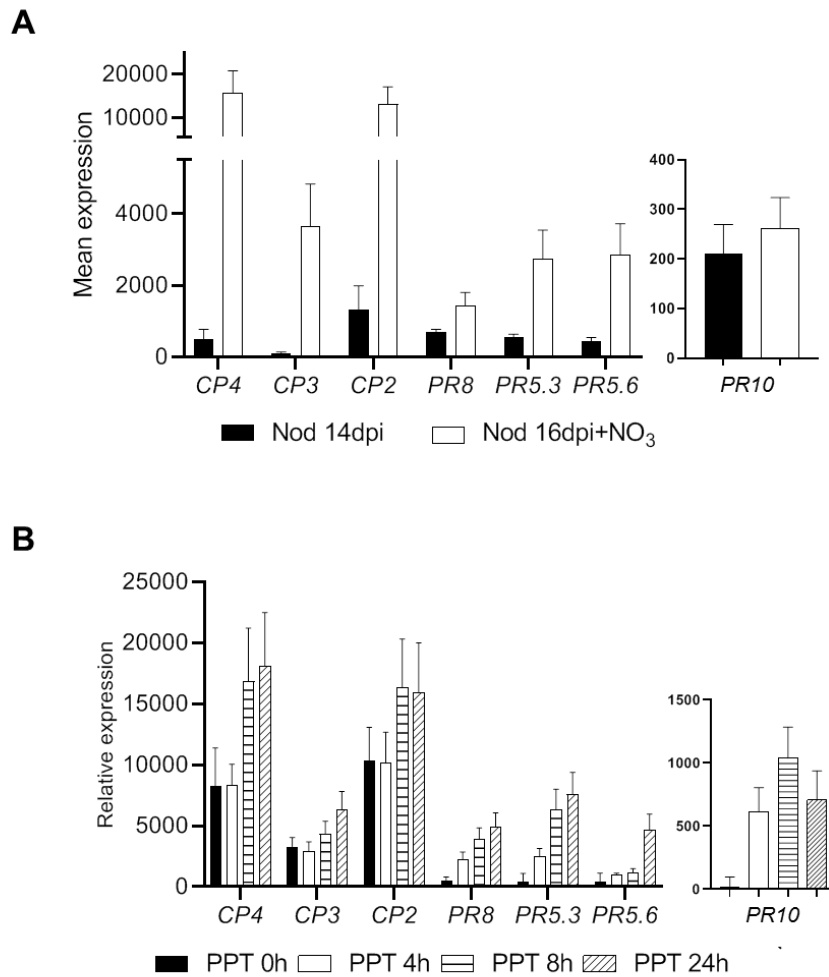
The results show log<sub>2</sub> of the expression level in eight developmental stages. The results were generated using the Genevestigator database (<https://genevestigator.com/>). Error bars show the SE of three independent experiments.





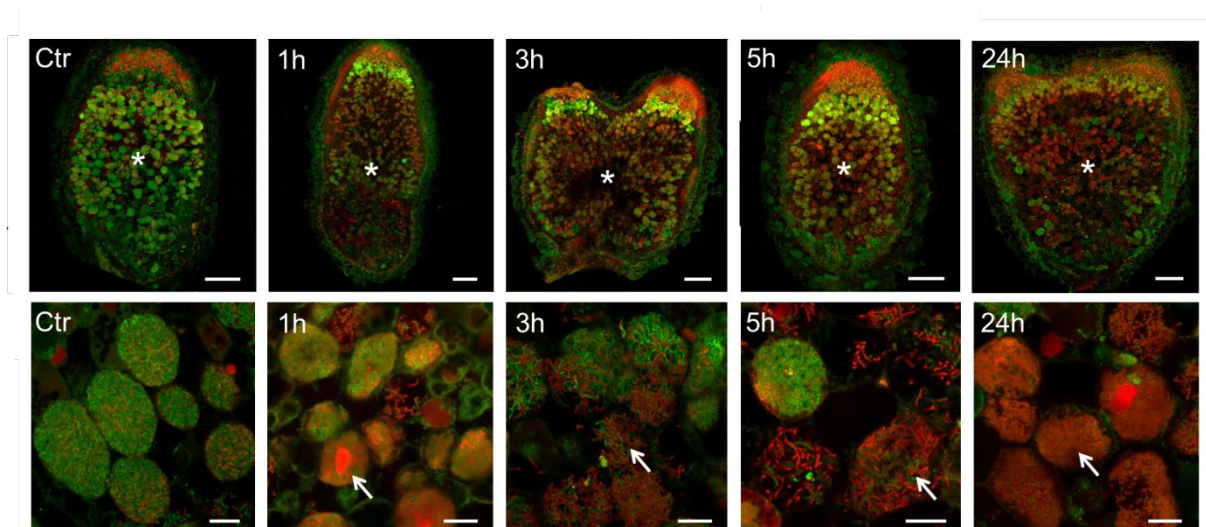
**Supplemental Figure S6. Expression pattern of *PHYCYST5* in *Medicago* fix- nodules mutants in response to different environmental conditions.**

Expression analysis of the *PHYCYST5* in fix- nodules mutants cultivated *in vitro* and in sand/perlite. The expression was measured using RT-qPCR and the results show mean variation in mutants compared to the WT. The RT-qPCR analyses were made on plants from three biological repetitions (16 plants per repetition) with two technical replicates. Error bars show the SE and the asterisks represent significant variation (p-value < 2.5%) compared to the WT using Man & Whitney statistical test. The dotted lines represent the expression level of the WT.



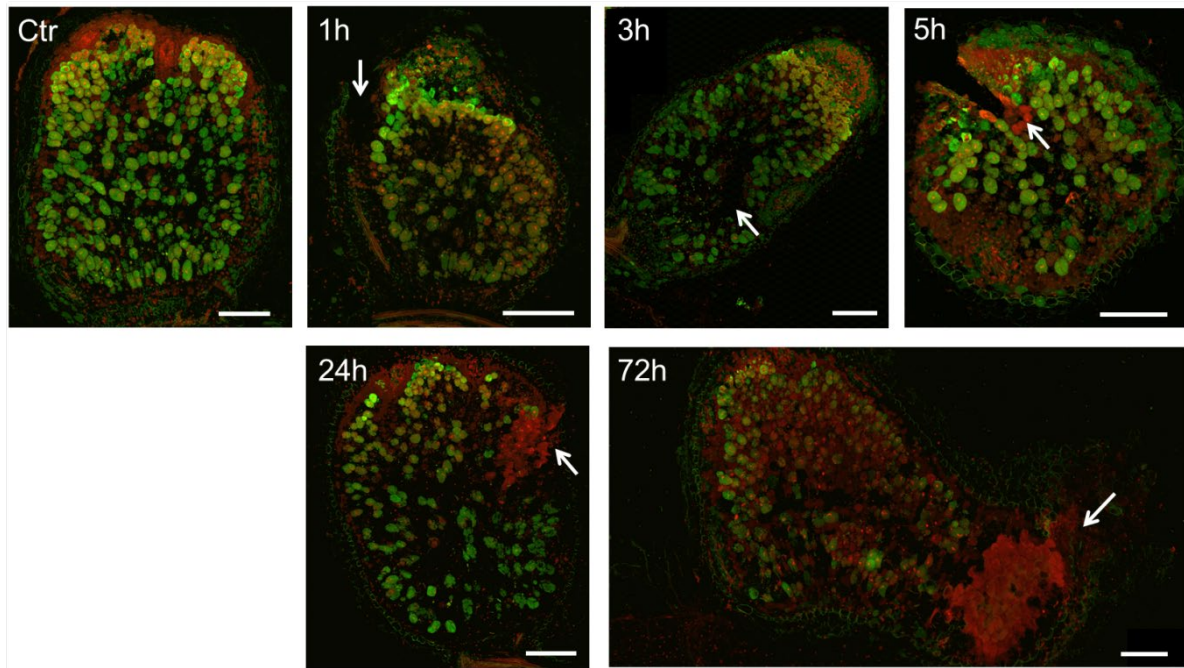
**Supplemental Figure S7. Expression pattern of senescence and defense markers in Medicago wild-type nodules in response to nitrate and phosphinothricin treatments.**

Expression pattern of senescence (*CP4*, *CP3* and *CP2*) and defense (*PR8*, *PR10*, *PR5.3* and *PR5.6*) markers in untreated (14-dpi) or treated (16-dpi) nodules with nitrate (A, Benedito et al., 2008) or nodules from plants incubated 0, 4, 8, 24h with the inhibitor of glutamine synthase, the phosphinothricin at [0.25 mM] (B, Seabra et al., 2012). Error bars represent SE of three independent experiments. Expression data are provided by *MtGEA* database (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/MtExpress>, Noble Research Institute). Relative expression corresponds to mean signal of cDNA hybridization on the microarray.



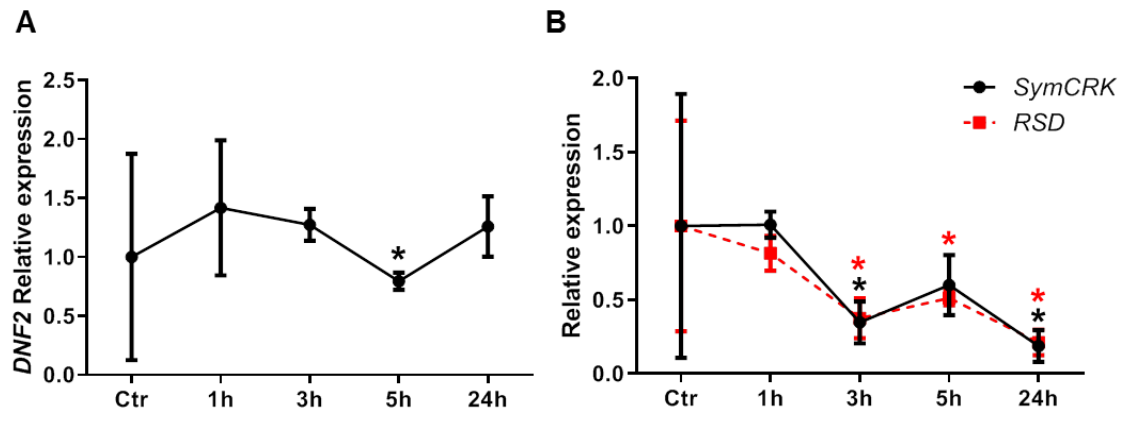
**Supplemental Figure S8. Live and dead staining of wild-type inoculated nodules separated from the roots.**

Live and dead staining of 21-dpi nodule sections obtained from the WT inoculated with *S. medicae* WSM419. The nodules were separated from the root and incubated 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 and 24h. Top panel displays the nodule sections (scale bars = 200  $\mu$ m) and bottom panel shows the bacteroids in the fixation zone III (scale bars = 20  $\mu$ m). Asterisk indicates the zone III and the arrows show dead bacteroids. This figure shows the complete image panel corresponding to the experiment of the figure 5D.



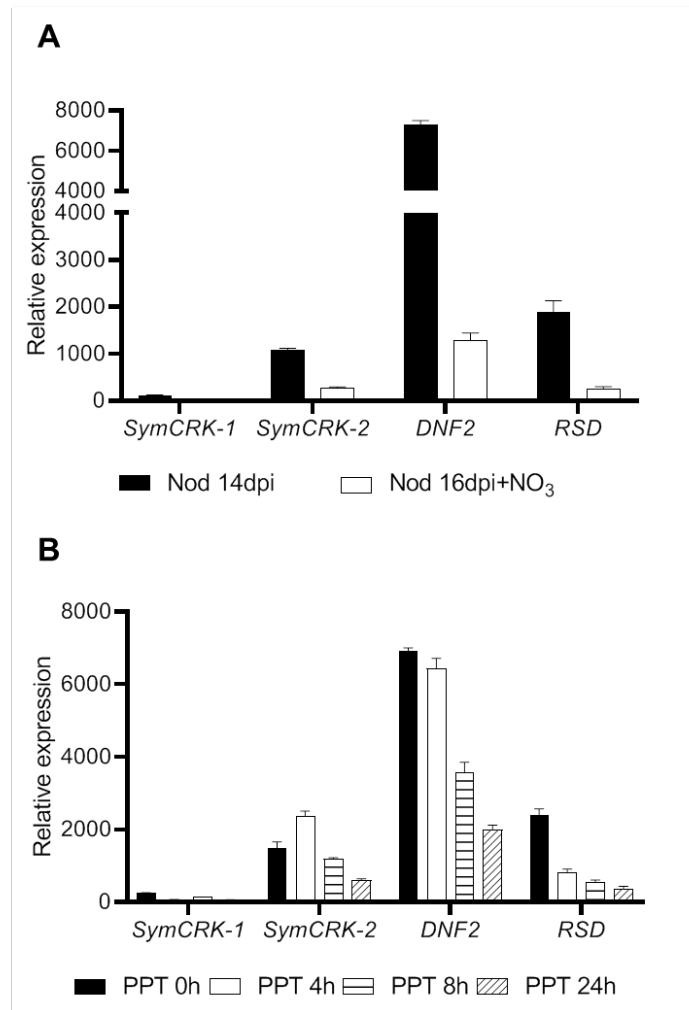
**Supplemental Figure S9. Live and dead staining of Medicago wild-type inoculated nodules attached to the roots.**

Live and dead staining of 21-dpi nodule sections obtained from the WT inoculated with *S. medicae* WSM419. The nodules tethered to roots were snipped and the nodulated plants were incubated 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 24 and 72h. Scale bars = 250  $\mu$ m. The arrows show the snipped zone of the nodules. This figure shows the complete image panel corresponding to the experiment of the figure 5H.



**Supplemental Figure S10. Expression pattern of *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* in *Medicago* wild-type nodules in response to wounding.**

(A) *DNF2*, (B) *SymCRK/RSD* expression 0 (Ctr), 1, 3, 5 and 24h after wounding evaluated using RT-qPCR in 21-dpi WT nodules isolated from plants cultivated *in vitro* and inoculated with *S. medicae* WSM419. The results show mean expression of three independent experiments (16 plants per experiment) with two technical replicates. Error bars show SE and the asterisks represent significant variation using Mann & Whitney statistical test (p-value < 2.5%).



**Supplemental Figure S11. Expression pattern of *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* in Medicago wild-type nodules in response to nitrate and phosphinothricin treatments.**

Expression patterns of *DNF2*, *SymCRK* and *RSD* in 16-dpi nodules treated or not with nitrate (A, Benedito et al., 2008) or from nodulated plants incubated 0, 4, 8 and 24 hours with the inhibitor of glutamine synthase, the phosphinothricin at [0.25 mM] (B, Seabra et al., 2012). Expression data are provided by the *MtGEA* database (<https://medicago.toulouse.inrae.fr/MtExpress>, Noble Research Institute, Benedito et al., 2008). Two probsets annotated *SymCRK-1*, *SymCRK-2* recognized *SymCRK* in the database. Relative expression corresponds to mean signal of cDNA hybridization on the microarray. Error bars show SE for three independent experiments.

**Supplemental Table S1.** List of *nf583*, *nf2210* and *nf2100* genes showing FSTs.

The genes with high confidence FST located in the ORFs were selected. For each mutant line, the tagged genes, the protein annotation, the probset ID on MtAffymV4 and the expression of the genes in the roots and the nodules of *M. truncatula*, are listed. FSTs and expression data are provided respectively by the Medicago *Tnt1* mutant database and Genevestigator. ND: not determined.

**FST NF2210**

Data download from Genvestigator		Number of samples	roots 242	nodules 40
GENE ID Mt4.OV1	Protein annotation	Probeset ID	Mean Expression roots	Mean expression nodules
<b><u>Medtr6g086170</u></b>	<b><u>SULFATE TRANSPORTER 3.5-RELATED</u></b>	<b><u>Mtr.37708.1.S1_at</u></b>	<b><u>15000.42</u></b>	<b><u>106081.77</u></b>
Medtr4g023030	AXI 1 PROTEIN-LIKE PROTEIN	Mtr.14950.1.S1_s_at/ Mtr.10701.1.S1_at	14257.89	14615.44
Medtr5g080390	PUMILIO HOMOLOG 1-RELATED	Mtr.49129.1.S1_s_at	10683.95	13478.64
Medtr5g081960	TRANSFERASE FAMILY (TRANSFERASE)	Mtr.34637.1.S1_at	24149.3	12771
Medtr7g013100	DIHYDROLIPOAMIDE ACETYL/SUCCINYL-TRANSFERASE-RELATED	Mtr.48448.1.S1_at	6924.38	4105.86
Medtr3g079310	BCDNA.GH11111	Mtr.20789.1.S1_at/ Mtr.20787.1.S1_at	4200.64	3629.64
Medtr1g026910	ATP-DEPENDENT PROTEASE CEREBLON	Mtr.39899.1.S1_at	6445.42	2737.87
Medtr1g099290	CHITINASE	Mtr.5384.1.S1_at	3473.9	2621.77
Medtr1g098580	UNKOWN	Mtr.15307.1.S1_at	7399.5	1810.58
Medtr4g066170	PROTEIN C13C4.8	Mtr.37362.1.S1_at/ Msa.1690.1.S1_at	2439.52	1302.47
Medtr1g076720	PANTOTHENATE KINASE	Mtr.6707.1.S1_s_at	1441.21	655.64
Medtr3g080190	ENDOGLUCANASE 11	ND	903.39	594.58
Medtr3g071860	SNF2 DOMAIN-CONTAINING PROTEIN CLASSY 1-RELATED	Mtr.21259.1.S1_at	192.46	234.85
Medtr2g008100	HISTIDINE DECARBOXYLASE / L-HISTIDINE CARBOXY-LYASE	Mtr.22597.1.S1_s_at	204.64	198.11
Medtr1g021520	TRANSCRIPTION REPRESSOR KAN1-RELATED	ND	ND	ND
Medtr1g021965	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g015660	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr3g031400	GLUCOSYL/GLUCURONOSYL TRANSFERASES	ND	ND	ND
Medtr3g108080	EMBRYO DEFECTIVE 2410	ND	ND	ND

	PROTEIN			
Medtr3g115650	COILED-COIL DOMAIN-CONTAINING PROTEIN 115	ND	ND	ND
Medtr4g008600	F-BOX/LEUCINE RICH REPEAT PROTEIN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr4g074200	DNA REPAIR PROTEIN XRCC2 HOMOLOG	ND	ND	ND
Medtr5g034370	PLANT PROTEIN OF UNKNOWN FUNCTION (DUF936) (DUF936)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr5g064800	F10B6.4	ND	ND	ND
Medtr5g094810	XENOBIOTIC-TRANSPORTING ATPASE / STEROID-TRANSPORTING ATPASE	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g035310	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g075460	CYCLIC NUCLEOTIDE-GATED ION CHANNEL 19-RELATED	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g078200	GLUCAN ENDO-1,3-BETA-D-GLUCOSIDASE / LAMINARINASE	ND	ND	ND

#### FST NF2210

Data download from Genvestigator		Number of samples	roots 242	nodules 40
GENE ID Mt4.0V1	Protein annotation	Probeset ID	Mean Expression roots	Mean expression nodules
<b><u>Medtr6g086170</u></b>	<b><u>SULFATE TRANSPORTER 3.5-RELATED</u></b>	<b><u>Mtr.37708.1.S1_at</u></b>	<b><u>15000.42</u></b>	<b><u>106081.77</u></b>
Medtr4g050480	PROTEIN IQ-DOMAIN 15-RELATED	Mtr.9374.1.S1_at	34073.8	23460.03
Medtr2g078730	D-AMINO-ACID TRANSAMINASE / D-ASPARTIC AMINOTRANSFERASE	Mtr.37617.1.S1_at	42933.99	22789.97
Medtr2g097670	PUMILIO HOMOLOG 1-RELATED	Mtr.41554.1.S1_at	32940.93	22371.37
Medtr3g074930	ACID PHOSPHATASE RELATED	Mtr.37882.1.S1_at	55444.41	20026.37
Medtr7g029105	UNKOWN	Mtr.45095.1.S1_at	4669.28	4064.76
Medtr6g005390	CBIX (CBIX)	Mtr.5349.1.S1_s_at	4996.46	2072.69
Medtr1g100627	ARM REPEAT SUPERFAMILY PROTEIN-RELATED	Mtr.11503.1.S1_at	28521.97	1712.62
Medtr5g019050	LYSM DOMAIN RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASE 4	Mtr.15787.1.S1_at	3488.11	1449.09
Medtr8g018280	NB-ARC DOMAIN (NB-ARC) // LEUCINE RICH REPEAT	Mtr.46816.1.S1_at	1938.7	981.27
Medtr4g127420	CCT MOTIF (CCT) PROTEIN	Mtr.13254.1.S1_at	882.13	783.93
Medtr5g096200	OLIGOPEPTIDE TRANSPORTER 1-RELATED	Mtr.29264.1.S1_at	694.87	709.75
Medtr5g015170	SF7 - ACR1	Mtr.5494.1.S1_at	428.1	665.88
Medtr8g013610	G-TYPE LECTIN S-RECEPTOR-LIKE SERINE/THREONINE-PROTEIN KINASE SD1-13	Mtr.50504.1.S1_at	2181.7	620.83



Medtr1g069325	KETOHEXOKINASE / HEPATIC FRUCTOKINASE	Mtr.13302.1.S1_at	793.98	477.78
Medtr4g130580	UNKOWN	Mtr.26057.1.S1_at	447.7	463.91
Medtr5g016830	FILAMENT-LIKE PLANT PROTEIN 7	Mtr.11295.1.S1_at	1768.18	431.89
Medtr5g034180	UNKOWN	Mtr.2095.1.S1_at	451.99	401.15
Medtr2g067440	PEROXIDASE / LACTOPEROXIDASE	Mtr.32452.1.S1_at	353.79	289.18
Medtr8g068050	PROTEIN KINASE DOMAIN (PKINASE) // LEGUME LECTIN DOMAIN	Mtr.46816.1.S1_at	1652.28	272.83
Medtr8g018450	LINOLEATE 9S-LIPOXYGENASE / LINOLEATE 9-LIPOXYGENASE	Mtr.24264.1.S1_at	558.91	238.26
Medtr4g102310	CYTOCHROME P450 - LIKE PROTEIN-RELATED	Mtr.38814.1.S1_at	5680.79	209.27
Medtr3g114920	HIGH MOBILITY GROUP B PROTEIN 10-RELATED	Mtr.27853.1.S1_at	207.47	202.83
Medtr5g020900	UNKOWN	Mtr.25509.1.S1_at	193.11	196.59
<b>Medtr4g005270</b>	<b><u>BETA-AMYRIN SYNTHASE / 2,3-OXIDOSQUALENE BETA-AMYRIN CYCLASE</u></b>	<b>Mtr.31948.1.S1_at</b>	<b>485.49</b>	<b>195.08</b>
Medtr8g093920	NUCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR Y SUBUNIT B-7	Mtr.46490.1.S1_at	187.93	193.04
Medtr1g017790	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr1g017795	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr1g036430	OLYADENYLATE-BINDING PROTEIN (RRM SUPERFAMILY) // SPLICING FACTOR 3B, SUBUNIT 4	ND	ND	ND
Medtr1g106975	PUMILIO HOMOLOG 14-RELATED	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g062310	DOMAIN OF UNKNOWN FUNCTION (DUF966) (DUF966)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g067360	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g067450	PEROXIDASE / LACTOPEROXIDASE	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g083030	OXIDOREDUCTASE, 2OG-FE II OXYGENASE FAMILY	ND	ND	ND
Medtr2g089755	TRANSFERASE FAMILY (TRANSFERASE)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr4g081490	ORGANIC CATION/CARNITINE TRANSPORTER 4	ND	ND	ND
Medtr4g087920	STEROL REGULATORY ELEMENT-BINDING PROTEIN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr4g104690	CDP-GLYCEROL DIPHOSPHATASE / CDP-GLYCEROL PYROPHOSPHATASE	ND	ND	ND
Medtr5g076060	UNCHARACTERIZED CONSERVED PROTEIN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr5g083890	F-BOX DOMAIN (F-BOX) // LEUCINE RICH REPEAT (LRR_2)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g015000	UDP-GLUCOSE/GDP-MANNOSE DEHYDROGENASE FAMILY, NAD BINDING DOMAIN	ND	ND	ND

Medtr6g032965	3-KETOACYL-COA SYNTHASE 17-RELATED	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g043850	SF16 - F14O23.23 PROTEIN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g061110	GPI16 SUBUNIT, GPI TRANSAMIDASE COMPONENT (GPI16)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g065190	PPR REPEAT (PPR) // PPR REPEAT (PPR_1)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g082770	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr6g088240	ELONGATION FACTOR TS	ND	ND	ND
Medtr7g066100	F-BOX DOMAIN (F-BOX) // F-BOX ASSOCIATED (FBA_1)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr7g073980	BTB/POZ DOMAIN (BTB) // NPH3 FAMILY (NPH3)	ND	ND	ND
Medtr8g006470	DUO POLLEN 1	ND	ND	ND
Medtr8g008550	UNKOWN	ND	ND	ND
Medtr8g042520	PEPTIDE EXPORTER, ABC SUPERFAMILY	ND	ND	ND

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Data download from Genvestigator		Number of samples	roots 242	nodules 40
GENE ID Mt4.0V1	Protein annotation	Probeset ID	Mean Expressio n roots	Mean expressio n nodules
Medtr7g050980	PECTINESTERASE-RELATED PROTEIN-RELATED	Mtr.8508.1.S1_at	85331,41	11474,21
Medtr4g005730	SERINE/THREONINE-PROTEIN KINASE OSR1	Mtr.31949.1.S1_at/ Mtr.28731.1.S1_at	3003,75	1124,01
Medtr3g014060	14-3-3-Like Protein Gf14 Lambda	Mtr.15400.1.S1_at	350,33	302,48
<b>Medtr4g005270</b>	<b>BETA-AMYRIN SYNTHASE / 2,3-OXIDOSQUALENE BETA- AMYRIN CYCLASE</b>	<b>Mtr.31948.1.S1_at</b>	<b>485,59</b>	<b>195,08</b>
Medtr5g021920	F-BOX DOMAIN (F-BOX)	ND	ND	ND

**Supplemental Table S2.** List of the identified *PR* genes in the *M. truncatula* genome.

Unclassified *PR* corresponds to PR without defined classes.

V4 Medicago Genome ID	Probeset V4 affymetrix	Predicted domain	Classe
Medtr2g010670.1	Mtr.34477.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g435490.1	Mtr.31096.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010600.1	Mtr.8977.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g012370.1	Mtr.8977.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010650.1	Msa.3171.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr5g018755.1	Mtr.25125.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr8g078770.1	Mtr.5901.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr5g018770.1	Mtr.82.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr4g050762.1	Mtr.8977.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010610.1	Mtr.8977.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010630.1	Mtr.8977.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010690.1	Mtr.34477.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010700.1	Mtr.34477.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010640.1	Mtr.34477.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr2g010590.1	Msa.3171.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr5g018750.1	Mtr.81.1.S1_at	CAP, CYSTEINE-RICH SECRETORY PROTEIN, ANTIGEN 5	PR1
Medtr8g045490.1	Mtr.10361.1.S1_at	BET_V_1	PR10
Medtr8g045640.1	Mtr.10363.1.S1_x_at	BET_V_1	PR10
Medtr8g045400.1	Mtr.10364.1.S1_at	BET_V_1	PR10
Medtr4g120760.1	Mtr.12615.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr4g120970.1	Mtr.34114.1.S1_s_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr6g033450.1	Mtr.34114.1.S1_s_	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10

	at		
Medtr1g030810.1	Mtr.3416.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr4g120950.1	Mtr.37852.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045570.1	Mtr.38110.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045665.1	Mtr.40102.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045520.1	Mtr.40106.1.S1_s_ at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr3g055120.1	Mtr.43078.1.S1_at/ Mtr.43078.1.S1_s_ at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g435310.1	Mtr.12615.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045560.1	Msa.1635.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr4g120940	Not determined	SRPBCC SUPER FAMILY	PR10
Medtr8g045555	Mtr.40109.1.S1_at	SRPBCC SUPERFAMILY	PR10
Medtr1g031640	Mtr.45999.1.S1_at	SRPBCC SUPERFAMILY	PR10
Medtr8g045555.1	Mtr.40109.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045735.1	Msa.1635.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045300.1	Mtr.45935.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr8g045695.1	Msa.1635.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr4g120940.1	Mtr.34114.1.S1_s_ at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035220.1	Mtr.10317.1.S1_at/ Msa.3122.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035210.1	Msa.3122.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035190.1	Msa.3122.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035320.1	Msa.3122.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035320.2	Msa.3122.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr1g030840.1	Mtr.29236.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr1g030820.1	Mtr.36367.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035150.1	Mtr.42966.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035120.1	Mtr.42968.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035130.1	Mtr.12277.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035100.1	Mtr.40147.1.S1_s_ at/ Msa.2942.1.S1_s_ at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g035105.1	Mtr.40147.1.S1_s_ at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr3g055130	Mtr.6516.1.S1_at	BET_V1-LIKE	PR10
Medtr2g034480	Mtr.18650.1.S1_at/ Msa.1736.1.S1_at	GLYCOSYL HYDROLASES FAMILY 17	PR2
Medtr2g034470.1	Mtr.18649.1.S1_s_ at	GLYCOSYL HYDROLASES FAMILY 17	PR2
Medtr2g034440.1	Mtr.18649.1.S1_s_ at	GLYCOSYL HYDROLASES FAMILY 17	PR2

Medtr3g118390	Mtr.331.1.S1_at	GLYCO_HYDRO_19 (CHITINASE CLASSE I)+ CHITIN_BIND_1 (CHITINASE BINDING PROT)	PR3
Medtr7g115220	Mtr.42872.1.S1_at/ Mtr.12237.1.S1_at	BARWIN+CHITIN_BIND_1	PR4
Medtr5g022310.2	Msa.1526.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr5g022310.1	Msa.1526.1.S1_at/ Mtr.17914.1.S1_at	G64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g096900.1	Mtr.10968.1.S1_at	G64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g088960.1	Mtr.11885.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g075550.1	Mtr.15054.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr3g114030.1	Mtr.17199.1.S1_at/ Mtr.33394.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g107140.1	Mtr.17268.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr8g056820.1	Mtr.19129.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr6g009480.1	Mtr.19465.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr2g063160.1	Mtr.19470.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr7g076360.1	Mtr.26405.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr2g069660.1	Mtr.26405.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr5g059200.1	Mtr.28302.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr2g067980.1	Mtr.29368.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr2g068030.1	Mtr.32260.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr7g102380.1	Mtr.33691.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr8g075510.1	Mtr.35231.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g075510.2	Mtr.35231.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr4g063630.1	Mtr.37482.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr5g010640.1	Mtr.40555.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr4g073730.1	Mtr.42529.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr2g068655.1	Mtr.42536.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr8g096920.1	Mtr.42775.1.S1_at	TLP-P	PR5
Medtr5g010635.1	Mtr.42989.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF	PR5
Medtr4g073720.1	Mtr.43370.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr7g062610.1	Mtr.49138.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr1g062640.1	Mtr.6757.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr5g022350.2	Mtr.7850.1.S1_s_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr5g022350.1	Mtr.7850.1.S1_s_at /Mtr.9418.1.S1_s_at/ t/	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr8g096910.1	Mtr.8763.1.S1_at	TLP-P	PR5
Medtr1g025420.1	Mtr.9391.1.S1_at	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr1g025420.2	Mtr.9391.1.S1_at	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr1g021945.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr1g062390.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr2g063150.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5

Medtr3g068015.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr3g081550.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr5g023850.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr5g068670.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr8g037890.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr8g089020.1	Not determined	GH64-TLP-SF SUPER FAMILY	PR5
Medtr3g111620.1	Not determined	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr6g079580.1	Not determined	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr8g036215.1	Not determined	TLP-PA	PR5
Medtr1g099310.1	Msa.1009.1.S1_at/ Msa.2848.1.S1_at/ Mtr.12525.1.S1_at	GH18_HEVAMINE_XIPI_CLASS_III+C HITINASE CLASSE III	PR8
Medtr2g076070.1 /Medtr2g076070. 2	Mtr.1214.1.S1_at	PUTATIVE NTF2-LIKE PROTEIN SUPER FAMILY	Unclassified
Medtr2g076010.1 /Medtr2g076010. 2	Mtr.26632.1.S1_at/ Mtr.26632.1.S1_at	PUTATIVE NTF2-LIKE PROTEIN SUPER FAMILY	Unclassified
Medtr8g058350	Mtr.51369.1.S1_at	PUTATIVE NTF2-LIKE PROTEIN SUPER FAMILY	Unclassified
Medtr8g058700	Not determined	NOT DETERMINED	Unclassified
Medtr2g038000	Mtr.15743.1.S1_at/ Mtr.51386.1.S1_at	PHD_PRHA_LIKE+HOX	Unclassified

**Supplemental Table S3.** List of *PRs* gene validated by RT-qPCR for the study.

Melting curve corresponds to the temperature at which 50% of DNA is denatured. Only primers producing amplification product showing one melting curve were selected for the study. The efficiency corresponds to DNA polymerase efficiency. The primers producing an efficiency less than 80% or superior than 120% were avoided.

Gene ID	Melting curve (specificity)	efficiency =2 (+/- 0,2)	ID Affymetrix	PR classes	PR annotation in the figures
Medtr1g099310.1	Specific	Yes	Msa.1009.1.S1_at	PR8	PR8
Medtr2g076070.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.1214.1.S1_at	Unkown	PRuk.1
Medtr2g076010.2	Specific	Yes	Mtr.26632.1.S1_at	Unkown	PRuk.2
Medtr2g076070.2	Specific	Yes	Mtr.1214.1.S1_at	Unkown	PRuk.3
Medtr2g076010.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.26632.1.S1_at	Unkown	PRuk.4
Medtr2g068655.1	Not detected	Not detected	Mtr.42536.1.S1_at	PR5	PR5.1
Medtr4g120950.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.37852.1.S1_at	PR10	PR10.1
Medtr4g120970.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.34114.1.S1_s_at	PR10	PR10.2 ( <b>PR10</b> )
Medtr5g010640.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.40555.1.S1_at	PR5	PR5.3
Medtr6g033450.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.34114.1.S1_s_at	PR10	PR10.3 ( <b>PR10</b> )
Medtr7g062610.1	Non specific	No	Mtr.49138.1.S1_at	PR5	PR5.4
Medtr8g096910.1	Specific	Yes	Mtr.8763.1.S1_at	PR5	PR5.6

**Supplemental Table S4.** Pearson correlation analysis of the *PRs*, *CPs* and *PRs* vs. *CPs* expression.

Expression data of Medicago response to perturbations were downloaded from Genevestigator database (<https://genevestigator.com/>) and Pearson correlation was calculated using Excel software.

Pearson corr	<i>CP5/CP4</i>	<i>CP3</i>	<i>CP2</i>	<i>PR5.6</i>	<i>PR10</i>	<i>PR5.3</i>	<i>PR8</i>
<i>CP5/CP4</i>	1.00	0.93	0.91	-0.10	-0.07	-0.06	-0.10
<i>CP3</i>	0.93	1.00	0.97	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07	-0.10
<i>CP2</i>	0.91	0.97	1.00	-0.09	-0.11	-0.10	-0.10
<i>PR5.6</i>	-0.10	-0.08	-0.09	1.00	0.54	0.64	0.41
<i>PR10</i>	-0.07	-0.08	-0.11	0.54	1.00	0.65	0.37
<i>PR5.3</i>	-0.06	-0.07	-0.10	0.64	0.65	1.00	0.58
<i>PR8</i>	-0.10	-0.10	-0.10	0.41	0.37	0.58	1.00



**Supplemental Table S5.** Co-expressed *PHYTOCYSTATIN* genes with the studied *PRs*.

*PHYTOCYSTATIN* co-expressed with one or multiple *PRs* were isolated using the Phytomine tools of the Phytozome database (<https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/phytomine/begin.do>). The table shows the two identified *PHYTOCYSTATINS* (*Medtr2g026040*; *PHYTOCYST5* and *Medtr5g088770*; *PHYTOCYST32*) and the corresponding Pearson correlation value.

	<i>PR5.3</i>	<i>PR5.6</i>	<i>PR10.2</i>	<i>PR10.3</i>	<i>PHYTOCYST32</i>
<i>Medtr2g026040 (PHYTOCYST5)</i>	0.909	0.85922	0.9168	0.97454	0.95816
<i>Medtr5g088770 (PHYTOCYST32)</i>	0.92549	X	X	0.93896	X

**Supplemental Table S6.** List of primers used in this study.

	Gene ID	Gene Name	Primer L	Primer R	Tm	Ref
RT-qPCR primers	<i>Medtr4g107930</i>	<i>CP3</i>	AGTGGATGCCGCTGAAGG	TCAATCACAGTTTGTCTCAAATTAC	60	Pérez Guerra JC et al., 2010
	<i>Medtr4g079770</i>	<i>CP4</i>	TGGAAGCATCTTACCCTACTG	ATATACATAAATCGCAAATCACATTC	60	Pérez Guerra JC et al., 2010
	<i>Medtr5g022560</i>	<i>CP2</i>	CATCTTACCCTACTGCTTAAATGC	AACTAGAAACCATGATGAATGTAGC	60	Pérez Guerra JC et al., 2010
	<i>Medtr4g079470</i>	<i>CP5</i>	GTTGACGGAACCTGCACTGC	CACCCCAATCAGTTCCTCCAT	60	In this study
	<i>TC106667</i>	<i>Actine</i>	TGGCATCACTCAGTACCTTTCAACAG	ACCCAAAGCATCAAATAATAAGTCAACC	60	Berrabah el al., 2015
	<i>Medtr1g099310.1</i>	<i>PR8</i>	CCTCAATGTCTTTCCCTGA	TGGAGCAGCAGCATCATTAG	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr2g076070.1</i>	<i>PR unknown (PRuk.1)</i>	ATGGGAGATGGAGCTGACAC	GCAATTTTCAGGTGGTCCTGT	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr2g076010.2</i>	<i>PR unknown (PRuk.2)</i>	GCAATTTTCAGGTGGTCCTGT	GCAATTTTCAGGTGGTCCTGT	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr2g076070.2</i>	<i>PR unknown (PRuk.3)</i>	GTTAATGGCAGGGAGGGATT	GCAATTTTCAGGTGGTCCTGT	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr2g076010.1</i>	<i>PR unknown (PRuk.4)</i>	CAAGATCCGGTTGCAAGATT	GCAATTTTCAGGTGGTCCTGT	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr4g120950.1</i>	<i>PR10.1</i>	CACGATTCATCGAGAAAGCA	GGGTTGGAACCAATTTGAAC	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr4g120970.1</i>	<i>PR10</i>	TTGAGGGAGGACAAACCTTG	CCTCAATGGCCTTGAAAAGA	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr6g033450.1</i>					
	<i>Medtr2g068655.1</i>	<i>PR5.1</i>	GTTCAAGAGGGCTTGTCTCG	GGGCAGGCCTTACAATTACA	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr5g010640.1</i>	<i>PR5.3</i>	GGCCATCATCATGAAAACAA	GACCCAGATTCTTGCGTTA	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr8g096910.1</i>	<i>PR5.6</i>	TACACAAGCAGCAAGGTTTCG	CTACCGGATACGCTGCAACT	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr5g088770.1</i>	<i>PHYTOCYST32</i>	GGCGGCTCTAGGTGGTAGTA	ACACCTTTTGTCTCCACCA	60	In this study
	<i>Medtr2g026040.1</i>	<i>PHYTOCYST5</i>	AAGGATGCTCTTGTCTGGTGG	CAACTTTCGAGCCAACACA	60	In this study
	<i>Medt3g0119041</i>	<i>SymCRK</i>	GATTTCTGTGTTGAAGCTTGGCT	ACATCAGAAGTGAAGTCTCTGCAA	60	Berrabah et al., 2014
	<i>Medt4g0044681</i>	<i>DNF2</i>	AGGCAATGCGTTCAGAAGGCCT	CGACACCGAAGTGAAGTCTCTGCAA	60	Bourcy et al., 2013
<i>Medtr7g0239441</i>	<i>RSD</i>	GAAAGATGGAATACACCCAAAACC	AACTTGACCTGGGTCGTCAGA	60	Sinharoy et al., 2013	
Genotyping Primers		NF583F	ACTATTGTGTCAACCACACGTG		65	In this study
		NF583R	GGCATTAGTTATGCCAAACTTGC		65	In this study
		NF2210F	GCAAGTTTGGCATAACTAATGCC		65	In this study
		NF2210R	GGCTTGGGATATTGGTTGATTC		65	In this study
		LTR4F	TACCGTATCTCGGTGCTACA		66	Ratet et al., 2010
		LTR6R	GCTACCAACCAACCAAGTCAA		66	Ratet et al., 2010