Title: Visualization of seasonal phosphorus re-translocation, and expression profile

of phosphate transporters in a shortened annual cycle system of the deciduous

poplar tree

Authors / Affiliations

Yuko Kurita[1,2], Satomi Kanno[1,3], Ryohei Sugita[4,5], Atsushi Hirose[4,6], Miwa Ohnishi[1],

Ayumi Tezuka[2], Ayumi Deguchi[2], Kimitsune Ishizaki[1], Hidehiro Fukaki[1], Kei'ichi Baba[7],

Atsushi J. Nagano[2,8], Keitaro Tanoi[4,9], Tomoko M. Nakanishi[4], Tetsuro Mimura[1, 10]

[1] Department of Biology, Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, 1-1 Rokkodai,

Nada, Kobe, 657-8501 Japan.

[2] Faculty of Agriculture, Ryukoku University, 1-5 Yokotani, Ooe-cho, Seta, Otsu, Shiga

520-2194 Japan

[3] The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, France

[4] Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo,

1-1-1,Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-8657 Japan

[5] Radioisotope Research Center, Nagoya University, Nagoya 464-8602, Japan

[6] Hoshi University, 2-4-41 Ebara Shinagawa-ku Tokyo, 142-8501 Japan

[7] Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University, Gokasho, Uji,

Kyoto, 611-0011 Japan.

[8] Institute for Advanced Biosciences, Keio University, Tsuruoka, Yamagata, 997-0017,

Japan

[9] JST PRESTO, Kawaguchi, Saitama 332-0012, Japan

[10] College of Bioscience and Biotechnology, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan,

70101, Taiwan.

Author for correspondence: Yuko Kurita and Tetsuro Mimura

27   e-mail: kurita.u.co@gmail.com, mimura@kobe-u.ac.jp

29   Total word count for the main body   6487 words

30   Introduction   740 words

31   Materials and Methods   2122 words

32   Results   2333 words

33   Discussion   1292 words

The number of figures (in color)   7   (7)

The number of tables   1

The number of supporting information   Figures: 9   Tables: 11

Abstract

Phosphorus (P) is an essential macronutrient for plant growth. In deciduous

trees, P is remobilized from senescing leaves and stored in perennial tissues during winter

for further growth. Annual internal recycling and accumulation of P is considered an

important strategy to support vigorous growth of trees. However, the pathways of

seasonal re-translocation of P and the molecular mechanisms of this transport have not

been clarified. Here we show the seasonal P re-translocation route visualized using the

real-time radioisotope imaging and the macro- and micro-autoradiography. We analyzed

the seasonal re-translocation P in poplar (*Populus alba*. L) cultivated under "a shortened

annual cycle system", which mimicked seasonal phenology in a laboratory. From

growing to senescing season, sink tissues of ^{32}P and/or ^{33}P shifted from young leaves and

the apex to the lower stem and roots. The radioisotope P re-translocated from a leaf was

stored in phloem and xylem parenchyma cells and redistributed to new shoots after

dormancy. Seasonal expression profile of phosphate transporters (*PHT1*, *PHT5* and

PHO1 family) was obtained in the same system. Our results reveal the seasonal P

re-translocation routes at the organ and tissue levels and provide a foothold for

elucidating its molecular mechanisms.

Introduction

Phosphorus (P) is an essential macronutrient for plant growth, however its

availability in soil is quite limited (Schachtman *et al.*, 1998). To utilize the valuable P,

plants have various strategies for the uptake, translocation, storage and recycling of P.

Re-translocation of P is a strategy for its internal recycling *in planta*. P is re-translocated

from source tissues (e.g. old leaves) to sink tissues (e.g. young leaves, shoot apex) as

phosphate (Biddulph *et al.*, 1958b; Mimura *et al.*, 1996; Himelblau & Amasino, 2001). It

is supposed that such re-translocation of phosphate between source and sink occurs via

the phloem. Both downward and upward P re-translocation via the phloem from leaves,

and the lateral movement from the phloem to xylem have been demonstrated using

microautoradiographic methods in an herbaceous plant, red kidney bean (Biddulph, 1956;

Biddulph *et al.*, 1958a). Although the molecular mechanisms of Phosphate (Pi) transport

at the cellular level, and signaling of P status, are being elucidated through various studies

in Arabidopsis and rice (Ham *et al.*, 2018; Victor Roch *et al.*, 2019; Wang *et al.*, 2021),

relatively less is known about lateral transport and re-translocation in tissues and organs

(Aubry *et al.*, 2019).

In deciduous woody plants, the internal recycling of various nutrients has been

studied using radiolabeled materials. Carbon (C) and sulfur (S) were shown to be

re-translocated from leaves in a leaf age-dependent manner in cottonwood and *Populus*

tremula × *P. alba,* respectively (Dickson, 1989; Hartmann *et al.*, 2000). These studies

showed that expanding leaves and old mature leaves re-translocate nutrients mainly into

sink organs in the upper apical parts and lower parts of the tree (lower stem and roots),

respectively. Kavka & Polle showed that the absorption and allocation of ^{33}P from roots

depended on the P conditions to which the plant was exposed, while young leaves were

usually the predominant aboveground sink (Kavka & Polle, 2016).

Besides this daily re-translocation, deciduous woody plants remobilize various

nutrients from senescing leaves to perennial tissues during autumn for rescuing nutrients

before the leaves fall (Chapin & Kedrowski, 1983; Aerts, 1996; Keskitalo et al., 2005;

Netzer et al., 2017b,a). We previously reported that P is remobilized from leaves during

autumn senescence in *Populus alba*, and stored as phytic acid

(myo-inositol-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexakis phosphate: IP_6) in protein storage vacuoles in phloem

and xylem parenchyma cells in perennial tissues such as twigs during winter (Kurita et al.,

2014, 2017). Phytic acid is well-known as a major P-storage form in seeds (Raboy et al.,

2001). IP_6 concentrations in the twigs decreased immediately in early spring, suggesting

that IP_6 is being degraded and P is being re-translocated for new growth. In last decade, Pi

transporters (*PHT1-4*, *PHO*s) and their expression profiles under stress conditions and in

different tissues have been characterized in poplar (Loth-Pereda et al., 2011; Kavka &

Polle, 2016; Zhang et al., 2016). Loth-Pereda et al. showed that *PtPT1*, *PtPT5*, *PtPT6*,

PtPT9, and *PtPT12* are upregulated in leaves during autumn senescence, suggesting that

these transporters may play a role in P re-translocation from source to sink in *Populus*

trichocarpa (Loth-Pereda et al., 2011). However, the seasonal P re-translocation routes

and the molecular mechanisms that regulate the transport are still largely unknown.

In the present study, we demonstrated seasonal shifts in the re-translocation

routes using radioisotope techniques and characterized the seasonal expression profile of

phosphate transporters. Since radioisotopes cannot be used in the field, we used a

shortened annual cycle system that mimics the seasonal phenology of trees in the

laboratory (Kurita et al., 2014). This system consists of 3 stages. Stage 1 mimics

spring/summer, stage 2 emulates autumn and stage 3 emulates winter, respectively (for

detail, see method and Fig. S1c). After leaf fall in stage 3, plants were transferred to stage

1 again and bud burst induced. In this system, poplar trees showed normal seasonal events

(leaf coloration, leaf fall, bud burst) and seasonal P recycling events (e.g., the P

remobilization from senescing leaves, the storing of IP_6 in dormant stems and the

redistribution during budburst)(Kurita *et al.*, 2017). By using this system, the real-time

behavior of P remobilized from a leaf, seasonal changes of re-translocation routes along

the longitudinal and radial axis of stem, and overwintering recycling were successfully

visualized. Further, we have analyzed changes in gene expression of leaves and stems

under a shortened annual cycle system, focusing on Pi transport mechanisms. We discuss

a relationship between P re-translocation visualized by radionuclides and molecular

mechanisms suggested by gene expression analysis.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials and culture conditions

Poplar shoots with 4-5 leaves were cut and rooted in 1/5 MS medium, and transferred into the pots containing vermiculite, that had been washed with tap water ten times and by distilled water five times. Potted cuttings were placed in tree culture chambers (LH-350S, NK system, Osaka, Japan) in turn from stage 1 to 3 under the conditions in 'a shortened annual cycle system' as described before (Kurita *et al.*, 2014)(Fig. S1c). Briefly, stage 1 (25℃, 14h light) mimics spring/summer condition, and promotes vigorous plant growth. Stage 2 (15℃, 8h light) mimics autumn condition, and causes plants to experience short daylength and moderate cooler temperatures. Stage 3 (5℃, 8h light) mimics winter condition, and promotes leaf senescence. At this stage, plants cease apical growth. The leaves turn yellow and then fall.

Plants were fertilized with 1/5 MS medium (1L / 6 potted cuttings) once a week at stage 1. Afterwards they were cultured with distilled water only. In stages 1 and 2, plants at 3rd to 4th week, and in stage 3, plants at 3rd to 5th week, were used for the experiments.

Imaging using the real-time radioisotope imaging system

To add radiophosphorus, a 'flap' was cut along a vein of 6th leaf in the manner shown in Fig.S1a (Biddulph & Markle, 1944), and 5 μl ^{32}P-phospate ($H_3^{32}PO_4$) solution in 0.2M KH_2PO_4 (final concentration of 200 kBq μl^{-1}) was added. After 1 or 3 min, the flap was cut off because its strong signals disturb the imaging. Then, changes in ^{32}P distribution were observed using the real-time radioisotope imaging system established

previously (Kanno *et al.*, 2012; Hirose *et al.*, 2013; Sugita *et al.*, 2013, 2016). The plant

was mounted on the fiber optic plate coated with 100 μm thickness of CsI (Tl) scintillator

by vapor deposition (FOS, 100 mm × 100 mm × 5 mm, Hamamatsu Photonics Co.,

Hamamatsu, Japan). Two fiber optic plates were connected longitudinally. The beta ray

emitted from ^{32}P in the sample interacts with the CsI (Tl) scintillator, and then is

converted to visual light. Light was captured by the cooled CCD camera with an image

capture system (Aquacosmos/VIM system; resolution: 640 pixel × 480 pixel, Hamamatsu

Photonics Co., Hamamatsu City, Japan) (Kanno *et al.*, 2012; Sugita *et al.*, 2013). The

measurement was performed for three hours in a dark room at 20°C. The same

measurements were repeated 3 times.

To analyze the velocity of ^{32}P transported in the vascular bundle, the signal

intensity of the region of interest (ROI) was measured by ImageJ software. Two ROIs

were set at the apex and the 6th leaf axil. Three ROIs were set at corners of FOS to

measure background signals. Of the 3 replicates, the 2 trees which showed the highest

signals were analyzed. The velocity was calculated from the distance between the apex

and the 6th leaf axil and the difference between the times it took for the signal to reach the

detection threshold. The detection threshold was defined as five times the standard

deviation of the background signal intensity.

Whole plant autoradiography using imaging plate

^{32}P-phospate (5 μl) in 0.2M KH$_2$PO$_4$ (final concentration of 200 Bq μl^{-1}) was added

to 6th leaf as described above. Then, plants were cultured in each stage condition for 1 day.

After 1 day culture, the 6th leaf was cut off because its strong signals disturb the imaging.

The vermiculite was washed away from poplar roots with tap water. Plants were then

mounted on commercial xerographic paper, and wrapped with double layers of polyvinyl

film. The sample was set on an imaging plate (Fujifilm, Tokyo, Japan) in the cassette case

and exposed in a dark room for 3 days. The imaging plate was then measured using

Typhoon FLA 9500 (GE Healthcare UK Ltd., Buckinghamshire, England). The same

measurements were repeated 3 times.

177   Whole plant autoradiography using imaging plate with phloem girdling

Approximately 2 mm of phloem from the upper or lower internodes of the 6th leaf of

a plant at stage 1 was cut with a razor blade and peeled off, effectively disrupting phloem

translocation in this region (Fig. S1b). Then immediately, 5 µl ^{32}P-phospate ($KH_2{}^{32}PO_4$)

solution in 0.2 M KH_2PO_4 (final concentration of 1 kBq µl^{-1}) was added to the 6th leaf as

described above. Plants were cultured in stage 1 for 3 h or 1 day. After culture, the 6th leaf

was cut off. Upper and lower internodes of 6th leaf were cut to prevent re-translocation of

^{32}P during contact. The vermiculite was washed away from poplar roots with tap water.

Plants were then mounted on commercial xerographic paper and wrapped with double

layers of polyvinyl film. The sample was set on the imaging plate in the cassette case and

exposed in a dark room for 1 day. Then the imaging plate was measured using Typhoon

FLA 9500. The same measurements were repeated 3 times.

190   Microautoradiography (MAR) of the stem

^{33}P-phospate (5 µl) in 0.2M KH_2PO_4 (final concentration of 37 or 74 kBq µl^{-1}) was

added to 6th leaf as described above. Then, plants were cultured in each stage condition

for 1 day. ^{32}P is not suitable for obtaining high-resolution images because its energy is too

high. Therefore, the experiments were performed by using ^{33}P which has a lower energy.

[33]P distribution in stems was detected by the MAR method for fresh-frozen sections, as

described previously (Hirose *et al.*, 2014). Stem samples that were cut from a poplar in

each stage were frozen with liquid nitrogen. The frozen stems were embedded in a

dedicated embedding medium (SCEM; SECTION-LAB Co. Ltd.) and sliced into 20 μm

thick sections using a Cryostat (CM1850; Leica Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany) set at

−20□. Sectioning was performed using the Cryo-Film transfer kit (SECTION-LAB Co.

Ltd., Hiroshima, Japan) (Kawamoto, 2003; Hirose *et al.*, 2014).

Frozen sections were put on hydrophilic amino-coated glass slides (MAS-GP type

A; Matsunami Glass Ind., Ltd., Osaka, Japan) coated with a photosensitive nuclear

emulsion (Ilford Nuclear Emulsion Type K5; Harman Technology Ltd., Cheshire, UK) in

the Cryostat, and contacted tightly at −80□ for approximately 1 month or more. A 1.2

μm thick polyphenylene sulfide (PPS) film was inserted between the frozen sample

sections and the photosensitive nuclear emulsion on the glass slide to enable easy

separation of the section and the emulsion after exposure. The results scarcely changed

when the sample was exposed for more than 1 month.

After the exposure, the sections were removed from the glass slides in the cryostat

set at −20□ in the darkroom. The glass slides were soaked in quarter-strength D-19

developer (Eastman Kodak Co., NY, USA) for 6 min at room temperature to develop the

silver particles. Then, the slides were soaked in distilled water for 1 min to stop the

development, followed by exposure to 0.83 M sodium thiosulfate for 4 min for fixation.

Finally, the glass slides were soaked in distilled water for 10 min twice. The temperature

of the darkroom was maintained at 20□ to ensure development.

In order to stain the sliced tissue, the sections were floated on distilled water for 1

min three times at room temperature to wash out the embedding material. Then the

sections were stained with 0.25 % toluidine blue for 30 sec and rinsed with water for 1

min. The sections were then mounted on a new glass slide using a glycerol-based

mounting medium (SCMM; SECTION-LAB Co. Ltd.).

The stained sections and the silver particles developed by MAR were observed and

photographed using a microscope (BX-60; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan). The tissue images

and radiographs were then assembled using e-Tiling (Mitani Co., Tokyo, Japan) or

ImageJ (http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij) by its plugin, Grid/Collection stitching software

(Preibisch *et al.*, 2009). The registration was performed on the tissue images and

radiographs using ImageJ and LPixel's ImageJ Plugin, Lpx Registration software

(https://lpixel.net/products/lpixel-imagej-plugins/)   and   GIMP   software

(http://www.gimp.org). The same measurements were repeated 3 times.

Serial autoradiography of the leaf axil and 3D reconstruction

Fresh-frozen sections from the axil of the 6th leaf were prepared for autoradiography

experiments using the imaging plate (BAS IP MS; GE Healthcare UK Ltd.). The

thickness of the section was 20 µm. The exposure time was about 76 h for samples in

stage 1 at −80□. In stage 3, exposure time was about 22 h because the signal was

stronger than that of samples in stage 1.   The imaging plate was scanned with an

FLA5000 image analyser (Fujifilm, Tokyo, Japan) at a resolution of 10 µm.

After linear contrast enhancement and registration using ImageJ pluguin StackReg

(Thévenaz *et al.*, 1998), autoradiographs were converted to 3D images using ImageJ

plugin Volume Viewer (http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/plugins/volume-viewer.html) and 3D

Viewer (http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/plugins/3d-viewer/). The same measurements were

repeated 3 times.

Whole plant autoradiography using imaging plate over dormancy period

^{32}P-phospate (7 µl) in 0.2M KH_2PO_4 (final concentration of 700k Bq µl^{-1}) was added

to the 6th leaf of a plant at the 4th week in stage 3 as described above. After leaf fall (at 8th

week in stage 3) or after bud burst (at 2nd week in stage 1 of 2nd cycle), the vermiculite

was washed away from poplar roots with tap water. The plant was then mounted on

paper, and wrapped with a double layer of polyvinyl film. The sample was set on the

imaging plate in the cassette case and exposed in a dark room for 15 min or 1 day. Then,

the imaging plate was measured using Typhoon FLA 9500. The same measurements were

repeated 3 times.

RNA-Seq analysis

The 6th leaf and stem (4-8 cm from apex) without node were sampled between

13:00 and 15:00 (stage 1: 6-8 hours after lighting, stages 2 and 3: 3-5 hours after lighting),

immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −80 °C. At stage 1 in the 2nd cycle,

the stem at 4-8 cm from the apex of the end of the 1st round were sampled. A summary of

sample sets is shown Fig. S5a. Leaf samples were ground with a mortar and pestle in

liquid nitrogen. Stem samples were ground using the Multi-Bead Shocker (MB601KU,

Yasui Kikai Co.). Total RNA was extracted using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen,

USA). For RNA-Seq library preparation, 500 or 1000 ng of total RNA per sample was

used. We prepared the library according to the procedure described previously (Nagano *et*

al., 2015). The quality of the library was assessed by the Bioanalyzer (Agilent

Technologies, USA). The libraries were sequenced by the single-read 50 bases with the

HiSeq 2500 (Illumina, USA).

Preprocessing and quality filtering of RNA-Seq data were performed using the

Trimmomatic-0.33 (Bolger *et al.*, 2014). Then, preprocessed reads were mapped on

primary transcript sequences in *Populus trichocarpa* v3.1 (downloaded from Phytozome

v12.1) (Tuskan *et al.*, 2006) with Bowtie1(v1.1.1) (Langmead *et al.*, 2009) and quantified

using RSEM-1.2.21(Li & Dewey, 2011). The output of RSEM was analyzed using R

software (R Core Team, 2019).

Seasonal expression analysis was performed on each of the 6th leaf and the stem

data as follows. Samples with fewer than 10^6 reads were excluded from the analysis.

Attributes of the samples are shown in Supplementary table S1. The analysis was then

conducted with reference to the pipeline proposed by Law et al.(Law *et al.*, 2018). The

expressed genes (the 6th leaf: 23646 genes, Stem: 25151 genes) were defined using

filterByExpr function of the edgeR package (Robinson *et al.*, 2010; Chen *et al.*, 2016)

that excluded genes that did not have sufficient read counts.

After removing heteroscedascity from count data using the voom function of

the limma package (Law *et al.*, 2014), seasonality-induced genes (SI genes) which show a

quasi-seasonal oscillation in gene expression in shortened annual cycle system were

detected by an ANOVA-like test in limma (thresholds of topTableF function: p.value =

0.01, lfc = 1)(Ritchie *et al.*, 2015). In the 6th leaf and stem, 15743 and 17234 genes were

detected as SI genes, respectively.

After dividing the expression patterns of SI genes using k-means clustering, GO

enrichment analysis was performed on each cluster. The GO annotations of *Arabidopsis*

thaliana ortholog obtained from TAIR10 was used for the analysis. *Arabidopsis thaliana*

orthologs were obtained from 'best Athaliana TAIR10 hit name' of

Ptrichocarpa_444_v3.1 annotation_info file. Statistical tests of enrichment analysis were

performed by the Fisher's exact test function provided by the R software. Multiple testing

correction was performed by FDR (Benjamini & Hochberg, 1995). GO terms with

adjusted $P < 0.05$ are defined as enriched GO terms. Representative GO terms were

summarized using REVIGO (http://revigo.irb.hr) (Supek *et al.*, 2011) (allowed similarity

= 0.5) and visualized with reference to the previous protocol (Bonnot *et al.*, 2019).

For *PHT* and *PHO* family genes detected as SI genes, Tukey HSD were

performed in R to test for differences between sampling points ($P < 0.05$).

Results

Shift of longitudinal re-translocation routes of phosphorus between growing and

senescence seasons

303   To continuously observe how P is re-translocated from a leaf, we performed

real-time radioisotope imaging using plants grown in the shortened annual cycle system.

In stage 1, ^{32}P was re-translocated from the 6th leaf in both upward and downward

directions, and gradually accumulated at apical parts (apex and young leaves) in 3h

(Fig.1a, Video S1, Fig. S2). Within 30 min, ^{32}P was detected at the leaf axil of the applied

leaves, and after 1 to 1.5 h, ^{32}P was detected at the shoot apex. Estimated transport

velocities were about 0.015 mm s^{-1} in tree A and 0.021 mm s^{-1} in tree B (Fig. S2). On the

other hand, in stage 3, ^{32}P was only re-translocated downwards from the 6th leaf. No

signals in upper parts were detected within 3h (Fig.1b, Video S2). To observe ^{32}P

transport and distribution in whole plants over longer periods, plants were cultured for 1

day after ^{32}P application, and contacted to imaging plates (Fig.2). In stage 1, ^{32}P was

detected mainly in the upper parts, in agreement with the results of the real-time imaging

experiment. These results correspond with previous studies on re-translocation of C and S

from leaves (Dickson, 1989; Hartmann *et al.*, 2000). During stages 2 and 3, ^{32}P was

detected mainly in the lower parts (stem and roots), and slightly in the upper stem.

Longitudinal re-translocation of phosphorus via phloem

320   To reveal which tissue (xylem and/or phloem) is involved in longitudinal

re-translocation of P, changes in the re-translocation route of P were observed by phloem

girdling using a tree in stage 1 (Fig. 3, S1b). The upper or lower phloem of a node

attached to the 6th leaf was peeled off, and then ^{32}P was immediately applied to the 6th leaf.

After 3 h or 1 day culture, the plant was set on imaging plate for ^{32}P detection. When the

phloem was peeled off above the applied leaf, ^{32}P was detected only in the lower stem and

roots after 3 h (Fig.3a). After 1 day, ^{32}P was detected mainly in the lower stem and roots,

and slightly in the upper stem and young leaves. When phloem was peeled off below the

applied leaf, ^{32}P was detected only in the upper stem and young leaves after 3 h or 1 day

culture (Fig.3b). These results suggest dominant roles of phloem in longitudinal

re-translocation of P in *Populus alba*.

Visualization of P inflow from a leaf to the stem

To observe P inflow from a leaf to the stem in detail, serial autoradiographs of a

leaf axil were converted to 3D images (Fig. 4a, b and S3). ^{33}P was used for more detailed

observation in these experiments. In each stage, plants were cultured for 1 day after ^{33}P

application. In stage 1, ^{33}P was detected throughout the stem, petiole and bud. In the stem,

^{33}P was mainly distributed in the phloem region on the side of applied leaf (Fig. 4a, S3a,

Video S3). On the other hand, in stage 3, ^{33}P was detected intensively in the lower phloem

on the applied side of the leaf and petiole (Fig. 4b, S3b, Video S4). ^{33}P was barely

detected in the upper stem, axillary bud or the phloem opposite the petiole. The upward

transport clearly ceased at stage 3 compared with stage 1. At the junction between the

petiole and the stem, there appeared to be formation of an abscission layer (Fig. 4b, S3b).

Shift of radial P re-translocation from a leaf between growing and senescence

seasons

In the stem of woody plants, cells form three-dimensional lattices and they

transport water and solutes along both the longitudinal axis and radial axes (Van Bel,

1990; Spicer, 2014). To observe radial transport inside a stem during senescence, we used

microautoradiography because of its higher resolution compared to conventional

autoradiography using an imaging plate. Plants on which ^{33}P was applied to the 6th leaf

were cultured for one day. ^{33}P localization in fresh frozen sections of the stem was

detected. In the growing season at stage 1, ^{33}P was detected mainly in phloem and to a

lesser extent throughout the section of the stem just below the 6th leaf (stem between 6th

and 7th nodes) (Fig. 4c). As shown in the 3D reconstruction (Fig. 4a), the highest signals

were recorded in the phloem on the side of the ^{33}P applied leaf. This tendency was also

observed in the upper stem (stem between 5th and 6th nodes) and the lower stem (stem

between 9th and 10th nodes) (Fig. S4a, b).

During senescence at stage 3, ^{33}P was strongly detected in the phloem on the

side of the applied leaf, and also in ray tissues and parenchyma cells around the pith

(perimedullary cells) (Fig. 4d). ^{33}P was slightly detected both in the upper stem (stem

between 5th and 6th nodes) and the lower stem (stem between 9th and 10th nodes) (Fig. S4c,

d). Because ^{33}P accumulation in xylem parenchyma cells was stronger in the stem

between 6th and 7th nodes than in the stem between 9th and 10th nodes, the exchange from

phloem to xylem probably occurred in the stem nearby the applied leaf rather than in the

lower stem and roots (Fig. 4e).

Re-utilization of overwintering P stored in stem and roots by new growing tissues in

spring

To reveal how P stored in winter is re-utilized in spring, artificial overwinter

experiments were performed in the shortened annual cycle system (Fig. 5). Plants, which

had ^{32}P applied to the 6th leaf were cultured for about 1 month until leaf fall in stage 3.

Just after leaf fall, ^{32}P was detected mainly in the lower stem and roots (Fig. 5a). Other

trees were moved to stage 1 and bud burst induced. After bud burst in plants put in the

second shortened annual cycle, ^{32}P remobilized from the 6th leaf was detected throughout

the whole plant, particularly at apices and young leaves of new shoots (Fig. 5b).

Quasi-seasonal expression patterns in the shortened annual cycle system

In order to investigate molecular system of P re-translocation, RNA-Seq

analysis was performed to investigate the time course of gene expression in the 6th leaf

and the stem of poplar grown in the shortened annual cycle system. In the 6th leaf and

stem, 15,743 and 17,234 genes were detected as seasonality-induced genes (SI genes)

which shows a quasi-seasonal oscillation in gene expression in shortened annual cycle

system (Supplementary table S2-3). We classified SI genes in the 6th leaf and stem into

three and five clusters, respectively, using the k-means clustering method (Fig. 6ab). Then,

GO enrichment analysis was performed for each cluster, and enriched biological process

GO terms were summarized (Fig. 6cd, Supplementary Table S4-11).

In the 6th leaf, SI genes that showed higher expression during growing season

were classified into cluster A (Fig. 6a). In this cluster, enrichments of GO terms such as

'organonitrogen compound biosynthetic process' (GO:1901566), 'photosynthesis'

(GO:0015979) and 'cell wall organization or biogenesis' (GO:0071554) were enriched

(adjusted P value < 0.05, See Supplementary Table S4-6 for exact values.) (Fig. 6c). SI

genes that showed higher expression during the senescing season were classified into

cluster C. GO terms such as 'autophagy' (GO:0006914), 'catabolic process'

(GO:0009056) and 'transport' (GO:0006810) were enriched in this cluster, and suggested

that leaf senescence occurred at stage 3. GO terms such as 'phosphorus metabolic process'

(GO:0006793), 'cellular response to phosphate starvation' (GO:0016036) and 'phosphate

ion homeostasis' (GO:0055062) were also enriched. 'cellular response to phosphate

starvation' and 'phosphate ion homeostasis' were represented by "response to

extracellular stimulus" (GO:0031668) and 'anion homeostasis' (GO:0055081)

(Supplementary Table S6).

About stem samples, we added sampling points at 8th week in stage 3 and

during stage 1 in second cycle (st1'w1 and st1'w2) to leaf samples. The clusters are

shown in order from A to E according to the position of the peaks in the expression

pattern (Fig. 6b). In cluster A, GO terms suggesting active growth such as "cell wall

biogenesis" (GO:0042546), "cell division" (GO:0051301) and "growth" (GO:0040007)

were enriched (adjusted P value < 0.05, See Supplementary Table S7-11 for exact

values.). "cell wall organization or biogenesis" (GO:0071554) was commonly detected in

clusters A and B. In cluster C, GO terms such as "response to abiotic stimulus"

(GO:0009628) and "response to cold" (GO:0009409) represented by "response to

Karrikin" (GO:0080167) were enriched (Supplementary table S9). Previous studies have

shown that the expression of defense-related genes is up-regulated in early winter and that

the expression of signaling-related genes is up-regulated during late winter and early

spring in bark of *Populus deltoides* (Park *et al.*, 2008). Enrichment of GO terms such as

"killing of cells of other organism" (GO:0031640) and "immune response"

(GO:0006955) (represented by "plant-type hypersensitive response" (GO:0009626)) in

cluster C, "signaling" (GO:0023052) and "cell communication" (GO:0007154) in cluster

E were consistent with that. "defense response" (GO:0006952) was also enriched in

cluster E. GO terms such as "photosynthesis" (GO:0015979) were commonly enriched in

Cluster D and Cluster E. This may suggest that photosynthesis in the stem of this system

play a role in energy metabolism during the leafless period.

We confirmed the expression pattern in our laboratory system for genes whose

seasonal expression patterns have been investigated in the field in previous studies (Fig.

7a, S7b). Lu *et al*. reported that the expression of *LHB1B1* and *CA1* decreased from July

to Oct, while the expression of *GLR2* and *WRKY* increased in *Populus trichocarpa*

Nisqually-1 by RT-qPCR and RNA-Seq (Lu *et al.*, 2020). Seasonal expressions of *DPD1*

in a shortened annual cycle and in field has been investigated previously by qPCR, and

shown to increase before leaf fall (Takami *et al.*, 2018). In our study, *LHB1B1* and *CA1*

showed the highest gene expression at stage 1, and were classified as cluster A. *WRKY75*

and *DPD1* showed highest gene expression at stage 3, and were classified as cluster C.

Although *GLR2* was expressed, the variability of its expression was large, and was not

identified as a SI gene.

Expression patterns of phosphate transporters in the 6th leaf

To investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying the seasonal shift of P

re-translocation route, expressions of phosphate transporters (*PHT1*, *PHT5*, and *PHO*)

were examined (Fig. 7ab, S6-9, Table 1). The gene numbers of *PtPHT1* family and

PtPHO family (homologs of *AtPHO1* family) refer to the previous studies by Kavka &

Polle and Zhang *et al.*, respectively (Kavka & Polle, 2016; Zhang *et al.*, 2016). *PHT1*s are

mainly localized in the plasma membrane for the uptake of Pi into the cell, while *PHT5*s

are mainly localized in the vacuole (Liu *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Wang *et al.*, 2021). *PHT5*s

themselves have not previously been identified and analyzed in *Populus*. Therefore, we

selected genes which were annotated as the ortholog of *AtPHT5;1-3* based on 'best

Athaliana TAIR10 hit name' in the Phytozome database. There were 3 transcripts that

were described that 'best Athaliana TAIR10 hit name' is *PHT5;3* (Potri.001G111400.1,

Potri.003G120600.1 and Potri.014G078000.1). No genes were annotated as orthologs of

AtPHT5;1 or AtPHT5;2.

In the 6th leaf, none of *PHT1* family genes were classified in cluster A (Table 1,

Fig. S6a). *PHT1;11* showed highest gene expression in stage 2, and was classified in

cluster B. *PHT1;3*, *1;7*, *1;8* and *1;9* showed high gene expression in stage 3 (senescing

season), and were classified in cluster C. Although *PHT1;4* and *1;12* were expressed at

all sampling points, they were not detected as SI genes. Each of the three putative *PHT5*

family genes showed different seasonal expression patterns and was classified into

different clusters (Fig.7a, Table 1 and S6b). Potri.001G111400.1 showed high gene

expression during stage 3, and was classified in cluster C. On the other hand, gene

expression of Potri.003G120600.1 and Potri.014G078000.1 were high during stage 2, and

were classified in cluster B and A, respectively.

Among *PHO* family genes which partly function for P outward transport from

the cell, the expression of *PHO6*, *PHO11* and *PHO12a* decreased at 5th week of stage3

(Fig. 7a and S7a). *PHO3* showed high gene expression during stage 3, and was classified

in cluster C. *PHO4* and *PHO5* were expressed at all sampling points, but no seasonal

oscillation was detected.

Expression patterns of phosphate transporters in the stem

Among *PHT1* family genes, *PHT1;3* showed high gene expression during

stage1 to 2, and was classified in cluster A (Fig. 7b, S8a and Table1). *PHT1;4* and *1;7*

showed relatively high gene expression during the 3rd to 8th weeks of stage 3, and were

classified in cluster C. However, since the seasonal oscillations of these genes (*PHT1;4*

and *1;7*) were not clear, future studies will be needed to prove the existence of seasonal

oscillations.   *PHT1;9*, *1;11* showed high gene expression at Stage 1 on the second cycle.

PHT1;12 showed high gene expression at Stage 1 on both the first and the second cycle.

These genes were classified in cluster E.

Among *PHT5*s (Fig.7b, S8b and Table1), Potri.001G111400.1 was expressed at

all sampling points, but no seasonal oscillation was detected. Potri.003G120600.1 was

classified in cluster C, and its expression decreased from stage 1 to the 3rd week of stage 3,

then started to increase and showed highest gene expression at the 8th week of stage 3.

Potri.014G078000.1 showed high gene expression during stage 1 to 2, and was classified

in cluster B.

In *PHO* family genes, there were two major trends in expression patterns. (Fig.

7b, S9 and Table 1). *PHO3,4,6* and *11* were classified in cluster A, and showed highest

gene expression at stage 1 and then decreased to dormancy stages. *PHO5*, *7-9* and *12a*

were classified in cluster B, which showed high gene expression during stage 1 to the 3rd

week of stage 3 (Fig. 6b). Among them, gene expressions of *PHO7-9* increased stage 1 to

stage 2.

In both the 6th leaf and stem, several phosphate transporters showed a seasonal

oscillating expression pattern in the shortened annual cycle system. However, since the

gene expression of some genes (e.g., *PHT1;9* and *1;11* in stem) was relatively low,

detailed quantification will be required in the future.

Discussion

Phosphorus re-translocation and overwintering recycling in the shortened annual

cycle system

494   During the growing season, the 6th leaf functioned as a source, and P was

re-translocated to the apex and younger leaves mainly via phloem (Fig.3). Additionally,

phloem-xylem exchange and xylem transport also occurred. Such circulation using both

phloem and xylem to transport nutrients coincides with previous reports in herbaceous

plants (Biddulph *et al.*, 1958b) and reports about other nutrients in woody plants

(Hartmann *et al.*, 2000; Herschbach *et al.*, 2012). Pfautsch *et al.* demonstrated by

injection of a fluorescent dye that the radial transfer of water from phloem into xylem

occurs predominantly via the symplast of ray parenchyma cells in *Eucalyptus saligna*

(Pfautsch *et al.*, 2015). Radial P transport may also occur symplastically along with the

water flow. Phloem-xylem exchange would be an advantage especially for long-distance

transport in tall trees. Because the xylem flow velocity (1.60 ± 0.09 mm s^{-1}) is much

faster than in the phloem (Windt *et al.*, 2006), remobilized nutrients can be transported to

upper parts in a shorter period.

In addition to apex and younger leaves, the stem cambium may also have sink ability

because the stem diameter increased at stage 1 (Baba *et al.*, 2018), and ^{33}P was detected in

the entire section including the cambium region (Fig. 4c).

During stage 1 to stage 3, seasonal shifts of sink tissues and of longitudinal

re-translocation routes occurred. In the shortened annual cycle system, the apical

meristem is active and trees keep growing in stage 1. Then, during stages 2 to 3, trees

cease apical growth and leaves start to senesce. In the northern red oak, it was observed

that the pattern of C allocation changed with the timing of flushing of new leaves

(Dickson, 1989). Loss of sink ability in the apex and younger leaves may be one of the

causes of the seasonal transition of re-translocation routes.

During the senescing season, the remobilized P was accumulated in phloem and

xylem parenchyma cells including ray cells and perimedullary cells (Fig. 6). We have

previously reported that winter P is stored as IP_6 in the globoid-like structures in phloem

and xylem parenchyma cells in poplar twigs both in nature and in the present laboratory

system (Kurita *et al.*, 2017). Netzer *et al.* also reported P accumulation in the cambial

zone and wood ray parenchyma cells of *Populus × canescens* during dormancy (Netzer *et*

al., 2017a). [33]P localization using microautoradiography (Fig. 4d) agreed with these

previous observations.

Velocity of P re-translocation

Real-time imaging revealed a rapid flow of phosphate in poplar plants (Fig. 1). This

rapid P re-translocation probably occurred via phloem (Fig. 3). The mechanism of phloem

transport is generally explained by the Münch Theory as mass flow driven by an

osmotically generated pressure gradient (Münch, 1930). Windt *et al.* measured velocities

of the downward phloem flow in poplar using NMR imaging, and recorded a velocity of

0.34 ± 0.03 mm s[-1] in the daytime (Windt *et al.*, 2006). Schepper *et al.* found that phloem

speed in angiosperms is roughly within the same range, around 0.17 mm s[-1] (De Schepper

et al., 2013). By the detection of ^{32}P signals, we estimated that the transport velocity was

about 0.015 mm s[-1] to 0.021 mm s[-1] (Fig. S2). This value is considerably slower than what

has been reported and probably an underestimate. In poplar stems, ^{32}P was localized in

internal tissues (primarily the phloem), therefore its detection might be hindered in

inverse proportion to the thickness of the outer tissues. It is believed that this decrease in

signal intensity caused the signal to fall below the detection limit, leading to a delay in the

detection of small amounts of ^{32}P present in the tissue immediately after ^{32}P

administration. Therefore, our results only prove that P is transported at least as fast as

this velocity. The measurement of the true velocity of P transport is a future challenge,

and improvements in measurement techniques are expected.

Seasonal expression pattern of phosphate transporters

Gene expression of phosphate (Pi) transporters showed seasonal oscillation (Fig.

7ab, S6-9), and their oscillations are thought to be related to the seasonal changes in P

re-translocation route as observed by radioisotope imaging in this study (Fig. 1-5).

Through the entire stages, the 6th leaf acted as a P source for young leaves or

stem and roots (Fig. 2). Some Pi transporters showed constant expression, while others

were highly expressed at a particular stage (Fig. 7a, Table1). These results suggest that

even though a mature leaf consistently functions as a source, poplar probably optimizes

seasonal P remobilization from leaves by using various Pi transporters in different

combinations. Genes such as *PHT1;3 and 1;8*, which were classified in cluster C, may

function to remobilize additional P from leaves before leaf fall. In a previous

study, Loth-Pereda *et al*. reported that five *PHT1* members (*PHT1;1, 1;5, 1;6, 1;9* and

1;12) were up-regulated in leaves of an adult poplar (*Populus trichocarpa*)

during autumnal senescence (Loth-Pereda *et al.*, 2011). These are not a perfect match to

the *PHT1* members classified in cluster C. There are several possible causes for this

difference (tree age, tree species, field or artificial experimental system, etc.). Further

research is needed to reach more general conclusions, and here we only discuss the

relationship to the P re-translocation observed in the experimental system.

In stem, Pi transporters also showed different expression patterns (Fig. 7b, S8

and S9). Although the velocity and direction of phloem flow itself is probably affected by

photosynthates rather than P, Pi transporters are thought to be involved in seasonal P

re-translocation by regulating the loading and unloading of P into sieve tubes and/or

xylem vessels and the transport of P to surrounding parenchyma cells and vacuoles.

AtPHO1 is considered to be a Pi efflux transporter, and is responsible for xylem loading

in roots (Hamburger *et al.*, 2002; Arpat *et al.*, 2012; Chiou, 2020). Recently, Che *et al.*

reported that *OsPHO1;1* and *OsPHO1;2* showed influx Pi transporter activities, and

taking their localization into account, *OsPHO1;1* and *PHO1;2* are thought to be involved

in reloading P into the phloem and unloading from the xylem in the uppermost node

connecting to the panicle, respectively (Che *et al.*, 2020). *PtPHO*s classified into Cluster

A and B may have the ability to seasonally regulate loading and unloading into and out of

xylem vessels and sieve tubes.

In both the 6th leaf and stem, each of the three members of *PtPHT5* showed

different expression patterns. Potri.003G120600.1, which is markedly upregulated in

stage 3, may contribute to uptake of intracellular P into the vacuole. Further studies to

identify the localization and transport direction of each member will help to elucidate the

role of *PtPHT5* in seasonal P re-translocation.

Besides the Pi transporters described here, SPDT members are reported to work

as Pi transporter in rice and Arabidopsis (Ding *et al.*, 2020). In poplar, these transporters

may play an important role in P re-translocation. Our ongoing research will hopefully

clarify their involvement.

Conclusion

Conclusion

Seasonal P recycling is thought to be an adaptive strategy tailored to the lifestyle of

deciduous plants. In this study, we successfully visualized the seasonal change of P

re-translocation routes in poplar using a shortened annual cycle system, and clearly

showed that re-translocated P from a leaf was reused for spring growth after

overwintering. The expression profile of the Pi transporters was also obtained. These

allow us to investigate the molecular mechanisms of seasonal P translocation in the same

reproducible experimental system. Although the visualization of P re-translocation can

only be conducted on small juvenile trees in a laboratory, the elucidation of the functions

of Pi transporters and other components involved in seasonal P re-translocation will lead

to an understanding of the annual phosphorus cycle in the large trees in field.

Acknowledgement

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Prof. Rob Reid (University of

Adelaide, Australia) for his kind discussion and correction of this manuscript, Dr.

Tatsuaki Goh and Dr. Koichi Toyokura for their kind discussion and incisive comments,

Mr. Motohiro Mihara and Mr. Hitoshi Ooshima of Dynacom Co. Ltd. for their support in

RNA-Seq analysis, Dr. Makoto Kashima, Dr. Mari Kamitani and Dr. Yoichi Hashida for

their help in RNA-Seq analysis. Y. Kurita is deeply grateful to the SUNBOR Scholarship.

This work was supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research of Innovative Areas

from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science, and Technology on

''Perceptive plants (22120006)'' and "Plant-structure-opt (18H05493)" for TM, JSPS

KAKENHI grant Number 15J03992 and 18K14735 for YK, and JST PREST grant

Number JPMJPR15Q7 for KT. The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Author Contribution

YK, TM and AN designed the study and wrote the manuscript. YK performed all RI

experiments and RNA-Seq analysis under the instruction of following co-authors. SK and

RS instructed and performed experiments using the real-time radioisotope imaging

system. AH instructed and performed experiments using MAR. KT and TMN advised

experimental design using RRIS and MAR. AT, AD and YK prepared RNA-Seq library.

AN instructed RNA-Seq analysis. KB instructed on dendrology. MO, HF and KI

supported YK's experiments in Kobe University. All authors discussed the results and

advised on the manuscript.

Data Availability

622    Sequence data of RNA-Seq have been submitted to the NCBI Sequence Read

623 Archive repository under the BioProject number, PRJNA756807

624 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/756807). R scripts and data required for

625 analysis (count data, etc.) are available via the GitHub repository

626 (https://github.com/YukoKurita/2021_RI_SACsystem_RNA-seq_Analysis).

References

Aerts R. **1996**. Nutrient resorption from senescing leaves of perennials: are there general

patterns? *Journal of Ecology* **84**: 597–608.

Arpat AB, Magliano P, Wege S, Rouached H, Stefanovic A, Poirier Y. **2012**.

Functional expression of PHO1 to the Golgi and trans-Golgi network and its role in

export of inorganic phosphate. *Plant Journal* **71**: 479–491.

Aubry E, Dinant S, Vilaine F, Bellini C, Le Hir R. **2019**. Lateral transport of organic

and inorganic solutes. *Plants* **8**.

Baba K, Kurita Y, Mimura T. **2018**. Wood structure of Populus alba formed in a

shortened annual cycle system. *Journal of Wood Science* **64**: 1–5.

Van Bel AJE. **1990**. Xylem-phloem exchange via the rays: The undervalued route of

transport. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **41**: 631–644.

Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y. **1995**. Controlling the False Discovery Rate : A Practical

and Powerful Approach to Multiple Testing. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society.*

Series B (Methodological) **57**: 289–300.

Biddulph SF. **1956**. Visual indication of S^{35} and P^{32} translocation in the phloem.

American Journal of Botany **43**: 143–148.

Biddulph S, Biddulph O, Cory R. **1958a**. Visual indications of upward movement of

foliar-applied P^{32} and C^{14} in the phloem of the bean stem. *American Journal of Botany*

45: 648–652.

Biddulph O, Biddulph S, Cory R, Koontz H. **1958b**. Circulation patterns for

phosphorus, sulfur and calcium in the bean plant. *Plant Physiology* **33**: 293–300.

Biddulph O, Markle J. **1944**. Translocation of radiophosphorus in the phloem of the

cotton plant. *American Journal of Botany* **31**: 65–70.

Bolger AM, Lohse M, Usadel B. **2014**. Trimmomatic: A flexible trimmer for Illumina

sequence data. *Bioinformatics* **30**: 2114–2120.

Bonnot T, Gillard M, Nagel D. **2019**. A Simple Protocol for Informative Visualization

of Enriched Gene Ontology Terms. *Bio-Protocol* **e3429**.

Chapin FS, Kedrowski RA. **1983**. Seasonal changes in nitrogen and phosphorus

fractions and autumn retranslocation in evergreen and deciduous taiga trees. *Ecology* **64**:

376–391.

Che J, Yamaji N, Miyaji T, Mitani-Ueno N, Kato Y, Shen RF, Ma JF. **2020**.

Node-localized transporters of phosphorus essential for seed development in rice. *Plant*

and Cell Physiology **61**: 1387–1398.

Chen Y, Lun ATL, Smyth GK. **2016**. From reads to genes to pathways: differential

expression analysis of RNA-Seq experiments using Rsubread and the edgeR

quasi-likelihood pipeline. *F1000Research* **5**.

Chiou TJ. **2020**. The diverse roles of rice PHO1 in phosphate transport: From root to

node to grain. *Plant and Cell Physiology* **61**: 1384–1386.

Dickson RE. **1989**. Carbon and nitrogen allocation in trees. *Transport* **46**: 631s-647s.

Ding G, Lei GJ, Yamaji N, Yokosho K, Mitani-Ueno N, Huang S, Ma JF. **2020**.

Vascular Cambium-Localized AtSPDT Mediates Xylem-to-Phloem Transfer of

Phosphorus for Its Preferential Distribution in Arabidopsis. *Molecular Plant* **13**: 99–111.

Ham BK, Chen J, Yan Y, Lucas WJ. **2018**. Insights into plant phosphate sensing and

signaling. *Current Opinion in Biotechnology* **49**: 1–9.

Hamburger D, Rezzonico E, Petétot JMDC, Somerville C, Poirier Y. **2002**.

Identification and characterization of the Arabidopsis PHO1 gene involved in phosphate

loading to the xylem. *Plant Cell* **14**: 889–902.

Hartmann T, Mult S, Suter M, Rennenberg H, Herschbach C. **2000**. Leaf

age-dependent differences in sulphur assimilation and allocation in poplar (Populus

tremula x P. alba) leaves. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **51**: 1077–1088.

Herschbach C, Gessler A, Rennenberg H. **2012**. Long-distance transport and plant

internal cycling of N- and S-compounds. *Progress in Botany* **73**: 161–188.

Himelblau E, Amasino RM. **2001**. Nutrients mobilized from leaves of Arabidopsis

thaliana during leaf senescence. *Journal of Plant Physiology* **158**: 1317–1323.

Hirose A, Kobayashi NI, Tanoi K, Nakanishi TM. **2014**. A Microautoradiographic

Method for Fresh-Frozen Sections to Reveal the Distribution of Radionuclides at the

Cellular Level in Plants. *Plant and Cell Physiology* **55**: 1194–1202.

Hirose A, Yamawaki M, Kanno S, Igarashi S, Sugita R, Ohmae Y, Tanoi K,

Nakanishi TM. **2013**. Development of a ^{14}C detectable real-time radioisotope imaging

system for plants under intermittent light environment. *Journal of Radioanalytical and*

Nuclear Chemistry **296**: 417–422.

Kanno S, Yamawaki M, Ishibashi H, Kobayashi NI, Hirose A, Tanoi K, Nussaume L,

Nakanishi TM. **2012**. Development of real-time radioisotope imaging systems for plant

nutrient uptake studies. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological*

Sciences **367**: 1501–1508.

Kavka M, Polle A. **2016**. Phosphate uptake kinetics and tissue-specific transporter

expression profiles in poplar (Populus □×□canescens) at different phosphorus

availabilities. *BMC Plant Biology* **16**: 206.

Kawamoto T. **2003**. Use of a new adhesive film for the preparation of multi-purpose

fresh-frozen sections from hard tissues, whole-animals, insects and plants. *Archives of*

histology and cytology **66**: 123–143.

Keskitalo J, Bergquist G, Gardenström P, Jansson S. **2005**. A cellular timetable of

autumn senescence. *Plant Physiology* **139**: 1635–1648.

Kurita Y, Baba K, Ohnishi M, Anegawa A, Shichijo C, Kosuge K, Fukaki H,

Mimura T. **2014**. Establishment of a shortened annual cycle system￼; a tool for the

analysis of annual re-translocation of phosphorus in the deciduous woody plant (*Populus*

alba L .). *Journal of Plant Research* **127**: 545–551.

Kurita Y, Baba KK, Ohnishi M, Matsubara R, Kosuge K, Anegawa A, Shichijo C,

Ishizaki K, Kaneko Y, Hayashi M, *et al.* 2017. Inositol Hexakis Phosphate is the

Seasonal Phosphorus Reservoir in the Deciduous Woody Plant Populus alba L. *Plant and*

Cell Physiology **58**: 1477–1485.

Langmead B, Trapnell C, Pop M, Salzberg SL. **2009**. Ultrafast and memory-efficient

alignment of short DNA sequences to the human genome. *Genome Biology* **10**: R25.

Law CW, Alhamdoosh M, Su S, Dong X, Tian L, Smyth GK, Ritchie ME. **2018**.

analysis is easy as 1-2-3 with limma , Glimma and edgeR. *F1000Research*.

Law CW, Chen Y, Shi W, Smyth GK. **2014**. voom: precision weights unlock linear

model analysis tools for RNA-seq read counts. *Genome Biology* **15**: R29.

Li B, Dewey CN. **2011**. RSEM: accurate transcript quantification from RNA-Seq data

with or without a reference genome. *BMC Bioinformatics* **12**: 323.

Liu TY, Huang TK, Yang SY, Hong YT, Huang SM, Wang FN, Chiang SF, Tsai SY,

Lu WC, Chiou TJ. **2016**. Identification of plant vacuolar transporters mediating

phosphate storage. *Nature Communications* **7**.

Liu J, Yang L, Luan M, Wang Y, Zhang C, Zhang B, Shi J, Zhao F-G, Lan W, Luan

S. **2015**. A vacuolar phosphate transporter essential for phosphate homeostasis in

Arabidopsis. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Loth-Pereda V, Orsini E, Courty PE, Lota F, Kohler A, Diss L, Blaudez D, Chalot

M, Nehls U, Bucher M, *et al.* 2011. Structure and Expression Profile of the Phosphate

Pht1 Transporter Gene Family in Mycorrhizal Populus trichocarpa. *Plant physiology* **156**:

2141–2154.

Lu H, Gordon MI, Amarasinghe V, Strauss SH. 2020. Extensive transcriptome

changes during seasonal leaf senescence in field-grown black cottonwood (Populus

trichocarpa Nisqually-1). *Scientific Reports* **10**: 1–14.

Mimura T, Sakano K, Shimmen T. 1996. Studies on the distribution, re-transiocation

and homeostasis of inorganic phosphate in barley leaves. *Plant, Cell and Environment* **19**:

311–320.

Münch E. 1930. Die Stoffbewegung in der Pflanze. Fischer, Jena. *Jena: Fischer*.

Nagano AJ, Honjo MN, Mihara M, Sato M, Kudoh H. 2015. Detection of Plant

Viruses in Natural Environments by Using RNA-Seq. In: Plant Virology Protocols.

Humana Press, New York, NY, 89-98.

Netzer F, Mueller CW, Scheerer U, Grüner J, Kögel-Knabner I, Herschbach C,

Rennenberg H. 2017a. Phosphorus nutrition of Populus × canescens reflects adaptation

to high P-availability in the soil. *Tree Physiology*: 1–19.

Netzer F, Schmid C, Herschbach C, Rennenberg H. 2017b. Phosphorus-nutrition of

European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) during annual growth depends on tree age and

P-availability in the soil. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* **137**: 194–207.

Park S, Keathley DE, Han K-H. 2008. Transcriptional profiles of the annual growth

cycle in Populus deltoides. *Tree Physiology* **28**: 321–329.

Pfautsch S, Renard J, Tjoelker M, Salih A. 2015. Phloem As Capacitor - Radial

Transfer of Water Into Xylem of Tree Stems Occurs Via Symplastic Transport in Ray

Parenchyma. *Plant Physiology* **167**: 963–971.

Preibisch S, Saalfeld S, Tomancak P. **2009**. Globally optimal stitching of tiled 3D

microscopic image acquisitions. *Bioinformatics* **25**: 1463–1465.

R Core Team. **2019**. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R

Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria.

Raboy V, Young K a, Dorsch J a, Cook A. **2001**. Genetics and breeding of seed

phosphorus and phytic acid. *Journal of Plant Physiology* **158**: 489–497.

Ritchie ME, Phipson B, Wu D, Hu Y, Law CW, Shi W, Smyth GK. **2015**. Limma

powers differential expression analyses for RNA-sequencing and microarray studies.

Nucleic Acids Research **43**: e47.

Robinson MD, McCarthy DJ, Smyth GK. **2010**. edgeR: A Bioconductor package for

differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. *Bioinformatics* **26**:

139–140.

Schachtman DP, Reid RJ, Ayling SM. **1998**. Phosphorus uptake by plants: from soil

to cell. *Plant physiology* **116**: 447–453.

De Schepper V, De Swaef T, Bauweraerts I, Steppe K. **2013**. Phloem transport: A

review of mechanisms and controls. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **64**: 4839–4850.

Spicer R. **2014**. Symplasmic networks in secondary vascular tissues: Parenchyma

distribution and activity supporting long-distance transport. *Journal of Experimental*

Botany **65**: 1829–1848.

Sugita R, Kobayashi NI, Hirose A, Ohmae Y, Tanoi K, Nakanishi TM. **2013**.

Nondestructive real-time radioisotope imaging system for visualizing ^{14}C-labeled

chemicals supplied as CO_2 in plants using *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Journal of*

Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry **298**: 1411–1416.

Sugita R, Kobayashi NI, Hirose A, Saito T, Iwata R, Tanoi K, Nakanishi TM. **2016**.

Visualization of uptake of mineral elements and the dynamics of photosynthates in

arabidopsis by a newly developed Real-Time Radioisotope Imaging System (RRIS).

Plant and Cell Physiology **57**: 743–753.

Supek F, Bošnjak M, Škunca N, Šmuc T. **2011**. Revigo summarizes and visualizes long

lists of gene ontology terms. *PLoS ONE* **6**: e21800.

Takami T, Ohnishi N, Kurita Y, Iwamura S, Ohnishi M, Kusaba M, Mimura T,

Sakamoto W. **2018**. Organelle DNA degradation contributes to the efficient use of

phosphate in seed plants. *Nature Plants* **4**.

Thévenaz P, Ruttiman UE, Unser M. **1998**. A Pyramid Approach to Sub-Pixel

Registraion based on Intensity. *IEEE Trans. Image Processing* **7**: 27–41.

Tuskan G a. a, Difazio S, Jansson S, Bohlmann J, Grigoriev I, Hellsten U, Putnam N,

Ralph S, Rombauts S, Salamov A, *et al.* **2006**. The genome of black cottonwood,

Populus trichocarpa (Torr. & Gray). *Science (New York, N.Y.)* **313**: 1596–1604.

Victor Roch G, Maharajan T, Ceasar SA, Ignacimuthu S. **2019**. The Role of PHT1

Family Transporters in the Acquisition and Redistribution of Phosphorus in Plants.

Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences **38**: 171–198.

Wang Y, Wang F, Lu H, Liu Y, Mao C. **2021**. Phosphate Uptake and Transport in

Plants: An Elaborate Regulatory System. *Plant and Cell Physiology* **0**: 1–9.

Windt CW, Vergeldt FJ, De Jager PA, Van As H. **2006**. MRI of long-distance water

transport: A comparison of the phloem and xylem flow characteristics and dynamics in

poplar, castor bean, tomato and tobacco. *Plant, Cell and Environment* **29**: 1715–1729.

Zhang C, Meng S, Li M, Zhao Z. **2016**. Genomic Identification and Expression

Analysis of the Phosphate Transporter Gene Family in Poplar. *Frontiers in Plant Science*

7.

Table 1 Phosphate transporters classified into clusters in Fig. 6. "non-SI" indicates genes

that showed significant expression but were not detected as seasonality-induced genes.

Tissue	Cluster	*PHT1*	*PHT5*	*PHO*
The 6th leaf	A		Potri.014G078000	*PHO12a*
	B	*PHT1;11*	Potri.003G120600	*PHO6, PHO11*
	C	*PHT1;3, PHT1;7, PHT1;8, PHT1;9*	Potri.001G111400	*PHO3*
	non-SI	*PHT1;4, PHT1;12*		*PHO4, PHO5,*
Stem	A	*PHT1;3*		*PHO3, PHO4, PHO6, PHO11*
	B		Potri.014G078000	*PHO5, PHO7, PHO8, PHO9, PHO12a*
	C	*PHT1;4, PHT1;7*	Potri.003G120600	
	D			
	E	*PHT1;9, PHT1;11, PHT1;12*		
	non-SI		Potri.001G111400	

Figure legends

Fig. 1 Real-time imaging of ^{32}P in *Populus alba*. (a) At stage 1. (b) At stage 3. Pink color

arrowheads indicate the position of the 6th leaf. The 6th leaf was shielded by acrylic board

because its strong signals disturbed measurement. bar = 2 cm.

Fig. 2 Whole plant autoradiographs of *Populus alba* trees in a shortened annual cycle

system. Images after one day of ^{32}P application at each stage. Pink color arrowheads indicate

the position of the 6th leaf. The 6th leaf was cut off because its strong signals disturbed

measurement. In stage 2 and 3, the stem was cut because the plant was too large for the

imaging plate. bar = 4 cm.

Fig. 3 Whole plant autoradiographs of *Populus alba* trees with phloem girdling.   **(a)**

Plants peeled of their upper phloem from the 6th leaf were cultured for 3 h or 24 h. **(b)**

Plants peeled of their lower phloem from the 6th leaf were cultured for 3 h or 24 h. Plants

at stage 1 were used for experiments. ^{32}P solution was added to the 6th leaf indicated by

pink color arrowheads. Blue color arrowheads indicate the position of phloem girdling.

After cultivation, upper and lower internodes of the 6th leaf were cut to prevent further

re-translocation of ^{32}P during contact. bar = 4 cm.

Fig. 4 Side view of the 6th axil and microautoradiographs of the stem between 6th and 7th

nodes of *Populus alba*. (a) Side view of the 6th axil at stage 1. ^{33}P autoradiograph sections

were converted to 3D images using ImageJ. (b) Side view of the 6th axil at stage 3. The

white color arrowhead indicates abscission layer during formation. (c) The stem between

6th and 7th nodes in stage 1. Left: the section stained by toluidine blue. Middle:

Microautoradiograph of the section. Right: merged image. Green color arrowheads

indicate the position of the 6th leaf. (d) The stem between 6th and 7th nodes in stage 3.

Bar = 0.5 mm. (e) A schematic diagram of the seasonal change of P re-translocation in

Populus alba. In the growing season, P is mainly re-translocated from the 6th leaf to upper

tissues (young leaves, apex) via phloem. P is re-translocated also to the axillary bud.

During senescence, P is re-translocated from the 6th leaf to lower tissues (stem, roots) via

phloem. P is exchanged from phloem to xylem near the 6th leaf and accumulated in ray

cells and perimedullary cells.

Fig. 5 Whole plant autoradiographs of *Populus alba* trees over dormancy period in the

shortened annual cycle system. Poplar trees in which ^{32}P was applied to the 6th leaf at 4th

week in stage 3 were subsequently cultured in stage 3. (a) Image after 4 weeks of ^{32}P

application (just after leaf fall). (b) Image after 6 weeks of ^{32}P application. After 4 weeks

cultivation, plants were moved to stage 1, and bud burst was induced. Pink color

arrowheads indicate the position of the 6th leaf. The stem was cut because the plant was

too large for the imaging plate. bar = 4 cm**.**

Fig. 6 Clustering plots and GO enrichment analysis of RNA-Seq data. (a) Clustering plots

of seasonality-induced genes (SI genes) in the 6th leaf.   (b) Clustering plots of SI genes

in stem. (c) Enriched biological process gene ontology (GO) terms in SI genes in the 6th

leaf (adjusted $P < 0.05$). (d) Enriched biological process GO terms in SI genes in stem

(adjusted $P < 0.05$). The circle size indicates the number of genes. Color scale indicates

$-\log_{10}$ (adjusted P) in GO enrichment analysis.

Fig. 7 Gene expression of phosphate transporters in *Populus alba*. (a) Expression

heatmap of phosphate transporters and typical seasonally variable genes in the 6th leaf. (b)

Expression heatmap of phosphate transporters in the stem. The color of the leftmost bar

indicates the group of genes. Green: *PHT1*, Blue: *PHT5*, Pink: *PHO*. The mean value of

$\log_2$(cpm) (prior.count = 2) was normalized by the scale function so that the mean is 0 and

the variance is 1. See Fig. S6-9 for plots of the expression levels of individual genes.

Figure legends of Supporting Information

Fig. S1 Surgical treatments on *Populus alba* trees and a summary diagram of culture

conditions.

Fig. S2 Transition of ^{32}P signal intensity (intensity cm^{-2}) of the apex and the 6th leaf axil.

Fig. S3 ^{33}P autoradiographs of leaf axil of the 6th leaf in stage 1 using imaging plate.

Fig. S4 Microautoradiographs of the stem between 5th and 6th nodes.

Fig. S5 Summary of sample sets and gene sets in this study.

Fig. S6 Expression plots of *PHT* family genes in the 6th leaf.

Fig. S7 Expression plots of *PHO* family genes and typical seasonally variable genes in

the 6th leaf.

Fig. S8 Expression plots of *PHT* family genes in the stem.

Fig. S9 Expression plots of *PHO* family genes in the stem.

Video S1 Real-time imaging movie of ^{32}P in *Populus alba* at stage 1.

Video S2 Real-time imaging movie of ^{32}P in *Populus alba* at stage 3.

Video S3 3D image of the 6th axil of *Populus alba* at stage 1.

Video S4 3D image of the 6th axil of *Populus alba* at stage 3.

(a) Stage 1

00:00　00:30　01:00　01:30　02:00

(b) Stage 3

00:00　00:30　01:00　01:30　02:00

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3

(a) Stage 1

(b) Stage 3

(c) Stage 1

(d) Stage 3

(e)

Stage 1 ⟫⟫⟫ Stage 3

Growing season

Senescing season

Axillary bud

P

P

Ray cells

Perimedullary cells

P

P

Axial parenchyma cells

(a) Stage 3

(b) Stage 3 → 1

(a) The 6th leaf

					Potri.005G256100.1, PHT1;11
					Potri.005G223600.1, PHT1;7
					Potri.002G005500.1, PHT1;9
					Potri.010G071500.1, PHT1;3
					Potri.019G061900.1, PHT1;8
					Potri.003G120600.1, AtPHT5;3 ortholog
					Potri.014G078000.1, AtPHT5;3 ortholog
					Potri.001G111400.1, AtPHT5;3 ortholog
					Potri.017G086800.2, PHO11
					Potri.010G132300.1, PHO6
					Potri.T048933.1, PHO12a
					Potri.008G110800.1, PHO3
					Potri.011G079500.1, LHB1B1
					Potri.001G348900.12, CA1
					Potri.015G099200.1, WRKY75
					Potri.005G020600.1, DPD1

st1w4 st2w2 st2w4 st3w3 st3w5

−1.5   1
Z-Score

(b) Stem

								Potri.001G318500.1, PHT1;12
								Potri.010G071500.1, PHT1;3
								Potri.002G005500.1, PHT1;9
								Potri.005G256100.1, PHT1;11
								Potri.005G223600.1, PHT1;7
								Potri.005G223500.1, PHT1;4
								Potri.014G078000.1, AtPHT5;3 ortholog
								Potri.003G120600.1, AtPHT5;3 ortholog
								Potri.008G110800.1, PHO3
								Potri.010G132300.1, PHO6
								Potri.008G169400.1, PHO4
								Potri.010G069000.2, PHO5
								Potri.017G086800.2, PHO11
								Potri.T048933.1, PHO12a
								Potri.010G165300.1, PHO8
								Potri.010G165800.2, PHO9
								Potri.010G164900.1, PHO7

st1w4 st2w2 st2w4 st3w3 st3w5 st3w8 st1'w1 st1'w2

−1   1
Z-Score