

1 The genomic impact of mycoheterotrophy: targeted gene 2 losses but extensive expression reprogramming.

3 Running title: The genomic impact of mycoheterotrophy

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19

20 ABSTRACT

21 Mycoheterotrophic plants have lost the ability to photosynthesize and they parasitize their
22 associated fungus to get the mineral and organic nutrients they need. Despite involving radical
23 changes in life history traits and ecological requirements, the transition from autotrophy to
24 mycoheterotrophy occurred independently in almost all major lineages of land plants, but most
25 often in *Orchidaceae*. Yet the molecular mechanisms underlying this shift are still poorly
26 understood. The comparison of the transcriptomes of *Epipogium aphyllum* and *Neottia nidus-avis*,
27 two mycoheterotrophic orchids, to other autotrophic and mycoheterotrophic orchids showed
28 massive molecular function losses restricted to photosynthetic activities. In addition to these
29 targeted losses, the analysis of their expression profiles showed that many orthologs had inverted

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30 root/shoot ratios compared to autotrophic species. Fatty acid and amino acid biosynthesis as well
31 as primary cell wall metabolism were among the pathways most impacted by this expression
32 reprogramming. Our study suggests that, while associated with function losses rather than
33 metabolic innovations, the shift in nutritional mode from autotrophy to mycoheterotrophy
34 remodeled the architecture of the plant metabolism.

35

36 **Keywords:** mycorrhiza, photosynthesis, metabolic evolution, mycoheterotrophy, orchids,
37 transcriptome, *Epipogium aphyllum*, *Neottia nidus-avis*.

38

39 INTRODUCTION

40 More than 85% of vascular plants grow in association with soil fungi, forming a mycorrhizal
41 symbiosis (Brundrett and Tedersoo, 2018; van der Heijden et al., 2015). Thanks to this symbiosis,
42 plant growth and fitness are substantially improved by better mineral nutrition and increased
43 resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses. In this mutualism, the fungal partner exchanges mineral
44 nutrients (water, N, P, K...) against organic compounds from the photosynthesis of the plant (Rich
45 et al., 2017). However, more than 500 plant species, called mycoheterotrophs (MH), have lost
46 their ability to photosynthesize and entirely rely on their fungal partners to get both their mineral
47 and organic nutrients, reversing the usual direction of the net carbon flow. The metabolic
48 evolution associated with this switch, which is still poorly understood, has occurred in parallel at
49 least 50 times in 17 plant families, including at least 30 independent transitions among
50 *Orchidaceae* (Merckx et al., 2009; Těšitel et al., 2018; Merckx and Freudenstein, 2010). One of the
51 characteristics that may make orchids more prone to evolutionary change of nutrition mode lies in
52 their minute seeds devoid of nutritional reserves (Rasmussen, 1995). They fully depend on their
53 mycorrhizal fungi for carbon supply at germination and early developmental stages (protocorms),
54 which are thus always MH (Merckx, 2013; Dearnaley et al., 2016). Most orchid species later shift to
55 autotrophy once photosynthesis becomes possible and establish more reciprocal exchanges with
56 mycorrhizal fungi at adulthood. However, some species still recover carbon from the fungi at
57 adulthood in addition to their photosynthesis (mixotrophy; Selosse and Roy, 2009), and from this
58 nutrition some even evolved achlorophyll and mycoheterotrophy at adulthood (Dearnaley et al.,
59 2016; Merckx et al., 2009). This versatile relation between orchids and their mycorrhizal partners
60 provides an ideal framework to understand the metabolic evolution resulting in
61 mycoheterotrophy (Lallemand et al., 2019; Suetsugu et al., 2017).

62 The impact of mycoheterotrophy on plant physiology can be analyzed through the changes
63 in genomes of mycoheterotrophs (MH) compared to autotrophs (AT). As full mycoheterotrophy is
64 associated with the loss of photosynthesis, sequencing of the plastid genome has been targeted
65 first, thanks to next-generation methods (DePamphilis and Palmer, 1990; Delannoy et al., 2011;
66 Bellot and Renner, 2016; Schelkunov et al., 2015). A common feature among MH plastid genomes
67 is a strong reduction in size and gene content, especially with, as expected, a loss of all
68 photosynthetic genes (Hadariová et al., 2018; Graham et al., 2017). However, the plastid genome
69 contains only a tiny fraction of plant genes and the absence of genes from the plastid genome
70 does not rule out the possibility that some of them were transferred into the nuclear genome,
71 rather than lost (Bock, 2017).

72 Furthermore, in addition to photosynthesis, the transition to mycoheterotrophy can be expected
73 to affect other metabolic processes, which cannot be assessed without the complete gene
74 repertoire. Out of three published full genomes of achlorophyllous plants, two belong to obligate
75 plant parasites (Vogel et al., 2018, Yoshida et al., 2019) and one to an east Asian
76 mycoheterotrophic orchid (*Gastrodia elata* Blume; Yuan et al., 2018). When compared to
77 photosynthetic orchids, the genome of *G. elata* is characterized by a reduction of the gene content,
78 including the loss of most of the genes associated with photosynthesis, and the reduction of gene
79 families involved in resistance to pathogens. At the same time, it shows an expansion of gene
80 families putatively involved in the interaction with fungi (Yuan et al., 2018).

81 Despite the decrease in sequencing costs, the *de novo* characterization of a complete plant
82 genome is still tedious and expensive, especially in the case of relatively large genomes of
83 achlorophyllous orchids (from about 6 Gbases for *Corallorrhiza trifida* Chatelain to about 16 Gbases
84 for *Neottia nidus-avis* (L.) L.C.M. Rich; Pellicer and Leitch, 2020). Another approach for studying
85 gene content is to analyze the transcriptome. RNA-seq focuses on the transcribed fraction of the
86 genome, which includes the protein-coding genes. Transcriptomes of 5 mycoheterotrophic plants
87 are currently available (Leebens-Mack et al., 2019; Schelkunov et al., 2018). The transcriptome of
88 two orchids, *Epipogium aphyllum* Sw. and *E. roseum* (D. Don) Lindl., and the Ericaceae *Monotropa*
89 *hypopitys* L. showed the loss of the photosynthetic genes (Schelkunov et al., 2018). Surprisingly,
90 but in accordance with results from obligate parasitic plants (Wickett et al., 2011; Chen et al.,
91 2020), the chlorophyll synthesis pathway was mostly conserved even if incomplete. However,
92 transcriptome analysis only identifies the genes expressed in the tissue(s) under study, and since
93 the previous studies of MH concentrated on the aerial part only, a fraction of the extant genes was

94 likely missed. In addition, the missed genes include all the genes specifically expressed in the roots
95 and mycorrhiza, which are fundamental to understanding of the mechanism of the interaction
96 between an MH and its fungal partners. The switch to mycoheterotrophy not only results in gene
97 losses, but also probably in neofunctionalizations and changes in the expression profiles of some
98 retained genes, which are not captured in the analyses of gene repertoires.

99 In this study, we explored the transcriptome and gene expression profiles in the
100 mycorrhiza, stems, and flowers of the MH orchids *Neottia nidus-avis* and *Epipogium aphyllum*
101 (Figure 1). Both studied species are achlorophyllous and, like *G. elata*, belong to the
102 *Epidendroideae* subfamily. Despite their rarity, they have a wide Eurasian range (Hulten and Fries,
103 1986) and, together with *G. elata*, they represent three independent evolutionary events of
104 mycoheterotrophy (Merckx and Freudenstein, 2010). Their shoots with minute achlorophyllous
105 scales support a few large flowers in *E. aphyllum* (Taylor and Roberts, 2011) and many small
106 flowers in *N. nidus-avis* (Selosse, 2003). Considering their underground parts, *N. nidus-avis* displays
107 a clump of short and thick mycorrhizal roots growing out of a short and thin rhizome, while *E.*
108 *aphyllum* forms a fleshy, dichotomously branched and rootless rhizome that hosts the fungus (Roy
109 et al., 2009). Thus, roots in *N. nidus-avis* and the rhizome of *E. aphyllum* are colonized by the
110 mycorrhizal fungus.

111 Using RNA-seq in flowers, stems, and mycorrhizal parts (roots or rhizomes) sampled in
112 natural forest conditions, we identified expressed gene sets. In combination with the data from *G.*
113 *elata*, we compared the gene sets of the three mycoheterotrophic orchids to that of three
114 autotrophic orchid species, in order to highlight the gene losses and gains associated with the
115 switch to mycoheterotrophy in orchids. We also identified the genes differentially expressed
116 between the three investigated tissues. As no equivalent dataset (expression profiles per organ for
117 the same individuals with biological replicates) is available for autotrophic orchids, we compared
118 these profiles to expression in other autotrophic non-orchid plants. This comparison suggested
119 that, in addition to gene losses, the switch to mycoheterotrophy induced extensive expression
120 reprogramming.

121

122 MATERIALS AND METHODS

123 *Sampling procedures*

The specimens of *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum* were sampled in their natural habitats in southern Poland in 2017 at the peak of the species' flowering season, at 10.00 am (Supplemental

Table 1; these two species cannot be cultivated *ex situ*). Two plants per species were selected as biological replicates based on their size and healthy condition, keeping the parameters similar among the replicates. Each plant was excavated with surrounding soil. A fully open flower and the stem were cut off and processed (see below) right away, while the root system was first cleaned thoroughly by gentle scrubbing and rinsing in distilled water to remove all visible soil and foreign material. In-field processing consisted of slicing and dividing material into samples of 150 mg in weight before immediate preservation in liquid nitrogen to inhibit RNA degradation. The presence of mycorrhizal fungus was checked on thin cross-sections of colonized organs adjacent to the sampling and examined later under a light microscope.

124 ***RNA extraction and purification***

125 The samples collected *in situ* were transferred from liquid nitrogen to a -80°C freezer until
126 the RNA extraction step. Flower samples were homogenized in liquid nitrogen using TissueLyser II
127 (Qiagen) in 2 mL Eppendorf tubes containing ceramic beads. This method has proven ineffective in
128 processing root, rhizome, and stem tissue samples due to their hardness when frozen. Manual
129 grinding in mortars with liquid nitrogen had to be applied instead. Homogenized material was
130 subjected to the NucleoZol (Macherey-Nagel, Dueren, Germany) reagent extraction process
131 following the manufacturer's protocol with the addition of polyvinylpolypyrrolidone (PVPP) during
132 the grinding of root and rhizome. RNAs were further purified using Agencourt RNAClean XP
133 (Beckman Coulter, Brea, CA, USA) magnetic beads following the manufacturer's instructions.

134 Digestion with DNase Max (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) was subsequently conducted to
135 purify RNA isolates from remaining genomic DNA contamination.

136 Finally, RNA integrity and purity were assessed by Agilent BioAnalyzer 2100 survey using
137 the Plant RNA Nano Chip (Agilent Technology, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and RNA concentration was
138 measured by RiboGreen assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Samples exhibiting
139 high integrity (RIN > 7) were selected for sequencing.

140

141 ***Sequencing***

142 The RNA sequencing analyses of the isolated samples were performed at the Institute of
143 Plant Sciences Paris-Saclay (IPS2, Saclay, France). First, the sequencing libraries were constructed
144 using TruSeq Stranded Total RNA with the Ribo-Zero Plant kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA),
145 following the manufacturer's instructions. Next, they were sequenced on a NextSeq500 (Illumina,

146 San Diego, CA, USA) platform in a paired-end mode with read length of 150 bases. The sequences
147 obtained were quality-controlled and trimmed using the Trimmomatic software (version 0.36,
148 parameters PE and ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE.fa:2:30:10:2:true LEADING:21 TRAILING:21
149 MINLEN:30) (Bolger et al., 2014) and the residual ribosomal RNAs were filtered out with
150 SortMeRNA (version 2.1, against the databases silva-bac-16s-id90, silva-bac-23s-id98, silva-euk-
151 18s-id95 and silva-euk-28s-id98 with the parameters -e 1e-07 --paired_in).

152

153 ***Transcriptome assembly***

154 Due to the lack of reference genomes of the sampled plants, their transcriptomes were
155 assembled *de novo* using the Trinity RNA-seq assembler (Haas et al., 2013) version v2.6.6 with all
156 parameters at their default settings except --SS_lib_type RF. Taking into account the possible
157 contamination of our samples collected *in situ*, which may vary between collected tissues, in order
158 to avoid miss-assemblies and/or chimeric transcript generation, we assembled the transcriptomes
159 of each collected plant tissue separately, but pooled both replicates. Subsequently, the assemblies
160 for each species were merged and the redundancy of the isoforms was decreased with the
161 tr2aacds pipeline from the EvidentialGene package
162 (<http://arthropods.eugenesc.org/EvidentialGene/trassembly.html>, version 2017.12.21; Gilbert,
163 2019). According to the pipeline description, we kept only those contigs that were classified as
164 “main” or “noclass”, i.e. primary transcripts with alternates or with no alternates, respectively, to
165 form the final unigene set.

166

167 ***Identification of contaminating contigs***

168 As our samples were collected in the field, the total RNAs contain transcripts from the
169 microbiotas of our plants, especially abundant transcripts of the mycorrhizal fungi in underground
170 organs, which means that the previous unigene set is contaminated with sequences not belonging
171 to the species of interest.

172 To identify and filter out these contigs, the reduced transcriptome was searched with the
173 blastx algorithm against the NCBI NR database using Diamond software (Buchfink et al., 2015).
174 Local Diamond version 0.9.16 installation was run with the following set of parameters: --sensitive,
175 --index-chunks 2, --block-size 20, --max-target-seqs 50, --no-self-hits, --eval 0.001, --taxonmap
176 prot.accession2taxid.gz, with the latest parameter specifying the taxonomic information obtained
177 from the NCBI ftp pages (<ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pub/taxonomy/>). Both the NCBI NR database

178 and the taxonomy information were current as of December 2018. All contigs with best hits inside
179 the *Streptophyta* clade of plants were considered as bona fide orchid contigs.

180 However, this analysis may miss genes highly conserved across kingdoms. Hence, we
181 performed an orthology analysis against several orchid and monocotyledon species. The analysis
182 included proteomes of *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum* generated here, as well published reference
183 sets of *Brachypodium distachyon* (L.) P.Beauv., *Zea mays* L., *Oryza sativa*, and of the orchids *G. elata*,
184 *Dendrobium catenatum* Lindley, *Apostasia shenzhenica* Z.J.Liu & L.J.Chen and *Phalaenopsis equestris* (Schauer) Rchb.f. (see Supplemental Table 2). We identified orthologous groups using
185 the OrthoFinder software (version 2.2.7, default parameters, except -S diamond) (Emms and Kelly,
186 2019).

188 Contigs sharing the same orthogroup as any protein of these 7 species were considered as
189 *bona fide* orchid contigs. For contigs with no hit at all we applied a further filtering criterion based
190 on the expression pattern, i.e. we required such transcripts to be expressed in at least two out of
191 our 6 samples. Expression analyses were performed with Seal from the BBTools package
192 (<https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/>, version 38.22).

193

194 **Identification of the fungal partners**

195 The contig sets were searched for ITS sequences using ITSx software (version 1.1.2
196 (Bengtsson-Palme et al., 2013)) and the identified contigs were queried against the UNITE
197 database (version 8.2, (Nilsson et al., 2019)).

198

199 **Annotations**

200 Annotation of transcripts was performed with the Trinotate suite (version 3.1.1,
201 <https://trinotate.github.io/>; Bryant et al., 2017). Trinotate was fed with results of several
202 independent analyses. To annotate protein domains, hmmscan from the HMMER 3.1b2 package
203 (Eddy, 2011) was run against the Pfam-A entries from the PFAM database (Finn et al., 2016). The
204 UniProt/SwissProt protein database was searched with blastp (Altschul et al., 1997) from the
205 blast+ 2.7.1 package to retrieve e.g. gene ontology (GO), KEGG (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and
206 Genomes), and eggNOG annotations. The presence of signal peptides was assessed with signalP
207 (Petersen et al., 2011) software.

208 Additionally, the transcripts were assigned to KEGG orthologs and pathways using the
209 KAAS server (Moriya et al., 2007) with BLAST and the BBH (bi-directional best hit) method. They

210 were also assigned to the Mapman4 pathways using the Mercator4 v2.0 online tool (Schwacke et
211 al., 2019).

212 In all the above analyses, transcripts were represented by either their nucleotide
213 sequences derived directly from the assembly or by their amino acid sequences, as derived from
214 the open reading frames (ORFs) determined by the tr2aacds pipeline. To avoid any technical bias
215 when comparing species, the gene sets of all species were re-annotated with the same tools and
216 parameters. The annotation of the orthogroups was derived from the annotations of their genes
217 independently of the origin of these genes. If a term was present in more than 25% of its genes,
218 the orthogroup was annotated with this term.

219

220 **Comparison of gene sets**

221 The quality and completeness of the final transcriptomes (unigene sets) for *E. aphyllum*
222 and *N. nidus-avis* were benchmarked with BUSCO v3.0.2 (Seppey et al., 2019) against the
223 *Liliopsida*:odb10 plant-specific reference database and compared with the abovementioned
224 species. We also compared the representation of the KEGG pathways and Mapman4 bins in each
225 species. The unigene sets of *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis* were first completed with their plastid
226 gene lists extracted from the NCBI accessions NC_026449.1 and NC_016471.1, respectively. We
227 counted whether a KEGG ortholog or its Mapman equivalent was detected independently of the
228 number of genes associated with it. Fisher's exact test was performed to compare *E. aphyllum* and
229 *N. nidus-avis* to *G. elata* and to compare these three mycoheterotrophic orchids to the three
230 autotrophic orchids in each pathway or bin. Pathways or bins with an adjusted p-value (Bonferroni
231 adjustment) below 0.05 were considered as differentially represented.

232

233 **Gene expression analyses**

234 Sequencing read libraries were mapped separately to their corresponding final
235 transcriptome (unigene set) using BBmap (<https://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/>). The
236 software was run with the additional 'rpkm' parameter, which yields per-contig raw counts
237 directly along the standard SAM/BAM output files. Next, a raw count matrix was generated for
238 each species' unigene set and fed into edgeR (Robinson et al., 2010) for differential expression
239 testing by fitting a negative binomial generalized log-linear model (GLM) including a tissue factor
240 and a replicate factor to the TMM-normalized read counts for each unigene. Unigenes detected in
241 less than 3 of the 6 samples were considered as poorly expressed and filtered out from the

242 analysis. We performed pairwise comparisons of tissues, i.e. flower vs. mycorrhiza (FL vs. MR),
243 flower vs. stem (FL vs. ST), and mycorrhiza vs. stem (MR vs. ST). The distribution of the resulting p-
244 values followed the quality criterion described by Rigaill et al. (2018). Genes with an adjusted p-
245 value (FDR, Benjamini-Hochberg adjustment (1995)) below 0.05 were considered as differentially
246 expressed.

247 Given the sets of up- and down-regulated genes for each species from pairwise tissue
248 comparisons, we performed enrichment analysis for GO terms, KEGG and Mapman4 pathways
249 using hypergeometric tests. Terms with an adjusted p-value (Bonferroni adjustment) below 0.05
250 were considered as enriched.

251

252 ***Comparison of shoot/root expression profiles between autotrophs and mycoheterotrophs***

253 As no equivalent dataset is available for autotrophic orchids, we used datasets from *Z. mays*
254 and *B. distachyon* as autotrophic species for comparison. We focused on the root and stem
255 tissues using roots and internodes as the corresponding tissues for autotrophic monocotyledons.
256 Expression values for *Z. mays* were extracted from the SRA project PRJNA217053. The samples
257 SRR957475 and SRR957476 correspond to internodes, SRR957460 and SRR957461 to roots.
258 Expression values for *B. distachyon* were extracted from the SRA project PRJNA419776. The
259 samples SRR6322422 and SRR6322429 correspond to internodes, SRR6322386 and SRR6322417 to
260 roots. Counts were calculated after mapping of the reads to their corresponding reference
261 transcriptome (Zea_mays.B73_RefGen_v4.cdna.all.fa) and
262 Brachypodium_distachyon.Brachypodium_distachyon_v3.0.cdna.all.fa) using BBmap with the
263 same parameters as previously.

264 To allow a direct comparison between species, we used the expression values per
265 orthogroup using the sum of counts of the orthogroup members in a given sample and species, an
266 approach analogous to that of McWhite et al. (2020). Any orthogroup expression of which was not
267 detected in at least one sample of all four species was filtered out from further analysis. As an
268 orthogroup can group different numbers of genes from each species, the absolute counts cannot
269 be directly compared. However, as the shoot and root samples are paired, it is possible to
270 compare the root/shoot ratios. After normalization with the TMM method (Robinson et al., 2010)
271 to correct the library size effect, the counts were transformed with the vst method of the coseq
272 package v1.2 (Rau and Maugis-Rabusseau, 2018). The log2 root/shoot ratios calculated from the
273 transformed counts were analyzed using the lmFit contrasts.fit and eBayes functions of the limma

274 package v3.34.9 (Smyth, 2004). In our model, the log2 ratio was expressed as a linear combination
275 of a species effect and the p-values corresponding to the difference between the average of MH
276 and the average of AT were calculated. The distribution of the resulting p-values followed the
277 quality criterion described by Rigaill et al. (2018). The Benjamini-Hochberg correction was used to
278 control false discovery rate. We considered orthogroups with an adjusted p-value < 0.05 as having
279 a different shoot/root ratio between AT and MH. Enrichment analyses were performed as
280 described previously with orthogroups being annotated with terms representing at least 25% of
281 their genes.

282

283 **Data availability**

284 The reads are available at the NCBI database under Bioproject PRJNA633477. The GFF file
285 and annotation of the unigene sets for *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis* as well as the raw count
286 matrices are available at <https://doi.org/10.15454/HR9KUX>.

287

288 **RESULTS**

289 **Sequencing, de novo assembly and functional annotation**

To characterize the variability of RNA resulting from tissue- and species-specific features among the two studied mycoheterotrophic orchids sampled *in natura*, we performed Illumina short-read sequencing and *de novo* assembly of their transcriptomes. In total, 12 cDNA libraries from flowers, stems, and mycorrhizal roots (two replicates per tissue and species) were sequenced which resulted in 304,280,061 reads for *N. nidus-avis* and 178,486,849 reads for *E. aphyllum*. After assembly and filtering of the probable contaminating transcripts, the final set of transcripts comprised 44,451 and 38,488 sequences for *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*, respectively (Table 1). As expected, the fraction of contaminating contigs was much higher in the mycorrhizal samples (roots in *N. nidus-avis* and rhizome in *E. aphyllum*), and indeed almost all the contaminating transcripts were most probably of fungal origin (Supplemental Tables 3 and 4). Thanks to the presence of a few contigs corresponding to ITS, the main fungal partners could be identified as *Inocybe cervicolor* (Pers.) Quél. and *Hebeloma incarnatulum* A.H. Sm. for *E. aphyllum* and *Sebacina epigaea* (Berk. & Broome) Bourdot & Galzin for *N. nidus-avis* as expected (McKendrick et al., 2002; Selosse et al., 2002; Roy et al., 2009)

290

The generated transcripts of the two studied species were functionally annotated, mainly on the basis of homology to known reference sequences. The annotations included, among others,

292 information on encoded protein domains (Pfam), Gene Ontology (GO) classification, KEGG
293 Orthology (KO), metabolic pathway membership and Mapman4 mapping. Roughly 46% and 50% of
294 the transcripts could be attributed to any annotation category in *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*,
295 respectively (Supplemental Table 5, Supplemental Data 1).

296 The completeness of the generated transcriptomes was assessed through several analyses.
297 The BUSCO (Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthologs) analysis showed 78.5% and 71% of
298 completeness for *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*, respectively, which is comparable to or higher
299 than that for the *G. elata* genome (73.1%) and much higher than that for the *E. aphyllum*
300 transcriptome generated by Schelkunov et al. (2018) (53.4%; Supplemental Table 6). We also
301 checked the mapping rate of the RNA-seq reads on these transcriptomes (Supplemental Table 7).
302 It was higher than 94%, except for mycorrhizal samples as expected because of the presence of
303 the mycorrhizal fungi. Finally, we looked for the orthologs of the plant KEGG pathways and of the
304 Mapman4 bins and compared them to the *G. elata* gene content (Supplemental Data 2). An
305 ortholog was counted if at least one transcript or gene was associated with it. Out of the 140
306 tested KEGG pathways representing 15150 potential orthologs, none were differentially
307 represented between our transcriptomes and *G. elata*. Identically, none of the 1196 tested
308 Mapman4 bins representing 4966 potential orthologs were differentially represented. Even when
309 relaxing the stringency of the test (raw p-value <0.05), no bin or pathway suggesting missed
310 orthologs in our transcriptomes compared to *G. elata* was statistically significant. Taken together,
311 these results strongly support that our transcriptomes were complete and that any missing
312 ortholog from our transcriptomes was lost by the corresponding species. It also suggests that the
313 gene repertoires of *E. aphyllum*, *N. nidus-avis* and *G. elata* are similar.

314

315 ***Impact of mycoheterotrophy on the gene repertoire***

316 Considering three mycoheterotrophic orchids of independent evolutionary origin, we can
317 study the impact of mycoheterotrophy on the gene sets. A comparison with the genomes of *P.*
318 *equestris*, *D. catenatum* and *A. shenzhenica*, three autotrophic orchids, using the KEGG and
319 Mapman4 pathways described previously (Table 2, Supplemental Data 2), showed that the switch
320 to mycoheterotrophy results in the loss of orthologs exclusively associated with pathways directly
321 related to photosynthesis. Even when relaxing the stringency of the test (raw p-value <0.05), there
322 is no indication that the switch to mycoheterotrophy could be associated with any gain

323 (Supplemental Data 2). It should be noted that none of the genes lost from their plastid genomes
324 were found in the transcriptomes of *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis*.

325 All the orthologs required for photosystems were lost, but the losses in the chlorophyll
326 metabolism pathway were almost exclusively restricted to chlorophyll degradation and
327 interconversion. As seen before (Schelkunov et al., 2018; Wickett et al., 2011), the chlorophyll
328 synthesis pathway was mostly conserved but incomplete in *G. elata* and *E. aphyllum* (Figure 2A).
329 On the other hand, *N. nidus-avis* expressed the full extent of genes required for the biosynthesis of
330 chlorophyll as well as some chlorophyll a/b binding proteins (Light-Harvesting-Complex A3 (LHCA3),
331 LHC B1, LHC B2, Stress-enhanced protein 1 (SEP1), SEP3, SEP5 and early light-induced protein (ELIP)
332 genes). Similarly, the three MH species were missing the *lycE* and *lut5* genes required for the
333 synthesis of lutein, but possessed a complete biosynthesis pathway to violaxanthin (Figure 2B). It
334 should be noted that no gene coding for a violaxanthin de-epoxidase was found in any of the 3 MH
335 species.

336 Even when relaxing the stringency of the analysis, only pathways associated with plastid or
337 photosynthesis were identified as lost, suggesting that the switch to mycoheterotrophy selectively
338 impacted activities associated with photosynthesis. So, the switch to mycoheterotrophy
339 significantly impacted pathways associated with photosynthesis, but targeted losses can be
340 observed as well.

341 Using known pathways mainly based on autotrophic plants allows identification of gene
342 losses linked to the switch to mycoheterotrophy, but misses potential new pathways or genes
343 specifically associated with mycoheterotrophy. To overcome this problem, we performed an
344 orthology analysis including the coding genes of the 6 previous orchid species plus *Z. mays*, *B.*
345 *distachyon* and *O. sativa* (Supplemental Data 3 and Supplemental Tables 8 and 9). Out of the
346 18259 orthogroups identified, only 38 contained exclusively genes from all 3 MH orchid species.
347 Twenty-two of these orthogroups contained only unannotated genes and the 16 remaining did not
348 show specific annotations (Supplemental Data 4). These results suggest that the switch to
349 mycoheterotrophy in orchids does not involve new pathways or functions.

350

351 ***A transcriptome analysis highlights the organ-specific functions of mycoheterotrophic orchids***

352 The pairwise comparisons of the transcriptome profiles of flower, stem, and mycorrhizal
353 root of *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis* identified the genes differentially expressed between these
354 organs as well as organ-specific genes (Supplemental Data 5). We identified 18817 and 12331

355 differentially expressed genes as well as 6351 and 4520 organ-specific genes in *N. nidus-avis* and *E.*
356 *aphyllum*, respectively (Table 3). The highest numbers of differentially expressed genes were
357 observed between underground and aerial organs. Similarly, most organ-specific genes were
358 identified in the mycorrhizal root.

359 To elucidate which functions are served by the differentially expressed and organ-specific
360 genes, Gene Ontology, Mapman and KEGG enrichment analyses were performed (Supplemental
361 Data 6). While very few enrichments were found in the organ-specific genes, the differentially
362 expressed genes showed that numerous metabolic functions were differentially activated in the 3
363 organs, following a strikingly similar pattern in *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*. Figure 3 summarizes
364 the Mapman and KEGG enrichment analyses, which are fully supported by the GO enrichment
365 analyses. The metabolic functions are indicated where their activity appears to be peaking. The
366 aerial parts shared high amino acid and fatty acid syntheses as well as high primary cell wall
367 metabolism. They also activated light signaling pathways. The flowers specifically showed high cell
368 division and phenolic activities. In *N. nidus-avis*, the activity of the chlorophyll synthesis pathway in
369 association with other plastid activities was detected mostly in the flowers. At the other end of the
370 plant, the mycorrhizal roots mostly showed an increased activity of pathways related to pathogen
371 and symbiont interactions, as well as of the transportome (e.g. ABC transporters and solute
372 carriers) and degradation capacities (proteasome and glycosaminoglycan and trehalose
373 degradations).

374

375 ***Comparison of expression profiles in roots and stem of mycoheterotrophic and autotrophic***
376 ***species.***

377 To understand the consequences of mycoheterotrophy for the expression profiles, it is
378 necessary to compare our mycoheterotrophic orchids to AT species from a transcriptomic point of
379 view. As no equivalent transcriptomic dataset is publicly available for autotrophic orchids, we used
380 datasets from two other monocots, *B. distachyon* and maize. However, rather than analyzing them
381 as previously to compare the enrichment analyses for our species, we directly compared the 4
382 species using the orthogroup expression levels. As the number and length of the genes in each
383 orthogroup can differ from one species to another, we compared the root/stem ratios of
384 expression in MH and AT. We analyzed only the 8620 (out of 18259) orthogroups detected in the
385 roots or stem of all four species. This filter removes most of the orthogroups associated with
386 photosynthesis, but these pathways are an obvious difference between the two trophic types.

387 While 2378 and 3617 orthogroups were differentially expressed between root and stem in AT and
388 MH, respectively, 3359 orthogroups showed a significantly different root to stem ratio between
389 the 2 trophic types, including 2536 with inverted ratios (Supplemental Data 7).

390 The pathway enrichment analysis of the differentially expressed orthogroups in MH
391 (Supplemental Data 8) showed results similar to the transcriptomic analysis of *E. aphyllum* and *N.*
392 *nidus-avis* genes, supporting the fact that the analysis of orthogroup expression is biologically
393 relevant. Even with the exclusion of most photosynthesis-related orthogroups, we observed a
394 different root to stem ratio between AT and MH for almost 39% of the analyzed orthogroups and
395 even an inversion of this ratio for 30% of the orthogroups. Figure 4 summarizes the results of the
396 pathway enrichment analysis of these orthogroups. It is particularly noteworthy that the fatty acid,
397 amino acid, and primary cell wall metabolisms, which are high in the stem of MH, are actually
398 higher in the root of AT. In addition, this analysis highlighted that glycosidases and the secondary
399 metabolism seemed higher in the stem of MH, but lower in the stem of AT, while the opposite was
400 true for RNA metabolism and DNA damage response. Some pathways (solute transport, symbiosis,
401 trehalose degradation and cytochrome P450) were more expressed in the roots than in the stems
402 for both AT and MH, but differed between AT and MH, suggesting that the species of the two
403 trophic types either induced these pathways to different levels or used different orthologs.

404 The latter can be illustrated for the “solute transport” pathway. The 192 orthogroups
405 showing a different root/shoot ratio between AT and MH (out of 392 orthogroups belonging to
406 the solute transport pathway) are distributed in most transporter families, and in each family
407 there are orthologs showing different behavior in MH and AT (Supplemental Data 7). All this shows
408 that the consequences of mycoheterotrophy extend well beyond photosynthesis and the gene
409 losses observed previously. Mycoheterotrophy remodeled a large fraction of gene expression and
410 metabolism.

411

412 DISCUSSION

413 Mycoheterotrophic species that rely entirely on their fungal partners for their nutrition
414 (Merckx et al., 2009) reverse the usual mycorrhizal exchange, where fungi receive plant carbon.
415 The switch to mycoheterotrophy, which involves the loss of photosynthesis, a hallmark of plants
416 which is central to their metabolism, occurred at least 30 times in the orchid family and remains
417 poorly understood at the molecular level. Independent events in a similar phylogenetic context
418 can be used to study the impact of this metabolic evolution. We studied this question in orchids

419 through transcriptome analysis in organs of *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*, two MH orchids
420 representing independent occurrences of mycoheterotrophy within Epidendroideae. We
421 compared their gene content to that of other orchids, but also their expression profile to
422 autotrophic orchids and non-orchid species.

423

424 ***No genetic innovation, but gene loss***

425 Using the RNA-seq data from rhizome/root, stem and flowers of *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-*
426 *avis*, we identified gene sets that are probably almost complete, based on their comparison with
427 the genome of *G. elata* (Supplemental Data 2). When comparing the molecular functions encoded
428 in these 3 MH orchids with those of AT orchids, the switch to mycoheterotrophy entailed a global
429 reduction of molecular functions, as previously demonstrated for *G. elata* (Supplemental Data 2;
430 Yuan et al., 2018). In addition, we could not detect any major gain of function associated with
431 mycoheterotrophy. Obviously, it is difficult to identify potentially unknown functions and our
432 transcriptome analysis must have missed some genes, including those specifically expressed
433 during germination. However, all orchids are mycoheterotrophic during germination (Dearnaley et
434 al., 2016; Merckx, 2013), so mycoheterotrophy is not specific to MH species. Moreover, this
435 behavior of autotrophic orchids during germination indirectly indicates that they have all the
436 genes and metabolic pathways required to obtain nutrients through mycoheterotrophic nutrition,
437 showing that major gains/innovation are not essential for the transition to mycoheterotrophy.
438 However, when looking for orthologs present in our 3 MH species, but not in the other 6 AT
439 species, we found only a handful of MH-specific orthologs. It is highly unlikely that they are the key
440 genes required for the switch to mycoheterotrophy, although more extensive sampling of MH and
441 AT species may verify this possibility.

442 In addition to a general reduction of gene content, Yuan et al. (2018) showed that some
443 gene families, mostly associated with interactions with fungi, expanded in the *G. elata* genome.
444 Our transcriptome assemblies include large numbers of contigs putatively coding for enzymes such
445 as mannose-specific lectins or β -glucosidases, indicating the possible expansion of some gene
446 families in *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis*. However, using transcriptome assemblies and despite a
447 step of redundancy reduction in our analysis, it is difficult to count the number of genes precisely
448 because it is impossible to distinguish between 2 isoforms and 2 copies of a gene. Only high-
449 quality assemblies of the large genome of these species (2x16.96 Gb for *N. nidus-avis*; Vesely et al.,
450 2012) can confirm the expansion of some gene families.

451

452 **Pigments and secondary metabolism: compensatory protection and camouflage?**

453 The losses observed in MH species reflect the evolution of their plastomes, with massive
454 gene loss restricted to photosynthetic pathways and functions. Genes retained in the plastid
455 genomes have non-photosynthetic functions. By extension to the nuclear genome, the orthologs
456 lost in MH species are probably exclusively associated with photosynthesis, while the orthologs
457 conserved in MH species probably have non-photosynthetic functions. Comparison of the gene
458 content of MH and AT species should provide interesting information for the functional analysis of
459 genes even in model plants, as shown by two examples below.

460 The loss of photosynthesis resulted in gene losses in several pigment synthesis pathways
461 (Table 2). In *N. nidus-avis*, Pfeifhofer (1989) detected high amounts of zeaxanthin but no lutein. In
462 the three MH species, the genes coding for the enzymatic activities of the carotenoid pathway
463 required for the synthesis of zeaxanthin, but not lutein, are conserved (Figure 2). Lutein is
464 associated with the dissipation of excess energy from the photosystems and zeaxanthin is part of
465 the xanthophyll cycle, which has the same function (Niyogi et al., 1997). However, the loss of
466 violaxanthin de-epoxidase shows loss of the xanthophyll cycle in these species. The fact that
467 zeaxanthin is also a precursor of abscisic acid can explain the conservation of a functional
468 synthesis pathway. The switch to mycoheterotrophy trimmed the multifunctional carotenoid
469 synthesis pathway to keep only the enzymes required for its non-photosynthetic functions.

470 Although MH species are expected to lose the chlorophyll synthesis pathway, it is
471 nonetheless conserved, even if incomplete, in *E. aphyllum* and *G. elata* (Figure 2). Such a
472 conservation was already observed in holoparasitic plants (Wickett et al., 2011), and suggests that
473 chlorophylls or their intermediates could have a non-photosynthetic function, which is still not
474 clear (Ankele et al., 2007). *N. nidus-avis* differs from the two other species by a complete and
475 functional chlorophyll synthesis pathway. Its activity, in association with other plastid activities,
476 was detected in *N. nidus-avis*, mostly in the flowers (Figure 3). This is consistent with the detection
477 of chlorophyll a and b in the inflorescence (Pfeifhofer, 1989). Menke and Schmid (1976) reported a
478 cyclic photophosphorylation in the flower of *N. nidus-avis*, but this report is incompatible with the
479 absence of most plastid and nuclear genes coding for photosystem I and cytochrome b6/f and
480 deserves further study.

481 Because of the photo-toxicity of free chlorophyll and their precursors (Rebeiz et al., 1984),
482 the accumulation of chlorophyll requires a photo-protection mechanism. Flowers of *N. nidus-avis*

483 are not green, but they turn green upon heating (Supplemental Figure 1), suggesting that the
484 chlorophyll is stored in a heat-labile complex, which may limit toxicity. When compared with *G.*
485 *elata* and *E. aphyllum*, the activity of the chlorophyll synthesis pathway in *N. nidus-avis* is
486 associated with the presence of several SEP and ELIP genes. The SEP1 and ELIP *Arabidopsis*
487 orthologs are induced in response to high light and are believed to bind chlorophyll (Heddad, 2000;
488 Adamska et al., 1999; Rossini et al., 2006), but their exact molecular functions are unknown. Their
489 conservation in *N. nidus-avis*, but not in *E. aphyllum* or *G. elata*, suggests that they may indeed
490 bind chlorophyll to inactivate its ability to capture light.

491 Another, non-exclusive possible explanation for conservation of a functional chlorophyll
492 synthesis pathway and the accumulation of zeaxanthin to high levels in *N. nidus-avis* (Pfeifhofer,
493 1989) may be camouflage. By blending the plants in the surrounding leaf litter, the dull colors of
494 MH species protect them against herbivory (Klooster et al., 2009).

495 In any case, we show that the switch to mycoheterotrophy is mostly dominated by function
496 losses, and does not require major, massive metabolic innovations. In mixotrophic species (an
497 evolutionary transition from autotrophy to mycoheterotrophy; Selosse and Roy, 2009), a
498 metabolomic and transcriptomic analysis showed that their response to the loss of photosynthesis
499 was similar to the response of AT species to achlorophyll (Lallemand et al., 2019). This suggests
500 that the ability of achlorophyllous variants of otherwise green mixotrophic species to sustain an
501 almost normal growth without photosynthesis is mostly based on the plasticity of plant
502 metabolism. Furthermore, mycoheterotrophy is not a rare event (it has occurred > 50 times in 17
503 plant families; Merckx et al., 2009; Těšitel et al., 2018), suggesting that it entails function losses
504 rather than complex gene gains.

505

506 **An upside-down metabolic architecture**

507 Being at the core of plant metabolism, the loss of photosynthesis in normally green plants
508 severely impacts their metabolism (Lallemand et al., 2019; Aluru et al., 2009; Abadie et al., 2016).
509 The switch to mycoheterotrophy remodels the genome and we analyzed MH physiology through
510 gene expression in different organs (Figure 3). As expected, many genes were differentially
511 expressed, reflecting a partition of metabolic functions between the organs. The flowers showed a
512 higher activity of cell division, primary cell wall and signaling pathways, which can be attributed to
513 floral development. Similarly, higher phenolic compound synthesis can be associated with
514 pollinator attraction involving flower pigmentation and production of fragrant phenolics

515 (Jakubska-Busse et al., 2014). Conversely, the underground organs showed a higher activity of
516 pathways likely involved in the interaction with their fungal partners (microbe interactions,
517 proteasome, transporters).

518 Although *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum* showed similar pathway enrichments, especially in
519 the aerial organs, there were some idiosyncrasies that may result from different phylogenetic
520 backgrounds, as well as different fungal partners. The peak of tryptophan, starch and sucrose
521 metabolism observed in the rhizome of *E. aphyllum* as opposed to a peak of tyrosine metabolism
522 in the roots of *N. nidus-avis* can provide clues to the specificities of the nutrient fluxes in these two
523 pairs of partners.

524 Comparing symbiotic and asymbiotic protocorms of *Serapias vomeracea*, Fochi et al. (2017)
525 highlighted the importance of organic N metabolism and especially lysine histidine transporters
526 (LST) in the interaction with the fungal partner. In our analysis, several LST genes were
527 differentially expressed between the organs for both *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*, but some were
528 induced in flowers while others were more transcribed in stems or mycorrhizal parts
529 (Supplemental Data 7). In a similar analysis in *G. elata*, the upregulation of clathrin genes in
530 symbiotic protocorms suggested the involvement of exocytosis (Zeng et al. 2017). Our analysis
531 showed no signal specific to N metabolism or exocytosis. The different conditions considered in
532 these studies can explain the discrepancies, but they may also illustrate some evolutionary
533 tinkering occurring in different mycorrhiza.

534

535 Comparison of mycoheterotrophs' expression profiles to similar datasets in AT *B. distachyon* and maize provides additional evidence of the impact of mycoheterotrophy on plant
536 metabolism. Its interpretation is limited by factors such as different phylogenetic backgrounds,
537 possibly different growth conditions (incl. absence of mycorrhizal fungi), or the restriction to
538 orthogroups detected in the four species. Yet almost 40% of the analyzed orthogroups had a
539 significantly different root/stem ratio between MH and AT species, and 30% of the orthogroups,
540 from numerous pathways, showed inverted root/shoot ratios, suggesting that MH metabolism
541 was somehow upside-down. This inversion of the metabolism architecture coincided with the
542 inversion of the source/sink relationship: in MH, underground organs are sources, while they are a
543 sink in AT. The sink organs were associated with a higher activity of several major metabolic
544 pathways (carbohydrate and nucleotide metabolism, amino acid and fatty acid biosynthesis,
545 glycolysis, and respiration). In association with a higher DNA replication and primary cell wall

547 activity (which involves glycosidases) and a higher expression of auxin transporters, sink organs
548 likely experience stronger growth than their source counterparts. Mycoheterotrophic roots and
549 rhizomes are generally short, thick and compact to minimize accidental loss of a part of a source
550 organ and nutrient transfer effort (Imhof et al., 2013), stems are ephemeral (<2 months) but fast
551 growing (4 cm/day in *E. aphyllum*, J. Minasiewicz pers. observations) sexual organs without
552 nutritional functions. Conversely, fibrous roots of grasses have high growth rate as nutrient uptake
553 depends largely on the root length (Fitter, 2002), while aerial internodes have much slower growth,
554 or even stop growing.

555 Even with different growth habits, some pathways showed similar overall root/shoot ratios
556 in AT and MH. Plastid-related pathways (chlorophyll synthesis, plastid translation) are more active
557 in shoots than roots, while symbiosis and trehalose degradation are more active in roots than
558 shoots. Trehalose is almost absent from vascular plants, where its 6-phosphate precursor is an
559 important growth regulator (Lunn et al., 2014). However, it is an abundant storage carbohydrate
560 in mycorrhizal fungi and it has been suggested that it is transferred to host MH orchids to be
561 cleaved into glucose (Müller and Dulieu, 1998). The comparison between leaves of
562 achlorophyllous mutants (with MH nutrition) and green individuals in mixotrophic orchids showed
563 an upregulation of trehalase, but also of trehalose-6-P phosphatases (TPP) and trehalose-6-P
564 synthase (TPS; Lallemand et al. 2019). Similarly, the MH species showed a higher root/shoot ratio
565 of trehalase and TPP (but not TPS) compared to AT, which supports the hypothesis that trehalose
566 is transferred from mycorrhizal fungi to MH plants. Many other nutrients are exchanged at this
567 interface and our analysis suggests numerous differences between AT and MH: close to half of the
568 orthogroups involved in solute transport showed different root to stem ratios between AT and MH.
569 Some SWEET transporters were induced in the mycorrhiza of achlorophyllous MH mutants of the
570 mixotrophic orchid *E. helleborine* (Suetsugu et al., 2017) and in the protocorms of *Serapias*
571 (Perotto et al., 2014). The three SWEET orthogroups in our analysis behaved differently between
572 AT and MH, but showed contrasted differences, indicating that AT and MH both used SWEET
573 transporters but different orthologs in roots and stem. Similarly, 13 out of the 15 ABCG
574 transporter orthogroups or 10 out of the 13 NRT1/PTR transporter orthogroups showed
575 contrasted differences between AT and MH. The same could be observed for all transporter
576 families (Supplemental Data 7): AT and MH use different orthologs for the transport of solutes in
577 stem and roots, demonstrating extensive expression reprogramming. These differences are
578 probably associated with changes in the fluxes of nutrients in AT and MH, including in mycorrhizas.

579 This is a central question in the study of MH. However, the specificity of transporters can vary
580 even within a family. For example, transporters of the NRT1/PTR family were identified as nitrate
581 transporters, but some transport other molecules (Corratgé-Faillie and Lacombe, 2017). To
582 understand the changes of nutrient fluxes associated with this reprogramming of transporter
583 expression would require a detailed analysis of each orthogroup (assuming that the substrate
584 specificity is the same for all transporters within an orthogroup). However, this analysis would not
585 replace direct measurement of these fluxes with labeling experiments.

586

587 CONCLUSIONS

588 The shift to mycoheterotrophy induces contrasting changes in the genome of MH plants.
589 From the analysis of the gene repertoires, we were not able to identify new functions associated
590 with mycoheterotrophy, and large losses seemed restricted to genes only involved in
591 photosynthetic functions. This suggested that no metabolic innovation is required for
592 mycoheterotrophy. However, the transcriptome analysis showed extensive changes in numerous
593 pathways, probably associated with changes in the plant lifecycle and in the interaction with
594 fungal partners induced by mycoheterotrophy. This reprogramming illustrates the versatility of
595 plant metabolism and can be considered as a metabolic innovation by itself. It also explains why,
596 since becoming MH is based more on reprogramming and gene loss than on genetic innovation,
597 the shift to MH nutrition has occurred more than 50 times in plant evolution.

598

599

600

601 SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

602 **Supplemental Data 1:** Distribution of GO terms in the 3 mycoheterotrophic orchids.

603 **Supplemental Data 2:** Comparison of orthologue numbers in Mapman and KEGG pathways for the
604 3 mycoheterotrophic orchids and 3 autotrophic orchids.

605 **Supplemental Data 3:** Output of the Orthofinder analysis.

606 **Supplemental Data 4:** Composition and annotation of the mycoheterotroph-specific orthogroups.

607 **Supplemental Data 5:** Differential expression analysis of *N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum* organs.

608 **Supplemental Data 6:** Mapman, KEGG and GO enrichment analysis of *N. nidus-avis* and *E.*
609 *aphyllum* expression.

610 **Supplemental Data 7:** Differential analysis of the root/shoot expression ratios.

611 **Supplemental Data 8:** Mapman, KEGG and GO enrichment analysis of the expression ratios.
612 **Supplemental Table 1:** Details of sampling location and dates for the studied orchids.
613 **Supplemental Table 2:** Genomic datasets used in this study.
614 **Supplemental Table 3:** Comparison of the intermediate and final assemblies generated.
615 **Supplemental Table 4:** Composition of contamination sources among sampled tissues.
616 **Supplemental Table 5:** Annotation statistics of the generated transcriptome assemblies.
617 **Supplemental Table 6:** Summary statistics of the BUSCO analysis of completeness for the
618 generated transcriptomes in comparison to the *E. aphyllum* transcriptome from Schelkunov et al.
619 (2018) and another mycoheterotrophic orchid *G. elata* with a sequenced genome.
620 **Supplemental Table 7:** Statistics of per-tissue read mapping to the intermediate and final
621 assemblies.
622 **Supplemental Table 8:** Per-species statistics among the generated orthologous groups.
623 **Supplemental Table 9:** Species overlaps among orthologous groups.

624

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629

630 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS: MAS and ED designed the study, MAS supervised the project; ED, MM
631 and MJ analyzed the data. ED, JM and MJ wrote the manuscript. JC generated the RNA-seq data.
632 JM, MJ and MAS collected the samples.

633

634

635

636 TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: Statistics of the final assemblies.

	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	<i>Epipogium aphyllum</i>
Number of transcripts	43 451	38 488
Number of “genes”	39 731	36 275
Median / mean transcript length (bp)	675 / 993	555 / 920
Shortest / longest transcript (bp)	201 / 13 537	201 / 15 415
Transcripts over 1k / 10k bp length	15 391 / 10	11 980 / 9
Transcript n50 (bp)	1 506	1 480
GC %	45.56	44.26
Total assembled bases	43 160 528	35 412 792

Table 2: Gene content: pathways impacted by the switch to mycoheterotrophy.

Code: code of the Mapman4 bin or KEGG pathway. Size: ortholog content of the bin or pathway. AS: *A. shenzhenica*. DC: *D. catenatum*. PE: *P. equestris*. GE: *G. elata*. EA: *E. aphyllum*. NNA: *N. nidus-avis*. MH impact: impact of the switch to mycoheterotrophy.

Mapman4	code	size	AS	DC	PE	GE	EA	NNA	MH impact
Photosynthesis	1	291	161	196	183	42	33	41	losses
photophosphorylation	1.1	239	124	157	143	17	13	18	losses
ATP synthase complex	1.1.9	12	6	12	12	0	0	1	losses
chlororespiration	1.1.8	41	22	17	4	5	4	4	losses
cytochrome b6/f complex	1.1.2	19	10	19	19	0	0	0	losses
linear electron flow	1.1.5	5	4	5	5	1	1	1	losses
photosystem I	1.1.4	28	20	26	26	1	1	0	losses
photosystem II	1.1.1	74	58	74	73	10	7	12	losses
Calvin cycle	1.2	30	22	24	25	12	7	10	losses
RuBisCo activity	1.2.1	14	13	13	14	7	4	4	losses
galactolipid and sulfolipid biosynthesis	5.3	7	7	7	7	3	3	4	losses
coenzyme metabolism	7	224	145	155	154	129	132	135	losses
phylloquinone biosynthesis	7.13	8	8	8	8	2	2	2	losses
tetrapyrrol biosynthesis	7.12	58	37	39	38	25	27	29	losses
chlorophyll metabolism	7.12.6	23	21	22	22	10	11	12	losses
organelle RNA polymerase machinery	15.6	35	21	28	29	7	6	6	losses
organelle RNA polymerase activities	15.6.1	27	19	26	27	6	5	5	losses
organelle RNA processing	16.12	102	73	79	72	55	49	53	losses
organelle RNA editing	16.12.5	42	33	36	28	23	17	19	losses

organelle RNA stability	16.12.4	6	6	6	5	3	2	2	losses
chloroplast disulfide bond formation	18.11.2	3	3	3	3	0	0	1	losses
plastid movement	20.5	10	9	9	9	4	4	4	losses
total	total	5963	3945	4211	4185	3790	3813	3891	losses

KEGG pathways	code	size	AS	DC	PE	GE	EA	NNA	MH impact
Photosynthesis	195	63	54	54	33	10	4	4	losses
Photosynthesis - antenna proteins	196	42	11	11	11	0	3	1	losses

Table 3: Summary of differential gene expression analyses among the sampled tissues.

	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	<i>Epipogium aphyllum</i>
stem vs. flower	9109 / 4644 down, 4465 up	5315 / 2123 down, 3192 up
mycorrhiza vs. flower	13701 / 6465 down, 7236 up	7596 / 3430 down, 4166 up
mycorrhiza vs. stem	11360 / 4866 down, 6494 up	7849 / 3955 down, 3894 up
Flower-specific	55	297
Stem-specific	508	175
Mycorrhiza-specific	5788	4048
Total	25168 (57.92%)	16851 (43.78%)

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Figure 1: Morphology of *Neottia nidus-avis* and *Epipogium aphyllum*.

Top left: roots of *N. nidus-avis*. Bottom left: inflorescence of *N. nidus-avis*. Top right: inflorescence of *E. phylum*. Bottom right: rhizome of *E. aphyllum*.

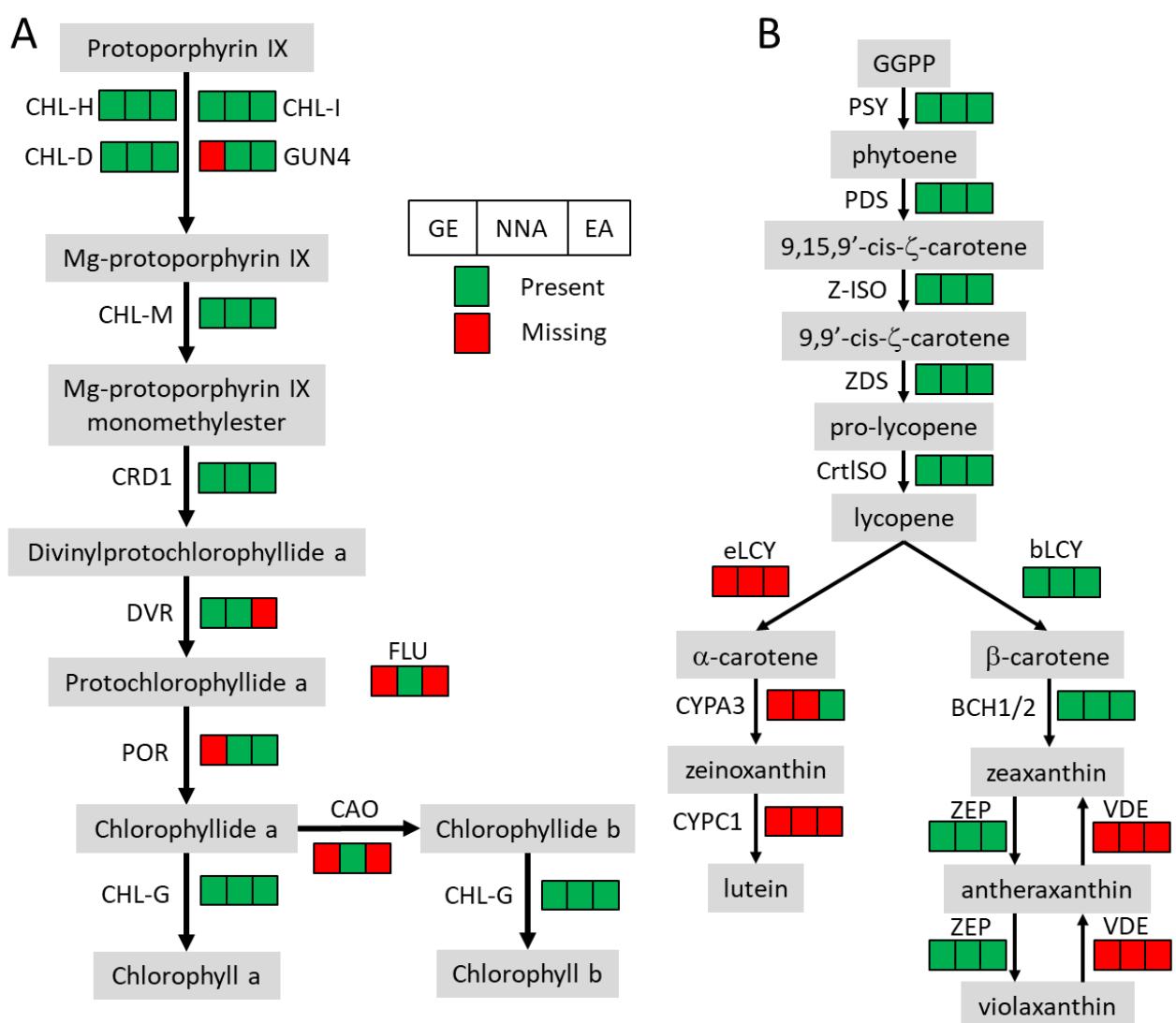


Figure 2: Pigment synthesis pathways in mycoheterotrophic orchids.

GE: *G. elata*. NNA: *N. nidus-avis*. EA: *E. aphyllum*. A: Chlorophyll biosynthesis. CHL-D, CHL-H, CHL-I, GUN4: magnesium chelatase. CHL-M: Mg-protoporphyrin IX O-methyltransferase. CRD1: Mg-protoporphyrin IX monomethylester cyclase. DVR: divinyl chlorophyllide-a 8-vinyl-reductase. POR: protochlorophyllide oxidoreductase. FLU: glutamyl-tRNA reductase regulator. CAO: chlorophyllide a oxygenase. CHL-G: chlorophyll synthase. B: Carotenoid biosynthesis. PSY: Phytoene synthase. PDS: phytoene desaturase. Z-ISO: ζ -carotene isomerase. ZDS: ζ -carotene desaturase. CrtISO: carotenoid isomerase. eLCY: lycopene ϵ -cyclase. bLCY: lycopene β -cyclase. BCH1/2: β -ring carotene hydroxylase. ZEP: zeaxanthin epoxidase. VDE: violaxanthin de-epoxidase. CYPA3: α -carotene β -ring hydroxylase. CYPC1: carotenoid ϵ -hydroxylase.

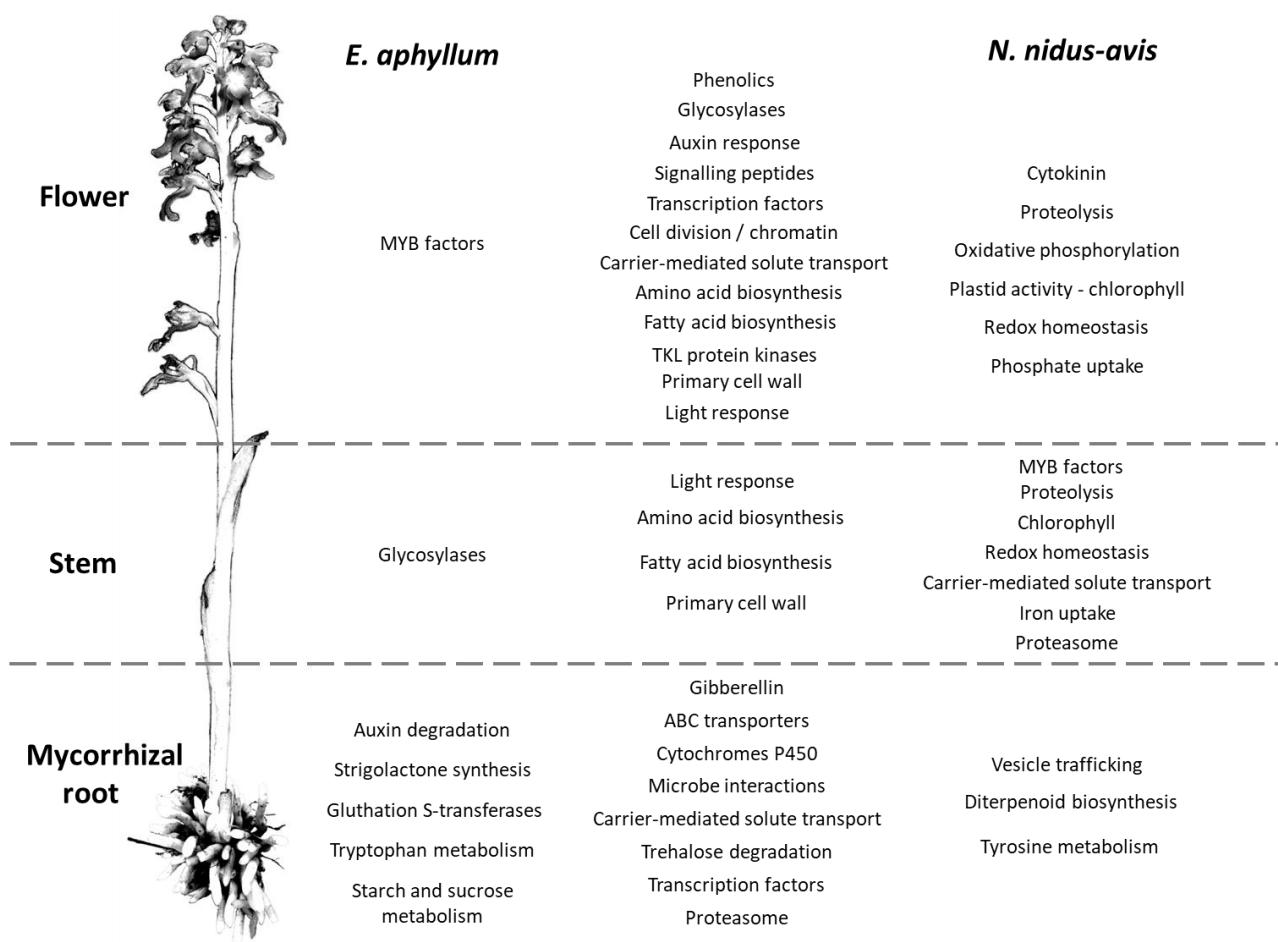


Figure 3: Pathways differentially expressed between organs in *E. aphyllum* and *N. nidus-avis*.

Summary of the enrichment analysis of the transcriptomic expression profiles (Supplemental Data 5). A pathway is indicated in the organ(s) where its activity peaks. The common changes are shown in the central column while the changes specific to *E. aphyllum* (resp. *N. nidus-avis*) are shown in the left (resp. right) column. The terms are mostly derived from the Mapman4 and KEGG pathways.

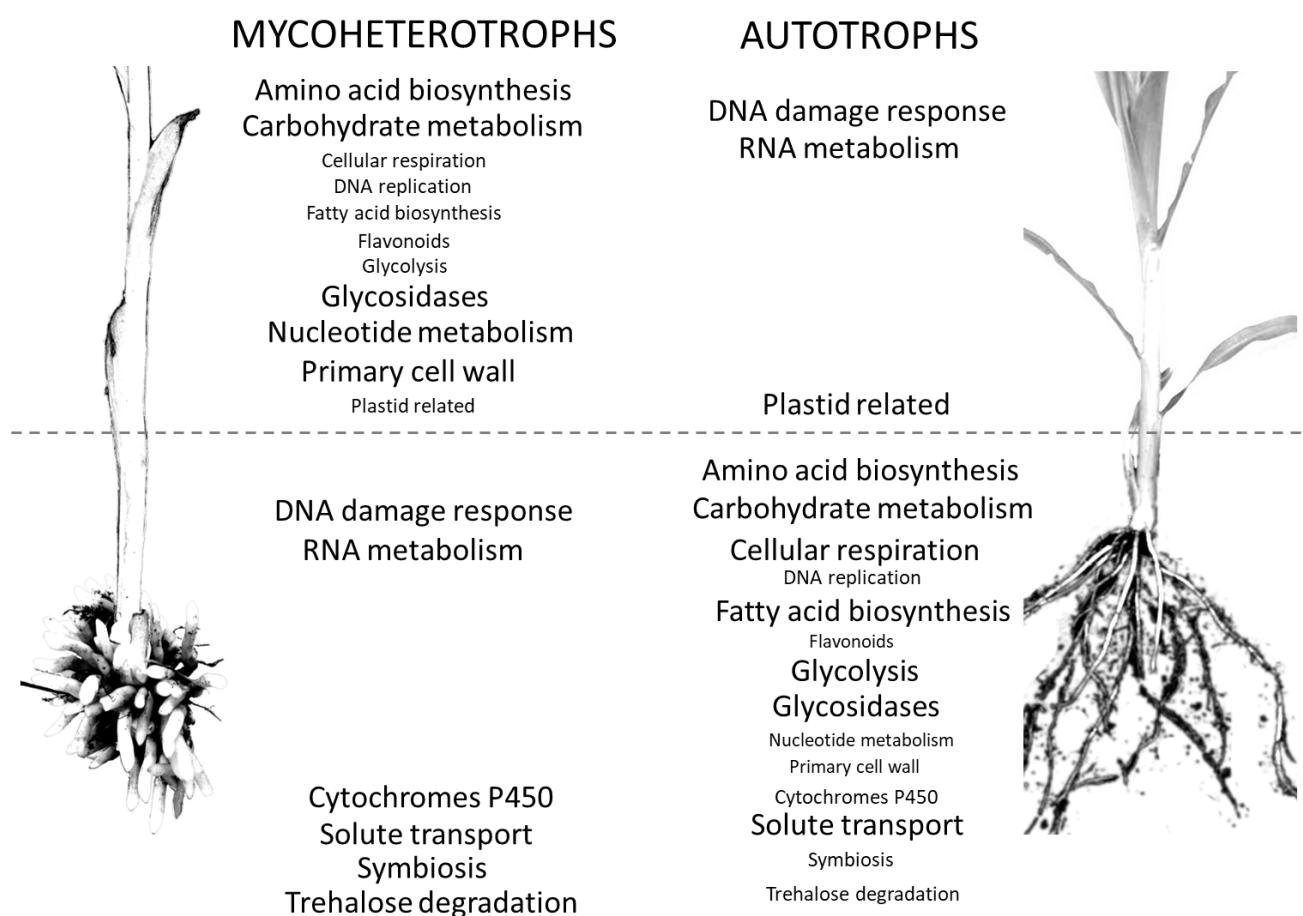


Figure 4: Comparison of distribution of pathways between the organs of mycoheterotrophic orchids and autotrophic non-orchid plants.

Pathways enriched in the orthogroups showing a significantly different root/stem expression ratio between mycoheterotrophic species (*N. nidus-avis* and *E. aphyllum*) and autotrophic species (*B. distachyon* and *Z. mays*). The pathways are indicated in the organ where their expression is highest. The pathways shown with a large font are also differentially expressed between root and stem.

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