

1 **Tomato brassinosteroid-signaling kinase Bsk830 is a component of flagellin**
2 **signaling that regulates pre-invasion immunity**

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21 **Running Title:** The role of tomato Bsk830 in flagellin signaling

22 **ABSTRACT**

23 Detection of bacterial flagellin by the tomato receptors Flagellin sensing 2 (Fls2) and
24 Fls3 triggers activation of pattern-triggered immunity (PTI). Tomato signaling
25 components associated or downstream of flagellin receptors are largely unknown.
26 We investigated the involvement of tomato brassinosteroid-signaling kinase 830
27 (Bsk830) in PTI triggered by flagellin perception. Bsk830 localized to the plasma
28 membrane and interacted with Fls2 and Fls3. Consistent with a role in flagellin-
29 induced signaling, CRISPR/Cas9-generated tomato *bsk830* mutants were impaired
30 in ROS accumulation induced by the flagellin-derived flg22 and flgII-28 peptides. In
31 addition, *bsk830* mutants developed larger populations of *Pseudomonas syringae*
32 pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) strain DC3000 than wild-type plants, whereas no differences were
33 observed in plants infected with the flagellin deficient *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC*. *bsk830*
34 mutants failed to close stomata when infected with *Pst* DC3000 and *Pseudomonas*
35 *fluorescens*, and were more susceptible to *Pst* DC3000 than wild-type plants when
36 inoculated by dipping, but not by vacuum-infiltration, indicating involvement of
37 Bsk830 in pre-invasion immunity. Analysis of gene expression profiles in *bsk830*
38 mutants detected a reduced number of differentially expressed genes and altered
39 expression of jasmonic acid (JA)-related genes. In support of deregulation of JA
40 response in *bsk830* mutants, these plants were similarly susceptible to *Pst* DC3000
41 and to the *Pst* DC3118 strain, which is deficient in coronatine production, and more
42 resistant to the necrotrophic fungus *Botrytis cinerea* following PTI activation. These
43 results indicate that tomato Bsk830 is required for a subset of flagellin-triggered PTI
44 responses and support a model in which Bsk830 negatively regulates JA signaling
45 during PTI activation.

46 INTRODUCTION

47 Plants have evolved a complex immune system to confront the wide range of
48 pathogens which inhabit their natural environment. Plant immune responses are
49 activated through recognition of highly conserved microbe-associated molecular
50 patterns (MAMPs) by membrane-localized pattern recognition receptors (PRRs)
51 (DeFalco and Zipfel, 2021), or by detection of pathogen effectors by intracellular
52 nucleotide binding leucine-rich repeat receptors (NLR) (Duxbury et al., 2021). In
53 tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), known PRRs include Fls2 (Robatzek et al., 2007)
54 and Fls3 (Hind et al., 2016), which perceive the bacterial flagellin-derived peptides
55 flg22 and flgII-28, respectively, and CORE, which detects the bacterial cold shock
56 protein-derived peptide csp22 (Wang et al., 2016). Flg22 and flgII-28 represent major
57 bacterial MAMPs recognized by tomato (Rosli et al., 2013), and their binding by Fls2
58 and Fls3 activates signaling pathways that regulate molecular events promoting
59 defense, collectively referred to as pattern-triggered immunity (PTI) (Liang and Zhou,
60 2018). PTI responses include production of reactive oxygen species (ROS),
61 activation of mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), transcriptional
62 reprogramming, callose deposition at the cell wall, stomatal closure and activation of
63 hormone signaling (DeFalco and Zipfel, 2021).

64 Stomata closure is a MAMP-triggered and PRR-mediated defense response,
65 also referred to as stomatal immunity, particularly important against leaf-associated
66 pathogenic bacteria, which gain access to the plant apoplast through these natural
67 openings as well as wounds (Melotto et al., 2017). Dynamics of stomatal immunity
68 against phytopathogenic bacteria have been described for the interaction of
69 *Arabidopsis* and tomato plants with *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) bacteria
70 (Melotto et al., 2006; Du et al., 2014). Plant infection with *Pst* DC3000 causes

71 stomata closure within 1 h post-inoculation followed by stomata reopening 3-4 h
72 later. Stomatal movement is modulated by ROS accumulation that controls the
73 activity of ion pumps, plasma membrane channels, and transporters (Sierla et al.,
74 2016). In Arabidopsis ROS molecules have been shown to be generated by the
75 NADPH oxidase RBOHD that is activated by phosphorylation upon MAMPs
76 perception by PRRs (Wang and Gou, 2021). MAMP perception also triggers the
77 activation of signaling pathways involving the hormones salicylic acid (SA) and
78 abscisic acid (ABA), which contribute to stomatal closure. Plants defective in SA and
79 ABA synthesis and signaling are unable to induce stomatal closure (Melotto et al.,
80 2017). SA and ABA pathways have been shown to contribute to stomata closure
81 independently and in an interconnected manner (Arnaud and Hwang, 2015).

82 Stomatal reopening is induced by the pathogen to gain entry into leaves. To
83 promote stomatal reopening, *Pseudomonas syringae* bacteria take advantage of the
84 antagonistic interplay between the plant hormones SA and jasmonic acid (JA)
85 (Thaler et al., 2012). *P. syringae* secretes type III effectors and phytotoxins to
86 enhance JA signaling and repress SA signaling. For example, the HopX1 and
87 HopZ1a effectors induce degradation of JAZ proteins, which are negative regulators
88 of JA signaling, to enhance JA signaling and stomata reopening (Jiang et al., 2013;
89 Gimenez-Ibanez et al., 2014). The *P. syringae* coronatine (COR) phytotoxin is a JA-
90 Ile-mimic molecule that binds the JA receptor COI1 and activates JA-mediated
91 processes (Katsir et al., 2008). Binding of COR to COI1 triggers downstream
92 signaling that induces NAC transcription factors which inhibit SA accumulation and
93 promote stomata reopening (Melotto et al., 2017).

94 PRRs recruit receptor-like cytoplasmic kinases (RLCKs) to link MAMP
95 perception to downstream signaling. Multiple Arabidopsis RLCKs play a role in plant

96 immunity. For example, BOTRYTIS-INDUCED KINASE1 (BIK1), a member of the
97 RLCK subfamily VII, associates with multiple PRRs and activates downstream
98 signaling components such as the NADPH oxidase RBOHD (Kadota et al., 2014; Li
99 et al., 2014) and several calcium channels (Tian et al., 2019; Thor et al., 2020).
100 Similar to BIK1, additional members of the RLCK subfamily VII contribute to PTI
101 (Rao et al., 2018). RLCKs regulate stomatal immunity and are essential for the initial
102 closure step (Wang and Gou, 2021). For example, BIK1 and PBL27 regulate
103 stomatal closure by promoting activation of ion channels (Zheng et al., 2018; Liu et
104 al., 2019; Thor et al., 2020).

105 Brassinosteroid-signaling kinases (BSKs) belong to the RLCK subfamily XII and
106 several of them were extensively characterized in Arabidopsis and shown to play a
107 role in brassinosteroid signaling, growth, and response to abiotic stress (Tang et al.,
108 2008; Li et al., 2012b; Sreeramulu et al., 2013; Jia et al., 2019; Ren et al., 2019).
109 Recent investigation identified Arabidopsis BSKs that are involved in plant immunity
110 (Shi et al., 2013; Majhi et al., 2019 and 2021). BSKs participate in various branches
111 of defense signaling, as evident by their interaction with multiple PRRs, and
112 mediation of different PTI responses. For example, BSK1, BSK5, BSK7, and BSK8
113 associate with the PRR FLS2 and mutations in the corresponding genes
114 compromise a subset of flg22-mediated PTI responses (Shi et al., 2013; Majhi et al.,
115 2019 and 2021). BSK1 was also found to modulate MAPK activation by
116 phosphorylation of the MAPKKK MAPKKK5 and the MAPK MPK15 (Yan et al., 2018;
117 Shi et al., 2022). In addition, while BSK1, BSK7, and BSK8 interact exclusively with
118 FLS2, BSK5 also interacts with EFR and PEPR1 and is required for their signaling
119 (Majhi et al., 2019). In line with a function of BSKs in immune signaling, *bsk1*, *bsk5*,
120 *bsk7* and *bsk8* mutants display enhanced susceptibility to fungal and bacterial

121 pathogens (Shi et al., 2013; Majhi et al., 2019 and 2021). Another family member,
122 BSK3, was shown to interact *in vivo* with multiple components of immune signaling
123 (Xu et al., 2014), but its function in plant immunity is yet unknown.

124 Tomato BSKs are less characterized, but at least two of the seven family
125 members play a role in plant immunity (Singh et al., 2014; Roberts et al., 2019a). A
126 tomato homolog of BSK7 was found to interact with *Pst* DC3000 effectors and
127 silencing of its homologous genes compromised PTI in *Nicotiana benthamiana*
128 (Singh et al., 2014). Tomato Mai1, homolog of Arabidopsis BSK1, interacts with
129 MAPKKK α , a signaling component required for NLR-mediated immunity (Roberts et
130 al., 2019a). Silencing of Mai1 *N. benthamiana* homologs enhanced susceptibility to
131 *Pst* DC3000 and compromised the hypersensitive response mediated by several *R*
132 genes (Roberts et al., 2019a). Here, we investigated the involvement of tomato
133 BSKs in plant immunity. We provide evidence that Bsk830 physically interacts with
134 flagellin receptors and localizes to the cell plasma membrane. Analysis of two
135 independent loss-of-function mutant lines revealed that Bsk830 is required for
136 stomatal immunity against *Pst* DC3000 and for flagellin-induced ROS production.
137 Analysis of gene expression profiles indicated that loss of *Bsk830* caused an
138 attenuated PTI response and deregulation of JA signaling. Consistent with an altered
139 JA response, loss of *Bsk830* compromised the contribution of the COR toxin to *Pst*
140 DC3000 virulence and reduced susceptibility to a fungal necrotrophic pathogen.
141 Together, our results indicate that Bsk830 modulates a subset of flagellin-induced
142 PTI responses and contributes to regulation of JA signaling during PTI.

143 **RESULTS**

144 **Tomato Bsk830 interacts with the flagellin receptors Fls2 or Fls3**

145 Recognition of the motility-associated protein flagellin plays a major role in the
146 induction of PTI responses on some tomato accessions (Roberts et al., 2019b).
147 Flagellin contains two MAMPs, flg22 and flgII-28, that are recognized by the PRRs
148 Flagellin sensing 2 (Fls2) and Fls3, respectively (Gómez-Gómez and Boller, 2000;
149 Robatzek et al., 2007; Hind et al., 2016). To investigate the possible involvement of
150 brassinosteroid-signaling kinase (Bsk) proteins in tomato PTI initiated by flagellin
151 perception, we tested interactions of tomato Bsk family members with Fls2 and Fls3
152 in a yeast two-hybrid system by using Bsk proteins as baits and the kinase domain of
153 Fls2 (Fls2_{KD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{KD}) as preys. Bsk830, but none of the other six tomato
154 Bsk family members, interacted with both PRRs (Figure 1A). Next, a split luciferase
155 complementation assay was employed to validate in planta interactions observed in
156 yeast. In these experiments, Fls2_{KD} and Fls3_{KD} were fused to the C-terminal half of
157 the luciferase protein (C-LUC) and co-expressed via *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* in
158 *N. benthamiana* leaves with Bsk830 fused to the N-terminal half of luciferase (N-
159 LUC). As negative controls, C-LUC-PRRs and N-LUC-Bsk830 were co-expressed
160 with N-LUC and C-LUC empty vectors, respectively. Interactions were quantified by
161 measurement of luminescence emitted from leaf discs sampled at 48 h after agro-
162 infiltration. Co-expression of Bsk830 with Fls2_{KD} or Fls3_{KD} resulted in significantly
163 higher luminescence than the negative controls (Figure 1B). Expression in yeast and
164 in planta of all fusion proteins was confirmed by Western blot analysis (Supplemental
165 Figure S1, A and B and Roberts et al., 2019a).

166 To assess the hypothesis that Bsk830 participates in phosphorylation
167 cascade(s) initiated by Fls2 and Fls3, we tested whether Bsk830 is a substrate of

168 Fls2 or Fls3 phosphorylation in an *in vitro* kinase assay. Bsk830 and the cytoplasmic
169 domains of Fls2 (Fls2_{CD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{CD}) were fused to the C-terminus of the
170 maltose binding protein (MBP), expressed in *E. coli*, and affinity-purified. MBP-Fls2_{CD}
171 and MBP-Fls3_{CD} were incubated with the MBP-Bsk830 fusion in the presence of [γ -
172 ³²P]ATP in an *in vitro* kinase assay. As previously reported (Roberts et al., 2020),
173 MBP-Fls2_{CD} and MBP-Fls3_{CD} displayed autophosphorylation activity (Supplemental
174 Figure S2). However, phosphorylation of MBP-Bsk830 by MBP-Fls2_{CD} or MBP-
175 Fls3_{CD} was not detected (Supplemental Figure S2), indicating that Bsk830 is not a
176 substrate of Fls2 and Fls3 kinase activity *in vitro* despite its interaction with both
177 PRRs.

178

179 **Lipid modifications anchor Bsk830 to the plasma membrane**

180 The Fls2 and Fls3 PRRs are receptor kinases localized to the plasma membrane
181 (PM) (Andolfo et al., 2013; Hind et al., 2016). Based on the interaction of Bsk830
182 with Fls2 and Fls3, and the presence of putative myristoylation and palmitoylation
183 sites at the Bsk830 N-terminus (Figure 2A), we hypothesized that Bsk830 is
184 anchored to the PM by fatty acids modifications. To examine this possibility, Bsk830
185 was fused to the N-terminus of YFP and transiently expressed via *A. tumefaciens* in
186 *N. benthamiana* leaves along with the PM marker Flot1b-mCherry (Li et al., 2012a).
187 Bsk830-YFP displayed a similar distribution as Flot1b-mCherry (Figure 2B, upper
188 panels) that was confirmed by quantifying fluorescence detected in the YFP and
189 mCherry channels along a set path (Figure 2B, lower panels). In contrast to Bsk830-
190 YFP, the Bsk830^{G2A}-YFP and Bsk830^{C(3,11,12)A}-YFP variants, which carry mutations in
191 putative myristoylation and palmitoylation sites, respectively, did not co-localize with

192 Flot1b-mCherry (Figure 2C). These observations suggest that Bsk830 is associated
193 to the PM through myristoylation and palmitoylation modifications.

194

195 **Mutations in the *Bsk830* gene compromise flagellin-mediated immunity**

196 To investigate the function of Bsk830 in plant immunity, we used CRISPR/Cas9
197 technology to generate tomato plants with mutations in the *Bsk830* gene. Two
198 independent mutant lines, *bsk830-1* and *bsk830-2*, were generated and allowed to
199 segregate until homozygous genotypes were obtained in the T2 generation.
200 Sequence analysis of the area flanking the gRNA-targeted sequence revealed
201 deletions of 4 bp and 135 bp in the first exon of *Bsk830* in *bsk830-1* and *bsk830-2*,
202 respectively (Supplemental Figure S3). Next, we tested the involvement of Bsk830 in
203 flagellin-induced immunity by examining susceptibility of wild-type and *bsk830*
204 mutant lines to the bacterial pathogen *Pst* DC3000 and its derivative mutant strain
205 *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC*, which does not form flagella (Kvitko et al., 2009). Plants were
206 inoculated by dipping into suspensions (1×10^7 CFU/mL) of *Pst* DC3000 and *Pst*
207 DC3000 Δ *fliC*, and bacterial populations were determined in leaf tissue at 2 days
208 post-inoculation (dpi). *Pst* DC3000 bacteria displayed a significantly higher growth in
209 *bsk830* mutant lines than in wild-type plants suggesting that Bsk830 is involved in
210 immunity (Figure 3A). In addition, growth of *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC* was higher than *Pst*
211 DC3000 in wild-type plants, likely because *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC*, lacking flagellin, is not
212 detected by Fls2 or Fls3. Conversely, growth of *Pst* DC3000 and *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC*
213 was similar in the *bsk830* mutants, suggesting that in these plants flagellin-induced
214 immunity is impaired. In line with this conclusion, similar bacterial populations were
215 observed in wild-type plants infected with *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC* and in *bsk830* mutants
216 infected with *Pst* DC3000 indicating that flagellin-mediated immunity was not

217 activated in these interactions: in the first instance because the bacteria did not
218 express flagellin, and in the second instance because the plant was impaired in
219 flagellin signaling.

220 To confirm that *bsk830* mutant plants are impaired in flagellin-induced immunity,
221 we examined PTI responses triggered in these plants by the flg22 and flgII-28
222 MAMPs. Wild-type and mutant plants were treated with flg22 or flgII-28 and
223 monitored for ROS production and MAPK phosphorylation. The *fls2.1/fls2.2* and *fls3*
224 mutants, which are not responsive to flg22 and flgII-28, respectively (Roberts et al.,
225 2020), were used as negative controls. On treatment with flg22 and flgII-28, *bsk830*
226 mutants accumulated lower levels of ROS than wild-type plants (Figure 3, B and C),
227 while MAPK phosphorylation was similarly activated in both genetic backgrounds
228 (Supplemental Figure S4, A and B). As expected, *fls2.1/fls2.2* and *fls3* mutants did
229 not produce ROS (Figure 3, B and C), and were impaired in the activation of MAPK
230 phosphorylation (Supplemental Figure S4, A and B). Together, these results indicate
231 that Bsk830 is required for a subset of flagellin-induced PTI responses.

232

233 ***Bsk830* mutant plants are impaired in stomatal immunity**

234 In experiments that revealed enhanced susceptibility of *bsk830* mutants to *Pst*
235 DC3000 infection, plant inoculation was carried out by dipping plants into bacterial
236 suspensions. The use of this inoculation technique left unresolved whether Bsk830 is
237 required for immune responses that counteract the pathogen on the leaf surface
238 during the pre-invasion phase of infection or in the leaf apoplast during the post-
239 invasion phase of infection. To differentiate between these possibilities, wild-type
240 plants and *bsk830* mutants were inoculated with a *Pst* DC3000 suspension by
241 vacuum-infiltration (1×10^5 CFU/mL), which delivers bacteria directly into the apoplast,

242 or by dipping (1×10^7 CFU/mL), which requires movement of bacteria through stomata
243 for infection. Bacterial populations were determined in leaf tissues sampled at 0 and
244 2 dpi. *Pst* DC3000 bacteria displayed a significantly higher growth in *bsk830* mutants
245 than in wild-type plants inoculated by dipping (Figure 4A). However, similar bacterial
246 populations were observed in wild-type and mutants plants inoculated by vacuum-
247 infiltration (Figure 4B), suggesting a role for Bsk830 in pre-invasion immunity. A
248 similar stomatal number index was observed for wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants
249 (Supplemental Figure S5), excluding a bias due to developmental differences
250 between genetic backgrounds used in these experiments.

251 Because pre-invasion immunity relies on stomatal closure to prevent entrance
252 of bacteria into the leaf apoplast (Melotto et al., 2017), we examined dynamics of
253 stomatal opening/closure in *bsk830* mutants upon infection with *Pst* DC3000
254 pathogenic bacteria and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (*Pf*) A506 non-pathogenic
255 bacteria. Both types of bacteria are known to induce stomatal closure early after
256 infection, but only pathogenic bacteria overcome this line of defense at later stages
257 of infection by using virulence factors to reopen stomata (Melotto et al., 2017). Prior
258 to bacterial challenge, leaf pieces of wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were floated
259 on stomatal opening buffer under light to ensure stomata opening. After 3 h, leaf
260 pieces were transferred to *Pst* DC3000 or *Pf* bacterial suspension (1×10^8 CFU/mL),
261 or kept on buffer (mock), and monitored for stomatal apertures during the following 4
262 h. At 0 h, stomata of both plant genotypes were similarly open, suggesting that loss
263 of function in *Bsk830* does not interfere with light-induced stomatal opening (Figure
264 4, C and D). On *Pst* DC3000 treatment, stomata of wild-type plants closed at 1 h
265 after infection and reopened at 2.5 h (Figure 4C), while on *Pf* treatment, they closed
266 at 2.5 h and remained closed at 4 h (Figure 4D). In contrast, on both treatments,

267 stomata of the *bsk830* mutant plants remained open for the entire course of the
268 experiment similar to mock-treated plants (Figure 4, C and D). These results indicate
269 that Bsk830 is required for stomatal closure associated with pre-invasion immunity.

270

271 **Loss of function in *Bsk830* alters expression of JA- and phenylpropanoid-**
272 **related genes during PTI**

273 To uncover molecular mechanisms underlying the contribution of Bsk830 to tomato
274 immunity, we compared expression profiles of wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants
275 during the onset of PTI. Leaves of wild-type and *bsk830-1* lines were inoculated by
276 vacuum-infiltration with a suspension (1×10^8 CFU/mL) of *Pf* bacteria or a mock
277 solution; samples were collected at 0 and 6 h post-inoculation, and subjected to
278 RNA-seq analysis. In these experiments, we opted for induction of PTI by non-
279 pathogenic rather than by pathogenic bacteria to avoid possible interference of
280 virulence factors. In addition, plants were inoculated by vacuum-infiltration, rather
281 than by dipping, to assure an equal bacterial load in the inoculated leaves despite
282 the defective dynamics of stomatal closure of *bsk830* mutants. A total of 2,146 (852
283 up-regulated; 1,294 down-regulated) and 1,325 (655 up-regulated; 665 down-
284 regulated) differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified in *Pf*-inoculated
285 wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants, respectively, as compared to mock inoculated
286 plants with filtering parameters of pFDR < 0.05 and a fold change >3 (Figure 5A;
287 Supplemental Table S1). 1,207 DEGs were common to both genotypes, whereas
288 939 and 118 were unique to wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants, respectively
289 (Figure 5A). These results suggest that *bsk830* mutants were less responsive to *Pf*
290 inoculation than wild-type plants.

291 To identify cellular processes in which Bsk830 is involved, we examined functional
292 categories over-represented among genes that were expressed in wild-type plants,
293 but not in the *bsk830* mutant or vice versa, and genes whose fold-change during PTI
294 differed by at least $\pm 20\%$ between the *bsk830* mutant and the wild-type. Arabidopsis
295 homologs of genes from this pool were subjected to functional enrichment analysis
296 by using the g:Profiler tool (Raudvere et al., 2019) as separate entries based on their
297 up- or down-regulation during PTI. The use of Arabidopsis homologs allowed a more
298 extensive characterization of the gene pool in comparison to the use of tomato gene
299 accessions. Among genes up-regulated during PTI, the predominant functional
300 categories enriched in the *bsk830* mutant were related to JA signaling and response,
301 and to metabolism of phenylpropanoids (Table 1). In *bsk830* mutant, expression of
302 genes involved in JA biosynthesis (e.g., AOS, LOX3, OPR2; Wasternack and Song,
303 2016), catabolism (e.g., JAO2, JAO3, CYP94B1; Smirnova et al., 2017), and
304 negative regulation of JA signaling (e.g., JAZ2, JAZ3, JAZ7, JAZ9, JAM2; Sasaki-
305 Sekimoto et al., 2013) was reduced as compared to wild-type plants (Figure 5B,
306 Supplemental Table S1). In addition, the transcript abundance of genes encoding
307 various JA response factors (e.g., NATA1, TD, PI-I, ERF1, ERF5, JA2L; Du et al.,
308 2017) was reduced or increased (Figure 5B, Supplemental Table S1). Genes related
309 to phenylpropanoid metabolism displayed increased expression in the *bsk830*
310 mutant and included homologs of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL) as well as
311 enzymes acting downstream to PALs and involved in lignin biosynthesis (Vanholme
312 et al., 2019) (Supplemental Table S1). Among genes down-regulated during PTI, the
313 predominant categories enriched in the *bsk830* mutant were mainly related to
314 photosynthesis (Table 1). Expression of photosynthesis-related genes was more
315 elevated in the *bsk830* mutant than in wild-type plants (Supplemental Table S1),

316 suggesting a less extensive reallocation of resources from general metabolism to
317 defense that is usually observed in plants activating immune responses (Attaran et
318 al., 2014). Together, these results suggest that loss of *Bsk830* results in a weaker
319 PTI response and altered regulation of JA signaling and response.

320

321 **Mutation of *Bsk830* affects JA-mediated phenotypes**

322 To assess the hypothesis that loss of *Bsk830* causes altered regulation of the JA
323 response during the onset of PTI, we examined the contribution of the COR toxin to
324 *Pst* DC3000 virulence in wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants. COR is a hormone
325 mimic, which closely resembles JA-Ile (Katsir et al., 2008), and it has been shown to
326 activate JA signaling and promote stomatal opening (Melotto et al., 2017). Leaves of
327 wild-type, *bsk830-1* and *bsk830-2* lines were inoculated by dipping in bacterial
328 suspensions (1×10^7 CFU/mL) of *Pst* DC3000 (able to synthesize COR; COR+) or *Pst*
329 DC3118 (unable to synthesize COR; COR-), and bacterial populations were
330 determined in leaves at 0 and 2 dpi. In wild-type plants, *Pst* DC3000 (COR+)
331 bacteria displayed a significantly higher growth than *Pst* DC3118 (COR-) (Figure 6A)
332 indicating that COR promotes bacterial virulence, as previously reported (Zheng et
333 al., 2012; Du et al., 2014; Gimenez-Ibanez et al., 2017). Conversely, in *bsk830*
334 mutant plants, *Pst* DC3000 (COR+) and *Pst* DC3118 (COR-) displayed a similar
335 growth indicating that mutation of *Bsk830* compromises the contribution of COR to
336 bacterial virulence and suggesting that, similar to COR, a mutation in *Bsk830*
337 deregulates the JA response.

338 Next, we examined the effect of loss of function in *Bsk830* on susceptibility to
339 the necrotrophic fungal pathogen *Botrytis cinerea*, which is known to be mediated by
340 JA (Zhang et al., 2017). Wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were pretreated with a

341 mock solution or with a *Pf* bacterial suspension (1×10^8 CFU/mL) to activate PTI, and
342 24 h later plants were infected by placing on the leaves a droplet of a *B. cinerea*
343 spore suspension (2×10^5 conidia mL⁻¹). Lesion diameter in infected leaves was
344 measured at 3 dpi (Figure 6B). Wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were equally
345 susceptible to *B. cinerea* when mock treated. However, following the *Pf* treatment,
346 symptoms developed more slowly and lesions were significantly smaller in leaves of
347 *bsk830* mutant plants than in wild-type plants. These results support a model in
348 which the JA response is deregulated during the onset of PTI in *bsk830* mutant
349 plants.

350 **DISCUSSION**

351 We identified the tomato RLCK Bsk830 as a component of signaling pathways
352 originated from perception of bacterial flagellin by the Fls2 and Fls3 PRRs. Initial
353 indication for the involvement of Bsk830 in plant immunity was its interaction with the
354 flagellin receptors Fls2 and Fls3 that was observed in yeast and then validated in
355 planta. Subsequent analysis of *bsk830* mutant plants revealed that Bsk830 is
356 required for pre-invasion immunity by mediating a subset of PTI responses including
357 ROS accumulation and stomatal closure possibly through negative regulation of JA
358 signaling. BSK family members appear to play a role in flagellin-induced signaling in
359 different plant species: in tomato, Bsk830 (but not other Bsk family members) is
360 recruited by two flagellin receptors and is required for flagellin-induced immunity,
361 while in Arabidopsis multiple BSKs (BSK1, BSK5, BSK7, BSK8) interact with the
362 FLS2 PRR and play a role in flg22-induced PTI (Shi et al., 2013; Majhi et al., 2019
363 and 2021). It remains to be determined whether Bsk830 participates only in signaling
364 pathways activated by flagellin-derived MAMPs, similar to its closest Arabidopsis
365 homologs BSK7 and BSK8 (required for PTI responses triggered by flg22, but not by
366 elf18 and pep1 [Majhi et al., 2021]), or if it is involved in signaling events activated by
367 multiple MAMPs, as observed for Arabidopsis BSK5 (Majhi et al., 2019).

368 Similar to other BSK family members (Majhi et al., 2019 and 2021; Ren et al.,
369 2019; Roberts et al., 2019a; Su et al., 2021), Bsk830 localizes to the plasma
370 membrane, where it may interact with PRRs and associated components of immune
371 complexes. N-terminal sites predicted to mediate myristoylation and palmitoylation
372 modifications were essential to its plasma membrane localization, common
373 mechanisms used by BSKs for plasma membrane anchoring (Majhi et al., 2019 and
374 2021; Ren et al., 2019; Roberts et al., 2019a; Su et al., 2022) or maintenance of

375 protein stability, as demonstrated for BSK1 (Su et al., 2022). However, the output of
376 the interaction of Bsk830 with Fls2 and Fls3 is yet unknown. It is unlikely that Bsk830
377 is activated by Fls2 and/or Fls3 phosphorylation, because Fls2 and Fls3 were not
378 able to phosphorylate Bsk830 *in vitro* despite detection of their autophosphorylation
379 activity. It is possible that additional molecules, which participate *in vivo* in Bsk830
380 phosphorylation by Fls2 and Fls3, are missing *in vitro*. Alternatively, Bsk830 might
381 function as a scaffolding protein that mediates signal transduction by bringing
382 signaling components in proximity, as it has been suggested for other BSKs
383 (Sreeramulu et al., 2013; Ren et al., 2019; Majhi et al., 2019 and 2021). The latter
384 hypothesis is supported by the evidence that Bsk830 autophosphorylation was not
385 detected under the conditions used in our *in vitro* experiments.

386 Phenotypic analysis of *bsk830* mutant lines revealed that Bsk830 is required for a
387 subset of PTI responses induced by flagellin-derived MAMPs, including ROS
388 production, but not MAPK phosphorylation. This result, together with previous
389 observations that Arabidopsis *bsk1*, *bsk5*, *bsk7* and *bsk8* mutant lines are impaired
390 in flg22-induced ROS production (Shi et al., 2013; Majhi et al., 2019 and 2021),
391 confirms a central role of BSK family members in signaling pathway(s) that link flg22
392 sensing to ROS accumulation. Conversely, it is less likely that BSK family members
393 are involved in signaling of flg22-induced MAP kinase activation. In our experiments,
394 a mutation in *Bsk830* did not alter MAP kinase activation induced by flg22 treatment
395 in tomato plants. Similarly, Arabidopsis lines carrying different combinations of
396 mutations in *BSK* genes, including up to seven *BSKs*, displayed a similar MAPK
397 activation as wild-type plants following flg22 challenge (Majhi et al., 2021). However,
398 it is still possible that BSKs participate in MAP kinase activation induced by other
399 MAMPs or pathogen effectors. In support of this hypothesis, BSK1 was shown to

400 phosphorylate *in vitro* MAPKKK5 and MPK15, and required for disease resistance
401 mediated by these MAPKKKs against virulent and avirulent *Pst* DC3000 strains and
402 powdery mildew fungi, respectively (Yan et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2022).

403 We provide evidence that Bsk830 is involved in pre-invasion immunity, as *bsk830*
404 mutants failed to close stomata when inoculated with pathogenic and non-
405 pathogenic bacterial strains, and displayed enhanced susceptibility to *Pst* DC3000
406 when inoculated by dipping, but not by vacuum-infiltration. Stomata closure is a PTI
407 response that prevents bacteria from entering the plant apoplast and is activated by
408 detection of MAMPs by PRRs (Melotto et al., 2017). For example, Arabidopsis plants
409 mutated in FLS2 or in both PEPR1 and PEPR2 PRRs fail to close stomata when
410 challenged with the respective MAMPs, and are more susceptible to *Pst* DC3000
411 when dip-inoculated, but not when syringe-infiltrated (Zipfel et al., 2004; Melotto et
412 al., 2006; Zheng et al., 2018). In Arabidopsis, the RLCKs BIK1 and PBL27 act
413 downstream of PRRs in signaling pathways that lead to stomata closure (Wang and
414 Gou, 2021). BIK1 transduces the signal generated by recognition of flg22 and pep1
415 by their respective PRRs and activates anion channels that cause stomata closure
416 (Kadota et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014; Guzel Deger et al., 2015; Zheng et al., 2018;
417 Thor et al., 2020). Similarly, PBL27, interacts with the chitin receptor CERK1 and
418 upon chitin elicitation activates anion channels that cause stomata closure (Liu et al.,
419 2019). RLCKs of the BSK subfamily were not examined in the context of stomatal
420 movement, with the exception of the observation that *BSK5* mutant plants are
421 hypersensitive to ABA in stomatal closure (Li et al., 2012b).

422 Comparison of gene expression profiles of *bsk830* mutant and wild-type tomato
423 plants during the activation of PTI allowed us to formulate hypotheses about the
424 molecular mechanisms of Bsk830 to regulate PTI responses. A prominent difference

425 between *bsk830* mutants and wild-type plants was differential expression of genes
426 related to JA biosynthesis, catabolism, signaling, and response. JA regulates
427 stomatal aperture by promoting their opening, as opposed to SA that promotes
428 stomata closure in response to bacterial pathogens in Arabidopsis and tomato plants
429 (Lee et al., 2013; Melotto et al., 2017; Guzman et al., 2020). Pathogens manipulate
430 stomata aperture by secretion of JA mimicking molecules or effectors (Melotto et al.,
431 2017). For example, *Pst* DC3000 secretes COR, a hormone mimic that closely
432 resembles JA-Ile, that promotes degradation of JAZ proteins which negatively
433 regulate transcription of JA-related genes and signaling (Zhang et al., 2017).
434 Activation of the JA pathway leads to an inhibitory effect on accumulation of salicylic
435 acid, which in turn promotes stomatal reopening (Melotto et al., 2017). Our
436 expression profiles data indicates a release of negative regulation of JA signaling in
437 the *bsk830* mutants compared to wild-type plants. This was confirmed by the lack of
438 COR contribution to *Pst* DC3000 virulence in *bsk830* mutants, and their increased
439 resistance to a fungal necrotrophic pathogen following PTI activation (Zhang et al.,
440 2017). We therefore propose a model in which Bsk830 negatively regulates JA
441 signaling and response that promote stomatal closure and ROS production (Yi et al.,
442 2014; Toum et al., 2016). This is reminiscent of other regulators of plant immunity,
443 such as FERONIA, which destabilizes MYC2, a regulator of JA signaling, to inhibit
444 COR-induced signaling and promote disease resistance (Guo et al., 2018), and
445 LINC1, which negatively regulates transcription of JA-related genes to enhance PTI
446 (Jarad et al., 2020). In conclusion, our data reveal an important role for tomato
447 Bsk830 in pre-invasion immunity initiated by flagellin perception and in regulation of
448 JA signaling and response during PTI.

449 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

450 **Plant materials and growth**

451 Plant cultivars used were: *Nicotiana benthamiana* (Goodin et al., 2008), and tomato
452 (*Solanum lycopersicum*) Hawaii 7981 (Wang et al., 2011). *N. benthamiana* plants
453 were grown in a phytochamber at 25°C in long-day conditions (16 h/8 h, light/dark).
454 Tomato plants were grown in a greenhouse with temperatures fluctuating between
455 25°C to 30°C under natural light conditions.

456

457 **Strains and growth conditions of bacteria, fungi, and yeast**

458 The strains used were: *Escherichia coli* DH5 α (Invitrogen) and Rosetta (MERCK),
459 *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 (Guo et al., 2009), *Pst*
460 DC3000 Δ *fliC* (Kvitko et al., 2009), *Pst* DC3118 (Ma et al., 1991), *Pseudomonas*
461 *fluorescens* A506 (Wilson et al., 2002), *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV2260
462 (Deblaere et al., 1985) and LBA4404 (Ooms et al., 1982), *Botrytis cinerea* B05.10
463 (Ma et al., 2017), and yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) Y2HGold (Clontech).
464 Bacterial, fungal, and yeast strains were grown with the appropriate antibiotics as
465 follows: *E. coli* in Lysogeny broth (LB) medium at 37°C; *Pst*, *Pf*, and *A. tumefaciens*
466 in LB at 30°C; *B. cinerea* in potato dextrose broth at 20°C; yeast in synthetically
467 defined medium (6.7 g/L yeast nitrogen base without amino acids, 1.4 g/L amino acid
468 drop-out mix) supplemented with 2% (w/v) glucose at 30°C.

469

470 **Pathogenicity assays**

471 Tomato plants were inoculated by vacuum-infiltration with bacterial suspensions of
472 1×10^5 CFU/mL in 10 mM MgCl₂ and 0.008% (v/v) Silwet L-77 (apart from *Pf* A506,
473 which was inoculated at a concentration of 1×10^8 CFU/mL), or by dipping into

474 bacterial suspensions of 1×10^7 CFU/mL in 10 mM MgCl_2 and 0.04% Silwet L-77.
475 Plants inoculated by dipping were placed in a sealed transparent box to maintain
476 humidity. Leaflets were with 3% (w/v) bleach, rinsed with water, and dried. Five
477 samples of four leaf discs (1 cm diameter) were taken from three plants at 2 h after
478 inoculation (day 0) and 2 days later, and homogenized in 1 mL of 10 mM MgCl_2 to
479 determine bacterial populations via serial dilution plating.

480 For tomato inoculation with *Botrytis cinerea*, droplets (7 μL) of 0.5X potato dextrose
481 broth containing 2×10^5 spores/mL were deposited on the leaf surface. The area of
482 disease lesions was measured three days after inoculation.

483

484 **Peptide elicitors**

485 Peptides flg22 (QRLSTGSRINSAKDDAAGLQIA; Krol et al., 2010) and flgII-28
486 (ESTNILQRMRELAVQSRNDSNSSTDRDA; Clarke et al., 2013) were purchased
487 from Integrated DNA Technologies, Inc., dissolved in water to a 5 mM stock solution,
488 and diluted to the working concentration.

489

490 ***A. tumefaciens*-mediated transient expression**

491 Overnight cultures of *A. tumefaciens* were pelleted, washed three times with 10 mM
492 MgCl_2 , resuspended in induction medium (10 mM MgCl_2 , 10 mM MES [pH 5.6], and
493 200 μM acetosyringone), and incubated with shaking for 3-4 h at 20°C. Cultures
494 were diluted to $\text{OD}_{600}=0.2$ and infiltrated into leaves of *N. benthamiana* plants using a
495 needleless syringe.

496

497 **Generation of CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout lines**

498 To generate tomato lines with mutations in the *Bsk830* gene, guide RNAs (gRNA1:
499 GATTCTGAGCCTCGTGAATG; gRNA2: GTTTAACAGCAACCGGCCTC) targeting
500 the first exon of *Bsk830* were designed using the tomato genome version SL2.5
501 (Tomato Genome Consortium, 2012) and the Geneious R11 software
502 (<https://www.geneious.com>). Each gRNA was cloned into a Cas9-expressing binary
503 vector (p201N:Cas9; Jacobs et al., 2015) by Gibson assembly (Jacobs et al., 2017)
504 and transformed into *A. tumefaciens* LBA4404. The obtained strains were pooled
505 and used to transform Hawaii 7981 tomato plants at the Boyce Thompson Institute
506 transformation facility (Frery and Van Eck, 2005). To determine the mutation type,
507 genomic DNA was extracted from transgenic leaves using a modified CTAB method
508 (Murray and Thompson, 1980). Genomic regions flanking the target site of the
509 *Bsk830* gene were amplified with primers 15-16 (Supplemental Table S2) and
510 sequenced.

511

512 **Yeast two-hybrid assay**

513 A GAL4 two-hybrid system was used to analyze protein-protein interactions in yeast.
514 pGBKT7 vectors (bait) carrying tomato Bsk family members fused to the GAL4 DNA
515 binding domain were as described (Roberts et al., 2019a). Gene fragments encoding
516 the kinase domains of Fls2 (Fls2_{KD}; amino acids 867 to 1,169) or Fls3 (Fls3_{KD}; amino
517 acids 854 to 1,140) were PCR-amplified from tomato cDNA using primers 3-4
518 (Fls2_{KD}) or 1-2 (Fls3_{KD}) (Supplemental Table S2) and fused to the GAL4 activation
519 domain in the pGADT7RecM vector (prey). Interactions were tested by placing
520 droplets of yeast (10 µl) carrying bait and prey vectors on SD medium lacking Leu
521 and Trp (SD-LW), SD-LW lacking His and adenine (SD-LWHA), or SD-LW
522 supplemented with 25 µg/ml Aureobasidin A (SD-LW+AbA).

523

524 **Split luciferase complementation assay**

525 Gene fragments encoding Fls_{2KD} and Fls_{3KD} were PCR-amplified from tomato cDNA
526 using primers 7-8 (Fls_{2KD}) or 5-6 (Fls_{3KD}) (Supplemental Table S2), and cloned in
527 frame to the C-terminal fragment of firefly luciferase in the binary vector
528 pCAMBIA1300:C-LUC (Chen et al., 2008). Bsk830 was cloned in frame to the N-
529 terminal fragment of firefly luciferase in the binary vector pCAMBIA1300:N-LUC
530 (Chen et al., 2008), as described (Roberts et al., 2019a). The obtained vectors were
531 transformed into *A. tumefaciens* GV2260 and co-expressed in *N. benthamiana*
532 leaves. Split luciferase complementation assays were performed as described (Majhi
533 et al., 2019).

534

535 **Subcellular localization**

536 Gene fragments encoding *Bsk830*, *Bsk830*^{G2A}, and *Bsk830*^{C(3,11,12)A} were PCR-
537 amplified from tomato cDNA using primers 9-10, 11-10, and 12-10, respectively
538 (Supplemental Table S2). Amplified fragments were fused upstream of the coding
539 region of the yellow fluorescence protein (YFP) in the pBTEX binary vector driven by
540 the CaMV 35S promoter (Frederick et al., 1998; Popov et al., 2016). Fusion proteins
541 were co-expressed with the plasma membrane marker Flot1b-mCherry (Li et al.,
542 2012a) via *A. tumefaciens* GV2260 in *N. benthamiana* leaves and their localization
543 was visualized by a Zeiss LSM780 confocal laser scanning microscope (Zeiss). YFP
544 was excited with an argon laser at 514 nm, while mCherry and mRFP were excited
545 with a DPSS561-10 laser at 561 nm. Emission was detected between 518 and 583
546 nm for YFP, and between 579 and 650 nm for mCherry and mRFP. Images were
547 processed with the image processing package Fiji (<https://fiji.sc/>).

548

549 **Expression of MBP fusion proteins in *E. coli* and *in vitro* kinase assay**

550 A gene fragment encoding Bsk830 was PCR-amplified from tomato cDNA using
551 primers 13-14 (Supplemental Table S2), and cloned into the pMAL-c2x vector (New
552 England Biolabs). Fls2_{CD} (amino acids 841 to 1,169), and Fls3_{CD} (amino acids 824 to
553 1,140) MBP fusions in the pMAL-c2x vector were prepared as described (Roberts et
554 al., 2020). Proteins were expressed in the Rosetta *E. coli* strain and purified (Majhi et
555 al., 2019). MBP fusion proteins were incubated at 25°C for 1 h in a kinase assay
556 solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7), 1 mM DTT, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM MnCl₂,
557 20 μM ATP, and 10 μCi [γ -³²P]ATP (3,000 Ci mmol⁻¹; Perkin-Elmer). Reactions were
558 stopped by addition of the SDS sample buffer. Half of the reaction was fractionated
559 by SDS-PAGE and stained with Coomassie Blue. The second half was fractionated
560 by SDS-PAGE, blotted onto a PVDF membrane and exposed to autoradiography.

561

562 **Protein extraction**

563 Protein extraction from yeast and leaves was performed as described by Salomon
564 and Sessa (2010) and Majhi et al. (2019), respectively.

565

566 **ROS production assay**

567 Leaf discs were placed in 200 μL of water overnight with the adaxial side up in 96-
568 well plates. The next day, the water was replaced with a solution containing 100 nM
569 flg22 or flgII-28, 34 μg mL⁻¹ luminol (Sigma-Aldrich), and 20 μg mL⁻¹ horseradish
570 peroxidase (Sigma-Aldrich). Luminescence was measured with a Veritas Microplate
571 Luminometer (Turnerbiosystems Veritas) for 30 min (flg22) or 45 min (flgII-28) at 2.5-
572 or 3-min intervals, with a reading time of 2 sec per well.

573

574 **MAPK phosphorylation assay**

575 Leaf discs (~60 mg) were floated overnight in 10 mL water in 6-well-plates and then
576 treated with 1 μ M flg22, 1 μ M flgII-28, or water. Total proteins were extracted in 150
577 μ L extraction buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 200 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM
578 NaF, 1 mM Na₂MoO₄, 2 mM Na₃VO₄, 10% [v/v] glycerol, 2 mM DTT, and 1 mM
579 PMSF). Proteins were fractionated by SDS-PAGE, transferred onto PDVF
580 membranes, and immunoblotted with rabbit anti-pMAPK antibodies (α -pMAPK; Cell
581 Signaling Technology).

582

583 **Measurements of stomatal aperture and number**

584 Leaf pieces were cut from tomato leaflets and floated on stomatal buffer (25 mM
585 MES-KOH [pH 6.15] and 10 mM KCl) for 3 h under light to allow stomata to fully
586 open (Melotto et al., 2006; Guzman et al., 2020). Leaf pieces were then floated on
587 water (control) and suspensions (1×10^8 CFU/mL) of *Pst* DC3000 or *Pf* A506. At the
588 indicated times, leaf pieces were removed, dried with a filter paper, and placed on an
589 Elite HD+ silicon rubber mixture (Zhermack) to create an impression of the leaf
590 abaxial surface (Weyers and Johansen, 1985). Once hardened, the silicone rubber
591 mixture was covered with clear nail varnish, which was allowed to dry, transferred to
592 a glass slide, and observed under an Axio Zoom.V16 microscope (Zeiss). For each
593 data point, the width and length of approximately 100-200 stomatal apertures were
594 measured by using the Fiji package (<https://fiji.sc/>) and used to calculate the
595 Stomatal Aperture Index. Images were also used to calculate the Stomata Number
596 Index (Zhang et al., 2020).

597

598 **RNA-seq cDNA library preparation**

599 Total RNA was isolated with the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN) from wild-type and
600 *bsk830-1* tomato leaves inoculated by vacuum with *P. fluorescens* A506 or mock-
601 inoculated (three biological replicates for treatment, in total 12 samples collected at 6
602 h post-inoculation). RNA integrity was evaluated using the 4200 TapeStation System
603 (Agilent Technologies). RNA-Seq cDNA libraries were prepared from RNA samples
604 using the NEBNext Ultra™ II mRNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina and then PCR-
605 amplified using NEBNext Multiplex Oligos for Illumina (New England Biolabs).
606 Quality and average size of cDNAs in the library were evaluated using the 4200
607 TapeStation System (Agilent Technologies).

608

609 **Next-generation sequencing and data analysis**

610 Libraries were sequenced using a NextSeq™ 500 system (Illumina) at the Genomics
611 Research Unit of the Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University. FASTQ files
612 obtained from the sequencing were analyzed by Partek® Flow® 8.0 using the
613 *Solanum lycopersicum* SL3.0 assembly (NCBI ID 393272). Raw reads with Phred
614 quality scores of less than 20 were trimmed from the 3' end, followed by removal of
615 adaptor sequences. High quality trimmed reads (Phred score ~34 and read length 75
616 bp) were aligned to the reference genome by STAR 2.7.3a (Dobin et al., 2013).
617 Gene expression quantification was performed using the Partek E/M algorithm (Xing
618 et al., 2006), and normalized to RPKM (reads per kilobase of transcript per million
619 mapped reads) (Mortazavi et al., 2008). Gene-specific analysis was performed on
620 15,575 detected genes (false discovery rate [pFDR] < 0.05). Overlap of differentially
621 expressed genes in wild-type and *bsk830-1* plants was visualized using the eulerr R
622 package (Larsson, 2020). Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed

623 using g:Profiler (version e105_eg52_p16_e84549f) with a significance threshold of
624 $pFDR < 0.05$ (Raudvere et al., 2019). The term size of functional categories was
625 limited to 10-150 to exclude GO terms associated with general processes, and
626 electronic GO annotations were discarded to increase GO term accuracy.

627

628 **Statistical analysis**

629 Experiments were performed at least three times. Statistical significance is based on
630 either one- or two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's post-hoc test performed in the R
631 environment. The multcompView R package (Graves et al., 2019) was used to
632 assign a compact letter display to indicate the statistical differences in post-hoc
633 tests.

634

635 **Accession numbers**

636 Sequence data from this article can be found in the Solanaceae Genomics Network
637 database (<https://solgenomics.net/>) under the following accession numbers: *Bsk880*
638 (*Solyc01g080880*), *Bsk260* (*Solyc04g082260*), *Bsk600* (*Solyc06g076600*), *Bsk750*
639 (*Solyc09g011750*), *Bsk000* (*Solyc10g085000*), *Bsk890* (*Solyc11g064890*), *Bsk830*
640 (*Solyc12g099830*), *FIs2.1* (*Solyc02g070890*), *FIs2.2* (*Solyc02g070910*), *FIs3*
641 (*Solyc04g009640*). RNA-seq reads generated in this work are available under
642 accession number GSE199518 in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)
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650

651 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

652 G.So., B.B.M., G.B.M., and G.S. conceived and designed the experimental plans
653 and analyzed the data; B.B.M. performed the protein-protein interaction analyses,
654 and G.So. performed all the other experiments; N.Z. and H.M.R. generated the
655 *bsk830* mutant plants; M.P.C. analyzed the RNA-seq data; G.So. and G.S. wrote the
656 article.

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- 934

935 **Table 1.** Functional categories overrepresented in DEGs of *Pf* treated *bsk830* plants.

Up-regulated genes		
Term name	Term ID	$-\log_{10}(p_{adj})$
response to chitin	GO:0010200	5.53039
regulation of jasmonic acid mediated signaling pathway	GO:2000022	5.42490
cellular response to fatty acid	GO:0071398	4.02940
jasmonic acid mediated signaling pathway	GO:0009867	3.47824
cellular response to jasmonic acid stimulus	GO:0071395	3.37033
lignin metabolic process	GO:0009808	3.19087
regulation of defense response to insect	GO:2000068	3.18180
phenylpropanoid metabolic process	GO:0009698	2.80966
phenylpropanoid biosynthetic process	GO:0009699	2.19778
regulation of anion channel activity	GO:0010359	2.09635
Down-regulated genes		
Term name	Term ID	$-\log_{10}(p_{adj})$
photosynthesis, light reaction	GO:0019684	44.88674
photosynthetic electron transport chain	GO:0009767	21.43202
photosynthesis, light harvesting	GO:0009765	17.15130
photosynthesis, light harvesting in photosystem I	GO:0009768	14.07682
electron transport chain	GO:0022900	14.04188
photosynthetic electron transport in photosystem I	GO:0009773	13.60706
NAD(P)H dehydrogenase complex assembly	GO:0010275	11.56992
photosystem II assembly	GO:0010207	7.293742
response to high light intensity	GO:0009644	5.682999
glucose metabolic process	GO:0006006	5.284815

936 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

937 **Figure 1.** Interaction of Bsk830 with Fls2 and Fls3. A, Yeast cells expressing
938 individual Bsk proteins fused to the GAL4 DNA-binding domain (bait), and the kinase
939 domain of Fls2 (Fls2_{KD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{KD}) fused to the GAL4 DNA-activation domain
940 (prey) were grown on synthetically defined medium lacking Leu and Trp (SD–LW),
941 SD–LW lacking His and Ade (SD–LWHA), or SD–LW supplemented with
942 Aureobasidin A (SD–LW+AbA). Empty vectors (EV) were used as negative controls.
943 Nomenclature and accession numbers of tomato Bsk family members are reported in
944 the Materials and Methods section. B, The indicated proteins were fused to C-LUC
945 or N-LUC and co-expressed via *A. tumefaciens* GV2260 in *N. benthamiana* leaves.
946 Luciferase activity was quantified by measuring relative luminescence at 48 h after
947 agro-infiltration. Data from three independent experiments is shown. Circles
948 represent individual data points, and letters represent statistical significance
949 determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$).

950

951 **Figure 2.** Bsk830 localizes to the plasma membrane. A, Putative myristoylation and
952 palmitoylation sites at the N-terminus of Bsk830. Bsk830-YFP (B), Bsk830^{G2A}-YFP
953 (C), or Bsk830^{C(3,11,12)A}-YFP (C) fusion proteins were co-expressed via *A.*
954 *tumefaciens* GV2260 in *N. benthamiana* leaves with the plasma membrane marker
955 Flot1b-mCherry. Fluorescence was monitored in epidermal cells by confocal
956 microscopy at 48 h after agro-infiltration. YFP, mCherry, and merged fluorescence
957 images are shown. The region marked in the merged image by a dotted square is
958 magnified in the inset panel. Fluorescence intensity was measured in the YFP and
959 mCherry channels along the dotted line. Scale bars represents 20 μm , except for the
960 inset image, where it represents 10 μm .

961

962 **Figure 3.** *Bsk830* is required for flagellin-mediated immunity. A, Wild-type and
963 *bsk830* mutant plants were inoculated by dipping into a bacterial suspension
964 (10^7 CFU mL⁻¹) of *Pst* DC3000 or *Pst* DC3000 Δ *fliC*. Bacterial populations were
965 measured in leaves at 0 and 2 days post-inoculation (dpi). Circles represent
966 individual data points of three biological replicates, and letters represent statistical
967 significance determined by two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$). B
968 and C, ROS production. Leaf discs were treated with 100 nM of flg22, flgII-28, or
969 water. Luminescence was measured for 30 min after flg22 treatment (B) and for 45
970 min after flgII-28 treatment (C). ROS production was normalized to the ROS amount
971 produced by wild-type plants at its peak. Data are means \pm SD of three biological
972 replicates.

973

974 **Figure 4.** *bsk830* mutant plants are compromised in stomatal immunity. A and B,
975 Wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 by dipping
976 (10^7 CFU mL⁻¹) (A) or vacuum-infiltration (10^5 CFU mL⁻¹) (B). Bacterial populations
977 were measured in leaves at 0 and 2 days post-inoculation (dpi). Data from three
978 independent experiments is shown. C and D, Stomatal aperture index (aperture
979 width divided by the stomata length) was determined in leaves after 0, 1, 2.5, and 4 h
980 floating on suspensions (10^8 CFU mL⁻¹) of *Pst* DC3000 (C) and *Pf* A506 (D), or
981 water (mock). Circles represent mean of three biological replicates. Letters represent
982 statistical significance determined by one-way (A and B) or two-way (C and D)
983 ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$).

984

985 **Figure 5.** A, Euler diagram representing differentially expressed genes (DEGs)
986 (pFDR < 0.05, fold change > 3, *Pf* vs. mock treatment comparison) in wild-type and
987 *bsk830-1* plants. B, Loss of function in *Bsk830* alters expression of genes involved in
988 JA biosynthesis, catabolism, signaling, and response. Each row represents a single
989 gene accompanied by its Solanaceae Genomics Network accession number. Genes
990 not characterized in tomato are annotated with name of the *Arabidopsis* gene with
991 the highest protein similarity obtained by BLAST. The legend corresponds to relative
992 log₂ fold change values calculated based on a *Pf* vs. mock treatment comparison
993 performed for either wild-type or the *bsk830* mutant line. Grey rectangles represent
994 genes with no fold change value available.

995

996 **Figure 6.** A, Plants of the indicated genotypes were inoculated by dipping with a 10⁷
997 CFU mL⁻¹ bacterial suspension of *Pst* DC3000 (COR+) or *Pst* DC3118 (COR-).
998 Bacterial populations in leaves were measured at 0 and 2 dpi. B, Plants of the
999 indicated genotypes were vacuum-infiltrated with a *Pf* A506 suspension (10⁸ CFU
1000 mL⁻¹). After 24 h, plants were inoculated by placing a droplet of a suspension
1001 carrying *Botrytis cinerea* spores (2 × 10⁵ conidia mL⁻¹). Lesion area was measured
1002 at 3 dpi. In (A and B) data from three independent experiments is shown. Letters
1003 represent statistical significance determined by two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-
1004 hoc test (*P* < 0.05).

1005 **SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES AND FIGURE LEGENDS**

1006 **Supplemental Table S1.** List of differentially expressed genes.

1007

1008 **Supplemental Table S2.** Primers used in this study.

1009

1010 **Supplemental Figure S1.** A, Expression in yeast of the kinase domain of Fls2
1011 (Fls2_{KD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{KD}) fused to the GAL4 DNA-activation domain (GAL4-AD). B,
1012 Expression in leaves of *N. benthamiana* plants of Fls2_{KD} and Fls3_{KD} fused to the C-
1013 terminal half (C-LUC) of the luciferase protein. Proteins were detected by
1014 immunoblot analysis using anti-HA antibodies (α -HA) or anti-luciferase antibodies (α -
1015 LUC).

1016

1017 **Supplemental Figure S2.** Bsk830 is not phosphorylated *in vitro* by Fls2 and Fls3.
1018 Phosphorylation of the maltose binding protein (MBP)-Bsk830 fusion by the
1019 cytoplasmic domain of Fls2 (Fls2_{CD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{CD}) fused to MBP was assayed *in*
1020 *vitro* in the presence of [γ -³²P]ATP. Proteins were fractionated by SDS-PAGE, blotted
1021 onto a PVDF membrane and exposed to autoradiography, or stained with
1022 Coomassie Blue.

1023

1024 **Supplemental Figure S3.** Sequence of the *Bsk830* deletions in the tomato *bsk830-1*
1025 and *bsk830-2* mutant lines. Multiple sequence alignment of the *Bsk830* region
1026 flanking the gRNA-targeted site in wild-type, *bsk830-1*, and *bsk830-2* plants. In
1027 green, the ATG translation start site; in blue, the PAM motif; in pink, the gRNA. A red
1028 dotted line represents sequences deleted in the mutant lines.

1029

1030 **Supplemental Figure S4.** Tomato *bsk830* mutant plants are not impaired in flg22-
1031 and flgII-28-induced MAPK activation. Leaf discs of wild-type, *bsk830-1*, *bsk830-2*,
1032 *fls2.1/fls2.2* and *fls3* mutant plants were floated overnight in water and treated with 1
1033 μ M of flg22 (A) or flgII-28 (B). Samples were harvested at 0, 5 and 20 min after
1034 treatment and analyzed by immunoblots with anti-pMAPK antibodies (α -pMAPK).
1035 Ponceau S staining of RuBisCO is shown as a loading control. Data are
1036 representative of three biological repeats.

1037

1038 **Supplemental Figure S5.** Stomatal number index of wild-type, *bsk830-1*, and
1039 *bsk830-2* tomato plants. The number of stomata and epidermal pavement cells was
1040 manually counted in a 0.5 mm² leaf area and the stomatal number index was
1041 calculated as the percentage of stomata per total cells. Approximately 30 images
1042 were analyzed for each plant genotype.

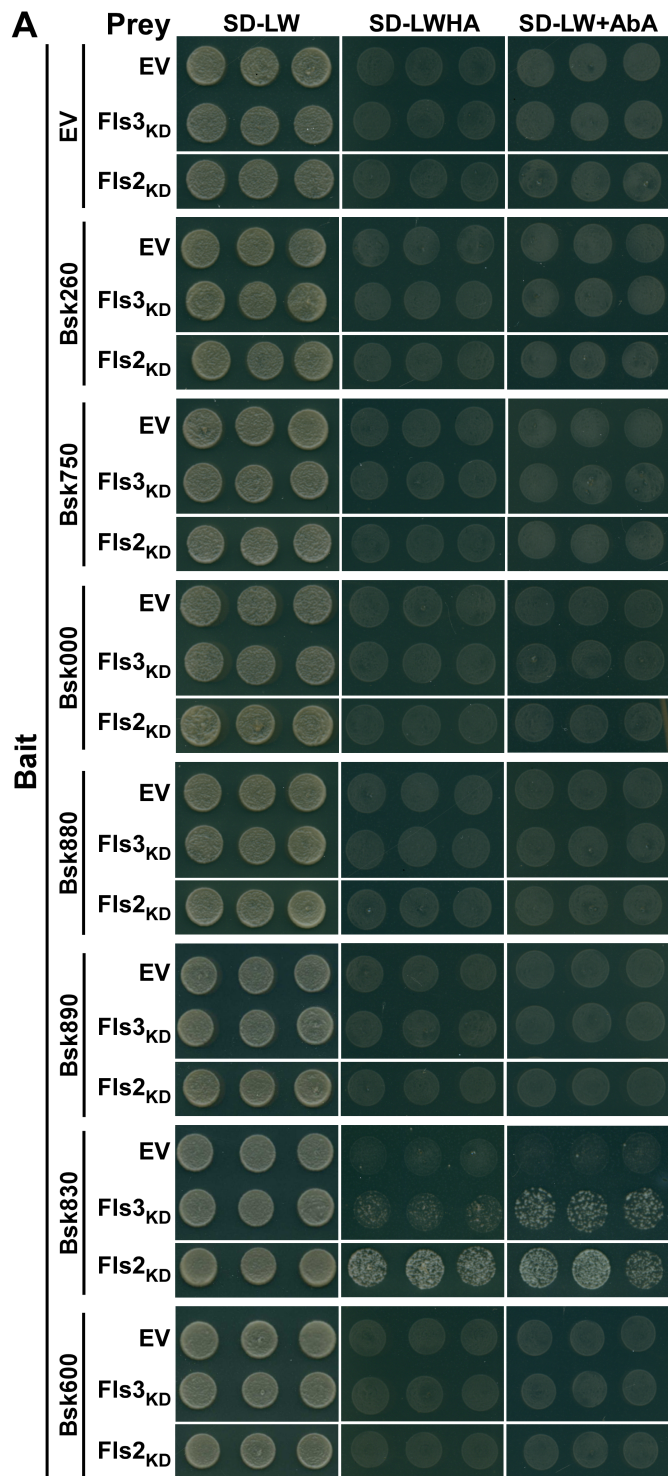
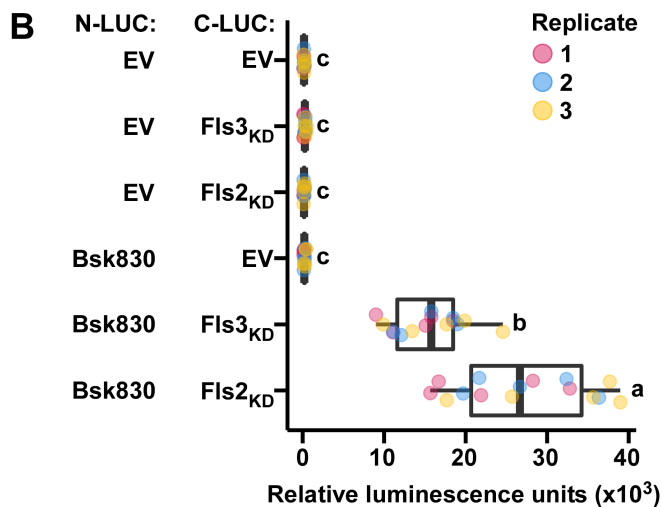


Figure 1. Interaction of Bsk830 with Fls2 and Fls3. **A,** Yeast cells expressing individual Bsk proteins fused to the GAL4 DNA-binding domain (bait), and the kinase domain of Fls2 (Fls2_{KD}) and Fls3 (Fls3_{KD}) fused to the GAL4 DNA-activation domain (prey) were grown on synthetically defined medium lacking Leu and Trp (SD-LW), SD-LW lacking His and Ade (SD-LWHA), or SD-LW supplemented with Aureobasidin A (SD-LW+AbA). Empty vectors (EV) were used as negative controls. Nomenclature and accession numbers of tomato Bsk family members are reported in the Materials and Methods section. **B,** The indicated proteins were fused to C-LUC or N-LUC and co-expressed via *A. tumefaciens* GV2260 in *N. benthamiana* leaves. Luciferase activity was quantified by measuring relative luminescence at 48 h after agro-infiltration. Data from three independent experiments is shown. Circles represent individual data points, and letters represent statistical significance determined by one-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$).



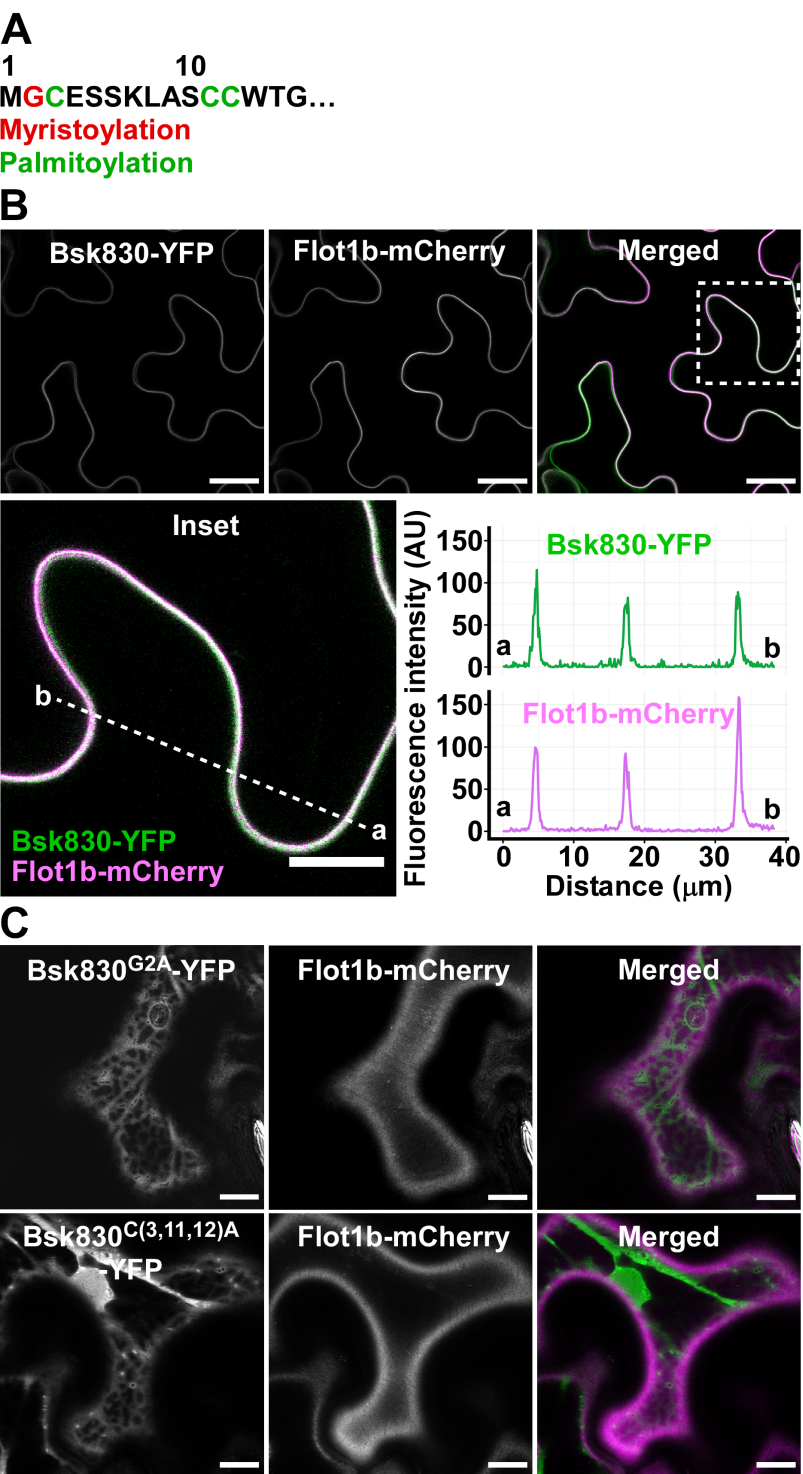


Figure 2. Bsk830 localizes to the plasma membrane. A, Putative myristoylation and palmitoylation sites at the N-terminus of Bsk830. Bsk830-YFP (B), Bsk830^{G2A}-YFP (C), or Bsk830^{C(3,11,12)A}-YFP (C) fusion proteins were co-expressed via *A. tumefaciens* GV2260 in *N. benthamiana* leaves with the plasma membrane marker Flot1b-mCherry. Fluorescence was monitored in epidermal cells by confocal microscopy at 48 h after agro-infiltration. YFP, mCherry, and merged fluorescence images are shown. The region marked in the merged image by a dotted square is magnified in the inset panel. Fluorescence intensity was measured in the YFP and mCherry channels along the dotted line. Scale bars represents 20 μm , except for the inset image, where it represents 10 μm .

Sobol et al., Figure 3

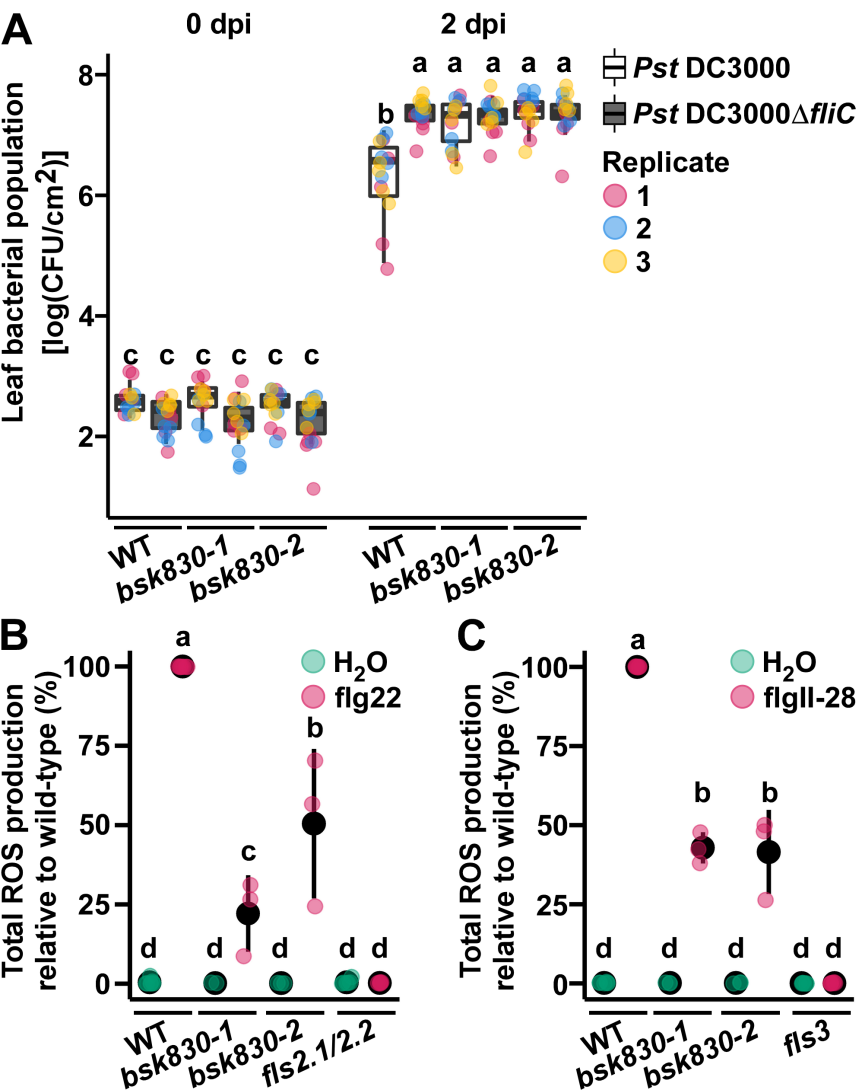


Figure 3. Bsk830 is required for flagellin-mediated immunity. A, Wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were inoculated by dipping into a bacterial suspension (10^7 CFU mL⁻¹) of *Pst* DC3000 or *Pst* DC3000Δ*fliC*. Bacterial populations were measured in leaves at 0 and 2 days post-inoculation (dpi). Circles represent individual data points of three biological replicates, and letters represent statistical significance determined by two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$). B and C, ROS production. Leaf discs were treated with 100 nM of flg22, flgII-28, or water. Luminescence was measured for 30 min after flg22 treatment (B) and for 45 min after flgII-28 treatment (C). ROS production was normalized to the ROS amount produced by wild-type plants at its peak. Data are means \pm SD of three biological replicates.

Sobol et al., Figure 4

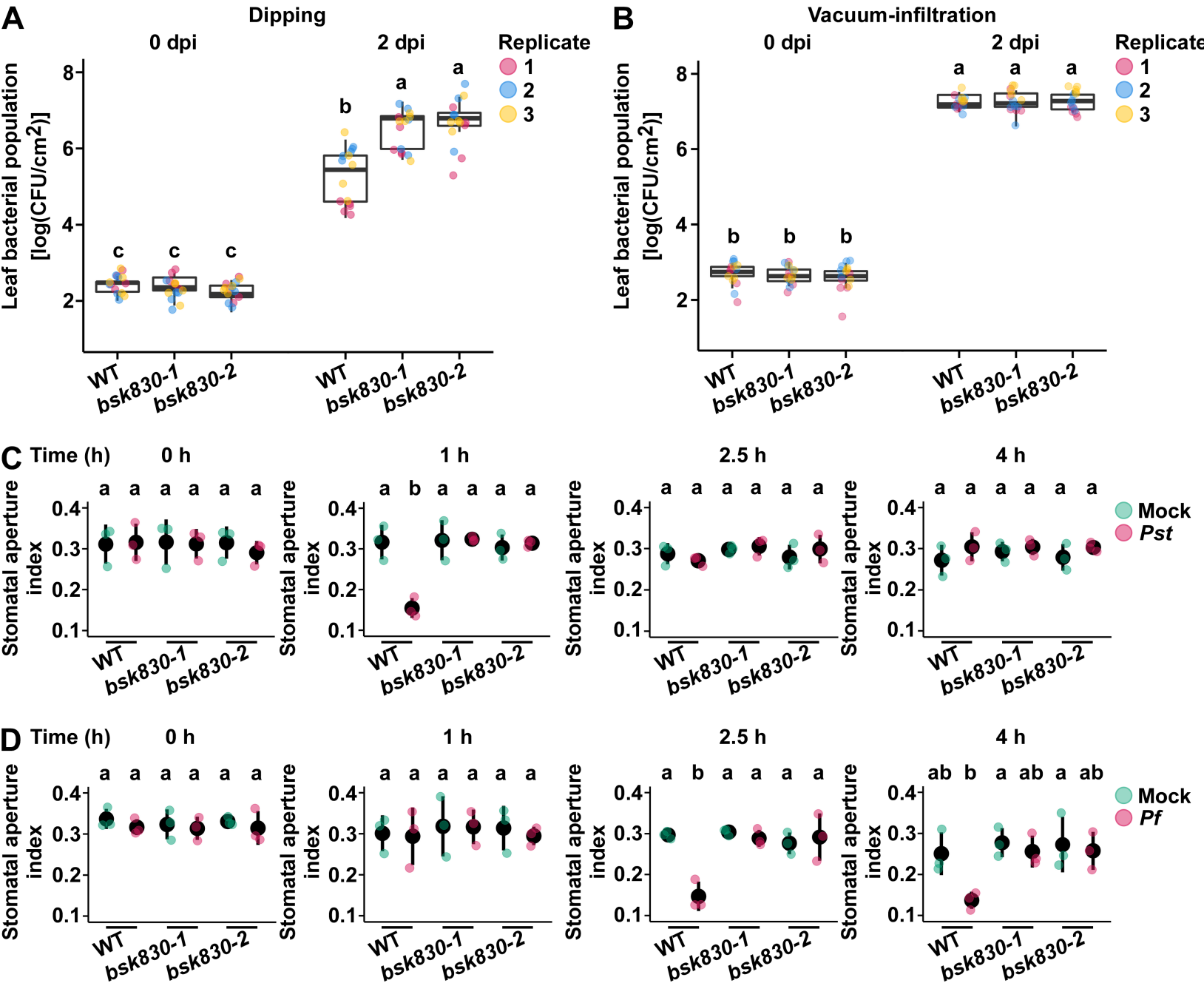


Figure 4. *bsk830* mutant plants are compromised in stomatal immunity. A and B, Wild-type and *bsk830* mutant plants were inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 by dipping (10^7 CFU mL $^{-1}$) (A) or vacuum-infiltration (10^5 CFU mL $^{-1}$) (B). Bacterial populations were measured in leaves at 0 and 2 days post-inoculation (dpi). Data from three independent experiments is shown. C and D, Stomatal aperture index (aperture width divided by the stomata length) was determined in leaves after 0, 1, 2.5, and 4 h floating on suspensions (10^8 CFU mL $^{-1}$) of *Pst* DC3000 (C) and *Pf* A506 (D), or water (mock). Circles represent mean of three biological replicates. Letters represent statistical significance determined by one-way (A and B) or two-way (C and D) ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$).

Sobol et al., Figure 5

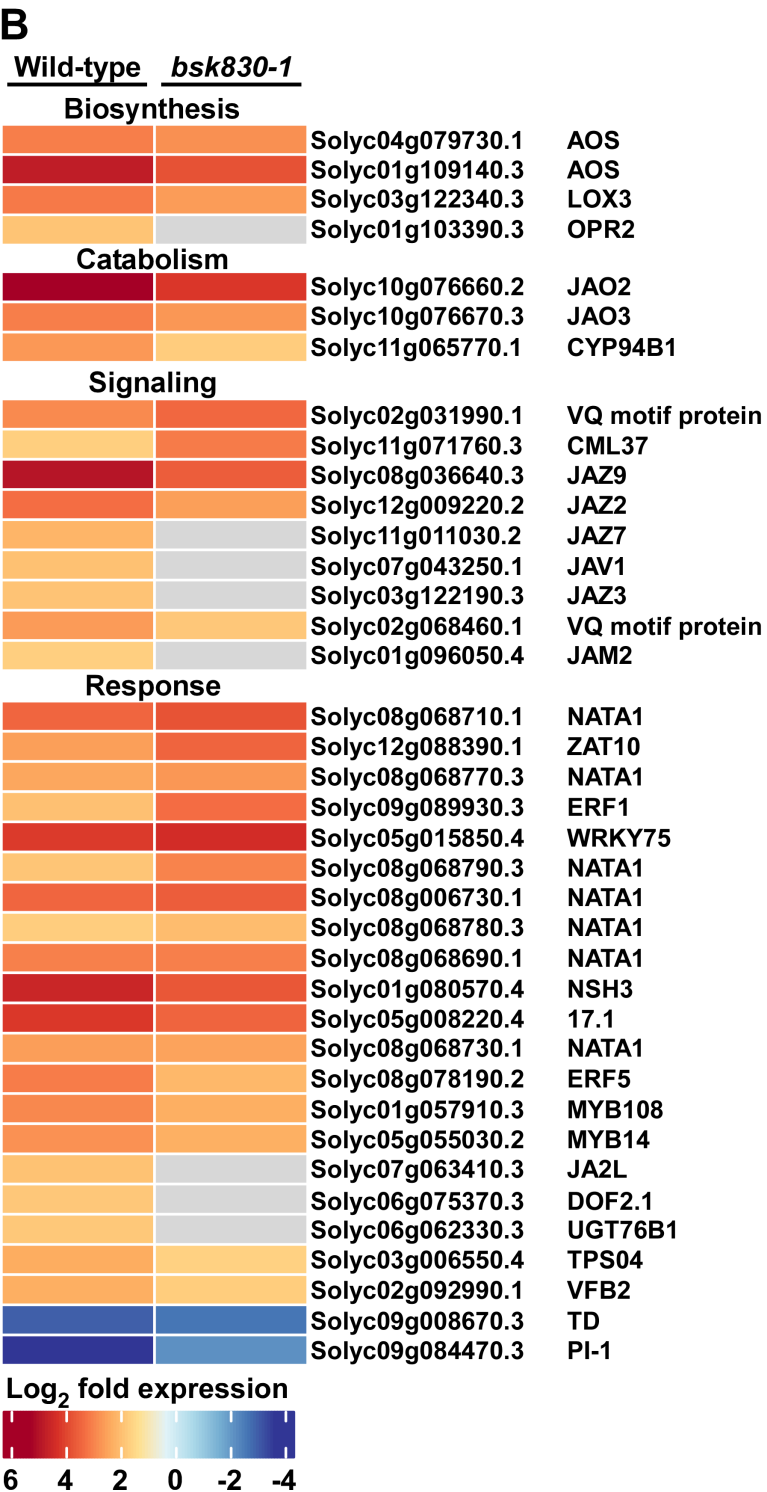
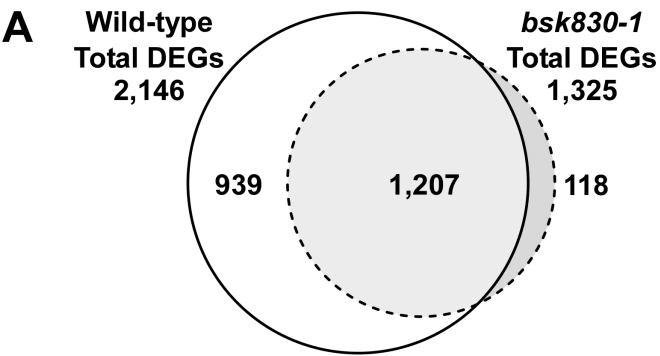


Figure 5. A, Euler diagram representing differentially expressed genes (DEGs) ($p\text{FDR} < 0.05$, fold change > 3 , *Pf* vs. mock treatment comparison) in wild-type and *bsk830-1* plants. B, Loss of function in *Bsk830* alters expression of genes involved in JA biosynthesis, catabolism, signaling, and response. Each row represents a single gene accompanied by its Solanaceae Genomics Network accession number. Genes not characterized in tomato are annotated with name of the *Arabidopsis* gene with the highest protein similarity obtained by BLAST. The legend corresponds to relative \log_2 fold change values calculated based on a *Pf* vs. mock treatment comparison performed for either wild-type or the *bsk830* mutant line. Grey rectangles represent genes with no fold change value available.

Sobol et al., Figure 6

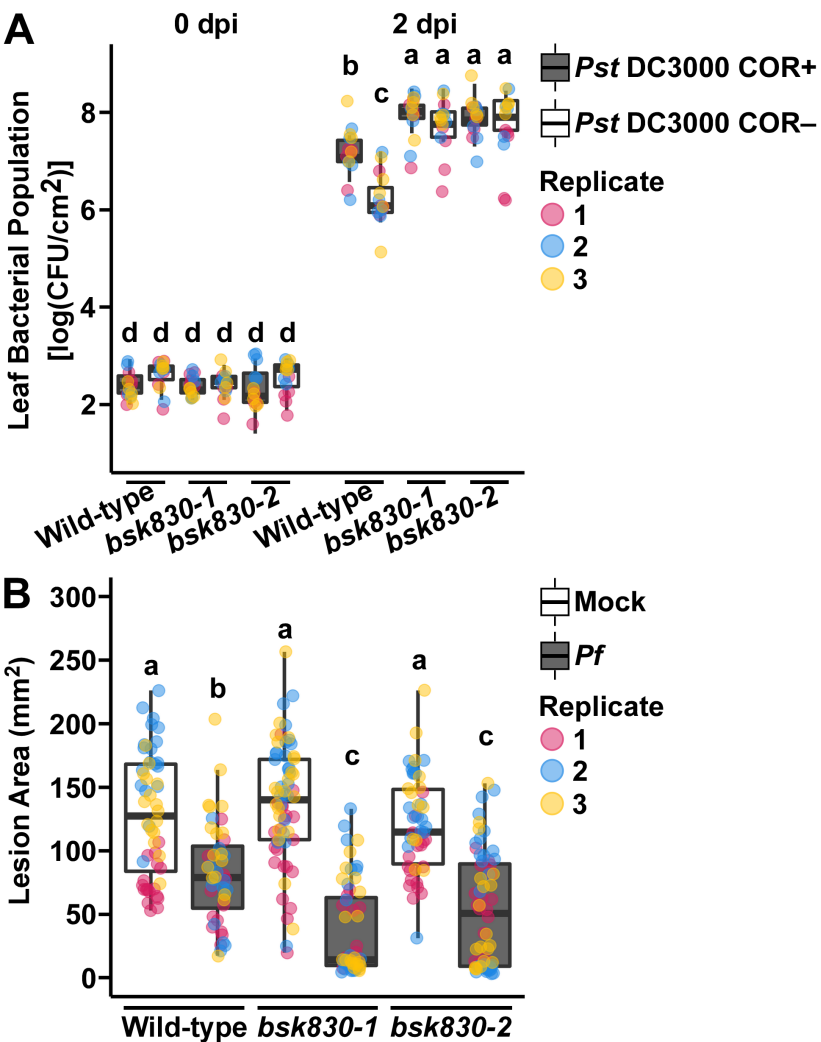


Figure 6. A, Plants of the indicated genotypes were inoculated by dipping with a 10^7 CFU mL⁻¹ bacterial suspension of *Pst* DC3000 (COR+) or *Pst* DC3118 (COR-). Bacterial populations in leaves were measured at 0 and 2 dpi. B, Plants of the indicated genotypes were vacuum-infiltrated with a *Pf* A506 suspension (10^8 CFU mL⁻¹). After 24 h, plants were inoculated by placing a droplet of a suspension carrying *Botrytis cinerea* spores (2×10^5 conidia mL⁻¹). Lesion area was measured at 3 dpi. In (A and B) data from three independent experiments is shown. Letters represent statistical significance determined by two-way ANOVA and Tukey's post-hoc test ($P < 0.05$).

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