

CDNA-AFLP ANALYSIS REVEALS INDUCIBLE GENE EXPRESSION IN TOMATO LEAVES IN RESPONSE TO SIMULATED ACID RAIN

LIU, T. T. – MA, J. – LI, M. – PAN, T. F. – MA, C. L. – QIU, D. L.*

College of Horticulture, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fuzhou 350002, China

**Corresponding author*

e-mail: qiudl1970@fafu.edu.cn; phone: +86-591-8378-9379

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Abstract. Acid rain as an important environmental problem in China and a stressor may cause gene expression, and tomato is one of model plants and the most important vegetable crops in middle and south China. Tomato seedlings were exposed for 7 days to simulated acid rain (SiAR) of pH 3.0 and control (pH 5.6). The cDNA-amplified fragment length polymorphism (cDNA-AFLP) was carried out to separate differentially expressed gene fragments by using selective base pairs including 8 Mse I primers and 8 EcoR I primers, which allowed the identification and cloning of 45 differential expression transcript-derived fragments (TDFs) corresponding to SiAR, among of which 45 TDFs were successfully cloned and sequenced. 31 of them were found homologies in the NCBI, and 19 displayed homology to genes with known functions, 12 to genes with uncharacterized function. 8 TDFs played significant role in tomato resistance to acid rain-stress. Among of them, TDF5 and TDF8 were stress- inducible transcription factor. TDF4 and TDF20 played important role in resistance to SiAR stress. TDF2 was related to isoprenoid biosynthesis, TDF7 to transcription regulation, TDF11 to metabolism, TDF24 to plant development and defense. Possible roles of the 8 TDFs in the response of tomato to SiAR are also discussed. Moreover, Homologous of amino acid encoded in TDF5 and TDF8 were analyzed.

Keywords: *SiAR stress, Lycopersicon esculentum, cDNA-amplified fragment length polymorphism, transcript-derived fragments*

Abbreviations: SiAR: simulated acid rain, cDNA-AFLP: cDNA-amplified fragment length polymorphism, TDFs: transcript-derived fragments

Introduction

Acid rain emerged as an important environmental problem in China in the late 1970s. The frequency of acid rain has kept increasing since then. It was reported that the loss of forest ecological benefits caused by acid rain exceeded 16 billion Yuan (2.4 billion dollars) per year only in 11 provinces of south China (Feng, 2000). Previous studies have documented acid rain stress causing the leaching of leaf nutrients; changes of physiological and biochemical process; and inhibition of growth and yield of plants (Bellani et al., 1997; Chen et al., 2013; Odiyi et al., 2014; Percy et al., 1990; Qiu et al., 2002, 2005; Ramlall et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2014a, b) Acid rain as an environmental stressor may cause gene differential expression. Gene expression profiles were reported in *Dimocarpus longan* Lour (Zheng et al., 2017), *Synechocystis sp* PCC 6803 (Ohta et al., 2005) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh (Liu et al., 2013) in response to acid rain stress. Changes in the total protein profile of *Dimocarpus longan* leaves in response to simulated acid rain (SiAR) stress were documented by Pan et al. (2015).

Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) is one of model plants and the most important vegetable crops in middle and south China. Previous study has shown that the pigment synthesis, growth and biomass of tomato was inhibited under SiAR stress (Shaukat et al., 2008). One way to study the cellular response to acid rain on a large scale is to

examine gene expression at the mRNA level using the PCR-based technique of cDNA-amplified fragment length polymorphism (cDNA-AFLP) which has often been described as an extremely efficient method for isolation of differentially expressed genes (Baisakh et al., 2006) and is a less labor-intensive mRNA fingerprinting method for isolation of differentially expressed genes (Bachem et al., 1996). Due to its high sensitivity, it is possible to identify rare transcripts (Fukumura et al., 2003). This technique has been further improved to avoid the possibility of several transcript-derived fragment (TDFs) arising from a single gene/cDNA. Keeping the above in view, the objective of this study was to identify some of the key genes that were differentially expressed in response to SiAR.

Materials and methods

Plant materials and treatments

Tomato seeds (*Lycopersicon esculentum* cv. 'Fudan') were sown in plug trays with peat-based substrate with peat, vermiculite, and perlite medium (3:1:1). 7 days after emergence (DAE), each seedling was transferred to a pot containing a 3:1:1 mixture of peat, vermiculite, and perlite. The plants were kept in a net house with a natural photoperiod at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University. Simulated acid rain was applied to plants at 42 DAE.

Sulfuric acid and nitric acid were selected for the preparation of SiAR, based on the mole ratio 1:5 of sulfuric acid to nitric acid in the precipitation of southern Fujian, China (Tang et al., 1996). Normal rain has a pH of about 5.6; it is slightly acidic because carbon dioxide (CO₂) dissolves into it forming weak carbonic acid, and the solution with pH value of 5.6 was regarded as the control (Qiu et al., 2005). Solution of SiAR with pH 3.0 was also prepared. Dilution of reagent grade acid was done with distilled water and determined by Orion 828 acidity analyzer (made in America). A sprayer was used to apply the acid solutions. The spray was repeated 7 times during 7 days, at each application, leaves were thoroughly wetted. There were 9 pots in each treatment, and each treatment was repeated triple. Each replicate consisted of 9 plants. After 7 days of application, one leaf from each tested plant (symptoms appeared) and control plant (*Fig. 1*) was sampled and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80 °C until use.



Figure 1. Tomato leaves after treated by pH 3.0 and control (pH 5.6) for 1 week

RNA preparation and cDNA synthesis

Total RNA was isolated from each sample of frozen tissue (0.1 g). The frozen tissue was homogenized with 0.5 ml of isopropyl alcohol (1:10, v/v) per 1 ml with Trizol extraction method (Invitrogen, Shanghai). The RNA concentration was determined by measuring absorbance at 260 nm. RNA integrity was determined by running 5 μ L of total RNA in a 1.0% agarose gel electrophoresis. 4 μ g of total RNA was used initially for first strand synthesis, followed by second strand synthesis using SuperScriptTM III double stranded cDNA synthesis kit (Invitrogen), according to the manufacturer's protocol.

cDNA-AFLP reaction

The cDNA-AFLP procedure was conducted as described by Bachem et al. (1998) with some modifications. Approximately 100 ng cDNA from from each treatment was digested with EcoRI and MseI restriction enzymes in a three-step reaction at 37 °C for 55 min, 65 °C for 55 min and 80 °C 10 min, respectively. The digested products were ligated to adapters with sequences as follows: EcoRI adapter, 5' CTC GTA GAC TGC GTA CC 3', 3'CAT CTG ACG CAT GGT TAAP5'; MseI adapter, 5'GAC GAT GAG TCC TGA G 3', 3'TAC TCA GGA CTC ATP5'. The ligated products were pre-amplified with the corresponding pre-amplification primers (EcoRI: 5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA 3', MseI: 5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C 3'5). Equal amounts of pre-amplified products were amplified with primers having selective nucleotides at the 3' end (EcoRI: 5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA AC 3'; MseI: 5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C AA 3' (Table 1). Altogether 128 different primer combinations were tested. 4 μ L of the AFLP products were heat-denatured and resolved in a 6% denaturing polyacrylamide sequencing gel run with 1 \times TBE electrophoresis buffer. The gels were silver-stained according to the Silver SequenceTM DNA Sequencing System Technical Manual.

Transcript-derived fragment (TDF) isolation and re-amplification

The bands of interest were marked, removed from the gel and soaked in ddH₂O (50 μ L) initially at 100 °C for 15 min and then hydrated overnight at 4 °C. 10 μ L of the aliquot was used for re-amplification in a total volume of 50 μ L, with the same set of corresponding selective primers and the same PCR conditions as for the selective amplification except that an annealing temperature of 56 °C, 35 cycles and a final 4 min extension were used. The PCR products were resolved in a 1.5% 1 \times TBE-agarose gel, and each single band corresponding to the selected TDFs was isolated, soaked to elute the DNA according to agarose gel DNA Purification Kit (TAKARA).

Cloning and sequencing of TDFs

The eluted TDFs were cloned into the plasmid pMD₁₈-T vector (TaKaRa Biotechnology (Dalian) Co., Ltd., China) following the manufacturer's protocol. Positive clones were inoculated, and PCR positive cultures from every TDF were sequenced with an ABI automated sequencer.

Analysis of sequences

The sequences of the TDF were analyzed for their homology against the publicly available non-redundant genes/ESTs/Transcripts in GeneBank using the BLASTN and BLASTX algorithms. Multiple sequence alignment was performed with ClustalX2.0

algorithm with default parameters (<http://www.clustal.org/clustal2/>). The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the neighbor-joining method in MEGA5.0 package (Tamura et al., 2011).

Table 1. Primers used for cDNA-AFLP amplification

Adaptor\primers	Primer NO.	Primer sequence
Mse I Adapter		5'GAC GAT GAG TCC TGA G 3' 3'TAC TCA GGA CTC ATP5'
Mse I Pre-amp	M00	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C 3'
Mse I Sel-smp	M0	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C AA 3'
	M1	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C AC 3'
	M2	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C AG 3'
	M3	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C AT 3'
	M4	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C TA 3'
	M5	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C TC 3'
	M6	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C TG 3'
	M7	5'GAT GAG TCC TGA GTAA C TT 3'
EcoR I Adapter		5' CTC GTA GAC TGC GTA CC 3' 3'CAT CTG ACG CAT GGT TAAP5'
EcoR I Pre-amp	E00	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA 3'
EcoR I Sel-smp	E0	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA AC 3'
	E1	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA AG 3'
	E2	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA CA 3'
	E3	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA CT 3'
	E4	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA CC 3'
	E5	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA CG 3'
	E6	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA GC 3'
	E7	5' GAC TGC GTA CCA ATT CA GG 3'

Results

Isolation of the TDFs responsive to SiAR stress

A total of 128 primer combinations were used for the AFLP analysis of cDNAs from simulated acid rain-stressed leaves. cDNAs were obtained from the treatments of pH 5.6 (Control) and pH 3.0 (Fig. 2). A total of 45 transcript-derived fragments (TDFs) were isolated from the silver-stained cDNA-AFLP gels based on their presence, and identified as inducibly expressed. Sequence alignment of these 45 cloned TDFs against NCBI databases showed that 31 had a homologous gene in the database. Due to incompleteness of tomato gene annotation and the conservation of gene families between tomato and *Arabidopsis*, *Vitis vinifera*, *Populus*, *Ricinus communis*, *Phaeosphaeria nodorum*, *Glycine max*, *Ipomoea batatas*, *Sorghum*, *Zea mays*, *Artemisia annua*.

We used these matches of the identified inducibly expressed genes as surrogates for function annotation (Fig. 3). 14 of 45 TDFs had no annotation in the database. Fourteen of the TDFs had no similar sequences in the NCBI databases. The genes with unknown functions consist of those that have not yet been associated with a response to abiotics stress, and some of these novel genes did not match any sequence from the GenBank

databases. In general, our results indicated that multiple defense strategies lead to an enhanced defense capacity of tomato plants to SiAR.

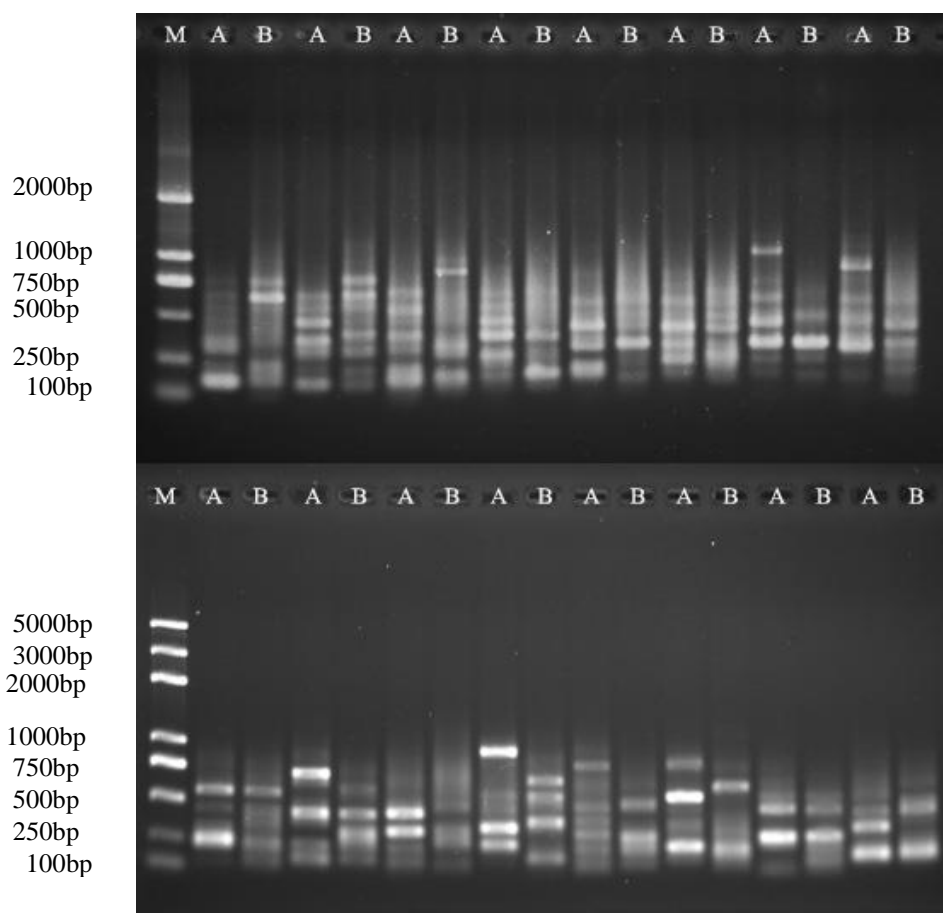


Figure 2. The result of electrophoresis of selectivity amplification products amplified with pair primers of *EcoR I* and *Mse I* (A: pH 3.0, B: pH 5.6) M: DL2000

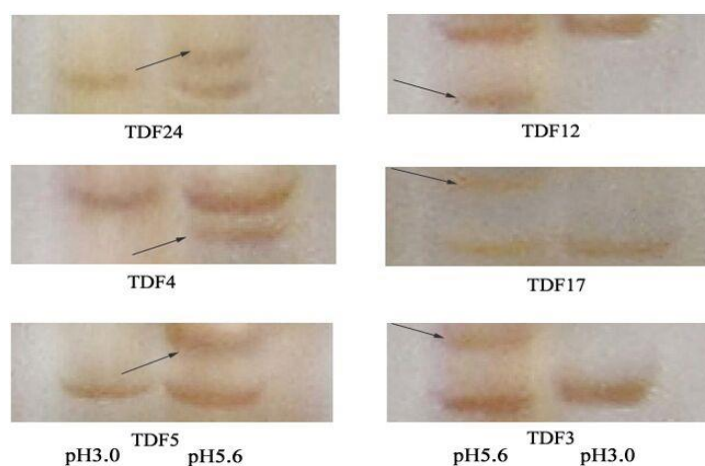


Figure 3. Inducible expression of genes of tomato treated under SiAR and control (pH 5.6). Arrow in TDF3, TDF12, and TDF17 showed their down-regulated expression of tomato leaves in response to SiAR, while TDF4, TDF5 and TDF24 showed their up-regulated expression, respectively

Sequencing and classification of cDNA

The expression profile was compared between pH 3.0 and control on the basis of their either complete presence or absence (*Fig. 2*). 31 TDFs above 100 bp were eluted from the gel, re-amplified, and sequenced (*Fig. 4* and *Fig. A1* in the *Appendix*).

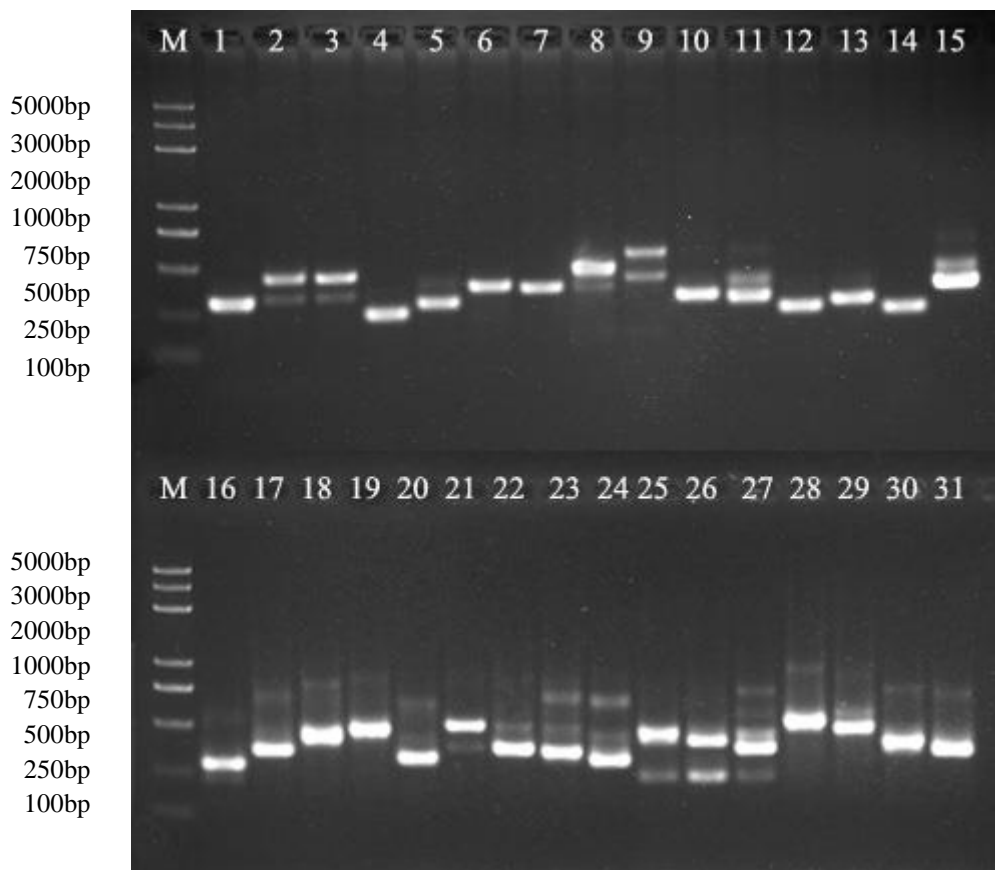


Figure 4. Agarose gel of re-amplified TDFs from tomato in response to SiAR. M: 2000 bp marker; 1-31 showing TDF1-TDF31, respectively

The TDFs with known or putative function were submitted to the NCBI database and are presented in *Table 2* with GenBank Accession numbers. The up- and down-regulated genes are also categorized into these functional groups (*Table 2*). *Figure 5* shows the percentages of acid rain induced genes assigned to different functional categories. Comparison of the homologies of these sequences and those in the database suggested that most of them (about 68.9%) had homology with genes involved in functions like UBA and UBX domain-containing protein (12.9%, TDF1, TDF6, TDF9, TDF19), Inositol-1, 4, 5 -triphosphate-5-phosphatase (3.2%, TDF15), Inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatase (3.2%, TDF26), Tobamovirus multiplication protein (3.2%, TDF13), Hypothetical protein (9.7%, TDF11, TDF16, TDF28), RING/U-box superfamily protein (3.2%, TDF7), Stress transcription factor A-6b (6.5%, TDF5, TDF8), Receptor protein (3.2%, TDF27), Plastidic aldolase (3.2%, TDF30), Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (3.2%, TDF24), Solanesyl diphosphate synthase (3.2%, TDF2), Peroxidase (6.5%, TDF4, TDF20).

Table 2. Transcript-derived fragments (TDFs) from tomato in response to simulated acid rain

TDF No.	TDF size (bp)	Sequence name	GeneBank accession no.	Annotation	Similarity	E-value	Organism	Expression ^a
UBA and UBX domain-containing protein								
1	175	M0E0-1	AK327205.1	cDNA, clone: LEFL2024I13, HTC in fruit	74%	4e-15	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
6	220	M5E2	AK321642.1	cDNA, clone: LEFL1027AF01, HTC in leaf	87%	1e-68	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
9	264	M6E2-3	AK247661.1	cDNA, clone: LEFL1085DG07, HTC in leaf	100%	1e-05	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
19	387	M5E3	AK247676.1	cDNA, clone: LEFL1089BC10, HTC in leaf	79%	4e-90	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
Inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate-5-phosphatase								
15	170	M5E0	EU159402.1	Inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate-5-phosphatase (5PT1) mRNA, complete cds	100%	4e-22	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
Inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatase								
26	225	M7E2-3	XM_010326266.2	Putative inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatase At5P2	81%	4e-18	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
Tobamovirus multiplication protein								
13	360	M2E3	XP_010318614.2	Tobamovirus multiplication protein 1	100%	0	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	-
Hypothetical protein								
11	267	M0E3	XM_001793885.1	SN15 hypothetical protein partial mRNA	72%	1e-26	<i>Phaeosphaeria nodorum</i>	+
16	301	M2E2	XM_002264451.1	Predicted: hypothetical protein LOC100244254, mRNA	77%	3e-59	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	-
28	350	M5E3	XM_002513344.1	Cyclin-L2, putative, mRNA	85%	2e-30	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	-
RING/U-box superfamily protein								
7	338	M6E2-1	NM_123389.3	Zinc finger (C3HC4-type RING finger) family protein (AT5G40250) mRNA, complete cds	73%	4e-19	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	+
Stress transcription factor A-6b								
8 ^b	290	M6E2-2	XM_002517024.1	Heat shock factor protein HSF30, putative, mRNA	76%	1e-37	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	+
5 ^b	202	M5E0-2	CU227021.1	EST from severe drought-stressed leaves	76%	2e-48	<i>Populus</i>	+
Receptor protein								
27	344	M3E3	AF401036.1	Receptor-like protein 9DC gene, complete cds	78%	3e-66	<i>Lycopersicon pimpinellifolium</i>	+
Plastidic aldolase								
30	365	M7E3-1	AB027001.1	mRNA for plastidic aldolase NPALDPI, complete cds	80%	5e-50	<i>Nicotiana paniculata</i>	+
Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase								
24	298	M7E2-1	M90692.1	Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL5) gene, complete cds	95%	8e-129	<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	+
Solanesyl diphosphate synthase								
2	338	M0E0-2	DQ889204.1	Solanesyl diphosphate synthase (SppS) gene, complete cds	100%	1e-171	<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i>	+
Peroxidase								
4	341	M5E0-1	BAG09369.1	Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase	87%	3e-14	<i>Glycine max</i>	+
20	206	M1E0-2	AY206413.1	Anionic peroxidase swpb2 mRNA, complete cds	78%	3e-30	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	+

Uncharacterized								
14	154	M1E0-1	HG975443.1	Chromosome ch04, complete genome	100%	2e-71	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
12	247	M1E1	AC239572.2	Strain Heinz 1706 clone hba-139d12, complete sequence	82%	5e-61	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
17	258	M3E2	AC212438.2	Chromosome 11 clone C11HBa0168B23, complete sequence	100%	2e-128	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
18	211	M4E3	CU468016.3	DNA sequence from clone LE_HBa-187P23, complete sequence	86%	6e-65	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
21	274	M7E0	CU457804.4	DNA sequence from clone SL_Mbof-121C14 on chromosome 4, complete sequence	85%	7e-79	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
22	292	M1E2	EU180574.1	Clone BAC C09HBa0179M08, complete sequence	72%	3e-13	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
23	281	M2E2	CU326380.7	DNA sequence from clone LE_HBa-75M11, complete sequence	86%	7e-85	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
25	310	M7E2-2	AP011551.1	DNA, chromosome 8, clone: C08SLe0087H10, complete sequence	80%	9e-40	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
31	193	M7E3-2	AP011553.1	DNA, chromosome 8, clone: C08SLm0050D24, complete sequence	75%	1e-04	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
29	169	M6E3	AC239435.2	Strain Heinz 1706 chromosome 1 clone hba-305j13 map 1, complete sequence	89%	3e-49	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
10	212	M6E2-4	CU302232.4	DNA sequence from clone LE_HBa-29F16 on chromosome 4, complete sequence	74%	4e-23	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-
3	164	M0E0-3	AP010799.1	DNA, chromosome 8, clone: C08HBa0112M02, complete sequence	88%	2e-47	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	-

a: The TDF up-regulated under SiAR stress were indicated with plus (+), while the TDFs down-regulated were indicated with minus (-); b: TDFs selected for homologous analysis of amino acid

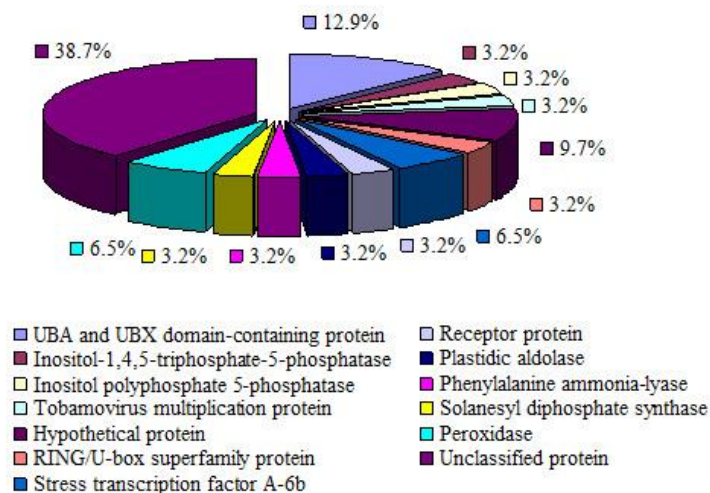


Figure 5. Distribution of inducibly expressed genes of tomato under SiAR stress. A total of 31 TDFs were grouped into 13 functional categories. The percentages of gene transcripts in each group are listed

The homologous analysis of TDF5 and TDF8

Multiple sequence alignment revealed that the predicted nucleotide sequence of TDF5 displayed homology with other species (Fig. 6), including *Populus* (0.09935), *Vitis vinifera* (0.21868), *Ricinus communis* (0.08232), *Daucus carota* (0.24211), *Arabidopsis* (0.23250), *Lycopersicum esculentum* (0.00804), *Soybean* (0.29692) (Fig. 7), while TDF8 had homology with *Lycopersicum esculentum* (0.12116), *Vitis vinifera* (0.13402), *Artemisia annua* (0.71636), *Sorghum* (0.05429), *Zea mays* (0.08618), *Ricinus communis* (0.101665), *Populus* (0.04893), *Arabidopsis* (0.22726) (Figs. 8 and 9).

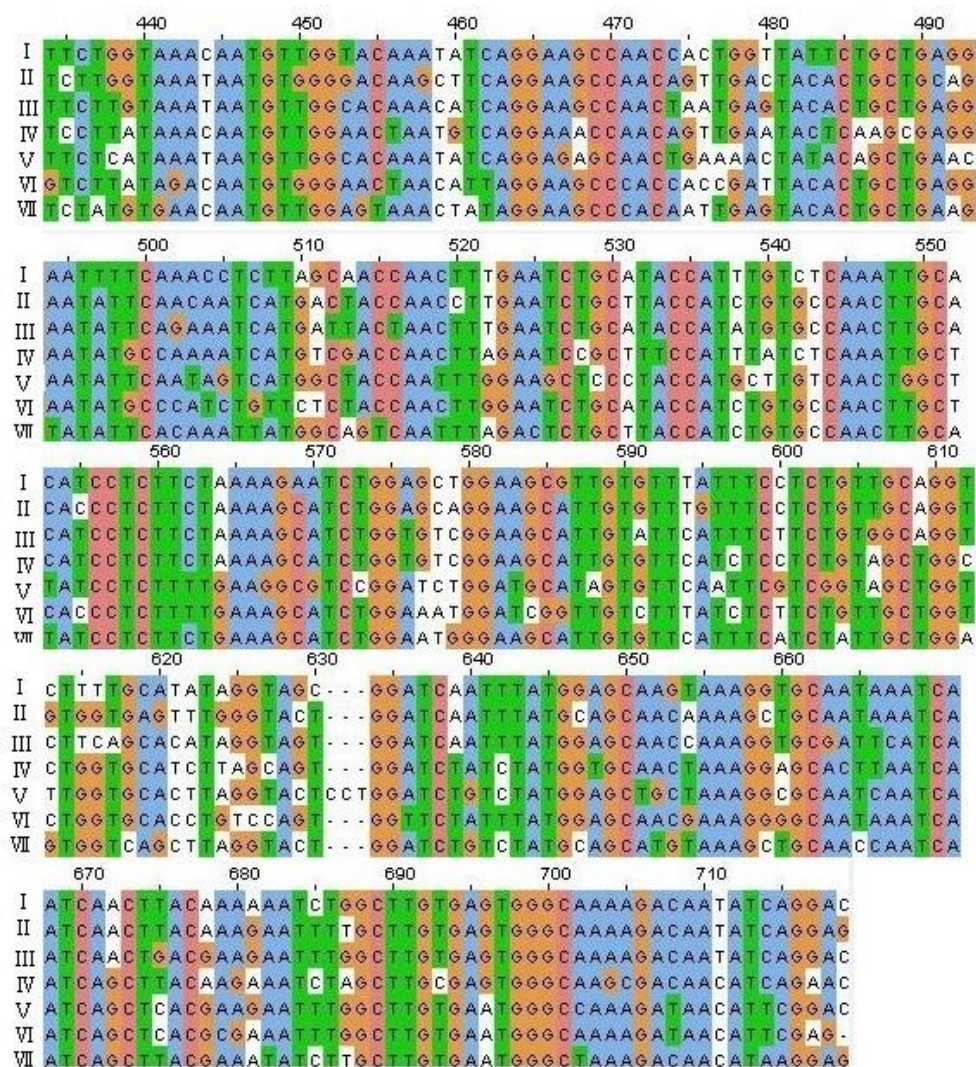


Figure 6. Homologous analysis of TDF5

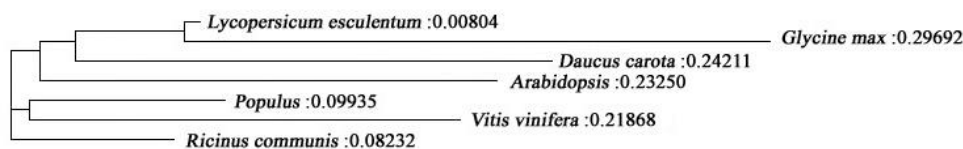


Figure 7. Homologous tree of TDF5

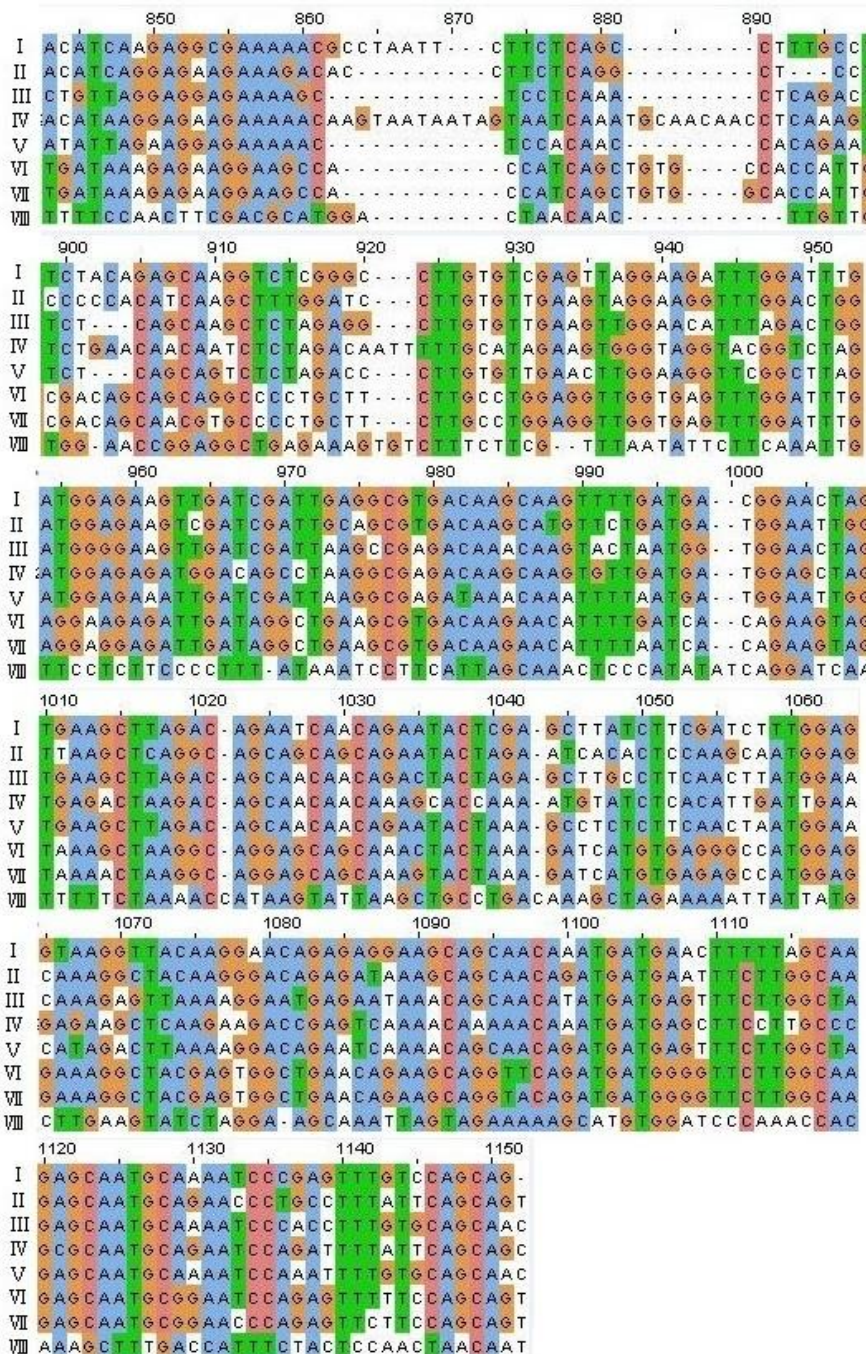


Figure 8. Homologous analysis of TDF8. I: *Lycopersicon esculentum*; II: *Vitis vinifera*; III: *Populus*; IV: *Arabidopsis*; V: *Ricinus communis*; VI: *Sorghum*; VII: *Zea mays*; VIII: *Artemisia annua*

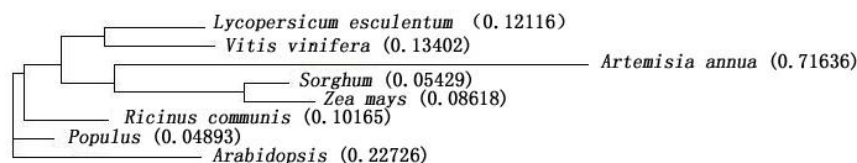


Figure 9. Homologous tree of TDF8

Discussion

The biological functions of identified SiAR-responsive genes were categorized according to transcriptional levels. The putative functions of the TDFs that were differentially expressed in SiAR treatments were analyzed. The largest categories with ascribed function are stress-related genes (68.9%) involved in functions like UBA and UBX domain-containing protein (12.99%), peroxidase (6.5%), inositol-1, 4, 5 - triphosphate-5-phosphatase (3.2%), inositol polyphosphate 5-phosphatase (3.2%), tobamovirus multiplication protein (3.2%), hypothetical protein (9.7%), RING/U-box superfamily protein (3.2%), stress transcription factor A-6b (6.5%), receptor protein (3.2%), plastidic aldolase (3.2%), phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (3.2%), solanesyl diphosphate synthase (3.2%). Among of them, the expression of TDFs in tomato leaves under SiAR stress were up-regulated, including TDF2, TDF4, TDF5, TDF7, TDF8, TDF11, TDF20, TDF24, TDF27, TDF30. The results of the differentially regulated TDFs reported to have direct or indirect relation with simulated acid rain stress response are discussed below.

Responses of isoprenoid biosynthetic genes to simulated acid rain

As a part of the plant defense machinery, isoprenoids are employed, among others, to protect plant cells from abiotic stress (Munne-Bosch et al., 2003). TDF2 showed high similarity with the enzymatic proteins in the pathway of isoprenoid biosynthesis, which were down-regulated in the seedlings subjected to simulated acid rain stress. Plastoquinone is regulated by solanesyl diphosphatesynthase (SPPS) (Phatthiya et al., 2007). Simulated acid rain stress affecting phosphorylation of the chloroplast of longan leaves was documented by Qiu et al. (2002). These indicated that simulated acid rain stress influenced photophorylation by the way of inhibiting isoprenoid production. The same result was documented that isoprenoids in Sitka spruce are induced after mechanical wounding due to increased transcription or enzymatic activities of genes and enzymes participating in the biosynthetic pathways of these metabolites (McKay et al., 2006).

Phenylalanin ammonia-lyase

TDF24 showed similarity with phenylalanin ammonia-lyase (PAL-5) gene. Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase catalyzes the conversion of L-phenylalanine into trans-cinnamate, the initial committed step of the multi-branched phenylpropanoid pathway in higher plants. This is a key biochemical reaction in both plant development and defense. In tomato, at least five different classes of PAL genes were isolated. PAL 5 was distinctly (5-6-fold) more common. TDF24 was up-regulated after simulated acid rain stress. This type of PAL gene sequence also was found to be strongly expressed and differentially regulated in response to changes in light or wounding or to infection by a plant pathogen (Chang et al., 2008).

Glycosyltransferase

Glycosyltransferases, which catalyze the transfer of a sugar residue from an activated donor to an acceptor molecule, are found in all living organisms. Since plants, in contrast to animals, are sessile organisms and cannot move away from adverse environmental conditions they need to adapt themselves to environmental stresses

(Wang et al., 2015). TDF11 expressed in tomato which evolved distinct mechanisms by which tolerance against acid rain can be achieved.

Zinc finger protein kinase

About two to three-fold increase in the expression of the cDNA (TDF7) encoding a cys2/his2 zinc finger protein kinase conferred tolerance to simulated acid rain stress in tomato. Over-expression of the members of zinc finger protein kinase family was also documented during salt tolerance in transgenic *Arabidopsis* and tobacco (Mukhopadhyay et al., 2004; Ragueh et al., 1989; Sakamoto et al., 2004). Stress-responsive zinc finger gene playing a role was reported in drought tolerance in *petunia* (Sugano et al., 2003).

Peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase

The peroxisomal acyl-CoA oxidase family plays an essential role in lipid metabolism by catalyzing the conversion of acyl-CoA into trans-2-enoyl-CoA during fatty acid beta-oxidation (Fabi et al., 2010). The TDFs including TDF4, TDF5, TDF8, TDF20, TDF27 and TDF30 were differentially regulated under simulated acid rain, indicating that these proteins may take part in the mechanism of anti-SiAR and play important role in the resistance to the stress.

Unknown genes

The large group of signal transduction, transcription regulation-related protein, stress- inducible proteins (68.9% of the 31 known or predicted genes) suggested that tomato can rapidly initiate the regulatory system and control the expression of simulated acid rain resistance-related genes. Also, many unknown genes, 31.1% of the total, had not been reported and consist of those that have not yet been associated with a response to abiotics stress, and some of these novel genes did not match any sequence from the GenBank databases, and might play important roles in the response of tomato to SiAR, indicating that multiple defense strategies lead to an enhanced SiAR defense capacity in tomato.

This work helped us to identify the responsive transcripts expressed under SiAR. Most of them are related with their previously studied genes involved in stress responses such as abiotic and biotic factors. The induction of these genes under SiAR suggests their function in possible regulation of acid rain adaptation in tomato. This is suggested by the association of most of the cDNAs with genes involved in biosynthesis of isoprenoid and phenylpropanoid, zinc finger protein kinase family, and lipid metabolism. Knowledge of acid rain tolerance can be enriched by studying the genes involved in the interconnected aspects like preventing or controlling the damage caused by acid rain, establishing the homeostatic environment in the stressful environment and resuming the normal growth at the reduced rate.

TDFs identified in our work revealed the genes related to lipid metabolism and biosynthesis of anti-oxidants of isoprenoid and phenylpropanoid, zinc finger protein kinase conferred tolerance to simulated acid rain stress in tomato which help in establishing homeostatic environment. However, some of the TDFs in the study did not show homology with any other known genes, indicating that further work is necessary to elucidate the mechanism of acid rain and biological roles of these genes in seedlings

of tomato. This progress will bring to the research community a huge wealth of information on novel acid rain-related genes.

Conclusions

Among of which 31 TDFs in leaves of tomato under simulated acid rain stress were cloned and sequenced. TDF5 and TDF8 were stress- inducible proteins. TDF4 and TDF20 played important role in resistance to SiAR stress. TDF2 was related to isoprenoid biosynthesis, TDF7 to transcription regulation, TDF11 to metabolism, TDF24 to plant development and defense. These 8 TDFs may play significant role in tomato resistance to acid rain-stress. Further study is necessary to elucidate the roles of these genes in tomato under SiAR stress.

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APPENDIX

Figure A1. The sequence of transcript-derived fragments (TDFs) from tomato in response to simulated acid rain

1 M0E0-1 (175bp) GGTCGCTGCTTGCTGATCATGTGAACACTACATTCCCTGTTACCC
TCATTGACCCTACAGATATTTTGTCTTCATTTGAGGTTCTCTTGC
TCTCGTATGTCTCATATCATATTCCCAAAGCATCAGACCGCCTT
GTTTCATGGAGTTGTAAAATATTTTCATCAAGCTATTGCAGATC

2 M0E0-2 (338bp) GCAGAACCCTAAAATGCCTTCCATCTAGTCCTTTTCAAGCAGCA
CTTGAGGAAATCGTGAAGTATAATCTGGAGAGAATTGAATAGA
CGAAAACAAAGGACGAAACTATACAACTTTGGTTTATTATTCT
CTGAAAGCTCTTCATATCTAACAATATCTGGAGCACAGAGTAG
AAGCTATTACTATAGTTTGAATGGCAACAACGATCAGAACGAA
AGTGCTTCACTATGTTTCATATATTATACCCATACAGGTTGTAAT
TTTCAGTTCCTAATACAGCAATATGGTGTTCAGCATTCTTTAT
AATTTGGCTAATAAATTGTCAAATTTCAACTGTTG

3 M0E0-3 (164bp) ACTCATATACGCCGAGCAGATGGTGTGCGAACGCATCAAT
TGGACGTTTCGTTGACTGGTTAGAACCCTGATTCAAGATACAGG
TATACCAAATATTTATGGGCTGAACTGCCTGCTACTGCTGTCT
ACATGCTGAAAATTTCAACCACCAATGCTGTTGT
TTGGTAGATTGGTTCTCTATTGTGAGGGTGCAAATAATGTTATT
TATGAGAGGTTGCGTGAAGGAGACACTGATTTGTTGAAACGAC

4 M5E0-1 (341bp) TAGGACCCTCTTGGGTATTCTTGGTGGCGCTGTCCTCCAATGCC
TTTGCCACGGCGAGAGTGGTCTTAACCCTGTCACCACATAAAA
ATCCCGTCCAAAAAAATTCCTCACTTCCCTCCATCCATTCC
ATGACTTCCCCAAGGTAGCCTGGCCGGAAGTCATTTTACCACT
CTCATACA ACTTGCGAAGACGCCATCCAACAAGAAGCATAGCC
TGAATGTTGCTCAACATCTGAACAAGCTTCTGTTGAG

- 5 M5E0-2 (202bp) GTCTTATAGACAATGTGGGAACTAACATTAGGAAGCCCACCAC
CGATTACACTGCTGAGGAATATGCCCATCTGTTCTCTACCAACT
TGGAATCTGCATACCATCTGTGCCAACTTGCTCACCCCTCTTTG
AAAGCATCTGGAAATGGATCGGTTGTCTTTATCTCTTCTGTTGC
TGGTCTGGTGCACCTGTCCAGTGGTTCTATTTATGGAGCAACGA
AAGGGGCAATAAATCAGCTCACGCGAAATTTGGCTTGTGAATG
GGCAAAAGATAACATTCGAG
- 6 M5E2 (220bp) AAACAGGTGAGACACGGCAACCAAAGGACTTCAACTGGTGCC
AACCGAGAACATGGCATCCCCACTTCACAGCACATGTGAATC
TACAAGCTGAGATAAATAAATTTGATTCTACTATTTTGATTTGG
GTTTTCAAATTGGGCACAAATTGAAGGACAAAATCACCTCCAC
CAGGAAAACCAACATATGATTGGGTATTTTTTTCCTCATCAAATT
ATTT
- 7 M6E2-1 (338bp) AAAAATACAAGTAATGCATCAATAAACGCTTGATCAAAACTAG
AATTATGTAGGTGGAATAACTATTGAAAGCTTCTTTGCAAAGT
ATTCACACTAGAACTTCAGGGTATCCATTAGATTGACATGAT
GCTGAAGAAAAAAGGTGTTTCATAAGAATCCTAACTAGCAAAT
GAAGCAGGCCACACATGAAAAATAAGACAAATAATACAAGTA
TAATAAAAAGAACAACCTGTCCGAATATTGTTTCCATATGGAGA
GCACAACCATGTAAGTGTCTAACTCTATGAAGGTTTGTCCATA
ATGCTGAAATTTTGAGTAGTAGTGAAGCGCATTTCAG
- 8 M6E2-2 (290bp) ACATCAAGAGGGCGAAAAACGCCTAATTCTTCTCAGCCTTTGCC
TTCTACAGAGCAAGGTCTCGGGCCTTGTGTGCGAGTTAGGAAGA
TTTGGATTTGATGGAGAAGTTGATCGATTGAGGCGTGACAAGC
AAGTTTTGATGACGGAAGTGAAGCTTAGACAGAATCAACA
GAATACTCGAGCTTATCTTCGATCTTTGGAGGTAAGGTTACAA
GGAACAGAGAGGAAGCAGCAACAATGATGAACTTTTTAGCA
AGAGCAATGCAAAATCCCGAGTTTGTCCAGCAG
- 9 M6E2-3 (264bp) CTTGGAGACTTGCTTTTTCCCTGAAATTCTACCCCATTTTAAA
GAGGAAATGTTGCATCGATGGCTTGGATTATCTCCATCGTCCTT
GGTGTGACGTGGAACAATCTCACACCACCAAGGACGATTATG
GTGCTCTGGGAGCTGCTGAAAGTCGTAATAATGGAAAGGGAC
GGAGAAAAAATGATAAAGGGACAAGTTGTCTTCTACTCTTCA
TATATTCTGTGTTACGTCGTGTATGAGAACGTTGGAGGTTGAC
GCAT
- 10 M6E2-4 (212bp) TCTTGGAGCTCAATACTGCAAGGTAGTGGCAATCGTCTACCCC
AAACGATGGCCAGTCCACCAGACGATGGCCTGTCGATGGGTGG
CATCGATGTGTTTTGAAGGTTGAGGAGTTTCAAGAGAAACCAA
CAAACCTCATCGATGGGATGTGGTCTTACCCACGGACCGTCTGA
TGATGATGTCGATTGGGTTGTGATTTCTTGCAGTTTTTCAG
- 11 M0E3 (267bp) GCTCCTGGCGATGTGCAACTCGTGGCTGGTGAGTTCATGCCTTC
GGCCGGACGTGATGGCTTAGCATCATCAATTGAAAGATGGGCG
ATATACTGGTTTAAACGCTCTGTCTTGCCGGAGGAAAACCTAGCG
GGTTGCGCGTGAACGTGGAGTGTACGGCATCGCTACGTGTGAC
AATCTCAGACACGGTTCGACCCGAGCTCATAATCTTCTGTGTCGTC
AATGTGGCGACTTGGATCACCACGACCTTGTCTTCCACTGCG
GGTTCTTG

- 12 M1E1 (247bp) AATATGAGAGACGATTGATACGCCTTGTTGGTAACCTCACCTC
ATGACGATTATATGTGCTGGAAGATCTCATTGCTAATCAATGG
GTGCGTTGCTCAACTTCGTTTTCTTTACGTACTTCAGAGTTGAC
TCAAACATTATGGAATCTTGCTTCTATTTATGAGGTTTACTCAA
ATCTTTACATAACCGGTCACCTCTTCTTTACTTGATGAAATGT
AAATTTGACCTTACATTATTATCTTGGTG
- 13 M2E3 (360bp) TTTCACTTGATGATTGGATCTTCAAATTTGGGTTATTTCTTTAT
TTTATTTTGACAATTGTTGCCGCATGTAATGGTTGGATTTTCTG
GTCGCACTCCTGTGGCTTTGTCGTTATGGCTTTCCCCAAAATTC
TTTTCTTGCGGCATTCTTCTTCTCTTTCTTTCTGGGTTGATC
TTTGTATCAGTCAAATGATGAAGAAGATGAAGATGATGTATA
TAGCCCTCGAGAAGCTTTGTTGGAGAAGAACAAGCCAAATTCA
AATGCTGATAGTCGCCGAAGATGCTGCTCTTTTCGTGCTGTCAA
AGTGGGAAGCCGCCAAAAGTTGTGGTTCTGGTTACCCTGTTA
GTTTTTCTG
- 14 M1E0-1 (154bp) GTGAGGACCATAATCATGAGCTTACTTGGATCCACTAGATACT
GTCTATTTGAGACAAATCCTATGGGGGCATGTAGTTATGCGAC
AAGGTGATTGCTTCTAAAATATTCTATTTCTACTAATGGGTAAT
CTCCATTCTAAATTTACCCAGTG
- 15 M5E0 (170bp) AGAAGAGATCACCAGCATGGTAAGCAACAAGTACTTTGGTAGT
CTACAAGAATCGCGAGAAGCATTGCATAAATTTTAGTAACTGA
GTGTCCTCTTCGTGTTTATGCAGGTGTGATCGTATACTATGGTT
AGGGAAAGGTATAAAACAGATGTTTTACAAGCGCGCAGAG
- 16 M2E2 (301bp) AACTGAGGTTTCCGTGGTGTCTTTCTATATCCAGTAGCAAATC
AATTACATTAGGGGACTCAAGACCCTGGCCAATCAGAAATAAT
ACGGCAACCATGCACCGGACTTGATGCCAAAGGAAAGCACTG
CCTTTGATTTTCATTATCATGAGTTGATCATCATTGTCTCTTTCA
TTGAAGGGGACAATTTCAAACGATATTATGTGCCGCCGGTAGT
TGTGCACATTGTCTGCATCCATTTTGCAAAAATTTCTGAAATCA
TGTTCCCCTAAGAATTTCTTCGCAGCAGTTTGCATGGCTG
- 17 M3E2 (258bp) CAGCTTGCCCCACCTCGACTATTTCACTAGGTACCTTGCTATCT
CCCACCAGCATAGACCATCGGGCAACTTTGCCACTAAGGCTTA
GGCAGATAAAAAAGCACCTAATGGTTTTGTCTCTGCTGGAATT
TAGACCCTGATCTCTATGATTTGAACTCACTTCATTATCTAAAC
CACACCCTTAGGTGCAAATACACTCCCACATATATTATCAATC
AGTTATATTATCAACCAAGATTTTATCTCACCAAAAACATG
- 18 M4E3 (211bp) TTCATCAACAATGAAGAGTTCAACAAGAAGAAAGTGATCATCA
TAATGGGGGCCACACGAACGGGAAAATCCCGTCTCTCTGTTGA
CTTTGCCACCCATTTTCGAGGAGAAATAATAAACTTGAACAAA
ATGCAAGTTTACAAGGGACTTGAAATTGTTACAAACAAGATAA
CACACACTGAGAAACAAGGTGAACGACACTATTTGTTAG
- 19 M5E3 (387bp) GGAGTGACTCCGATGAGCCTCAAGAGTATTATACTGGCGGAGA
GAAAAGCGGAATGCTTGTTCAGATCCATCTAAGGCAAATGAT
GTGAACTCAATATTCGATCAAGCTAGACAACATGCAACTGTTG
AAGGACCTCCAGCATCATCTGGCTCTAGAAGCTTTATTGGAAC
TGCTAGAAGACTTACGGGTGAGACTGTGTCTGCTGCTCCTCAG
CCACCTGAGAGTGTTACTCATAACCATCACTTTCTGGACCAATGG
GTTCACTATTGATGATGGACCCTTGC GGAGGTTTGATGATCCA

20 M1E0-2
(206bp) GAAAATGCCCTTTCTTAGAGAGTATCCGGAAGTCTGAGTGCC
CAAAGAAGTCTGAGCCAGAAGACAGGAGGACGTCTGTCCGAG
CAATTTTGTGGGGAAACAAAGTCCAAGAACAATAACTTTTGG
TCACCACCAGATTTTGGGCATCTATTGCGCAATTGGACAACAT
ATGATTCATCCAGAGTTAATTCTGGTTTATTATTCCTGACTGG
TTGTAGAGCCTTTGTCTGAACCTGGTACATCTTGAATTTCCAAT
TGTGTGGCTTCTGCATTACAACCTTATCGGTG

21 M7E0
(274bp) TGAAATGGGATTCATATCGTGTAACAAGTCGATACCAATATCA
ATTTTCCGTTTCGCGAGGAATACCAGGGATATAATTAGGTAAGA
CCTATAGAAATTTCTCAATACGGGGACCGACTCAATTAGAGG
AATTTCAATTTCTAAATCTTGGACTCTTACAATATGGTATAAAC
ACCCTTCAGAGATCATTTTACAAGCTTTGAAATAAGAAATGAT
ACGACCTCTAGGAATAGAGTTTCCCCTCTTCCACACTAAAACG
GGCTCATCTGGAAAG

22 M1E2
(292bp) TCCTTGCTTGAGGAATATATACTTGGGTTGATGATATACTGCTC
AATGGTGCTCATTGTTGCACCTCTCCTTATTGGCTTCCCGATC
AATAGTCAATTGTGCCCTGATGGAAGACTGGTGTGCGACTATGC
AATGCATCGAATTTGAATGAGTGTGAGCTTGATGGGCCACTTA
TGGGTGTCTATTTTTGAATATAAATTACTGCTCTTTGGTCATGAC
TGATACTAATACTCCCTTTTTTTCTCTTCGGATGCCTACAATAT
AAATTATGTTTCCAACCTGTGTTACTTTGGT

23 M2E2
(281bp) CTGCTGGACTGGATTGGAAGGAAAAAAGTGAGGATACATGAC
TTTCATGGTTGCTTCTACTTCCCTAAGTATCTCCCTTTATGGACTG
ACTCCTTCACAGAACCTTGACTGAATCGACTTCTTTGTTTATCA
ACCTTCTAAACTGATGGTCAAGAATCTCAACTGGTACATCCTTA
TAAAAAAGCCTATCTTTCACAGCCACACTCTCTAATGGCATCAT
ATAATCTGGATCACCAACACACTACTTCAAAAGTGAGATATGG
AAGACCGGATGCAATGCAG

24 M7E2-1
(298bp) CTTAGTCACTGGGTTTGCAAGGGATTGAAGTTCTGAGCAGTAA
GAAGCCATTGCAATTTTCAGCTCCCTTGAGTCCATAATCCAAGCT
TGGATTCCTTCCCTGCTGTGAGATTATATGGCAACACATTGTTGT
AATAGTCGTTGACAAGTTCCAAAAAATTGGGCAAACATCAATTT
CCCAATATATGCAAGGGCCAATCTTGTATTATCCATGGACACA
CCAATAGGGGTACCTTGGAATTTCCACCGTGTAAGGCCTTGT
TTCTTGAAACATCGATCAATGGGTTGTCGTTCACTAAA

25 M7E2-2
(310bp) AATTGATTGATCCTTGCTGTAAATTCGTGGTTTTATATACAAA
TTGAGTTTGAGATGGATGTTGCATGTTCAAAAAAATTTCAATG
ATCCGATGGCTTGAAGAATTGTTTTCTCGTCACTTGAGGACAA
GAAATGGTTCTATGTTGAGGGTTTTGATGTGCCGTCAAATCTTG
CTACATTTGATGCTTGAAAATAAATACTGATTTCCCTCATCAAG
TGTTTTATGTGTATATAGTTTGGTTTGGTACTTTTTTTACATGTGG
ACATAAAAGAGGAATGAAAAGAAGATTGTTGATAACCAAATG
CTAAA

26 M7E2-3
(225bp) TCTGCAACGTCGAGGCTATCCGATATTGCTTTTCTGGAATGG
TCGGAATATATGTATCTATTTGGGGGCTTATTAAGTACACAAG
GCACGTATCTGCTTTGCAAGTGTCCCCGTTGCAATCGGACTTA
TGGCACACAGGGGAAACACTGTACTGCTTCTCTTTCCAGAAC

TTCATTGAATCAAACATCGCCATTCAATAAAGAATTTTGGTGA
AATCCTTC
27 M3E3 CTAATCATCTTTGGACGGTTTCTTCATCAATCTGTTGCTGAAAA
(344bp) CTTTGATGGTGTATTTTTGGGTCGTAACAATTTGTTCCGGTCCC
ATCCCCCAAGGAGTGGGTGAGAGGAATGATACCTTTTGGATTT
GGATTTTAGCCTTTTGAACCTTAATGGGAAAATCAATACAACCTTT
TATTATTGGAACTCTTTCAAGGTCTTTAGCTTGATTGGCAATA
AACTAACGGGGAAAGTCCCACGATCTGTGATCTTTTGTGAGTA
TTTGAACACTACTTGATCTATGCAACTTTCAGTTGAATGACACGT
TTCCAAACTGAATGGTATACCTATCTCAGTTGCACAGG
28 M5E3 GCCCGGGATGCATGTTCCCTAGCAGGAAAGGTTGAAGAACTCC
(35bp) TCGTCCCCTGAAACATGTTATACTTGTTTCTTATGAAATCATT
ATAAAAAGGATTCTGAAGCTATTAGAGGATCAAGCAAAGG
TATTGCTCATTGCCCTGGTGGTTGTGCTCTGTACATACCTATTT
GTTCCATGTTCTAATTTTAGGTCCTCTTGAAAGTTGCCATTTTC
AAAAATAAAATAAAATTTAAGTCCTCTTGAATTTTTTTTGGCCT
ATAAATTTGCTTCATCATGCTTATACCTGAAAGATTTTGCTTGT
ATGGTCATTTGACGGTTGTTTCAAGTTTGGAG
29 M6E3 AGGAGAAGGGTGAGCCCTGGAGGATGATCTGGACAACAAAAA
(169bp) TCCCCTCCACCGTGAATTACTTCGATGGCTTTTGGAAAGGAGG
CAGTCTTGCCACATGAAAACCTTGAACAAGAAGAAATCTTATCT
ACATTCTAGATGCTTTTTATGTAAAAAACGGGTGATAACCG
30 M7E3-1 CATCATTGCTCTTGGTTTTGTAATCTGCCATACACAATATTCTT
(365bp) GACGATTTACTGCTAAATTTTTATGCACCGCGACTCCATCATGA
ATTCTGTATGAGAACTTCCTGGCGTACTTTCTAATATCTTAGT
ACACATATCCTTTCCCAAACATTCCCTCCTTGGCCTCCTCAAAC
TCACCTTCACCGGTGTATTTGCCTAGTGGCCCAATATAGTTGGC
ACCTGCTCAAGTAAAACAAGCTTTCTGAGCTGCCTCAAAATTTT
CTGGTCTTCCACCCCATGTCTTGAGACATGTGTTCTGAAAGCCT
CTTGGATATGAAAACGATACATGTCAGGGGGTGAGAGATTGGT
TCTTCGAGTTCAGT
31 M7E3-2 AAGCAACGATAAAGTGTCTCGTTTATAAACCCCTTTGTTGGTTC
(193bp) ATGACGCTATCCTGCCCCTGAGGACAGATTGGAACCCTTCCTC
TCCTACATGGAAAAGTATCACTCCCTAACCATGCGACGTCAAT
GAAACCTTTCTTCCTTATCTGCAAATTCCTTCCCCCTTGTTCCAAC
AACATCACTAGGTGCCAAG