# Suberin plasticity to developmental and exogenous cues is regulated by a set of MYB transcription factors

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## Abstract

Suberin is a hydrophobic biopolymer that can be deposited at the periphery of cells, forming protective barriers against biotic and abiotic stress. In roots, suberin forms lamellae at the periphery of endodermal cells where it plays crucial roles in the control of water and mineral transport. Suberin formation is highly regulated by developmental and environmental cues. However, the mechanisms controlling its spatiotemporal regulation are poorly understood. Here, we show that endodermal suberin is regulated independently by developmental and exogenous signals to fine tune suberin deposition in roots. We found a set of four MYB transcription factors (MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93), that are regulated by these two signals, and are sufficient to promote endodermal suberin. Mutation of these four transcription factors simultaneously through genome editing, lead to a dramatic reduction of suberin formation in response to both developmental and environmental signals. Most suberin mutants analyzed at physiological levels are also affected in another endodermal barrier made of lignin (Casparian strips), through a compensatory mechanism. Through the functional analysis of these four MYBs we generated plants allowing unbiased investigations of endodermal suberin function without accounting for confounding effects due to Casparian strip defects, and could unravel specific roles of suberin in nutrient homeostasis.

# Main text

## Introduction

Plant roots form an inverted epithelium responsible for the selective acquisition of water and nutrients present in the soil. When entering the root, water and nutrients need to be radially transported from the root periphery to the central vasculature in order to be loaded to the xylem vessels and distributed to the plant organs. This can be achieved through three different transport scenarios: symplastic, apoplastic or transcellular (1, 2). The endodermis, the innermost cortical cell layer surrounding the central vasculature, plays a particularly important role in these transport routes as it forms barriers for the free diffusion of water and nutrients. These barriers are formed in two sequential differentiation stages with first, the formation of Casparian strips (CS), ring-like structures made of lignin forming an apoplastic barrier (3-5), and then suberin lamellae deposited as secondary cell walls around endodermal cells forming a diffusion barrier for the transcellular pathway (5-7). Recent efforts studying mutants and lines affected for CS and/or endodermal suberin in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and in rice allowed to demonstrate that both barriers play crucial roles in nutrient acquisition and homeostasis (6, 8-13). Yet, the role of suberin in nutrient transport is still poorly understood and, in the absence of mutants with constitutive strong reduction in suberization, is mainly corroborated by the analysis of a synthetic suberin-deficient line (artificially expressing in the endodermis the cutinase CDEF1, CUTICLE DESTRUCTING FACTOR1, to degrade suberin) (6, 11, 14). To complicate matters, most known enhanced suberin mutants are actually Casparian strip defective mutants, with ectopic endodermal lignification and suberization acting as compensation (9-11). This syndrome occurs in response to Casparian strip defects and is triggered through the endodermal integrity control system consisting of the Leucine-rich-repeat Receptor-like Kinase, SGN3/GSO1 (SCHENGEN3/GASSHO1) and its ligands CIF1/2 (CASPARIAN STRIP INTEGRITY FACTORS 1/2) (12, 15-19). Suberin, however, is not only regulated by endogenous developmental factors surveilling Casparian strip integrity. Pointing towards a very central role of suberin in plant adaptation to their environment, endodermal suberization is also highly regulated by nutrient availability and the hormones ethylene and ABA (abscisic acid) (6, 14, 20-25), as well as during biotic interactions (25-27). How suberin is regulated in response to developmental and exogenous clues remains poorly understood. Recently, several transcription factors were shown to be sufficient to induce ectopic suberin formation when ectopically overexpressed and for some to directly activate the expression of suberin biosynthesis genes (28-32). Suggesting a potential

role in controlling endodermal suberization the transcription factors *MYB39, MYB93* (*MYeloBlastosis* family of transcription factors) and *ANAC046* (*Arabidopsis thaliana NAM/ATAF/CUC protein*) were shown to be constitutively expressed in the endodermis and *MYB41* to be expressed in the endodermis in response to ABA or salt, two conditions known to induce suberization (28, 30, 31, 33). However, in the absence of clear suberin phenotypes associated with loss of function, their actual role in endodermal suberin formation and its regulation remains unclear.

Here, by combining epistasis and pharmacological experiments, we demonstrated that suberin is regulated independently by the SGN3/CIFs pathway and ABA (previously shown to control suberin induction in response to nutritional stresses). We next undertook a systematic gene expression analysis and identified four endodermal MYB transcription factors (MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93) acting downstream of SGN3/CIFs and ABA signaling, in the endodermis. These transcription factors are sufficient to induce suberin biosynthesis in the endodermis. Moreover, we generated a quadruple mutant by CRISPR/Cas9 and could show that these transcription factors are necessary to form endodermal suberin and to induce suberization in response to developmental and exogenous signaling. Our work developed plants specifically and strongly impaired in endodermal suberin allowing us not only to probe the regulatory mechanisms of suberin formation but also to characterize the specific function of suberin in nutrient homeostasis.

## Results

### Suberin is induced by ABA and SGN3/CIFs independently

Suberin formation can be induced in response to nutrient availability through ABA and in response to Casparian strip defects through the receptor SGN3/GSO1 and its ligands CIF1/2 (6, 12, 16, 17). In order to investigate the underlying molecular mechanism controlling ectopic suberization it was important to establish if ABA and SGN3/CIFs have a similar effect on suberin formation. We compared the effects of exogenous applications of the hormone ABA and the peptide CIF2 on root suberization. To this end we used the suberin biosynthesis reporter line *GPAT5::mCitrine-SYP122* (driving the expression of a fluorescently tagged plasma membrane anchor protein under the control of the promoter of the suberin biosynthesis gene *Glycerol-3-Phosphate Acyl Transferase5)* and whole-mount suberin staining using Fluorol Yellow (FY) (Fig. 1A-C). In untreated roots, we observed a

typical pattern of suberin formation (5, 6, 34) with a non-suberized zone (state I of endodermal differentiation with Casparian strips) followed by a suberizing zone where only patches of endodermal cells are suberized (patchy zone) and finally a fully suberized zone (Fig. 1A-C). Exogenous treatments with ABA or CIF2 peptide led to ectopic suberin formation at the proximity of the root tip, without a patchy zone between non-suberized and fully suberized zones (Fig. 1A-C). Both treatments had to the same effect on endodermal suberization, which begs the question whether these two signals are converging on the same mechanism. This has been addressed before and independent works on this suggest either an interaction between ABA and developmental signals (35), or, on the contrary, an independence (14). In light of these contradictions, we decided to clarify the relation between ABA and SGN/CIFs as signals controlling endodermal suberization. We first tested if the CIF1/2 receptor SGN3/GSO1 was needed for ABA-dependent suberization. We used the CIF-insensitive mutant *sgn3* and observed no difference between ABA induced ectopic suberization in WT plants and in *sgn3* mutants (Fig. 1C,D). This hints to ABA signaling being active either downstream or independent of the SGN3/CIFs pathway. To elucidate this further, we assessed if exogenous CIF2 application can induce suberization in absence of active ABA signaling. We used the previously described *ELTP::abi1-1* line, where ABA signaling is inhibited in the endodermis by expressing the dominant-negative *abi1-1* (*aba insensitive 1*) allele specifically in the endodermis using the *ELTP/EDA4* promoter (*Endodermal Lipid Transfer Protein* / *EMBRYO SAC DEVELOPMENT ARREST 4*) (6). As previously reported for *ELTP::abi1-1* plants, endodermal suberization was severely delayed in non-stressed conditions (6, 34), but CIF2 application was able to induce suberin formation similarly to the response observed in WT plants (Fig. 1E). This indicates that ABA signaling is not acting downstream of SGN3/CIFs and that both pathways control suberization independently. To strengthen this conclusion, we tested the role of ABA signaling in the SGN3/CIFs-dependent enhanced suberin phenotype observed in the Casparian strip defective mutant *esb1* (*enhanced suberin 1*) (9, 12). We first expressed *ELTP::abi1-1* in *esb1* mutant background and observed an enhanced suberin phenotype independent of endodermal ABA signaling (Fig. S1A), confirming previous analysis (14). Next, we confirmed this observation by pharmacological interference with ABA biosynthesis using fluridone (an herbicide blocking the carotenoid biosynthesis indirectly and thus lowering the amount of ABA), widely used as an ABA biosynthesis inhibitor (36-38). In presence of fluridone, suberin is highly reduced in WT plants but the *esb1* mutant still displays its enhanced suberin phenotype

(Fig. S1B). Altogether these data demonstrate that ABA and SGN3/CIFs pathways can regulate endodermal suberization independently.

**MYB41 is a primary response factor to suberin inducing signals**

Next, we aimed to identify transcription factors controlling endodermal suberization downstream of ABA and SGN3/CIFs. Several MYB transcription factors - *MYB9, MYB39, MYB41, MYB53, MYB92, MYB93* and *MYB107* - have been shown in transient assays in *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaves, ectopic overexpression in whole plant and/or yeast one-hybrid experiments to be able to activate suberin biosynthesis (28-32). Among them, MYB9 and MYB107 were shown to control suberin deposition in seed coats (39, 40). Very recently, MYB39 has been proposed as a regulator of endodermal suberization (30). However, the *myb39* mutant showed only a partial delay in endodermal suberization suggesting the involvement of other transcriptional regulators. Moreover, the primary factors regulating suberin biosynthesis in response to exogenous and developmental cues were still unknown. To identify such factors, we narrowed our search to the *MYBs* whose expression was induced by both ABA and the SGN3/CIFs pathway. We mined publicly available transcriptomes in seedlings treated with ABA for 1h and 3h (41) and roots treated with CIF2 peptide for 2h and 8h (17) and found a moderate response of all the selected *MYBs* (*i.e. MYB39, MYB53, MYB92* and *MYB93*), with the exception of *MYB41* whose expression responded the fastest and strongest to either stimuli (Fig. S2A). To validate this observation, we performed a time-course experiment for transcript profiling of roots after 3h and 6h of ABA or CIF2 applications in our growth conditions (Fig. 2A). We confirmed that *MYB41* was indeed the primary responsive factor for either stimuli. The other factors *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* were also induced by both stimuli but at a lower level while *MYB39* expression was reduced after ABA and CIF2 applications and was therefore not investigated further in this study (Fig. 2A).

Since *MYB41* reacted most prominently of all MYBs from transcript profiling, we focused on this factor as the primary candidate for controlling endodermal suberization and its induction by ABA and SGN3/CIFs. To test the spatiotemporal response of *MYB41* upon ABA and CIF2 applications, we developed a transcriptional reporter line, *MYB41::NLS-3xmVenus* for live imaging in roots. We found that *MYB41* was specifically expressed in the differentiated endodermis, matching the tissue-specificity of the suberin biosynthesis reporter *GPAT5* (Fig. 2B). Applications of ABA and CIF2 further validated the transcriptional response observed in

previous experiments of mRNA profiling as we observed a strong activation of *MYB41* promoter activity in the endodermis with an ectopic expression close to the root tip (Fig. S2B). We combined this reporter with *GPAT5::NLS-3xmScarlet-I* to generate a dual-reporter for *MYB41* and *GPAT5* promoter activity and observed in untreated conditions, that *MYB41* expression preceded the expression of *GPAT5* in the endodermis, positioning *MYB41* in spatio-temporal context for regulating endodermal suberization (Fig. 2C). Upon ABA and CIF2 applications, *MYB41* expression was strongly induced, and its expression pattern extended to the proximity of the root tip. Since *MYB41* expression always preceded *GPAT5* expression (Fig. 2C, Fig. S2C-D) we concluded that its spatiotemporal expression is indicative of *MYB41* controlling the suberin biosynthesis machinery in the endodermis.

We then tested if the activity of MYB41 was sufficient to induce endodermal suberization. To this end, we used the endodermis-specific promoter *CASP1* (expressed in the differentiating endodermis before suberization) to drive *MYB41* expression. FY staining of *CASP1::MYB41* transgenic lines showed ectopic endodermal suberization closer to the root tip, demonstrating that *MYB41* expression was sufficient for induction of endodermal suberization (Fig. 2D). We confirmed this observation by performing chemical analysis of suberin content in the roots of WT and two independent *CASP1::MYB41* lines. We found that both *CASP1::MYB41* lines displayed excess of suberin monomers with an increase of ~140% for line #3 and ~170% for line #7 compared to WT roots (Fig. 2E). We simultaneously tested the same in rather synthetic manner by expressing a functional *MYB41-mVenus* under a chemically inducible endodermal promoter, *CASP1xve* in WT (Fig. S2E) and *GPAT5::NLS-RFP* reporter backgrounds. Importantly we could observe the induced expression of *MYB41-mVenus* followed by the induction of *GPAT5* promoter activity, corroborating our supposition that MYB41 controls suberin biosynthesis (Fig. 2F). In order to verify if this conditional induction of MYB41 was able to induce the rest of the suberin biosynthetic pathway, we measured the transcript levels of suberin biosynthesis genes and the other *MYBs* of interest. A short treatment of 3h with estradiol was enough to strongly induce *MYB41* expression as well as nearly all the biosynthetic enzymes, including the recently characterized *GELPs* (*GDSL-type Esterase/Lipases*) (42) coding for enzymes involved in the polymerization of suberin monomers in the cell wall (Fig. 2G). In addition, we observed that MYB41 did not induce the expression of any other *MYBs* studied, suggesting that *MYB41* could be directly controlling the suberin biosynthetic genes (Fig. 2G).

**A set of four MYBs control suberin biosynthesis and regulation**

After establishing that MYB41 was sufficient to induce endodermal suberization, we wondered whether it was also required to establish the endodermal suberin pattern observed under standard conditions in wildtype plants. We generated two CRISPR alleles of *MYB41*. The CRISPR mutants, *myb41_c1* was obtained by a nearly full deletion of the *MYB41* coding region and *myb41_c2* was obtained by introducing a one-base-pair frame shift in the beginning of the third and longest exon of *MYB41* gene (Fig. S3A). To confirm the protein inactivity from the point mutation generated in *myb41_c2*, the mutated *MYB41_c2* cDNA was cloned and expressed in plants using the *CASP1* promoter and, unlike the unmutated MYB41 cDNA, was unable to induce suberization (Fig. S3B). Unexpectedly, FY staining showed that suberin deposition in the endodermis was unaffected in these two CRISPR mutants (Fig. 3A). Moreover, ABA or CIF2 treatment induced ectopic suberization in *myb41_c1 and myb41_c2* mutants virtually indistinguishable from WT plants (Fig. 3A). These observations led us to consider that though *MYB41* was the primary responsive factor to ABA and CIF2 and is sufficient to induce suberization, other functionally redundant MYBs are probably compensating in its absence.

To identify other MYBs that might be active in the *myb41* mutants, we compared the transcript levels of the other MYB candidates in WT and *myb41_c1* mutant backgrounds and found that the mRNA levels of *MYB39*, *MYB53*, *MYB92*, and *MYB93* were slightly higher in *myb41_c1* compared to the WT in untreated conditions (Fig. S3C). Upon ABA and CIF applications, all the MYBs except *MYB39*, were further induced in both backgrounds. Therefore, we decided to additionally characterize *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* in endodermal suberization. Similarly to MYB41, the selected MYB candidates, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93, are able to induce ectopic endodermal suberization. FY staining of the lines *CASP1::MYB53*, *CASP1::MYB92* and *CASP1::MYB93* along with *CASP1::MYB41*, clearly showed that endodermis specific precocious expression of any of these MYBs was sufficient to induce suberization close to the root tip similarly to MYB41 (Fig. 3B). Next, we wondered which one of these candidate *MYBs* were expressed in the endodermis and generated promoter-reporter lines for *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* driving the expression of *NLS-3xmVenus*. We found that, similarly to *MYB41*, *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* were also expressed in unstressed conditions in the root endodermis with three of them expressed from the differentiated zone (Fig. 3C-E). However, *MYB93* expression was observed only in some

cells, most likely in the endodermis above the lateral root primordia (Fig.3E) as it was previously described (33). Additionally, *MYB53* and *MYB92* were also expressed in the cortex and epidermis in untreated conditions in few isolated cells along the differentiated root (Fig. 3C-D). Importantly, all these promoters promptly respond to ABA and CIF2 resulting in a higher expression extending to the endodermal cells close to the root tip as observed for *MYB41*, with the only exception being for *MYB53* response to CIF2, where only an increased level of expression was observed. Taken together, we concluded that not a single MYB, but rather a group of MYB transcription factors are likely controlling suberin biosynthesis and regulation in the endodermis. To test this hypothesis, we mutated all these 4 *MYBs* simultaneously by using multiplexed CRISPR technology introducing frame shifts in *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* in the mutant background, *myb41_c2* (Fig. S4A). After FY staining of the resulting quadruple mutant – *myb41-myb53-myb92-myb93* (*quad-myb*) we observed nearly a total absence of suberin in roots based of FY staining (Fig. 4A). Importantly, suberin induction by ABA and CIF2 treatments was also severely compromised in the *quad-myb* mutant where almost no induction was observed after 3 or 6 h and only a weak effect was observed after 16h (Fig. 4A, Fig. S4B). We confirmed this observation by performing chemical analysis of the suberin content in the roots of the *quad-myb* mutant compared to WT roots and found a strong reduction of both aliphatic and aromatic monomers (Fig. 4B). Dicarboxylic acids and ω-hydroxy acids were nearly absent with ~90% reductions, while reductions in fatty alcohols ranged from 20 to 80%. Ferulate was reduced by ~80% and coumarate showed ~50% reduction compared to WT. On average, the quadruple mutant showed an overall ~78% decrease in suberin monomers compared to WT (Fig. 4B). We also quantified the mRNA levels of suberin biosynthesis and polymerization genes and found that most were accumulating at lower levels, especially the genes involved in fatty acid pathway and polymerization (Fig. 4C). Altogether, this strongly supports a central role of the four transcription factors MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93 in the control of suberin biosynthesis but also for its regulation by the two main signals inducing endodermal suberization.

**MYB-dependent suberization reveals specific roles of suberin in nutrient homeostasis**

Having identified a set of four MYB transcription factors playing a central role in controlling suberin biosynthesis and regulation we set out to use these MYBs as tools to manipulate endodermal suberin specifically. Indeed, although suberin is known to play important roles

for nutrient homeostasis we often cannot distinguish its role from Casparian strips. Previous efforts relied on mutants such as *esb1*, *casp1casp3*, or *myb36* with pleiotropic endodermal defects in Casparian strips formation (9, 10, 14). Here we generated *MYB41* overexpressing plants as potentially interesting tools to specifically enhance endodermal suberin in plants. To our surprise, plants overexpressing *MYB41* under the *CASP1* promoter displayed a delay in the establishment of their apoplastic barrier (Fig. S4C) similar to the defects observed in the *esb1* or *casp1casp3 (9, 12)*. This may indicate that a precocious suberin formation (concomitant with Casparian strip formation) interferes with Casparian strip formation. Using the *ELTP* promoter, whose endodermal expression starts slightly later (6), to trigger *MYB41* expression, we observed ectopic suberin formation close to the root tip in the corresponding plants (Fig. S4D) yet, importantly, without delays in the establishment of the apoplastic barrier (Fig. S4C). We therefore dispose of dominant genetic tools to either enhance suberin specifically (*ELTP::MYB41*), or together with Casparian strip defects (*CASP1::MYB41*). In parallel we have generated in this study a novel mutant, *quad-myb*, with a dramatic reduction of suberin and observed no delay in the establishment of the apoplastic barrier compared to WT plants (Fig. S4C). We therefore studied and compared the suberin-only affected plants *ELTP::MYB41*, with the non-suberized *quad-myb* mutant as well as with the suberin and Casparian strip affected *CASP1::MYB41* in order to understand better the consequences of reduced or enhanced endodermal suberin, independent or coinciding with Casparian strip defects. All plants generated were carefully studied for their growth and development in plates and in soil conditions. We observed only minor changes in the primary root length, although the number and length of lateral roots was highly reduced in both *ELTP::MYB41* and *CASP1::MYB41* lines and increased in the *ELTP::CDEF1* line (Fig. S5A). The *quad-myb* was slightly affected in primary root length but not for lateral roots (Fig. S5A). These changes in root architecture could be associated with enhanced or reduced suberization affecting directly root development, as it was previously suggested (11), or indirectly as a consequence of changes in nutrient acquisition. In soil, after 2 to 3 weeks of growth we could observe that all genotypes were comparable (Fig. S5B). Therefore, specific manipulation of endodermal suberin had no dramatic consequences on plant growth and development allowing further physiological characterization of the corresponding plants.

To study the consequences of endodermal suberin manipulation for nutrient homeostasis, we performed inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) for elemental profiling in leaves (Fig. 4D, Fig. S5D, Table S4). Confirming previous analysis in independent growth

conditions (6), *ELTP::CDEF1* leaves accumulated arsenic, lithium, magnesium and sodium at higher levels and potassium and rubidium at lower levels compared to WT plants. We observed additional ionomic changes in our growth conditions with a higher accumulation of boron, calcium, manganese, strontium and molybdenum and a lower accumulation of phosphorous, iron, zinc and cadmium in *ELTP::CDEF1* compared to WT. The *quad-myb* mutant displayed also multiple ionomic changes compared to WT plants with similarities to several changes observed in *ELTP::CDEF1* although more moderately (Fig. 4D, Fig. S5D, Table S4). Among all these ionomic changes the levels of lithium, boron, sodium, calcium, manganese, arsenic and strontium were found higher and the levels of phosphorous, nickel and cadmium were found lower in both genotypes and could therefore be directly associated with an absence of endodermal suberin. On the other hand, *ELTP::MYB41* and *CASP1::MYB41* lines displayed more differences, with manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper, and cadmium accumulating in opposite manners (Fig. 4D). However, lithium and zinc accumulated at higher levels and boron, sodium, magnesium, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, iron, arsenic, rubidium, and strontium accumulated at lower levels in both *ELTP::MYB41* and *CASP1::MYB41* lines. To identify elements potentially directly affected by suberin among all these changes we selected the elements commonly affected in the suberin deficient *quad-myb* and *ELTP::CDEF1* plants and oppositely, but commonly, affected in the enhanced suberin *ELTP::MYB41* and *CASP1::MYB41* plants. Following this rational we found only few elements following this trend with boron, sodium, calcium, arsenic and strontium accumulating at higher levels in suberin deficient plants and at lower levels in enhanced suberin plants (Fig. 4D). Among these elements, sodium was previously proposed to be directly affected by suberin and salt treatments were previously shown to induce suberization (6, 22, 43-45). This suggested that endodermal suberin induction in response to salt stress represents a protective mechanism against sodium entrance in plants. We set out to further test this hypothesis with the *quad-myb* mutant by studying its response to salt. First, we performed suberin staining on *quad-myb* treated with NaCl and observed that while this treatment induced suberization close to the root tip in WT plants like previously described (6), the *quad-myb* mutant was almost not responding (Fig. 4E). Next, we tested the tolerance of the *quad-myb* mutant to a mild salt treatment in terms of primary root growth, and found that the growth rate of *quad-myb* plants under salt was significantly reduced compared to WT plants (Fig. 4F). Combined, our results further support the central role of suberin in plant adaptation to the presence of salt.

## Discussion

Suberin is a hydrophobic polymer deposited as a secondary cell wall, that can be found in many plant organs such as potato periderm, seed coat, cork, root periderm and endodermis. The past two decades have seen extensive efforts to elucidate its biosynthesis from intracellular production of monomers to extracellular polymerization and deposition in suberin lamellae (46-50). Suberin plasticity in response to abiotic stresses such as drought, salt, waterlogging or cadmium, while observed in roots in many species, (20, 44, 45, 51), only recently started to be characterized at the molecular level. This topic gained increasing interest in the past few years after observing that endodermal suberin is even more plastic than previously thought, and not only overproduced in toxic environments but also tightly modulated in response to mineral deficiencies (6, 14, 21-25), to Casparian strip defects (9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17) and during biotic interactions (25-27). In light of the plethora of signals controlling suberization, understanding the interaction between these pathways is critical. The potential interaction between ABA and SGN3/CIFs signaling has been previously interrogated (14, 35), suggesting complex coordination between root development and ABA-mediated responses as well as between roots and shoots to control suberization. Here, we demonstrate by pharmaco-genetic approaches that both pathways induce endodermal suberization independently (Fig. 1 and Fig. S1). Corroborating our conclusion, a recent large-scale approach (combining microbiome, ionome, and suberin analysis, and genetics) revealed that the plant microbiome influences suberization through suppression of ABA-mediated signaling but independent of the SGN3/CIFs pathway (25).

In our attempt to identify transcription factors that are involved in ABA- and/or SGN3/CIFs-mediated suberization, we expected to identify specific factors downstream of at least one of these two pathways. We benefited from the impressive work performed by the community in identifying MYB transcription factors sufficient to induce suberization (28-32) and found 4 MYB transcription factors (*MYB41*, *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93*) to be expressed in the endodermis at different degrees under unstressed conditions (Fig. 2B, Fig. 2C and Fig. 3C-E). To our surprise all of them are induced in the endodermis in response to both ABA and CIF2 application (Fig. 2 C Fig. S2 B-D, Fig. 3 C-E). This suggests that these 4 MYBs form a point of convergence between ABA and SGN3/CIFs signaling, with the signal specificity being established upstream of *MYB41*, *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93*.

Confirming previous work in heterologous systems or whole-plant overexpression we found that these four MYBs are sufficient to induce suberization when strongly expressed one by one in the endodermis prior to suberization (state I of endodermal differentiation) (Fig. 2D-G, Fig S2E and Fig. 3B). Previous works showed *in vitro* that MYB41 can directly bind to the *LTP20* promoter (*LIPID TRANSFER PROTEIN20*; LTP proteins are associated with functions in cutin and suberin export) (52) and MYB92 to the *BCCP2* promoter (*BIOTIN CARBOXYL CARRIER PROTEIN2*, involved in fatty acid synthesis) (32). Moreover, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93 (as well as MYB9, MYB39 and MYB107) were shown in yeast one-hybrid and heterologous expression in tobacco leaves to activate the expression of *BCCP2* (32). In addition, MYB92 was shown to activate the expression of two other genes involved in fatty acid biosynthesis, *ACP1* (*ACYL CARRIER PROTEIN1*) and *LPD1* (*LIPOAMIDE DEHYDROGENASE1*) (32). Our analysis of conditional endodermal expression of *MYB41* showed that the expression of genes involved in suberin biosynthesis and polymerization is induced in roots shortly after MYB41 production (Fig 2G). Additionally, we showed that endodermal accumulation of MYB41 protein can trigger the expression of the suberin biosynthesis gene *GPAT5* shortly after (Fig. 2F). Unfortunately, despite multiple attempts we were unable to immunodetect MYB41 protein from roots (either using epitope-tagged versions or raising antibodies), that would have allowed us to identify its direct targets *in planta*. This is probably due to working in its endogenous tissue (the late differentiated endodermis) which represent comparatively few cells of a whole root or a seedling. However, considering the high number of evidence from *in vitro*, yeast one-hybrid or transactivation assays in tobacco, it is likely that most suberin-inducing MYBs, including the four MYBs of interest in this study (MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93), are directly activating the expression of suberin biosynthesis genes *in planta*.

Loss of function of single suberin-inducing *MYBs* was rarely undertaken. Phenotypes were described only for *myb9* and *myb107* mutants, whose seed coats display a reduction in suberin monomers and an increased permeability, and for *myb39* mutant displaying a reduction of suberin monomers in whole roots but only a minor delay of a few cells in endodermal suberization (30, 39, 40). Also, loss of function of *MYB41*, presented in this study, had no effect on suberization (Fig. 3A). We therefore took advantage of CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing to generate a quadruple *myb41-53-92-93* mutant (*quad-myb*). In non-stressed condition this *quad-myb* displayed a dramatic reduction of endodermal suberin with no suberin staining observed in endodermal cells and a reduction by 78% of suberin monomers detected in its

roots (Fig. 4A, B, Fig. S4B). Mutants with such low amounts of endodermal suberin are extremely rare and most suberin biosynthesis mutants only moderately affect suberin amounts or its monomeric composition. For example, the *gpat5* mutant lacking a key enzyme for suberin biosynthesis displays only a 30% reduction of suberin monomer accumulating in its roots (53). To our knowledge, the only genotypes displaying a range of reduction comparable to the *quad-myb* is the quintuple *gelp22-38-49-51-96* mutant (affected in suberin polymerization in the cell wall), and the *ELTP::MYB4* line (where inhibition of the phenylpropanoid pathway in the endodermis leads to suberin detachment), both displaying an 85% reduction of suberin monomers in roots (42, 54). We are therefore confident that MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93 form the core regulating machinery controlling suberization in unstressed conditions. Testing the effect of ABA and CIF2, we found that suberin is virtually non-affected by these two treatments in *quad-myb* (Fig. 4A and Fig. S4B). MYB41, MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93 are therefore playing also a central role in suberin regulation through at least two independent signaling pathways. Yet, the fact that we could still observe in *quad-myb* a weak response (with few patches of endodermal cells after ABA or CIF2 treatment) (Fig. 4A and Fig. S4B), suggest that even more factors are either needed to fully regulate suberization or are not involved in suberization *per se* but capable to weakly compensate for the *quad-myb* defects. Such factors could be other endodermal *MYBs* with an endodermal expression induced by ABA and/or CIF2, which have yet to be identified. Additionally, we could envision that other transcription factors such as bHLH transcription factor (basic Helix-Loop-Helix) and/or a WD40-repeat protein (WD, tryptophan-aspartic acid) could influence endodermal suberization. It is known that MYB-bHLH-WD40 protein complexes play central roles in controlling multiple cell fates such as root hair and trichome formation, anthocyanin biosynthesis, seed coat mucilage or pigmentation (55-57).

As outlined in the introduction, suberin function for plant nutrition has recently benefited from the identification of mutants and lines affected in endodermal suberization and the wide application of ionomic analysis (6, 8-11, 13, 25, 30). However, even though all these studies are of fundamental interest to unravel suberin function and its physiological relevance they are presently limited by the mutants and lines available at that time. In fact, plants with enhanced endodermal suberin, often characterized for their ionomic and physiological defects, are not specifically affected for this barrier. This is particularly the case for the enhanced suberin phenotypes being the consequence of Casparian strip defects, which activate SGN3/CIFs signaling and in turn lead to ectopic lignin and suberin deposition in the

endodermis (9-12, 14, 16). In other words, the nutritional effect described in currently available analyses likely represent the consequence of multilevel defects in the endodermal barriers and of the activation of SGN3/CIF signaling. Because of these tissue-specific pleiotropic defects, the specific role played by suberin has remained unclear. On the other hand, mutants with a strong reduction of endodermal suberization were previously not available and studying a lack of suberin had been based on a synthetic line, artificially expressing a cutinase in the endodermis to degrade suberin (5, 6, 11, 14). While these lines showed a dramatic suberin reduction and were extremely important to distinguish between Casparian strip and suberin defects, we cannot exclude that artificially expressing the cutinase *CDEF1* in the endodermis would not lead to additional defects. Moreover, being highly plastic in response to nutrient availability (6, 14, 21-25), suberin defects described in non-stressed conditions can in some case be exacerbated or absent in stressed conditions (25). To fully understand suberin function in the endodermis we crucially need better and more specific mutants and lines with constitutively enhanced and reduced endodermal suberization. The lines presented here (*ELTP::MYB41* with constitutively enhanced suberization without any Casparian strip defects, and the *quad-myb* mutant with strongly reduced endodermal suberization and largely lacking regulation by ABA and salt stress) (Fig. 4A,B,E and Fig. S4C,D) provide such highly specific phenotypes. Their usefulness is highlighted by our ionomic analyses, which show clear differences between the enhanced suberin line *ELTP::MYB41*, a line combining enhanced suberin with Casparian strip defects (*CASP1::MYB41* line) (Fig. 4 D) and between the *quad-myb* and *ELTP::CDEF1* line (Fig. 4D). In summary our results suggest that, in accordance with previous reports, suberin plays crucial roles for nutrient homeostasis, likely affecting directly transport through the endodermis. But its role might be more specific than initially thought, affecting mainly the acquisition of boron, sodium, calcium, arsenic and strontium in our experiments (Fig. 4D). We are therefore convinced that the tools generated in this study, especially the *quad-myb* and *ELTP::MYB41* plants will be of tremendous interest for the community in order to better understand suberin function in relation to nutrient availability as well as for its role in root development and biotic interactions. Given the increasing interest beyond fundamental research in manipulating suberin, extending the genetic tool box to specifically manipulate and fine-tune suberization is highly relevant for applied plant biology in crop improvement or carbon capture to combat climate change.

## Material and methods

### Plant material

All experiments were performed in Columbia-0 (Col-0) background. Previously published mutants and transgenic plants used in this study: *casp1-1 casp3-1* (58); *esb1-1* (8); *sgn3-3, sgn3-4* (12); and *ELTP::CDEF1* (6). Transgenic lines previously described and slightly modified in this study *ELTP::abi1-1* (based on (4), here with a FastRed selection) *GPAT5::NLS-RFP* (based on *GPAT5::NLS-GFP* from (5)) and *GPAT5::mCitrine-SYP122* (6). The following mutants were generated for this study using *CRISPR*-Cas9 technology: *myb41_c1, myb41_c2* and *myb41_c2-myb53-myb92-myb93* (*quad-myb*, see constructs part for more details). The following transgenic lines were generated for this study: *MYB41::NLS-3xmVenus, MYB53::NLS-3xmVenus, MYB92::NLS-3xmVenus, MYB93::NLS-3xmVenus, GPAT5::NLS-3xmScarlet, CASP1xve::MYB41-mVenus, CASP1::MYB41, CASP1::MYB53, CASP1::MYB92, CASP1::MYB93, CASP1::myb41_c2, ELTP::MYB41*. The corresponding gene numbers are as follow: *CASP1*, At2g36100; *CASP3*, At2g27370; *ESB1*, At2g28670; *SGN3*, At4g20140; *CDEF1*, At4g30140; *ELTP*, At2g48140; *ABI1*, At4g26080; *GPAT5*, At3g11430; *SYP122*, At3g52400, *MYB41*, At4g28110; *MYB53*, At5g65230; *MYB92*, At5g10280; *MYB93*, At1g34670.

### Constructs

Plasmids were constructed using Multisite Gateway cloning (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The list of primers used for cloning are presented in Table S1. *MYB* promoter sequences upstream of ATG - *MYB41* (2167bp), *MYB53* (4117bp), *MYB92* (4098bp), *MYB93* (2873bp) were amplified from Col-0 genomic DNA and cloned into *pDONRP4-P1R* (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For promoter-reporter expression clones, *PROMOTER::NLS-3xmVenus or PROMOTER::NLS-3xmScarlet,* the entry plasmids containing the promoter region, along with *pDONRL1-NLS-3xmVenus-L2* (59) or *pDONRL1-NLS-3xmScarlet-L2* and the pEN-R2-*tNOS*-L3 containing the terminator *tNOS* (60) were recombined into the destination vectors pFR7m34GW or pFG7m34GW. The destination vectors pFR7m34GW or pFG7m34GW were obtained by substitution of the Hygromycin sequence in pH7m34GW by the FastRed and FastGreen sequences respectively (61). For endodermal specific expression of MYBs using *CASP1* and *ELTP* promoters (58, 62), MYB coding sequences were amplified from wild-type Arabidopsis cDNA and cloned into pDONR221_L1-ORF-L2 vector were recombined with pDONR-P3-*tNOS*-P2R in the destination plasmid pFR7m34GW. Except for *MYB41cDNA* that was obtained from (28) and recloned into pDONR221_L1-CDDB-CAM-L2. For

endodermal specific estradiol inducible *MYB41* expression (*CASP1xve::MYB41-mVenus)*, the entry vectors containing the inducible *CASP1* promoter pEN-L4-CASP1xve-R1 (63) was recombined with pDONR221_L1-MYB41nostop-L2 and pEN-R2-mVenus +stop-L3 into the destination vector pFG7m34GW. Cloning of vectors for CRISPR/Cas9 was done as previously described in (42, 64). sgRNA for spCas9 were designed using webtools – CRISPR-P 2.0 design tool (http://crispr.hzau.edu.cn/CRISPR2/) (65) and Benchling (https://www.benchling.com). Pairs of annealed oligos of the sgRNA were cloned into the Bbs-I linearized entry vector (64) and recombined into the destination vector containing Cas9 expression cassette and a FastRed or FastGreen selection marker cassette. For large deletion of genomic regions in *myb41_c1* or multiplex targeting of MYB53, MYB92 and MYB93, multiple entry vectors were used to clone different sgRNAs. Thereafter, recombined into the destination vector containing Cas9 expression cassette and FastRed or FastGreen selection marker cassette. After fluorescent seed selection in T1, non-fluorescent seeds in the T2 generation (indicating a segregation of the vector backbone containing the Cas9 cassette) were used to identify the mutations. Primary screening of mutants was done using High-Resolution Melting (HRM) curve analysis as previously described in (42). Candidates from HRM analysis were further confirmed for the mutations by sequencing of PCR-amplified genomic regions. All constructs were transformed into Agrobacterium strain GV3101 by electroporation and used for transformation of Arabidopsis plants by the floral-dip method (66).

**Growth conditions**

Seedlings for staining and live-imagine were grown vertically on square plates containing half-strength MS with 0.8% agar (Duchefa), without sucrose. Seeds were surface sterilized before sowing on plates and were incubated 2 to 4 days at 4°C and put to grow in growth chambers under continuous light (~100 µE) at 22 °C. All histological and live-microscopy analysis were performed on 5-day old seedlings. For other experiments the age of the plant is specified in the figure legends. In soil, for amplifications and experiments in pots, plants were grown in long-day conditions (16 h day, 8 h night) with light intensity of 150-180 µE with 60-70% humidity and at 20 ± 2 °C.

**Pharmacological treatments**

ABA hormone was stored in 50 mM stock solution, dissolved in methanol. For 16 h treatments, seedlings were transferred on solid half-MS media containing 1 µM ABA. For

shorter treatments such as 3 h/6 h for staining, microscopy or gene expression analysis, stock solution of ABA was diluted to 1µM in liquid half-MS media applied directly on roots without transfer of seedlings. The peptide CIF2 described in (16, 19) (DY(sulfated)GHSSPKPKLVRPPFKLIPN) was stored as 1mM stock solution and the treatments with 1 µM were performed as described for the ABA treatment for short (3 h/6 h) and long (16 h) treatments. For 48 h fluridone treatments, 3-day seedlings were transferred on the half-MS containing 10 µM fluridone. Estradiol treatments were performed by diluting 5mM stock of estradiol to 5 µM in solid or liquid half-MS for long (16 h) short (3 h/6 h) respectively.

**Suberin staining**

Whole mount suberin staining was performed as previously described in (6). Five-day old seedlings were incubated in Fluorol Yellow 088 (FY 088) (0.01% w/v, lactic acid) for 30 min at 70°C, washed twice with water and then counter-stained with Aniline Blue (0.5% w/v, water) for 30 min, washed with water and mounted on glass slide to be observed with an epifluorescence stereomicroscope- ZEISS Axio Zoom.V16 with a GFP filter ex: 450-490 nm, em: 500-550 nm. Samples were kept in the dark during the whole procedure. For subsequent suberin pattern quantifications, tiled images covering the whole seedlings in single images were captured. For imaging of the large field of view with high-resolution, multiple smaller images were captured as tiles and stitched. Region of interest of the root was defined by marking the 'tile-region' after a quick scan of the sample at lower resolution. Adequate number of focus points were used to adjust the focus of the sample along the region of interest. 10% area of overlap was defined for alignment and stitching of tiles. Fiji (http://fiji.sc/Fiji) (67) was used on Zen2.3 blue exported stitched tile images for quantification of suberin patterns (in mm) along the root: suberized for the fully suberized zone, patchy for the partially suberized zone and non-suberized –for the zone prior to suberization. Results are presented as percentage of the root as previously done (6, 12).

**Propidium iodide test**

Propidium iodide (PI) was used as an apoplastic tracer to assess Casparian strip functionality as previously described (5, 63). Seedlings were live-stained with 15 µM PI; kept in the dark for 10 min and then rinsed twice with water. The apoplastic barrier was determined under a fluorescent Leica DM6 B microscope with I3 filter and 20x magnification, as the number of endodermal cells after the onset of elongation where PI uptake is blocked at the endodermis.

The onset of elongation was defined as the first endodermal cell for which the length was at least three times its width.

**Confocal microscopy**

Confocal laser scanning microscopy experiments were performed either on a Zeiss LSM 780 or a Zeiss LSM 800 microscope. Excitation and detection windows were set as follows: Zeiss LSM 780: mVenus ex: 488 nm, em: 519-559 nm; RFP/mScarlet ex: 543 nm, em: 591-637 nm ; Zeiss LSM 800: mCITRINE/mVenus ex: 488 nm, em: 500-546 nm; RFP/mScarlet ex: 561 nm, em: 585-617 nm; PI ex: 561 nm, em: 592-617 nm. For imaging of the large field of view with high-resolution, multiple smaller images were captured as tiles and stitched together for a larger view of roots. Region of interest of the root was defined by marking the 'tile-region' after a quick scan of the sample at lower resolution. Adequate number of focus points were used to adjust the focus of the sample along the region of interest. Acquisition of tiled images was combined with Z-stacking and in certain cases with time series as well. 10% area of overlap was defined for alignment and stitching of tiles and tiled Z-stacks were used for orthogonal projection and subsequently exported. For time-course experiments, 25-30 min time interval in between the scans was defined for 10-12 cycles. Scanner and detector settings were kept unchanged for every experiment. Images were analyzed with Zen2.3 blue (LSM 800) or Zen2.3 black (LSM 780) software and Fiji (http://fiji.sc/Fiji) (67).

**Q-RT-PCR**

For gene expression analysis, 25-30 roots of 7d-ay-old seedlings were harvested and pooled together to form one biological replicate. RNA extractions were performed by Trizol-adapted RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit (Qiagen). RNA was reverse-transcribed using Thermo Scientific Maxima First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit following the manufacturer's protocol. Real-time PCR was performed on Applied Biosystems QuantStudio5 thermocycler using Applied Biosystems SYBR Green master mix. *ACTIN-2 (At3g18780)* was used as the housekeeping gene and relative expression of each gene was calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method (68). The list of primer used for Q-RT-PCR are presented in Table S2.

**Chemical suberin analysis**

We used the protocol as described by (69) for the analysis of ester-bound lipids, which likely only belong suberin in the described organ and developmental stage. In brief, 200 mg of seeds were grown and after five days, the roots (between 200 and 300 per replicate) were shaved off

after flash freezing and extracted in isopropanol/0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). They were then delipidized two times (16h, 8h) in each of the following solvents, i.e., chloroform-methanol (2:1), chloroform-methanol (1:1), methanol each with 0.01% BHT, under agitation before being dried for 3 days under vacuum. Depolymerization was performed by base catalysis (70). Briefly, dried plant samples were trans-esterified in 2 mL of reaction medium. 20 mL reaction medium was composed of 3 mL methyl acetate, 5 mL of 25% sodium methoxide in dry methanol and 12 mL dry methanol. The equivalents of 5 mg of methyl heptadecanoate and 10 mg of ω-pentadeca-lactone/sample were added as internal standards. After incubation of the samples at 60°C for 2h 3.5 mL dichloromethane, 0.7 mL glacial acetic acid and 1 mL 0.9% NaCl (w/v) /100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0) were added to each sample and subsequently vortexed for 20 s. After centrifugation (1500g for 2 min), the organic phase was collected, washed with 2 mL of 0.9% NaCl, and dried over sodium sulfate. The organic phase was then recovered and concentrated under a stream of nitrogen. The resulting suberin monomer fraction was derivatized with BFTSA/pyridine (1:1) at 70°C for 1 h and injected out of hexane on a HP-5MS column (J&W Scientific) in a gas chromatograph coupled to a mass spectrometer and a flame ionization detector (Agilent 6890N GC Network systems). The temperature cycle of the oven was the following: 2 min at 50°C, increment of 20°C/min to 160°C, of 2°C/min to 250°C and 10°C/min to 310°C, held for 15 min. 3 independent experiments were performed with 4 replicates for each genotype, respectively, and a representative dataset is presented. The amounts of unsubstituted C16 and C18 fatty acids were not evaluated because of their omnipresence in the plant and in the environment.

**Ionomic analysis**

Leaf elemental content was measured using ICP-MS as previously described (71). Briefly, dried leaves were transferred into the Pyrex test tubes, weighted, and digested with 1 ml of concentrated trace metal grade nitric acid Primar Plus (Fisher Chemicals) containing an indium internal standard, in the dry block heaters (SCP Science; QMX Laboratories) at 115˚C for 4 h. After cooling, digested samples were diluted to 10mL with 18.2 MΩcm Milli-Q Direct water (Merck Millipore) and elemental analysis was performed using an ICP-MS (PerkinElmer NexION 2000 equipped with Elemental Scientific Inc autosampler) in the collision mode (He). Twenty-three elements were monitored (Li, B, Na, Mg, P, S, K, Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Rb, Sr, Mo and Cd). A matrix-matched liquid reference material composed of pooled digested samples was prepared before the beginning of the sample run and used every ninth sample to correct for variation within ICP-MS analysis runs. The

calibration standards were prepared from single element standards solutions (Inorganic Ventures; Essex Scientific Laboratory Supplies Ltd, Essex, UK). Samples concentrations were calculated using external calibration method within the instrument software. The final concentrations were obtained by normalizing the element concentrations to the sample dry weight.

**Statistical analysis**

All statistical analyses were done with the GraphPad Prism 8.0 software (https://www.graphpad.com/). For statistical analysis of different transgenic lines, treatments and different zones of suberization, parametric or nonparametric One-way or Two-way ANOVA, and Tukey's test were used as a multiple comparison procedure. Binary comparisons were performed using Student's t-test. Statistical approaches for specific experiment are described in figure legends. The data are presented as mean ± standard deviation, and "n" represents number of biological replicates.

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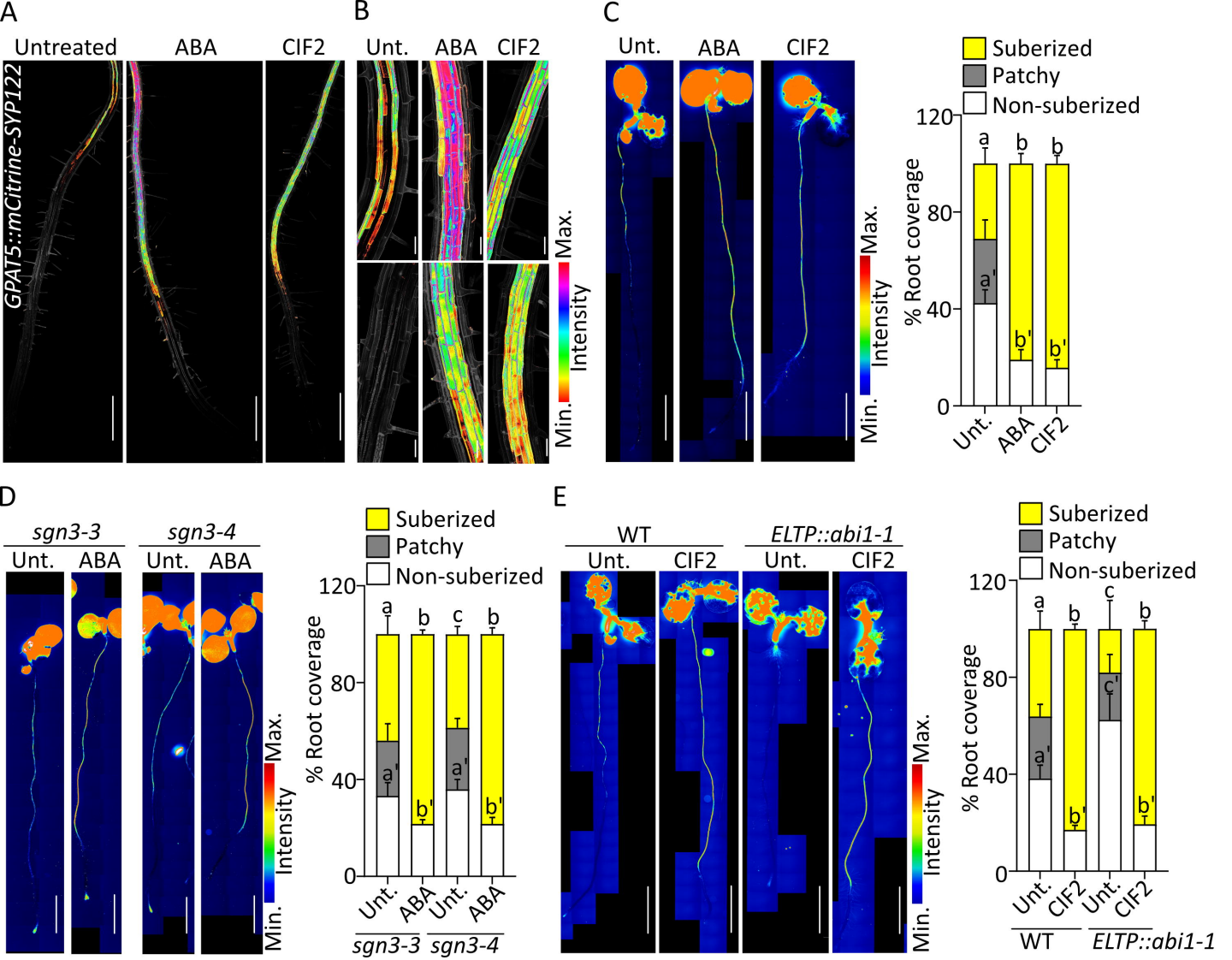


**Figure 1. Independent suberin induction by ABA and SGN3/CIF.** (*A,B*) *GPAT5::mCITRINE-SYP122* expression (presented as LUT) in untreated (Unt.) or plants treated with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h. Propidium iodide (PI, in grey) was used to highlight cells. Pictures are presented as maximum intensity Z projections. (*A*) Observations from root tip to 4-5 mm. Scale bars, 500 µm. (*B*) Zoomed pictures from *A* in the patchy (*Upper*) and non-suberized zones (*Lower*) respectively. Scale bars, 50 µm. (*C-E*) Fluorol Yellow (FY) staining for suberin. Whole-mount staining in full seedlings (*Left panels*) and quantifications of suberin pattern along the root (*Right panels*), n ≥ 10, error bars, standard deviation, different letters indicate significant differences between conditions ($P < 0.05$). Scale bars, 2 mm. (*C*) FY staining for suberin in Unt. or treated WT plants with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h. (*D*) FY staining in *sgn3-3* and *sgn3-4* mutants Unt. or treated with 1 µM ABA for 16 h. (*E*) FY staining for WT and *ELTP::abi1-1* Unt. or treated with 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h.

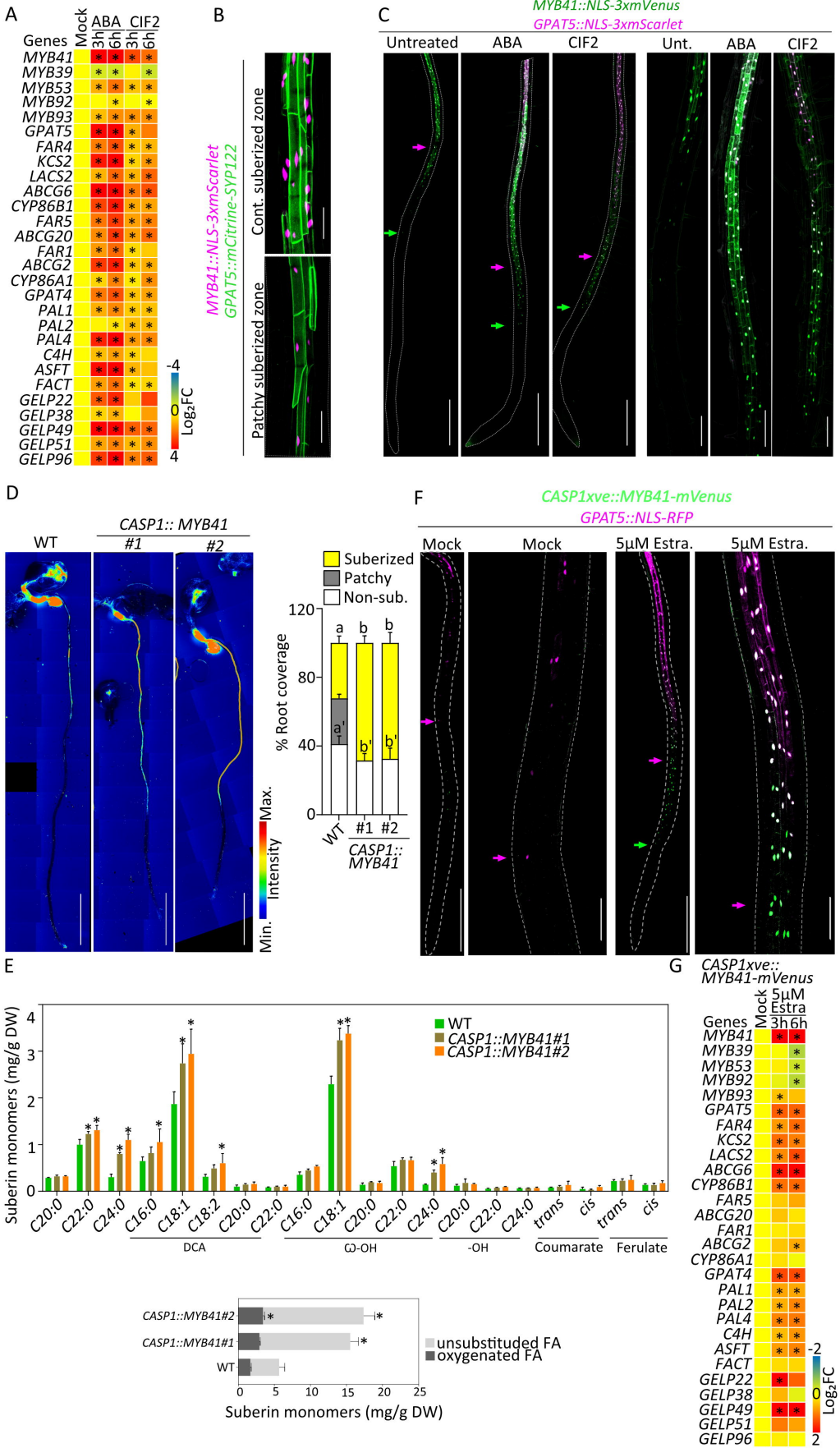


**Figure 2. MYB41, an endodermal transcription factor, inducing suberin biosynthesis** (*A*) Relative expression levels of the candidate *MYBs* and suberin biosynthesis and polymerization genes in WT roots treated with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 3 and 6 h (n = 4 pools of 25-30 roots). Results are presented as fold changes compared to the mock condition. Numeric values are presented in Table S3. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$). (*B*) Dual reporter for *GPAT5::mCitrine-SYP122* and *MYB41::NLS-3xmScarlet* under untreated condition. Pictures are presented as maximum intensity Z projections taken in the zone of continuous suberization (*Upper*) and patchy suberization (*Lower*). Scale bars, 50 µm. (*C*) Dual reporter for *GPAT5::NLS-3xmScarlet* and *MYB41::NLS-3xmVenus* upon 16 h treatments with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2. Pictures are presented as maximum intensity Z projections from the root tip to 4-5 mm (*Left panels*) and zoomed views (*Righ panels*) corresponding to the zone prior to suberization in untreated conditions. Arrows highlight the onset of *MYB41* (green) and *GPAT5* (magenta) expression. Scale bars, 500 µm. (*D*) FY staining of WT and two independent *CASP1::MYB41* lines. Whole-mount staining (*Left panels*) and quantifications of suberin pattern are presented (*Right panel*), n ≥ 10, error bars, standard deviation, different letters indicate significant differences between conditions ($P < 0.05$). Scale bars, 2 mm. (*E*) Polyester composition in 5-day-old roots of WT and two independent *CASP1::MYB41* lines. Individual suberin monomer content (*Upper panel*) and the corresponding total amount of unsubstituted and oxygenated fatty acids (*Lower panel*) are presented. Data correspond to mean; error bars, standard deviation (n = 4 pools of 200-300 roots). FA, fatty acid; DCA, dicarboxylic fatty acid; ω -OH, ω-hydroxy fatty acid; DW, dry weight. Asterisks represent statistical significant differences compared to WT ($P < 0.05$). Results from WT are also shown in Fig. 4B. (*F*) *CASP1xve::MYB41-mVenus* in *GPAT5::NLS-RFP* background for mock and 5 µM Estradiol (Estra.) treatment for 16 h . Pictures are presented as Z projections from the root tip to 4-5 mm (*Left*) and zoomed views (*Right*) taken in the corresponding zone for patchy suberization in mock conditions. Arrows highlight the onset of *MYB41* (green) and *GPAT5* (magenta) expressions. Scale bars, 500 µm (*Left*) and 100 µm (*Right*). (G) Relative expression levels of the *MYBs* candidates and suberin biosynthesis and polymerization genes in the roots of *CASP1xve::MYB41-mVenus* treated with 5 µM Estradiol for 3 and 6 h (n = 4 pools of 25-30 roots). Results are presented as fold changes compared to the mock condition. Numeric values are presented in Table S3. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$).

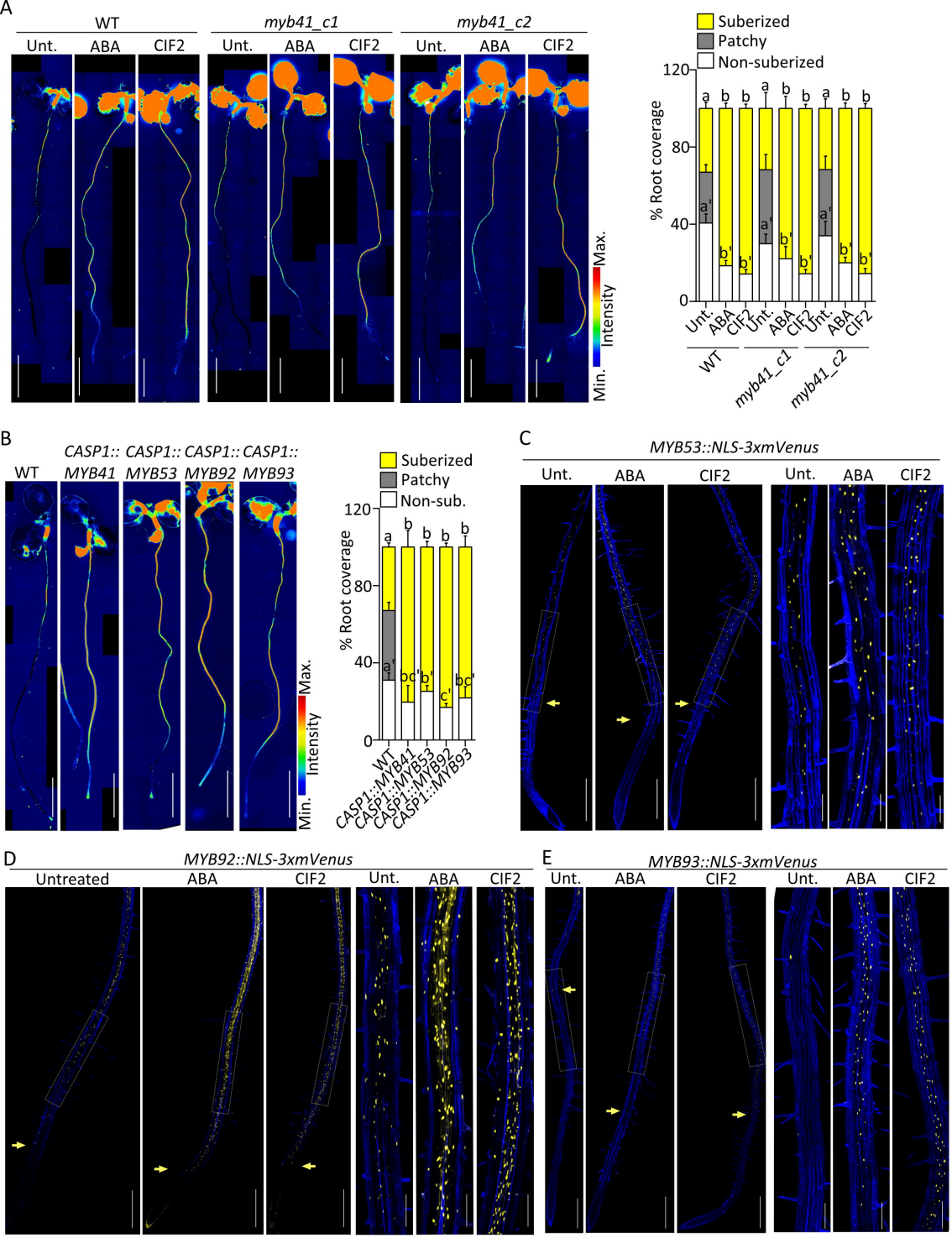


**Figure 3. *MYB53*, *MYB92* and *MYB93* regulation and function in suberin induction.** (*A,B*) Fluorol Yellow (FY) staining for suberin. Whole-mount staining (*Left panels*) and quantifications of suberin pattern along the root (*Right panels*), n ≥ 10, error bars, standard deviation. Scale bars, 2 mm. (*A*) FY staining of WT and two *myb41* CRISPR mutant alleles, *myb41_c1* and *myb41_c2* untreated or treated with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h. Different letters indicate significant differences between conditions for a given genotype ($P < 0.05$). (*B*) FY staining of WT, *CASP1::MYB41, CASP1::MYB53, CASP1::MYB92* and *CASP1::MYB93* lines. Different letters indicate significant differences between conditions ($P < 0.05$). (*C*) *MYB53::NLS-3xmVenus,* (*D*) *MYB92::NLS-3xmVenus* and (*E*) *MYB93::NLS-3xmVenus* expression (in yellow) untreated or after treatments with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h. (*C-E*) Pictures are presented as maximum intensity Z projections taken from the root tip to 4-5 mm (*Left panels*) with zoomed views corresponding to the zone of patchy suberization in untreated plants (*Right panels*). Arrows highlight the onset of expression. Propidium iodide (PI, in blue) was used to highlight cells. Scale bars, 500 µm (*Left*) and 125 µm (*Right*).

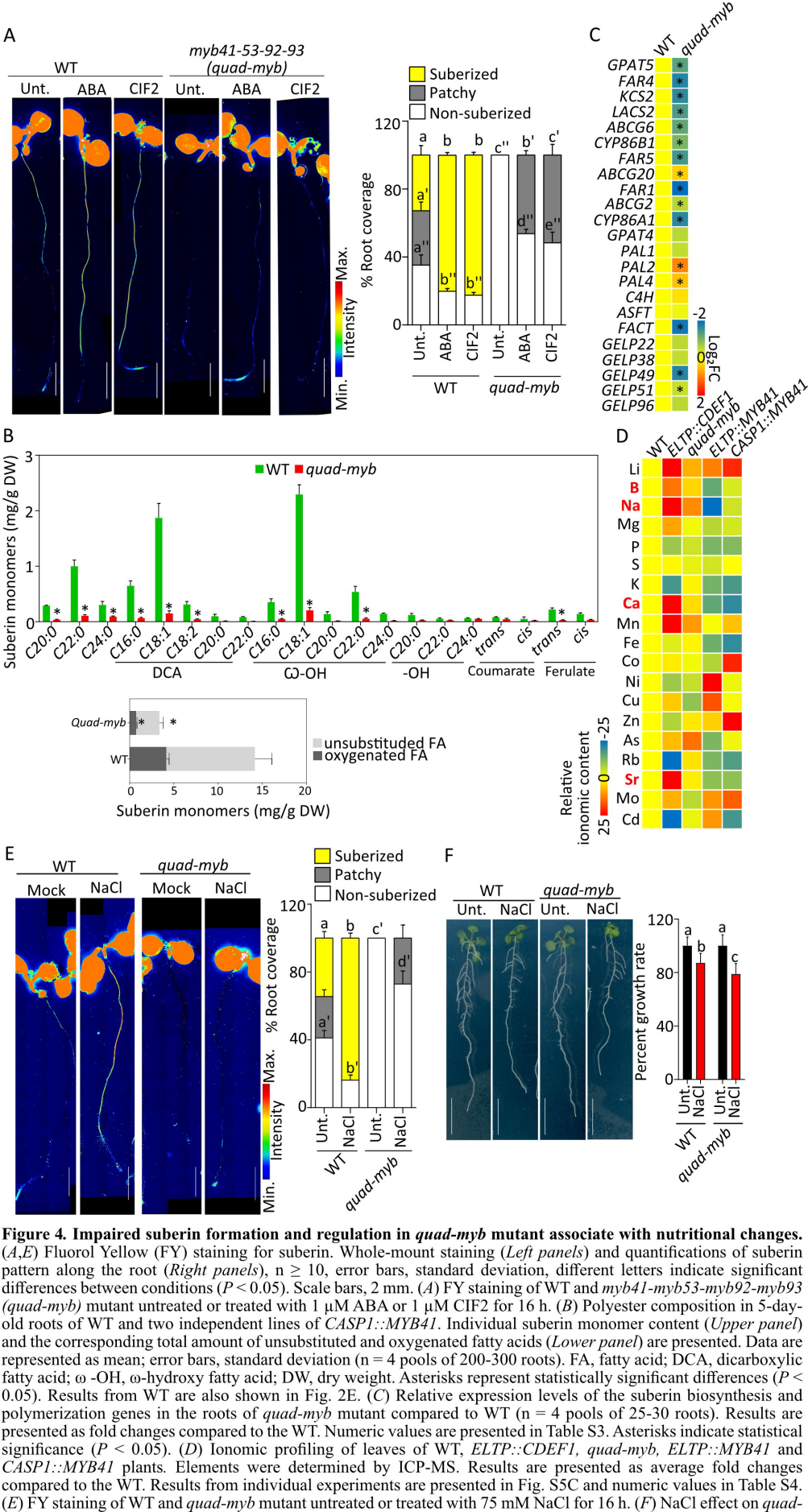


**Figure 4. Impaired suberin formation and regulation in *quad-myb* mutant associate with nutritional changes.** (*A*,*E*) Fluorol Yellow (FY) staining for suberin. Whole-mount staining (*Left panels*) and quantifications of suberin pattern along the root (*Right panels*), n ≥ 10, error bars, standard deviation, different letters indicate significant differences between conditions ($P < 0.05$). Scale bars, 2 mm. (*A*) FY staining of WT and *myb41-myb53-myb92-myb93 (quad-myb)* mutant untreated or treated with 1 µM ABA or 1 µM CIF2 for 16 h. (*B*) Polyester composition in 5-day-old roots of WT and two independent lines of *CASP1::MYB41*. Individual suberin monomer content (*Upper panel*) and the corresponding total amount of unsubstituted and oxygenated fatty acids (*Lower panel*) are presented. Data are represented as mean; error bars, standard deviation (n = 4 pools of 200-300 roots). FA, fatty acid; DCA, dicarboxylic fatty acid; ω -OH, ω-hydroxy fatty acid; DW, dry weight. Asterisks represent statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$). Results from WT are also shown in Fig. 2E. (*C*) Relative expression levels of the suberin biosynthesis and polymerization genes in the roots of *quad-myb* mutant compared to WT (n = 4 pools of 25-30 roots). Results are presented as fold changes compared to the WT. Numeric values are presented in Table S3. Asterisks indicate statistical significance ($P < 0.05$). (*D*) Ionomic profiling of leaves of WT, *ELTP::CDEF1, quad-myb, ELTP::MYB41* and *CASP1::MYB41* plants. Elements were determined by ICP-MS. Results are presented as average fold changes compared to the WT. Results from individual experiments are presented in Fig. S5C and numeric values in Table S4. (*E*) FY staining of WT and *quad-myb* mutant untreated or treated with 75 mM NaCl for 16 h. (*F*) NaCl effect on *quad-*