

1 **The soybean *Rhg1* amino acid transporter protein becomes abundant along the**
2 **SCN penetration path and impacts ROS generation**

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10 Short Title:

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31 **ABSTRACT**

32 *Rhg1* mediates soybean resistance to soybean cyst nematode. *Glyma.18G022400*,
33 one of three resistance-conferring genes at the complex *Rhg1* locus, encodes the
34 putative amino acid transporter AAT_{Rhg1} whose mode of action is largely unknown. We
35 discovered that AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance increases 7- to 15-fold throughout root
36 cells penetrated by SCN. These root cells develop increased abundance of vesicles
37 and larger vesicle-like bodies. AAT_{Rhg1} was often associated with these vesicles.
38 AAT_{Rhg1} abundance remained low in syncytia (plant reprogrammed feeding cells),
39 unlike the *Rhg1* α -SNAP protein whose abundance was previously shown to increase
40 in syncytia. In *N. benthamiana*, if soybean AAT_{Rhg1} was present, oxidative stress
41 promoted formation of larger macrovesicles and they contained AAT_{Rhg1}. AAT_{Rhg1} was
42 found to interact with GmRBOHC2, a soybean ortholog of Arabidopsis RBOHD
43 previously found to exhibit upregulated expression upon SCN infection. Reactive
44 oxygen species (ROS) generation was more elevated when AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2
45 abundance were co-expressed. These findings suggest that AAT_{Rhg1} contributes to
46 SCN resistance along the penetration path as SCN invades the plant, and does so at
47 least in part by interactions with GmRBOHC2 that increase ROS production. The
48 study also shows that *Rhg1* resistance functions via at least two spatially and
49 temporally separate modes of action.

50

51

52 **INTRODUCTION**

53 *Rhg1* of soybean (*Glycine max*) is a complex genetic locus that encodes novel
54 mechanisms of disease resistance (Cook et al., 2012; Bayless et al., 2016; Mitchum,
55 2016). Soybean is one of the four largest world food crops and *Rhg1* is a central tool
56 used for control of the most economically damaging disease of U.S. soybeans, the
57 soybean cyst nematode (SCN, *Heterodera glycines*) (Niblack et al., 2006; Jones et
58 al., 2013; Mitchum, 2016; Allen et al., 2017). The modes of action of *Rhg1* remain only
59 partially understood.

60 Recently hatched J2 SCN migrate toward soybean root exudates and then
61 penetrate soybean roots above the root cap in the zone of elongating cells (Endo,
62 1992). They then migrate intracellularly through root cortical cells, secreting bioactive
63 effectors through their stylet to degrade cell walls and manipulate plant defense
64 responses (Qin et al., 2004; Gheysen and Mitchum, 2011; Mitchum et al., 2013; Sato
65 et al., 2019). The protrusible stylet is also used directly to disrupt plant cell walls
66 prior to cell penetration. When SCN reach a suitable site adjacent to the vascular
67 cylinder they select an individual endodermis or endodermis-adjacent cortical cell
68 upon which to feed. Over subsequent days the cell walls partially dissolve between an
69 increasingly large cluster of dozens of adjacent root cells that also lose their large
70 central vacuoles and become metabolically hyperactive, forming a multinucleate
71 syncytium from multiple cytoplasmically merged cells (Jones, 1981; Fenoll et al., 1997;
72 Kyndt et al., 2013). After 2-4 weeks of deriving nutrients from the host through a
73 syncytium, the life cycle of a fertilized female SCN is completed by forming an egg-
74 filled and durable cyst. Despite a number of previous studies (Mahalingam and
75 Skorupska, 1996; Hermsmeier et al., 1998; Escobar et al., 2011; Kandoth et al.,
76 2011), there is particularly incomplete knowledge regarding how plants respond during
77 the early stages of infection as SCN penetrate and migrate through relatively new root
78 tissues.

79 The structure of the complex *Rhg1* locus has been characterized across a wide
80 array of soybean germplasm (Cook et al., 2012; Cook et al., 2014; Lee et al., 2015).
81 Increased copy number of a four-gene block is a hallmark of resistance-conferring
82 *Rhg1* haplotypes (Cook et al., 2012). "Peking"-type (*rhg1-a*) haplotypes typically carry

83 three copies while "PI 88788"-type (*rhg1-b*) haplotypes often carry nine or ten copies
84 of the ~30kb *Rhg1* four-gene block (Cook et al., 2012). *rhg1-a* generally must be
85 combined with an appropriate allele of the unlinked *Rhg4* locus to achieve sufficient
86 SCN resistance (Brucker et al., 2005; Liu et al., 2012; Mitchum, 2016). Until recent
87 breeding efforts, most soybean accessions carried single-copy "Williams 82"-type
88 *Rhg1_{WT}* loci and were SCN-susceptible (Niblack et al., 2008; Lee et al., 2015; Bayless
89 et al., 2019). In the U.S. market, over 95% of SCN-resistant soybean varieties now
90 rely heavily on the PI88788-derived *rhg1-b* haplotype (Niblack et al., 2008; Tylka and
91 Mullaney, 2015; Rincker et al., 2017)

92 Gene silencing and gene overexpression approaches have demonstrated
93 contributions to SCN resistance by at least three of the four genes within the multicopy
94 *Rhg1* segment (Cook et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2017; Butler et al., 2019). The resistance-
95 contributing *Rhg1* genes include *Glyma.18G022400* (formerly named
96 *Glyma18g02580*), which encodes a putative amino acid transporter hereafter referred
97 to as *AAT_{Rhg1}*, as well as *Glyma.18G022500* (formerly named *Glyma18g02590*),
98 encoding a predicted α-SNAP (alpha-soluble NSF [N-ethylmaleimide–sensitive factor]
99 attachment protein), and *Glyma.18G022700* (formerly named *Glyma18g02610*),
100 encoding a protein with a WI12 wound-inducible protein domain (Cook et al., 2012).
101 Several recent studies on *Rhg1*-encoded α-SNAP proteins have revealed their
102 elevated abundance in syncytia and their cytotoxicity, which apparently poisons
103 syncytium cells during the otherwise biotrophic plant-nematode interaction (Cook et
104 al., 2012; Matsye et al., 2012; Cook et al., 2014; Bayless et al., 2016; Lakhssassi et
105 al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017; Bayless et al., 2018; Bayless et al., 2019).

106 The products of the other two *Rhg1* genes that contribute to SCN resistance,
107 *Glyma.18G022400* (*AAT_{Rhg1}*) and *Glyma.18G022700* (WI12 protein), had been much
108 less well characterized. There are no predicted amino acid polymorphisms in the
109 products of those genes between SCN-susceptible *Rhg1_{WT}* and the resistance-
110 conferring low-copy *rhg1-a* and high-copy *rhg1-b* haplotypes. However, the higher
111 copy numbers of those *Rhg1* genes result in constitutive elevation of their transcript
112 abundance in SCN-resistant plants (Cook et al., 2014), and locus copy number has
113 been shown to correlate with the strength of SCN resistance conferred by various

114 *rhg1-a* and *rhg1-b* haplotypes (Cook et al., 2014; Lee et al., 2016; Yu et al., 2016; Patil
115 et al., 2019).

116 The amino acids transported by AAT_{Rhg1}, if any, are not known. The protein retains
117 the sequence hallmarks of a bona fide amino acid transporter but has been
118 recalcitrant in yeast and *Xenopus* oocyte experiments attempting to document
119 transport of particular amino acids. A recent publication showed that overexpression of
120 *Glyma.18G022400* (AAT_{Rhg1}) in soybean can increase tolerance of toxic levels of
121 exogenously supplied glutamate, and presented additional indirect evidence showing
122 that AAT_{Rhg1} impacts glutamate abundance and transport (Guo et al., 2019).

123 Endogenous jasmonic acid (JA) levels and JA pathway genes were also upregulated
124 in AAT_{Rhg1} overexpression soybean lines (Guo et al., 2019). However, evidence is still
125 lacking regarding mechanistic roles of AAT_{Rhg1} in SCN-soybean interactions. In gene
126 expression studies, *Glyma.18G022400* transcripts were detected in syncytia cell
127 samples captured by laser capture microdissection at 3, 6 and 9 days post-infection in
128 both *rhg1-a* and *rhg1-b* (resistant) plants, but not in the susceptible lines. (Matsye et
129 al., 2011).

130 Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are commonly produced during plant-pathogen
131 interactions and act up- and downstream of various signaling pathways (Apel and Hirt,
132 2004; Camejo et al., 2016; Waszczak et al., 2018). Mechanisms that control ROS
133 production during infections, and the impacts of ROS on infection outcomes, are finely
134 nuanced and continue to be discovered. ROS generated during pattern-triggered
135 immunity (PTI) act as important defense signal transduction molecules (Macho and
136 Zipfel, 2014). ROS generated from extracellular and/or intracellular sources can
137 accumulate to more toxic levels during the hypersensitive response, the programmed
138 cell death response associated with effector-triggered immunity (ETI) (Zurbriggen et
139 al., 2010). Plant ROS production can also contribute to disease susceptibility, for
140 example in soybean interactions with necrotrophic *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Ranjan et
141 al., 2018). However, moderate levels of ROS can help limit the extent of cell death
142 (Torres et al., 2005). This appears to be the case during colonization of *Arabidopsis* by
143 beet cyst nematodes, for which ROS responses were shown to help limit plant cell
144 death and enhance nematode growth (Siddique et al., 2014). In other cases, ROS

145 have been shown to contribute to plant defense against plant parasitic nematodes
146 (Simonetti et al., 2010; Kandoth et al., 2011; Kong et al., 2015; Pant et al., 2015;
147 Teixeira et al., 2016; Habash et al., 2017; Labudda et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2018; Mei
148 et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2019b; Yang et al., 2019a; Chen et al.,
149 2020; Hawamda et al., 2020; Labudda et al., 2020).

150 Plasma membrane-localized NADPH oxidases, encoded by respiratory burst
151 oxidase homolog genes (*RBOH*), are key enzymes for pathogenesis-associated ROS
152 generation (Averyanov, 2009). In soybean, the 17 *GmRBOH* genes were recently
153 characterized by two separate groups (Ranjan et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2019). As part of
154 that work, expression patterns of each *GmRBOH* gene in response to multiple biotic
155 and abiotic stresses were analyzed using qRT-PCR and previously published
156 microarray data (Liu et al., 2019), and one of the *GmRBOHs* was reported to be
157 specifically induced by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* infection (Ranjan et al., 2018).

158 In *Arabidopsis* one particular *RBOH*, *RBOHD*, plays major roles in mediating ROS
159 production during both PTI and ETI (Kadota et al., 2015). For example, *AtRBOHD*
160 interacts with the FLS2 immune receptor complex, and is phosphorylated by BIK1 to
161 enhance ROS generation that contributes to stomatal closure defense mechanisms
162 against *Pseudomonas* bacteria (Li et al., 2014). *PBL13* associates with and directly
163 phosphorylates *RBOHD* and a newly discovered E3 ubiquitin ligase *PIRE* could
164 interact with both *RBOHD* and *PBL13* to stimulate degradation of *RBOHD* (Lee et al.,
165 2020). *RBOHD* orthologs in multiple plant species have been reported to control PTI
166 (Simon et al., 2002; Yoshioka et al., 2003; Trujillo et al., 2006; Kobayashi et al.,
167 2007; Wong et al., 2007; Li et al., 2015). *RBOHD* contributes to defense against root
168 knot nematodes (Teixeira et al., 2016), and reduced H₂O₂ production due to silencing
169 of the tomato *RBOHD* homolog caused greater susceptibility (Zhou et al., 2018). In
170 soybean, transcript abundance of the *Arabidopsis RBOHD* ortholog
171 *Glyma.06G162300* (encoding *GmRBOHC2*) is significantly upregulated during SCN
172 infection in both susceptible and resistant lines (Wan et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2019), but
173 other aspects of *GmRBOHC2* behavior during SCN infestations have not been
174 characterized.

175 The present study examined soybean AAT_{Rhg1}. We discovered unique
176 accumulation of this protein along the SCN penetration path. Vesiculation occurred in
177 root cortical cells penetrated during SCN migration and AAT_{Rhg1} was often present on
178 those vesicles. Heterologous overexpression of AAT_{Rhg1} could induce vesiculation.
179 Further, we found that AAT_{Rhg1} interacts with GmRBOHC2, a soybean ortholog of
180 Arabidopsis RBOHD. Simultaneous overexpression of GmAAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2
181 elevates ROS production. The findings suggest that the *Rhg1*-encoded α -SNAP_{Rhg1}
182 and AAT_{Rhg1} proteins contribute to SCN resistance through temporally, spatially and
183 biochemically distinct mechanisms.

184

185

186 **RESULTS**

187

188 **Soybean AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance is elevated along the penetration path of**
189 **soybean cyst nematode**

190

191 The abundance of native AAT_{Rhg1} in soybean roots was qualitatively assessed via
192 standard Western immunoblots using a custom antibody raised against a unique
193 AAT_{Rhg1} peptide sequence (Figure 1). SCN-infested root regions or analogous regions
194 from mock-inoculated controls were harvested at 4 days post-infection (dpi) from non-
195 transgenic Wm82, Forrest, and Fayette cultivars, which respectively carry wild type
196 *Rhg1* (single-copy/susceptibility-associated), or *rhg1-a* (3 copies of resistance-
197 associated *Rhg1*), or *rhg1-b* (10 copies of resistance-associated *Rhg1*). Figure S1
198 confirms antibody recognition of the intended gene product. In non-infected roots,
199 AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance was low and similar in WT and low-copy *rhg1-a* samples
200 but consistently greater in high-copy *rhg1-b* samples (Figure 1A). An obvious increase
201 in AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance was observed in SCN-infected samples of high-copy
202 *rhg1-b* roots (Figure 1A). Any AAT_{Rhg1} abundance increases were more subtle for
203 susceptible/wild-type and for low-copy *rhg1-a* roots. Figure 1B presents densitometric
204 quantification of the immunoblot band intensities for four samples per treatment from
205 two independent experiments.

206 Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) immunogold detection experiments were
207 conducted to provide cellular and subcellular-level resolution regarding AAT_{Rhg1}
208 protein location and relative abundance. Previously, we used similar methods for
209 *Rhg1* locus α -SNAP_{Rhg1} proteins and discovered more than ten-fold greater
210 accumulation of α -SNAP_{Rhg1}HC or α -SNAP_{Rhg1}LC within syncytium cells (the root cells
211 that comprise the differentiated SCN feeding site), relative to the surrounding cells
212 (Bayless et al., 2016; Bayless et al., 2019). Using the anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody to detect
213 native AAT_{Rhg1} in non-transgenic roots during SCN infection, we observed an entirely
214 different pattern (Figure 2). Relative to adjacent cells, AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance was
215 elevated in penetrated root cells along the migration path of SCN. Figure 4 includes
216 representative lower-magnification images showing the SCN body, SCN-penetrated

217 root cells and adjacent normal root cells. Using higher magnification, the experiments
218 of Figure 2 found 4.4-fold to 12.5-fold more immunogold labeled AAT_{Rhg1} in SCN-
219 penetrated cells relative to a similar area in adjacent normal root cells, across three
220 independent experiments. Increases were observed in both SCN-susceptible and two
221 types of SCN-resistant cultivars (Figure. 2A, 2B). At 3 dpi, anti-AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold
222 particle abundance values relative to adjacent normal cells were lowest for single-copy
223 *Rhg1* (susceptible) roots (~4.4-fold elevation), moderate for low-copy *rhg1-a*
224 (resistant) roots (~7.3-fold elevation), and the highest for high-copy *rhg1-b* (resistant)
225 soybean roots (~11.1-fold elevation). However, at 7 dpi, all genotypes accumulated
226 AAT_{Rhg1} to similar fold change levels (9.9, 11.0 and 12.5 fold-changes in single-copy,
227 low-copy and high-copy resistant respectively). In all cases, the elevated abundance
228 of AAT_{Rhg1} signal relative to nearby non-penetrated root cells within the same
229 microscopy grid was statistically significant (Figure 2B).

230 Anti-AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold particles were rarely found in mock-treatment samples of
231 all the three genotypes tested (Figure S2A). Importantly, in both a susceptible and the
232 two types of resistant varieties, anti-AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold particles were also rare in
233 root syncytium cells (which are readily identifiable by the absence of a large vacuole,
234 abundant presence of organelles and partially degraded cell walls) (Figure S2B).
235 Syncytium cells are the primary site of accumulation of the *Rhg1*-encoded α -SNAP_{Rhg1}
236 protein (Bayless et al., 2016).

237 In control experiments, no specific immunogold labeling could be found in vesicles
238 or other compartments of SCN-penetrated cells when only the secondary antibody
239 was used (Figure S2C). In further control experiments, competitive binding assays
240 were conducted to confirm the antigen specificity of the anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody in
241 EM/immunogold labeling use (Figure S3). The N-terminal 44 amino acid peptide that
242 contains the antigen recognized by our custom AAT_{Rhg1} antibody was purified and pre-
243 incubated with AAT_{Rhg1} antibody at a 1-fold or 10-fold molar excess before use on
244 electron microscopy (EM) sections. Multiple adjacent tissue-sections from one
245 identical region were examined on separate EM grids. The numbers of AAT_{Rhg1}
246 immunolabel gold particles within the same penetrated cells were counted for sections
247 probed with AAT_{Rhg1} antibody pre-treated with 1-fold or 10-fold molar excess antigen

248 and compared with the particle numbers for tissue sections probed with AAT_{Rhg1}
249 antibody not pretreated with peptide antigen. Results showed that both 1-fold and 10-
250 fold molar excess of antigen binding significantly reduced the AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold
251 signals within SCN-penetrated cells (Figure S3). This indicates specificity of the anti-
252 AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold signal for the intended antigen in immunogold-labeled EM
253 soybean root specimens.

254 We further confirmed this novel discovery of AAT_{Rhg1} abundance elevation in SCN-
255 penetrated root cells using a separate method, confocal microscopy with
256 immunofluorescent detection. This method allows broader visualization of AAT_{Rhg1}
257 distribution within root samples. Roots of non-transgenic SCN-resistant soybean
258 varieties Forrest (*rhg1-a*) and Fayette (*rhg1-b*) were inoculated with 200 J2 SCN per
259 root. Four days after inoculation, SCN-infected root regions were chemically fixed. The
260 *in situ* location and abundance of native AAT_{Rhg1} protein were monitored by secondary
261 detection of the anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody using an Alexa Fluor 568 dye-conjugated anti-
262 rabbit IgG antibody. Under bright-field illumination, the SCN-penetrated cells could be
263 readily identified due to the visible nematode body or the round hole caused by SCN-
264 penetration (Figure 3). Confocal fluorescence microscopy detected anti-AAT_{Rhg1}
265 antibody only in cells that had been penetrated by a nematode (Figure 3). Signal was
266 detected throughout the entire cell rather than only at the site of penetration. Similar
267 results were obtained for roots of Forrest (*rhg1-a*) and Fayette (*rhg1-b*) plants (Figure
268 3). No specific signal was detected when secondary fluorescent antibody alone was
269 used (Figure 3).

270 Taken together, the above results indicate that SCN-penetrated cells undergo a
271 substantial increase in the abundance of the *Rhg1*-encoded amino acid transporter-
272 like protein (AAT_{Rhg1}, *Glyma.18G022400* gene product). At the early 3 dpi infection
273 stage the level of AAT_{Rhg1} accumulation within SCN-penetrated cells positively
274 correlated with *Rhg1* copy number, with the ten-copy *rhg1-b* soybean variety
275 accumulating the most AAT_{Rhg1}.

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277
278

AAT_{Rhg1} abundance increase not observed upon wounding with needle

279 To test whether AAT_{Rhg1} is a general wound-inducible protein, roots of Fayette (*rhg1-b*)
280 were penetrated with 100 μ m diameter microneedle. After three days, wounded root
281 regions were isolated and chemically fixed. Then as in the previous section, TEM
282 immunogold labelling experiments, and separate confocal microscopy with
283 immunofluorescent detection experiments, were performed using anti-AAT_{Rhg1}
284 antibody. The mechanical damage caused by the microneedle did not elicit signal
285 accumulation in or around the site of needle penetration (Figure S4). Although these
286 experiments do not exclude the possibility that the particular forms or patterns of
287 physical damage caused by the nematode can elicit elevated abundance of AAT_{Rhg1}
288 signal, the experiments do provide evidence that simple physical penetration of the
289 root cortex is not on its own sufficient to induce elevated abundance of AAT_{Rhg1}.

290

291 **Vesicle abundance is elevated along the penetration path of soybean cyst
292 nematode and AAT_{Rhg1} protein accumulates on those vesicles**

293

294 Independent of immunogold label detection, the above-described TEM images
295 revealed a second observation: a strong increase in the abundance of subcellular
296 vesicles in those cells that had been penetrated by SCN (Figure 4; see also Figure 2).
297 This increase in vesicle abundance was evident in susceptible roots as well as low-
298 copy *rhg1-a* and high-copy *rhg1-b* soybean roots (Figure 4). In addition to numerous
299 vesicles in the ~50-500 nm size range (similar to or larger than common transport or
300 secretory vesicles), some 1-2 μ m diameter "macrovesicles" were also present.
301 Compared to the adjacent non-penetrated root cortical cells, which retain their large
302 central vacuole, the cells directly surrounding the nematode body showed distinct
303 morphology changes. First, the large central vacuoles were shrunken or otherwise
304 replaced by a nematode body. Second, there were numerous vesicles clustered within
305 the remaining cytoplasm. Third, organelles like mitochondria, ER or Golgi were rarely
306 observed (Figure 4). In all types of soybean roots tested, close inspection of
307 immunogold labeling showed accumulation and co-localization of the AAT_{Rhg1} protein
308 onto those vesicles formed in penetration cells but not in adjacent normal cells (see for
309 example Figure 2). The results indicate that SCN-penetrated cells undergo a

310 substantial accumulation of vesicles, and that AAT_{Rhg1} protein accumulates on those
311 vesicles.

312

313 **Overexpression of AAT_{Rhg1} in *N. benthamiana* induces vesiculation and AAT_{Rhg1}
314 protein accumulates on those vesicles**

315

316 As one means of investigating impacts of AAT_{Rhg1} protein accumulation in planta, we
317 overexpressed soybean AAT_{Rhg1} in *N. benthamiana* leaves. GFP-tagged AAT_{Rhg1} or a
318 GFP-only control, driven by a double CaMV 35S promoter, were transiently expressed
319 in *N. benthamiana* leaves by agroinfiltration. 72 hrs after agroinfiltration, the
320 localization of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} was analyzed by confocal microscopy. The fluorescence
321 signal for both GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and GFP was readily detectable over background.
322 Interestingly, in addition to its distribution throughout the plasma membrane, GFP-
323 AAT_{Rhg1} was present in the form of multiple primarily cytoplasmic puncta (small spots)
324 as well as large hollow (peripherally fluorescent) or solidly green-fluorescent vesicle-
325 like structures (Figure 5). These large hollow vesicles were of various sizes from
326 ~0.58 μ m to 5.5 μ m diameter, and clearly did not overlap with chloroplasts (Figure
327 5A). As expected, the GFP control mainly localized diffusely throughout the
328 cytoplasm.

329 Because the localization of fluorescent protein-tagged proteins does not always
330 reflect the authentic location of the untagged protein, we conducted additional
331 immunolocalization analyses using untagged AAT_{Rhg1}. *N. benthamiana* leaves
332 transiently expressing soybean AAT_{Rhg1} or empty vector were chemically fixed at 72
333 hpi. Samples were incubated with the anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody followed by secondary
334 incubation with Alexa Fluor 568 dye for immunofluorescence confocal microscopy.
335 Other samples expressing AAT_{Rhg1} were incubated with secondary Alex Fluor 568 dye
336 alone as a control. AAT_{Rhg1} immunofluorescent signal was detected in cells expressing
337 AAT_{Rhg1} and not in empty vector controls (Figure 5B). The signal was specific to the
338 primary anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody as the secondary antibody alone control did not show
339 any signal (Figure 5B). Interestingly, the specific immunofluorescent signal again
340 accumulated in puncta spots and in vesicle-like structures with an apparent size

341 ranging from 0.94 μm to 6.6 μm . Unlike the localization of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}, AAT_{Rhg1}
342 immunolocalization also showed rare cytoplasmic localization.

343 To associate the observed GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}-containing macrovesicles with defined
344 cellular structures, we used confocal laser scanning microscopy to test for co-
345 localization of GFP- AAT_{Rhg1} and four organelle markers in *N. benthamiana* leaves
346 (Nelson et al., 2007) (Figure S5). GFP- AAT_{Rhg1} was coexpressed with RFP-tagged
347 markers for Golgi (Golgi-RK), ER (ER-RK), plasma membrane (PM-RK) or plastids
348 (plastids-RK). Upon coexpression with each of the organelle markers, GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}
349 displayed the same macrovesicle localization that GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} alone showed in
350 Figure 5. Partial co-localization was observed for GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and the ER marker,
351 and for GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and the plasma membrane marker (Figure S5). GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}
352 did not show co-localization with the Golgi or plastid markers.

353 Together, the immunofluorescence and green fluorescent-protein tagging showed
354 that overexpressing AAT_{Rhg1} causes plant cells to accumulate vesicles and
355 macrovesicles, many of which carry AAT_{Rhg1}.

356

357 **H₂O₂ accumulation in cells around the SCN at early infection stage**

358

359 ROS signaling can be a mediator of plant defenses against pathogens and ROS
360 production in roots during cyst nematode infections has been studied using multiple
361 approaches. We examined the spatial pattern of ROS accumulation as SCN migrate
362 through roots. ROS production was monitored in susceptible and in *rhg1-a* and *rhg1-b*
363 SCN-resistant varieties, using the hydrogen peroxide probe 2', 7'-
364 dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (H₂DCFDA). Roots were examined at 3 days
365 post-infection, a time at which nematode migration is still occurring but some
366 nematodes have initiated feeding and other infections have terminated. We found that
367 H₂O₂ was induced by SCN in root cells of all the three types tested, but not in the
368 mock treatments (Figure 6). Interestingly, only a portion of root cells around the SCN
369 (indicated by arrows in Figure 6A) had strong H₂DCFDA fluorescent signals. Scattered
370 lesions (dead root cells) in the area of nematode invasion are commonly observed a
371 few days after initial root exposure to SCN, but neither the lesions (arrowhead in

372 Figure 6A) nor the SCN (arrow with stem) showed elevated ROS signals.
373 Reproducibly, there were more cells with positive H₂DCFDA fluorescent signals in
374 *rhg1-b* high-copy variety than the *rhg1-a* low-copy variety or the wild type. For each
375 fluorescent image, ImageJ was used to divide the area of H₂DCFDA fluorescent
376 signals by the total root area (with the SCN body and the space outside the root tissue
377 eliminated) to calculate the percent area with ROS (Figure 6B). Compared to the wild
378 type mock treatment, the relative ROS accumulation was the lowest for wild type
379 single-copy *Rhg1* (susceptible) roots (~6.8-fold elevation), moderate for low-copy
380 *rhg1-a* (resistant) roots (~15.8-fold elevation), and the highest for high-copy *rhg1-b*
381 (resistant) soybean roots (~34.6-fold elevation). There were no significant differences
382 between all the mock treatments of the three varieties (Figure 6B).

383

384 **ROS accumulation can enhance endocytosis-associated accumulation of
385 AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles**

386

387 Because soybean roots present a challenging experimental system for transient gene
388 expression and for confocal imaging, *N. benthamiana* leaves were used to initiate
389 investigation of the potential interaction of AAT_{Rhg1} with ROS. *N. benthamiana* leaves
390 transiently expressing GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} or GFP alone as a control were infiltrated with 20
391 µm methyl viologen (MV; paraquat). MV is an inhibitor of photosynthetic electron
392 transport chains that induces elevation of ROS in plant cells (Han et al., 2015). Eight
393 hours after MV treatment, the leaf apoplast was infiltrated with FM4-64 and then
394 imaged 30 mins later. Confocal live imaging of FM4-64 dye uptake is a standard
395 technique to monitor vesicle dynamics in endocytic pathways (Bolte et al., 2004). As
396 noted above, expression of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} (in the absence of MV) led to the
397 accumulation of green fluorescent puncta as well as green fluorescent vesicle-like
398 structures (Figure 7, GFP column of images). Expression of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} in the
399 presence of MV led to the accumulation of more and larger green fluorescent vesicle-
400 like structures with diameters of approximately 6-10 µm (arrow heads, Figure 7).
401 Within some large vesicles multiple small round vesicles with GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}

402 fluorescent signals were present, suggesting that the larger vesicles had formed
403 through fusion of multiple small vesicles.

404 Merging of FM4-64 and GFP images showed that FM4-64 stained membranes co-
405 localized with the fused large vesicles (indicated by GFP fluorescence, arrow heads,
406 Figure 7) but not with smaller GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles (arrows, Figure 7).
407 This suggests that endocytic vesicles fuse with and possibly promote the
408 agglomeration of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} into larger clusters. The small GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} vesicles
409 may have formed prior to the addition of FM4-64, or might not be derived from
410 endocytic events. To reiterate, we found in *N. benthamiana* that upon MV-induced
411 oxidative stress, smaller AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles more often fuse into larger
412 macrovesicles. These fused larger vesicles could be stained by a 30-min FM4-64
413 treatment, indicating that this fusion is associated with an endocytic internalization
414 process. This endocytic vesiculation response to ROS stimuli, which was observed in
415 the presence of elevated AAT_{Rhg1} expression (Figure 7), was reminiscent of our
416 electron micrograph discoveries that SCN-penetrated cells in soybean roots form
417 larger AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles that can contain multiple small AAT_{Rhg1}-containing
418 vesicles (Figure 2).

419

420 **AAT_{Rhg1} interacts on vesicles with GmRBOHC2, an SCN-responsive NADPH
421 oxidase homolog**

422

423 We hypothesized that AAT_{Rhg1} physically interacts with one or more previously
424 discovered defense-associated proteins, and used *N. benthamiana* agroinfiltration and
425 co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) to conduct in planta tests for interactions. A small
426 number of potential AAT_{Rhg1} interactors were selected from the published literature
427 regarding SCN-elicited responses as well as some SCN effectors. GmRBOHC2 was
428 identified and then found upon testing to be an AAT_{Rhg1} interactor (Figure 8).

429 *Glyma.06G162300*, which encodes GmRBOHC2, is a soybean ortholog of the gene
430 encoding Arabidopsis RBOHD, an extensively studied mediator of the ROS burst
431 associated with pathogen infection and wounding in Arabidopsis (Miller et al., 2009; Li
432 et al., 2014; Lee et al., 2020). In genome-wide expression profiling,

433 *Glyma.06G162300* transcript abundance was significantly upregulated after SCN
434 infection in both susceptible and resistant lines, with greater abundance in resistant
435 lines at 3 dpi (Wan et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2019). We co-expressed epitope-tagged
436 GmRBOHC2-MYC with GFP-tagged AAT_{Rhg1} (or GFP-only control) in *N. benthamiana*
437 leaves. Plant extracts were taken 60 hrs. After agroinfiltration, immunoprecipitated
438 with anti-GFP antibody, the products were separated by SDS-PAGE, and protein blots
439 were then probed with anti-MYC antibody. GmRBOHC2 co-immunoprecipitated with
440 GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} but not with GFP alone (Figure 8A).

441 To validate these results and to investigate the cellular location of GmRBOHC2-
442 AAT_{Rhg1} interaction, bimolecular fluorescence complementation (BiFC) experiments
443 were carried out. Stringent positive and negative controls are necessary for BiFC
444 experiments (Kudla and Bock, 2016); we used the known protein interaction partners
445 NSF and α -SNAP_{Rhg1}WT of soybean (Bayless et al., 2016) for this purpose. NSF and
446 α -SNAP interact in vitro and in vivo, where they participate in the disassembly of
447 SNARE protein bundles that are associated with vesicle trafficking, including at the
448 plasma membrane (Zhao et al., 2015). Here, cYFP-tagged AAT_{Rhg1} was transiently
449 coexpressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves with either RBOHC2-nYFP or the negative
450 control NSF-nYFP. cYFP-tagged α -SNAP_{Rhg1}WT was coexpressed with RBOHC2-
451 nYFP to serve as another negative control. cYFP- α -SNAP_{Rhg1}WT and NSF-nYFP
452 were co-transformed within the same leaf as the above samples to serve as a positive
453 expression control for the negative controls. We observed positive interaction signals,
454 indicated by yellow fluorescence, only upon coexpression of cYFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and
455 GmRBOHC2-nYFP, as well as for the positive control cYFP- α -SNAP_{Rhg1}WT + NSF-
456 nYFP (Figure 8B). Interestingly, the interaction signals were localized on small
457 vesicle-like puncta within the cytoplasm, which was consistent previous AAT_{Rhg1}
458 localization results (Figure 5). The known vesicle trafficking contributors α -SNAP and
459 NSF also interacted in vesicle-like puncta in our BiFC assay (Figure 8B). The other
460 control combinations did not give yellow fluorescence under the same confocal
461 detection settings (Figure 8B).

462 As shown above (Figures 5 and 6), AAT_{Rhg1} localized onto larger fused vesicles
463 under MV-induced ROS stress when overexpressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves. To

464 test whether the co-localization pattern of AAT_{Rhg1}/GmRBOHC2 changed under
465 similar stress, a hemostat wounding method was used after 60 hr co-expression of
466 cYFP-AAT_{Rhg1}/GmRbohC2-nYFP or cYFP- α -SNAP/NSF-nYFP control. After
467 wounding, the leaves were left for 30 mins in the air before confocal microscopy. After
468 this treatment, the reconstituted YFP signal indicating interaction of cYFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and
469 GmRbohC2-nYFP was shifted toward larger vesicles (Figure 8B). The α -SNAP/NSF
470 interaction signal remained on similarly sized vesicles with or without wounding
471 treatment (Figure 8B). Hence the ROS-generating GmRBOHC2 protein, previously
472 shown to be transcriptionally upregulated during SCN infection, interacted with
473 AAT_{Rhg1} in small vesicles in normal conditions and in larger vesicles after wounding.
474

475 **Simultaneous elevation of AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2 abundance causes ROS
476 production**

477
478 Having discovered that AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2 physically interact in planta,
479 experiments were then carried out to determine if AAT_{Rhg1} alters ROS generation in
480 concert with GmRBOHC2 (Figure 9). GmRBOHC2 and AAT_{Rhg1} without epitope tags
481 were co-expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves under control of strong CaMV 35S
482 promoters. GmRBOHC2 alone, AAT_{Rhg1} alone or GFP overexpression alone were
483 expressed in the same leaf within the same biological replicate to serve as controls.
484 72 hrs after agroinoculation, leaves were detached, stained with nitroblue tetrazolium
485 (NBT) for one half hour and then destained. NBT is a standard histochemical stain that
486 detects superoxide (Beauchamp and Fridovich, 1971). Numerous NBT-positive spots
487 were detected when coexpressing GmRBOHC2 and AAT_{Rhg1} or expressing AAT_{Rhg1}
488 alone, while within the same leaves few or no NBT positive spots could be seen in the
489 cells transiently expressing GmRBOHC2 alone, or GFP (Figure 9A). Quantification of
490 staining areas confirmed a significant elevation of ROS production when expressing
491 AAT_{Rhg1} alone. There was even more ROS production when GmRBOHC2 and
492 AAT_{Rhg1} were co-expressed. Overexpression of GmRBOHC2 alone did not cause
493 elevation of NBT staining beyond that observed for negative control GFP
494 overexpression.

495

496

497 **DISCUSSION**

498

499 The *Rhg1* locus has for multiple decades been the primary means of control of the
500 most economically damaging pathogen of soybean, soybean cyst nematode
501 (Concibido et al., 2004; Niblack et al., 2006; Mitchum, 2016). *Rhg1* is a four-gene
502 ~30kb block that exhibits copy number variation, and the PI 88788-type *rhg1-b*
503 haplotype with 9-10 tandem *Rhg1* repeats is now present in most commercial
504 soybean germplasm in the U.S. Contributions to SCN resistance have been shown for
505 three of the four disparate genes in the *Rhg1* repeat block (Cook et al., 2012). Multiple
506 mechanistic findings have been made regarding the resistance contributed by the α -
507 SNAP_{Rhg1} proteins (Bayless et al., 2016; Lakhssassi et al., 2017; Liu et al., 2017;
508 Bayless et al., 2018; Bayless et al., 2019; Lakhssassi et al., 2020). However, much
509 less was known about how AAT_{Rhg1}, or the Rhg1 protein with WI12-domains,
510 contribute to resistance (Mitchum, 2016; Yan and Baidoo, 2018). One of the main
511 findings of the present study is that AAT_{Rhg1} protein levels increase approximately ten-
512 fold along the path of SCN root invasion. The hypothesis that AAT_{Rhg1} protein
513 abundance differences are a determinant of resistance had previously been proposed
514 (Cook et al., 2012; Cook et al., 2014), because unlike the α -SNAP_{Rhg1} proteins, there
515 are no amino acid polymorphisms in AAT_{Rhg1} between resistant and susceptible
516 varieties. Instead, *Glyma.18G022400* mRNA abundance in non-infected tissues had
517 been shown to scale with *Rhg1* locus copy number, showing significant elevation in
518 multi-copy *Rhg1* SCN-resistant genotypes (Cook et al., 2014; Wan et al., 2015).
519 Moreover, before its function in SCN resistance was known, whole-genome
520 expression profiling reported that AAT_{Rhg1} mRNA abundance is elevated in SCN-
521 infected root tissues (Kandoth et al., 2011; Matsye et al., 2011). It is interesting that by
522 7 dpi we observed similar levels of AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance elevation, relative to
523 neighboring cells, in both SCN-susceptible and SCN-resistant genotypes. However, at
524 three days after SCN infection the abundance increase of AAT_{Rhg1} protein in cells
525 along the SCN penetration path, relative to nearby non-infested cells, scaled with
526 *Rhg1* locus copy number. *Rhg1* copy number has already been shown to positively
527 correlate with SCN resistance efficacy, especially when isolated from contributions

528 from other loci such as *Rhg4* (Cook et al., 2014; Yu et al., 2016; Patil et al., 2019). Our
529 observations regarding AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance increases are consistent with the
530 documented differences in resistance efficacy between *Rhg1* haplotypes, but are
531 striking with regard to the discovered site of AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance increase.

532 The present study discovered that AAT_{Rhg1} protein specifically accumulates along
533 the SCN root penetration path, relative to its abundance in the root cells adjacent to
534 the penetration path or in any other observed root cells. In some of our study samples
535 the SCN-penetrated root cells may have been dead or close to death at the time of
536 fixation for microscopy, but they had obviously been stimulated to express elevated
537 levels of AAT_{Rhg1} protein prior to that event. One of the reasons that this finding is of
538 interest is because α -SNAP_{Rhg1}, the protein product of the adjacent gene within the
539 same *Rhg1* locus, was previously shown to accumulate more than ten-fold specifically
540 within the syncytium cells that later serve for a few weeks as the biotrophic interface
541 for cyst nematode feeding (Bayless et al., 2016; Bayless et al., 2019). We observed
542 little or no AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold signal within syncytia for all three of the soybean
543 varieties tested. This indicates that the resistance-contributing genes within the *Rhg1*
544 locus not only encode distinctly different proteins, but those proteins also appear to
545 act at spatially and temporally separate locations in the infection court. The multi-
546 decade durability of *Rhg1*-encoded SCN resistance may have been due, in part, to the
547 lower evolutionary potential of SCN relative to some microbial plant pathogens
548 (McDonald and Linde, 2002). However, the present study provides experimental
549 findings supporting the hypothesis that the durability of *Rhg1* is enhanced because it
550 is a naturally occurring "resistance stack" encoding more than one mode of action.

551 The mechanism through which AAT_{Rhg1} activates defenses has remained
552 unknown. None of the *Rhg1* genes encodes an NB-LRR, RLK or other protein type
553 that commonly serves the role of pathogen detection and defense activation in plants
554 (Dangl and Jones, 2001). Plants sense infection in one cell and then can activate
555 defenses in systemic cells or nearby non-infected cells using a variety of mediators,
556 including glutamate, ROS, Ca²⁺, salicylic acid, and N-hydroxypipelicolic acid, to name
557 just a few examples (Bernsdorff et al., 2016; Hartmann et al., 2018; Toyota et al.,
558 2018; Wang et al., 2019). Local stimuli such as insect herbivory can activate

559 glutamate as a longer-distance wound signal to rapidly initiate defense responses in
560 undamaged parts (Toyota et al., 2018). ROS and electrical signaling, mediated by
561 respiratory burst oxidase homolog (RBOH) proteins and glutamate receptor-like
562 proteins, control distal activation of JA signaling during tomato responses to root knot
563 nematodes (Wang et al., 2019). Those examples may be germane because AAT_{Rhg1},
564 while not shown to be a glutamate transporter, was recently reported to increase
565 tolerance to toxic levels of exogenously supplied glutamate, and it impacted glutamate
566 abundance and transport (Guo et al., 2019). Our testing of a limited number of SCN
567 infection-associated proteins revealed physical association of the AAT_{Rhg1} and
568 GmRBOHC2 proteins in planta. We further observed that overexpression of AAT_{Rhg1}
569 alone was sufficient to raise ROS levels above background, while co-expression of
570 both proteins caused more elevation of ROS. We found that AAT_{Rhg1} abundance
571 increases along the path of nematode invasion with greater 3 dpi increases observed
572 in resistant haplotypes, and GmRBOHC2 mRNA abundance has been shown to
573 increase in SCN-infected tissue (Wan et al., 2015; Liu et al., 2019). The present work
574 hence establishes as a future priority a dissection of cause-effect relationships
575 between AAT_{Rhg1}/GmRBOHC2 interaction, ROS elevation and glutamate elevation in
576 the activation of defense responses during cyst nematode infections.

577 Another intriguing feature of the present study was the extensive vesicle and
578 macrovesicle production observed along the SCN penetration path in roots, and the
579 association of AAT_{Rhg1} with vesicle and macrovesicle formation in *N. benthamiana* as
580 well as along the SCN infection path in soybean. AAT_{Rhg1} expression induced
581 vesicle/macrovesicle formation. In split-YFP experiments, GmRBOHC2 interaction
582 with AAT_{Rhg1} was primarily observed on these vesicles. When considering the above
583 and other findings about these AAT_{Rhg1}-induced/AAT_{Rhg1}-carrying vesicles, the
584 vesicles do have things in common with the extracellular vesicles (EVs) recently found
585 to play prominent roles during plant-microbe interactions (Rutter and Innes, 2017).
586 First, they are not present in normal cells - their presence is elicited by pathogen
587 infection. Second, they are in physically close contact with the penetration structure,
588 for example, the nematode body (this study) or the haustoria structure (plant-fungal
589 interaction). EVs that accumulate during microbial pathogen invasion have been

590 shown to be defense cargo shuttle vectors, carrying various defense-related proteins,
591 siRNAs and lipid signals that play roles in plant defense responses (Rybak and
592 Robatzek, 2019). In *Arabidopsis*, defense related sRNAs could be shuttled into the
593 necrotrophic fungus *Botrytis cinerea* via extracellular vesicles (Cai et al., 2018). The
594 AAT_{Rhg1}-associated vesicles that we observed may have similar roles during SCN
595 infection. However, we have no evidence that the vesicles and macrovesicles are
596 exported across the cell plasma membrane. They were observed within penetrated
597 soybean root cells, or within *N. benthamiana* cells overexpressing AAT_{Rhg1}, or in
598 soybean root apoplastic fluid surrounding the nematode penetration path which
599 includes intracellular remnants from recently deceased penetrated root cells.
600 Significantly, in *N. benthamiana* FM4-64 experiments that monitored uptake of
601 externally labeled plasma membrane, at least some of the AAT_{Rhg1}-bearing vesicles
602 were associated with endocytic rather than exocytic processes. In *N. benthamiana*
603 overexpressing AAT_{Rhg1}, co-localization of AAT_{Rhg1} with a plasma-membrane marker
604 was observed on internally localized macrovesicles as well as the plasma membrane.
605 Hence the observed AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles may be more reminiscent of the
606 endocytic vesicles that become more abundant when RLKs such as FLS2 have been
607 activated for signaling (Robatzek et al., 2006; Geldner and Robatzek, 2008; Beck et
608 al., 2012).

609 ROS signaling plays important roles in plant responses to root knot nematodes
610 (Zhou et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2020) . In tomato, an oxidative burst
611 had occurred by 12 hpi in both resistant and susceptible lines during root knot
612 nematode infection. In electron microscopy, cerium chloride staining of H₂O₂ was
613 mainly observed within cell walls near cells that underwent HR cell death caused by
614 RKN infection (Melillo et al., 2006). ROS accumulation during beet cyst nematode
615 infection was also reported in *Arabidopsis* (Waetzig et al., 1999; Siddique et al., 2014),
616 and in both resistant and susceptible soybean roots upon SCN infection (Chen et al.,
617 2020). However, detailed studies of the mechanisms that lead to ROS generation in
618 soybean-SCN interactions are not available. We speculate, as one possibility, that the
619 SCN-induced macrovesicles may provide a longer-lived membrane site for the ROS
620 generation machinery. Within cells damaged by nematode penetration, these types of

621 vesicles could serve as a briefly enduring cellular compartment where those defense
622 responses can continue to function. A similar concept has been presented by Klink
623 and colleagues, who proposed (Pant et al. 2015) that a transiently protected living
624 plant cell could secrete materials in the vicinity of the nematode to disarm it, prior to
625 that plant cell succumbing to its targeted demise. We observed that GmRBOHC2
626 physically interacts with AAT_{Rhg1} within vesicles. Upon SCN infection, the
627 accumulation of AAT_{Rhg1} could recruit upregulated GmRBOHC2 onto those vesicles
628 through their interaction. Alternatively, AAT_{Rhg1} may activate RBOHC2 and other
629 respiratory burst oxidase homologs at the cell membrane, and then end up on vesicles
630 simply as a recycling mechanism. The elevated coexpression of AAT_{Rhg1} and
631 GmRBHOC2 did enhance ROS production, which may be a key early defense against
632 SCN infection that directly weakens the nematode and/or signals to neighboring cells
633 to potentiate defenses. It remains possible that defense-related functions other than
634 ROS generation are also mediated by the observed AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles.

635 Taken together, we report distinct tissue and subcellular sites of elevated
636 abundance of the putative amino acid transporter AAT_{Rhg1}, along the path of SCN
637 infection. AAT_{Rhg1} expression is associated with accumulation of vesicles and
638 macrovesicles, and with activities that elevate ROS production, revealing mechanisms
639 of the successful *Rhg1*-mediated SCN resistance that might be applied to other plant-
640 nematode interactions.

641
642
643

644 **METHODS**

645

646 **Nematode inoculum**

647 SCN eggs of Hg 0 populations were obtained from Alison Colgrove at the University of
648 Illinois Plant Clinic. Eggs were incubated in hatching buffer (3 mM ZnCl₂) for 5 days at
649 room temperature. Infectious J2 SCN were obtained and surface-disinfested with
650 sterilization buffer (0.1g/L HgCl₂ and 0.01% Sodium Azide) for three minutes. After
651 rinsing twice in water, J2 SCN were resuspended in 0.05% sterile agarose water for
652 root inoculation.

653 **Plasmid constructs.**

654 For transient overexpression vectors, the soybean AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2
655 (*Glyma.06G162300.1*) ORFs were PCR-amplified from Williams82 cDNA generated
656 by the iScript cDNA Synthesis Kit(Bio-Rad) and KAPA HiFi polymerase (Kapa
657 Biosystems). Transient overexpression of soybean AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2 was
658 performed by assembling each respective ORF with the double CaMV 35S promoter
659 with TMV omega enhancer (pLICH51288) and nopaline synthase (NOS) terminator into
660 the binary vector pAGM4673 (MoClo Tool Kit) using the Golden Gate cloning method
661 (Weber et al., 2011).

662 For BiFC vectors, nYFP or cYFP fusion expression constructs driven by CaMV 35S
663 promoter were prepared similarly as (Zhao et al., 2013). ORFs encoding AAT_{Rhg1} or α -
664 SNAP_{Rhg1WT} with stop codon, or GmRBOHC2 or NSF without stop codon were
665 flanked by specific LIC1 adaptor at 5'(5'-C gAC gAC AAg ACC gTg ACC-3') and LIC2
666 adaptor at 3'(5'-gA ggA gAA gAg CCg Tcg-3') by overhang PCR amplification and
667 purified by gel-extraction using QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen). Then, a Ligase
668 Independent Cloning (LIC) method was performed to fuse N-terminal cYFP with
669 AAT_{Rhg1} or α -SNAP_{Rhg1WT}, and to fuse C-terminal nYFP with NSF or GmRBOHC2, as
670 described (Xu et al., 2010).

671 For co-IP vectors, a construct encoding N-terminal GFP translationally fused to full
672 length AAT_{Rhg1} (using an AAT_{Rhg1} cDNA with stop codon) was cloned into a binary
673 expression construct pJG045, driven by a CaMV 35S promoter, using LIC (ligation-

674 independent cloning) methods (Du et al., 2013). Similarly, a construct encoding N-
675 terminal GmRBOHC2 without stop codon fused to C-terminal 6X MYC tag was cloned
676 into pJG045 using LIC methods.

677 ***N. benthamiana* experiments**

678 *N. benthamiana* plants with 2-3 fully expanded leaves were used for agroinfiltration
679 with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain GV3101(pMP90) as described in (Bayless et
680 al., 2016). The subcellular compartment marker protein constructs expressed first 49
681 AA of GmMan1 (soybean α -1,2-mannosidase) as Golgi marker, chimeric signal
682 peptide of AtWAK2 at the N-terminus of the RFP and the ER retention signal HDEL at
683 the C-terminus as the ER marker, full length AtPIP2A as PM marker, and first 79 AA
684 of small subunit of tobacco rubisco as plastid marker (Nelson et al., 2007)

685 **Antibody Production**

686 Affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies, raised in rabbit against the synthetic peptide
687 “SKGTPP” matching residues 15-20 near the N-terminus of GmAAT_{Rhg1}, were
688 produced by New England Peptide. Antibody specificity was validated using
689 immunoblots with root lysates of ten-copy *Rhg1* Fayette) compared to single-copy
690 *Rhg1* Williams 82 roots, and to Williams 82 roots expressing an RNAi gene silencing
691 cassette targeting endogenous AAT_{Rhg1} (Figure S1).

692 **Immunoblots with anti-AAT_{Rhg1}**

693 Soybean root samples were frozen in liquid nitrogen and extracted in buffer containing
694 50 mM Tris·HCl (pH 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2% Triton X-100, 10%
695 (vol/vol) glycerol, and protease inhibitor mixture (Sigma, P9599). Protein was
696 extracted by homogenization in a PowerLyzer 24 (MO BIO) at 2000 rpm for three
697 cycles with 15 s interval. Each sample was quantified by Bradford assays to achieve
698 equal loading of total protein on SDS/PAGE gels. Blots were incubated with anti-
699 AAT_{Rhg1} antibody in 5% (wt/vol) nonfat dry milk TBS-T (50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl,
700 0.05% Tween 20) at 1:1,000 overnight at 4°C. After four washes with TBS-T,
701 secondary horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit was added at 1:10,000
702 and incubated for 1h at room temperature with mild agitation on a horizontal shaker.
703 Blots were then washed with TBS-T four times, followed by chemiluminescence

704 detection with SuperSignal West Pico or Dura chemiluminescent substrate (Thermo
705 Scientific). Blots were imaged using a ChemiDoc MP chemiluminescent imager (Bio-
706 Rad).

707 **Electron Microscopy and Immunolabeling.**

708 Immunolabeling were performed similarly to (Bayless et al., 2019). Segments from
709 roots (Fayette, Forrest and Williams 82) previously inoculated with ~200 J2 SCN (Hg
710 0) per root were hand-sectioned with a razor at the indicated dpi. Root sections about
711 2 mm long were vacuum infiltrated in fixation buffer (0.1% glutaraldehyde and 4%
712 (vol/vol) paraformaldehyde in 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer (PB) pH 7.4) and
713 incubated overnight. After dehydration in 50%, 70%, 90%, 95% and 100% ethanol
714 series, samples were embedded in LR White. Ultrathin sections (~90-nm) were taken
715 longitudinally with an ultramicrotome (UC-6; Leica). For the immunogold labeling,
716 samples were mounted on nickel slot grids. Grids were first activated on drops of 50
717 mM glycine/PBS for 15 min, and then blocked in drops of blocking solutions for goat
718 gold conjugates (Aurion) for 30 min and then equilibrated in 0.1% BSA-C/PBS
719 (incubation buffer). Next, grids were incubated with the anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibodies diluted
720 1:1000 (in incubation buffer) overnight at 4 °C. After washing five times in incubation
721 buffer, grids were incubated for 2 h with goat anti-rabbit antibody conjugated to 15-nm
722 gold (Aurion) diluted 1:50 in incubation buffer. After six washes in incubation buffer
723 and two washes in PBS, grids were fixed using 2.0% (vol/vol) glutaraldehyde in 0.1 M
724 phosphate buffer for 5 min. Finally, grids were further washed twice in 0.1 M
725 phosphate buffer for five minutes each and then five 2-minute washes in water.
726 Images were collected with a MegaView III digital camera on a Philips CM120
727 transmission electron microscope. Anti-AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold particles were counted
728 for single 69 μm^2 areas within the sampled cells (e.g., cells penetrated by a
729 nematode) and in the identically-sized region that had the highest observable signal in
730 directly adjacent cells with normal root cell morphology (large central vacuole).

731 **Immunofluorescent assay**

732 4 dpi SCN-infested roots segments were fixed in 0.1% glutaraldehyde and 4%
733 (vol/vol) paraformaldehyde in 0.1M sodium phosphate buffer (PB) (pH 7.4) overnight

734 after vacuum infiltration for about 1 hour as described above. For immunofluorescence
735 processing, the fixed roots segments were briefly rinsed with PBT buffer (1XPBS
736 pH=7.4, 1% BSA (w/v) and 0.1% Triton-X100) and then blocked with PBT blocking
737 solutions (PBS pH=7.4, 1% BSA (w/v) and 0.1% Triton-X100, plus 5 % goat serum
738 (Sigma-Aldrich) overnight at 4 °C. The root segments were incubated with the primary
739 antibody diluted 1:1000 in PBT blocking solution at 4 °C overnight. Next, the incubated
740 roots were washed 5 times for 10 min. each with PBT buffer at 800 rpm on a shaker
741 platform at room temperature. Roots were then incubated with 0.4 µg/ml secondary
742 antibody Alexa Fluor 568 goat anti-rabbit IgG H&L (Abcam ab175471) in PBT at for 2
743 hrs at room temperature, covered with a foil to shield the 2nd antibody solutions from
744 light. After again washing with PBT for 10 mins 5 times at room temperature, the
745 samples could be imaged by confocal microscopy right away.

746 **Confocal Microscopy**

747 Confocal imaging was performed using an inverted Carl Zeiss laser-scanning confocal
748 microscope (ELYRA LSM 780) with a 20× or 40× water immersion objective. All *A.*
749 *tumefaciens*-transformed leaves were excised using a paper punch and monitored at
750 ~72 hr after infiltration. For green fluorescent protein detection, GFP or GFP tagged
751 chimera protein was excited at the wavelength of 488 nm, and the emitted
752 fluorescence was detected with a 493-594 nm emission filter. Chloroplast
753 autofluorescence was excited at 405 nm and detected at 635 to 708 nm to determine
754 the position of chloroplasts for reference. For FM4-64 imaging, 50 µm FM4-64 solution
755 (Invitrogen/Molecular Probes; T13320) was inoculated additionally into transformed
756 leaves 0.5 hr before observation under the confocal laser scanning microscope. FM4-
757 64 stained leaf tissues were excited with an excitation laser of 514 nm, and the
758 emission signals were collected at 592-651 nm. For immunofluorescence, the Alexa
759 Fluor 568 immunodetected plant tissue was excited at the wavelength of 561 nm and
760 detection wavelength was at the range of 568-640 nm. For BiFC assay, YFP
761 recombinant signal was acquired using a 514 nm laser for excitation combined with a
762 519-620 nm range emission filter. Images were collected using a standardized scan
763 area of 442.2 × 442.2 µm (for 20× objective used) or 212.55 × 212.55 µm (40× water
764 immersion objective), with a 1024 × 1024 pixels size frame. The detector master gain

765 setting was from 700 to 800 dependent on different fluorescent signal intensity, and
766 1.01 AU size of pinhole was used for all the *Nicotiana benthamiana* samples, and 2.36
767 AU was used for soybean root immunofluorescence assays. At least 36 images were
768 assessed for each expression treatment across three independent experiments.

769 **H₂DCFDA detection of ROS in SCN-infested soybean roots**

770 Whole 2-week old soybean seedlings germinated in PlantCon containers (MP bio,
771 Cat#2672202) were used for SCN inoculation or mock treatment. About 400 SCN/root
772 were placed near the vicinity of each root tip by pipette at day 0. After three days, the
773 2 cm root segments with greatest SCN infestation were harvested. For mock
774 treatments, similar regions of the root were excised. Detached roots were then
775 incubated in 1X PBS (Phosphate Buffered Saline) buffer with 50 µM H₂DCFDA (2', 7'-
776 dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate, Invitrogen, D399) for 30 min shaking at 200
777 rpm/min at room temperature (Allan and Fluhr, 1997; Shin et al., 2005; Chen et al.,
778 2020). Roots were then washed twice with 1X PBS, 10 min each time, and imaged. A
779 Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope (ELYRA) was used with a 10× objective.
780 H₂DCFDA was excited at 488 nm at 2% laser power and 493-598 nm emission was
781 detected. At least 16 confocal fluorescent images from 8 different roots across two
782 independent replicates per treatment were used for quantification. The area with
783 H₂DCFDA fluorescent was calculated using ImageJ software as the number of pixels
784 with signal intensity above background, compared to the total imaged root area (with
785 SCN bodies and space outside the root tissue excluded) in order to calculate the
786 percent area of root cells with ROS signals.

787 **MV treatment**

788 Methyl Viologen (MV) treatment on *N. benthamiana* leaves was conducted as
789 described (Han et al., 2015). In brief, 20 µm MV solution was infiltrated into the
790 transformed leaves at 64 hr post agroinfiltration and followed by 8 hr under the
791 previous light conditions to induce internal ROS generation before the confocal
792 analysis.

793 **Coimmunoprecipitation**

794 For co-IP assays, 4-wk-old fully expanded *N. benthamiana* leaves were used for
795 agroinoculation at OD 0.6 for total 60-hr expression. About 2 g *N. benthamiana* leaf
796 tissues for each treatment was collected from four different plants as one biological
797 replicate. After chilling by liquid nitrogen, the tissue was ground by hand using a pestle
798 in a pre-chilled mortar. Then 4 ml of protein extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl (pH
799 7.5), 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 0.2% Triton X-100, 10% [v/v] glycerol, 1/100 Sigma
800 protease inhibitor cocktail) was added to the mortar and the sample was further
801 homogenized by grinding. The lysates were transferred into tubes and spun down at
802 6000 G for 10 min at 4°C three times to remove insoluble debris. The resulting
803 supernatant was incubated with prewashed GFP-Trap_A (ChromoTek) beads for 3 h
804 at 4°C. The precipitations were washed four times with ice-cold immunoprecipitation
805 buffer at 4°C and were analyzed by immunoblot using anti-Myc (Sigma), or anti-GFP
806 (Cell Signaling Technology) antibodies. Secondary horseradish peroxidase-
807 conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Sigma) was used to detect the primary anti-AAT_{Rhg1}
808 antibody derived from rabbit. Chemiluminescence detection was performed with
809 SuperSignal Dura chemiluminescent substrate (Thermo Scientific) and developed by
810 a ChemiDoc MP chemiluminescent imager (Bio-Rad).

811 **Wounding treatment**

812 For wounding, each *N. benthamiana* leaves was compressed gently for 30 seconds
813 using reverse-action tweezers. By the full release of the reverse-action tweezers, a
814 consistent wounding force was provided across all the samples.

815 **NBT staining**

816 Nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) staining was performed as described (Han et al., 2015).
817 In brief, *N. benthamiana* leaves were detached and vacuum-infiltrated with 10 mM
818 NaN₃ in 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (8.6 mM K₂HPO₄ and 1.4 mM KH₂PO₄)
819 pH 7.8, for 1 min. Then, the fully infiltrated leaves were transferred into 0.1% NBT (in
820 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer pH 7.8) and put on a platform shaker shaking at
821 150 rpm for 30 min at room temperature, under a foil cover to reduce light exposure.
822 The stained leaves were then cleared by boiling in destaining buffer (acetic acid:
823 glycerol: ethanol (1:1:3 [v/v/v])). Photographs were obtained by scanning with a flatbed

824 scanner (EPSON, V500 PHOTO SCANNER) at 800 dpi and NBT stain measurements
825 were obtained using ImageJ (<https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>). The region for evaluation was
826 matched to the outline of the full agroinfiltrated area, and pixel intensities were
827 obtained for each individual image. Number of dark blue-stained pixels in an image
828 was divided by total analyzed pixels (the total infiltration area) to calculate the percent
829 area with NBT stain. 32 images taken from 12 independent leaves across three
830 independent replicates were used for quantification.

831

832 **Supplemental Data**

833 **Supplemental Figure 1.** Confirming the specificity of custom-generated AAT_{Rhg1}
834 antibodies.

835 **Supplemental Figure 2.** Little or no immunogold signal in mock-inoculated
836 samples, syncytium cells, or negative controls that omit primary antibody.

837 **Supplemental Figure 3.** Confirming by competitive binding control that the
838 AAT_{Rhg1} antibody is specific in electron microscopy antigen detection.

839 **Supplemental Figure 4.** AAT_{Rhg1} signal is not generated by microneedle damage

840 **Supplemental Figure 5.** GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} partially co-localizes with ER and PM
841 markers but not with Golgi or plastid markers in *N. benthamiana* cells.

842

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848

849

850 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

851 S.H. designed the research, performed research, analyzed data and wrote the paper.

852 J.M.S. designed the research, performed research, and analyzed data. Y.D. performed

853 research and analyzed data. A.F.B. designed the research, analyzed data and wrote the
854 paper.

855

856

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

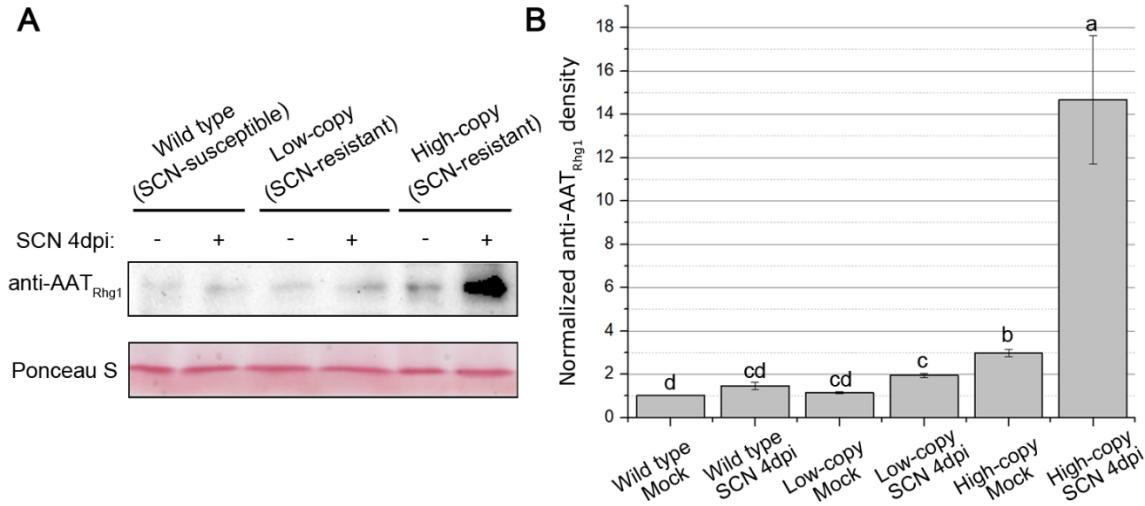
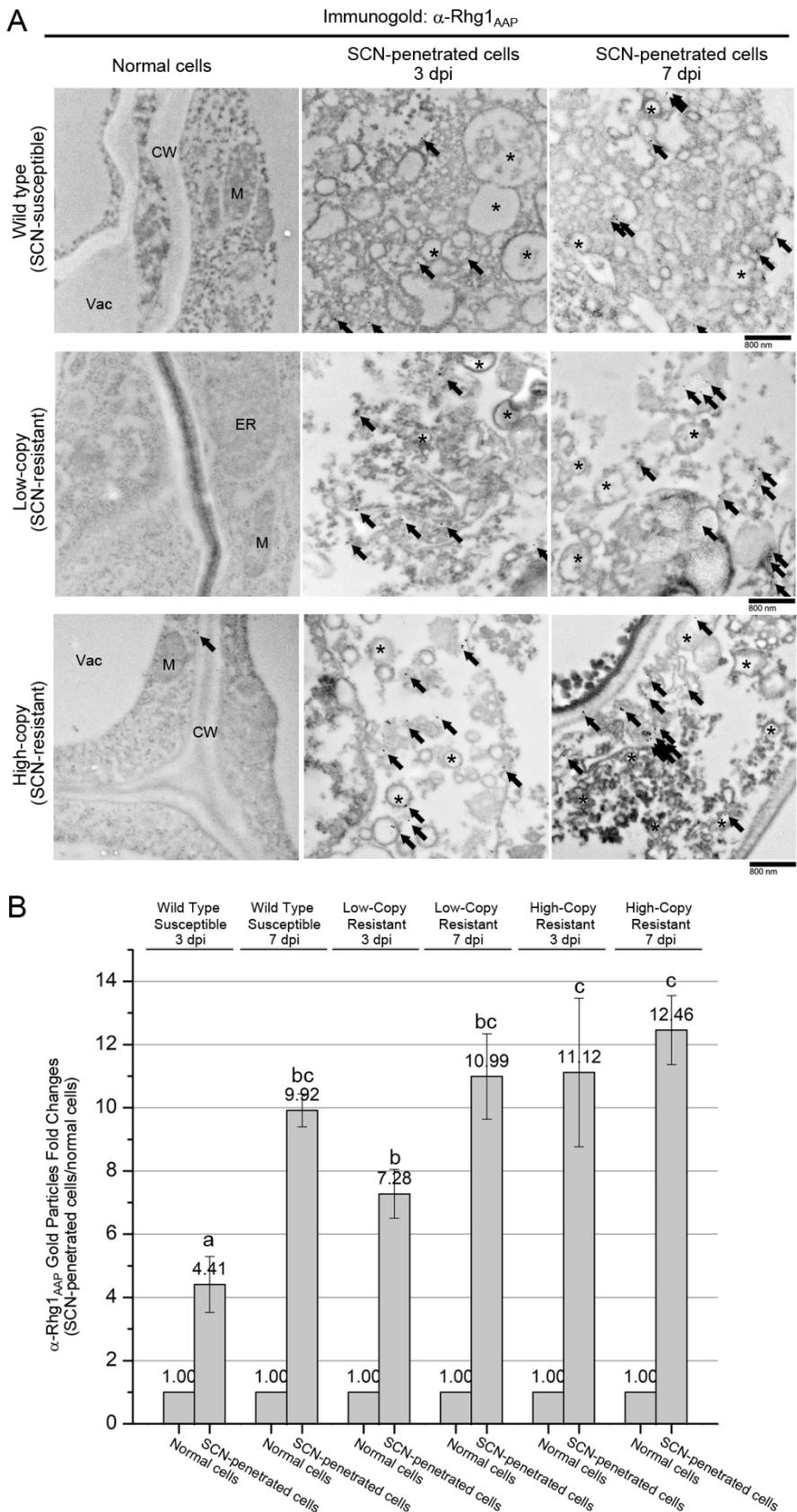


Figure 1. AAT_{Rhg1} protein abundance increase upon SCN infection in *rhg1-b* soybean roots.

(A) Representative immunoblot showing the abundance of AAT_{Rhg1} protein in soybean lines that carry *Rhg1_{WT}* (wild type), *rhg1-a* (low-copy), or *rhg1-b* (high-copy) haplotypes. Detached roots from the three varieties were either infected with an Hg Type 0 population of SCN (SCN +) or mock-inoculated (SCN -), and harvested at 4 dpi. Samples of SCN-infested root regions from four roots per treatment were pooled together for the immunoblot. Ponceau staining of the blotted membrane shown as check for equivalent loading of total protein.

(B) Densitometry analysis of immunoblot AAT_{Rhg1} protein levels. n=4 for each treatment; data obtained from two biological replicates. Band intensity was normalized to the intensity for wild type mock treatment within each blot; mean \pm SE are shown. Bars with the same letter are not significantly different (ANOVA Tukey analysis performed on non-normalized data, $p < 0.05$).

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS



AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

Figure 2. AAT_{Rhg1} abundance increases at SCN-penetrated root cells and is localized on vesicles and macrovesicles induced by SCN migration.

(A) Representative electron micrographs taken at 15,000X magnification showing immunogold-labeled AAT_{Rhg1} (solid black particles) on vesicle membranes of SCN-penetrated cells in SCN infested roots of susceptible (upper panels), *rhg1-a* SCN resistant (low-copy, middle panels), and *rhg1-b* SCN resistant (high-copy, bottom panels) genotypes, at 3 dpi (middle column) and 7 dpi (right column), but not in normal cells (left column) from the same samples. Arrows indicate immunogold particles in each image. Asterisks highlight vesicle clusters in SCN-penetrated cells. CW, cell wall; M, mitochondrion; Vac, vacuole. Bars = 800 nm.

(B) Number of AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold particles in SCN-penetrated cells relative to the highest number in a similar 2D area of an adjacent normal cell on the same grid (whose quantity is therefore 1.0 for each treatment). At least 30 images, from three independent experiments, were used to quantify AAT_{Rhg1} immunogold particle abundance for each treatment. Values are mean \pm SE. Treatments marked with the same letter were not significantly different (ANOVA, P < 0.05).

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

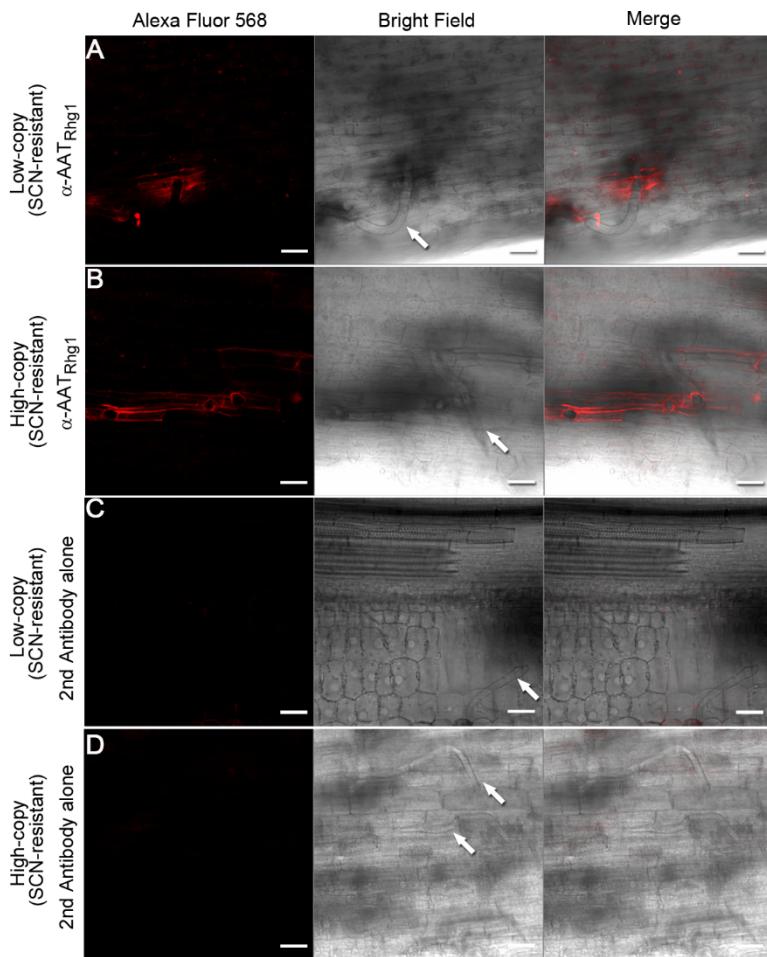


Figure 3. AAT_{Rhg1} abundance increase throughout cells penetrated by SCN.

Representative confocal images of immunofluorescent AAT_{Rhg1} signal in SCN-infested roots of *rhg1-a* low-copy SCN resistant (A, C), and *rhg1-b* high-copy SCN resistant (B, D) soybean lines at 4 dpi. (A, B) anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody conjugated with secondary antibody, indicating AAT_{Rhg1} localization (red fluorescence, left column). (C, D) only secondary antibody was used, to serve as a control. T-PMT channel was used to collect the bright field/DIC images (middle column). Nematode bodies are indicated by white arrows. The right column contains merged images. Bars = 50 μ m.

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

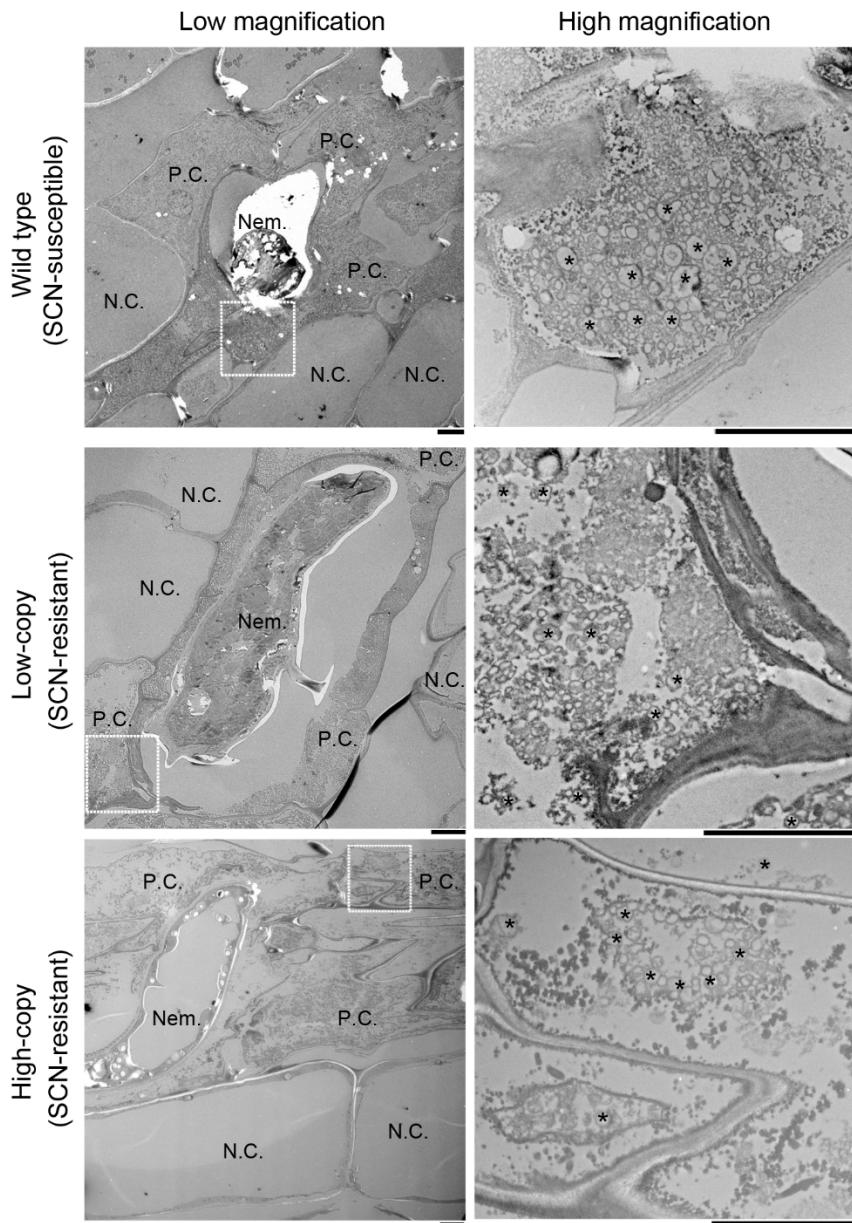


Figure 4. Substantial vesiculation in SCN-penetrated cells in SCN-infested roots of all tested soybean varieties.

Electron micrographs showing root sections of SCN susceptible (top panels), *rhg1-a* low-copy SCN resistant (middle panels), and *rhg1-b* high-copy SCN resistant (bottom panels) haplotypes. Left column: SCN-penetrated cells (P.C.) surrounding a nematode body (Nem.); 710X magnification. Right column: further magnification (5600X images) of the corresponding area indicated by a white dot box on the left. Typical vesicle clusters are marked by an asterisk in those SCN-penetrated cells. Nem., Nematode; N.C., Normal cell; P.C., SCN-penetrated cell. Bars = 6 μ m.

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

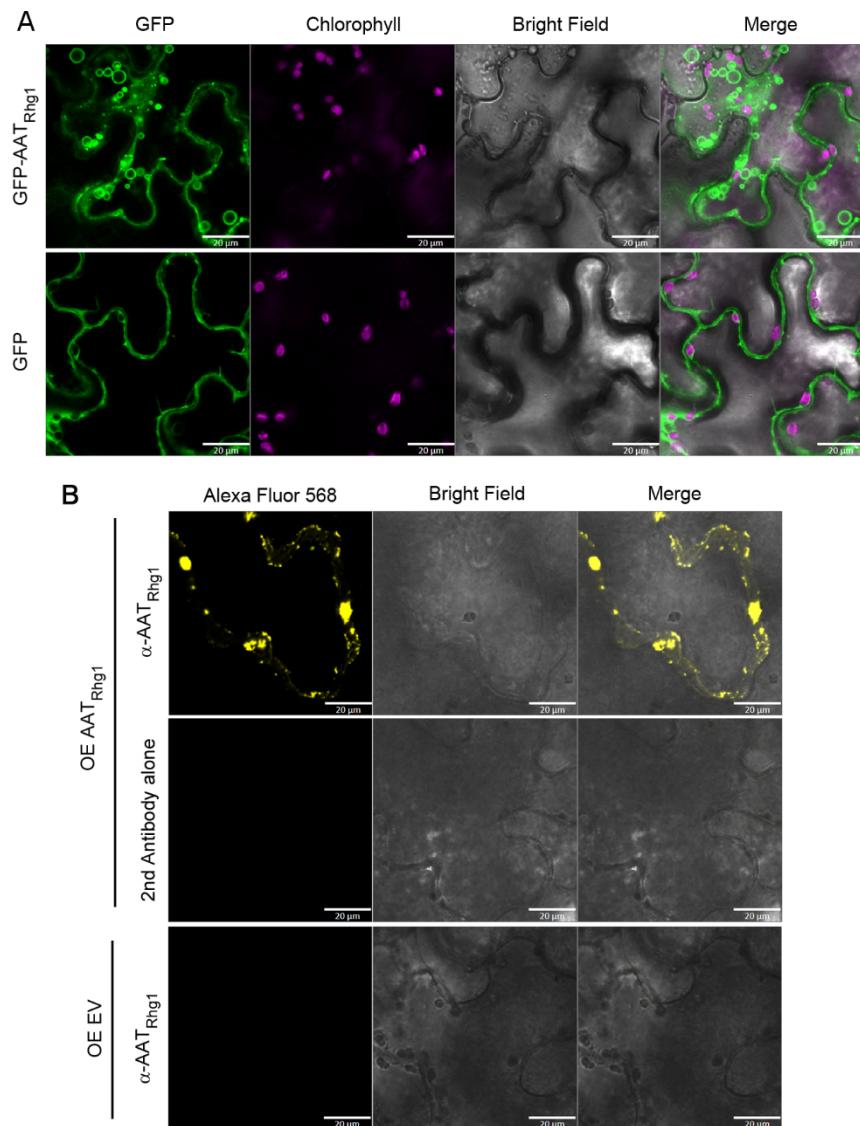


Figure 5. Soybean AAT_{Rhg1} localizes to specialized macrovesicles in *N. benthamiana*.

(A) Top row: GFP-tagged GmAAT_{Rhg1} transiently expressed from a CaMV 35S promoter by agroinfiltration into *N. benthamiana* leaves. Left column: GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} localized on vesicles of sizes ranging from less than 1 μ m (arrowhead) to \sim 6 μ m (arrow). Chlorophyll signal (second column from left) and bright field image (third column from left) are from the same imaging layer. Merged images (right column) show that the AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles were independent of chloroplasts. Lower row: GFP alone expressed similarly as a control. Experiments were replicated on three separate dates with similar results. Bar = 20 μ m.

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

(B) Immunofluorescent stain confocal imaging showing that untagged GmAAT_{Rhg1} also accumulates in puncta of various sizes. *N. benthamiana* leaves expressing untagged GmAAT_{Rhg1} were immunostained with anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody then probed with secondary antibody conjugated to Alexa Fluor 568 (Top row). Leaf samples expressing the same GmAAT_{Rhg1} construct immunostained with secondary antibody alone (middle row) or samples expressing empty vector immunostained with both anti-AAT_{Rhg1} antibody and the secondary antibody (bottom row) served as controls. Images were acquired under the same settings across all three rows. Untagged soybean AAT_{Rhg1} formed puncta with sizes ranging from less than 1 μ m (arrowhead) to \sim 6 μ m (arrow) (top panels). Bar = 20 μ m.

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

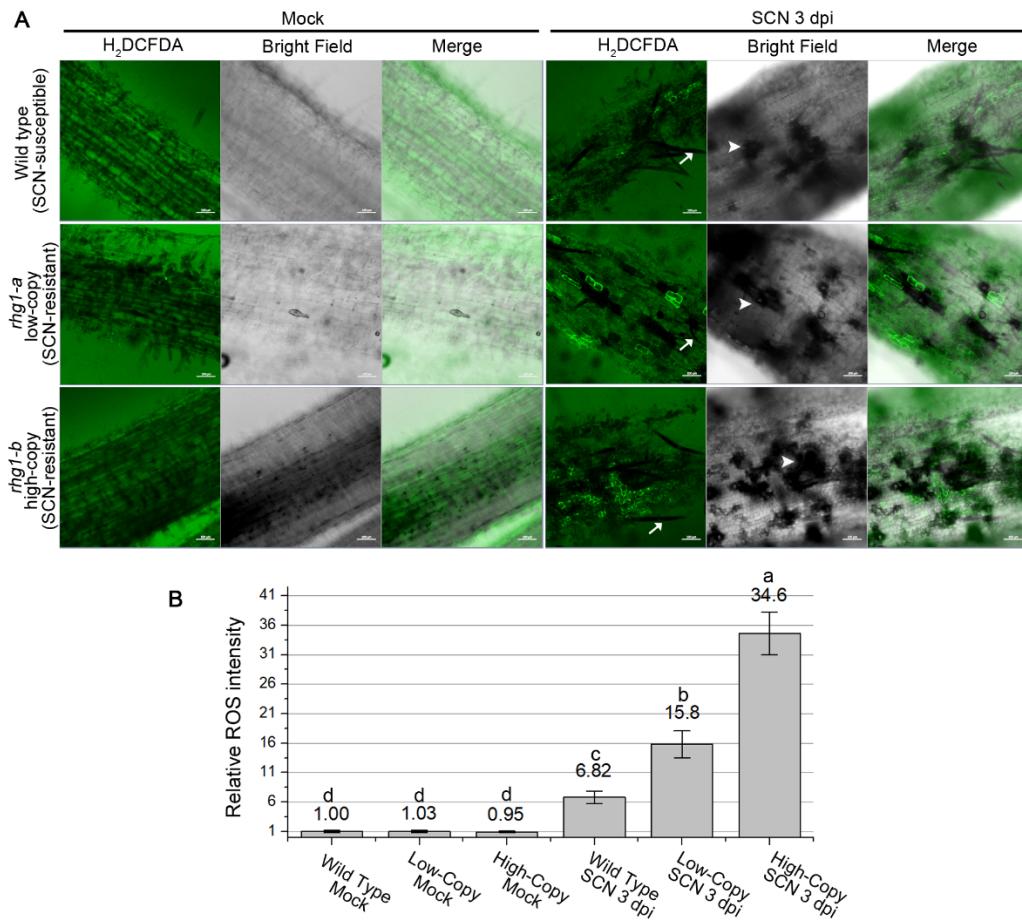


Figure 7 More cells accumulate ROS in the SCN infection zone of resistant roots.

(A) Representative 3 dpi confocal images of mock-treated (left) and SCN-infected (right) soybean roots carrying wild type (top row), *rhg1-a* (middle row), and *rhg1-b* (bottom row) haplotypes, after incubation in H_2 DCFDA. H_2 DCFDA channel (green color) reports endogenous ROS production; bright field images shown in grayscale. Arrows with stem point to representative SCN body; arrowheads point to representative lesions caused by SCN infection. Bar = 100 μ m.

(B) Quantification of ROS-producing cells in soybean roots with or without SCN infection as in (A). Relative extent of ROS production was calculated by total H_2 DCFDA fluorescent area divided by total root cell area with fluorescent background and then normalized to wild type mock control treatment. For each treatment, at least 16 images of 8 independent roots from two independent experiments were used for calculation. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean. Treatments with the same letter are not significantly different (ANOVA, $P < 0.05$).

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

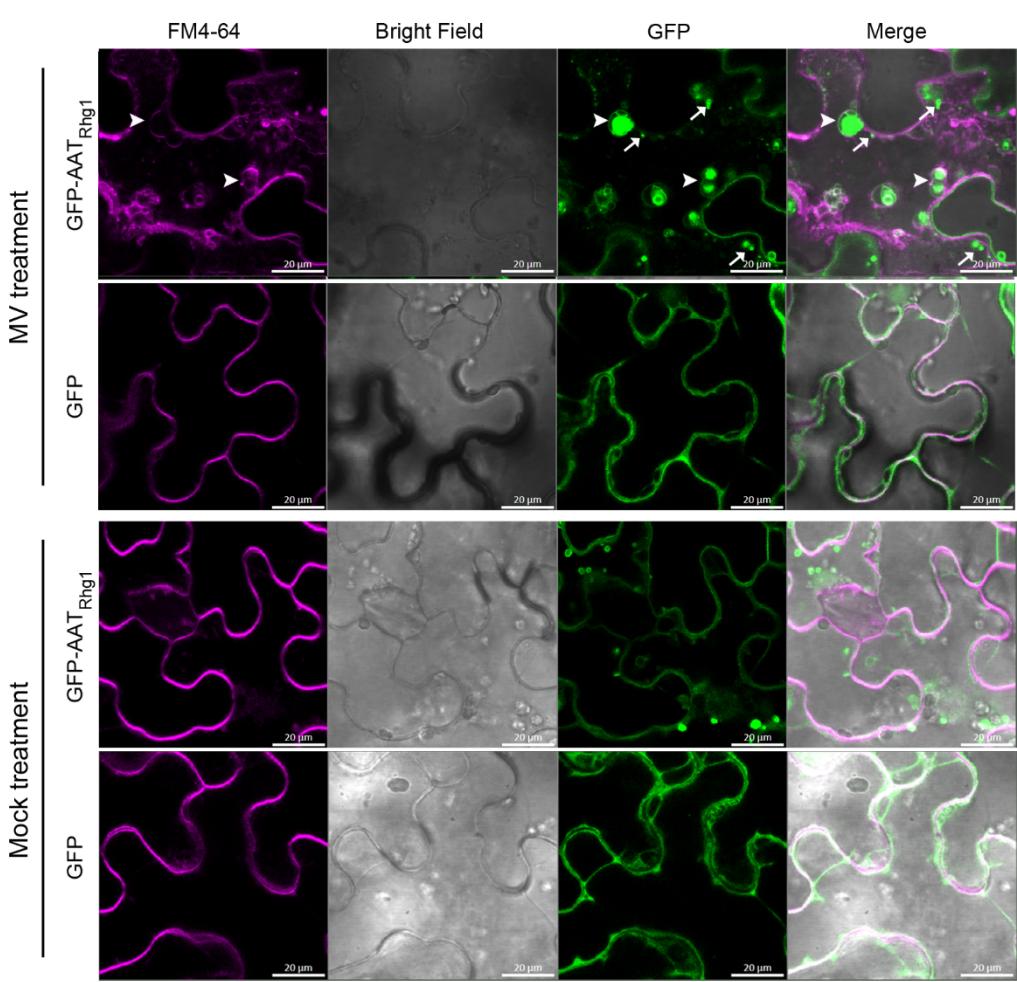
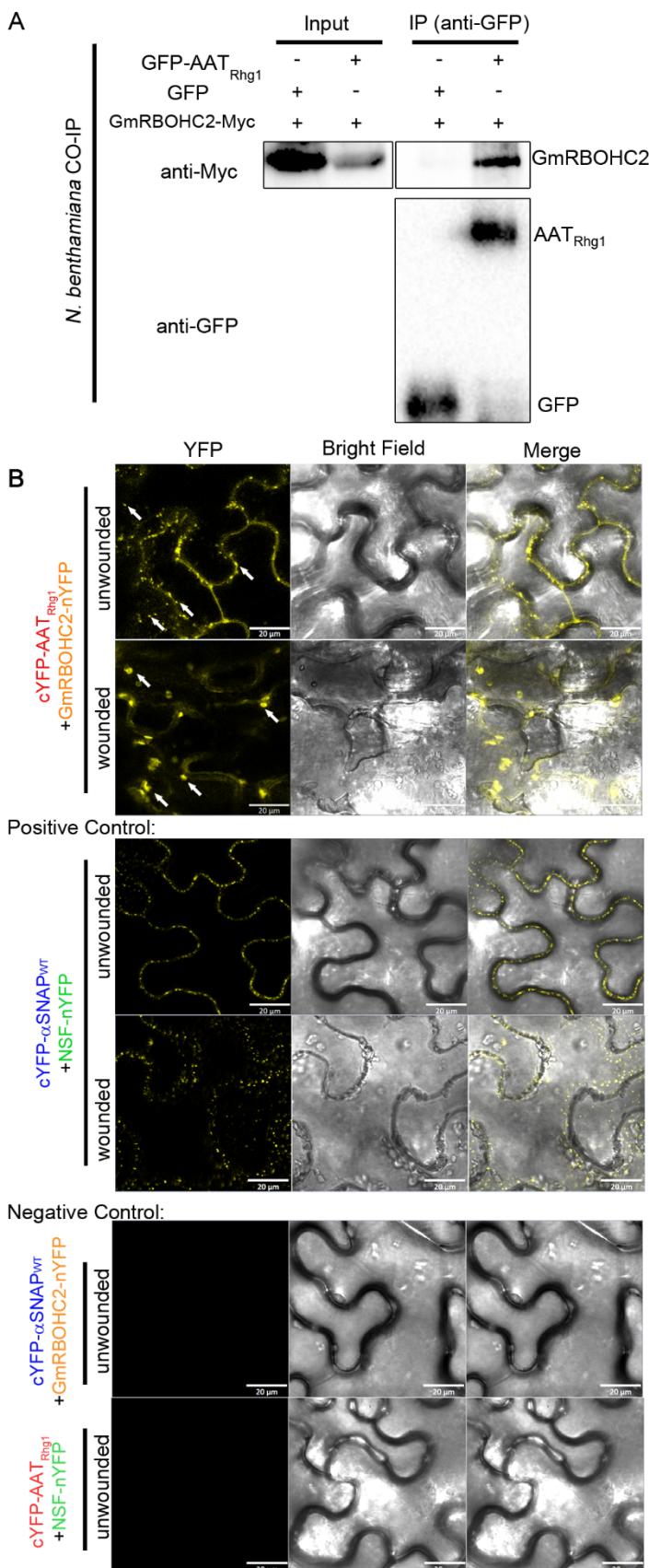


Figure 7. ROS stress leads to endocytosis-associated fusion of AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles.

Representative confocal images showing, upon cellular ROS stress, AAT_{Rhg1}-containing vesicles fused into larger vesicles through an endocytosis pathway in *N. benthamiana* leaf cells expressing GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} (top row) but not in cells expressing GFP control (second row). MV treatment: methyl viologen (inducer of superoxide and other ROS). Transiently transformed *N. benthamiana* leaves were treated with 20 μ m MV or mock treatment for 8 hrs, then stained with the endocytic tracer FM4-64 30 min prior to confocal imaging. Arrows with stem point to representative puncta; larger arrowheads point to representative larger macrovesicle-like agglomerations of GFP-AAT_{Rhg1}. Areas of overlap between the magenta and green signal are lighter (more white) in the merged image (right column). Bar = 20 μ m.

AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS



AAT_{Rhg1}: penetration, vesiculation, ROS

Figure 8. AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2 interact in plants; wound treatment changes their interaction sites from small to large vesicles.

(A) Immunoblots showing co-immunoprecipitation of AAT_{Rhg1} with soybean RBOHC2. Myc tagged GmRBOHC2 was co-expressed with GFP-AAT_{Rhg1} in *N. benthamiana* leaves by agroinfiltration. GmRBOHC2 co-expressed with GFP alone served as a negative control. IP (anti-GFP): leaf lysates harvested at 72 hours post infiltration were immunoprecipitated with anti-GFP beads and immunoprecipitates were assessed by immunoblotting using anti-Myc (right column, top panel) and anti-GFP antibodies (right column, bottom panel). Input: presence of GmRBOHC2-Myc in total protein in each treatment was confirmed (left blot).

(B) Representative images from BiFC assays showing the localization of AAT_{Rhg1} interaction with GmRBOHC2 in plants, with or without wounding treatment.

GmRBOHC2-nYFP was co-expressed transiently with cYFP-AAT_{Rhg1} in *N. benthamiana* leaves under unwounded conditions or wounded conditions (top two panels). As a positive control, GmNSF-nYFP and cYFP- α -SNAP_{Rhg1}WT were coexpressed similarly (middle two panels). As a negative control the same constructs were coexpressed with different pairing (bottom two panels). YFP fluorescence indicated by yellow color (left column) was detected from epidermal cells. In cells coexpressing cYFP-AAT_{Rhg1} and GmRBOHC2-nYFP, complemented fluorescence signal was detected in small vesicles (indicated by white arrows in first panel) in the unwounded condition, or in large vesicles (white arrows in second panel) in wounded cells. The experiments were repeated on three separate dates with similar results. Bars =20 μ m.

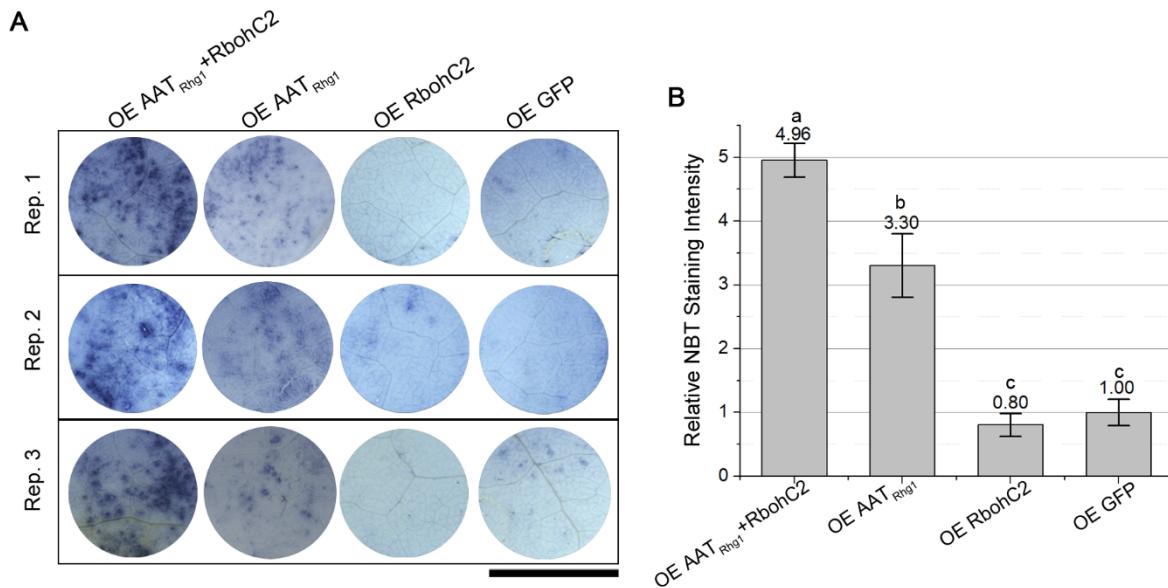


Figure 9. Simultaneous overexpression of GmRBOHC2 and AAT_{Rhg1} causes increased superoxide production in *N. benthamiana* leaves

(A) Representative images of *N. benthamiana* leaf regions stained with nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) 72 hr. after agroinfiltration to overexpress (OE) (from left to right) GmRBOHC2 and AAT_{Rhg1} protein, AAT_{Rhg1} alone, GmRBOHC2 alone, or GFP control protein alone. Images from three biological replicates from separate dates are shown. Within each row, the images shown are all from the same leaf. Bar = 1 cm.

(B) Quantification of NBT staining intensity of transformed leaf regions described in (A). Total area with NBT staining was measured using ImageJ and divided by total infiltration area, and normalized to the results for GFP alone control within the same replicate. n = 12 plants, mean ± SE shown, treatments with the same letter are not significantly different (ANOVA, p < 0.05).

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