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2 **Integrated soybean transcriptomics, metabolomics, and chemical genomics reveal the**
3 **importance of the phenylpropanoid pathway and antifungal activity in resistance to the**
4 **broad host range pathogen *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*.**
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18

19 **ABSTRACT**

20

21 *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, a predominately necrotrophic fungal pathogen with a broad host range,
22 causes a significant yield limiting disease of soybean called Sclerotinia stem rot (SSR). Resistance
23 mechanisms against SSR are poorly understood, thus hindering the commercial deployment of
24 SSR resistant varieties. We used a multiomic approach utilizing RNA-sequencing, Gas
25 chromatography-mass spectrometry-based metabolomics and chemical genomics in yeast to
26 decipher the molecular mechanisms governing resistance to *S. sclerotiorum* in soybean.
27 Transcripts and metabolites of two soybean recombinant inbred lines, one resistant, and one
28 susceptible to *S. sclerotiorum* were analyzed in a time course experiment. The combined results
29 show that resistance to *S. sclerotiorum* in soybean is associated in part with an early accumulation
30 of JA-Ile ((+)-7-iso-Jasmonoyl-L-isoleucine), a bioactive jasmonate, increased ability to scavenge
31 reactive oxygen species (ROS), and importantly, a reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid
32 pathway leading to increased antifungal activities. Indeed, we noted that phenylpropanoid pathway
33 intermediates such as, 4-hydroxybenzoate, ferulic acid and caffeic acid were highly accumulated
34 in the resistant line. *In vitro* assays show that these metabolites and total stem extracts from the
35 resistant line clearly affect *S. sclerotiorum* growth and development. Using chemical genomics in
36 yeast, we further show that this antifungal activity targets ergosterol biosynthesis in the fungus, by
37 disrupting enzymes involved in lipid and sterol biosynthesis. Overall, our results are consistent
38 with a model where resistance to *S. sclerotiorum* in soybean coincides with an early recognition
39 of the pathogen, leading to the modulation of the redox capacity of the host and the production of
40 antifungal metabolites.

42 **AUTHOR SUMMARY**

43

44 Resistance to plant fungal pathogens with predominately necrotrophic lifestyles is poorly
45 understood. In this study, we use *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and soybean as a model system to
46 identify key resistance components in this crop plant. We employed a variety of omics approaches
47 in combination with functional studies to identify plant processes associated with resistance to *S.*
48 *sclerotiorum*. Our results suggest that resistance to this pathogen is associated in part with an
49 earlier induction of jasmonate signaling, increased ability to scavenge reactive oxygen species, and
50 importantly, a reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid pathway resulting in increased antifungal
51 activities. These findings provide specific plant targets that can exploited to confer resistance to *S.*
52 *sclerotiorum* and potentially other pathogens with similar lifestyle.

53

54

55 INTRODUCTION

56

57 *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* (Lib.) de Bary, is a plant fungal pathogen with a predominately
58 necrotrophic lifestyle and worldwide distribution that is known to infect over 400 plant species
59 (1). On soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.), it causes sclerotinia stem rot (SSR), a significant and
60 challenging yield limiting disease. Data suggest that 1.6 billion kilograms of soybean are lost each
61 year to SSR in the US alone, making it the second most damaging disease of soybean (2,3).
62 Globally, SSR can cause yield reductions as high as 60% (4). Soybeans are an important source of
63 plant proteins and oils globally (5–7), these products can also be significantly affected by SSR (8).
64 Management strategies against SSR rely largely on chemical control (9), though cultural practices
65 such as crop rotation, seeding rate and row spacing modifications have been used with limited
66 success (3). While genetic resistance is by far more sustainable, our understanding of resistance
67 mechanisms against this pathogen is limited, and current commercial varieties lack adequate levels
68 of resistance to SSR.

69 In the past two decades, studies have increased our understanding of *S. sclerotiorum*
70 pathogenic development. *S. sclerotiorum* is a prolific producer of cell wall degrading enzymes
71 (CWDEs) that contribute to its pathogenic success (10). In addition to its lytic repertoire, the
72 pathogenic success of *S. sclerotiorum* relies on the key virulence factor oxalic acid (OA). Mutants
73 that are defective in OA production are weakly pathogenic (11–14). OA was proposed to contribute
74 to pathogenesis by acidifying host tissues and sequestering calcium from host cell walls,
75 facilitating the action of CWDEs. However, recent studies showed that *S. sclerotiorum* relies on
76 OA to induce programmed cell death (PCD) in the host to its own benefit (11,15). OA induced
77 PCD is dependent on the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the plant (14,15). This

78 points to the importance of the ROS machinery in the pathogenic success of this pathogen. Indeed,
79 we showed that *S. sclerotiorum*, via OA, co-opts soybean NADPH oxidases to increase host ROS,
80 and that the silencing of specific NADPH oxidases confers enhanced resistance to this fungus (16).
81 In the addition to OA, other virulence factors targeting host responses are known to contribute to
82 the pathogenicity of *S. sclerotiorum*. The necrosis and ethylene-inducing like proteins (NLPs)
83 SsNEP1 and SsNEP2 induce cell death in tobacco leaves, thus contributing to disease
84 establishment (17). The secreted chorismate mutase (SsCM1) and integrin-like protein (SsITL)
85 were proposed to target Arabidopsis defenses by affecting salycilic acid and jasmonate signaling,
86 respectively (18,19). The ability of *S. sclerotiorum* to detoxify plant chemical defenses has also
87 been discussed (20). Unfortunately, these studies have largely focused on the fungal side of this
88 interaction, and only provide glimpses into the plant mechanisms governing resistance to this
89 pathogen, mainly in model plants. In soybean, Bi-parental linkage mapping led to the discovery of
90 many quantitative trait loci (QTL) for resistance to this pathogen. Remarkably, a total of 103 QTL
91 on 18 of the 20 soybean chromosomes have been recorded in SoyBase (21) with minimal overlap
92 between QTL reported by different studies (9,22–26). Despite these efforts, gene level and
93 mechanistic details of soybean resistance mechanisms against *S. sclerotiorum* remain unknown.

94 Recent advances in Next-Generation RNA sequencing (RNAseq) allow for cost-efficient
95 and powerful examination of global differences in the transcriptional response to environmental
96 cues. The application of RNAseq approaches in soybean-*S. sclerotiorum* interaction studies will,
97 most assuredly, contribute to the development of molecular genetic resources crucial for
98 mechanistic and translational research. Transcriptomics were used to study the interaction of *S.*
99 *sclerotiorum* with other non-model plant hosts, including canola (27–29), pea (30), and common
100 bean (31). While informative, these studies were solely based on gene expression comparisons,

101 and thus may not provide a complete picture of the flow of biologic information. When coupled
102 with other omics approaches, such as metabolomics and chemical genomics, RNAseq can provide
103 a much greater understanding of the biology, by integrating genetic responses of a particular
104 interaction to functional consequences. Herein, we apply multi-omics approaches to identify and
105 validate resistance processes against *S. sclerotiorum* in soybean lines generated in our breeding
106 program. The identification of these processes will not only increase our understanding of the
107 soybean-*S. sclerotiorum* interaction but will also facilitate the introgression of resistance into
108 soybean varieties.

109 Our recent breeding efforts led to the identification of several recombinant inbred lines
110 (RILs) highly resistant to *S. sclerotiorum* (9), using the soybean line W04-1002 as the main source
111 of resistance (32). After multiple generations of greenhouse selection, we have chosen two RILs
112 originating from the same cross; one resistant (91-145), and one susceptible (91-44) to SSR to
113 complete this study. A comparative analysis using a combination of RNAseq, metabolomics, and
114 chemical genomics in yeast, shows that resistance in 91-145 is associated in part with an earlier
115 induction of jasmonate signaling, increased ability to scavenge ROS, and importantly, a
116 reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid pathway leading to increased antifungal activities. We
117 further discuss and provide evidence for the importance of antifungal compounds during the
118 resistance response against this pathogen and show that this antifungal activity targets ergosterol
119 biosynthesis in the fungus. We propose that the modulation of the identified pathways through
120 RNAi/gene editing or overexpression approaches may be used to introgress SSR resistance in
121 commercial soybean germplasm and possibly other host crops.

122

123

124 **RESULTS**

125 **Disease development in the resistant (91-145) and susceptible (91-44) soybean lines**

126 To determine soybean processes involved in resistance to SSR, two recombinant inbred lines (RIL)
127 of soybean showing a differential response to *S. sclerotiorum* were chosen for this study. The
128 resistant and susceptible selections were classified based on our previous germplasm selection
129 study (9). Both the resistant 91-145 (R) and the susceptible 91-44 (S) lines were developed utilizing
130 the SSR resistant parental line W04-1002 (P1) and LN89-5717 (PI 5745542), an SSR-susceptible
131 parental line having other desirable pathogen resistance traits (9). Plants were inoculated using the
132 cut petiole inoculation method (16) and infection progression was monitored in R and S soybean
133 lines over seven days. Initial symptoms of SSR began appearing on the main stem 48 hours post-
134 inoculation (hpi) as light brown lesions surrounding the point of inoculation, which spread as the
135 disease progressed. By 96 hpi, extensive tissue colonization occurred along the main stem in the
136 S line, while small restricted lesions with a red coloration were observed at the inoculation site in
137 the R line (Fig. 1). By day 7, it was apparent that the R line had largely restricted fungal growth
138 on the main stem and the red coloration observed at the site of infection had become more
139 prominent, whereas the *S. sclerotiorum* infection had girdled the main stem of the S line (Fig. 1).
140 Global transcriptome analysis was conducted on *S. sclerotiorum* infected soybean stem tissue
141 collected from both R and S lines at 0, 24, 48, and 96 hpi. Metabolomic analysis comparing the R
142 and S lines was also conducted, similarly, stem tissues were collected at 0, 48 and 72 hpi.

143 **Mapping and overview of RNA sequencing data**

144 To determine transcript levels in the R and S soybean lines over the course of infection, RNA
145 sequencing was conducted on twenty-four stem samples, consisting of three independent
146 biological replicates for each of the time points selected. Depending on the time point, 64.9 – 89.7

147 million raw reads were generated, with 95.7 - 96.6% of reads mapping to the host reference
148 genomes of soybean and *S. sclerotiorum* at all timepoints. On average, 96% of the total reads
149 mapped uniquely to the soybean reference genome in the uninfected plants of both lines. In the S
150 line, 91.6, 91.8, and 68.9% of the reads mapped to the soybean genome at 24, 48 and 96 hpi,
151 respectively. In the R line, 92.8, 91.9, and 88.2% of the reads mapped to the soybean genome at
152 24, 48 and 96 hpi, respectively (Table 1). At 96 hpi the reads mapping to the fungal genome in the
153 S line (27%) is significantly higher than those in R line (8%), which is expected considering the
154 extensive colonization of the soybean stem by *S. sclerotiorum* in the S line, particularly at the later
155 stages of the infection process. 4.4 % to 3.2 % of reads at different time point of study did not map
156 to any reference genome and was therefore excluded (data not shown).

157 **Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) of soybean during infection**

158 A comparative analysis of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) was performed during
159 the course of infection in both the R and S lines, as well as between these two lines at the specified
160 time points to investigate the mechanisms underlying resistance to *S. sclerotiorum*. In the R line,
161 we observed the maximum number of DEGs at 48 hours following inoculation (Table S1 and Fig.
162 2A). In contrast, the maximum DEGs in the S line occurred 96 hours post inoculation (Table S1
163 and Fig. 2B). Interestingly, at 96 hpi, the number of DEGs in the S line (14,050) were markedly
164 higher than the R line (2,442), suggesting that the resistant response may be contributing to the
165 reduced differential expression of host genes and the return to homeostasis at the later stages of
166 infection. In total, 16,462 unique DEGs were identified in our lines during the course of infection
167 (Fig. 2C). Among these, 7,319 were differentially regulated in both R and S lines, while 920 were
168 strictly associated with the R line and 8,223 were S line specific (Fig. 2C). These results indicate
169 that *S. sclerotiorum* infection causes a dramatic change in gene expression in soybean (~ 19% of

170 total annotated genes in *Glycine max* genome), and suggests substantial differences between the
171 resistant and susceptible soybean lines used in this study in response to *S. sclerotiorum* challenge.

172 Pairwise comparisons of DEGs were performed between R and S soybean lines at the
173 selected time points (Table S2 and Fig. 2D). At 24 and 48 hpi, 1,039 and 803 DEGs were identified
174 between the two lines, respectively. However, the number of DEGs sharply increased to 2,087 at
175 96 hpi. This is consistent with the distinct patterns of gene expression in the S and R lines at the
176 later stages of infection (Fig. 2 A, B). Among the identified DEGs, 447, 191, and 1541 genes were
177 found to be time-point specific between the R and S lines at 24, 48 and 96 hpi, respectively, while
178 340 genes were differentially expressed at all time points following pathogen challenge (Table S2
179 and Fig. 2D). The putative functions of these genes were determined using Phytozome (33),
180 National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), and Soybase (21) databases (Table S2).

181 **Gene ontology enrichment and biological process analyses**

182 We focus the remainder of this manuscript on direct comparisons between resistant and
183 susceptible soybean lines, to single out potential processes associated with resistance to *S.*
184 *sclerotiorum* in soybean. Soybean gene locus IDs identified through the DEG analysis were used
185 to perform gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis using the Soybase gene model data mining
186 and analysis tool (34). A false discovery rate (FDR) value of 0.05 was used to identify significantly
187 regulated GO biological processes, and individual GO processes were considered in this analysis
188 if they were significantly enriched in at least one of the time points used (Table S3 and Fig. 3).
189 The under or overrepresentation of DEGs in each GO category was determined based on the
190 relative frequencies of the GO terms associated with the genes (34). Our data show an
191 overrepresentation of genes in GO terms related to signal transduction (i.e. kinase signaling,
192 phosphorylation), plant defense responses (i.e. response to chitin, fungi), phenylpropanoid

193 pathway (i.e. chalcones, anthocyanins, flavonoids, salicylic acid), ROS scavenging, and the
194 biosynthesis/regulation of phytohormones (i.e. jasmonic acid, salicylic acid, ethylene). DEGs
195 underrepresented throughout the course of infection include gene related to nucleotide binding and
196 zinc ion binding. While the involvement of categories such as ROS, defense responses, and
197 phytohormone regulation are not surprising, our results point to complex mechanisms of gene
198 regulation associated with resistance to *S. sclerotiorum*. The differential regulation of
199 phenylpropanoid pathway genes is intriguing and will be the subject of further characterization
200 below.

201 **Metabolite profiling of susceptible and resistant soybean lines in response to *S. sclerotiorum*.**

202 Transcriptomic analysis was complemented by metabolite profiling of stem samples
203 collected from our resistant and susceptible soybean lines following *S. sclerotiorum* infection.
204 Simple changes in transcript levels might not always correlate with biological activity, but changes
205 in metabolite flux are quantifiable outcomes that can directly explain disease phenotypes. Gas
206 chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis was performed to broadly evaluate
207 metabolite profiles in control and infected soybean stems at 48 and 72 hpi. Three independent
208 biological replicates were used for each time point. A total of 360 metabolites were detected, but
209 only 164 could be identified based on available databases (Table S4). Each metabolite was
210 characterized by its distinct retention time and mass to charge ratio (m/z). All the 164 identified
211 metabolites found in infected soybean were also detected in non-inoculated stems and therefore
212 are likely of plant origin. Despite this, we note that as disease progresses, contributions from *S.*
213 *sclerotiorum* cannot be ruled out.

214 MetaboAnalyst 3.0 (35) was used for the analysis of the 164 identified metabolites. One-
215 way ANOVA using Fisher's least significant difference method (Fisher's LSD) identified 80

216 metabolites, the accumulation of which was significantly (FDR <0.05) affected by *S. sclerotiorum*
217 inoculation at 48 and 72 hpi in R- line compared to S- line (Table S5). These metabolites included
218 polar compounds, such as nucleotides, amino acids, alcohols, organic acids, and carbohydrates,
219 along with nonpolar compounds including fatty acids, and long-chain alcohols (Table S5). The
220 multivariate analysis of identified metabolites was performed using Partial Least Squares -
221 Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA). The first (PC1) and second (PC2) principal components explain
222 52.7% of the variance. The analysis showed distinct metabolomic profiles at each time point during
223 the course of infection, culminating with the largest segregation of metabolites between the R and
224 S lines at 72 hpi (Fig. S1). The fold change of significantly regulated metabolites during this time
225 course are indicated in Supplementary Table 5. Significantly regulated metabolites were assigned
226 to distinct functional categories according to the chemical groups to which they belong (Table S5)
227 and to specific plant pathways in which they may function (Table S6). Our data revealed several
228 differentially regulated metabolic processes between the R and S lines (Fig. 4). However, those
229 involved in phenylalanine metabolism are particularly interesting given the differential expression
230 of phenylpropanoid pathway genes identified in transcriptomic analysis (Fig. 5A) and the
231 important role of this pathway in plant defense. Indeed, the precursor of the phenylpropanoid
232 pathway, phenylalanine, and downstream intermediate metabolites, such as benzoic acid, caffeic
233 acid, and ferulic acid, are highly accumulated in the stem of the R line compared to the S line
234 following *S. sclerotiorum* infection (Fig. 5B). Overall, the observed parallel between
235 transcriptomics and metabolomics data with respect to the differential modulation of the
236 phenylpropanoid pathway indicates its potential key participation in resistance to *S. sclerotiorum*.

237 Similar to transcriptomic data, the comparative metabolite profiles also implicated
238 phytohormones in this interaction. Namely, the fatty acids linolenic acid (a precursor of jasmonic

239 acid) and cyanoalanine (an indicator of ethylene biosynthesis) (36,37) are both significantly
240 induced at 48 and 72 hpi, in the R line (Fig. S3). Interestingly, the most highly upregulated
241 metabolite in our R line is mucic acid with an ~86-fold higher accumulation (Table S5). Mucic
242 acid, also referred to as galactaric acid, can be produced by the oxidation of d-galacturonic acid,
243 the main component of pectin.

244 Galactose metabolism and the TCA cycle were the pathways most affected by this analysis,
245 and the metabolites assigned to them were primarily carbohydrates and organic acids, respectively.
246 Interestingly, of the metabolites downregulated in R plants in comparison to S plants, 81.8% (9/11)
247 belonged to one of these two groups (Table S5). Although these metabolites relate to multiple
248 pathways, their downregulation in R plants may be a strategy to reduce *S. sclerotiorum* access to
249 preferable carbon sources. Of the top six potentially affected pathways, three of them (Glyoxylate
250 and dicarboxylate metabolism; Alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism; the TCA cycle)
251 contain both fumaric and succinic acid. These organic acids were downregulated at 48 and 72 hpi,
252 respectively, and demonstrate the potentially broad impacts that changes in individual metabolites
253 can have on plant biosynthesis and metabolism.

254 **Reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid pathway in resistance to *S. sclerotiorum*.**

255 Many secondary metabolites derived from multiple branches of the phenylpropanoid
256 pathway, including lignin, isoflavonoid-phytoalexins, and other phenolic compounds such as
257 benzoic acid, have been proposed as important components of defense responses (38,39). In this
258 study, we found differential expression of transcripts and metabolites related to the
259 phenylpropanoid pathway between the R and S soybean lines. At the transcript level, we observed
260 a downregulation of genes encoding phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL), lignin biosynthetic
261 enzymes, ferulate 5-hydroxylase (F5H), N-hydroxycinnamoyl/benzoyltransferase (HCT),

262 Caffeoyl-CoA O-methyltransferase (CCoAOMT), cinnamoyl-CoA reductase (CCR), cinnamyl
263 alcohol dehydrogenase (CAD), chalcone synthase (CHS), flavonol synthase (FLS), and flavonoid
264 4'-O-methyltransferase (FOMT) in R line compared to S line (Table 2 and Fig. 5A).
265 Coincidentally, genes coding for enzymes involved in anthocyanin and phytoalexin biosynthesis
266 were upregulated in the R line, these include, anthocyanidin synthase (ANS), anthocyanin
267 acyltransferase (AT), dihydroflavonol reductase (DFR), isoflavone 7-O-glucoside-6"-O-
268 malonyltransferase (IFMaT) isoflavone 7-O-methyltransferase (IOMT), and isoflavone reductase
269 (IFR) (Table 2 and Fig. 5A). Transcript levels of select genes within these pathways were validated
270 using RT-qPCR, thus confirming the RNA-Seq results (Fig. 6).

271 In accordance with the transcriptomics data, we observed a marked accumulation of the
272 metabolites phenylalanine, a phenylpropanoid pathway precursor, and the lignin intermediates
273 ferulic and caffeic acids in the R line compared to the S line (Fig. 5B). Benzoic acid, a salicylic
274 acid precursor and known antimicrobial compound (40) also accumulated at higher levels in the
275 Res line (Fig. 5B). Increased accumulation of ferulic and caffeic acids is likely due to the
276 downregulation of F5H (Glyma.09G186400) and other downstream enzymes within the lignin
277 pathway (Table 2 and Fig. 5A). We reasoned that the contribution of these ferulates to resistance
278 may be due to their antifungal activity, and their ability to inhibit *S. sclerotiorum* growth was tested
279 *in vitro*. A significant reduction of fungal growth was observed when *S. sclerotiorum* was grown
280 on PDA with increasing concentrations of ferulic acid (Fig. S2). While caffeic acid did not
281 significantly affect colony size, it clearly affected *S. sclerotiorum* growth patterns on PDA with
282 the appearance of abnormal concentric ring growth patterns and premature sclerotia formation
283 (Fig. S2).

284 While lignification is recognized as a disease resistance mechanism in plants,
285 counterintuitively, our data suggest a reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid pathway away from
286 lignin and towards the accumulation of lignin intermediates, anthocyanins, and phytoalexins in the
287 resistance response against *S. sclerotiorum*. We propose that lignin intermediates, such as caffeic
288 and ferulic acid, and possibly other compounds with antifungal activity are an important
289 component of this response.

290

291 **ROS scavenging and antioxidant activities are associated with resistance to *S. sclerotiorum***

292 Reactive oxygen species (ROS) and ROS scavengers play active roles in redox status
293 regulation in biotic stress (41,42). *S. sclerotiorum*, via oxalic acid, is known to upregulate host
294 ROS levels to induce PCD and achieve pathogenic success (11,15,16). Our transcriptomics
295 analysis shows a differential regulation of genes related to ROS scavenging, such as peroxidases,
296 glutathione S-transferases (GSTs), ascorbate oxidases, and superoxide dismutase (SODs), when
297 comparing the R and S soybean lines (Table S8 and Fig. 7). Three *GmGSTs* (Glyma.06G193400,
298 Glyma.02G024600, Glyma.02G024800), two *GmSODs* (Glyma.12G081300, Glyma.12G178800)
299 and five ascorbate oxidases or like proteins (Glyma.05G082700, Glyma.11G059200,
300 Glyma.17G012300, Glyma.17G180400, Glyma.20G051900, Glyma.05G057400) were
301 significantly upregulated in the R line compared to the S line as early as 24 hpi, suggesting a role
302 in preventing oxidative damage imposed by *S. sclerotiorum* (Table S8 and Fig. 7). Peroxidases
303 were also differentially regulated at 24 hpi, with five family members (Glyma.01G19250,
304 Glyma.11G049600, Glyma.11G080300, Glyma.14G201700, Glyma.17G177800) significantly
305 upregulated, however, many others were downregulated in the R line compared to S line (Table
306 S8 and Fig. 7).

307 We mined our metabolomics data for differentially accumulated metabolites that may serve
308 as ROS scavengers or antioxidants. Dehydroascorbic acid (DHA), the oxidized form of ascorbate,
309 an important antioxidant, was specifically accumulated later in the infection time course (72 hpi),
310 but not at the early stages in the R line (Fig. 7). Similarly, the proline derivative, trans-4-hydroxy-
311 L-proline, a known osmoprotectant and antioxidant (43,44) is significantly accumulated in the R
312 line at the later stages of the infection process (Fig. 7). Proline plays a major role as an antioxidant,
313 owing to its ROS scavenging capacity (45,46). Overall, these results and the earlier observation of
314 anthocyanin induction, point to a marked activation of ROS scavenging and antioxidant processes
315 in the resistant response to *S. sclerotiorum*, presumably to counter to oxidative state imposed by
316 this pathogen.

317 **Jasmonic acid signaling contributes to the resistant response to *S. sclerotiorum*.**

318 During plant-pathogen interactions, phytohormones such as salicylic acid (SA), abscisic
319 acid (ABA), ethylene (ET), and Jasmonic acid (JA), have been shown to regulate plant immune
320 responses (47–50). ET and JA have generally been implicated in the activation of defense
321 responses against necrotrophs (51). Our GO enrichment analysis highlighted DEGs between the R
322 and S lines related to JA/ET biosynthesis and responses (Table S9 and Fig. 3). Metabolic profiling
323 also identified phytohormone-related metabolites that were differentially accumulated during the
324 course of infection between our lines, namely, linolenic acid, a precursor of jasmonic acid, and
325 cyanoalanine, an indicator of ethylene biosynthesis (Fig. S3). Accordingly, we conducted a
326 targeted GC-MS analysis to more accurately estimate the dynamic changes in SA, ABA, cinnamic
327 acid (an intermediate of SA and the phenylpropanoid pathway), and JA precursors and derivatives
328 (12-oxophytodienoic acid (OPDA), and (+)-7-iso-jasmonoyl-L-isoleucine (JA-Ile) in a time course
329 experiment comparing the R and S soybean lines. Distinct patterns of phytohormone accumulation

330 were identified during the course of infection (Fig. 8). The bioactive form of JA, Jasmonoyl-L-
331 isoleucine (JA-Ile) but not JA, was significantly induced in the R line compared to the S line
332 between 6 and 24 hpi, before decreasing at the later stages of our time course (Fig. 8). Interestingly,
333 JA and JA-Ile levels drastically increased in the S line, albeit at a much later stage of infection (48
334 – 72 hpi). Thus, this late dramatic surge in JA and JA-Ile in the S line may be perceived as a
335 delayed response to fungal colonization, perhaps after the establishment of infection (Fig. 7). In
336 accordance, OPDA, a precursor of JA, accumulated at significantly higher levels in the S line at
337 48 – 72 hpi (Fig. 8). This pattern also explains the significant induction of JA biosynthetic
338 transcripts at the later stages of infection observed in the S line (Table S9). Expectedly, SA
339 accumulated to higher levels in the S line throughout the time course (Fig. 8). JA and SA responses
340 are known to be antagonistic in many plant-pathogen interactions (52). *In toto*, phytohormone
341 estimation in the S and R lines following *S. sclerotiorum* challenge suggests that resistance to this
342 pathogen in soybean coincides with an early induction of JA signaling. The timing of this induction
343 appears to be critical to the outcome of this interaction.

344

345 **Antifungal activity and mode of action of stem extract from the resistant soybean line**

346 Our earlier observation that soybean stems from the R line accumulated metabolites with
347 antifungal activity, such as ferulic and caffeic acids, following *S. sclerotiorum* challenge was
348 intriguing. This resistant response was also associated with the development of a prominent red
349 coloration at the site of infection (Fig. 1). Considering the metabolomics data, we reasoned that
350 total stem extract from the resistant line should also exhibit antifungal activity against *S.*
351 *sclerotiorum*. To test this hypothesis, we prepared an ethanol extract of stem sections harvested
352 from the R line, 10 days post inoculation, that we termed the red stem extract. Equal amount of

353 green stem extracts harvested from non-inoculated plants served as control. The final extracts were
354 diluted in DMSO following ethanol evaporation. *S. sclerotiorum* growth was assayed on potato
355 dextrose broth (PDB) amended with the red stem extract, green stem extract, or DMSO control for
356 48 hours. Fungal biomass as determined by mycelial fresh weight was markedly reduced (12-14
357 fold) in PDB cultures containing the red stem extract compared to PDB amended with the green
358 stem extract or DMSO (Fig. S4 B, C). These results confirm that the resistant response associated
359 with our R line clearly involves the accumulation of antifungal compounds that inhibit *S.*
360 *sclerotiorum* growth.

361 We next examined the mechanism by which the red stem extract inhibits fungal growth by
362 performing chemical genomic profiling in yeast. Chemical genomic profiling is built upon
363 barcoded strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* mutants representing approximately 4000 gene
364 deletions. The use of unique barcodes for each mutant makes this approach compatible with high-
365 throughput screening of drugs using next-generation sequencing (53). Chemical genomic profiling
366 revealed that deletion mutants of genes involved in phospholipid and sterol biosynthesis were
367 significantly sensitive to the red stem extract (Fig. 9A). Mutants of *ERG6*, which encodes a protein
368 in the ergosterol biosynthetic pathway, had the greatest sensitivity to the extract, and this was a
369 highly significant response ($p < 1e-7$). *ERG2*, which is also involved in ergosterol biosynthesis, was
370 also significantly sensitive ($p < 0.01$). Mutants of *ARO7*, which encode a gene involved in amino
371 acid biosynthesis was significantly sensitive. While *ARO7* is not known to be directly involved in
372 lipid/sterol biosynthesis, it has many genetic interactions with lipid related genes (54). *CHO2* and
373 *OPI3* mutants were also significantly sensitive. Cho2p and Opi3p are both involved in
374 phosphatidylcholine biosynthesis. A deletion mutant of *PAH1* was the most significantly resistant
375 mutant. Pah1p is a phosphatase that regulates phospholipid synthesis. Deletion mutants of *PAH1*

376 have increased phospholipid, fatty acid and ergosterol ester content (55). Further, in two out of
377 three replicates, the chemical genomic profile of the red stem extract had significant correlation
378 ($p<0.05$) with the profile of fenpropimorph (56), an ergosterol biosynthesis inhibitor that targets
379 *ERG2* and *ERG24* in yeast. Taken together, these data suggest that the red stem extract may exert
380 toxicity by either disrupting enzymes involved in lipid/sterol biosynthesis, or alternatively
381 physically binding membrane lipids and causing cell leakage.

382 **Red stem extract inhibits ergosterol biosynthesis in *S. sclerotiorum***

383 To test if the red stem extract causes rapid cell lysis like the antifungal compounds
384 amphotericin B (binds ergosterol) and poacic acid (binds glucan), we performed a cell leakage
385 assay. The red stem extract did not cause significant cell permeability (Fig. 9B). The antifungal
386 drug fluconazole inhibits ergosterol biosynthesis but doesn't cause rapid cell permeability as it
387 targets the enzyme Erg11p rather than a membrane or cell wall structure. This result supports the
388 hypothesis that compounds within the red stem extract target ergosterol biosynthetic enzymes. We
389 thus tested if treatment of *S. sclerotiorum* with the red stem extract alters ergosterol production. *S.*
390 *sclerotiorum* was grown in PDB amended with red stem extract, green stem extract, or DMSO,
391 and ergosterol level was calculated by first calculating the total ergosterol-plus-24(28) DHE
392 (dehydroergosterol) content and then subtracting from the total the amount of absorption due to
393 24(28) DHE only (57). Ergosterol content of *S. sclerotiorum* mycelia grown in red stem extract
394 was significantly reduced compared to control treatments (Fig. 9C). The results confirm that the
395 red stem extract inhibits the growth of *S. sclerotiorum* by targeting ergosterol biosynthesis in the
396 fungus.

397

398 **DISCUSSION**

399 Resistance to fungal pathogens with a predominately necrotrophic lifestyle, such as
400 *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*, is not well understood due to the likely complex network of responses to
401 these pathogens or their determinants. Uncovering key components of these defense responses is
402 essential for the deployment of disease resistant crops. Omics approaches offer a unique
403 opportunity to identify global cellular networks in plants in response to these pathogens. *S.*
404 *sclerotiorum* is a broad host pathogen that infects over 400 species, mostly dicotyledonous plants.
405 Its pathogenic success most assuredly relies on a broadly effective toolkit that allows it to infect
406 multiple hosts, however, host-specific dialogue between a given host and the pathogen may also
407 be of importance. In this study, we specifically examine soybean resistance mechanisms against
408 *S. sclerotiorum* by comparing opposing outcomes in two soybean lines in response to this pathogen
409 using a combination of transcriptomics, metabolomics, and chemical genomics. Several lines of
410 evidence are consistent with the following conclusions: (i) *S. sclerotiorum* challenge induces
411 drastic changes in gene expression and metabolite production in soybean; (ii) Resistance in
412 soybean is associated with an early recognition of the pathogen and a rapid induction of JA
413 signaling; (iii) The redox buffering capacity of the host is essential to counter the oxidative state
414 imposed by *S. sclerotiorum*; (iv) A reprogramming of the phenylpropanoid pathway and
415 upregulation of antifungal metabolites are observed during the resistant response to *S.*
416 *sclerotiorum*; (v) The antifungal activity associated with resistance targets ergosterol biosynthesis
417 in the pathogen. Overall, comprehensive genetic, biochemical, and transcriptomic analyses
418 allowed us to uncover a novel resistance mechanism connecting the upregulation of antifungal
419 activity to a successful defense response against *S. sclerotiorum* and highlights the importance of
420 early recognition and redox regulation in resistance to this pathogen.

421 The importance of ROS in plant immunity and other plant processes, including abiotic
422 stress responses, growth and development, is well documented (58). In plant immunity, ROS can
423 function not only as antimicrobials and in plant cell wall reinforcement, but also as signaling
424 molecules activating additional defense responses (59). The implication of host ROS in plant
425 defenses, including the hypersensitive response (HR) and pathogen-associated molecular pattern
426 (PAMP)-triggered immunity following pathogen recognition is well documented (60,61).
427 However, ROS are also produced during compatible interactions, thus facilitating host
428 colonization of certain fungal pathogens (11,14,16,62). *S. sclerotiorum* is known to induce
429 apoptotic-like PCD via oxalic acid, a process that requires ROS upregulation in the host (15).
430 Indeed, we have recently shown that this pathogen hijacks soybean NADPH oxidases to increase
431 ROS levels leading to tissue death and the establishment of disease, and that the silencing of
432 specific host NADPH oxidases confers enhanced resistance to this pathogen (16). This study
433 confirms the importance of ROS in this pathosystem and suggests ROS scavenging and antioxidant
434 activity as viable resistance mechanisms in soybean. Indeed, we noted the significant upregulation
435 of genes related to ROS scavenging such as peroxidases, glutathione S-transferases, ascorbate
436 oxidases, and superoxide dismutase, in association with the successful defense response against *S.*
437 *sclerotiorum*. Similar trends were reported in other host and non-host plant species in association
438 with *S. sclerotiorum*, with strong upregulation of genes encoding ROS scavenging enzymes and
439 higher antioxidant enzymatic activities coinciding with resistance to this pathogen (63–66). We
440 also noted the accumulation of antioxidant metabolites dehydroascorbic acid (DHA) and trans-4-
441 hydroxy-L-proline. DHA is converted into ascorbic acid (AA), which is known for its redox
442 buffering capacity and ROS detoxification (67,68). The utilization of ascorbic acid as an
443 antioxidant in cells causes its oxidation back to dehydroascorbic acid (69). Thus, the low levels of

444 DHA in our resistant line at the onset of infection can be explained by higher ascorbic acid levels
445 at this stage. Once oxidized, AA is converted to DHA, which accumulated at the later stages of
446 our time course. Similarly, the proline derivative, trans-4-hydroxy-L-proline, was markedly
447 increased in our resistance response, and is a known osmoprotectant and antioxidant (43,44). The
448 accumulation of proline in plants has been implicated in stress tolerance by maintaining osmotic
449 balance, stabilizing membranes, and modulating ROS levels (43). Overall, our accumulating
450 evidence suggests that the antioxidant capacity of soybean plays a critical role in its ability to resist
451 *S. sclerotiorum*, a pathogen that induces ROS and cell death in the host to achieve pathogenic
452 success.

453 An important question is what causes this stark difference in ROS buffering capacity
454 between the R and S soybean lines despite common genetic components? We propose that the
455 early recognition of the pathogen in the R line leads to a timely response that includes the activation
456 of the antioxidant machinery within the host. This is corroborated by our phytohormone analysis
457 that shows a rapid induction of the bioactive form of jasmonic acid (JA), Jasmonoyl-L-isoleucine
458 (JA-Ile) as early as 6 hpi in the resistance response, JA-Ile levels decreased at the later stages of
459 infection, presumably once the infection was under control. In contrast, in the susceptible response,
460 JA and JA-Ile levels remained low early, but drastically increased at the later stages of our time
461 course, which can be conceived as a delayed and unsuccessful response to fend off an already
462 established infection. A large body of work on plant defenses described the implication of specific
463 hormone pathways depending on pathogen lifestyle (47–50,52). Plant defenses involving JA
464 typically inhibit fungal necrotrophs (52), and mutants specifically impaired in JA-Ile accumulation
465 show enhanced susceptibility to such pathogens (70–72). Our results are consistent with the model
466 where upon *S. sclerotiorum* challenge, JA is rapidly biosynthesized from linolenic acid and

467 subsequently catalyzed to JA-Ile, the active form of JA. Our metabolomics analysis also showed
468 that linolenic acid is hyper accumulated early in the resistance response. JA-Ile is known to act
469 upon the F-box protein COI1 (Coronatine-insensitive protein 1) leading to the targeting of JAZ
470 (Jasmonate-Zim Domain) proteins for degradation, thus liberating JAZ repressed transcription
471 factors involved in defense (72,73). Thus, while JA signaling appears to be activated in both
472 resistant and susceptible responses, the timing of this induction is key to the resistance outcome in
473 *S. sclerotiorum*-soybean interaction. The early induction likely leads the timely activation of
474 defense components culminating in the arrest of fungal growth and colonization. The reciprocal
475 antagonism between JA and SA signaling pathways is often discussed, and SA signaling is
476 expected to have a negative effect on resistance to pathogens with a predominately necrotrophic
477 lifestyle (52). Our data indicates a higher and sustained levels of SA in the susceptible line
478 throughout our time course, thus in line with the notion that these signaling pathways are
479 antagonistic. SA is also associated with elevated ROS levels and cell death induction, to the benefit
480 of necrotrophic pathogens (74). However, the exact role of SA in this interaction will require
481 further investigation knowing that the crosstalk between JA and SA signaling is complex, and
482 synergistic interactions have also been reported (50).

483 JA signaling have been linked to the alteration of plant secondary metabolites, including
484 alkaloids, terpenoids, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, and phytoalexins (75–79). Secondary
485 metabolites derived from multiple branches of the phenylpropanoid pathway, including lignins,
486 isoflavanoid-phytoalexins, and other phenolic compounds have also been proposed as important
487 components of defense responses (38,39). The integration of our transcriptomic and metabolic data
488 revealed that the phenylpropanoid pathway is differentially regulated in our soybean lines in
489 response to *S. sclerotiorum* challenge. Specifically, our data suggest a reprogramming of the

490 phenylpropanoid pathway with its flux diverted from lignin to lignin intermediates, anthocyanins,
491 and phytoalexins in the resistance response against *S. sclerotiorum*. While these results will require
492 further confirmation by the absolute quantification of phenylpropanoid pathway components, the
493 accumulation of upstream metabolites such as ferulic acid, caffeic acid, and benzoic acid in the
494 resistance line support a reduced flow towards lignins. The observed accumulation of ferulic acid
495 is also consistent with decreased lignification considering its role as a nucleation site for lignin
496 polymerization (80). These results may seem counterintuitive considering that lignin biosynthesis
497 is associated with cell wall fortification as a mechanism of disease resistance (81). However, in
498 support of our results, a negative correlation between soybean stem lignin content and resistance
499 to *S. sclerotiorum* has previously been reported (32). Flux changes within the phenylpropanoid
500 pathway in maize have been discussed in response to the biotrophic fungal pathogen *Ustilago*
501 *maydis* (82,83). Interestingly, *U. maydis*, via the secreted effector Tin2, diverts the flow of the
502 phenylpropanoid pathway away from lignins by increasing anthocyanin biosynthesis to facilitate
503 infection. In the absence of this effector, lignin biosynthesis is enhanced presumably to limit fungal
504 colonization (83). In contrast to our results, resistance to *U. maydis* appears to be associated with
505 the activation of the lignin branch of the phenylpropanoid pathway. However, these observations
506 are in line with the limited lytic repertoire and the biotrophic lifestyle of *U. maydis*. Against
507 necrotrophic fungal pathogens, anthocyanin may act as antioxidants by scavenging ROS and
508 limiting the induction of cell death required by these pathogens. Indeed, the ROS scavenging
509 capacity of anthocyanins has been proposed to provide protection against necrotrophic pathogens
510 such as *Botrytis cinerea* (84) and *Erwinia carotovora* (85). We propose that this mechanism may
511 also confer resistance against *S. sclerotiorum* in soybean.

512 The reported antimicrobial activities of ferulic (86), caffeic (87), and their significant
513 accumulation in the resistance response against *S. sclerotiorum* prompted us to consider antifungal
514 activity as a component of the soybean defense response against this pathogen. Indeed, total red
515 stem extracts from our resistant line following *S. sclerotiorum* challenge clearly inhibited fungal
516 growth *in vitro*. This antifungal response was seemingly absent from healthy soybean plants,
517 activated only in response to *S. sclerotiorum*. Furthermore, we were able to show using chemical
518 genomics in yeast that factors within this antifungal activity target ergosterol biosynthesis in the
519 fungus. Ergosterol, a lipid found in the cellular membranes of fungi, is important to the regulation
520 of membrane fluidity and permeability. It is therefore conceivable that plants have evolved means
521 to target this key component of fungal membranes. For example, saponins, which affect membrane
522 integrity by targeting 3 β -hydroxyl sterols, were shown to be required for resistance against
523 *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *tritici* and several *Fusarium* spp (88–90). Plant antimicrobial
524 peptides and coumarin, a product of the phenylpropanoid pathway, were also proposed to target
525 fungal ergosterol (91,92). The specific metabolites responsible for these antifungal activities in our
526 resistant line are currently unknown. While we provided evidence that both ferulic and caffeic
527 acids affected *S. sclerotiorum* growth, their chemical genomic profile did not match that of the red
528 stem extract. Thus, we propose that other unknown compounds target ergosterol biosynthesis and
529 contribute to resistance to this pathogen. The identification of these compounds through high-
530 resolution mass spectrometry may lead to the discovery of novel bioactive metabolites and help
531 devise specific strategies to introgress resistance to fungal pathogens in crop plants.

532

533

534

535 **METHODS**

536 **Plant material and pathogen inoculation**

537 Two recombinants inbred lines of soybean (*Glycine max*), 91-145 and 91-144, were used in this
538 study. Both the resistant 91-145 (R) and the susceptible 91-44 (S) lines were developed utilizing
539 W04-1002 (P1), a SSR resistant parental line, and LN89-5717 (PI 5745542), a SSR-susceptible
540 parental line demonstrating other desirable pathogen resistance traits (9). Soybean seedlings and
541 plants were maintained in the greenhouse or growth chamber at $24 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ with 16-h light/8-h dark
542 photoperiod cycle. Plants were supplemented fertilizer (Miracle-Gro) every two weeks.

543 SSR infection was performed using a wild type strain of *S. sclerotiorum* (1980) grown at
544 room temperature on potato dextrose agar (PDA) as described by Godoy et al. 1990. Four-week-
545 old soybean plants were infected with *S. sclerotiorum* by petiole inoculation, using an agar plug
546 of actively growing fungal hyphae. Plant tissue was sampled by cutting horizontally above and
547 below (1.5 cm) the node of the inoculated petiole with a clean straight-edge razor (16). Tissue
548 samples were then immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen prior to RNA extraction and metabolomic
549 analysis. Samples from non-inoculated stem tissues were also collected as a control. The
550 experimental design was completely randomized and consisted of three biological replicates for
551 each of the treatments. Each biological replicate consisted of stem segments (~ 3 cm, first
552 internode) from 2 different plants.

553

554 **RNA Extraction and library preparation**

555 Total RNA was extracted from soybean stem tissues using a modified Trizol protocol (Invitrogen
556 Corp., Carlsbad, CA, USA). Briefly, collected tissue from each sample was finely ground in liquid
557 nitrogen. For each 100 mg of tissue, 1 ml of chilled Trizol was added. Samples were centrifuged

558 at 12k rpm for 5 min at 4°C. Supernatant was discarded and 200 µl of chilled chloroform was
559 added, and vortexed at high speed for 15 sec. Samples were centrifuged again at 12k rpm for 15
560 min at 4°C. The aqueous phase was mixed with 0.8x isopropanol and left at room temperature for
561 10 minutes, followed by centrifugation at 12k rpm at 4°C. Supernatant was discarded, and the pellet
562 was washed with 75% ethanol. Pellet was air dried for 10 minutes at room temperature and
563 resuspended in 20µl of nuclease free water followed by incubation at 55°C for 10 minutes. Samples
564 were cleaned using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). RNA concentration
565 and purity were determined by Nanodrop (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE) and sample
566 quality was assessed using an Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 and an RNA 6000 Nano Kit (Agilent
567 Technologies, Santa Clara, CA). The RNAseq experiment included three biological replicates per
568 treatment.

569 Library preparation was performed at the University of Wisconsin – Madison
570 Biotechnology Centre (Madison, WI, USA). Individually indexed libraries were prepared using
571 the TruSeq RNA Sample Preparation v2 kit according to the manufacturer's instructions (Illumina,
572 San Diego CA, USA). Library concentrations were quantified with the Qubit HS DNA kit (Thermo
573 Fisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE). The size and quality of the libraries were evaluated with an
574 Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100 and an Agilent DNA 1000 kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA)
575 and the libraries were sequenced using Illumina HiSeq2500 (1X100bp) (Illumina, San Diego CA,
576 USA).

577 **Quality check and sequence analysis**

578 Illumina raw read data quality was verified with fast QC. The soybean and *S. sclerotiorum*
579 genome sequences were acquired from Phytozome v12.1
580 (https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html#! bulk?org=Org_Gmax) and the Broad institute

581 (https://www.broadinstitute.org/fungal-genome-initiative/sclerotinia-sclerotiorum-genome-
582 project), respectively (10,93). Raw sequence reads were mapped to both genomes using the
583 Subjunc aligner from Subread (94). Alignments were compared to the gene annotation GFF files
584 for both organisms (Soybean: Gmax_275_Wm82.a2.v1.gene.gff3 (93), *S. sclerotiorum*:
585 sclerotinia_sclerotiorum_2_transcripts.gtf (10)) and raw counts for each gene were generated
586 using the feature Counts tool from subread. The raw counts data were normalized using voom
587 from the R Limma package, then used to generate differential expression ($\log_2\text{FC}$) values (95,96).
588 DEGs were generated from the comparison of inoculated soybeans of both lines at different time
589 points to their respective uninoculated control ($\text{FDR} < 0.05$; $\log_2\text{FC} > 1$ or < -1).
590

591 **Gene annotation and gene ontology enrichment analysis**

592 Differentially expressed genes were annotated using soybean genome gene annotations
593 (Annotation_Gmax_275_Wm82.a2.v1.gene.gff3) from Phytozome (https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html#!bulk?org=Org_Gmax) while soybean chloroplast (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/91214122>) and mitochondrion (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/476507670>)
595 sequences were used from NCBI. The statistically significant DEGs ($p\text{-value} < 0.01$; $\log_2\text{FC} > 1$ or
596 < -1) of the R v S comparison were used to identify enriched Gene ontology (GO) terms using the
597 Soybase GO term enrichment tool (https://www.soybase.org/goslimgraphic_v2/dashboard.php)
598 (34).
599

600 **Metabolites estimation and analysis**

601 Four-week-old soybean plants of susceptible and resistant lines were petiole inoculated as
602 described above. Four stems (3 cm) for each treatment per biological replicate were harvested 48
603 and 72 hours post inoculation and non-inoculated stems were used as a control. Collected stem

604 samples were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and kept at -80°C until used. Gas
605 chromatographic mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis was performed by West Coast
606 Metabolomics (Univ. California, Davis). For metabolite estimation, stem tissue from each
607 treatment was finely ground with liquid nitrogen and extracted with 1 ml of chilled 5:2:2 MeOH:
608 CHCl₃: H₂O. The aqueous phase was transferred into a new tube and a 500 µl aliquot was dried
609 under vacuum and the residue was derivatized in a final volume of 100 µl. Detailed methods of
610 metabolite derivatization, separation, and detection are described in Fiehn et al., 2016 (97). Briefly,
611 samples were injected (0.5 µl, split less injection) into a Pegasus IV GC (Leco Corp., St Joseph,
612 MI) equipped with a 30 m x 0.25 mm i.d. fused-silica capillary column bound with 0.25 µm Rtx-
613 5Sil MS stationary phase (Restek Corporation, Bellefonte, PA). The injector temperature was 50°C
614 ramped to 250°C by 12°C s-1. A helium mobile phase was applied at a flow rate of 1 ml min⁻¹.
615 Column temperature was 50°C for 1 min, ramped to 330°C by 20°C min-1 and held constant for
616 5 min. The column effluent was introduced into the ion source of a Pegasus IV TOF MS (Leco
617 Corp., St Joseph, MI) with transfer line temperature set to 230°C and ion source set to 250°C. Ions
618 were generated with a -70 eV and 1800 V ionization energy. Masses (80-500 m/z) were acquired
619 at a rate of 17 spectra s-1. ChromaTOF 2.32 software (Leco Corp) was used for automatic peak
620 detection and deconvolution using a 3 s peak width. Peaks with signal/noise below 5:1 were
621 rejected. Metabolites were quantified by peak height for the quantification ion. Metabolites were
622 annotated with the BinBase 2.0 algorithm (98).

623 Statistical analyses were conducted in MetaboAnalyst 3.0 (35). Multivariate and univariate
624 statistics were performed on generalized log transformed peak heights. Metabolites with FDR
625 <0.05 were considered differentially regulated. Metabolite pathway analysis was done using the
626 MetaboAnalyst 3.0 Pathway Analysis tool (35).

627 **Reverse Transcriptase–quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR)**

628 The internodal region of the infected petiole (including symptomatic and non-symptomatic tissue)
629 was used for RNA isolation. Stems (3 cm) were harvested and immediately frozen in liquid
630 nitrogen. RNA was isolated using the above-mentioned protocol and then treated with RNase-free
631 DNaseI (NEB Inc., Ipswich, MA, USA). The RNA was reverse transcribed using the AMV First-
632 Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (NEB Inc., Ipswich, MA) and oligo-dT primer according to the
633 manufacturer's instructions. RT-qPCR was performed using a SensiFAST SYBR No ROX Kit
634 (Bioline USA Inc., Taunton, MA, USA). Each reaction consisted of 5 μ L of SensiFAST SYBR
635 No-ROX Mix, 1 μ L of 1 : 10-fold diluted template cDNAs, and 0.4 μ L of 10 μ M gene-specific
636 forward and reverse primers in a final volume of 10 μ L. Primers were designed using Primer3
637 software (99,100) for the amplification of gene fragments that were approximately 100 – 200 bp
638 in length and with an annealing temperature of 60°C (Table S7). The primer specificity was
639 checked in silico against the NCBI database through the Primer-BLAST tool
640 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>). RT-qPCR was performed on a CFX96 real-time PCR system
641 (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). The run conditions were: 2 min of initial denaturation at 95°C; 95°C for
642 5 s, 58°C for 10 s and 72°C for 20 s (40 cycles). The relative expression of genes was calculated
643 using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ method (101) with the soybean gene GmCon15S (102) as an endogenous control.
644 Three biological replicates were used for each sample.

645

646 **Targeted GC-MS analysis of CA, SA, JA, JA-Ile, cis-OPDA, and ABA**

647 Four-week-old soybean plants of susceptible and resistant lines were petiole inoculated
648 with actively growing agar plugs of *S. Sclerotiorum*. Four stems (3 cm) for each biological
649 replicate were harvested at 6, 12, 24, 48, and 72 hpi. Uninoculated stems were also collected for

650 the estimation of the basal concentration of the phytohormones. These collected stem samples were
651 immediately frozen with liquid nitrogen and kept at -80°C until used. Stem tissues from each
652 treatment were finely ground with liquid nitrogen and 100 mg of the ground tissue was added to
653 500 µl of phytohormone extraction buffer (1-propanol/water/HCl [2:1:0.002 vol/vol/v]) and 10 µl
654 of 5 µM solution of deuterated internal standards: d-ABA ([2H6](+)-cis,trans-ABA; [Olchem]), d-
655 IAA ([2H5] indole-3- acetic acid, Olchem), d-JA (2,4,4-d3; acetyl-2,2-d2 JA; CDN Isotopes), and
656 d-SA (d6-SA, Sigma) and analyzed using GC-MS (103–105). The simultaneous detection of
657 several hormones was accomplished using the methods described in Muller et al 2011 with
658 modifications (106). The analysis utilized an Ascentis Express C-18 Column (3 cm × 2.1 mm, 2.7
659 µm) connected to an API 3200 LC-electrospray ionization-tandem mass spectrometry (MS/ MS)
660 with multiple reaction monitoring (MRM). The injection volume was 2 µl and had a 600 µl/min
661 mobile phase consisting of Solution A (0.05% acetic acid in water) and Solution B (0.05% acetic
662 acid in acetonitrile) with a gradient consisting of (time - %B): 0.3 – 1%, 2 – 45%, 5 – 100%, 8 –
663 100%, 9 – 1%, 11 – stop. Three biological replicates of each treatment were performed.

664

665 **Plate inhibition assay of *S. sclerotiorum***

666 The plate growth inhibition assay of *S. sclerotiorum* was done on solid PDA culture plates
667 containing 0, 250, 500, or 1000 µg/mL of ferulic or caffeic acid. Three replicates were used for
668 each treatment. Plates were inoculated with an actively growing plug of *S. sclerotiorum* and grown
669 at 25 °C for either 48 hours (ferulic acid) or 7 days (caffeic acid) prior to assessment.

670

671 **Compound extraction from soybean stem**

672 Five hundred mg of infected red stem or unaffected green stem was mixed 1:1 w/v in 100% ethanol
673 at 80°C for 1 h. Samples were resuspended with 100 µl of DMSO and used for *S. sclerotiorum*
674 inhibition assay, chemical genomics, and cell permeability assays.

675

676 **Chemical genomic analysis**

677 Chemical genomic analysis of the red stem extract was performed using the non-essential yeast
678 deletion mutant collection as described previously (53). Briefly, triplicate 200 µL cultures of the
679 pooled deletion collection were exposed to a 1:10 dilution of the red stem extract and allowed to
680 grow for 48 h. Genomic DNA was extracted using the Invitrogen Purelink 96-well genomic
681 extraction kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). Mutant specific barcodes were amplified using
682 indexed primers. Samples were sequenced on a HiSeq2500 (1X50bp) (Illumina, San Diego CA,
683 USA) rapid run and reads were processed using BEAN-counter (107) and EdgeR (108).

684

685 **Cell permeability assay**

686 To quantify the membrane damage caused by the red stem extract a FungaLight™ Cell Viability
687 assay (Invitrogen L34952) and Guava Flow Cytometer (Millipore, USA) was used as described
688 previously (109). Amphotericin B (100 µg/mL) and poacic acid (100 µg/mL) were included as
689 positive controls. Fluconazole (1 mg/mL) was also included as a control, given its ability to inhibit
690 ergosterol biosynthesis without causing rapid cell permeability. We exposed 200 µL log phase
691 populations of yeast cells in YPD media to the control drugs, red stem extract (0.01, 0.005, and
692 0.0025%), the control green stem extract at (0.01, 0.005, and 0.0025%), and a 1% DMSO control

693 (n=3) for 4 h at 30°C. The cells were then stained with the FungaLight™ kit and immediately
694 analyzed by flow cytometry.

695

696 **Biomass and ergosterol estimation of *S. sclerotiorum***

697 The biomass of *S. sclerotiorum* was measured by growing the fungus in potato dextrose broth
698 (PDB). Freshly grown PDA cultures were scraped and then washed twice with water at 4000 rpm
699 (4°C) before being resuspended in water. Equal amounts of resuspended *S. sclerotiorum* were
700 inoculated into 250 mL conical flasks containing 30 mL PDB. For each 30 ml of PDB, 300µl of
701 red stem extract, green stem extract, or DMSO were added and incubated over a period of 48 hours.
702 To estimate the wet weight, the mycelia were filtered on a pre-weighed Miracloth (Darmstadt,
703 Germany). Ergosterol level was estimated as described by Yarden et. al 2014 (57) and Arthington-
704 Skaggs et al 1999 (110). Briefly, mycelia of the *S. sclerotiorum* treated with either red stem extract,
705 green stem extract, or DMSO as described above were washed with distilled water. One gram of
706 mycelium for each strain was resuspended in 3 ml of 25% alcoholic potassium hydroxide solution
707 and vortexed vigorously. Mycelia were then incubated at 85°C for 1 h and sterols extracted by
708 adding 4 ml of n-heptane solution (25% sterile distilled water and 75% n-heptane). The heptane
709 layer was transferred to a clean glass tube and spectrophotometric readings taken between 230 and
710 300 nm. Four biological replicates were used for each treatment. Ergosterol content was calculated
711 as a percentage/g of wet weight using the following equations: % ergosterol + % 24(28)DHE =
712 $[(A_{281.5}/290) \times F]$, % 24(28)DHE = $[(A_{230}/518) \times F]$, where F is the factor for dilution in ethanol
713 and 290 and 518 are the E values determined for crystalline ergosterol and 24(28)
714 dehydroergosterol (DHE), respectively.

715

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720

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1060

1061 **List of tables**

1062 **Table 1. Summary of the sequencing metrics of the RNA-seq.**

	Time points (hours)	Total reads	Mapping to <i>Glycine Max</i>	Mapping to <i>S. sclerotiorum</i>
Susceptible line (S)	Control	79,559,096	76,737,931 (96.5%)	0 (0.0%)
	24 hpi	81,259,978	74,457,988 (91.6%)	3,607,921 (4.4%)
	48 hpi	74,344,340	68,265,965 (91.8%)	2,941,195 (4.0%)
	96 hpi	69,266,099	47,765,044 (68.9%)	18,712,374 (27.0%)
	Control	89,753,272	85,133,076 (96.6%)	0 (0.0%)
	24 hpi	64,923,300	60,261,793 (92.8%)	2,286,347 (3.5%)
Resistant line (R)	48 hpi	67,520,185	62,099,244 (91.9%)	2,513,457 (3.8%)
	96 hpi	72,951,207	64,399,890 (88.2%)	5 691,551 (7.8%)

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1071 **Table 2. A list of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) within the soybean phenylpropanoid**
1072 **pathway.**

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Gene locus	24 hpi ^a	48 hpi ^a	96 hpi ^a	Description
Glyma.03G181700	-	-	-1.08	Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase
Glyma.03G181600	-	-0.60	-1.20	Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase
Glyma.02G309300	-	-	-1.28	Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase
Glyma.09G186400	-	-	-1.05	Ferulate 5-hydroxylase
Glyma.04G040000	-	-	-2.08	N-hydroxycinnamoyl transferase
Glyma.01G004200	-	-	-1.32	Caffeoyl-CoA O-methyltransferase
Glyma.05G147000	-	-	-1.54	Caffeoyl-CoA O-methyltransferase
Glyma.19G007200	-	-	-1.12	Cinnamoyl-CoA reductase
Glyma.19G006900	-	-	-1.13	Cinnamoyl-CoA reductase
Glyma.09G201200	-	-	-2.11	Cinnamyl alcohol dehydrogenase
Glyma.02G130400	-	-	-1.05	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.09G075200	-	-	-1.13	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.01G091400	-	-	-1.23	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G110500	-1.26	-1.48	-2.05	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G110700	-1.25	-1.27	-2.06	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G109200	-1.3	-1.58	-2.13	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G110400	-1.38	-1.64	-2.18	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G110900	-1.12	-1.49	-2.18	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G110300	-1.13	-1.5	-2.21	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.16G219400	-	-	-2.23	NAD(P)H-dependent 6'-deoxychalcone synthase
Glyma.08G109300	-1.17	-1.53	-2.24	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.08G109400	-1.3	-1.65	-2.42	Chalcone synthase
Glyma.02G048700	-	-	1.49	Chalcone-flavanone isomerase
Glyma.07G150900	-	-	-2.50	Flavonol synthase
Glyma.18G201900	-	-	-3.77	Flavonol synthase
Glyma.18G267800	-	-5.27	-9.45	Flavonoid 4'-O-methyltransferase
Glyma.11G164700	-	-	2.99	Dihydroflavonol reductase
Glyma.12G238200	-0.88	-0.98	-2.07	Dihydroflavonol reductase
Glyma.11G027700	-	-	3.27	Anthocyanidin synthase
Glyma.01G214200	-	-	2.95	Anthocyanidin synthase
Glyma.02G226000	-	-	1.46	Anthocyanidin 3-O-glucosyltransferase
Glyma.18G271600	3.31	-	-	Anthocyanin acyltransferase
Glyma.13G302300	-	-	2.49	Anthocyanin acyltransferase
Glyma.13G302500	-1.10	-	-	Anthocyanin 5-aromatic acyltransferase
Glyma.14G034100	-5.85	-3.69	-2.93	Anthocyanin 5-aromatic acyltransferase
Glyma.19G030800	-	-	4.58	Malonyl-CoA:isoflavone 7-O-glucoside-6"-O-malonyltransferase
Glyma.11G256500	-	-	4.61	Isoflavone 7-O-methyltransferase

Glyma.09G094400	-	-1.01	-	Isoflavone-7-O-methyltransferase
Glyma.06G286600	-	-	2.69	Isoflavone 7-O-methyltransferase
Glyma.13G173300	-	-	-1.80	Isoflavone 4'-O-methyltransferase
Glyma.13G173600	-	-	-1.83	Isoflavone 4'-O-methyltransferase

1074 ^a Fold changes (Log₂FC) relative to S line.

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1079 **Figure Legends**

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1081 **Figure 1. Symptom development in susceptible and resistant soybeans.** Disease symptoms
1082 observed following petiole inoculation with an agar plug containing actively growing mycelia of
1083 *S. sclerotiorum* at 24, 48, 72, 96 hours post-inoculation (hpi) and 7 days post inoculation (dpi). (A)
1084 Susceptible (S) line. (B) Resistant (R) line. At 7 dpi in the R line, red coloration at point of
1085 inoculation (red node) is prominently visible.

1086

1087 **Figure 2. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) identification in R and S line after *S.***
1088 ***sclerotiorum* infection.** Venn diagram showing (A) DEGs in R line at 24, 48 and 96 hpi compared
1089 to control (non-inoculated) sample, (B) DEGs in S line at 24, 48 and 96 hpi compared to control
1090 (non-inoculated) sample, (C) In total, 921 and 8223 DEGs were unique to the R and S line,
1091 respectively, while 7319 were identified in both the lines, (D) DEGs in R line compared to S line
1092 at 24, 48 and 96 hpi.

1093

1094 **Figure 3. Significantly enriched Gene ontology (GO) biological processes in R line compared**
1095 **to S line at different time-points following infection with *S. Sclerotiorum*.** The y-axis represents
1096 significantly enriched GO processes which were enriched (FDR <0.05) at at-least one time point
1097 of infection (24, 48 and 96 hpi). The x-axis indicates the total number of genes annotated to each
1098 GO process. Orange sections represent downregulated genes while blue sections represent
1099 upregulated genes.

1100

1101 **Figure 4. Pathway analysis of metabolites differentially detected between the R and S lines**
1102 **at 48 and/or 72 hpi.** The y-axis represents the annotated metabolites in each pathway. Blue
1103 sections represent the differentially detected metabolites, whereas green sections represent the
1104 remaining annotated metabolites in the pathway. Percentages denote the portion of the pathway
1105 found to be differentially detected. Only pathways with at least 10% of their annotated metabolites
1106 showing significant regulation were included.

1107

1108 **Figure 5. DEGs and metabolites involved in the phenylpropanoid pathway in R and S**
1109 **soybean lines following *S. sclerotiorum* infection.** (A) Enzymes are indicated in uppercase letters.
1110 Gene names indicated in red or green represent significantly upregulated or downregulated genes
1111 in the R line compared to the S line, respectively. The metabolite name in red indicates
1112 significantly upregulated phenylpropanoid pathway intermediates in the R line compared to the S
1113 line. PAL (phenylalanine ammonia-lyase); BA2H (benzoic acid 2-hydroxylase); C4H (cinnamate
1114 4-hydroxylase); COMT (caffeic O-methyltransferase); F5H (ferulic acid 5-hydroxylase); 4CL (4-
1115 coumarate: CoA ligase); C3H (p-coumarate 3 hydroxylase); HCT (N-hydroxycinnamoyl
1116 transferase); CCoAOMT (Caffeoyl-CoA O-methyltransferase); F5H (flavanone 5-hydroxylase);
1117 CCR (Cinnamoyl-CoA reductase); CAD (Cinnamoyl alcohol dehydrogenase); CHS (chalcone
1118 synthase); CHI (chalcone isomerase); CHR (chalcone reductase); FOMT (Flavonoid 4'-O-
1119 methyltransferase); FLS (Flavonol synthase); F3H (flavanone 3-hydroxylase); DHFR
1120 (dihydroflavonol-4- reductase); ANS (anthocyanidin synthase also called LDOX,
1121 leucoanthocyanidin dioxygenase); ANS (Anthocyanidin synthase); UFGT (UDP-flavonoid
1122 glucosyltransferase); AT (Anthocyanin acyltransferase); IFS (Isoflavone synthase); IFMaT
1123 (Isoflavone 7-O-glucoside-6"-O-malonyltransferase); IOMT (Isoflavone methyltransferase); this
1124 figure was adapted from Baxter and Stewart, 2013 (111) and Ferrer et al 2008 (111) (B) Estimation
1125 of the phenylpropanoid pathway intermediate metabolites (peak height) phenylalanine, benzoic
1126 acid, 3, 4 - dihydroxycinnamic acid (caffeic acid) and ferulic acid in R and S line at 48 and 72 hpi
1127 using GC – MS. Data are presented as means \pm standard deviation (SD) from three independent
1128 biologically replicate with each replicate containing four pooled stem samples. * Indicates a
1129 significant difference at p-value < 0.05 (T-Test).

1130

1131 **Figure 6. Confirmation of expression profiles of select phenylpropanoid pathway genes using**
1132 **qRT-PCR.** (A) PAL (Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, Glyma.02G309300); (B) HCT (N-
1133 hydroxycinnamoyl transferase, Glyma.04G040000); (C) CCoAOMT (Caffeoyl-CoA O-
1134 methyltransferase, Glyma.05G147000); (D) CCR (Cinnamoyl-CoA reductase,
1135 Glyma.19G006900); (E) CHS (Chalcone synthase, Glyma.08G110400); (F) DHFR
1136 (Dihydroflavonol reductase, Glyma.12G238200); (G) ANS (Anthocyanidin synthase,
1137 Glyma.11G027700); (H) IOMT (Isoflavone 7-O-methyltransferase, Glyma.11G256500) and (I)
1138 AT (Anthocyanin acyltransferase, Glyma.18G271600). The fold changes in expression values for

1139 qRT-PCR were calculated by comparing the expression values of genes in inoculated vs. non-
1140 infected soybean stem tissues using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method. GmCons15 was used as endogenous
1141 control. The absolute fold changes were converted to Log₂FC. Data are presented as means \pm
1142 standard deviation (SD) from three independent experiments.

1143

1144 **Figure 7. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) scavenging machinery.** (A) Heat map of ROS
1145 scavenging (Glutathione S-transferase, Peroxidase, L-ascorbate oxidase, and Superoxide
1146 dismutase) and antioxidant genes (Proline-rich protein) induced in the R line compared to the S
1147 line during *S. sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48 and 96 hpi. (B) Differential accumulation of ROS
1148 related metabolites trans-4-hydroxy-L-proline and dehydroascorbic acid during *S. sclerotiorum*
1149 infection at 48 and 72 hpi. Data are presented as means \pm standard deviation (SD) from three
1150 independent experiment. * Indicates a significantly difference at p-value < 0.05 (t-test).

1151

1152 **Figure 8. Estimation of phytohormones and a phenylpropanoid pathway precursor**
1153 **(Cinnamic acid, CA) in R and S lines following *S. sclerotiorum* infection.** (A) Cinnamic Acid
1154 (CA), (B) Salicylic Acid (SA), (C) Abscisic Acid (ABA), (D) Jasmonic Acid (JA), (E) JA
1155 precursor 12-oxophytodienoic acid (OPDA) and (F) bioactive JA derivative (+)-7-iso-jasmonoyl-
1156 L-isoleucine (JA-Ile). The bars represent the standard deviation (n = 3). * Indicates a significant
1157 difference between the R and S lines at p-value < 0.05 (One-way ANOVA).

1158

1159 **Figure 9. Chemical genomic profiling of the red stem extract in yeast mutants and ergosterol**
1160 **biosynthesis.** (A) Plot showing growth differences between yeast deletion mutants exposed to the
1161 red stem extract. Dots represent mutants which were significantly sensitive (blue) or resistant
1162 (yellow) to the fungicidal activity of the extract. Underlined mutants are implicated in
1163 phospholipid and sterol biosynthesis (B) cell leakage assay to test the permeability of *S.*
1164 *sclerotiorum* treated with DMSO, fluconazole (FCZ), amphotericin B (AMB), poacic acid, and
1165 different concentrations of green (Cont) and red (Red) stem extract, (C) ergosterol estimation from
1166 *S. sclerotiorum* treated with DMSO, green stem extract and red stem extract. Vertical bars show
1167 standard deviation of means of three replicates. * Indicates a significant difference at p-value <
1168 0.05 (t-test).

1169

1170 **Figure 10. Cellular model summarizing *S. sclerotiorum* resistance mechanisms in soybean.**

1171 Black line = Induction/suppression of a process, Red line = Secretion/release, Blue line =
1172 Bioconversion, Dashed orange line = Translocation of a metabolite, purple asterisk (*) =
1173 Downregulation in resistant response, Green asterisk (*) = Upregulation in resistant response, JA
1174 = Jasmonic Acid, JA-Ile = Jasmonic Acid-Isoleucine.

1175

1176 **Supplementary Figure Legends**

1177

1178 **Supplementary Figure 1. Partial least squares-discriminate analysis (PLS-DA) score plots of**
1179 **metabolic profiles in soybean R and S line.** The first (PC1) and second (PC2) principal
1180 components explain 52.7% of the variance. Control samples are R0 and S0. *S. sclerotiorum*
1181 infected samples at 24, 48 and 96 hpi for the R lines are represented as R24, R48, and R96,
1182 respectively. *S. sclerotiorum* infected samples at 24, 48 and 96 hpi for the S line are represented
1183 as S24, S48, and S96, respectively. Numbers 1, 2, and 3 represents three independent biological
1184 replicates.

1185

1186 **Supplementary Figure 2. Effect of Ferulic and Caffeic acids on *S. sclerotiorum* growth.**

1187 Ferulic acid (A) inhibits the growth of *S. sclerotiorum*. Representative photographs were taken 48
1188 hours post inoculation. Caffeic acid (B) effects normal development of *S. sclerotiorum*.
1189 Representative photographs were taken 5 days post inoculation. DMSO (Dimethyl sulfoxide) is
1190 the solvent control.

1191

1192 **Supplementary Figure 3.** (A) Increased accumulation of the jasmonic acid precursor linolenic
1193 acid in the R line compared to the S line, (B) Increased accumulation of cyanoalanine (an indicator
1194 of ethylene biosynthesis) in the R line compared to the S line. The bars represent the standard
1195 deviation (n = 3). * Indicates a significantly difference at p-value < 0.05 (t-test).

1196

1197 **Supplementary Figure 4.** (A) Red and green stem extract of a R line plant infected with *S.*
1198 *sclerotiorum* and a S line plant mock inoculated. Extraction was performed 10 dpi, (B) Fungal
1199 biomass after growth in PDB cultures containing the red stem extract, DMSO, or green stem

1200 extract, (C) weight of fungal biomass in PDB cultures containing the red stem extract, green stem
1201 extract, or DMSO.

1202

1203 **List of supplementary tables**

1204

1205 Supplementary Table 1. Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in R and S lines following *S.*
1206 *sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48, and 96 hpi compared to control. (A-F) Comparisons between each
1207 time-point for both lines and their respective controls.

1208

1209 Supplementary Table 2. Differentially expressed genes in the R line compared to the S line
1210 following *S. sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48, and 96 hpi. (A-C) Time-point comparisons between
1211 R and S.

1212

1213 Supplementary Table 3. GO enrichment of significant biological processes generated from
1214 differentially regulated genes in the R line compared to the S line. (A-C) GO processes identified
1215 through the comparison of the R and S lines at 24, 48, and 96 hpi, (D) Summary of significantly
1216 regulated genes belonging to each process at each time-point. Processes were included if they had
1217 a FDR<0.05 in at-least one timepoint.

1218

1219 Supplementary Table 4. Estimated gas chromatography – mass spectrometry (GC-MS) peak
1220 intensity list of all the metabolites.

1221

1222 Supplementary Table 5. Significantly regulated metabolites in the R line compared to the S line
1223 following *S. sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48, and 96 hpi. Blue = upregulated. Red =
1224 downregulated.

1225

1226 Supplementary Table 6. Metabolic pathways assigned to significantly regulated metabolites from
1227 comparison of R and S lines at 48 and 72 hpi. (A) Percentage of all annotated metabolites within
1228 each pathway which were found to be significantly regulated in this study. Upregulated = Green.
1229 Downregulated = Red, (B) Fold changes of the individual metabolites assigned to each pathway.

1230 Values >1 demonstrate upregulation. Value <1 demonstrate downregulation. Values =1
1231 demonstrate no change.

1232

1233 Supplementary Table 7. Primer list for qRT-PCR of phenylpropanoid genes

1234

1235 Supplementary Table 8. Differentially expressed genes encoding putative reactive oxygen species
1236 (ROS) scavenging and antioxidant genes in the R line compared to the S line following *S.*
1237 *sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48, and 96 hpi.

1238

1239 Supplementary Table 9. Differentially expressed genes encoding putative jasmonic acid (JA) and
1240 ethylene (ET) biosynthetic and response genes in the R line compared to the S line following *S.*
1241 *sclerotiorum* infection at 24, 48, and 96 hpi.

1242

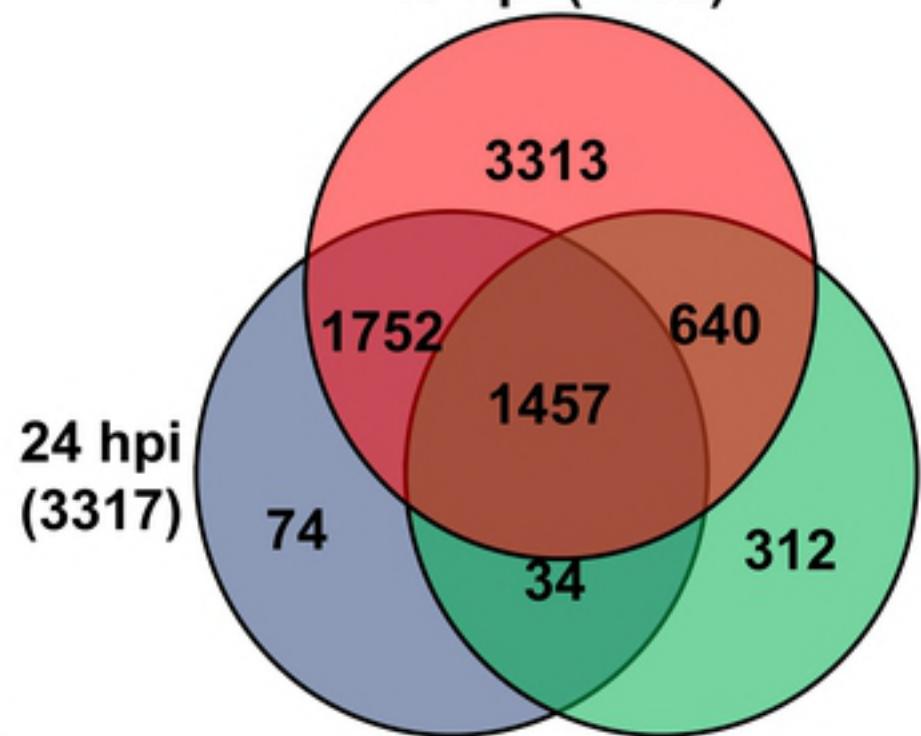
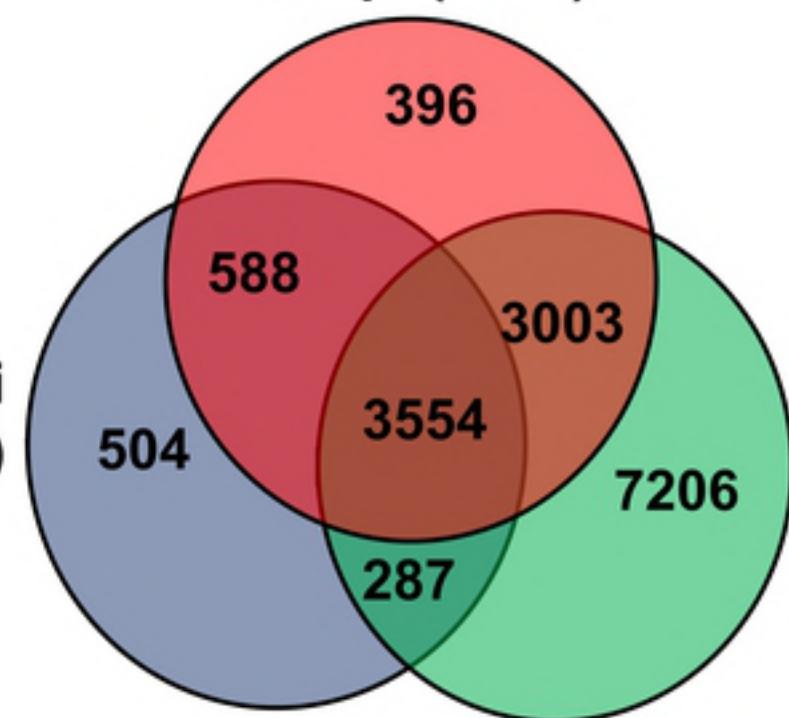
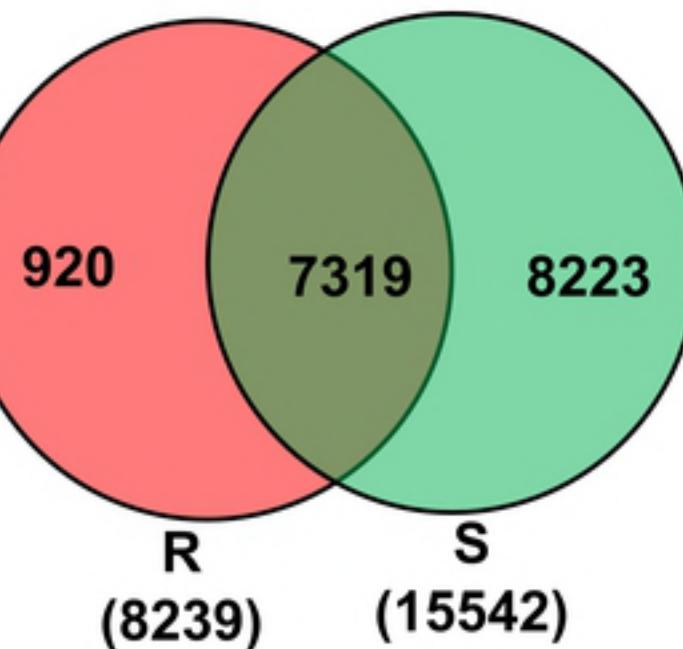
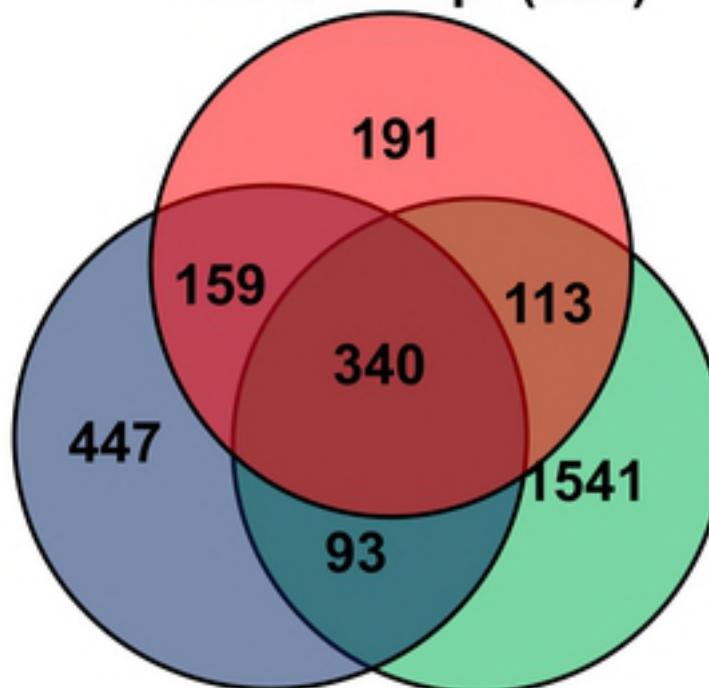
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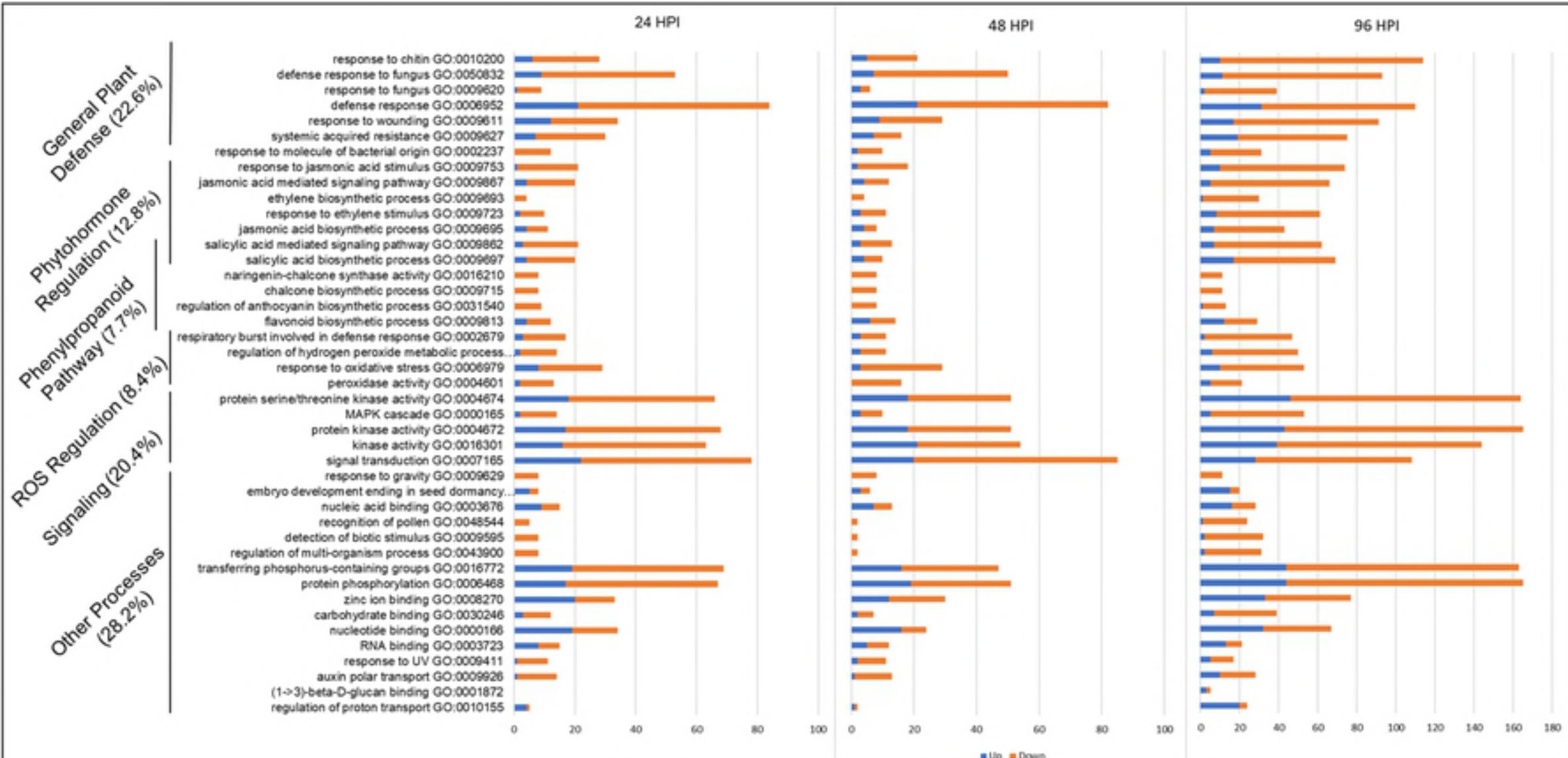
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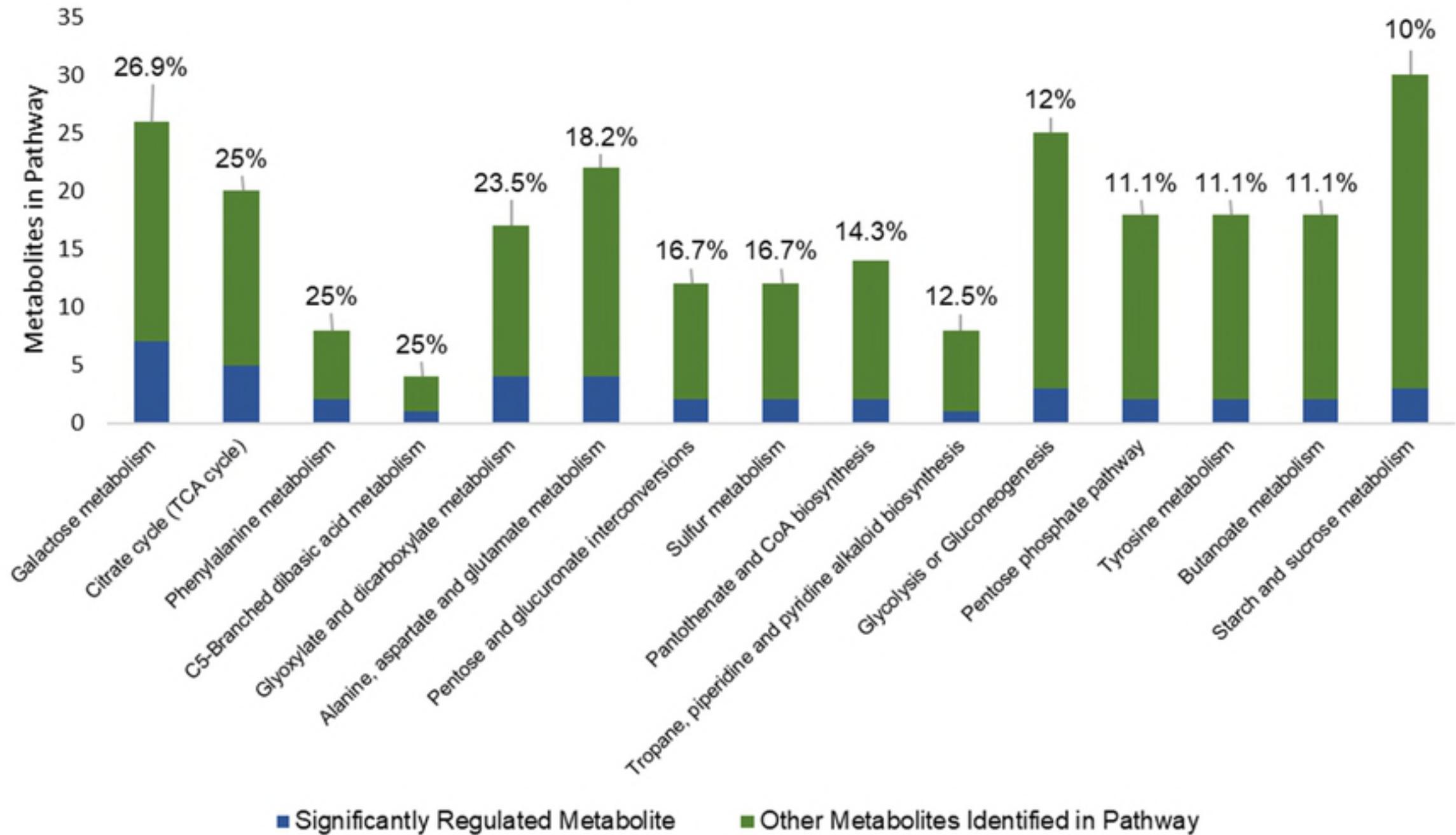
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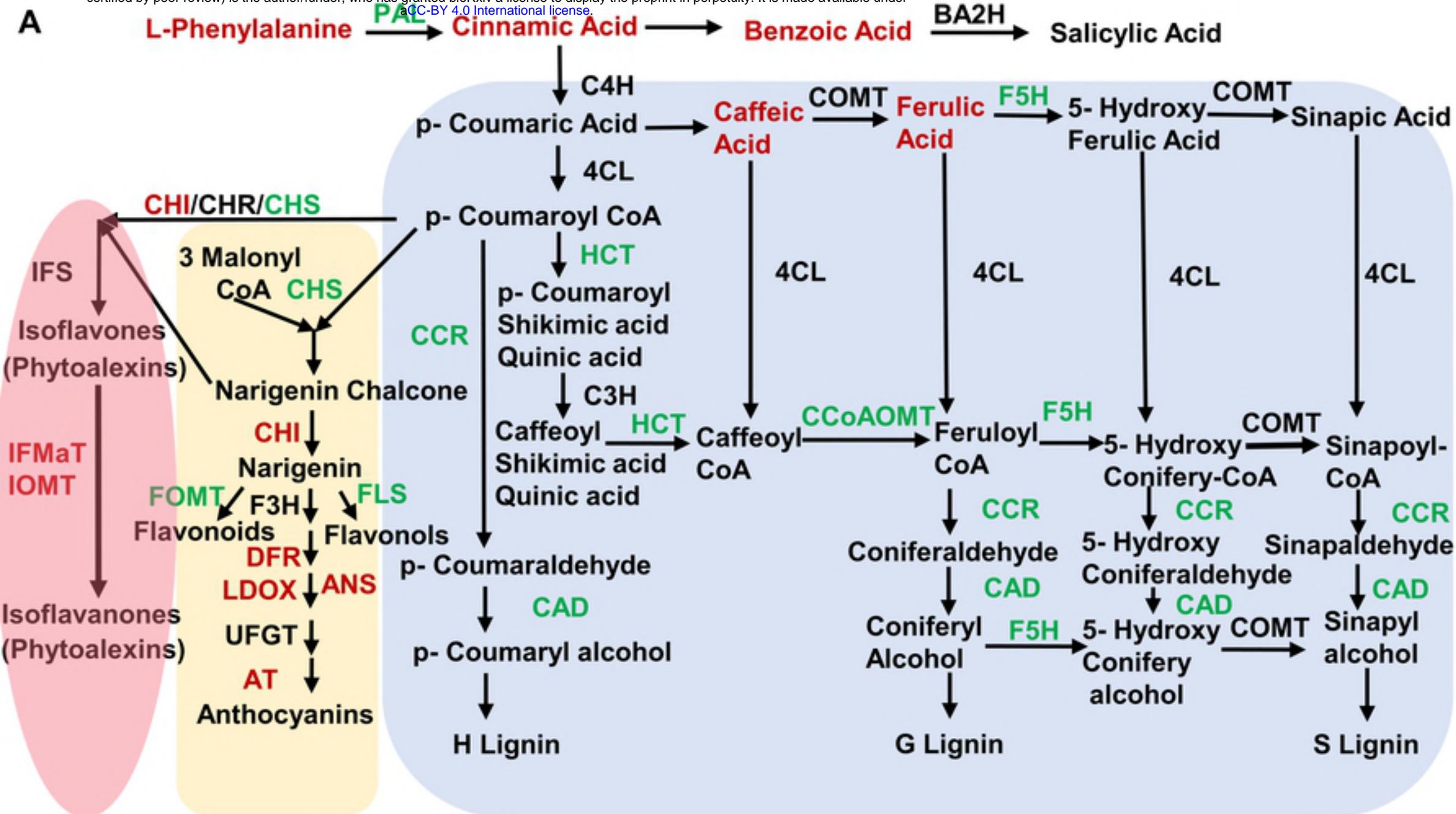
A**24 hpi****48 hpi****72 hpi****96 hpi****7 dpi****B**

A**48 hpi (7162)****B****48 hpi (7541)****24 hpi (4493)****96 hpi (14050)****C****D****R v S 48 hpi (803)****R v S 24 hpi (1039)****R v S 96 hpi (2087)**

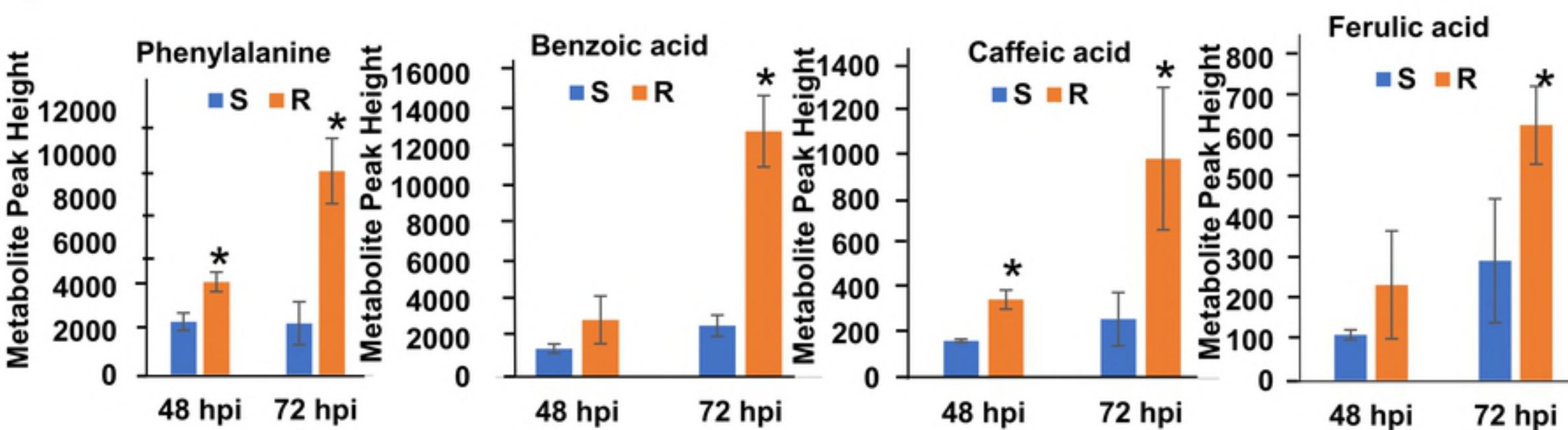


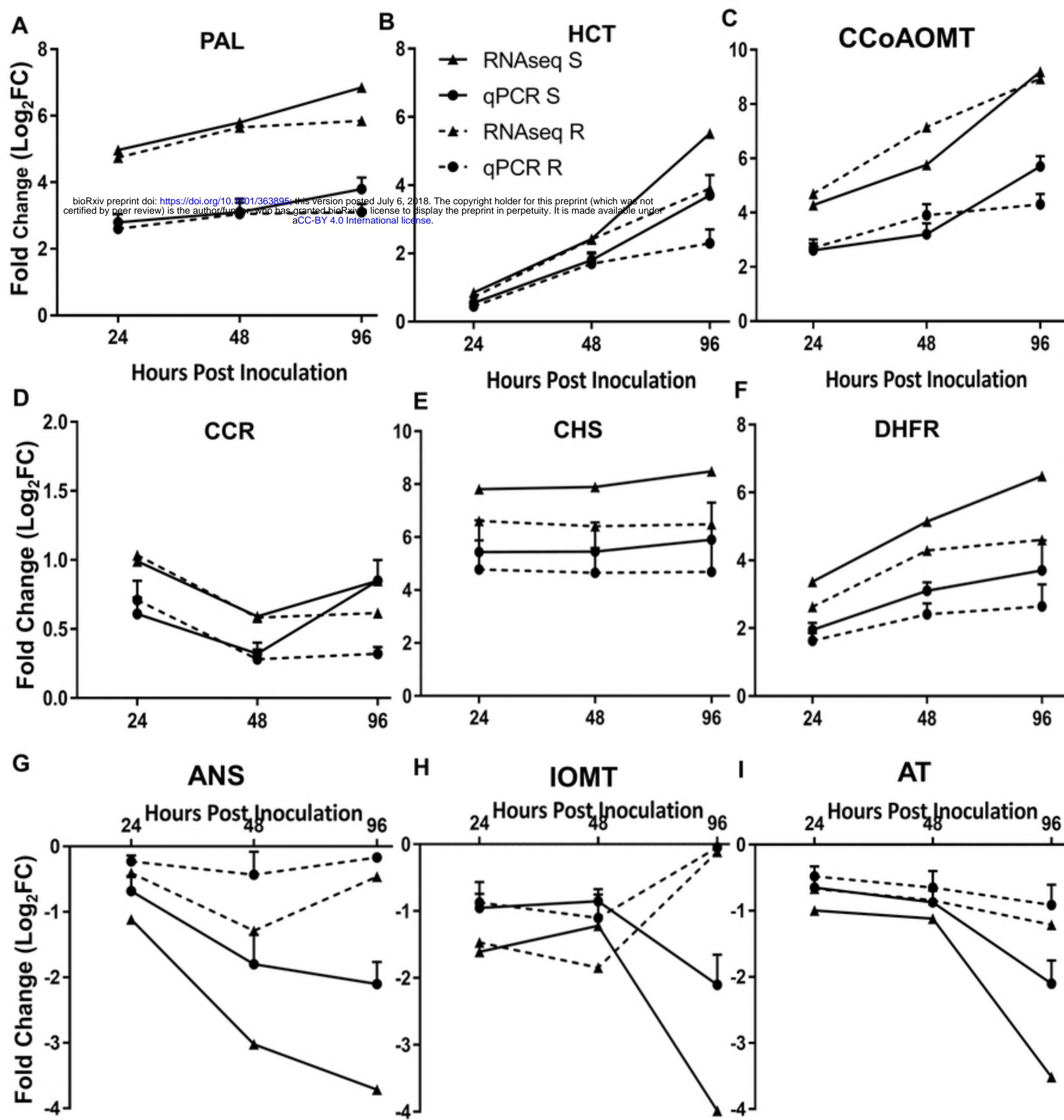
Top pathway Hits

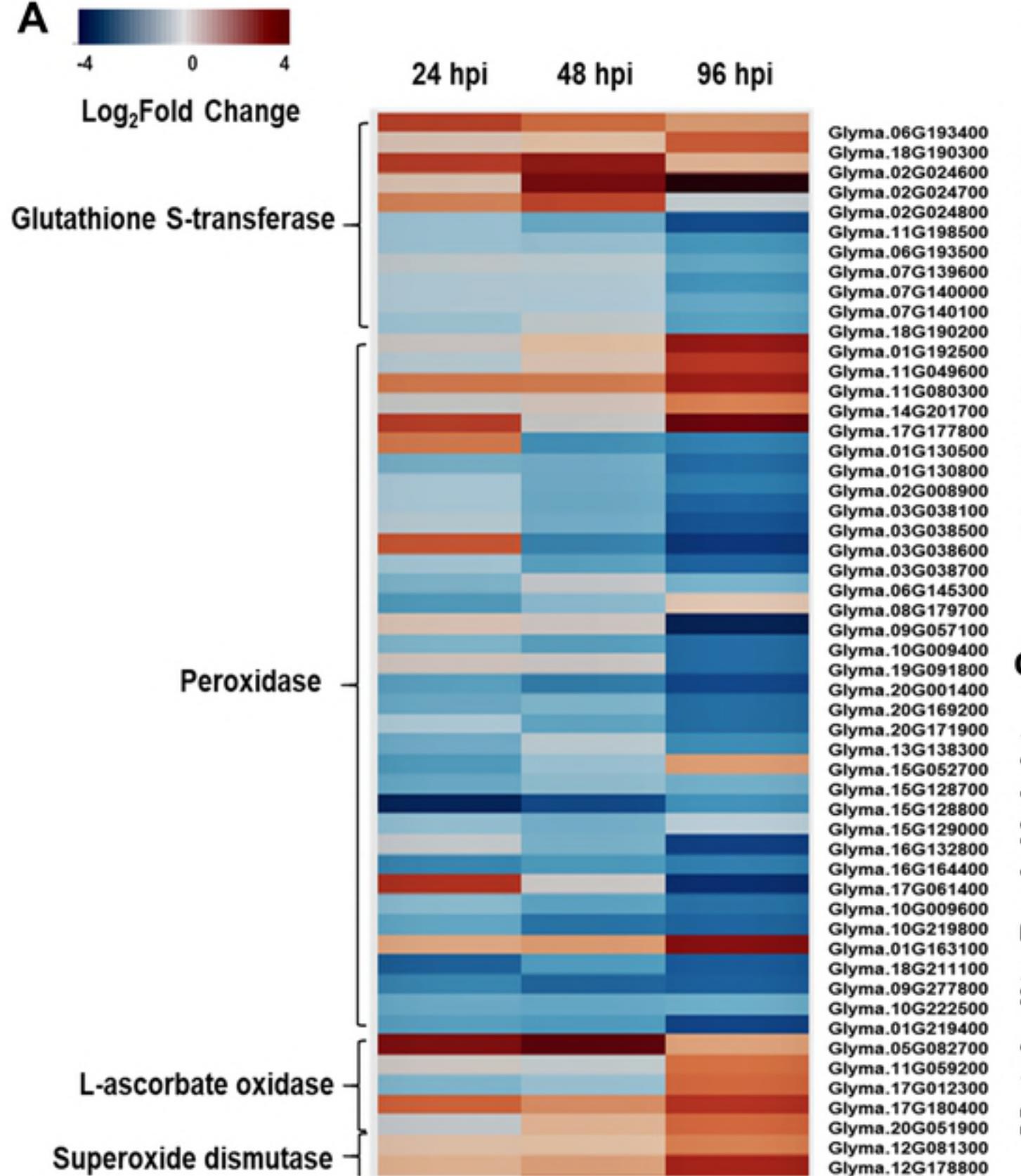




B





A**B**