Short title: Outcome variation in maize mycorrhizal symbiosis

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Full title: Outcome variation in maize interaction with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi is
correlated with the extent of extra-radical mycelium

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Summary: Corn varieties that promote greater extra-radical growth of symbiotic arbuscular
mycorrhizal derive greater benefit from the interaction

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ABSTRACT

In light of the rising cost and often limited access to agricultural fertilizers, arbuscular

mycorrhizas are attracting ever greater interest for their potential to promote more efficient

use of the world's mineral resources. This potential remains largely unrealized, in part

because of a lack of understanding of the factors determining the outcome of the symbiosis in

any given context, and it remains to be demonstrated to what extent host genetic variation can

drive the symbiosis in the direction of greater plant benefit under agricultural conditions. In

this work, a panel of maize inbred lines, selected to maximize genetic diversity, was

evaluated with and without inoculation with mycorrhizal fungi. In addition to measuring

plant growth, fungal morphology, transfer of phosphorus to the plant, plant element profiles

and accumulation of transcripts encoding the PHT1 family of plant phosphate transporters

were also characterized. The relative performance of lines changed between non-inoculated

and inoculated plants and it is proposed that such genotype x inoculation interaction is

indicative of variation in host capacity to profit from symbiosis *per se,* and not only the result

of differences in tolerance of low phosphate availability. The greatest growth response,

observed in the line Oh43, was correlated with low arbuscule abundance but extensive

development of extra-radical mycelium and fungal P transfer. The data suggest that host

genetic factors influence fungal growth strategy with subsequent impact on the outcome of

the symbiosis.

INTRODUCTION

The rising cost of agricultural inputs and an increasing awareness of the negative environmental consequences of their intensive use fuel an ever greater interest in beneficial crop-microbe interactions and their potential application (Perez-Montano et al., 2014; Vance, 2014). The most prevalent nutrient-delivering plant-microbe interaction is the association with fungi of the phylum *Glomeromycota*, resulting in the formation of arbuscular mycorrhizal symbioses (Parniske, 2008). More than 80% of extant terrestrial plants establish arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) associations, and this fundamental capacity has been retained in the major crop species throughout the processes of domestication and improvement (*e.g.* Koide et al., 1988; Hetrick et al., 1992; Kaeppler et al., 2000; Sawers et al., 2008). Concomitantly, these same crops have retained a conserved molecular machinery required for establishment of AM symbioses and nutrient exchange (Paszkowski et al., 2002; Gutjahr et al., 2008).

AM fungi provide the plant host with greater access to soil nutrients and water through connection to a network of fungal hyphae that extends beyond the root itself (Bucher, 2007). In addition, AM symbioses have been implicated in enhanced tolerance to a range of abiotic and biotic stresses (Smith and Read, 2008). Such benefits are not provided without cost, however, and the plant host must provide carbohydrates to the fungus, which represents a diversion of photosynthetically fixed carbon away from primary productivity and yield. Ultimately, the outcome, which may be positive or negative, is dependent not only on the specific plant-fungus combination (Walder et al., 2012) but on the requirements and limitations imposed by any given environment (Janos, 2007). Indeed, in high-input modern agricultural systems, the benefit of the symbiosis to the plant may be marginal (Grace et al.,

2009) , and it has been hypothesized that conventional breeding practices may have

promoted weakening of mycorrhizal mutualism (Hetrick et al., 1992; 1996) .

Comparisons of mycorrhizal response, however, can be complicated by variation in overall

plant adaptation to a given set of conditions - poorly adapted plants will typically show the

greatest performance increase following AM colonization, although such improvement need

not indicate a superior capacity to benefit from colonization *per se* (Sawers et al., 2010) -

and the question remains as to whether certain varieties derive greater benefit from AM

symbioses than others and to what extent plant breeding can optimize these interactions for

agricultural systems (Sawers et al., 2008; Fester and Sawers, 2011). A better understanding of

the molecular and physiological impact of AM symbiosis has the potential to enhance greatly

interpretation of outcome variation.

The best characterized benefit of AM symbiosis is enhanced plant phosphorus (P)

nutrition. Given that limited P availability is a major check on global agricultural production

and food security , assessment of AM outcome in terms of P nutrition is a justifiable

approximation of this complex symbiotic trade-off. The efficiency with which crop plants

convert P resources to yield (P Efficiency; PE) can be partitioned between the efficiency of

uptake (P Acquisition Efficiency; PAE), and the efficiency of internal use (P Use Efficiency;

PUE) (Rose at al., 2011; Veneklaas et al., 2012); AM symbiosis most directly impacting the

former. Levels of P fertilizer uptake in agricultural systems are typically low (15-20%; Syers

et al., 2008), largely as a result of the relative immobility of P in the soil and the ready

formation of a zone of P depletion around the root (Bucher, 2007). Optimization of the root

system architecture can contribute significantly to P foraging (Lynch, 2011), but, under a

given set of conditions, AM symbioses may present the greatest opportunity to access a

greater soil volume. Physiological studies have demonstrated that symbiotic phosphate

uptake is a distinct functional alternative to direct uptake by the plant (Smith et al., 2003;

Bucher, 2007)   . Significantly, it has been suggested that in a field setting the majority of

the phosphate taken up by a plant may be acquired via the symbiotic route (Smith et al.,

2003; Yang et al., 2012)   .

Molecular analyses have further defined the distinction between symbiotic and direct

phosphate uptake through characterization of the plant PHT1 proton:phosphate symporters

(Bucher, 2007). In all plants characterized to date, the PHT1 family consists of multiple

proteins playing diverse roles in P uptake and internal transport, and, where plants are

competent to host AMF, there is at least one family member that can be postulated to act

predominantly, or exclusively, under symbiosis (Rausch et al., 2001; Harrison et al., 2002;

Paszkowski et al., 2002; Nagy et al., 2005   ; Glassop et al., 2005; Maeda et al., 2006; Caesar

et al., 2014; Walder et al., 2015). The best characterized mycorrhiza-associated PHT1

proteins are associated with the peri-arbuscular membrane and, interestingly, have been

shown by mutant analysis to be indispensable for arbuscule development under standard

conditions in pot experiments (Maeda et al., 2006; Javot et al., 2007, Yang et al., 2012,

Willmann et al., 2013).

In this study, differences in mycorrhiza response among a panel of diverse maize lines

are dissected to identify variation linked to a greater ability of the host to profit from the

symbiosis. In a first screen, a panel of 30 diverse maize lines, consisting of the 26 parents of

the maize Nested Association Mapping (NAM) population (McMullen et al., 2009), a

collection selected to maximize genetic diversity from global breeding germplasm, and a

small number of additional genotypes, were evaluated in a greenhouse small-pot experiment.

On the basis of the first screen, a pair of lines were identified that while similar in

performance under non-inoculated conditions differed greatly when colonized. This selected

pair of lines and four further lines of interest were further analysed by measurement of P

uptake, quantitative characterization of fungal colonization and quantification of transcripts

encoding PHT1 family P transporters. Data suggest that plant host factors can manipulate the

pattern of fungal growth with a significant impact on symbiotic outcome.

RESULTS

Diverse maize lines show a range of outcomes under AM symbiosis

To define physiological and molecular patterns correlated with variation in the outcome of

AM symbioses, a panel of diverse maize lines, consisting of the 26 diverse inbred founders of

the maize NAM population (McMullen et al., 2009)   , Pa36 (a P efficient line; Kaeppler et

al., 2000), B73 (the genome sequence reference line), W22 (a line widely used in reverse-

genetics) and W64A (a line used previously for study of AM symbiosis; Paszkowski et al.,

2006), was evaluated under greenhouse conditions in a sand/loam substrate, under P limiting

conditions, with (M) or without (NC) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*.

Eight weeks after emergence, plants were harvested and shoot dry-weight (SDW; g)

determined (Table 1). Over the period 2007 – 2010, six experiments (Exp A-F) were grown in

randomized block designs, each consisting of 3 replicates, with the exception of Exp D that

consisted of 5 replicates. Data were combined across plantings and normalized with respect

to differences among experiments (see Materials and Methods and Supplemental Material).

Collectively, the evaluated lines showed a positive outcome when inoculated with

AMF (Fig. 1), with a significant ($p < 0.001$, *t*-test) increase in mean SDW from 1.05g in NC

plants to 2.16g in M plants, equating to a panel-wide mycorrhiza response (MR = M - NC;

Sawers et al., 2010) of 1.1g ±0.08g (95% interval for difference in means). For experiments A

and C, roots were harvested and the abundance of fungal structures quantified by microscopic

inspection. NC plants were confirmed to be free of fungal structures. M plants were well

colonized, with a mean of 57% ±0.7% (95% interval for proportion) of root positions

examined containing at least one type of fungal structure (hyphae, arbuscules or vesicles),

although a broad range of colonization was observed (5% - 98%). At the level of individual

lines, all showed increased SDW following inoculation with AMF (Fig. 2, Fig. 3; Table 1).

Estimates for mean SDW by line of NC plants ranged from 0.44g (Hp301) to 1.67g (Pa36),

and for M plants from 1.61g (Tx303) to 2.91g (Pa36). Estimates of MR ranged from 0.72g

(Mo18W) to 1.85g (Oh43). In no instance did the 95% confidence interval for MR include 0

(Fig. 2, upper panel), indicating a significant positive outcome of symbiosis in all lines. In the

panel evaluation, the line Oh43 was the most highly responsive (highest point estimate of

MR; 95% confidence interval for MR did not include the panel-wide MR mean), and the line

Mo18W the least responsive (lowest point estimate of MR; 95% confidence interval for MR

did not include the panel-wide MR mean). On the basis of non-overlapping MR intervals, the

line Oh43 was significantly more responsive than the lines Mo18W, Oh7b, Tzi8, W22,

NC358, Ky21, Ki3 and CML247. As a first approximation to account for dependence

differences (Janos 2007; Sawers et al., 2010), the reaction norm of M relative to NC plants

was examined (Fig. 3). The contrast in outcome in Oh43 and Mo18W was clearly reflected

by shifting performance relative to other lines in the panel: the two lines were very similar

and typical of the panel as a whole when non-inoculated, but outlying following inoculation

(Fig. 3); *i.e.* Oh43 and Mo18W illustrate a pattern of SDW consistent with similar

dependence but divergent capacity to profit from AM symbiosis.

187   Leaf and root elemental profiles change in response to colonization by AMF

Given that plants were evaluated under P limiting conditions with all other nutrients provided

in excess, it was anticipated that variation in performance would be driven largely by

differences in P accumulation. To test this hypothesis and more broadly assess plant nutrition,

root and leaf samples were analyzed further using inductively coupled plasma-mass

spectroscopy (ICP-MS; Baxter et al., 2008) to quantify the accumulation of P along with

nineteen other elements. Pooling data across lines, ten quantified elements (Na, Al, P, S, Mn,

Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Cd) were found to accumulate to different levels in M compared with NC

plants, in either roots and/or leaves ($p<0.05$, adjusted for multiple tests; Fig. 4; Table 2).

Accumulation of these ten elements was analyzed by principal component (PC) analysis. The

first three PCs explained 75%, 8% and 7% of the variation in the accumulation of the ten

selected ions, respectively, PC1 being dominated by differences between roots and leaves.

Inspection of PC loading with respect to the ten selected ions indicated the magnitude of the

contribution to PC1 was approximately equal for all ions, although the sign of loading was

different for P with respect to the others (Fig. 4B). Loading on PC2 and PC3 was largely

related to P accumulation, with important additional contributions from Mn, S and Na (Fig.

4B; Fig. S1A;B). Plotting PC scores against ion accumulation revealed a mild tendency

towards higher P accumulation at lower values of PC1, that was more marked with respect to

PC2 and PC3 (Fig. 4C). A number of additional patterns were observed, including a tendency

to higher accumulation of Mn and S at higher values of PC1, a trend opposite to that observed

for P (Fig. 4C). To explore variation in elemental profiles further, PC scores were plotted by

sample (Fig. 5). PC1, again, strongly differentiated between roots and leaves, PC2 was

largely related to variation in P accumulation, although not clearly distinguishing tissue type

or inoculation status, while PC3 differentiated NC and M plants. PC scores corresponding to

the lines Oh43 and Mo18W were examined in more detail (Fig. 5). In root samples, PC

scores differed little between the two lines or between NC and M plants. In leaves, however,

Mo18W samples showed similar PC scores in NC and M plants, while Oh43 samples

exhibited a marked shift to lower scores in PCs 1, 2 and 3 when inoculated, concomitant with

an increase in P accumulation that was not evident in Mo18W (P accumulation means groups,

Tukey HSD, $\alpha=0.1$).

Mycorrhizal response is correlated with the extent of the extra-radical mycelium

Having established that the differential response of Oh43 and Mo18W to inoculation with

AMF was correlated with a difference in P accumulation in the leaves, it was decided to

directly characterize P uptake in these lines. Oh43 and Mo18W (along with the NC outlying

lines Pa36 and HP301 and the reference lines B73 and Mo17) were grown in PVC-tubes

(Fig. 6A) containing a fine mesh, allowing passage of hyphae but not plant roots (Smith et al.,

2003), that separated the main soil volume (root-hyphae compartment; RHC) from a hyphae

(HC) compartment containing soil mixed with ^{33}P at a specific activity (SA=$^{33}P/^{31}P$) of 144

kBq mg^{-1} P. Plants were grown with or without inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis* and,

at tassel emergence, harvested and P uptake determined (Table 3). In this experiment, all six

genotypes exhibited increased biomass production upon inoculation, with Oh43 again

showing the greatest SDW response (Fig. 6A, 6B). Here, however, the line Mo18W showed

a greater response than previously, although this was rather driven by lower NC than by

greater M SDW, relative to the other lines, compared with the panel evaluation. Total shoot P

was measured and found to correlate well with SDW, both among lines and between NC and

M plants (Fig. 6C, 6D). Oh43 showed the greatest response in P accumulation to inoculation

with AMF, accumulating P to typical levels for non-inoculated plants, but to high levels when

inoculated, relative to the other lines in the experiment. Although more responsive to AMF,

when fungal structures were quantified, there was no evidence that Oh43 was colonized to a

greater extent than other lines; indeed, the frequency of arbuscules was marginally lower

(Fig. 7A). In contrast, Oh43 supported a significantly greater development of extra-radical

hyphae (Fig. 7B). Across all lines, the density of extra-radical mycelium correlated positively

with AM P uptake (Fig. 7B). Expressing the ratio of of ^{33}P uptake from HC soil to the length

of roots containing arbuscules, Oh43 showed a significantly higher value than the other lines

evaluated (Fig. 7C).

The B73 maize genome encodes 13 PHT1 phosphate transporters

On the basis that performance variation was correlated with differences in P uptake and

accumulation, a molecular characterization of the maize *Pht1* phosphate transporter family

was performed. Thirteen maize *Pht1* genes were identified in a search of the B73 maize

genome. Accession numbers of the 13 genes are given in Table 4 along with a conventional

numbered annotation of the form *ZEAma;Pht1* (abbreviated from here on as *ZmPt*). Gene

numbers were assigned on the basis of the similarity to rice PTs (Paszkowski et al., 2002)   .

Previous reports of maize genes are indicated in Table 3, but the previous annotation has not

necessarily been retained. In common with previously characterized *PT* genes (Karandashov

& Bucher, 2005)   , the maize *Pt* genes are predicted to encode proteins containing 12

membrane-spanning helices, divided into two blocks by a long inter-helical loop between

helices 6 and 7. Helix 4 contains a canonical motif GGDYPLSATIxSE (Karandashov and

Bucher, 2005), in which for all of the maize proteins, the variable residue x is a methionine.

Maize and rice PT protein sequences were aligned , along with a number of

previously characterized mycorrhiza-associated sequences from other species, and this

alignment was used to construct a maximum likelihood tree, identifying a number of groups

within the maize protein family (Fig. 8). The protein ZmPT11 (previously reported as

ZmPHT1;6. Nagy et al., 2006; Willmann et al., 2013) was the unique maize member of a

group including the well-characterized mycorrhiza-associated proteins medic MtPT4

(Harrison et al., 2002)   , rice OsPT11 (Paszkowski et al., 2002), potato StPT4 (Nagy et al.,

2005)   and tomato LePT3 (Nagy et al., 2005). The maize protein ZmPT14 was the only

maize member of a second mycorrhiza-associated group, grouping with the previously

characterized proteins barley HvPT8 and wheat TaPT1:myc (Glassop et al., 2005)   . The

proteins ZmPT9 and ZmPT13a-d defined a further group along with the single mycorrhiza-

associated rice protein OsPT13 (Yang et al., 2012)   . The remaining ZmPT proteins belonged

to a larger group that contained a number of rice proteins characterized previously to play

roles in direct P uptake and translocation.

Four *ZmPt* genes are located on chromosome 1, four on chromosome 2, one on

chromosome 5, two on chromosome 7, one on chromosome 8 and one on chromosome 10

(www.maizegdb.org; Sen et al., 2010). The genes *ZmPt5*, *ZmPt13a*, *ZmPt13c* and *ZmPt13d*

are clustered within a ~500kb region of chromosome 2 adjacent to the centromere, the three

ZmPt13 sequences lying within a region of ~100kb. The gene *ZmPt13c* is identical to the

gene *ZmPt13b* located on chromosome 7. The region of nucleotide identity extends up- and

downstream from *ZmPt13b/c* and it was not possible, therefore, to differentiate the two genes

in subsequent expression studies. Similarly, we cannot discount the possibility that the

sequences *ZmPt13b/c* represent a single gene, erroneously assigned to two locations in

genome assembly. In the case of a second pair of closely related sequences, *ZmPt8a* and

ZmPt8b, there was sufficient nucleotide variability to discriminate between them. The

position of *ZmPt8a* and *ZmPt8b* in the genome suggests that they are retained paralogs from

the tetraploid event that occurred in maize sometime after divergence from sorghum

(Schnable et al., 2011)   .

ZmPt transcripts show tissue and stage specific patterns of expression

To gain a general panorama of PT function in maize, existing transcriptome datasets were

examined for evidence of the accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts. Using data from two sources

profiling seedling tissues (Wang et al., 2009; Li et al., 2010)   and one source profiling

reproductive tissues (Davidson et al., 2011)   , transcripts encoded by representatives of the *Pt*

family were found in all tissues and developmental stages examined, indicating both the

importance on the *Pt* gene family throughout the plant life cycle and a specialization among

family members (Fig. S2). In vegetative tissues, the predominant *Pt* transcripts were encoded

by *ZmPt8a*, *ZmPt8b* and *ZmPt2*, all three transcripts accumulating to the greatest level in

seedling roots. The transcripts *ZmPt5* and *ZmPt13a* showed also significant accumulation in

vegetative tissues, although primarily in mature leaves. The transcripts *ZmPt6* and *ZmPt7*

exhibited specific accumulation in the tassel. Transcripts encoded by the other maize *Pt*

family members were not detected at significant levels in these data sets.

Accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts responds to inoculation with AMF

Having used available transcriptomic data sets provided an indication of the function of

maize *Pt* genes throughout the plant life-cycle, under nutrient replete conditions, and in the

absence of microbial symbiosis, it was decided to investigate directly quantify transcript

accumulation in AMF inoculated plants. Ten transcripts were selected and quantified in the

roots and shoots of B73 seedlings, grown under low (10μM), moderate (100μM) or high

(1000μM) P availability in the absence of AM colonization, or under moderate P with *R.*

intraradices inoculation . Seven of 10 selected *Pt* transcripts (*Pt6*, *Pt7*, *Pt9*, *Pt11*, *Pt13a*,

Pt13b and *Pt14*) accumulated differentially between NC and M plants, in at least one of the

tissues assayed (Tukey HSD, α=0.05; Fig. 9A). The transcripts *Pt7*, *Pt9*, *Pt11*, *Pt13a* and

Pt14 accumulated to significantly higher levels in the roots of M plants compared to NC

plants under the same P availability. In the case of *ZmPt14*, transcripts accumulated

exclusively in the roots of M plants. Transcripts encoded by *ZmPt11* were the most abundant

in colonized roots, although they were present also at lower levels in roots and shoots of NC

plants. The transcripts *Pt6*, *Pt9*, *Pt11*, *Pt13a* and *Pt13b* accumulated to significantly lower

levels in the leaves of M plants compared to NC plants under the same P availability. With

the exception of *ZmPt14*, all transcripts were detected in NC plants in at least one of the

tissues assayed.

Accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts is not clearly correlated with symbiotic outcome

With the maize *Pt* gene family defined and transcript accumulation characterized in B73, it

was possible to investigate the potential relationship between AM outcome and PT

transporter function. On the basis of the original characterization, four *ZmPt* genes (*Pt6*, *Pt8*,

Pt11 and *Pt13a*) were selected and accumulation of their transcripts quantified in root

samples collected from the phosphate-transfer experiments described above using the lines

B73, Mo17, Hp301, Pa36, Mo18W and Oh43, grown under low- or high-P, with or without

inoculation with *R. intraradices*. Transcripts encoded by *Pt6* accumulated to significantly

lower levels in M plants in all lines (Tukey HSD, $\alpha=0.05$; Fig. 9B). In contrast, accumulation

of *Pt11* and *Pt13a* was significantly increased in M plants (for a given P level and genotype,

M and NC samples fell within different means groups with the exception of *Pt11* in Mo18W

under low P, and *Pt13a* in Mo17 and Hp301 under low P; Tukey HSD, $\alpha=0.05$; Fig. 9B).

With regard to variation among lines, the most striking differences were observed in Mo17, in

which transcripts of all four *Pt* genes were observed to accumulate to higher levels than in the

other lines under at least one experimental condition (*Pt11* and *P13a* in M plants under low

P; *Pt6* in NC plants under low P; *Pt8b* in both NC and M plants under low P; Tukey HSD,

$\alpha=0.05$; Fig. 9B). In addition, *Pt8b* transcripts accumulated to significantly lower levels in

Hp301 than in all other lines, in all treatments (Tukey HSD, $\alpha=0.05$; Fig. 9B). With respect

to the candidate lines Mo18W and Oh43, there was no indication of differential accumulation

between the two genotypes for any of the *Pt* transcripts assayed (Tukey HSD, $\alpha=0.05$; Fig.

9B).

DISCUSSION

Efforts to better employ mycorrhiza in agriculture demand a greater understanding of the

molecular and physiological basis of variation in symbiotic outcome. In this study, AM

outcome was evaluated in a panel of maize inbred lines selected to maximize genetic

diversity, complemented by measurement of biomass production with characterization of

fungal structures, P uptake, elemental profiling, and quantification of transcripts encoding

PHT1 phosphate transporters. The study panel was composed primarily of the parents of the

maize Nested Association Mapping (NAM) population, a collection selected from global

breeding germplasm to maximize overall genetic diversity (McMullen et al., 2009). The

panel proved phenotypically diverse in greenhouse evaluation, and a range of plant

performance was observed in both NC and M plants. From the perspective of P efficiency, the

line Pa36 (not itself a NAM founder) was notable for presenting the highest biomass

production in both NC and M plants. With regard to variation in AM outcome, greatest

emphasis was placed on line x inoculation effects, and consequently the lines Mo18W and

Oh43 were selected for further study: these two lines showed similar performance in the

absence of inoculation while differing when inoculated. Concomitantly, their relative

performance with respect to the other lines changed between the non-inoculated and

inoculated trial. No clear correlation was evident between the abundance of intra-radical

fungal structures and biomass production. However, Oh43, the line showing the greatest

response to inoculation, supported the most extensive extra-radical mycelium, consistent with

the interpretation that the P contribution from the AM uptake pathway is determined largely

by hyphal abundance in the soil. This is in general support of several previous studies (see

e.g. Schweiger and Jakobsen 1999, Jakobsen et al., 2001, Yao et al., 2001, Schnepf et al.,

2008), including the correlation between fungal P uptake and hyphal abundance among 15

isolates of *Funneliformis mosseae* used to inoculate a common plant parent (Munkvold et al.,

2004). Although a report characterizing AM response variation in four Chinese maize

varieties (Chu et al., 2013) did not reveal a clear relationship between P uptake and the

length of root-external hyphae, this may be a result of the small number of genotypes

characterized. With regard to the specific case of Oh43 and Mo18W, it is concluded that

maize genotype contributes to variation in the extent of the hyphal network and as a

consequence to outcome variation in a given environmental setting.

A strong correlation was found between shoot P accumulation and plant biomass, both

among lines and between inoculated and non-inoculated plants. This observation suggests

that, under the P limiting conditions of the experiments, difference in P uptake was the major

driver of outcome variation. Physiological characterization has demonstrated that P uptake

via the AMF pathway is not a simple addition to the plant's own direct uptake pathway, but

may represent a functional alternative: in the extreme case, a colonized plant may obtain

nearly all of its P requirement via the AMF pathway, whether as a result of down regulation

of the direct pathway or owing to a greater efficiency of fungal P foraging compared with

plant roots   (Smith et al., 2003; Schnepf et al., 2008)   . Here, the AMF pathway accounted

for 30% - 70% of the total P uptake in inoculated plants. Concomitantly, both up-regulated

ZmPt transcripts (*Pt11* and *Pt13a* in roots the analysis of diverse lines; *Pt7*, *Pt9*, *Pt11*, *Pt13a*

and *Pt14* in roots in the analysis of B73) and down-regulated *ZmPt* transcripts (*Pt6* in roots in

our analysis of diverse lines; *Pt6*, *Pt9*, *Pt11*, *Pt13a* and *Pt13b* in leaves in our analysis of

B73) were identified following inoculation, consistent with the shift in the pathway of P

uptake. In medic, trefoil and rice, transcripts encoded by orthologs of *ZmPt11* (*MtPT4,*

LjPT4 and *OsPT11*, respectively) accumulate uniquely in the roots of plants colonized by

AMF (Harrison et al., 2002; Paszkowski et al., 2002; Maeda et al., 2006). Furthermore,

mutant analysis has demonstrated the proteins encoded by these transcripts to be essential for

formation and maintenance of AM symbiosis under nutrient replete conditions in pot

experiments (Maeda et al., 2006; Javot et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2012). The protein MtPT4 has

been localized to the peri-arbuscular membrane (Harrison et al,. 2002; Kobae and Hata, 2010;

Pumplin et al., 2012), consistent with the hypothesis that this divergent group, encoded by

single copy genes in the characterized plant species, provide the principal route of P uptake

from the periarbuscular space to the plant. Here, it was observed that although *Pt11*

transcripts did, as expected, accumulate to high levels in colonized roots, there was

significant accumulation also in the roots and shoots of NC plants, consistent with previous

reports (Nagy et al., 2006; Willmann et al., 2013) and similar to reports of orthologous genes

in brachypodium, foxtail millet and sorghum (Hong et al., 2012; Ceasar et al., 2014; Walder

et al., 2015). Interestingly, although a maize *pt11* mutant has been reported to reduce

formation of mycorrhizas in greenhouse experiments, colonization was restored in the field or

by co-cultivation with mycorrhizal nurse plants, although plant performance was poor

(Willmann et al., 2013). The analysis presented here indicates that maize possesses a greater

number of putatively AM-associated *Pt* genes than, for example, rice, through expansion of

the *Pt13* group and presence of the *Pt14* group. It remains to be determined whether the

differences in transcript accumulation and loss-of-function mutant phenotype between maize,

on one hand, and rice and medic, on the other, stem from divergent structure of *PT* gene

families and variation in the partitioning of AM associated functions among the family

members. Indeed, the reduced colonization phenotype of the medic *pt4* mutant can be rescued

by nitrogen starvation contingent on the action of the ammonium transporter AMT2;3

(Breuillin-Sessoms et al., 2015), implicating more complex aspects of nutrient signalling

crosstalk in the regulation of arbuscule maintenance.

Although characterization of *ZmPt* transcript accumulation was consistent with a shift

away from direct P uptake to the AMF P uptake pathway, transcript accumulation patterns

were not clearly predictive of outcome variation among lines. The most striking difference

among lines was the low level of detection of transcripts encoded by the non-AMF inducible

ZmPt8b in the line HP301. Analysis of previously published RNA-seq transcriptome data

indicated that *ZmPt8b* transcripts are among the most abundant of the *Pt* family in seedling

roots, along with those encoded by *ZmPt8a* and *ZmPt2*, and the potential loss-of-function of

ZmPt8b in HP301 may contribute to the poor performance of the line in P limiting conditions.

Indeed, the observed capacity of HP301 to perform to an equivalent level as B73 when

inoculated with AMF is consistent with low direct pathway PAE in HP301 being

compensated through the switch to the AM P uptake pathway. There was no clear signature in

the patterns of *Pt* transcript accumulation that could be related to the greater abundance of

extra-radical hyphae supported by the line Oh43. Although analysis of mutants disrupted in

mycorrhiza associated *PT* genes has demonstrated their requirement for establishment and

maintenance of the symbiosis (Maeda et al., 2006; Javot et al., 2007; Yang et al., 2012;

Willman et al., 2013), variation in the extent of the extra-radical mycelium might be driven

more directly at the level of delivery of carbohydrates to the fungus (Doidy et al., 2012a, b).

While data are consistent with shoot P accumulation being the main driver of

differences in plant biomass production, significant differences were observed also in the

accumulation of a number of other elements, the most variable in our PC analysis of

elemental profiles being manganese (Mn), sulfur (S) and sodium (Na). Interestingly, the PC

loading of Mn, S and Na was opposite to that of P, with Mn specifically showing reduced

accumulation in AMF inoculated plants. In all experiments, Mn was supplied at non-limiting

quantities through liquid fertilization, although availability may have been limited in the clay-

sand substrate. Reduced Mn accumulation in M plants has been reported previously in maize

and other plants, and attributed to reduced plant production of carboxylates (e.g. Kothari et

al., 1991; Posta et al., 1994; Nazeri et al., 2013; Gerlach et al., 2015). Beyond this general

trend, we observed also variation across genotypes in Mn accumulation and an inverse

correlation between P and Mn accumulation that was evident in both NC and M plants.

Measurement of the leaf Mn concentration has been proposed as a method of distinguishing

different strategies of P acquisition at higher taxonomic levels (Lambers et al., 2015). Data

presented here indicate intraspecific variation in Mn accumulation, again potentially linked to

differences in root exudate production, in the presence or absence of AMF. The data also

clearly indicate that multiple other elements respond to variation in tissue, AMF and

genotype, indicating the interdependence of elemental accumulation, which may confound

signals derived from any single element (Baxter, 2015).

Attempts to identify variation in the host capacity to benefit from AM symbiosis are

confounded by variation in plant dependence (Sawers et al., 2008, 2010). While varieties that

exhibit outlying poor performance in the absence of colonization typically show significant

growth increase with AM inoculation, for example HP301 in this study, is does not follow

that such material is necessarily of interest from the point of view of crop improvement.

Similarly, the balance of variation in PAE and PUE in determining relative overall PE with

regard to other varieties will be important in terms of response variation: a line limited by

PAE might be projected to show greater improvement under AM symbiosis than a line

exhibiting comparable dependence limited by PUE. Nonetheless, the data suggest that there is

genetic variation in the capacity of the host plant to profit from AM symbiosis under any

given set of conditions. The dynamic of cost-benefit in nominally mutualistic interactions has

been well documented in ecological studies (e.g. Liu et al., 2012). Extrapolation to cultivated

systems would suggest variation impacting cost-benefit to be present, although the

mechanisms remain unknown. Selection of the lines Oh43 and Mo18W was based on similar

performance when non-inoculated, not just in terms of biomass but also shoot P, and very

different performance when colonized. It is interesting to note that while Oh43 supports a

more extensive extra-radical mycelium than the other lines evaluated, arbuscule abundance is

reduced, a result that is consistent with a previous report (Kaeppler et al., 2000) and perhaps

an indication that the interaction has been pushed towards greater fungal foraging for reduced

carbohydrate delivery. In contrast, Mo18W exhibited the highest abundance of intra-radical

fungal structures but one of the least extensive extra-radical mycelial networks. The

identification of such variation coupled with the availability of NAM populations for QTL

mapping (McMullen et al., 2009) opens up the possibility to identify markers linked to host

impact on the development of extra-radical mycelia with a view to implementing molecular

breeding strategies to target this important, but hard to evaluate, component of mycorrhiza

response.

CONCLUSIONS

A panel of maize inbred lines, selected to maximize genetic diversity, exhibited variation in

growth response when inoculated with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi under phosphorus

limiting conditions. Plant growth was correlated with leaf phosphorus accumulation. The

accumulation of transcripts encoding members of PHT1 phosphate transporter family

responded variously to phosphate availability and arbuscular mycorrhizal colonization. The

line Oh43 that exhibited the greatest phosphorus uptake and growth response following

inoculation supported the most extensive extra-radical mycelium but lowest production of

arbuscules, suggesting that the contribution from the mycorrhiza phosphorus uptake pathway

is determined largely by hyphal abundance in the soil. Host genetic background impacts the

fungal growth strategy, *i.e.* the balance of intra-radical/extra-radical growth, with an

important impact on symbiotic outcome.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Evaluation of response to AMF in diverse maize lines

A panel of 30 diverse maize lines, comprising the lines B73 W22, W64A, Pa36 and the 26

parents of the maize nested association mapping population (McMullen et al., 2009) , was

evaluated in one litre pots, under conditions of low phosphorus availability, with or without

inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae* (isolate number 12, European

Bank of Glomales, http://www.kent.ac.uk/bio/beg/), as previously described (Sawers et al.,

2010) . At 8 weeks after emergence, the aerial part of the plant was harvested, dried and

weighed. Six experiments (A-F) were conducted in the greenhouse facility at the University

of Lausanne, Switzerland, during the period 2007 - 2010. Each experiment consisted of 3

complete replicates, with the exception of experiment D which consisted of 5 replicates.

Shoot dry weight data was analyzed without further transformation for clarity. Systematic

variation among experiments was eliminated using linear estimation. The experiment effect

was estimated separately for non-inoculated and inoculated plants. Mycorrhiza response was

estimated for each genotyping by calculation of a *t*-interval for the difference of inoculated

and non-inoculated means. All analysis was performed using R statistics (www.r-project.org).

See supplemental material for raw data, full analysis and code used to generate figures.

Determination of elemental concentration by ICP-MS analysis

Tissue samples were weighed then digested in 2.5mL concentrated nitric acid (AR Select

Grade, VWR) with internal standard added (20ppb In, BDH Aristar Plus). Sample digestion

and dilution was carried out as described in Ziegler et al., 2013. Elemental concentrations of

B, Na, Mg, Al, P, S, K, Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Rb, Mo, and Cd were measured

using an Elan 6000 DRC-e mass spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer SCIEX) connected to a PFA

microflow nebulizer (Elemental Scientific) and Apex HF desolvator (Elemental Scientific)

using the procedure described in Ziegler et al. To correct for machine drift both during a

single run and between runs, a control solution is run every tenth sample. All analysis was

performed using R statistics (www.r-project.org). See supplemental material for raw data, full

analysis and code used to generate figures.

Characterization of phosphorus uptake

Six maize lines with different low P tolerance were selected and grown in compartmented 2,4

L PVC tubes in accordance with (Smith et al., 2003) . The growth medium contained 7.9 mg

0.5M bicarbonate-extractable P kg^{-1} (Olsen et al., 1954) , was a 1:1 (w:w) mixture of sand

and irradiated soil (10 kGy, 10 MeV electron beam) and had basal nutrients added (Pearson

and Jakobsen, 1993) . The root plus hyphal compartment (RHC) contained 2750 g growth

medium and the hyphal compartment (HC) was a small plastic vial placed in the middle of

the RHC. The HC contained 55 g of ^{33}P labelled growth medium (5 kBq g^{-1}) and lined with a

25 μm nylon mesh at both ends to prevent root in-growth. Seven weeks later, bicarbonate

extracts had a specific activity (SA = ^{33}P/^{31}P) of 144.7 kBq mg^{-1} P. Each maize line was

grown in 8 replicate pots in half of which 140 g dry soil-root inoculum of *Rhizophagus*

irregularis BEG87 was thoroughly mixed into the growth medium. Filtered BEG87 inoculum

leachings were added to all pots as an attempt to establish the same soil microbial community

(Pearson and Jakobsen, 1993) . Two pre-germinated seeds were planted in each pot and

thinned to one at the two leaf stage. Plants were maintained under controlled conditions (12

hour day length at 500 µmol m^{-2} sec^{-1}, 28/20°C day/night and 60 % relative humidity,) and

watered daily by weight to 70% of the water holding capacity. In addition to the initial basal

nutrient dressing, supplemental N (NH$_4$NO$_3$), Mg and S (MgSO$_4^{2-}$) was added periodically to

additionally provide 375 mg N, 15 mg Mg and 20 mg S per pot. Shoots were harvested at

growth stage 51 (BBCH scale; tassel emergence at the top of the stem), oven dried to

constant weight at 70°C and dry weights were recorded. Roots system was carefully washed

clean using a pressurized water jet and a fine mesh to collect fine root pieces. Roots were

blotted dry and total fresh weight (FW) was recorded. Subsamples were taken for root

length/colonization measurement (1.5g FW, stored in 50% EtOH) and RNA extraction (1g,

flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen). Dried shoot and root samples were oxidized in a 4:1 mixture

(v:v) of 65% nitric:70% perchloric acids, and total P was determined by the molybdate blue

method using AutoAnalyzer 3 (Bran+Luebbe, Norderstedt, Germany). The ^{33}P in shoot tissue

was determined in the same digests in a Packard TR 1900 liquid scintillation counter

(PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA, USA). Specific activities of ^{33}P in shoots and in bicarbonate

extracts of HC soil were used to estimate the relative contribution of the AM pathway to total

shoot P uptake as described in Smith et al. (2004). Root length was measured by image

analysis using the Win-Rhizo software (Win-Rhizo version 2009b, Regent Instruments,

Canada) and a scanner (Epson (ModelJ1221A), Seiko Epson Corp. Japan). Images were

acquired by placing 1.5 g untangled roots (FWRL), from the RHC subsample in a water filled

Plexiglas tray (17.5 x 23.9 cm). Total root length of each plant was calculated as RL x

FWRoot x $(FWRL)^{-1}$. The extent of any AM fungi structures (hyphae, arbuscules or vesicles)

or arbuscules specifically was evaluated microscopically as percentage of root length using

the grid-line intersect approach (Newman, 1966) after clearing and staining (Kormanik and

McGraw, 1982) . Hyphal length was measured by a grid intersection method after wet-

sieving of aqueous soil suspensions on membrane filters (Jakobsen et al., 1992) . Where

appropriate, mycorrhiza response was estimated for each genotyping by calculation of a *t*-

interval for the difference of inoculated and non-inoculated means. All analysis was

performed using R statistics (www.r-project.org). See supplemental material for raw data, full

analysis and code used to generate figures.

Bioinformatic identification of maize *Pht* genes

To identify a complete set of putative PHT1 encoding genes in maize, the *Saccharomyces*

cerevisiae PHO84 protein (Uniprot id P25297) was used as a BlastP query (Altschul et al.,

1990) to search the primary transcript predicted protein sequences from version 6a of the

annotated B73 maize genome (Schnable et al., 2009) , obtained from Phytozome 10

(Goodstein et al. 2012). Using a cut-off E-value of $1e^{-54}$, 13 gene-models were retrieved and

aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004). All 13 sequences contained the conserved

GGDYPLSATIxSE motif in helix 4 reported previously to be present in PHT proteins

(Karandashov & Bucher, 2005) . The resulting block-alignment file was converted to

Stockholm 1.0 format, and used as input to hmmbuild (HMMER suite version 3.1b2) to

search (hmmsearch) the maize primary transcript predicted protein sequences for additional

PHT1 proteins. 35 new protein sequences were identified based on an inclusion threshold of

E-value <0.01. None of these additional sequences, however, contained the conserved

GGDYPLSATIxSE motif and consequently there were not considered to be authentic PHT1

proteins. The final list of 13 maize PHT1 encoding gene models is presented in Table 1.

Phylogenetic analyses

Phylogenetic analyses were performed using the MEGA software, version 6.06 . Protein

sequences were aligned using MUSCLE and the resulting alignment used to construct a

maximum likelihood tree with 1000 bootstrap replicates. Fig. 8 was constructed using

predicted protein sequences corresponding to 13 candidate maize PTs, together with the

previously reported 13 rice proteins (Paszkowski et al., 2002)   and well-characterized

mycorrhiza-associated proteins from trefoil (LjPT3; UniProt ID: Q1T6Z8), medic (MtPt4;

UniProt ID: Q8GSG4), tomato (LePT4; UniProt ID: Q563I3), potato (StPT3; UniProt ID:

Q8W4W9 and StPT4 UniProt ID: Q5ICC1), barley (HvPT8; UniProt ID: Q6Y3A2) and

wheat (TaPTmyc; UniProt ID: Q5CC72). Fig. S3 was constructed using predicted protein

sequences corresponding to 13 candidate maize PTs, together with the previously reported 11

sorghum proteins (Walder et al., 2015), 12 foxtail millet proteins (Ceasar et al., 2014) and 13

rice proteins (Paszkowski et al., 2002)   .

Tissue- and stage-specific *ZmPt* expression

Normalized expression data for 13 maize PHT1-coding genes were retrieved from qTeller

(http://qteller.com/qteller3/) using two sources profiling seedling tissues (Wang et al., 2009;

Li et al., 2010) and one source profiling reproductive tissues (Davidson et al., 2011). Data

was selected for seedling root, seedling shoot, developing leaf, mature leaf (vegetative

tissues); and tassel, developing ear, seed 5 days-after-pollination (DAP), seed 10 DAP,

embryo 25 DAP and endosperm 25 DAP (reproductive tissues). Data was presented either as

absolute ($\log_{10}$ counts) or relative expression across tissue types on a per gene basis. Relative

values were calculated as standardized Z-scores obtained by dividing deviations from the

gene mean by the gene standard deviation.

Analysis of *ZmPt* expression in response to inoculation with AMF

A LightCycler 480 SYBR green I master mix kit (Roche; Mannheim, Germany) was used to

prepare samples before analysis on a Roche 480 LightCycler. Each biological sample was

analysed as three technical replicates. Three water controls were used for each gene tested.

qRT-PCR expression and melting curves were calculated using the LightCycler 480 software

(Roche, Version 1.5.9, Mannheim, Germany). Samples were normalized to the geometric

mean of expression levels of 3 constitutive genes (*GAPDH, Cyclophilin2, ß-actin*) as

described earlier (Guimil et al., 2005). In total 6 phosphate transporters were analysed

together with an AM specific marker gene *ZmAm3*, ortholog of *OsAM3* (Gutjahr et al., 2008;

Table 5) and a *Rhizophagus irregularis* elongation factor gene (Sokolski et al., 2010).

Statistical analysis was performed using R statistics (www.r-project.org). See supplemental

material for raw data, full analysis and code used to generate figures.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Evaluation of diversity panel: MM, MNG, BW, RS. Ionomic analysis: IB. Physiological

characterization of P uptake by six lines**:** SS, MG. Characterization of maize PHT1 family:

EG-M, RCM. Expression analysis: CQ. Statistical analysis: JG,RS, CQ, SS. Experimental

design and data interpretation IJ, UP, RS. All authors contributed to writing of the manuscript.

TABLES

Table 1: Mycorrhiza response in diverse maize lines

Genotype	NC (g)	M (g)	MR (g)	MR Lower (g)[a]	MR Upper (g)[a]
Mo18W	0.94	1.66	0.72	0.44	1.00
Oh7b	1.05	1.81	0.76	0.39	1.13
Tzi8	1.48	2.24	0.76	0.38	1.15
W22	1.15	1.93	0.78	0.43	1.13
NC358	1.22	2.03	0.80	0.42	1.19
Ky21	1.23	2.08	0.84	0.49	1.19
Ki3	0.94	1.79	0.85	0.53	1.16

CML247	1.08	1.98	0.90	0.62	1.18
Tx303	0.70	1.61	0.90	0.46	1.34
M37W	0.94	1.91	0.97	0.66	1.27
CML228	1.38	2.35	0.97	0.38	1.57
CML277	0.93	1.96	1.03	0.60	1.45
B73	0.78	1.82	1.05	0.78	1.31
IL14H	0.96	2.03	1.07	0.80	1.34
Ki11	1.02	2.10	1.08	0.75	1.42
CML52	0.81	1.90	1.10	0.70	1.49
CML103	1.37	2.52	1.15	0.87	1.43
Mo17	1.53	2.70	1.17	0.70	1.64
CML333	1.19	2.40	1.20	0.80	1.61
Ms71	1.40	2.62	1.22	0.71	1.73
M162W	1.00	2.23	1.23	0.79	1.67
Pa36	1.67	2.91	1.23	0.71	1.76
P39GB	0.87	2.11	1.23	0.86	1.61
B97	0.74	2.04	1.31	0.80	1.81

NC350	0.86	2.17	1.31	0.89	1.73
A188	0.98	2.30	1.32	0.91	1.73
W64	1.02	2.34	1.32	1.04	1.61
HP301	0.44	1.82	1.37	0.91	1.84
CML322	1.13	2.59	1.47	0.80	2.14
Oh43	0.96	2.81	1.85	1.31	2.38

628   [a]Upper and lower refer to the boundaries of a 95% t-interval for the difference M-NC

630   Table 2: Element accumulation in roots and leaves of non-inoculated and inoculated plants

	root (ppm, +/- SE)		leaf (ppm, +/- SE)	
ion	NC	M	NC	M
B11	-66 +/-1	-67 +/-1	-49 +/-1.3	-46 +/-1.4
Na23	1400 +/-58	1900 +/-66	260 +/-21	330 +/-26
Mg25	3200 +/-67	3100 +/-66	3200 +/-110	3000 +/-78
Al27	1500 +/-80	1300 +/-59	36 +/-1.6	48 +/-2.6
P31	300 +/-11	340 +/-12	390 +/-12	450 +/-13
S34	5500 +/-150	6400 +/-150	2100 +/-38	2200 +/-31
K39	21000 +/-540	22000 +/-500	28000 +/-920	26000 +/-780
Ca43	6300 +/-230	7000 +/-310	5500 +/-250	5100 +/-200
Mn55	240 +/-12	140 +/-4.8	82 +/-4.5	64 +/-2.8

Fe57	3300 +/-190	3000 +/-130	110 +/-3.7	140 +/-5
Co59	3.9 +/-0.097	2.7 +/-0.076	0.085 +/-0.0041	0.091 +/-0.0039
Ni60	8.8 +/-0.22	7.5 +/-0.2	0.58 +/-0.025	0.71 +/-0.037
Cu65	24 +/-0.86	21 +/-0.76	15 +/-0.74	18 +/-1.2
Zn66	85 +/-2.6	74 +/-2.1	46 +/-1.5	39 +/-1
As75	2.4 +/-0.11	2.2 +/-0.079	0.35 +/-0.0077	0.36 +/-0.0082
Se82	0.59 +/-0.36	0.48 +/-0.16	0.31 +/-0.11	0.018 +/-0.1
Rb85	3.2 +/-0.098	3.3 +/-0.079	1.7 +/-0.052	1.8 +/-0.061
Sr88	40 +/-0.99	43 +/-1.1	30 +/-1.5	26 +/-0.96
Mo98	4.1 +/-0.16	4.1 +/-0.13	4.9 +/-0.25	4.5 +/-0.21
Cd111	0.68 +/-0.013	0.56 +/-0.011	0.36 +/-0.0085	0.35 +/-0.0072

634 Table 3: Phosphorus transfer data

Genotype	n	Root Length	Arbusculated Root Length	Shoot 33P activity	Mycorrhizal Pathway P
		m	m	KBq	%
B73	4	519.0 ± 116 (a)	442.8 ± 101.3 (a)	59.4 ± 5.23 (bc)	59.7 ± 4.25 (ab)

Line				
Hp301	282.41 ± 30 (a)	220.7 ± 26.3 (a)	29.1 ± 2.64 (a)	35.4 ± 2.95 (a)
Mo17	481.35 ± 28 (a)	379.3 ± 29.0 (a)	59.2 ± 2.54 (bc)	60.4 ± 2.59 (ab)
Mo18w	513.49 ± 22 (a)	404.6 ± 6.3 (a)	49.1 ± 5.92 (ab)	52.8 ± 6.51 (ab)
Oh43	432.41 ± 46 (a)	310.1 ± 49.0 (a)	77.4 ± 7.82 (c)	68.7 ± 7.66 (b)
Pa36	532.46 ± 100 (a)	443.9 ± 84.3 (a)	59.6 ± 6.98 (bc)	52.3 ± 6.86 (ab)

635   Means +/- SE. Letter codes refer to means groups defined by Tukey HSD, $\alpha = 0.05$

636   Table 4: *Pht1* genes of maize (B73 Refgen v3)

Annotation	Gene ID	Previous annotation	Position
ZmPht1;2	GRMZM2G070087		Chr1: 11.2Mb
ZmPht1;5	GRMZM2G045473	*PT3*[b]	Chr2: 98.8Mb
ZmPht1;6	GRMZM2G112377	PCO103837[a], *ZEAma;Pht1;3*[c]	Chr1: 202.5Mb
ZmPht1;7	GRMZM2G075870		Chr1: 8Mb
ZmPht1;8a	GRMZM2G154090	*PT2*[c], *ZEAma;Pht1;1*[c]	Chr1: 236.7Mb
ZmPht1;8b	GRMZM2G326707	PCO103838[a],	Chr5: 31.9Mb

Gene ID	Gene name	PT1[b], ZEAma;Pht1;2/4[c]	
ZmPht1;9	GRMZM2G159075	PT4[b]	Chr10: 100.0Mb
ZmPht1;11	GRMZM5G881088	ZEAma; Pht1;6[c]	Chr8: 148.1Mb
ZmPht1;13a	GRMZM2G170208		Chr2: 99.2Mb
ZmPht1;13b	GRMZM2G041595	ZEAma;Pht1;5[c]	Chr7: 172.0Mb
ZmPht1;13c	GRMZM2G009800		Chr2: 99.3Mb
ZmPht1;13d	GRMZM2G009779		Chr2: 99.3Mb
ZmPht1;14	GRMZM2G139639		Chr7: 34.9Mb

637   [a]Gardiner et al., 2004

638   [b]Wright et al., 2005

639   [c]Nagy et al., 2006

641   Table 5 Primers used in this study

Gene ID	Gene name	Primer sequence FW	Primer sequence REV
GRMZM2G070087	ZmPht1;2	5'-CTG CGC ATA CGC	5'-ATT GAT TTG CTG

		TAC GAA TA-3'	CAC ACG AG-3'
GRMZM2G045473	*ZmPht1;5*	5'-CCT GGA GGA GAT GTT CAG GA-3'	5'-AAG ACG GTG AAC CAG TAG CC-3'
GRMZM2G112377	*ZmPht1;6*	5'-GCC TTC CGT TAC GTC ATT GT-3'	5'-AGC ACG TCT CTG ATC CCA TC-3'
GRMZM2G075870	*ZmPht1;7*	5'-GGC GCT AGT AGC CAG GAA C-3'	5'-CTG CTC CTT ATT GCC GAT GT-3'
GRMZM2G154090	*ZmPht1;8a*	5'-CAT TGT CAC GCT CGT CAT CT-3'	5'-GGT GGA GTT GAA GTG GTC GT-3'
GRMZM2G326707	*ZmPht1;8b*	5'-CGT AGT ACG TGT GTG ATA GTC TGG-3'	5'-TAT TAT CAC ACG TGG ACC TCT ACC-3'
GRMZM2G159075	*ZmPht1;9*	5'-CAC CAT CAT GTC GGA GTA CG-3'	5'-AGT TCC AGC AGC AAG ATT CC-3'
GRMZM5G881088	*ZmPht1;11*	5'-GAT CCA GCT CAT CGG TTT CT-3'	5'-GAG CGT GGT GTG TTT GTT CT-3'
GRMZM2G170208	*ZmPht1;13a*	5'-ACC GGC TAC CCT CAC CTA CT-3'	5'-CTA CCT TCT TGG CGT CCT TG-3'
GRMZM2G041595	*ZmPht1;13b*	5'-ACT TTA TGG CAA CCG CAA TC-3'	5'-GAG ATC CAT GAC GAG GGA GA-3'

GRMZM2G009779	*ZmPht1;13d*	5'-CAC TAT TTG CCT CTA ACC TAG TCG-3'	5'-GAA TCT GGT AGA AGG AAG GTA AAC AC-3'
GRMZM2G139639	*ZmPht1;14*	5'-TCA CTG GAT TTA ATT TGT GCT CAT-3'	5'-CGG AGA CAG GTT GTT GTT TTA GAT-3'
GRMZM2G135244	ZmAM3	5'-ATC TGT CGT TGC GTT CCT CT-3'	5'-GCA TCT ATC ACT GCG GGA AT-3'
GRMZM2G046804	GAPDH	5'-CTT CGG CAT TGT TGA GGG TTT G-3'	5'-TCC TTG GCT GAG GGT CCG TC-3'

FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. Association with mycorrhizal fungi promotes vegetative growth in diverse maize

lines. Distribution of shoot dry weights (SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences

among replicates) of 8 week-old maize plants grown with (red) or without (blue) inoculation

with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Data pooled across 30 diverse maize lines and

normalized with respect to variation between plantings. The mean SDW of non-inoculated

(2.16g, n = 552) and inoculated (1.05g, n = 540) groups is shown by dotted lines and the

mycorrhizal response (MR) indicated as the difference in means (1.1g ± 0.08g; 95% interval

for difference in means). Outlying samples > 4g SDW not shown; samples adjusted to < 0g

SDW after normalization were set to 0g.

Figure 2. Diverse maize lines vary in mycorrhiza response. Main panel, shoot dry weight

(SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences among replicates) of 30 diverse maize lines

grown for 8 weeks, under greenhouse conditions, with (white boxes) or without (grey boxes)

inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd

quartile. Whiskers extend to the most extreme points within 1.5x box length; outlying values

beyond this range are not shown. The mean values of non-inoculated (1.05g, n=540) and

inoculated (2.16g, n=552) groups are shown by horizontal blue and red lines, respectively.

Upper panel, mycorrhizal response (MR, g) calculated as the difference in SDW of inoculated

and non-inoculated plants. Green points indicate the difference M-NC; whiskers extend to the

limits of a 95% confidence interval; horizontal dashed line shows the mean MR across all

lines of 1.1g. Lines ordered by increasing MR from left to right. Data as Figure 1.

Figure 3. The line Oh43 shows the greatest mycorrhizal response. Shoot dry weight (SDW, g;

normalized with respect to differences among replicates) reaction norms for 30 diverse maize

lines contrasting non-inoculated plants (NC; blue points) and plants inoculated with the

fungus *Funneliformis mosseae* (M; red points). Segments corresponding to the selected lines

Oh43 and Mo18W are highlighted in bold. Line names are shown adjacent to the

corresponding point unless a number of points are superimposed in which case line names are

off-set and listed in rank order. Data as Figure 1.

Figure 4. Inoculation with AMF is associated with changes in the ionome. A, Accumulation

of 20 ions in the roots and leaves of 8 week-old maize plants grown with (M) or without (NC)

inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Mean accumulation was calculated

across 30 diverse maize lines (NC root, n=117; M root, n=109; NC leaf, n=107; M leaf,

n=126), standardized (Z-score) per ion across treatments, and represented on a scale from

white (below average accumulation) to brown (above average accumulation). Ions which

accumulated differentially between NC and M (p<0.05, adjusted for multiple tests) in either

roots and/or leaves are indicated by an asterisk in the appropriate M column or columns.

Analysis performed on a subset of the samples shown in Figure 1. B, Principal component

(PC) loading (rotation) for ten AMF responsive ions (Na, Al, P, S, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Cd;

conventional colouring) in a PC analysis. Loading in the first two PCs is shown (arbitrary

scale), explaining 75% and 8% of the total variation, respectively. Dashed lines indicate zero

loading. C, Individual scores for the first two PCs (PC1; PC2) and corresponding

standardized accumulation of P (orange points), Mn (grey points) and S (yellow points). The

two clear groups defined by PC1 correspond to leaf and root samples (indicated). A number

of outlying individuals are omitted for clarity. Data as A.

Figure 5. Oh43 and Mo18W differ in elemental profile. Principal component (PC) scores for

the first three PCs (PC1; PC2; PC3; percentage values in parentheses indicate proportion of

variation explained) of a PC analysis of variation in the mean level of accumulation of 20

ions in the roots (squares) and leaves (circles) of 30 diverse maize lines grown with (red

points) or without (blue) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae* (subset of

samples from Figure 1; PC analysis as Figure 4). Dashed lines indicate zero loading. Scores

corresponding to the selected lines Oh43 and Mo18W are labelled and shown as larger, more

prominently coloured symbols. Colour bars indicate a linear fit of the relationship between P

accumulation and the PC shown on the adjacent axis: in both plots movement towards the

lower left quadrant is associated with increased P accumulation. The two clear groups defined

by PC1 correspond to leaf and root samples (indicated). A number of outlying individuals are

omitted for clarity.

Figure 6. Shoot growth is correlated with P uptake in six maize genotypes with contrasting

mycorrhizal response. A, B73 plants grown without (left) or with (right) inoculation with

Rhizophagus irregularis. B and C, main panels, shoot dry weight (SDW; g) and shoot P

content (Shoot P; mg) of selected maize lines grown with (M; red box) or without (NC; blue

box) inoculation. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd quartile. Whiskers extend to the

most extreme points within 1.5x box length; outlying values beyond this range are not shown.

B and C, upper panels, mycorrhizal response (MR; calculated as the difference of inoculated

(M) and non-inoculated (NC) plants. Green points indicate the difference μ_M-μ_{NC}; whiskers

extend to the limits of a 95% confidence interval; horizontal dashed line shows the mean MR

(μ_{MR}). D, scatter plot of mean shoot P (mg) against mean SDW (g) for selected maize lines,

with (red) or without (blue) inoculation.

Figure 7. P accumulation is correlated with the abundance of extra-radical hyphae. A,

Percentage of total root length containing mycorrhizal structures (dark-red) and arbuscules

(light-red). B, Relationship between shoot P and hyphal length in the hyphae compartment of

mycorrhizal plants. C, Shoot content of ^{33}P in relation to the arbusculated root length (ARL)

of mycorrhizal plants. Refer to Fig. 2 for a guide to the boxplots. Letters indicate significant

differences ($p<0.05$, Tukey HSD)

Figure 8. Mycorrhiza associated PHT1 proteins form distinct clades. Maximum likelihood

phylogeny generated from the complete set of maize (Zm) and rice (Os) PHT1 proteins and

selected mycorrhiza-associated PHT1 proteins from trefoil (Lj), medic (Mt), tomato (Le),

potato (St) and barley (Hv). Yeast PHO84 (Sc) used as outgroup. Bootstrap support values are

shown as percentage at the nodes.

Figure 9. *ZmPt* transcript accumulation responds to P availability and AM colonization.

Accumulation of *ZmPt* (*Pt*) transcripts quantified relative to *beta-actin* by real-time PCR and

represented as heatmaps. A) Accumulation of 10 *ZmPt* transcripts detected in B73 seedling

shoot or root tissue. Plants were grown across a range of increasing P availability at 10μM,

100μM, 1000μM P without inoculation with AMF (NC) and also at 100μM with inoculation

with *R. irregularis* at 100μM (M). Mean accumulation was determined from three biological

replicates, standardized (Z-score) within transcripts across experimental treatments and

represented on a scale from white (below average accumulation) to brown (above average

accumulation). Accumulation of the maize mycorrhizal marker transcript *Am3* and the *R.*

irregularis elongation factor *RiEF* is also shown. Transcripts that accumulated differentially

between M and NC in a given tissue (Tukey HSD, α=0.05) are marked with an asterisk in the

appropriate M column. B) Accumulation of six *ZmPt* (*Pt*) transcripts in root-samples of the

selected lines B73, Mo17, Hp301, Pa36, Mo18W and Oh43, grown under high P (P+; 53.2

mg kg^{-1}) or low P (P-; 7.9 mg kg^{-1}) with (M) or without (NC) inoculation with *Rhizophagus*

irregularis. Mean transcript accumulation was determined from three biological replicates,

scaled independently for each gene panel from white (minimum) to brown (maximum)

accumulation. Accumulation of *Am3* and *RiEF* is also shown.

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Figure 1. Association with mycorrhizal fungi promotes vegetative growth in diverse maize lines. Distribution of shoot dry weights (SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences among replicates) of 8 week-old maize plants grown with (red) or without (blue) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Data pooled across 30 diverse maize lines and normalized with respect to variation between plantings. The mean SDW of non-inoculated (2.16g, n = 552) and inoculated (1.05g, n = 540) groups is shown by dotted lines and the mycorrhizal response (MR) indicated as the difference in means (1.1g ± 0.08g; 95% interval for difference in means). Outlying samples > 4g SDW not shown; samples adjusted to < 0g SDW after normalization were set to 0g.

Figure 2. Diverse maize lines vary in mycorrhiza response. Main panel, shoot dry weight (SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences among replicates) of 30 diverse maize lines grown for 8 weeks, under greenhouse conditions, with (white boxes) or without (grey boxes) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd quartile. Whiskers extend to the most extreme points within 1.5x box length; outlying values beyond this range are not shown. The mean values of non-inoculated (1.05g, n=540) and inoculated (2.16g, n=552) groups are shown by horizontal blue and red lines, respectively. Upper panel, mycorrhizal response (MR, g) calculated as the difference in SDW of inoculated and non-inoculated plants. Green points indicate the difference M-NC; whiskers extend to the limits of a 95% confidence interval; horizontal dashed line shows the mean MR across all lines of 1.1g. Lines ordered by increasing MR from left to right. Data as Figure 1.

Figure 3. The line Oh43 shows the greatest mycorrhizal response. Shoot dry weight (SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences among replicates) reaction norms for 30 diverse maize lines contrasting non-inoculated plants (NC; blue points) and plants inoculated with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae* (M; red points). Segments corresponding to the selected lines Oh43 and Mo18W are highlighted in bold. Line names are shown adjacent to the corresponding point unless a number of points are superimposed in which case line names are off-set and listed in rank order. Data as Figure 1.

Figure 4. Inoculation with AMF is associated with changes in the ionome. A, Accumulation of 20 ions in the roots and leaves of 8 week-old maize plants grown with (M) or without (NC) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. Mean accumulation was calculated across 30 diverse maize lines (NC root, n=117; M root, n=109; NC leaf, n=107; M leaf, n=126), standardized (Z-score) per ion across treatments, and represented on a scale from white (below average accumulation) to brown (above average accumulation). Ions which accumulated differentially between NC and M (p<0.05, adjusted for multiple tests) in either roots and/or leaves are indicated by an asterisk in the appropriate M column or columns. Analysis performed on a subset of the samples shown in Figure 1. B, Principal component (PC) loading (rotation) for ten AMF responsive ions (Na, Al, P, S, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn, Cd; conventional colouring) in a PC analysis. Loading in the first two PCs is shown (arbitrary scale), explaining 75% and 8% of the total variation, respectively. Dashed lines indicate zero loading. C, Individual scores for the first two PCs (PC1; PC2) and corresponding standardized accumulation of P (orange points), Mn (grey points) and S (yellow points). The two clear groups defined by PC1 correspond to leaf and root samples (indicated). A number of outlying individuals are omitted for clarity. Data as A.

Figure 5. Oh43 and Mo18W differ in elemental profile. Principal component (PC) scores for the first three PCs (PC1; PC2; PC3; percentage values in parentheses indicate proportion of variation explained) of a PC analysis of variation in the mean level of accumulation of 20 ions in the roots (squares) and leaves (circles) of 30 diverse maize lines grown with (red points) or without (blue) inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae* (subset of samples from Figure 1; PC analysis as Figure 4). Dashed lines indicate zero loading. Scores corresponding to the selected lines Oh43 and Mo18W are labelled and shown as larger, more prominently coloured symbols. Colour bars indicate a linear fit of the relationship between P accumulation and the PC shown on the adjacent axis: in both plots movement towards the lower left quadrant is associated with increased P accumulation. The two clear groups defined by PC1 correspond to leaf and root samples (indicated). A number of outlying individuals are omitted for clarity.

Figure 6. Shoot growth is correlated with P uptake in six maize genotypes with contrasting mycorrhizal response. A, B73 plants grown without (left) or with (right) inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. B and C, main panels, shoot dry weight (SDW; g) and shoot P content (Shoot P; mg) of selected maize lines grown with (M; red box) or without (NC; blue box) inoculation. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd quartile. Whiskers extend to the most extreme points within 1.5x box length; outlying values beyond this range are not shown. B and C, upper panels, mycorrhizal response (MR; calculated as the difference of inoculated (M) and non-inoculated (NC) plants. Green points indicate the difference μ_M-μ_{NC}; whiskers extend to the limits of a 95% confidence interval; horizontal dashed line shows the mean MR (μ_{MR}). D, scatter plot of mean shoot P (mg) against mean SDW (g) for selected maize lines, with (red) or without (blue) inoculation.

Figure 7. P accumulation is correlated with the abundance of extra-radical hyphae. A, Percentage of total root length containing mycorrhizal structures (dark-red) and arbuscules (light-red). B, Relationship between shoot ^{33}P and hyphal length in the hyphae compartment of mycorrhizal plants. C, Shoot content of ^{33}P in relation to the arbusculated root length (ARL) of mycorrhizal plants. Refer to Fig. 2 for a guide to the boxplots. Letters indicate significant differences ($p<0.05$, Tukey HSD)

Figure 8. Mycorrhiza associated PHT1 proteins form distinct clades. Maximum likelihood phylogeny generated from the complete set of maize (Zm) and rice (Os) PHT1 proteins and selected mycorrhiza-associated PHT1 proteins from trefoil (Lj), medic (Mt), tomato (Le), potato (St) and barley (Hv). Yeast PHO84 (Sc) used as outgroup. Bootstrap support values are shown as percentage at the nodes.

Figure 9. *ZmPt* transcript accumulation responds to P availability and AM colonization. Accumulation of *ZmPt* (*Pt*) transcripts quantified relative to *beta-actin* by real-time PCR and represented as heatmaps. A) Accumulation of 10 *ZmPt* transcripts detected in B73 seedling shoot or root tissue. Plants were grown across a range of increasing P availability at 10μM, 100μM, 1000μM P without inoculation with AMF (NC) and also at 100μM with inoculation with *R. irregularis* at 100μM (M). Mean accumulation was determined from three biological replicates, standardized (Z-score) within transcripts across experimental treatments and represented on a scale from white (below average accumulation) to brown (above average accumulation). Accumulation of the maize mycorrhizal marker transcript *Am3* and the *R. irregularis* elongation factor *RiEF* is also shown. Transcripts that accumulated differentially between M and NC in a given tissue (Tukey HSD, α=0.05) are marked with an asterisk in the appropriate M column. B) Accumulation of six *ZmPt* (*Pt*) transcripts in root-samples of the selected lines B73, Mo17, Hp301, Pa36, Mo18W and Oh43, grown under high P (P+; 53.2 mg kg⁻¹) or low P (P-; 7.9 mg kg⁻¹) with (M) or without (NC) inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Mean transcript accumulation was determined from three biological replicates, scaled independently for each gene panel from white (minimum) to brown (maximum) accumulation. Accumulation of *Am3* and *RiEF* is also shown.

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