1 ***Full Title:*** Examining the molecular mechanisms contributing to the success of an invasive
2 species across different ecosystems
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11 ***Running Title***: Molecular processes aiding invasive species success
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16
17   ABSTRACT
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Invasive species provide an opportune system to investigate how populations respond to new

environments. Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) was introduced to North America in the

1800's and has since spread throughout the United States and western Canada. We used an

RNA-seq approach to explore how molecular processes contribute to the success of invasive

populations with similar genetic backgrounds across distinct habitats. Transcription profiles were

constructed from seedlings collected from a sand dune ecosystem in Petoskey, MI (PSMI) and a

sagebrush ecosystem in Chelan, WA (CHWA). We assessed differential gene expression and

identified SNPs within differentially expressed genes. We identified 1,146 differentially

expressed transcripts across all sampled tissues between the two populations. GO processes

enriched in PSMI were associated with nutrient starvation, while enriched processes in CHWA

were associated with abiotic stress. Only 7.4% of the differentially expressed transcripts

contained SNPs differing in allele frequencies of at least 0.5 between populations. Common

garden studies found the two populations differed in germination rate and seedling emergence

success. Our results suggest the success of *G. paniculata* in these two environments is likely due

to plasticity in specific molecular processes responding to different environmental conditions,

although some genetic divergence may be contributing to these differences.

35
36   INTRODUCTION

The ability of invasive species to invade, adapt, and thrive in novel ecosystems has long been a

focus of ecological research. Coined the "paradox of invasions", examining how invasive

populations respond to novel environmental stressors after an assumed reduction in population

size during introduction has become an entire field of scientific inquiry [1–3]. However, this

paradox has been called into question as research shows that while many invasive populations

may undergo a reduction in demographic and/or effective population size after an invasion event,

this is not always linked with a subsequent reduction in genetic diversity [1,4]. Additionally,

differences between the total genetic diversity of a population and the adaptive variation of a

population can be large [5,6]. For these reasons, using total genetic diversity as a measure of

invasive potential can be complex and potentially misleading. Instead, a better approach may be

to examine how invasive species functionally respond to novel environments and assess how

specific molecular processes may be contributing to invasive success [3,7,8].

Local adaptive evolution and phenotypic plasticity represent two strategies for coping

with novel environmental stressors, although they are not mutually exclusive [7,8]. Phenotypic

plasticity can be adaptive, maladaptive, or neutral, and can occur independently or in conjunction

with shifts in allele frequencies that also alter mean trait values [9,10]. When phenotypic

plasticity is adaptive, the population's trait value moves closer to the new environment's

optimum. This can allow populations to persist through the sudden application of strong

directional selection that often accompanies an introduction, particularly a founder event,

without the more time consuming process of having to wait for fortuitous mutations to arise

[9,11–13]. Over time, if there are population distributional changes in allele frequencies

associated with fitness, then the invasive population will have on average a phenotype that is

more fit in its current range than it would be in other environments, including the native range.

Regardless of the mechanism, these shifts in fitness-related traits are the difference between

persistence and perishing for an introduced population [7,14,15].

62   In the study of invasive species, the ability to examine molecular processes associated

with phenotypically plastic responses (e.g., through environmentally driven gene expression

differences) and those indicative of local adaptive evolution (e.g., through changes in allele

frequencies) is often limited by the relative lack of background genetic data available,

particularly for non-model species [16]. Examining these two processes can be further

complicated when traditional methods used to assess local adaptation, such as reciprocal

translocation experiments, bring up ethical concerns since moving invasive populations to new

locations may increase their potential spread [17]. This concern may be especially true for highly

prolific invasive species. However, with the development of technologies like RNA-seq, which

allows for the assembly of transcriptomes *de novo*, gene expression and sequence data have

become more widely available for non-model systems [3,16,18]. RNA-seq derived gene

expression data can be used to answer questions related to how different environments influence

changes in gene expression, which can help address how plastic these responses may be

[8,19,20]. In addition, because RNA-seq also produces sequence data, we can assess allele

frequency differences for genes that are differentially expressed, which can give initial insight

into population divergence and potential processes driving local adaptive evolution [21]. Thus,

the combination of expression and sequence data produced from RNA-seq methods can allow

researchers to estimate the prevalence of plasticity in response to novel environmental stressors

and begin to address questions about how invasive species adapt to their introduced

environments [3,8].

In this study we take advantage of RNA-seq technology to examine changes in different

molecular processes that may allow invasive populations with similar genetic backgrounds to

establish across different ecosystems. The system we are using to explore this question is

invasive populations of baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata* L.; Caryophyllaceae), which

inhabits different regions of the continental U.S. and Canada. *Gypsophila paniculata* is a

perennial forb native to Eurasia. It is a thought to be a long-lived herbaceous perennial (at least 7

years, CGP pers. obs.), although the full life span has not been assessed, and flowers are not

produced until the second or third year of growing [22]. As is characteristic of most members of

the genus *Gypsophila*, it thrives in environments with dry, well-draining, calcareous soils with

warm summers and cool winters [23]. However, it has one of the largest geographic distributions

of the genus, stretching from eastern Europe to North China [23,24]. Originally introduced into

North America in the late 1800's for use in the floral industry [22,25]*, G. paniculata* quickly

spread and can now be found growing in diverse ecosystems across North America, often

outcompeting and crowding out the native species [26,27]. While relatively little is known about

the history of invasive baby's breath populations in the United States, a recent population genetic

analysis using 14 microsatellite markers identified at least two distinct population clusters, with

one of these clusters including populations that span from the upper portion of Michigan's lower

peninsula to the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains [28]. The environments that these

populations occur in range from quartz sand dunes in Michigan, disturbed roadsides in

Minnesota, prairies in North Dakota, and sagebrush steppes in eastern Washington. While these

populations may share a similar genetic background, understanding how they are responding to

different environments will help shed light on how this invasive is able to thrive across distinct

habitats.

For this study, we examined differential gene expression and identified single nucleotide

polymorphisms (SNPs) within differentially expressed genes from two *G. paniculata* populations

within the same genetic cluster that inhabit divergent ecosystems: (1) the coastal sand dunes in

Petoskey, Michigan and (2) sagebrush steppe regions around Chelan, WA. These two habitats

were chosen because they represent ecologically distinct ecosystems, with divergent

environmental characteristics (see results). In addition, we conducted a common garden growth

trial to examine differences in germination rates, seedling emergence success, and above- and

below-ground tissue allocation between these two populations. We predict that the populations

will differ in gene expression patterns and that those differences will be reflective of the

environment in which they inhabit. Given that baby's breath established in these environments

approximately 100 years ago [28], we also predict that this should be enough time to see

divergence in allele frequencies for genes that are important to these distinct habitats. This will

allow us to identify potential targets of local adaptive evolution for future testing. Finally, we

hypothesize that different environmental conditions (i.e., growing degree day, precipitation, and

nutrient availability (see results)) between these two habitats has likely led to differences in

growth responses. Therefore, we predict that these populations will differ in certain phenotypic

traits, such as germination rate, seedling emergence success, and above- and below-ground tissue

allocation, when grown in a common garden environment. Thus, the overall goal of this work

was to examine how *G. paniculata* populations that have shared genetic backgrounds but differ

in their invaded habitats (i.e., sand dunes in Petoskey, Michigan, and sagebrush steppe in Chelan,

Washington) are responding to these different environments and to explore how different

molecular processes are contributing to their success as an invasive species.

127   MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Site Characterization

Petoskey, Michigan (PSMI) is a state park located along Lake Michigan's primary successional

quartz-sand dune system. Vegetation is sparse and is chiefly comprised of *Ammophila*

breviligulata (dune grass), *Silene vulgaris* (bladder campion), *Juniperus horizontalis* (creeping

juniper), *J. communis* (common juniper), and *Cirsium pitcheri* (Pitcher's thistle) (Figure 1a-b).

Chelan, Washington (CHWA) is a disturbed habitat situated on slopes surrounding Lake Chelan

and dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) (Figure 1a & c). Average climate data for these

two locations were collected from stations operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Organization (NOAA) in Petoskey, MI and Entiat, WA (near Chelan, WA) and is summarized in

Table 1.

Soil Analysis

In June of 2018, we collected soil samples from PSMI (47.7421˚N 120.2177˚W) and CHWA

(45.4037˚N 84.9121˚W) (Figure 1a-c). In PSMI, we collected soil from 10 cm, 50 cm, and 1 m,

while in CHWA, we collected soil from 10 cm, 25 cm, and 50 cm depths. Sampling locations

differed in collection depths due to soil characteristics in CHWA that made deeper collection

impossible (large boulders, hard soil). At both locations, we collected two sets of soil samples

from all depths. We stored samples in airtight plastic bags and maintained them at 4˚C until

analysis.

We sent soil samples collected from all depths at PSMI and CHWA to A&L Great Lakes

Laboratories (Fort Wayne, IN) for nutrient analysis. Samples were tested for: organic matter (%),

phosphorus (P), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg), calcium (Ca), soil pH, total nitrogen (N),

cation exchange capacity (CEC), and percent cation saturation of K, Mg, and Ca. At the

laboratories, samples were dried overnight at 40°C before being crushed and filtered through a 2

mm sieve. The following methods were then used for each analysis: organic matter content (loss

on ignition at 360°C), pH (pH meter), phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, and calcium content

(Mehlich III Extraction and inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry). Total nitrogen was

determined using the Dumas method (thermal conductance). Results of nutrient testing were

analyzed using a principal component analysis (PCA) in the statistical program R v3.6.0 [29].

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RNA Extraction

Along with soil samples, we collected 16 *G. paniculata* seedlings from CHWA (June 8, 2018)

and 15 seedlings from PSMI (June 1, 2018). We then dissected seedlings into three tissue types

(root, stem, and leaf), placed tissue in RNAlater™ (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA),

and flash-froze them in an ethanol and dry ice bath. Samples were kept on dry ice for transport

and maintained at -80°C until RNA extractions were performed.

We extracted total RNA from frozen tissue using a standard TRIzol® (Thermo Fisher

Scientific) extraction protocol (https://assets.thermofisher.com/TFS-

Assets/LSG/manuals/trizol_reagent.pdf). We resuspended the extracted RNA pellet in

DNase/RNase free water. The samples were then treated with DNase to remove any residual

DNA using a DNA-Free Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA). We assessed RNA quality with a

Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) and NanoDrop™ 2000 (Thermo

Fisher Scientific). RNA Integrity Number (RIN) values for individuals used in this study ranged

from 6.1-8.3. However, because both chloroplast and mitochondrial rRNA can artificially deflate

RIN values in plant leaf tissue, we deemed these values to be sufficient for further analysis based

upon visualization of the 18S and 28S fragment peaks [30]. This resulted in high quality total

RNA from 10 PSMI leaf, 10 PSMI stem, 10 PSMI root, 10 CHWA leaf, 9 CHWA stem, and 10

CHWA root samples. Finally, we submitted the total RNA samples to the Van Andel Research

Institute for cDNA library construction and sequencing.

cDNA Library Construction and Sequencing

Prior to sequencing, all samples were treated with a Ribo-Zero rRNA Removal Kit (Illumina,

San Diego, CA). cDNA libraries were constructed using the Collibri Stranded Library Prep Kit

(Thermo Fisher Scientific) before being sequenced on a NovaSeq 6000 (Illumina) using S1 and

S2 flow cells. Sequencing was performed using a 2 x 100 bp paired-end read format and

produced approximately 60 million reads per sample, with 94% of reads having a Q-score >30

(Table S2).

Transcriptome Assembly

Prior to transcriptome assembly, read quality was assessed using FastQC

(https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). Adapters and bases with a quality

score less than 20 were first trimmed from the raw reads using Trim Galore

(https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/). Next, rRNAs were identified

using SortMeRNA (mean rRNA percent content of 5.31%) [31]. A reference transcriptome was

then assembled *de novo* using non-rRNA reads from all samples and Trinity v2.8.2 [32,33] with

a normalized max read coverage of 100, a minimum k-mer coverage of 10, and k-mer size set to

32. The assembled transcriptome was annotated using Trinotate v3.1.1. Trinotate was given open

reading frames (ORFs) predicted from TransDecoder and transcript homology (blastx and blastp)

to the manually curated UniProt database [34]. The final assembly consisted of 223,810 putative

genes and 474,313 putative transcripts (N50 = 3,121) from the 59 samples.

Differential Expression

To quantify transcript expression, reads were mapped back to the assembly using bowtie and

quantified using the RSEM method as implemented in Trinity. Counts were generated for genes

and transcripts. We then tested for differential gene expression using edgeR v3.22.5 in R v3.5.2

[29,35]. First, however, the count data was filtered and only transcripts with greater than 10

counts in at least 10 samples were included. Following filtering, 111,042 genes (49.61%) and

188,108 transcripts (39.66%) remained. Considering tissue type, 127,591 transcripts remained in

the data from 20 root samples (26.90%), 125,261 transcripts remained in the 19 stem tissue

samples (26.41%), and 112,499 transcripts remained in the 20 leaf tissue samples (23.72%). For

differential expression testing, the data were stratified by tissue and filtered transcripts were then

fit to the negative binomial (NB) model and tested using the quasi-likelihood F test with TMM

(trimmed mean of M values) normalization. To be considered significantly differentially

expressed, transcripts needed to have an adjusted p-value (BH method [36]) below 0.05 and a

log2 fold change greater than 2.

For transcripts that were differentially expressed, we identified Gene Ontology (GO)

biological processes that were either over- or under-represented using the PANTHER

classification system v14.1, where transcripts were assessed against the *Arabidopsis thaliana*

database (http://pantherdb.org/webservices/go/overrep.jsp). In addition, for those transcripts that

were differentially expressed across all three tissues, we converted the UniProt IDs of the

transcripts to GO biological process IDs using the online database bioDBnet (https://biodbnet-

abcc.ncifcrf.gov/db/db2db.php), and used the metacoder package v0.3.3 [37] in R v3.6.0 to

construct heat trees to visualize the relationship of our differentially expressed transcripts across

GO biological process hierarchies.

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Variant Calling

We used the HaplotypeCaller tool from GATK4 to identify potential SNPs that were present in

transcripts that were differentially expressed between populations [38,39]. The bowtie mapped

files were used to jointly genotype all 59 samples simultaneously with a minimum base quality

and mapping quality of 30. Variant data was visualized using the vcfR package v1.8.0 [40].

We identified variants associated with non-synonymous SNPs, synonymous SNPs, 5' and

3' UTR SNPs, 5' and 3' UTR indels, frame-shift and in-frame indels, premature or changes in

stop codons and changes in start codons, and calculated population diversity estimates for all

SNP types. The effect prediction was done using custom scripts (which can be found in the

Dryad repository) and the Transdecoder predicted annotation in conjunction with the base

change. We set a hard filter for the SNPs so that only those with QD scores > 2, MQ scores > 50,

SOR scores < 3, and Read Post Rank Sums between -5 and 3 passed. We then calculated the

allele frequencies for each SNP within PSMI and CHWA. For the subsequent evaluation, we

focused on SNPs that had potential functional effects (i.e., they were not listed as 'synonymous'

or 'unclassified'), were in transcripts differentially expressed between PSMI and CHWA across

all three tissues, and that exhibited differences in SNP allele frequencies between the populations

by at least 0.5. We used the R package metacoder v0.3.3 [37] to visualize the GO biological

process hierarchies associated with transcripts containing these SNPs.

Common Garden Trials

Finally, to examine whether environmental differences between these two locations has led to

different growth responses, we conducted common garden trials to examine differences in

germination rate (functionally defined as radicle emergence [41]), seedling emergence success

(defined as successful cotyledon emergence from the soil), and the ratio of above- and below-

ground tissue allocation between the populations.

Germination Trial. On August 11, 2018 we returned to our sample sites in CHWA and PSMI and

collected seeds from 20 plants per location. This date was chosen because it was previously

determined that this collection time can yield over 90% seed germination for *G. paniculata*

collected from Empire, MI [42]. To collect seeds, we manually broke seed pods off and placed

them inside paper envelopes in bags half-filled with silica beads. We stored bags in the dark at

20 to 23°C until the germination trial began one month later.

We counted one hundred seeds from twenty plants per population and placed them in a

petri dish lined with wet filter paper (n = 2,000 seeds per population). We established a control

dish using 100 seeds from the 'Early Snowball' commercial cultivar *(G. paniculata)* sold by W.

Atlee Burpee & Co in 2018, known to have germination percentages in excess of 90%.

Incubators had a 12:12h dark:light photoperiod and growth chamber conditions were set at 20°C

with 114 µmol m^{-2} s^{-1} photosynthetically active radiation from fluorescent light bulbs. Each day

we randomized petri dish locations within the incubator to avoid bias in temperature or light

regimes. We conducted this study for fourteen days, at which point there had been no

germination in any dish for two days. The same individual checked all seeds (n=4,100) daily

within the same three-hour time window to minimize bias for germination. Once a seed had

germinated, we removed it from the dish (method adapted from [42]).

Using the statistical program R v3.6.0, we fit the data to a nonparametric Kaplan-Meier

time-to-event curve [29,43]. We then compared germination patterns between CHWA and PSMI

using a pairwise log-rank test [43]. To test for homogeneity within localities, we again conducted

a log-rank test. Finally, to investigate the presence of family effects (i.e., differences among

seeds from different parental plants), we ran a series of pairwise log-rank tests with a Holm

correction for multiple comparisons [43]. For all analyses in this study, we set the alpha level to

0.05.

Growth Trials. To examine population differences on seedling emergence success and above-

and below-ground tissue allocation, we planted 6 seeds collected from 20 individual plants per

population (n = 120 per population, n = 240 total). All seeds were planted on the same day to a

standardized depth of 5 mm in a sand/potting soil mixture. Greenhouse conditions were set at

7:17 h dark:light photoperiod. Relative humidity and temperature settings during the day were

55% and 21°C while nighttime conditions were 60% and 15.5°C. Each day we watered plants

until the soil appeared fully wet and we randomized plant position to prevent bias in temperature,

light, or water regime. At the end of the seven-week trial period, we carefully removed plants

from the soil and measured the length of tissue above and below the caudex using a caliper.

To compare the proportion of seedlings that successfully emerged between the

populations, we ran a two-sided proportion test in the R statistical program v3.6.0 [29]. We

analyzed differences in the ratio of above- and below-ground tissue between populations for

seedlings that successfully emerged and examined the presence or absence of family effects

using a completely randomized design with subsampling ANOVA in SAS v9.4 [44].

289   RESULTS

Habitat Characterization

Climate data collected from NOAA monitoring stations revealed differences in mean

temperature, precipitation, and growing degree day (GDD) between our two sampling locations.

CHWA had a 3°C and 5°C higher mean temperature in 2017 and 2018 than PSMI, while PSMI

had greater rainfall in both 2017 (109.8 cm vs 38 cm) and 2018 (88.6 cm vs 27.8 cm) (Table 1).

CHWA had a greater number of GDD in both 2017 (3,013 vs. 2,130) and 2018 (3,050 vs. 2,178)

(Table 1). Soils collected from CHWA were characterized by higher levels of total nitrogen,

phosphorus, magnesium, and potassium. In contrast, soils from PSMI had a higher pH and more

available calcium (Figure 2, Table S1).

Differential Gene Expression

Across all three tissue types, there were 1,146 transcripts that were differentially expressed

between the PSMI and CHWA populations (Figure 3a, Table S3), with the majority of the

differences in expression being driven by sampling location and tissue type (Figure 3b). Root

tissue contained the highest number of differentially expressed transcripts between the two

populations (8,135 transcripts, Table S4), followed by leaf tissue (5,666 transcripts, Table S5)

and stem tissue (5,376 transcripts) (Figure 3a, Table S6).

Enriched GO Processes Between Populations

Enriched GO Processes in CHWA. GO biological processes that were enriched with transcripts

displaying higher expression in CHWA relative to PSMI across all three tissue types were

primarily associated with different stress responses (Table 2). These included response to

reactive hydrogen species (GO:0000302), cellular response to unfolded proteins (GO:0034620),

protein import into the peroxisome matrix (GO:0016560), response to heat (GO:0034605),

response to water deprivation (GO:0009414), and response to abscisic acid (GO:0009737). Many

of the stress response related GO processes included a number of heat shock protein genes that

displayed higher expression in CHWA across the three tissues (Table S3).

Enriched GO Processes in PSMI. For the PSMI population, GO terms that were enriched with

transcripts that showed significantly higher expression across all three tissues were associated

with nutrient response, development, and transcriptome processes (Table 2). These included

regulation of response to nutrient levels (GO:0032107), cellular response to phosphate starvation

(GO:0016036), phosphatidic acid biosynthesis process (GO:0006654), response to metal ion

(GO0010038): circadian rhythm (GO:0007623), flower development (GO:0009908), regulation

of alternative mRNA splicing via spliceosome (GO:0000381), and regulation of DNA-templated

transcription (GO:0006355). Transcripts associated with multiple GO terms related to nutrient

processes included phospholipase D zeta 2 (*PLPZ2*), transcription factor HRS1 (*HRS1*), and SPX

domain containing protein 3 (*SPX3*). Some of the circadian rhythm and flower development

associated transcripts included Adagio protein 3 (*ADO3*), protein GIGANTEA (*GIGAN*), and

lysine-specific demethylase JMJ30 (*JMJ30*). A comparison of GO biological processes

hierarchies associated with transcripts differentially expressed between the two populations can

be visualized in Figure 4.

Tissue Specific Gene Expression Patterns

<u>Root Tissue</u>. When directly comparing transcript expression between root tissue from CHWA

and PSMI, 63% (5,131 transcripts) were more highly expressed in CHWA, while 37% (3,004

transcripts) displayed higher expression in PSMI. Enriched GO terms from the CHWA

population specifically associated with root tissue may be involved in defense and/or stress

responses and included cellular response to salicylic acid stimulus (GO:0071446) and regulation

of plant-type hypersensitive response (GO:0010363). In addition, processes associated with

COPI coating of golgi vesicles (GO:0048205) and xyloglucan metabolic processes

(GO:0010411) were specifically enriched in CHWA root tissue (Table S7). For the PSMI

population, GO terms specifically associated with root tissue included cellular response to

nitrogen starvation (GO:0006995), nitrate assimilation (GO:0042128), and organophosphate

metabolic processes (GO:0019637) (Table S8).

<u>Stem Tissue</u>. There were 5,374 differentially expressed transcripts in stem tissue collected from

CHWA and PSMI (Figure 3a). Of those, 2,421 transcripts (45%) displayed higher expression in

CHWA while 2,953 transcripts (55%) were more highly expressed in PSMI. For the CHWA

stem tissue, specific GO processes included response to sucrose (GO:0009744), regulation of

response to DNA damage stimulus (GO:2001020), and telomere maintenance in response to

DNA damage (GO:0043247) (Table S9). Processes that were specific to the PSMI stem tissue

included phosphoenolpyruvate transport (GO:0015714) and systemic acquired resistance

(GO:0009627) (Table S10).

Leaf Tissue. Of the 5,666 transcripts that were differentially expressed between leaf tissue from

CHWA and PSMI (Figure 3a), 58% (3,286 transcripts) displayed higher expression in CHWA

compared to the 42% (2,380 transcripts) that showed relatively higher expression in PSMI. Some

of the enriched GO terms that were specific to leaf tissue from the CHWA population included

fatty acid beta-oxidation (GO:0006635), and positive regulation of salicylic acid mediated

signaling pathway (GO:0080151) (Table S11). The enriched GO terms that were specific to

PSMI leaf tissue included, vitamin biosynthesis process (GO:0009110), long-day

photoperiodism and flowering (GO:0048574), and response to UV-A (GO:0070141) (Table

S12).

Comparison of Gene Expression and SNP GO Biological Processes

Of the transcripts that were differentially expressed between CHWA and PSMI across all three

tissues, 85 (7.4%) of those transcripts contained potentially functional SNPs, which displayed

allele frequencies that differed between the two populations by at least 0.5 (Table S13).

Enrichment analysis did not identify any GO processes that were statistically enriched for these

85 transcripts; although, GO biological terms associated with these transcripts can be viewed in

Figure 4b.

Germination Trial

Results of a log-rank test comparing time-to-germination curves for each locality indicated

strong statistical differences between seeds collected from PSMI and CHWA, with seeds from

CHWA germinating more quickly ($p < 2.0 \times 10^{-16}$) (Figure 5). While there was a difference in

germination curves, both localities reached 90% germination by the end of the germination trial.

Log-rank tests looking at homogeneity within groups found strong statistical support for

variation among time-to-germination curves for seeds from different parent plants for both

populations (both $p < 2.0 \times 10^{-16}$), suggesting potential family effects.

Growth Trial

A two-sided proportion test indicated a significant difference in the total number of seedlings

that emerged between seeds collected from CHWA and PSMI, with CHWA seedlings emerging

more often than PSMI ($p<0.0002$) (Figure 6a). When excluding plants that did not emerge,

ANOVA results indicated no significant difference in the ratio of above- and below-ground

tissue allocation between populations ($p=0.605$) (Figure 6b). However, there were significant

family effects in above- and below ground tissue allocation ($p=0.0301$) (Figure S1).

390   DISCUSSION

The primary drivers that allow invasive species to adapt to novel environments over relatively

short periods of evolutionary time is a process not yet fully understood. To better understand

these mechanisms, we investigated two populations of *G. paniculata* growing at opposite ends of

the species' introduced range in the United States. Based on herbarium records, *G. paniculata*

populations have been established in the sand dunes of Petoskey, MI since the early 1910's and

in the sagebrush steppes of Washington since the 1930's [28]. This has likely provided sufficient

time for these populations to begin adapting to these divergent ecosystems. However, genetic

analysis of North American *G. paniculata* at neutral microsatellite loci show that these two

populations belong to the same genetic cluster, suggesting a shared history [28]. Using RNA-seq

data (which gives orders of magnitude more informative data than microsatellites), we found that

there were a number of transcripts differentially expressed between these populations and that

many of these genes were involved in processes directly related to their different environments,

particularly those associated with abiotic stress response in CHWA and nutrient starvation in

PSMI. Of the genes that were differentially expressed across all three tissues, only 7.4%

contained potential SNPs that differed in frequency by at least 0.5 between the populations. In

addition, while we identified differences in germination rates and seedling emergence success

between the two populations in a common garden experiment, we did not observe differences in

above- and below-ground tissue allocation as we initially predicted. From these data, we suggest

that the success of invasive *G. paniculata* across these distinct ecosystems is likely the result of

plasticity in molecular processes responding to these different environmental conditions,

although some genetic divergence over the past 100 years may also be contributing to these

differences.

Stress Response in CHWA

The sagebrush ecosystem of the eastern Cascade Mountains is characterized by a semi-arid,

temperate environment with a drought-resistant plant community [45]. The environmental data

obtained from our sampling regions suggests that the CHWA population experiences less

precipitation and higher temperatures than *G. paniculata* growing in PSMI. As such, many of the

enriched GO processes with higher expression in the CHWA population were related to a suite

of stress responses indicative of abiotic stress. Some of these included response to abscisic acid

(ABA), response to reactive oxygen species, response to heat, response to salt stress, response to

water deprivation, and response to topologically incorrect folded proteins (Table 2, Figure 4a).

During abiotic stress, many of these processes interact with one another to help maintain cellular

homeostasis [46,47]. In our data, transcripts that were associated with protein folding GO

processes mainly corresponded to heat-shock proteins (Hsps). While Hsps are most notably

involved in protein stability during heat stress, they can also respond when plants experience

osmotic, cold, or oxidative stress [48–51]. Hsps can also interact with ABA, often considered a

'plant stress hormone' because it can be induced by multiple abiotic stressors [52,53].

Arabidopsis mutants that are deficient in ABA do less well under drought or osmotic stress

conditions than those with sufficient ABA [47]. Under heat and drought stress, increased

production of ABA can lead to higher levels of hydrogen peroxide and result in oxidative stress.

But, this effect can be mediated as increased oxidative stress triggers synthesis of *Hsp70*, which

up-regulates antioxidant enzymes that control reactive oxygen species and protects against

oxidative injury [54,55]. Thus, enrichment of genes involved in these interacting processes

suggests CHWA populations are under higher levels of abiotic stress, particularly heat and

drought stress, compared to PSMI populations and these data provide insight into the molecular

response to these stressors.

When examining leaf, root, stem tissue from CHWA seedlings separately, additional GO

processes related to stress responses were observed. 'Response to salicylic acid' was enriched in

both the leaf and root tissue. Salicylic acid (SA) is a phytohormone that is involved in immunity

and defense response to pathogens [56,57]. It also plays an important role in plant's response to

abiotic stress, including metal, salinity, ozone, UV-B radiation, temperature, and drought stress

[58]. For example, in *Mitragyna speciose*, application of SA led to increased expression of

chaperone proteins and heat shock proteins when plants were in drought conditions [58,59]. As

previously stated, the arid environment of the sagebrush ecosystem is likely to result in higher

drought stress, and increased expression of genes associated with SA pathways may be an

additional mediating factor allowing invasive *G. paniculata* to thrive in this system.

While a number of genes involved in abiotic stress response showed higher expression in

CHWA, the majority of these genes did not have SNPs with divergent allele frequencies between

the two populations, suggesting that some of this response is likely due to plasticity. However, a

few genes involved in different stress responses and chaperon-mediated protein folding

processes did have SNPs that differed in allele frequency by at least 0.5 or greater. One of the

genes involved in oxidative stress was caffeoylshikimate esterase (*CSE*). CSE is an important

enzyme in the synthesis of lignin, a major component of the cell wall [60]. Plants with mutations

in the *CSE* gene display increased sensitivity to hydrogen peroxide and oxidative stress, which

were enriched in our GO analysis [61]. In addition, another transcript that displayed divergent

allele frequencies was peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase (*FKBP62*), which is involved in

chaperone-mediate protein folding. *FKBP62* interacts with the heat shock protein 90 (*HSP90.1*)

complex to positively regulate thermotolerance in *Arabidopsis* [62]. Expression of this gene is

induced in *Arabidopsis* during heat stress, and those that over-express this gene show higher

survival at temperatures above 45º C after a 37 ºC acclimation period [62]. This increased heat

tolerance could be helpful in the warmer, arid climate of CHWA. Differences in allele

frequencies between PSMI and CHWA associated with these genes suggest that there could be

local adaptive evolution occurring due to different selection pressures associated with abiotic

stress. However, additional work needs to be conducted to more thoroughly examine these

distinct SNPs and fully assess their relationship to population divergence and local adaptive

evolution.

Nutrient Starvation in PSMI

The *G. paniculata* population in PSMI is located in the coastal sand dunes of northwest

Michigan. This area is a primary-successional dune habitat where *G. paniculata* grows in the

foredune region. The sand dune environment can present strong selection pressure on plants in

the form of sand burial, limited soil moisture, and lack of nutrients [63]. One of the main limiting

factors for seedling success in dune systems is nutrient deficiency, especially nitrogen,

phosphorus, and potassium [64,65]. Our soil analysis show that PSMI soil contained low

concentrations of organic matter, total nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, suggesting this is a

very nutrient limited environment. In conjunction with these environmental differences, the GO

enrichment analysis showed that 'regulation of response to nutrient levels' and 'cellular response

to phosphate starvation' were both significantly enriched in PSMI in all three tissues compared

to CHWA. In addition, there were a number of processes associated with nitrate regulation

(nitrate assimilation and nitrogen cycle metabolic process) specifically enriched in the root tissue

from PSMI. Some of the differentially expressed genes associated with these processes included

phospholipase D zeta 2 (*PLPZ2*), transcription factor HRS1 (*HRS1*), and SPX domain containing

protein 3 (*SPX3*). In *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *PLPZ2* can aid in phosphate recycling, and has been

shown to be upregulated during phosphate starvation [66]. Additionally, *SPX3* helps regulate

phosphate homeostasis [67,68], while *HRS1* is a major regulator of both nitrogen and phosphate

starvation [69]. The increased expression of these genes may help *G. paniculata* survive in

PSMI, where the limited levels of nitrate and phosphorus in the soil make this ecosystem a

challenge for many plant species. However, these specific genes did not display SNPs that

differed in frequency between our populations, suggesting that expression differences related to

nutrient deprivation are environmentally driven, potentially epigenetically maintained, and/or are

regulated by non-transcribed regions, and these differences exist in response to the low nitrogen

and phosphorus environment experienced in the dune system.

494   When examining PSMI GO processes enriched with differentially expressed genes that

contain SNPs differing in frequency between the two populations, the only nutrient-associated

process was 'phosphorus metabolic processes'. The gene involved in this process was CDP-

diacylglycerol-glycerol-3-phosphate 3-phosphatidyltransferase 1 (*PGPS1*), which is involved in

phosphatidylglycerol (PG) biosynthesis [70]. While this gene itself has not directly been

associated with nutrient homeostasis, PG can be used as a phosphate reserve during phosphate

starvation, and rapidly decreases in cells when phosphate is limited [71,72]. Thus, it is possible

that the increase in *PGPS1* may be needed to maintain PG levels under these nutrient limited

environments. However, further analysis needs to be performed to determine if the SNPs

identified alter the function of this gene.

Circadian Rhythm Expression in PSMI

There were also a number of enriched GO processes in PSMI related to different timing

processes, including circadian rhythm and flowering-associated photoperiod. These two

processes can be linked, with the circadian clock mechanisms that drive 24-hour cycles also

significantly influencing plant phenology [73]. Ideally, circadian cycles should be optimized to

match environmental parameters [74,75], and a disruption in circadian rhythm cycles can result

in decreased fitness [76,77]. Given differences in both latitude and growing degree days between

PSMI and CHWA, we would expect there to be differences in phenology between the

populations, and this was evident during our collecting period. Even though we collected from

both populations within one week of each other, and we tried to sample from both locations at

the same time of day, some mature plants in CHWA were already budding, while mature plants

in PSMI were still in the growth stage of their yearly life cycle. For most of the transcripts

involved in these processes, there was not a corresponding SNP between the populations,

suggesting these differences may be environmentally driven. However, a transcript associated

with early flowering 3 protein (*ELF3*) displayed increased expression in the CHWA population

and contained a SNP that differed in frequency between these populations. *ELF3* has been shown

to modulate both flowering time and circadian rhythm [78], and interestingly, can also lead to

increased salt tolerance (osmotic stress) in *Arabidopsis* [79]. These results suggest that

environmental factors eliciting changes in timing and phenology may be helping to maintain

these invasive populations.

Phenotypic Comparisons: Germination and Growth Trials

To see what effects environmental factors might be having on different life history traits of our

populations, we set up common garden growth trials. Different environmental factors can have

varying selective pressures on germination rates, seedling emergence success, and above- and

below-ground tissue allocation [80,81]. In our common garden experiments, we initially

observed that seeds collected from CHWA germinated quicker and had higher seedling

emergence success than those collected from PSMI. The better performance of the CHWA

population could be due to release from the abiotic stress factors that were indicated by our gene

expression data. Improved performance when a species is removed from an environment

imposing abiotic stressors is a common hypothesis and is used as one explanation for the success

of invasive species [82]. In this case, the high levels of drought and heat stress experienced in the

sagebrush environment may enable the CHWA plants to have increased performance once these

stressors have been removed. It is also possible that different selection pressures between the two

environments could be leading to higher germination rates and seedling emergence success in

CHWA. Lower precipitation in CHWA relative to PSMI could lead to seeds to be predisposed to

germinate at the first instance of heavy watering. However, these differences could also be due to

vegetative characteristics in the region. Specifically, *G. paniculata* growing in CHWA must

compete against woody perennials (mainly *Artemisia sp.*) that are already established

aboveground at the start of every growing season, while *G. paniculata* growing along the dune

shore competes with grass species that sprout new leaves every year. Because survival is not

dependent on merely whether the plants in CHWA can grow, but whether or not they can

compete effectively, early germination could confer advantages in water limited environments,

like a sagebrush steppe.

We saw no differences in above- and below-ground tissue allocation after seedling

emergence between populations, suggesting there are no genetic differences between these

populations in relation to these growth measures. We expected the nutrient limitation in PSMI to

have an influence on the above- and below-ground tissue allocation of seedlings. In

environments where nitrogen and phosphorus are the main limiting nutrients, root growth can be

favored in seedlings relative to above-ground growth [83]. Additionally, nitrogen has been found

to limit above-ground biomass in nutrient poor environments [84]. In contrast, shortage of Ca,

which was present in higher quantities in PSMI than in CHWA, has been found to have little or

no influence on above- and below-ground tissue allocation in lab experiments [83]. The lack of

difference observed in root:shoot ratios in our plants could indicate that these factors do not

influence tissue allocation resources in *G. paniculata* seedlings, or that these differences are not

seen when *G. paniculata* is grown in a nutrient sufficient environment.

For our common garden trials, in addition to some of the population differences

identified, we also observed significant family effects in germination rate, seedling emergence

success, and above- and below-ground tissue allocation ratios, suggesting the potential for

genetic effects. Variation in these traits are known to be driven, in part, by genetic factors in

other plants. For example, for *Brassica oleracea*, heritability estimates of mean seed germination

time and root:shoot length is approximately 14% and 12%, respectively. Looking to our gene

expression data from our field collected seedlings, we did not observe differential expression of

candidate genes proposed to be involved in germination timing (i.e. *AHG1*, *ANAC060*, *PDF1*

[85]); however this could be due to the age of the seedlings upon collection. While the family

effects we observed could be a function of genetic differences between seeds from different

parental plants, these results can be significantly confounded by maternal effects. Seeds were

collected from individual plants in their distinct environments, and different plants within these

environments are likely allocating seed resources differently. In order to parse out genetic factors

versus maternal effects associated with the environment, we would need to generate multiple

generations within a common garden setting and examine gene expression differences once the

maternal environment has been controlled. While this is something we hope to do in the future, it

is beyond the scope of this current work. Regardless of the underlying cause, the data indicate

that PSMI and CHWA populations display differences in life history traits that may be specific

to the divergent environmental pressures present in these environments.

While this study is meant to serve as a first step in teasing apart how invasive *G.*

paniculata populations are responding to different ecosystems, we acknowledge that there are

additional variables that can alter the interpretation of these results. First, while we have data

suggesting that PSMI and CHWA share similar genetic backgrounds [28], we do not know for

certain the demographic history of these populations. Thus, the genetic differences that we are

observing may be confounded by the past history of these populations prior to initial introduction

to these areas. Secondly, in this study we only examined one population within a sand dune

habitat and one population from a sagebrush habitat. Again, because demographic history can be

a confounding factor, we cannot explicitly state that differences between these environments are

solely driving the differences in gene expression patterns we observed or that SNP differences

between these populations are not simply due to genetic drift. In the future, we plan to include

more populations from each habitat, as well as additional prairie habitats, to explore this further.

However, given the close relationship between the environmental characteristics of these habitats

and the GO processes that were enriched within each population, we think that these processes

are worthy of further evaluation of how molecular mechanisms may be driving the success of *G.*

paniculata in these distinct ecosystems. Third, while RNA-seq analysis allowed us to examine

SNPs in differentially expressed genes, there could also be genetic differences in non-transcribed

regions that regulate gene expression between these populations. In these cases, some of the

differential gene expression that we are observing could still be due to genetic differences

between these populations, even though no SNPs were observed between the transcripts. To

capture this information, further genetic analysis comparing these two populations would need to

be conducted. Fourth, while we only identified a small number of differentially expressed genes

with potentially functional SNPs that differed in allele frequency by 0.5 between the two

populations, we acknowledge that this is a conservative cutoff and we have not considered the

potential pleiotropic effects these genes may have on the different enriched processes.

Additionally, further work needs to be conducted to identify any functional effects of these

identified SNP differences and assess if they drive differences between populations. Finally, to

fully assess local adaptation, more traditional approaches like reciprocal transplant experiments

are needed. Although, given that *G. paniculata* is a prolific reproducer, transplanting more

individuals into these sensitive habitats may bring significant ethical concerns. However, by

identifying SNPs in differentially expressed genes that are divergent between these populations

these data can provide an initial starting point to identify potential candidate genes that may be

involved in adaptation to these novel habitats. Thus, regardless of these caveats, we feel that this

work provides a good starting point toward identifying how different molecular processes

influence *G. paniculata's* success across these distinct ecosystems.

615   In conclusion, we found that *G. paniculata* seedlings from CHWA and PSMI displayed

differential gene expression that was characteristic of the environment in which they were

collected. In the nutrient limited sand dunes ecosystem, genes involved in responding to nutrients

and phosphate starvation were upregulated. In the arid sagebrush ecosystem, genes involved in

regulating responses to abiotic stress were upregulated. Given the small number of differentially

expressed transcripts that contained divergent SNPs, we suggest that the majority of the

expression differences associated with these enriched GO processes are likely driven by plastic

responses to these different environments. Genetic divergence, however, cannot be completely

dismissed given the differences in germination rates and seedling emergence success between the

two populations in the common garden setting; although these seeds were collected from wild

populations and maternal, environmental, and epigenetic variables could be contributing factors.

Overall, this study reveals how variation in molecular processes can aid invasive species in

adapting to a wide range of environmental conditions and stressors found in their introduced

range.

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641　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

S.K.L. and C.G.P. conceptualized and designed this study. S.K.L. and C.G.P. carried out field

collection and initial RNA extractions. I.B. performed the bioinformatics analysis, including

transcriptome assembly, differential gene expression analysis, and SNP identification. C.G.P.

performed the GO enrichment analysis. S.K.L. conducted the greenhouse and germination

studies. S.K.L. and C.G.P. wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the

final manuscript.

649   DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

650   All raw sequence reads associated with these data were deposited to the Sequence Read Archives

651   (Bioproject accession #: PRJNA606240). Raw growth, germination data files, and R code for

652   differential expression analysis and SNP identification are available on Dryad for review and

653   will be made public once the manuscript is available (

654   https://datadryad.org/stash/share/7XUtUP1t7wbBU6dd-hYM-FQss7XOknK2lf-HSCw9oSQ).

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877   TABLE LEGENDS
878
879 Table 1. Location and climate data for sampling sites, taken from National Oceanic and
880 Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) weather stations in Petoskey, MI and Entiat, WA (near
881 Chelan, WA).
882
Table 2: GO biological processes enriched across all three tissues (root, stem, and leaf) for
Petoskey, MI (PSMI) and Chelan, WA (CHWA) populations. DE: Differentially expressed, FDR
= False Discovery Rate.

Figure 1. (A) Map identifying sample locations for *Gypsophila paniculata* populations used in
this study. (B) Petoskey, Michigan (PSMI) study site, and (C) Chelan, Washington (CHWA)
study site.

Figure 2. Principal component analysis (PCA) of soil nutrient data for sampling locations in
Petoskey, Michigan (PSMI) and Chelan, WA (CHWA). Ca = calcium, CEC = cation exchange
capacity, K = potassium, Mg = magnesium, OM = organic matter, and Phos = phosphorus

Figure 3. Differential transcript expression among groups. (A) Upset intersection plot visualizing
the number of differentially expressed transcripts in *Gypsophila paniculata* growing in Chelan,
Washington (CHWA) and Petoskey, Michigan (PSMI) broken down by tissue type (root, stem,
and leaf tissue). The bar chart represents the number of differentially expressed transcripts in
each tissue type, while the below-chart matrix illustrates the tissue type(s) being considered in
the analysis. Dark grey connected circles indicate transcripts that are differently expressed across
multiple tissues. B) PCA plot associated with transcript expression profiles.

Figure 4. Heat trees displaying (A) GO biological processes that are enriched with transcripts
with significant differential expression between each population, and (B) GO biological
processes that are represented by transcripts differentially expressed between the two populations
and contain SNPs that differ in allele frequency by at least 0.5. The size of each node is
representative of the number of transcripts assigned to each GO term. The color of each branch
represents increased expression, with green displaying higher expression in Petoskey, Michigan
(PSMI) and brown displaying higher expression in Chelan, Washington, (CHWA).

Figure 5. Germination curves for *Gypsophila paniculata* seeds collected from Petoskey,
Michigan (PSMI, n = 2,000) and Chelan, Washington (CHWA, n = 2,000) on August 11, 2018
and incubated for 12 days. Burpee commercial cultivar seeds (n = 100) known to
have germination success in excess of 90% were used for an experimental control.

Figure 6. Results of a common garden growth trial of *Gypsophila paniculata* plants conducted
for seven weeks (n=120 per population). (A) Seedling emergence per sampling location, (B)
Ratio of above: below-ground tissue allocation per sampling location.
Location codes: Chelan, Washington (CHWA); Petoskey, Michigan (PSMI).

Table 1. Location and climate data for sampling sites, taken from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) weather
stations in Petoskey, MI and Entiat, WA (near Chelan, WA).

	Station ID	GPS Coordinates	Elevation (m)	2017 Mean Temp. (˚C)	2018 Mean Temp. (˚C)	2017 Precipitation (cm)	2018 Precipitation (cm)	2017 GDD	2018 GDD
Entiat Fish Hatchery (WA)	USC00452563	47.6983°, -120.3228°	313	10.33	12.22	37.95	27.81	3013	3050
Petoskey (MI)	USC00206507	45.3725°, -84.9766°	182.6	7.66	7.17	109.75	88.62	2130	2178

924 *GDD (Growing Degree Day) as defined by the National Weather Service; an approximation of crop maturity

925 Table 2: GO biological processes enriched across all three tissues (root, stem, and leaf) for
926 Petoskey, MI (PSMI) and Chelan, WA (CHWA) populations.
927

GO Biological Process	*Arabidopsis thaliana* - REFLIST (27581)	DE Gene Set (192)	DE Gene Set (expected)	Over/Under Represented	Fold Enrichment	FDR
Enriched in CHWA						
Protein import into peroxisome matrix, docking (GO:0016560)	4	2	0.03	+	71.83	4.09E-02
Protein refolding (GO:0042026)	50	8	0.35	+	22.98	2.25E-06
Protein complex oligomerization (GO:0051259)	46	7	0.32	+	21.86	2.26E-05
Chaperone cofactor-dependent protein refolding (GO:0051085)	47	7	0.33	+	21.39	2.36E-05
Cellular response to heat (GO:0034605)	66	7	0.46	+	15.24	1.28E-04
Cellular response to unfolded protein (GO:0034620)	51	5	0.36	+	14.08	3.89E-03
Response to reactive oxygen species (GO:0000302)	155	10	1.08	+	9.27	5.81E-05
Protein dephosphorylation (GO:0006470)	138	6	0.96	+	6.25	3.11E-02
Gene silencing (GO:0016458)	153	6	1.07	+	5.63	4.88E-02
Glycoprotein metabolic process (GO:0009100)	153	6	1.07	+	5.63	4.83E-02
Cellular response to hypoxia (GO:0071456)	234	9	1.63	+	5.53	4.33E-03
Regative regulation of transcription, DNA-templated (GO:0045892)	260	10	1.81	+	5.53	2.34E-03
Response to wounding (GO:0009611)	211	7	1.47	+	4.77	4.84E-02
Response to salt stress (GO:0009651)	469	14	3.26	+	4.29	1.02E-03
Response to abscisic acid (GO:0009737)	559	15	3.89	+	3.85	1.50E-03
Response to water deprivation (GO:0009414)	345	9	2.4	+	3.75	4.83E-02
Response to drug (GO:0042493)	504	13	3.51	+	3.71	5.40E-03
Response to cold (GO:0009409)	400	10	2.78	+	3.59	3.60E-02
Hormone-mediated signaling pathway (GO:0009755)	765	16	5.33	+	3	8.09E-03
Unclassified (UNCLASSIFIED)	4553	6	31.69	-	0.19	2.31E-06
Enriched in PSMI						
Phosphatidic acid biosynthetic process (GO:0006654)	4	2	0.02	+	> 100	2.88E-02
Regulation of response to nutrient levels (GO:0032107)	5	2	0.02	+	88.97	3.55E-02
Regulation of alternative mRNA splicing, via spliceosome (GO:0000381)	34	3	0.15	+	19.63	4.71E-02
Cellular response to phosphate starvation (GO:0016036)	74	6	0.33	+	18.03	5.12E-04

Positive regulation of reproductive process (GO:2000243)	62	5	0.28	+	17.94	2.39E-03
Positive regulation of post-embryonic development (GO:0048582)	89	5	0.4	+	12.5	8.96E-03
Circadian rhythm (GO:0007623)	110	5	0.49	+	10.11	1.97E-02
Flower development (GO:0009908)	437	11	1.96	+	5.6	1.37E-03
mRNA processing (GO:0006397)	404	9	1.82	+	4.96	1.30E-02
Response to metal ion (GO:0010038)	460	9	2.07	+	4.35	2.77E-02
Peptide transport (GO:0015833)	805	12	3.62	+	3.32	2.99E-02
Response to oxygen-containing compound (GO:1901700)	1584	20	7.12	+	2.81	4.39E-03
Response to abiotic stimulus (GO:0009628)	2087	25	9.38	+	2.66	1.43E-03
Regulation of transcription, DNA-templated (GO:0006355)	2022	22	9.09	+	2.42	1.32E-02
Response to organic substance (GO:0010033)	1885	20	8.47	+	2.36	3.75E-02
Unclassified (UNCLASSIFIED)	4553	5	20.47	-	0.24	4.46E-03

928   Release dates for analysis and annotation databases: Panther overrepresentation test (released

929   on 07-11-2019), GO Ontology database (released 10-08-2019)

A.

B. CHWA

C. PSMI

PCA of Soil Nutrient Analysis

A) Upset Plot of Differentially Expressed Genes

B) PCA on Transcript Expression

A. Gene Expression

B. SNPs

Germination Probability over Time