**Humidity-driven ABA depletion determines plant-pathogen competition for leaf water**

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**Abstract**

Bacterial phytopathogens, such as *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. tomato (*Pst*) DC3000, induce water-soaked lesions in the leaf apoplast under high humidity, facilitating infection. However, it remains largely unclear how plants regulate their resistance to restrict bacterial infection in response to humidity. Here, we demonstrate that abscisic acid (ABA)-catabolizing ABA 8'-hydroxylase, encoded by *CYP707A3*, plays a critical role in this resistance in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Elevated humidity induces *CYP707A3* expression, which is essential for reducing ABA levels and promoting stomatal opening, thereby limiting bacterial water-soaking and infection following leaf invasion. High humidity also increases cytosolic $Ca^{2+}$ levels via the $Ca^{2+}$ channels CNGC2 and CNGC4, with partial involvement from CNGC9, activating the calmodulin-binding transcription activator CAMTA3 to drive *CYP707A3* induction. However, *Pst* DC3000 counteracts this defense response using type III secretion effectors, particularly AvrPtoB, facilitating water-soaking. These findings provide insights into the mechanisms underlying the competition

between plants and bacteria for leaf water under elevated humidity.

**Introduction**

Bacterial phytopathogens cause foliar diseases that threaten plant survival and crop yields

by proliferating within the leaf apoplast[1]. An important layer of defense against bacterial

infection is provided by cell surface receptor-like kinases/proteins (RLKs/RLPs),

collectively known as pattern recognition receptors (PRRs). PRRs detect microbe-

associated molecular patterns (MAMPs) and endogenous damage-associated molecular

patters (DAMPs) to activate pattern-triggered immunity (PTI)[2-4]. Following ligand

perception, PRRs form active complexes with co-receptors to trigger intracellular

signaling cascades. This involves rapid cytosolic $Ca^{2+}$ influx, a burst of reactive oxygen

spices (ROS), activation of mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) cascades,

production of defense-related phytohormones such as salicylic acid (SA), stomatal

closure, transcriptional reprograming, and production of antibacterial compounds[2-4]. To

overcome PTI, bacterial pathogens deliver effector proteins into host tissues and cells via

type III secretion (T3S) system[1]. The bacterial phytopathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv.

*tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 has 36 T3S effectors[5]. Recent studies have shown that *Pst* DC3000

utilizes specific effectors to manipulate the leaf apoplast environment, establishing

conditions favorable for infection[6].

High humidity promotes foliar diseases caused by bacterial pathogens through multiple

mechanisms. Initially, impaired stomatal closure facilitates bacterial invasion into leaves[7].

Once inside, bacterial pathogens induce apoplast hydration under high humidity, a critical

process for disease development known as water-soaking[8]. To induce water-soaking, *Pst*

DC3000 employs the highly conserved effectors HopM1 and AvrE, which manipulate the

host plant's abscisic acid (ABA) pathways, a phytohormone critical for water retention[9,10].

Plants typically increase ABA levels under drought conditions to promote stomatal

closure and conserve water[11]. However, under high humidity, when plants naturally

reduce ABA levels, *Pst* DC3000 stimulates ABA biosynthesis and signaling in the host

through HopM1 and AvrE, thereby enhancing water-soaking and promoting disease

progression[9,10]. Similarly, *Xanthomonas* bacteria exploit host ABA pathways through

their effectors to facilitate leaf infection in rice, wheat, and Arabidopsis[12-14]. Despite

recent advances in the identification and characterization of bacterial effectors involved in water-soaking, our understanding of the plant resistance mechanisms that counteract bacterial water acquisition remains limited[15,16].

In nature, high humidity often accompanies prolonged rainfall, inducing a wide range of physiological effects in plants, such as defects in cuticle formation, stomatal opening, changes in water uptake and transpiration, and leaf petiole movement (hyponasty)[7,17-19]. In Arabidopsis, high humidity rapidly induces transcriptional and post-transcriptional changes in leaves, modulating phytohormone pathways[17,19]. ABA levels are tightly regulated through the coordination of its biosynthesis and catabolism[20]. Under high humidity, ABA levels decrease via the action of *CYP707A1* and *CYP707A3*, which encode ABA 8'-hydroxylases, thereby facilitating stomatal opening[17]. Concurrently, the production and signaling of defense-promoting salicylic acid (SA) are suppressed, partly due to impaired ubiquitination of NPR1, an SA receptor and key transcriptional co-activator of SA-responsive genes, reducing its binding to target gene promoters[21]. Additionally, high humidity stimulates the biosynthesis of the gaseous phytohormone ethylene, which promotes leaf hyponasty[19]. Despite these extensive changes in phytohormone production and signaling, the mechanisms by which the modulation of host phytohormone pathways under high humidity impacts plant-pathogen interactions remain poorly understood.

In this study, we demonstrate that the high humidity-induced *CYP707A*3 plays a pivotal role in restricting bacterial water-soaking by promoting stomatal opening in leaves. High humidity elevates cytosolic $Ca^{2+}$ concentrations via the $Ca^{2+}$ channels CNGC2, CNGC4, and CNGC9, triggering *CYP707A3* induction through calmodulin-binding transcription activators (CAMTAs). However, during infection, *Pst* DC3000 counteracts this signaling module and suppresses high humidity-induced transcriptional changes through its T3S effectors, with AvrPtoB playing a predominant role. These findings provide valuable insights into the mechanisms regulating plant-pathogen competition for leaf water under high humidity.

**Result**

**CYP707A3 confers resistance to bacterial water soaking and infection under high humidity conditions**

When plants were exposed to high humidity, *CYP707A1* and *CY707A3*, but not *CYP707A2* and *CYP707A4*, were transiently induced within 0.5 h in leaves (Fig. 1a). To investigate the role of *CYP707A1* and *CYP707A3* in bacterial resistance under high humidity, we examined the correlation between ABA levels and bacterial water-soaking in *cyp707a* mutant plants. We confirmed high accumulation of ABA in *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* leaves regardless of humidity conditions (Fig. 1b). To assess water soaking, we monitored leaf water accumulation following bacterial infiltration under high and moderate humidity. At 1 day post-inoculation (dpi), *Pst ΔhrcC*, a strain lacking T3S system, induced pronounced water-soaking in *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* plants under high humidity, significantly more than in wild-type (WT) plants (Fig. 1c). In contrast, bacterial water soaking was restricted in *cyp707a2* plants (Fig. 1c). Interestingly, *cyp707a3* mutants exhibited bacterial water-soaking comparable to *cyp707a1 cyp707a3*, while *cyp707a1* mutants retained WT-like water-soaking resistance (Fig. 1c). These findings highlight CYP707A3 as a key regulator in restricting bacterial water soaking. Under moderate humidity, however, even *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* showed no discernible water soaking (Fig. 1d). Consistently, bacterial growth was significantly enhanced in *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* plants compared to WT under high humidity, but not under moderate humidity (Fig. 1e). These results indicate that CYP707A3 plays a crucial role in suppressing bacterial water-soaking and infection specifically under high humidity conditions.

**CYP707A3-mediated water-soaking resistance depends on stomatal opening**

*Pst* DC3000 induces water-soaking under high humidity by promoting stomatal closure following leaf invasion[9,10]. Consistent with previous studies[17], we confirmed that the loss of *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1* impairs high humidity-induced stomatal opening (Fig. 2a, b). To determine whether *CYP707A3/A1*-mediated water-soaking resistance is linked to stomatal opening, we examined the *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* phenotype in the presence of *ost2-3D*, a constitutively active allele of *AHA1* H$^+$-ATPase that promotes persistent stomatal opening[22]. As expected, *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 ost2-3D* exhibited enhanced stomatal opening compared to *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* under both high and moderate humidity conditions (Fig. 2a, b). Consistently, bacterial water soaking was nearly absent

following *Pst ΔhrcC* infiltration in *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 ost2-3D,* similar to *ost2-3D* (Fig. 2c). This was accompanied by significantly reduced bacterial growth in both *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 ost2-3D* and *ost2-3D* plants (Fig. 2d). These findings are consistent with the notion that *CYP707A3* primarily suppresses bacterial water-soaking and proliferation, at least in part, by facilitating stomatal opening under high humidity.

**ABA depletion confers water-soaking resistance independently of SA**

SA antagonizes a broad range of ABA-dependent processes and suppresses water-soaking under continuous light[16,23,24]. However, both SA and ABA are required for stomatal closure during the initial defense responses to bacterial phytopathogens[25]. To investigate whether SA influences *CYP707A3/A1*-mediated water-soaking resistance, we examined *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* plants in the *sid2-2* background, which is deficient in isochorismate synthase1 (ICS1)-mediated SA biosynthesis[26]. The *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 sid2-2* plants, but not *sid2-2* plants, exhibited extensive water-soaking following *Pst ΔhrcC* inoculation (Fig. S1a), indicating that ICS1-mediated SA production is not required for *CYP707A3/A1*-dependent suppression of bacterial water-soaking under high humidity.

To further validate that ABA depletion is sufficient for inducing bacterial resistance under high humidity, we examined the bacterial inoculation phenotypes of *aldehyde oxidase3* (*aao3*), which is deficient in ABA biosynthesis[27]. Consistent with previous studies on ABA dependence[9,10], water-soaking at 1 dpi with *Pst* DC3000 was significantly reduced in *aao3* under high humidity, regardless of *SID2* presence (Fig. S1b). This reduction in water-soaking was associated with increased bacterial resistance at 3 dpi in both *aao3* and *aao3 sid2*, although the effect was less pronounced in the latter (Fig S1c). Under moderate humidity, however, *Pst* DC3000 growth was suppressed by the *aao3* mutation only in the presence of *SID2* (Fig. S1d), as previously described[24]. These results indicate that ABA depletion confers resistance to bacterial water-soaking and infection under high humidity, independent of the SA-ABA antagonism observed under moderate humidity.

**CYP707A3/A1 and BAK1/BKK1/CERK1-dependent PTI additively enhance bacterial resistance under high humidity**

High humidity differentially impacts defense responses to flg22, a MAMP derived from

bacterial flagellin[21]. To investigate the role of ABA depletion mediated by CYP707A3/A1

in this modulation, we analyzed the expression of defense-related genes following *Pst*

Δ*hrcC* inoculation in WT and *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* plants under moderate and high

humidity. After acclimating plants to each condition for 24 h, we examined the expression

of defense-related genes *FRK1*, *NHL10*, and *PHI-1* at 1 h post-inoculation. Under high

humidity, *FRK1* expression increased, *NHL10* expression remained unchanged, and *PHI-*

*1* expression was markedly reduced (Fig. S2a). These gene expression patterns were

consistent between WT and *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* plants, suggesting that *CYP707A3/A1*

have minimal impacts on the humidity-dependent modulation of defense gene induction

during PTI.

To explore the relationship between *CYP707A3/A1*-mediated water-soaking resistance

and PTI, we tested genetic interactions with *bak1-5 bkk1 cerk1* triple mutant (*bbc*

hereafter), which disrupts BAK1- and CERK1-dependent PRRs[28]. The *cyp707a1*

*cyp707a3 bbc* quintuple mutant exhibited pronounced water-soaking following *Pst* Δ*hrcC*

inoculation, similar to *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* (Fig. S2b). However, *bbc* alone displayed WT-

like or even slightly enhanced resistance to water-soaking (Fig. S2b), indicating that

CYP707A3/A1 restrict bacterial water-soaking independently of PTI activation through

BAK1, BKK1, and CERK1. Notably, *Pst* Δ*hrcC* bacterial growth was significantly

increased in *cyp707a1 cypa707a3 bbc* compared to either *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* or *bbc*

alone (Fig. S2c). These findings indicate that CYP707A3/A1-mediated ABA depletion

and BAK1/BKK1/CERK1-dependent PTI contribute additively to bacterial resistance

under high humidity.

**Rapid changes in leaf transcriptome in response to high humidity**

To gain an overview of transcriptional reprogramming under high humidity, we

performed RNA-sequencing (RNA-seq) analyses on WT leaves exposed to moderate and

high humidity for 0.5 and 5 h. A total of 2394 up-regulated and 2054 down-regulated

genes were identified as differentially expressed genes (DEGs) under high humidity (Fig.

3a and Supplementary Table 1). Principal component analysis (PCA) revealed clear

transcriptome separation based on humidity conditions and exposure durations (Fig. 3b),

demonstrating significant impacts of humidity within 30 min, which persisted over 5 h.

K-means clustering of the 1000 most variable genes yielded 10 distinct clusters
representing differential expression responses (Fig. 3c and Supplementary Table 2). High
humidity-induced genes were grouped into four clusters, with *CYP707A1* and *CYP707A3*
notably present in Cluster 6 (Fig. 3c). Clusters 1 and 6 exhibited strong induction at 5 h
and 0.5 h, respectively, while Clusters 2 and 9 exhibited early induction at 0.5 h that
persisted at 5 h (Fig. 3c). Gene ontology (GO) analysis highlighted over-represented
biological processes: 'hypoxia response' in Clusters 1 and 2, 'JA response' in Cluster 6,
and 'cell wall biogenesis' in Cluster 9 (Fig. S3). *Cis*-DNA element analysis of high
humidity-inducible DEGs identified significant enrichment of calmodulin (CaM)-binding
transcription activator (CAMTA) binding motifs, especially in Clusters 2 and 6 (Fig. 3d),
suggesting a role for CAMTA transcription factors in regulating gene expression under
high humidity.

**High humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression is dependent on CAMTA binding**
**motifs in its promoter**
The promoter region of *CYP707A3* contains two tandem CAMTA binding motifs (CGCG-
box), while the *CYP707A1* promoter does not (Fig. 4a). To assess the role of these motifs
in *CYP707A3* induction under high humidity, we transiently introduced a GUS reporter
under the control of either the native *CYP707A3* promoter (containing both CGCG-boxes)
or a modified promoter lacking the CGCG-boxes (ΔCGCG) in *NahG* plants (Fig. S4a),
which are depleted of SA to facilitate *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene introduction. *GUS*
expression significantly increased 30 min after high humidity exposure with the native
promoter, but not with the ΔCGCG promoter, while endogenous *CYP707A3* induction
remained unaffected (Fig. 4b). These results demonstrate that high humidity induction of
*CYP707A3* depends on the CAMTA binding motifs in its promoter.

To investigate the functional importance of high humidity induction of *CYP707A3* in
water soaking resistance, we generated transgenic plants expressing CYP707A3 tagged
with a 3×FLAG epitope at the C-terminus, driven by either the native or ΔCGCG
promoter in the *cyp707a3* mutant background. High humidity induction of *CYP707A3-*
*FLAG* was significantly reduced in the ΔCGCG promoter line compared to the native
promoter line (Fig. S4b). While water-soaking resistance was fully restored by

*CYP707A3-FLAG* under the native promoter in *cyp707a3*, it was only partially restored under the ΔCGCG promoter (Fig. S4c). These findings highlight the critical role of high humidity-induced *CYP707A3* via the CAMTA binding motifs in conferring water-soaking resistance under high humidity.

**High humidity triggers intracellular Ca$^{2+}$ signaling to induce *CYP707A3* expression**

CAMTA transcription factors are activated upon binding to Ca$^{2+}$-CaM[29]. The potential involvement of CAMTAs in high humidity-induced transcriptional reprogramming suggests that an elevation of cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ levels should occur in response to high humidity. Indeed, using the Ca$^{2+}$ biosensor GCaMP3 under the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter (*35S::GCaMP3*), we observed increased cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ concentrations in leaves within 10 min of high humidity exposure (Fig. S5a, b and Supplementary Movie 1). This indicates that cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ elevation precedes *CYP707A3/A1* induction in leaves under high humidity. To determine whether cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ signaling contributes to *CYP707A3/A1* induction, we applied the Ca$^{2+}$ channel inhibitors LaCl$_3$ and GdCl$_3$. These inhibitors significantly suppressed *CYP707A3* expression under high humidity, although they did not affect *CYP707A1* (Fig. S5c), suggesting a role for Ca$^{2+}$ signaling in *CYP707A3* induction. This distinction may reflect strong expression of *CYP707A3* in vascular tissues and *CYP707A1* in guard cells[17], with pharmaceutical perturbation being more effective in the former.

**CNGC2, CNGC4, and CNGC9 play a critical role in high humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression.**

CNGCs play a role in Ca$^{2+}$ signaling during defense activation[30]. To identify the Ca$^{2+}$ channel(s) mediating high humidity-triggered Ca$^{2+}$ signaling, we analyzed the expression of *CYP707A3* in *CNGC* loss-of-function mutants. An initial screen in 2-week-old *cngc* plants revealed that high humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression was significantly reduced in *cngc2*, *cngc4*, and *cngc9* (Fig. S6a, b). Further analysis in 5-week-old plants showed that high humidity induction of both *CYP70A3* and *CYP707A1* was impaired in *cngc2* and *cngc4*, while only *CYP707A3* induction was reduced in *cngc9* (Fig. 4c). These findings suggest that CNGC2/4-mediated cytosolic Ca$^{2+}$ elevation, with partial support from CNGC9, is crucial for *CYP707A3/A1* induction in response to high humidity.

**CAMTA3 facilitates *CYP707A3* induction and resistance to bacterial water-soaking**

**and infection under high humidity**

There are six *CAMTA* genes in the Arabidopsis genome, with *CAMTA3* playing a pivotal

role in plant responses to various stimuli, including temperature changes and mechanical

stress[31-34]. We thus investigated the contribution of *CAMTA3* to the high humidity-induced

expression of *CYP707A3*. Loss of *CAMTA3* is associated with severe growth defects due

to the constitutive activation of SA defense[35]. To avoid this complication, we employed

an inactive CAMTA3[A855V] variant, which carries A855V substitution in the IQ domain of

CAMTA3, disrupting its function without triggering SA defense activation[35]. Under our

conditions, expression of both CAMTA3 and CAMTA3[A855V] in the *camta2 camta3*

mutant background did not affect plant growth or basal SA levels (Fig. S7a-c). Plants

expressing CAMTA3 exhibited WT-like responses to high humidity, including

*CYP707A3* induction, ABA depletion, and stomatal opening (Fig. 4d-f). In contrast, these

responses were significantly impaired in plants expressing CAMTA3[A855V] (Fig. 4d-f),

indicating the need for CAMTA3 function in their induction. Notably, high humidity

induction of *CYP707A1* was unaffected in both CAMTA3[A855V]- and CAMTA3-

expressing plants (Fig. 4d), consistent with the absence of CGCG motifs in the *CYP707A1*

promoter, indicating that *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1* are regulated via distinct

mechanisms. Furthermore, SA or JA-Ile levels remained unchanged by CAMTA3- or

CAMTA3[A855V]-expression under moderate and high humidity conditions (Fig. S7c).

Collectively, these findings demonstrate that CAMTA3 promotes ABA depletion and

stomatal opening under high humidity by inducing *CYP707A3*, without influencing SA

or JA production.

We also assessed whether *CAMTA3* is required to suppress bacterial water-soaking and

proliferation under high humidity. Plants expressing CAMTA3[A855V], but not CAMTA3,

exhibited extensive water-soaking and increased *Pst* Δ*hrc* growth under high humidity,

whereas bacterial resistance under moderate humidity remained unaffected (Fig. 4g-i).

These results reveal that CAMTA3 plays a crucial role in activating CYP707A3-mediated

resistance against bacterial water-soaking and infection specifically under high humidity.

**Pst DC3000 suppresses high humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression via type III secretion effectors**

*Pst* DC3000 increases ABA levels in leaves to facilitate infection under high humidity[9,10]. To investigate whether bacteria suppress CYP707A3/A1-mediated ABA depletion during this process, we analyzed the expression of *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1* following inoculation with *Pst* DC3000, *Pst* Δ*hrcC*, and *Pst* Δ28E, which lacks 28 T3S effectors[36]. At 8 h post-inoculation under moderate humidity, plants were exposed to moderate or high humidity for 0.5 h, followed by RT-qPCR analyses (Fig. 5a). At this stage, bacterial growth was similar between *Pst* DC3000 and *Pst* Δ*hrcC* (Fig. 5b), minimizing potential effects of differential bacterial proliferation. In this setting, *CYP707A1* was not induced under high humidity even in the absence of bacterial inoculation (Fig. 5c), possibly due to desensitization from water infiltration into the leaves. However, *CYP707A3* was induced under high humidity in non-inoculated plants and in plants inoculated with *Pst* Δ*hrcC* or *Pst* Δ28E (Fig. 5c). In contrast, *CYP707A3* induction was significantly suppressed in plants inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. 5c). Consistent with previous findings[10], *Pst* DC3000, but not *Pst* Δ*hrcC* or *Pst* Δ28E, induced *NCED3*, which encodes an enzyme involved in ABA biosynthesis, under moderate humidity (Fig. 5c). These results indicate that *Pst* DC3000 employs T3S effectors to suppress *CYP707A3* induction under high humidity while promoting *NCED3* expression under moderate humidity, thereby preventing ABA depletion and exploiting host ABA signaling, respectively, to promote infection.

**Pst DC3000 suppresses high humidity-driven plant transcriptome responses via type III secretion effectors**

To further investigate how *Pst* DC3000 modulates plant responses to high humidity, we performed RNA-seq analysis on leaves inoculated with *Pst* DC3000, *Pst* Δ*hrcC*, and *Pst* Δ28E for 8 h, followed by 30 min of exposure to either moderate or high humidity conditions. PCA revealed a clear separation of leaf transcriptomes based on humidity conditions for plants inoculated with *Pst* Δ*hrcC* or *Pst* Δ28E, as well as for non-inoculated plants (Fig. 5d). In contrast, this humidity-dependent separation was absent in leaves inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. 5d), indicating that *Pst* DC3000 disrupts transcriptomic responses to high humidity via T3S effectors. Additionally, K-means clustering of the

2000 most variable genes resulted in 10 distinct clusters (Fig. 5e and Supplementary Table

3). Genes induced by high humidity were primarily represented in 3 clusters, with

Clusters 3 and 8 containing *CYP707A1* and *CYP707A3*, respectively (Fig. 5e). *Pst*

DC3000 inoculation significantly impaired high humidity-induced up-regulation of gene

expression in Clusters 3 and 8, while partially suppressing Cluster 4 (Fig. 5e). Notably,

Cluster 3 genes were upregulated following *Pst* DC3000 inoculation under moderate

humidity, regardless of subsequent humidity conditions (Fig. 5e). These findings indicate

that *Pst* DC3000 exerts a broad impact on early transcriptional responses to high humidity,

beyond CAMTA3-regulated genes, through T3S effectors during infection.

**331     AvrPtoB is a key effector suppressing *CYP707A3*-meidated resistance under high**

**332     humidity**

To identify the bacterial effector(s) responsible for inhibiting *CYP707A3* induction under

high humidity, we utilized multiple effector-deletion mutants of *Pst* DC3000[36]. High

humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression was significantly suppressed in plants at 8 h

post-inoculation with *Pst* Δ14E (lacking 14 effectors) and *Pst* Δ20E (lacking 20 effectors),

similar to *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. 6a), when T3S-dependent bacterial growth differences were

not evident (Fig 5b). In contrast, *Pst* Δ28E (lacking 28 effectors) failed to suppress

*CYP707A3* induction, indicating that one or more of the remaining eight effectors are

required for this suppression (Fig. 6a). Since transgenic expression of *AvrPtoB* has been

linked to increased ABA levels[37], we tested the role of AvrPtoB in *CYP707A3* suppression.

We analyzed transgenic plants expressing either *AvrPtoB* or its partially redundant

counterpart, *AvrPto*[38], under a DEX-inducible promoter (*DEX::AvrPtoB* and

*DEX::AvrPto*; Fig. S8a, b). Following DEX treatment, high humidity-induced *CYP707A3*

expression was specifically suppressed in *DEX::AvrPtoB* plants, but not in *DEX::AvrPto*

plants (Fig. 6b, c and Fig. S8c, d). Conversely, suppression of *CYP707A1* induction was

more pronounced in *DEX::AvrPto* plants (Fig. S8c, d). Notably, neither *AvrPtoB* nor

*AvrPto* affected *NCED3* expression (Fig. S8c, d). The results suggest that bacteria

specifically target *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1* with distinct T3S effectors under high

humidity.

To investigate the requirements for water soaking-related effectors, we examined *Pst*

DC3000 mutants lacking both *avrPto* and *avrPtoB* (*Pst* Δ*avrPto* Δ*avrPtoB*) or both *avrE*

and *hopM1* (*Pst* Δ*avrE* Δ*hopM1*). Suppression of high humidity-induced *CYP707A3*

expression in the plant was not compromised in *Pst* Δ*avrPto* Δ*avrPtoB* or *Pst* Δ*avrE*

Δ*hopM1* mutants compared to *Pst* DC3000. However, *NCED3* expression was

specifically compromised in *Pst* Δ*avrE* Δ*hopM1* mutants (Fig. S8e). These results suggest

that multiple effectors, including AvrPtoB, collectively suppress *CYP707A3* induction

under high humidity.

We further investigated the physiological significance of AvrPtoB in suppressing

*CYP707A3*-mediated bacterial resistance. DEX-treated *DEX::AvrPtoB* plants exhibited

impaired ABA depletion and stomatal opening under high humidity (Fig. 6d, e),

resembling the *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* phenotype (Fig.1b and Fig. 2b). These findings

indicate that *Pst* DC3000 circumvents *CYP707A3*-mediated resistance by targeting its

transcriptional regulation through T3S effectors, with AvrPtoB playing a prominent role.

**Discussion**

Terrestrial plants are constantly exposed to fluctuations in air humidity and have evolved

elaborate adaptation mechanisms[17,19,39-41]. High humidity, often following prolonged

rainfall, substantially exacerbates plant diseases caused by fungal and bacterial

pathogens[8,42]. It is therefore plausible that plants pre-condition or activate defense

responses in anticipation of these threats when sensing increased humidity. In this study,

we demonstrate that the CNGC2/4/9-CAMTA3-CYP707A3 module is involved in

response to elevated humidity, conferring bacterial resistance (Fig. 6f). Our findings

suggest that high humidity acts as a danger signal to bolster defense mechanisms against

potential pathogen infections. This is consistent with earlier studies that high humidity

induces ROS accumulation in Arabidopsis leaf apoplast, a hallmark of defense responses

during pathogen challenge[19,21]. Additionally, high humidity increases cuticle permeability,

which has been associated with enhanced resistance to the fungal pathogen *Botrytis*

*cinerea*[18,43,44]. Rainfall and submergence have also been linked to strengthened disease

resistance in plants[34,45]. These findings suggest that plants possess the mechanisms

linking the sensing of increased water or humidity levels to the activation or

reinforcement of defense responses. Our study reveals a key signaling module that is

involved in response to high humidity, which serves to prevent bacterial pathogens from
acquiring leaf water and establishing infections in plants.

Antagonistic interactions between ABA and SA signaling have been documented at
multiple levels[23,24,46,47], yet their modulation under varying environmental conditions
remain under-explored. In Arabidopsis, *CYP707A3* overexpression enhances
transpiration rates[48]. ABA application suppresses systemic acquired resistance (SAR)
inducers acting both upstream and downstream of SA accumulation[23]. Enhanced SA
production under continuous light suppresses *Pst* DC3000-induced water-soaking
without interfering with bacterial-induced activation of *NCED3* or ABA-inducible
markers[16]. Our findings indicate that CYP707A3-mediated water-soaking resistance
through ABA depletion operates independently of SA defense under high humidity.
Conversely, increased bacterial resistance associated with ABA deficiency is SA-
dependent under moderate humidity. These observations underscore a humidity-
dependent differentiation in bacterial virulence strategies that exploit host ABA signaling
and in the role of ABA depletion in bacterial resistance. The distinct regulation of SA-
ABA antagonism aligns with the previously described decrease in SA production and
effectiveness during defense under high humidity[21]. Notably, genes associated with SA
defense, such as *SARD1*, *CBP60g*, and *BCS1*[49-51], are induced not only during *Pst*
DC3000 challenge but also under high humidity without pathogen challenge (Cluster 3
in Fig 5e and Supplementary Table 3), suggesting a potential link between humidity
sensing and SA-dependent pathogen resistance. SA defense may be further enhanced by
PRR signaling, which adds to bacterial resistance alongside ABA depletion under high
humidity (Fig. S2c). Further investigation is needed to elucidate the precise mechanisms
by which SA defense, when potentiated under high humidity, suppresses bacterial water-
soaking.

To our knowledge, this study provides the first evidence that phytopathogens promote
infection by suppressing high humidity responses in host plants through effector proteins.
Our RNA-seq analyses (Fig. 5d, e) demonstrate that *Pst* DC3000 employs T3S effectors
to inhibit humidity-triggered transcriptomic changes during infection, thereby
circumventing *CYP707A3*-mediated water-soaking resistance under high humidity (Fig.

6f). Interestingly, *Pst* DC3000 also stimulates the expression of a subset of humidity-
inducible genes, including *CYP707A1*, via T3S effectors, regardless of humidity
conditions (Fig. 5e). Future research should explore whether they support defense
responses or promote pathogen infection. *CYP707A1* has been shown to be predominantly
induced in guard cells of non-inoculated plants under high humidity[17]. *Pst* DC3000 has
been shown to increase ABA accumulation in guard cells[10]. It would be valuable to
investigate whether bacterial *CYP707A1* induction occurs in guard cells or in other cell
types. Nevertheless, the suppression of *CYP707A3* induction seems to be sufficient to
activate ABA-mediated stomatal closure, facilitating water-soaking under high humidity,
as indicated by impaired water-soaking resistance in *cyp707a3* mutants (Fig. 1c).

This study shows that *Pst* DC3000 utilizes multiple effectors, prominently including
AvrPtoB, to suppress high humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression (Fig. 6f). Earlier
studies have reported that AvrPtoB can target CYP707A3 and its paralogs for proteasomal
degradation when these proteins are transiently expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana*[52].
These results underscore the critical role of CYP707A3-mediated ABA depletion in
antibacterial resistance under high humidity, representing a significant barrier that
pathogens must overcome to establish infection. To exploit host ABA signaling, *Pst*
DC3000 not only suppresses ABA catabolism but also promotes ABA biosynthesis, as
evidenced by its induction of *NCED3* expression[37,52]. We reveal a dual role of AvrPtoB in
this process: suppressing ABA catabolism under high humidity and enhancing ABA
biosynthesis under moderate humidity. These findings highlight a pivotal role of AvrPtoB
in the manipulation of ABA balancing mechanisms in the host, enabling adaptive
virulence strategies across varying humidity conditions. The distinct mechanisms
underlying AvrPtoB-mediated suppression of *CYP707A3* expression and induction of
*NCED3* expression suggest humidity-dependent regulatory switching or balancing in the
host targets for the effector. The extent to which AvrPtoB functions as an E3 ubiquitin
ligase targeting immunity-related proteins, such as membrane-localized receptors and
transcription cofactors[53-58], in these distinct regulatory mechanisms remains to be
determined.

Our work identifies CAMTA3 transcription regulator and CNGC2/4/9 $Ca^{2+}$ channels as

key regulators of humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression, consistent with recent

findings[59]. While the oomycete effector AVRblb2 has been shown to suppress CNGC

activity[60], the potential targeting of CNGCs by *Pst* DC3000 effectors remains unexplored.

Moreover, HopAM1, HopM1, and AvrE, which promote ABA responses[9,42,61], exhibit

redundancy with AvrPtoB and AvrPto in overcoming CYP707A3-mediated water-

soaking resistance, as revealed in our genetic studies (Fig. S8e). Notably, the presence of

a dominant-negative CAMTA3$^{A855V}$ allele significantly impairs resistance to bacterial and

fungal pathogens, SAR, as well as early transcriptional responses shared by PTI, effector-

triggered immunity and abiotic stress responses[62-64]. This underscores the critical role of

CAMTA3 in promoting and/or priming defense activation in response to high humidity.

The disruption of *CAMTA1/2/3* is also linked to NLR activation leading to SA defense

activation and autoimmunity[35,65], suggesting that CAMTAs might be targeted by

pathogen effectors to counteract humidity-induced defense during infection. Future

studies elucidating how AvrPtoB and other effectors interact with the CNGC2/4/9-

CAMTA3-CYP707A3 signaling module will deepen our understanding of the interplay

between humidity-triggered plant defenses and effector-mediated host manipulation. This

work advances our knowledge of how host immunity and pathogen virulence strategies

are optimized under high humidity, driven by their competition for water as a critical

resource.

**Methods**

**Plant materials and growth conditions**

Arabidopsis accession Columbia-0 (Col-0) was used as the wild-type (WT) in this study.

The *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 ost2-3D*, *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 sid2-2*, *aao3 sid2-2*, *bak1-5 bkk1*

*cerk1* (*bbc*), and *cyp707a1 cyp707a3 bbc* mutants were generated by genetic crossing.

The genotypes of Arabidopsis mutants and transgenic lines were verified by PCR, Sanger-

sequencing, or chemical selection. Plant materials used in this study and primers used for

genotyping are listed in Supplementary Tables 4 and 6, respectively.

Surface-sterilized Arabidopsis seeds were sown on half-strength Murashige and Skoog

(MS) medium [2.3 g/L Murashige and Skoog Plant Salt Mixture (FUJIFILM Wako Pure

Chemical, Cat# 392-00591), 1% (w/v) sucrose, 0.5 g/L MES, 1% (w/v) agar (FUJIFILM

Wako Pure Chemical, Cat# 016-11875), pH 5.6-5.8 adjusted by KOH] and stratified for

1-4 days in the dark at 4°C. Plates were placed vertically in a growth chamber [22°C,

20% RH, 16 h light/8 h dark (long-day) or 8 h light/16 h dark (short-day), illuminated by

daylight white fluorescent lamps (2 lamps/side)] for 4 days (for screening *cngc* mutants)

or 10-14 days. Seedlings were subsequently transplanted into a soli mixture [50% (v/v)

Super Mix A (Sakata Seed), 50% (v/v) Vermiculite G20 (Nittai)]. Transplanted plants

were grown either in a growth chamber [22°C, 60% RH, 8 h light/16 h dark, illuminated

by daylight white fluorescent lamps (2 lamps/side)] or in a growth room [22°C, 20-70%

RH, 16 h light/8 h dark, illuminated by daylight white fluorescent lamps (4 lamps/shelf)].

Plants were watered with a modified Hoagland solution [1.67 mM $KNO_3$, 0.67 mM

$MgSO_4$, 5.21 µM $KH_2PO_4$, 28.3 µM KCl, 15.5 µM $H_3BO_4$, 3.07 µM $MnCl_2$, 0.28 µM

$ZnSO_4$, 0.11 µM $CuSO_4$, 13.3 µg/L 80% molybdic acid (FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical,

Cat# 134-03332), 1.67 mM $Ca(NO_3)_2$, 46.3 µM Fe(III)-EDTA (Dojindo, Cat# 345-

01245)] or tap water. For general cultivation, plants were grown under long-day

conditions and watered with the modified Hoagland solution. For GCaMP3 imaging,

plants were grown under short-day conditions and watered with tap-water for 3 weeks.

For RT-qPCR in Fig. S6a, b, plants were grown under long-day conditions and watered

with tap water for 2 weeks. For other experiments, plants were grown under short-day

conditions and watered with the modified Hoagland solution for 5 weeks.

**Plasmid DNA construction**

The promoter region (-2776 bp to -1 bp relative to the start codon) and the genomic

complementation sequence (-2776 to +1930 bp relative to the start codon) of *CYP707A3*

were amplified from Arabidopsis WT genomic DNA. A deletion of the CGCG box in the

*CYP707A3* promoter (-2220 bp to -2150 bp relative to the start codon) was introduced by

overlap extension PCR. The full-length coding sequences (excluding the stop codon) of

*avrPtoB* and *avrPto* were amplified from *Pst* DC3000 genomic DNA. PCR amplifications

were performed using PrimeSTAR GXL DNA Polymerase (Takara Bio, Cat# R050A).

The amplified products were cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO using pENTR/D-TOPO

Cloning Kit (Thermo Scientific, Cat# K240020SP) or In-Fusion Snap Assembly Master

Mix (Takara Bio, Cat# 638948). The resulting entry clones were verified by Sanger

sequencing using BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems,

Cat# 4337455). The verified entry clones were recombined with destination vectors using

Gateway LR Clonase II Enzyme mix (Invitrogen, Cat# 11791020). The following

destination vectors were used: pGWB533[66] for *GUS*-expressing constructs, pGWB501

(C-3×FLAG) for *CYP707A3* complementation constructs, pTA70001-DEST (Addgene,

Cat# 71745) for DEX-inducible constructs. The pGWB501 (C-3×FLAG) vector was

generated by introducing the 3×FLAG tag coding sequence from pAMPAT-GW-

3×FLAG[67] into the Afe I recognition site of pGWB501[66] using In-Fusion Snap Assembly

Master Mix. For constructs encoding C-terminally 3×FLAG-tagged AvrPtoB and AvrPto

coding, the entry clones were combined with pAMPAT-GW-3×FLAG, and the coding

sequences were amplified. All cloning experiments were performed according to the

manufacturer's instructions. Plasmid DNA created in this study and primers used for

cloning are listed in Supplementary Tables 5 and 6, respectively.

**Generation of Arabidopsis transgenic plants**

Expression vectors were introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain

GV3101::pMP90 by electroporation. Transgenic plants were generated by transforming

WT or *cyp707a3* mutant plants using the floral dip method[68]. For the *cyp707a3*

complementation experiments, T2 segregating lines were used. T3 homozygous lines

were selected and used for other experiments. The transgenic plants used in this study are

listed in Supplementary Table 4.

**Chemicals**

The following stock solutions were prepared and stored at -30°C. $LaCl_3$ (FUJIFILM

Wako Pure Chemical, Cat# 123-04222): 1 M in water. $GdCl_3$ (FUJIFILM Wako Pure

Chemical, Cat# 078-02661): 1 M in water. Acetosyringone (FUJIFILM Wako Pure

Chemical, Cat# 320-29611): 100 mM in DMSO. Dexamethasone (DEX) (FUJIFILM

Wako Pure Chemical, Cat# 047-18863): 10 mM in ethanol.

**Humidity treatment**

High humidity treatment was performed by adding approximately 300 mL of modified

Hogland solution or tap water (for RT-qPCR in Fig. S6a, b) to a plastic container (Daiso,

Cat# 4550480269726), splaying tap water onto the interior walls of the container, placing

the plants inside the container, sealing the container tightly with plastic wrap, and

immediately returning it to the plant growth conditions. Moderate humidity treatment was

performed by adding approximately 500 mL of modified Hogland solution or tap water

(for RT-qPCR in Fig. S6a, b) to a plastic tray (As One, Cat# 1-4618-01), placing the plants

inside the tray, and immediately returning it to the plant growth conditions. To examine

the effects of inhibitor treatments and *Pst* DC3000 inoculation on high humidity-induced

gene expression, the indicated solutions were infiltrated into the leaves of WT plants using

a needless syringe (Terumo, Cat# SS-01T) (three leaves per plant). Excess solution on the

leaf surfaces was gently removed using tissue paper (Elleair, Cat# DSI20703128). The

infiltrated plants were placed under their growth conditions for approximately 24 hours

(for inhibitor treatments) or 8 hours (for *Pst* D3000 inoculation), followed by the humidity

treatment. During *Pst* DC3000 inoculation experiments, lights were maintained on

continuously from the time of inoculation until sampling.

**Agrobacterium-mediated transient expression**

Agrobacterium-mediated transient expression was performed as previously described[69]

with minor modifications. Agrobacterium strains (GV3101::pMP90) carrying the relevant

expression vectors were cultured overnight at 28°C with shaking (180 rpm) in 2×YT

liquid medium [1% (w/v) yeast extract, 1,6% (w/v) tryptone, 0.5% (w/v) NaCl]

supplemented with 50 μg/mL gentamycin and 100 μg/mL spectinomycin. Bacterial cells

were collected by centrifugation at 2,000 *g* for 10 min at 25°C, washed once with

sterilized water, and resuspended in sterilized water to an $OD_{600}$ of 0.05. Acetosyringone

(100 mM stock solution) was added to the suspension to a final concentration of 100 μM.

The bacterial suspensions were infiltrated into the leaves of *NahG* plants grown under

short-day conditions using a needless syringe (three leaves per plant). Excess solution on

the leaf surfaces were gently removed using tissue paper. The infiltrated plants were

maintained under their growth conditions for approximately 48 hours.

**Bacterial inoculation assays**

The following *Pst* DC3000 strain were used in this study: WT, Δ*hrcC*[70], Δ28E[36], Δ*avrPto*

Δ*avrPtoB*[38], and Δ*hopM1* Δ*avrE*[71]. *Pst* DC3000 strains were cultured overnight at 28°C

with shaking (180 rpm) in King's B liquid medium [2% (w/v) Bacto Proteose Peptone

No. 3 (Gibco, Cat# 211693), 0.15% (w/v) $K_2HPO4$, 1% (v/v) glycerol, 5 mM $MgSO_4$]

supplemented with 50 μg/mL rifampicin and appropriate antibiotics. Bacterial cells were

collected by centrifugation at 2,000 $g$ for 10 min at 25°C, washed once with sterilized

water, and resuspended in sterilized water to the $OD_{600}$ as described in figure legends.

Bacterial suspensions were infiltrated into the leaves of plants using a needless syringe

(three leaves per plant). Excess solution on the leaf surfaces was gently removed using

tissue paper. The infiltrated plants were maintained under their growth conditions for the

indicated time. To ensure high humidity (~95% RH), infiltrated plants were covered with

a clear plastic container and maintained under their growth conditions. For bacterial

water-soaking detection, the abaxial sides of infiltrated leaves were photographed 1 day

post-infiltration (dpi). The number of leaves exhibiting water-soaking was recorded. For

bacterial titer quantification, three inoculated leaves were collected from three different

plants at the indicated dpi. Leaves were homogenized in 1 mL of sterilized water, and 10

uL aliquots of serial dilutions ($10^{-1}$ to $10^{-8}$) were spotted onto NYGA medium [0.5% (w/v)

Bacto Peptone (Gibco, Cat# 211677), 0.3% (w/v) yeast extract (Nacalai Tesque, Cat#

15838-45), 2% (v/v) glycerol. 1.5% agar (Nacalai Tesque, Cat# 01162-15)] supplemented

with 50 μg/mL rifampicin. Colony-forming units (CFUs) were determined after 2 days of

incubation at 28°C.

**RT-qPCR**

Total RNA was extracted from three leaves or a single shoot segment using Sepasol-RNA

I Super G (Nacalai Tesque, Cat# 09379-55), followed by DNase treatment and reverse

transcription (RT) using PrimeScript RT reagent Kit with gDNA Eraser (Takara, Cat#

RR047B) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Quantitative PCR (qPCR) was

performed using Power SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Applied Biosystems, Cat#

4368702) and Thermal Cycler Dice Real Time System III (Takara, Cat# TP950). Gene

expression levels were quantified using the ΔΔCt method, with normalization to *ACTIN2*

as an internal control. Primers used for qPCR are listed in Supplementary Table 6.

**Immunoblotting**

Frozen plant tissue (three leaves) was ground into a fine powder and resuspended in

protein extraction buffer [62.5 mM Tris-HCl (pH 6.8), 10% glycerol, 2% SDS, 5% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.02% bromophenol blue] supplemented with 1 mM EDTA (pH 8.0) and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Cat# 11873580001). The buffer was added at a ratio of 3 μL per mg of tissue flesh weight. The extracts were incubated at 95°C for 5 min and subsequently centrifuged at 20,000 $g$ for 10 min at 25°C. The supernatants were collected for further analysis. Proteins were separated on a 10% polyacrylamide and transferred onto a PVDF membrane (Millipore, Cat# IPVH00010). The membrane was blocked by incubation with 2% (w/v) skim milk (Nacalai Tesque, Cat# 31149-75) in TBS-T [25 mM Tris, 192 mM glycine, 0.1% (v/v) Tween-20] with agitation at room temperature for 1 h. After blocking, the membrane was rinsed once with deionized water and once with TBS-T. The membrane was incubated overnight at 4°C with the primary antibody solution under agitation. After primary antibody incubation, the membrane was rinsed five times with deionized water and shaken in TBS-T at room temperature for 5 min. Subsequently, the membrane was incubated with the secondary antibody solution with agitation at room temperature for 1 h. After secondary antibody incubation, the membrane was rinsed five times with deionized water and shaken in TBS-T at room temperature for 5 min. Chemiluminescent detection was performed using Chemi-Lumi One L (Nacalai Tesque, Cat# 07880) and FUSION FX imaging system (Vilber). The following antibodies were used for immunoblotting: anti-FLAG (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat# F1804; 1:5000 dilution), anti-mouse IgG HRP-linked (Cell Signaling Technology, Cat# 7076; 1:5000 dilution). All antibodies were diluted in TBS-T.

**Phytohormone quantification**

SA, ABA, and JA-Ile were extracted and purified from freeze-dried samples as previously described[72]. For hormone measurement, isotope-labeled internal standards were added at the initial extraction procedure. Plant hormones were analyzed by a LC-MS/MS system (ACQUITY UPLC I-Class PLUS FTN/Xevo TQ-S micro; Waters) equipped with a short ODS column (TSKgel ODS-120H 2.0 mm I.D. x 5 cm, 1.9 μm; TOSHO) or a long ODS column (TSKgel ODS-120H 2.0 mm I.D. x 15 cm, 1.9 μm; TOSHO). A binary solvent system composed of 0.1% acetic acid (v/v) ACN (A) and 0.1% acetic acid (v/v) $H_2O$ (B) was used. SA, ABA, and JA-Ile were measured using the short ODS column, and separation was performed at a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min with the following linear gradient

of solvent B: 0–2 min (1%–5%), 2–5 min (5%–15%), 5–25 min (15%–40%), 25.1–27

min (100%), and 27.1–30 min (1%). The retention times for each compound were as

follows: $d_6$-SA (7.39), SA (7.46), $d_6$-ABA (12.59), ABA (12.67), $^{13}C_6$-JA-Ile (21.64), and

JA-Ile (21.94). The MS/MS analysis was performed under the following conditions:

capillary (kV) = 1.00, source temperature (°C) = 150, desolvation temperature (°C) = 500,

cone gas flow (L/h) = 50, desolvation gas flow (L/h) = 1000. Ion mode was negative. The

MS/MS transitions (*m/z*) and collision energies (V) for each compound were as follows:

$d_6$-SA (142.1/98.0, 18V), SA (137.0/93.4, 18V), $d_6$-ABA (269.1/159.1, 8V), ABA

(263.1/153.1, 8V), $^{13}C_6$-JA-Ile (328.2/136.1, 20V), and JA-Ile (322.2/130.1, 20V).

**Stomatal aperture measurement**

Following the humidity treatment, detached leaves were immediately immersed in 4%

(v/v) formaldehyde and incubated at room temperature overnight. Stomata images on the

abaxial leaf surface were captured using Leica DMI6000 B microscope equipped with

10x objective lens. Stomatal aperture was measured by Image J software

(https://imagej.net/ij/).

**Real-time cytosolic $Ca^{2+}$ imaging**

Real-time cytosolic $Ca^{2+}$ imaging of the entire plants expressing GCaMP3 was performed

as described previously[73,74].

**RNA-sequencing and data analysis**

Total RNA was extracted from three leaves, followed by DNase treatment using

NucleoSpin RNA Plant (Macherey-Nagel, Cat# 740949.50) according to the

manufacturer's instruction. The quality of RNA was confirmed using a bioanalyzer

(Agilent Technologies).

Each raw read data stored in DDBJ with accession numbers DRR545835 to DRR545846

was generated and analyzed as follows. Each RNA library was prepared from 1000 ng of

total RNA using the NEBNext Ultra II RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New England

Biolabs, Cat# E7770) according to the manufacturer's instruction. PCR for library

amplification was performed for 7 cycles. The average length of the library was 350 bp,

as measured by a bioanalyzer. Concentrations were measured by Kapa Library

Quantification Kit (Kapa Biosystems, Cat# KK4824), each sample was diluted to 10 nM,

and equal volumes were mixed. Single reads of 75 bp were obtained using a NextSeq 500

system (Illumina). CLC genomics workbench version 21 (Qiagen) was used to trim raw

reads and map to the TAIR10 Arabidopsis genome (https://www.arabidopsis.org/). In

trimming, the following parameters were changed (quality limit = 0.001, number of 5′

terminal nucleotides =15, number of 3′ terminal nucleotides = 5, and minimum number

of nucleotides in reads =25) and other options were default values. In mapping, all options

were default values.

The generation and analysis of each raw read data stored in DDBJ with accession numbers

DRR545847 to DRR545870 differs from the above analysis in three points. 1) Each

library was prepared from 500 ng total RNA using the NEBNext Ultra II Directional RNA

Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New England Biolabs, Cat# 7760). PCR for library

amplification was performed for 8 cycles. Each sample was diluted to 4 nM, and equal

volumes were mixed. 2) Single reads of 100 bp were obtained using a NextSeq 1000

system (Illumina). 3) CLC genomics workbench version 24 (Qiagen) was used for reads

trimming and mapping. In trimming and mapping, the following parameters were

changed (minimum number of nucleotides in reads = 40, and strand setting = Revers). All

other methods, numbers, options are the same as above analysis.

The obtained read counts were processed and analyzed using iDEP 2.01

(https://bioinformatics.sdstate.edu/idep/) with the default settings. Gene Ontology (GO)

and *cis*-regulatory enrichment analyses were conducted using ShinyGO 0.81

(https://bioinformatics.sdstate.edu/go/) with the default settings. For *cis*-regulatory

enrichment analysis, the AGRIS database was used as the pathway reference.

**Statistical analysis**

All data, excluding RNA-seq, were analyzed by GraphPad Prism 10 software

(https://www.graphpad.com/features).

**Accession numbers**

The gene sequences analyzed in this study were obtained in The Arabidopsis Information

Resource (https://www.arabidopsis.org/) and The Pseudomonas Genome Database

(https://www.pseudomonas.com/) under the accession numbers listed in Supplementary

Table 7.

**Data availability**

The raw data for RNA sequencing has been submitted to the DDJB database (DRR545835 to DRR545870).

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**Author contributions**

S.Y. and Y.S. conceptualized the study. S.Y. designed the experiments and conducted most of the data analyses. T.H., H.I., and S.U. performed specific experimental tasks. Y.W. and M.O. contributed to phytohormone quantification, while H.I., R.Suzuki, and M.T supported GCaMP3 imaging. A.S., R.Sk, and I.Y. assisted with RNA-sequencing. S.Y. and Y.S. wrote the manuscript with input from the other authors.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare no competing interests.

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**Fig. 1: *CYP707A3* restricts bacterial water-soaking and infection under high humidity.**
**a,** Expression levels of *CYP707A* genes in humidity-treated leaves. Wild-type (WT) plants were exposed to moderate humidity (MH) or high humidity (HH) for the indicated time. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). **b,** ABA levels in humidity-treated leaves. WT and *cyp707a1 cyp707a3* mutant plants were exposed to MH or HH for 2 h. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). **c, d,** Bacterial water-soaking in *Pst ΔhrcC*-infiltrated leaves. The indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst ΔhrcC* ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under MH or HH for 1 day. The number of water-soaked leaves was pooled from two independent experiments. **e,** Bacterial titer in *Pst ΔhrcC*-infiltrated leaves. The indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst ΔhrcC* ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under MH or HH for 3 days. Bars represent means ($n$ = 6). Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($P$ < 0.05, two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test). dpi, days post-infiltration. The experiments in (**a**) and (**e**) were repeated twice with similar results.

**Fig. 2:** *CYP707A3/A1*-**mediated water-soaking resistance is dependent on stomatal opening.**
**a**, **b**, Stomatal aperture in humidity-treated leaves. The indicated plants were exposed to moderate humidity (MH) or high humidity (HH) for 1 h. Representative stomatal images are shown in (**a**), and quantified stomatal aperture data are presented in (**b**). Bars in (**b**) represent the median (*n* = 149-245). **c**, Bacterial water-soaking in *Pst ΔhrcC*-infiltrated leaves. The indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst ΔhrcC* (OD$_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under HH for 1 day. The number of water-soaked leaves was pooled from two independent experiments. **d**, Bacterial titer in *Pst ΔhrcC*-infiltrated leaves. The indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst ΔhrcC* (OD$_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under HH for 3 days. Bars represent means (*n* = 6). Different letters indicate statistically significant differences (*P* < 0.05, two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **b**, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **d**). WT, wild-type; dpi, days post-infiltration. The experiment in (**d**) was repeated twice with similar results.

**Fig. 3: High humidity-induced transcriptome changes in leaves.**

**a**-**c**, Transcriptional landscape of leaves exposed to humidity treatments. Wild-type plants were exposed to moderate humidity (MH) or high humidity (HH) for the indicated time. **a**, Venn diagrams of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) (fold change > 2, FDR < 0.05) between 0.5 h and 5 h treatments. **b**, Principal component analysis (PCA) of transcriptomic data. **c**, K-means-clustering of the 1000 most variable genes. **d**, Top 10 enriched *cis*-regulatory elements among high humidity-induced genes identified in the clusters shown in (**c**).

**Fig. 4: CNGC2/4/9 and CAMTA3 mediate *CYP707A3* induction and the resulting resistance to water-soaking under high humidity.**

**a**, Schematic representation of the promoter region of *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1*, highlighting the CGCG box. **b**, Expression levels of *GUS* under the control of the *CYP707A3* promoter, with or without the CGCG boxes, in humidity-treated leaves. The indicated constructs were transiently expressed in the leaves of *NahG* plants via agrobacterium infiltration. Infiltrated plants were maintained under moderate humidity (MH) for 24 h and subsequently exposed to MH or high humidity (HH) for 0.5 h. Bars represent means (*n* = 3). **c**, **d**, Expression levels of *CYP707A3* and *CYP707A1* in humidity-treated leaves. The indicated plants were exposed to MH or HH for 0.5 h. Bars represent means (*n* = 3). **e**, ABA levels in humidity-treated leaves. The indicated plants were exposed to MH or HH for 2 h. Bars represent means (*n* = 5). **f**, Stomatal aperture in humidity-treated leaves. The indicated plants were exposed to MH or HH for 1 h. Bars represent the median (*n* = 220-247). **g**, Bacterial water soaking in *Pst* Δ*hrcC*-infiltrated leaves. The indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst* Δ*hrcC* ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under HH for 1 day. The number of water-soaked leaves was pooled from two independent experiments. **g**, **h**, Bacterial titer in *Pst* Δ*hrcC*-infiltrated leaves. Indicated plants were infiltrated with *Pst* Δ*hrcC* ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02) and maintained under MH (**g**) or HH (**h**) for 3 days. Bars represent means (*n* = 6). Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$, two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **b-f**, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **h**, **i**). WT, wild-type; dpi, days post-infiltration. The experiments in (**b-d**), (**h**), and (**i**) were repeated twice with similar results.

**Fig. 5: *Pst* DC3000 suppresses high humidity-induced reprogramming of host transcriptome through type III secretion effectors.**

**a**, Schematic overview of the experimental setup for analyzing high humidity-responsive gene expression in *Pst* DC3000-inoculated plants. **b**, Bacterial titer in the leaves of wild-type (WT) plants infiltrated with *Pst* DC3000 or *Pst* Δ*hrcC* ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02) at 8 hours post-infiltration (hpi) under moderate humidity (MH). Bars represent means ($n$ = 6). **c**, Expression levels of *CYP707A3*, *CYP707A1*, and *NCED3* in leaves inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 following humidity treatment. WT plants were infiltrated with the indicated *Pst* DC3000 strains ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02), maintained under MH for 8 h, and subsequently exposed to MH or high humidity (HH) for 0.5 h. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). **d, e**, Transcriptional profiles of WT leaves inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 strains and subjected to humidity treatment as described in (**a**) and (**c**). **d**, Principal component analysis (PCA) of transcriptomes. **e**, K-means-clustering of the 2000 most variable genes. Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$, Welch's *t*-test in **b**, two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **c**). The experiments in (**b**) and (**c**) were repeated twice with similar results.

**Fig. 6: Type III secretion effector AvrPtoB suppresses *CYP707A3*-mediated resistance under high humidity.**

**a**, Expression levels of *CYP707A3* in leaves inoculated with *Pst* DC3000 following humidity treatment. Wild-type (WT) plants were infiltrated with the indicated *Pst* DC3000 strains ($OD_{600}$ = 0.02), maintained under moderate humidity (MH) for 8 h, and subsequently exposed to MH or high humidity (HH) for 0.5 h. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). The box highlights the effectors retained in *Pst* Δ20E but not in *Pst* Δ28E. **b**, **c**, High humidity-induced *CYP707A3* expression in leaves following DEX induction of *AvrPtoB* (**b**) or *AvrPto* (**c**). The indicated plants were infiltrated with 0.1% ethanol (−DEX) or 10 μM DEX (+DEX), maintained under MH for 24 h, and subsequently exposed to MH or HH for 0.5 h. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). **d**, ABA levels in *AvrPtoB*-expressing leaves following humidity treatment. After DEX application as described in (**b**, **c**), plants were exposed to MH or HH for 2 h. Bars represent means ($n$ = 3). **e**, Stomatal aperture in *AvrPtoB*-expressing leaves following humidity treatment. After DEX application as described in (**b**, **c**), plants were exposed to MH or HH for 1 h. Bars represent the median ($n$ = 253-367). Different letters indicate statistically significant differences ($P < 0.05$, two-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in **a**-**e**). The experiments in (**b**, **c**) were repeated twice with similar results. **f**, A working model for CNGC2/4/9-CAMTA3-CYP707A3-mediated resistance induced under high humidity to bacterial water-soaking and infection, which are counteracted by *Pst* DC3000 via T3S effectors, particularly AvrPtoB.