Nocturnal expression of Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) genes predates the origin of CAM in the genus *Yucca*.

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Abstract

Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) is a carbon-concentrating mechanism that has evolved

numerous times across flowering plants and is thought to be an adaptation to water limited

environments. CAM has been investigated from physiological and biochemical perspectives but

little is known about how plants evolve from C_3 to CAM at the genetic or metabolic level. Here

we take a comparative approach in analyzing time-course data of C_3, CAM, and C_3-CAM

intermediate *Yucca* (Asparagaceae) species. RNA samples were collected over a 24-hour period

from both well-watered and drought-stressed plants and were clustered based on time-dependent

expression patterns. Metabolomic comparisons of the C_3 and CAM species link gene expression

to carbohydrate metabolism and gene network co-expression analyses revealed compositional

and functional changes to networks containing canonical CAM genes. Observed differences in

carbohydrate metabolism and antioxidant response between the CAM and C_3 species reveal

alternative sugar and starch degradation pathways, underscoring the need for more comparative

metabolomic analyses to understand the evolution of CAM from C_3. Despite many differences in

transcript and metabolite profiles between the C_3 and CAM species, shared time-structured

expression of CAM genes in the C_3 species suggests ancestral expression patterns required for

CAM may have predated its origin in *Yucca*.

Introduction

Crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) is a carbon concentrating mechanism that can

reduce photorespiration and enhance water use efficiency relative to plants that rely solely on the

C_3 photosynthetic pathway. In CAM plants, stomata are open for gas exchange at night, when

transpiration rates are lower, and incoming CO_2 is initially fixed by phosphoenolpyruvate

carboxylase (PEPC) rather than RuBisCO. Carbon is temporarily stored as malic acid within the

vacuole, and during the day stomata close and the malic acid is decarboxylated in the cytosol,

ultimately resulting in high concentrations of CO_2 around RuBisCO. The extra steps of CAM –

carboxylation of PEP, decarboxylation of malic acid, transport into and out of the vacuole –

come with extra energetic costs relative to than C_3 photosynthesis, but CAM plants have the

advantage of acquiring carbon with increased water use efficiency (WUE). In addition, RuBisCO

is able to act more efficiently with a high concentration of CO_2 and the risk of photorespiration is

thought to be significantly minimized (Cushman and Bohnert, 1997; Schulze et al., 2013). CAM

plants are therefore adapted to habitats where water stress is unavoidable and where the energetic

cost of CAM is offset by reduced photorespiration under water limited conditions. CAM has

evolved at least 35 independent times in flowering plants (Silvera et al., 2010), thus making it a

remarkable example of parallel and convergent evolution of a complex trait. Moreover,

integrated understanding of the ecological, genetic and molecular dynamics that have contributed

to these many independent origins of CAM may inform efforts to engineer CAM into C_3 fuel-

crop species (Borland et al., 2014; Borland et al., 2015; Cushman et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2015a;

Yang et al., 2015b).

CAM has been studied from a biochemical standpoint for decades, and much is known

about the carbohydrate turnover, starch cycling, and enzymatic machinery of CAM plants

(Cushman and Bohnert, 1997; Chen et al., 2002; Dodd et al., 2002). Additionally, physiological

studies of CAM plants have revealed the importance of succulence and large cells (Kluge and

Ting, 1978; Nelson et al., 2005; Nelson and Sage, 2008; Zambrano et al., 2014). In terms of the

basic machinery required for CAM, carbonic anhydrase (CA) is required to covert CO_2 to HCO_3^-

at night (Fig. 1A). PEPC fixes the carbon from CA into oxaloacetate (OAA), but its activity is

regulated by a dedicated kinase, PEPC kinase (PPCK). Phosphorylated PEPC is able to fix

carbon in the presence of its downstream product, malate, whereas the un-phosphorylated form is

sensitive to malate (Nimmo, 2000; Taybi et al., 2000). As day approaches, PPCK is down-

regulated by a combination of two mechanisms: circadian regulation (Carter et al., 1991;

Hartwell et al., 1996) or through metabolite control of transcription which results from elevation

of cytosolic malate(Borland et al., 1999). During the day, the stored malic acid exits the vacuole

and is decarboxylated by either phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase (PEPCK) and/or

NADP/NAD-malic enzyme, depending on CAM species (Holtum and Osmond, 1981).

NADP/NAD-ME CAM plants additionally have high levels of PPDK, which converts pyruvate

to PEP. This final step is important for CAM plants, as PEP is then used in the gluconeogenesis

pathway to synthesize carbohydrates.

A daily turnover of sugars or starch for PEP generation is a defining characteristic of

CAM plants. Carbohydrates that are laid down during the day must be broken down to PEP at

night to provide substrate for CO_2 fixation via PEPC. The nocturnal demand for PEP represents a

significant sink for carbohydrates which CAM plants must balance with partitioning of

carbohydrates for growth and maintenance (Borland et al., 2016). The interplay between

carbohydrate metabolism and CAM is clearly an important regulatory mechanism; previous

work has shown that plants with reduced carbohydrate degradation have decreased CAM

function at night (Dodd et al., 2003; Cushman et al., 2008a). The evolution of temporally

integrated carbon metabolism in CAM plants presumably involves rewiring of gene regulatory

networks to link these processes with the circadian clock. Although timing of photosynthetic

gene expression is to some degree circadian controlled in both C_3 and CAM species, the links

between metabolism genes in CAM and circadian clock oscillators may be stronger (Hartwell,

2005; Dever et al., 2015).

Despite the apparent complexity of the CAM phenotype, the photosynthetic modification

has evolved numerous times independently across the flowering plant phylogeny. What

facilitates this frequent transition in diverse lineages is unknown. It is commonly thought that all

CAM pathway genes need to have their expression timing altered from the C_3 state, which might

require many changes in promoters or in gene body amino acid sequences. Another possibility is

that all C_3 plants have low level organic acid cycling at night (Bräutigam et al., 2017), allowing

CAM to evolve using this pre-existing pathway when environmental stresses (prolonged drought,

for example) are present. If all C_3 species do indeed have low flux through a nocturnal organic

acid cycling pathway, it further strengthens the possibility of a CAM continuum, where plants

can be C_3, CAM, or a combination of both pathways (Silvera et al., 2010; Winter et al., 2015).

Further, intermediate CAM species (those between full C_3 and full CAM) should exhibit mixed

phenotypes at both physiological and genomic scales, and are potentially powerful systems to

exploring the transition from C_3 to CAM

Our understanding of the genetics and genome structure of CAM has come

predominantly from studies that involve comparisons between C_3 and CAM tissues sampled

from evolutionarily distant species, or from samples taken from one species under different age

or environmental conditions (Taybi et al., 2004; Cushman et al., 2008b; Gross et al., 2013;

Brilhaus et al., 2016a) (but see (Heyduk et al., 2017)). Recent studies have profiled gene

expression before and after CAM induction in *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum* (Cushman et

al., 2008b) and in *Talinum* (Brilhaus et al., 2016b). These studies, together with comparison of

transcript abundance profiles in photosynthetic (green) and non-photosynthetic (white) parts of

pineapple (*Annanas comusus*) leaf blades have also provided insights into the regulation of

canonical CAM genes (Zhang et al., 2014; Ming et al., 2015). However, RNA-seq of closely

related C_3 and CAM species, as well as intermediate C_3-CAM lineages, are lacking.

In this study, we compared transcript profiles among three closely related *Yucca*

(Agavoideae, Aspargaceae) species with contrasting photosynthetic pathways: *Y. aloifolia*

consistently has nighttime uptake of CO_2 with concomitant malic acid accumulation in leaf

tissue, as well as anatomical characteristics indicative of CAM function; *Y. filamentosa* has

typical C_3 leaf anatomy and showed no positive net CO_2 uptake or malic acid accumulation at

night; *Y. gloriosa,* a hybrid species derived from *Y. aloifolia* and *Y.filamentosa*, acquires most of

its CO_2 from the atmosphere through C_3 photosynthesis during the day with low-level CO_2

uptake a night, but when drought stressed transitions to 100% nighttime carbon uptake (Heyduk

et al., 2016). *Yucca gloriosa's* leaf anatomy is intermediate between the two parental species, and

to some extent may limit the degree of CAM it can employ (Heyduk et al., 2016). Clones of all

three species (Supplemental Table S1) were grown in a common garden setting under both well-

watered and drought stressed conditions and assayed gene expression and carbohydrate

metabolism differences between species over a 24-hour diel cycle.

Results

Photosynthetic phenotypes

As described in previous work, *Y. aloifolia* conducts atmospheric CO_2 fixation at night

via CAM photosynthesis, while *Y. filamentosa* relies only on daytime CO_2 fixation and the C_3

cycle. *Yucca gloriosa*, a C_3-CAM intermediate species, uses mostly daytime CO_2 fixation with

low levels of nocturnal gas exchange under well-watered conditions, then relies solely on CAM

photosynthesis under drought stress (Fig. 1B). Gas exchange and titratable acidity measurements

shown in Fig. 1 are from prior work when RNA was sampled, though gas exchange patterns

were largely consistent in *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. filamentosa* during a second round of sampling for

metabolites (Supplemental Figure S1).

Assembly and differential expression

After filtering to remove low abundance transcripts (FPKM<1) and minor isoforms

(<25% total component expression), an average of 55k assembled transcripts remained per

species. Transcripts were then sorted into gene families (orthogroups) circumscribed by 14

sequenced plant genomes and removed if their length was shorter than the minimum length for a

gene family. Considering only transcripts that sorted into a gene family and had the proper

length, transcriptome sizes were reduced further: 19,399, 23,645, and 22,086 assembled

transcripts remained in *Y. aloifolia, Y. filamentosa,* and *Y. gloriosa,* respectively. SNPs showed

greater variation between species rather than among genotypes (Fig. 2A), although *Y.*

filamentosa exhibited more SNP variation among genotypes than the other two species. *Yucca*

gloriosa genotypes used in this study were found to be slightly more similar to *Y. aloifolia* than

Y. filamentosa based on PCA analysis of SNP distances; this is likely a consequence of choosing

Y. gloriosa accessions that showed a propensity for CAM (and therefore were potentially more

similar to *Y. aloifolia*) under drought stress for RNA-seq.

Differential expression analysis at each time point between well-watered and drought-

stressed samples showed distinct patterns in the three species (Fig. 2B). The effect of drought on

expression was greatest one hour after the start of the light period in the CAM species *Yucca*

aloifolia, but just before light in the C_3 species *Y. filamentosa*. *Yucca gloriosa* (C_3-CAM

intermediate) had near constant levels of differentially expressed transcripts across the entire

day/night cycle. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment tests showed general processes, such as

metabolism and photosynthesis, as being commonly enriched in the differentially expressed

transcripts (Supplemental Table S2).

138   Transcripts of each species were classified as time structured if their expression across

139 time under either well-watered and drought conditions could be better described with a

140 polynomial regression, rather than a flat line, with significance-of-fit corrected for multiple tests.

141 There were 612, 749, and 635 transcription factor annotated transcripts with time-structured

142 expression profiles in *Y. aloifolia*, *Y. filamentosa,* and *Y. gloriosa*, respectively. Of those, 92, 62,

143 and 83 were differentially expressed in *Y. aloifolia, Y. filamentosa,* and *Y. gloriosa,* respectively,

144 under drought (Supplemental Table S3). Putative CAM pathway genes largely showed the

145 expected expression patterns in *Y. aloifolia* (Fig. 1), and additionally all three species shared

146 time-structured gene expression patterns for some canonical CAM genes regardless of

147 photosynthetic pathway. In all three *Yuccas*, PEPC, its kinase PPCK (Fig. 3A and B), as well as

148 decarboxylating enzymes NAD/P-me, PPDK and, PEPCK showed time-structured expression

149 (Supplemental Figure S2). PEPC and PPCK (Fig. 3A and B) exhibited time-structured

150 expression in all three species, though they were only differentially expressed between well-

151 watered and droughted treatments in *Y. gloriosa*. PEPC expression in *Yucca* peaks in the

152 afternoon, much before the peak of PPCK. Expression of PEPC in *Y. filamentosa* was much

153 lower in terms of TPM (transcripts per kilobase million), but had the same temporal pattern as

154 both *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. gloriosa* (well-watered: $F_{(12,42)} = 1.38$, $p < 0.212$; drought: $F_{(12,42)}=0.53$, p

155 < 0.866). In all 3 species, PPCK was most highly expressed at night, consistent with its role in

156 activating PEPC for dark carboxylation, and showed no difference in temporal expression across

157 species (well-watered: $F_{(12,42)} = 0.85$, $p < 0.605$; drought: $F_{(12,42)}=1.21$, $p < 0.309$). Carbonic

158 anhydrase (CA), involved in conversion of CO_2 to HCO3-, had only 3 transcripts that were

159 temporally structured in their expression in *Y. aloifolia*; two α-CA and one γ. In none of these

160 cases did expression increase at night as might be expected (Supplemental Figure S3).

Species-specific gene co-expression network analysis was conducted on each PEPC

cluster, combined with the corresponding cluster that had the strongest median negative

correlation to the PEPC cluster (anti-PEPC). PEPC and anti-PEPC clusters were combined due to

the use of a signed clustering algorithm: only transcripts with positively correlated expression

patterns are co-clustered. Therefore, negative interactions would not be detected by examining a

network of a single cluster. PEPC and anti-PEPC clusters in *Y. aloifolia* show dense networks

within each cluster (Fig. 3C), and few connections between. *Yucca filamentosa* had well

separated PEPC and anti-PEPC clusters (Fig. 3D), while *Y. gloriosa* had nearly joined PEPC and

anti-PEPC clusters (Fig. 3E). To explore mechanisms of regulation of PEPC, significant

connections to PEPC were extracted from each species' network (Table 1). *Yucca gloriosa* had

the greatest number of gene connections to PEPC, despite similar numbers of nodes in both *Y.*

gloriosa (2,550) and *Y. aloifolia* (2,311). Additionally, five PEPC-connected genes in *Y. gloriosa*

displayed differential expression in well-watered vs. drought-stressed conditions, compared to

only one connection in *Y. aloifolia* and none in *Y. filamentosa*.

Metabolomics

Of the 214 metabolites that were present in at least 25% of samples, 87 had a significant

fit to a polynomial regression line (Fig. 4), with 16 having significant differences in either

abundance or temporal regulation between the *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. filamentosa* ($R^2>0.5$)

(Supplemental Table S4). Starch degradation is one possible route CAM plants can use for the

nightly regeneration of PEP. Whilst starch content overall was comparable between the C_3 and

CAM species, there was no net dark depletion of starch in the CAM species, suggesting little

reliance on starch for nocturnal generation of PEP in the CAM Yucca (Fig. 5A). In contrast,

starch is degraded at night in the C_3 species and hybrid, with increased levels of α-glucan

phosphorylase (PHS), a gene responsible for phosphorolytic degradation of starch (Smith et al.,

2005; Borland et al., 2016). Maltose levels, a starch-derived breakdown product, were

substantially elevated in the C_3 species compared to the CAM (Fig. 5B). The difference in

maltose content was reflected by higher expression of the maltose exporter MEX1 gene in *Y.*

filamentosa (Fig. 5B). Malic acid was much higher in *Y. aloifolia* as expected (though without

day-night variation, perhaps because of two missing time points), as was transcript abundance of

malate dehydrogenase (MDH), responsible for interconversion of malic acid and oxaloacetate

(Fig. 5C).

An alternative source of carbohydrates for PEP can come from soluble sugars. Several

soluble sugars had higher abundance in *Y. filamentosa*, including fructose and glucose (Fig. 6A).

Fructose (but not glucose or sucrose) had a significant temporal difference between *Y. aloifolia*

and *Y. filamentosa* (Supplemental Figure S4), with concentrations in *Y. filamentosa* decreasing

during the dark period while concentrations in *Y. aloifolia* remained flat. Both species

accumulate similar amounts of sucrose (Fig. 6A), indicating no difference in the amount of

hexoses dedicated to sucrose production. However, there is a slight temporal change across the

day-night period in *Y. aloifolia,* but it was not significant based on polynomial regression

analysis. Gene expression also does not implicate conversion of hexose to triose phosphates as a

mechanism for generating differences in hexose concentrations: Both *Y. aloifolia* and *Y.*

filamentosa express fructose 1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (FBA) at equivocal levels, although

different gene copies are used in *Y. aloifolia* vs. *Y. filamentosa* (Fig. 6A) and *Y. filamentosa* has a

significantly different temporal pattern to expression under both well-watered ($t(42) = -4.293$, p

$= 8.99e-05$) and drought-stressed conditions ($t(42) = -6.79$, $p = 3.55e-08$). The different FBA

paralogs in *Y. aloifoia* and *Y. gloriosa* compared to *Y. filamentosa* represent alternative

localizations; the FBA homolog expressed in *Y. filamentosa* has an *Arabidopsis* ortholog which

localizes to the chloroplast, while the copy expressed in *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. gloriosa* has cytosol

localized *Arabidopsis* ortholog. FBA in the chloroplast is responsible for the production of

metabolites for starch synthesis, implicating starch synthesis and breakdown in *Y. filamentosa*,

consistent with this species' increase in maltose production. The cytosolic version found in the

CAM and C_3-CAM intermediate species is thought to be involved in glycolysis and

glucogenesis. Triose phosphates are too small to measure through GC-MS metabolomics

methods, but genes associated with interconversion of glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate and

dihydroxyacetone phosphate (triose phosphate isomerase, TPI) as well as genes involved in

transport (triose phosphate transporter, APE2) show higher expression in *Y. aloifolia* compared

to both *Y. filamentosa* and *Y. gloriosa* (Fig. 6B), though genes do not significantly differ in

temporal expression pattern based on post-hoc linear model tests. G3PDH (glyceraldehyde-3-

phosphate dehydrogenase), a gene involved in downstream branches of glycolysis, likewise has

highest expression in *Y. aloifolia;* accounting for species in the linear model of gene expression

significantly increases fit of the model under both well-watered ($F_{(12,46)} = 2.45$, $p < 0.015$) and

drought-stressed conditions ($F_{(12, 42)} = 4.94$, $p < 4.97e-5$).

Another class of metabolites with large differences between *Y. aloifolia* and *Y.*

filamentosa were those involved in reactive oxygen species (ROS) scavenging pathways.

Vitamin C, or ascorbic acid, was present at much higher levels in *Y. aloifolia* (Fig. 7A), as was

the oxidized form dehydroascorbic acid (Fig. 7B). Neither had a temporal expression pattern,

however, indicating constant levels of both metabolites across the day-night period. Previous

work has implicated increases in ascorbic acid as a method for CAM plants to remove ROS

produced by high nocturnal respiration (Abraham et al., 2016), but genes involved in

mitochondrial respiration (cytochrome-C, CYTC) are only slightly elevated in *Y. aloifolia* at

night (Fig. 7C). The biogenesis of ascorbate through galactono-gamma-lactone dehydrogenase

(GLDH) does not seem to differ between the two parental *Yucca* species either, based on gene

expression (Fig. 7C). Alternatively ROS might be produced from daytime activities, however

whether or not CAM plants reduce oxidative stress (via reduced photoihibition, (Adams and

Osmond, 1988; Griffiths et al., 1989; Pieters et al., 2003)) or instead produce high levels of O_2

(from increased electron transport behind closed stomata, (Niewiadomska and Borland, 2008))

remains unclear in the literature. Regardless, the photorespiratory pathway has been proposed as

a means of protection from oxidative stress (Kozaki and Takeba, 1996). Kinetic modeling of

RuBisCO oxygenase/carboxylase activity suggested CAM plants have either equivalent levels of

photorespiration to C_3 species or reduced by as much as 60% (Lüttge, 2010). An increase in

antioxidants like ascorbic acid would therefore be beneficial in CAM plants if photorespiration is

reduced relative to C_3 while O_2 and ROS are still produced at the same rate. In support of this

hypothesis, phosphoglycolate phosphatase (PGP) – a gene involved in the first step in breaking

down the photorespiratory product 2-phosphoglycolate – is elevated in *Y. filementosa* and *Y.*

gloriosa relative to the CAM species (Fig. 7F). Metabolites that take part in photorespiration,

including glycine and serine, peak in the day period in C_3 *Y. filamentosa*, and are generally much

higher in *Y. filamentosa* than seen in *Y. aloifolia* (Fig. 4) (Scheible et al., 2000; Novitskaya et al.,

2002), suggesting CAM *Y. aloifolia* may instead rely on increased ascorbic acid concentrations

to reduce ROS stress.

Discussion

CAM pathway genes

252   Time-structured expression of key CAM genes in a C_3 species of *Yucca* suggests

253 ancestral expression patterns required for CAM may have predated its origin in *Yucca*. This

254 important observation is in line with recent suggestions that the frequent emergences of CAM

255 from C_3 photosynthesis was facilitated by evolution acting directly on a low flux pathway

256 already in place for amino acid metabolism (Bräutigam et al., 2017). Flux analysis using ^{13}C

257 labelled substrates has shown that C_3 plants can store organic acids at night to fuel daytime

258 amino acid synthesis, and that a portion of the stored organic acids are decarboxylated during the

259 day (Gauthier et al., 2010; Szecowka et al., 2013). This implies that the evolution of CAM just

260 required increasing the flux capacity of existing nocturnal CO_2 uptake and day/night turnover of

261 organic acids in C_3 plants, without the need for extensive re-wiring or diel rescheduling of flux

262 capacity (Bräutigam et al., 2017). This concept is consistent with the notion that CAM may be

263 described as a continuum or spectrum, with full CAM at one end, C_3 at the other, and various

264 intermediate forms between (Winter et al., 2015). Further support for this 'CAM continuum' is

265 provided by the transcriptome data presented here, with the C_3-CAM intermediate Y. gloriosa

266 showing several genes with the levels of transcript abundance intermediate between those in the

267 C_3 and CAM Yuccas.

268  Expression of carbonic anhydrases, which are thought to be required for conversion of

269 CO_2 to HCO_3^- for carboxylation of PEP via PEPC, were heavily skewed toward the morning for

270 both α-CA and β-CA types in all three species; although this gene expression pattern is not

271 consistent with expected nocturnal requirements for CA, it is possible transcription and

272 translation are separated by hours, or that CA proteins are able to subsist in the cell for long

273 periods of time. The α-CA are typically not involved in CAM photosynthesis (but see (Heyduk et

274 al., 2017)) and indeed are most highly expressed midday in the C_3 species. The β-CA gene

275 family has highest expression just after lights turned on, though notably *not* in the CAM *Y.*

aloifolia. Despite the lack of a clear expression pattern implicating CA in CAM, members of

both α-CA and β-CA are differentially expressed in the C_3-CAM *Y. gloriosa* and increase in

expression under drought stress; this data alone suggests a functional role in CAM activity, since

nocturnal fixation of CO_2 in the hybrid increases under drought stress.

Regulatory reconfigurations

Network analysis was conducted on clusters containing genes positively co-expressed

with PEPC ("PEPC cluster") and negatively co-expressed with PEPC ("anti-PEPC"). *Yucca*

aloifolia has few links between the PEPC cluster and the anti-PEPC cluster, suggesting little

connectivity between the two clusters (Fig. 3C). Low connectivity between clusters suggests that

PEPC is likely to be regulated by a few genes expressed at the same time (afternoon), rather than

through a mix of positive and negative feedbacks from genes in both PEPC and anti-PEPC

clusters; this result is consistent with the idea of clock regulation of CAM pathway genes acting

on both nighttime and daytime expression. *Yucca gloriosa* had the shortest distance between the

PEPC and anti-PEPC cluster, indicative of correlations between the two clusters that suggest

some form of regulation and antagonistic gene interactions. As a hybrid, *Yucca gloriosa* may

very well have novel genomic and phenotypic traits, including those influenced by the strength

and consequences of gene interactions. Differences in regulation of CAM genes relative to the

CAM parental species may be contributing to the limited amount of carbon fixed through CAM

in *Y. gloriosa* compared to *Y. aloifolia* (Heyduk et al., 2016). Additionally, *Y. aloifolia*'s network

consists of many larger hub genes (compare Fig. 3C and Fig. 3E), indicative of a more highly

connected core network especially in the PEPC cluster. Hub genes with many connections are

typically genes with a higher regulatory potential and importance in biological networks (Jeong

et al., 2001; Hahn and Kern, 2005; Seo et al., 2009), and are also more likely to be functionally

constrained (Masalia et al., 2017). Genes with direct connections to PEPC varied in their

function and response to drought stress between the three species, with the greatest number of

connections occurring in the hybrid *Y. gloriosa* (Table 1). The hybrid also had the largest number

of those connections responding to drought stress via differential expression, suggesting

increased lability in the hybrid in general, and specifically with PEPC response to drought.

Carbohydrate metabolism

305   To provide the nightly supply of PEP needed as substrate for CO_2 + PEPC, CAM plants

either break down soluble sugars (including polymers of fructose in fructans) or starches to

regenerate PEP via glycolysis. Work in the closely related genus *Agave* indicates that soluble

sugars are the main pool for nightly PEP regeneration (Abraham et al., 2016). Here we

investigated differences in the metabolite profiles in C_3 *Y. filamentosa* and CAM *Y. aloifolia.* As

seen in *Agave*, the CAM *Yucca* species uses soluble sugars as a carbohydrate reserve for PEP

requirements, while C_3 *Y. filamentosa* likely relies on starch pools. Although starch

concentrations were largely equal in *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. filamentosa*, degradation of starch to

form maltose was significantly higher in *Y. filamentosa*. The lack of MEX1 and PHS1 expression

in *Y. aloifolia* further suggests that starch degradation was recently lost (or gained in *Y.*

filamentosa) as *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. filamentosa* diverged only 5-8MYA (Good-Avila et al., 2006;

Smith et al., 2008). *Yucca gloriosa* has intermediate expression of MEX1 and PHS relative to its

parental species, indicating some reliance on starch for carbohydrates like its C_3 parental species.

318   Soluble sugars, such as glucose, fructose, and sucrose, can serve as an alternative source

of carbohydrates for glycolysis. In *Agave*, fructans (chains of fructose monomers) are the

predominant source of nocturnal carbohydrates for PEP (Wang and Nobel, 1998; Arrizon et al.,

2010). *Agave*, relative to *Arabidopsis*, has temporal regulation of soluble sugar production and a

10-fold increase in abundance (Abraham et al., 2016). In general there was a lack of diel

turnover in soluble sugars in *Y. aloifolia*, although it is possible unmeasured fructans constitute

the majority of the carbohydrate pool. With one exception neither species shows temporal

fluctuation of abundance of soluble sugars (*Y. filamentosa* exhibits time-structured variation in

fructose concentrations, Supplemental Figure S4). Sucrose concentrations are largely equal

between the two species, while glucose and fructose are elevated in C_3 *Y. filamentosa*. Glucose

and fructose are the building blocks of sucrose, but it is unclear from the metabolite and

transcript data alone whether these are elevated in *Y. filamentosa* due to degradation of sucrose,

or for some other purpose. Equivalent sucrose concentrations between the two species may

suggests they are not the byproducts of sucrose degradation, and instead that these abundant

sugar monomers are being used for processes in addition to sucrose production in the C_3 species.

Many of the genes involved in glycolytic processes had much higher expression in *Y.*

aloifolia, suggesting that the breakdown of triose phosphates into PEP is occurring at a higher

rate in CAM *Yuccas*. Fructose bisphosphate aldolase (FBA) acts as a major control point for

glycolysis by converting fructose 1,6-bisphosphate into triose phosphates and is also involved in

the reverse reaction in the Calvin Cycle (formation of hexose from triose phosphates). FBA

expression is initially high in both parental species (Fig. 6A), then rapidly drops in the C_3 species

and is sustained throughout the day period in both *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. gloriosa,* although

alternative copies of this gene are used in CAM and C_3 parental species. FBA is thought to be

driven toward triose phosphate production within the cytosol (the gene copy expressed in the

CAM species), whereas the chloroplastic copy expressed in the C_3 species is involved in Calvin

Cycle carbohydrate synthesis. Therefore it is likely that while *Y. aloifolia* expresses FBA for

production of triose phosphates for glycolysis and PEP regeneration, *Y. filamentosa* uses the

reverse reaction to synthesize greater concentrations of soluble sugars.

In total, metabolite data and gene expression suggest soluble sugar pools in and of

themselves are not the critical part of carbon metabolism for CAM in *Yucca*; instead, it is more

likely that flux through the system, particularly through glycolysis, is important for the

maintenance of PEP and thus effective CAM function. The seeming variation in *which*

carbohydrate pool is used – starch for C_3, soluble sugars for CAM – is surprising, given the

relatively short evolutionary distance between the two species. The functional importance of

large glucose and fructose accumulation and retention in *Y. filamentosa* relative to *Y. aloifolia* is

unclear. Roles for the hexoses glucose and fructose in C_3 plants include hormonal signaling

(Zhou et al., 1998; Arenas-Huertero et al., 2000; Leon and Sheen, 2003), plant growth and

development (Miller and Chourey, 1992; Weber et al., 1997), and gene expression regulation

(Koch, 1996); because CAM plants undergo all of the same metabolic processes, the stark

difference in concentrations of these hexoses in C_3 and CAM *Yucca* remains to be investigated.

Similarly, studies to describe the parental C_3 and CAM species metabolomes behave under

drought stress, as well as the metabolic profile of the C_3-CAM *Yucca* hybrid, will provide a

greater understanding for the links between metabolites, carbon metabolism, and photosynthesis.

Antioxidant response in CAM

Previous work in *Agave* discovered high levels of ascorbate and NADH activity relative

to C_3 *Arabidopsis*, and was thought to be due to increases in mitochondrial activity at night in

CAM species relative to C_3 (Abraham et al., 2016). Similarly, *Yucca aloifolia* has much higher

levels of ascorbic acid and dehydroascorbic acid relative to its C_3 sister species, but gene

expression of GLDH, which is responsible for production of ascorbic acid, is not much different

between the two parental species. The clear difference in abundance of ascorbic acid between C_3

and CAM *Yucca* does imply differential need for antioxidant response between the two species.

Respiration rates might be expected to be higher in CAM species at night to sustain the active

metabolism. Although citric acid abundance is nearly identical in C_3 and CAM *Yucca* species,

expression of cytochrome-C, a part of the mitochondrial electron transport chain, is higher in the

CAM *Y. aloifolia*. Alternatively, due to inhibited photorespiratory response in the CAM species,

an alternative form of ROS scavenging may be needed to regulate oxidation in the cells resulting

from either photoinhibition or O_2 accumulation from electron transport behind closed stomata

during the day. It is possible CAM species are using antioxidant metabolites like ascorbic acid to

prevent oxidative stress, rather than relying on photorespiration. Indeed genes (PGP) and

metabolites (glycine and serine) involved in photorespiration were more lowly expressed and

found in lower abundance, respectively, relative to C_3 *Y. filamentosa.* Whether or not increased

antioxidant response is required for CAM to efficiently function in plants is unknown, and future

work discerning ROS production and mitigation – particularly in the hybrid *Y. gloriosa* – will

inform understanding of the role of ROS scavenging and its impact on photosynthetic functions.

Conclusions

Transcriptomics and metabolomics of the parental species *Y. aloifolia* and *Y. filamentosa*

revealed many changes to regulation, expression, and abundance. The most notable differences

included degree of expression of core CAM genes and fundamental differences between the C_3

and CAM species in starch and soluble sugar metabolism. Most notably, the increased reliance

on soluble sugars in the CAM species which is not shared with the C_3 *Y. filamentosa* indicates a

recent alteration to carbohydrate metabolism after the divergence of these two species and

coincident with reliance on the CAM pathway. The diploid hybrid species, *Y. gloriosa*, exhibited

gene expression profiles more similar to its CAM parent, *Y. aloifolia*, than the C_3 parent, *Y.*

filamentosa. At the same time differences in CAM-associated gene expression correlation

networks inferred for *Y. gloriosa* and *Y. aloifolia* suggest that CAM genes may not be regulated

in the same way in these species. Additionally, the CAM species *Y. aloifolia* had heightened

antioxidant response (both in metabolites and gene expression) relative to *Y. filamentosa*,

indicating that the operation of CAM imposes a significant oxidative burden, relative to that in

C_3. Despite these differences, similarities exist in levels of gene expression of a few CAM genes

(PEPC, for example) between the C_3 and CAM *Yuccas* studied here, perhaps indicated shared

traits in an ancestral genome that may have facilitated the parallel evolution of CAM

photosynthesis multiple times within the Agavoideae. These results are in line with recent work

suggesting that CAM lineages exploited existing low-level pathways for organic acid

accumulation and daytime decarboxylation present in C_3 species (Bräutigam et al., 2017). Future

work on metabolomics, as well as detailed sampling of a variety of genotypes of *Y. gloriosa,* will

help us better understand the evolution of CAM-related regulatory networks and the evolutionary

link between carbohydrate metabolism and photosynthesis.

Materials and Methods

Plant material and RNA sequencing

RNA was collected during experiments described in (Heyduk et al., 2016), with

geographic locality information in Supplemental Table S1. Briefly, clones of the three species of

Yucca were acclimated to growth chambers with a day/night temperature of 30/17ºC and 30%

humidity in ~3L pots filled with a 60:40 mix of soil:sand. One clone was kept well-watered for

10 days while the second clone was subjected to drought stress via dry down beginning after the

end of day 1. Clones of a genotype were randomly assigned to watered and drought treatment.

On the 7th day of the experiment, after plants had water withheld for the five previous days, RNA

was sampled every four hours, beginning one hour after lights turned on, for a total of 6 time

points; very old and very young leaves were avoided, and samples were taken from the mid-

section of the leaf blade from leaves that were not shaded. RNA biological replicates consisted of

three genotypes of *Y. gloriosa* and four genotypes of both *Y. filamentosa* and *Y. gloriosa*

(Supplemental Table S1). Due to size limitations of growth chambers, genotypes from the three

species were randomly assigned to three different growth chamber experiments conducted in

July 2014, October 2014, and February 2015. Well-watered and drought stressed clonal pairs

were measured in the same experimental month. RNA was isolated from a total of 130 samples

(n=36, 47, and 47 for *Y. aloifolia, Y. filamentosa,* and *Y. gloriosa*, respectively) using Qiagen's

RNeasy mini kit (www.qiagen.com). DNA was removed from RNA samples with Ambion's

Turbo DNAse, then assessed for quality on an Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100. RNA libraries were

constructed with 1ug of input RNA using Kapa Biosystem's stranded mRNA kit and a dual-

index barcoding scheme. Libraries were quantified via qPCR then randomly combined into 4

pools of 30-36 libraries for PE75 sequencing on the NextSeq 500 at the Georgia Genomics

Facility.

Assembly and read mapping

Reads were cleaned using Trimmomatic (Bolger et al., 2014) to remove adapter

sequences, as well as low-quality bases and reads less than 40bp. After cleaning and retaining

only paired reads, *Y. aloifolia* had 439,504,093 pairs of reads, *Y. filamentosa* had 675,702,853

pairs of reads, and *Y. gloriosa* had 668,870,164 pairs. Due to the sheer number of reads for each

species, a subset of reads was used to construct reference assemblies for each species. Randomly

down-sampling 14% of the total reads for each species was used, resulting in an average of 83

million pairs of reads per species for assembly. This prevented erroneous reads from piling up to

create false support for a mis-sequenced basepair, and allowed for more efficient assembly (Haas

et al., 2013). Trinity v. 2.0.6 (Grabherr et al., 2011) was used for digital normalization as well as

assembly. The full set of reads from each species library were mapped back to that species'

transcriptome assembly with Bowtie (Langmead et al., 2009); read mapping information was

then used to calculate transcript abundance metrics in RSEM v.1.2.7 (Li and Dewey, 2011; Haas

et al., 2013). Trinity transcripts that had a calculated FPKM < 1 were removed, and an isoform

from a component was discarded if less than 25% of the total component reads mapped to it.

To further simplify the assemblies and remove assembly artifacts and incompletely

processed RNA reads, the filtered set of transcripts for each species was independently sorted

into orthogroups, or inferred gene families, that were circumscribed using OrthoFinder (Emms

and Kelly, 2015) clustering of 14 sequenced genomes (*Brachypodium distachyon, Phalaenopsis*

equestris, Oryza sativa, Musa acuminata, Asparagus officinalis, Ananas comusus, Elaeis

guiensis, Acorus americanus, Sorghum bicolor, Vitis vinifera, Arabidopsis thaliana, Carica

papaya, Solanum lycopersicum, and *Amborella tricopoda)*. First, transcripts were passed through

Transdecoder (http://transdecoder.github.io/), which searches for open reading frames in

assembled RNA-sequencing data. Transdecoder reading frame coding sequences for each species

were individually matched to a protein database derived from gene models from the monocot

genome dataset using BLASTx (Altschul et al., 1990). Best hit for each query sequence was

retained and used to sort the *Yucca* transcript into the same orthogroup as the query sequence.

Assembled *Yucca* sequences were further filtered to retain only putatively full length sequences;

Yucca transcripts that were shorter than the minimum length of an orthogroup were removed.

Transdecoder produces multiple reading frames per transcript, so only the longest was retained.

Scripts for orthogroup sorting and length filtering are available at

www.github.com/kheyduk/RNAseq/orthoSort. Read counts for the final set of orthogrouped

transcripts were re-calculated and analyzed in EdgeR (Robinson et al., 2010) in R 3.2.3, using

TMM normalization to produce normalized read counts.

To assess variation between genotypes sequenced, SNPs were calculated from the

RNAseq data by mapping reads from each genotype of all species to the *Y. aloifolia*

transcriptome, which is the least heterozygous of the three species. SNPs were compiled using

the *mpileup* command of samtools, followed by filtering in using bcfutils. SNP positions had to

have coverage between 8 and 1000, and have at least 2 alleles to be used. Indels were ignored.

Similarity between genotypes and species was assessed via PCA method using the SNPRelate

(Zheng et al., 2012) package in R 3.2.3.

Expression analysis of differentially expressed genes

For each species, visual representations of read data were used to assess and remove

outlier libraries. Two outliers for *Y. aloifolia* were removed, as they were divergent from

biological replicates as determined by a multidimensional scaling plot of all data (not shown).

Similarly, *Y. gloriosa* had two samples removed, while *Y. filamentosa* had a single outlier. In a

given *Yucca* species, all libraries were separated by time point, then Student's T-test between

treatments (watered and drought) was conducted in EdgeR to find the number of up and down

regulated genes at each time point, using a p-value cutoff of 0.05 and adjusting for multiple

testing with a Holm-Bonferroni correction. Gene Ontology annotations for individual genes were

obtained from the TAIR10 ontology of each gene family's *Arabidopsis* members. GO

enrichment tests were conducted for each time point per species, comparing GO categories of

DE genes in well-watered vs. drought-stressed treatments, using a hypergeometric test within the

phyper base function in R 3.2.3.

Temporal profile clustering of gene expression

To assess larger patterns in the expression data while taking into account temporal

patterns across time points, we employed maSigPro (Conesa et al., 2006), using options for read

count data (Nueda et al., 2014). maSigPro is a two-step algorithm for profile clustering; the first

step involves finding transcripts with non-flat time series profiles by testing generalized linear

models with time and treatment factors (using a negative binomial error distribution) against a

model with only an intercept (y~1); the second step involves assessing the goodness of fit for

every transcript's regression model and assessing treatment effects. For GLM models, maSigPro

estimates goodness of fit by evaluating the percent of the deviance the model explains (but it is

still denoted as R^2). This two-step method is advantageous in that in rapidly reduces a large

number of transcripts to only those that show significant variation across time, and it also readily

allows users to select transcripts that have a clear expression profile (as assessed by goodness of

fit of the model). For the *Yucca* data, gene regression models were initially computed on

transcripts mapped per million (TMM) normalized read counts with a Bonferroni-Holm

corrected significance level of 0.05. Gene models were then assessed for goodness of fit via the

T.fit() function, which produces a list of influential genes whose gene models are being heavily

influenced by a few data points (in this case, samples). Those genes were removed, and

regression models and fit were re-calculated. Genes with significant treatment effects can either

have a) different regression coefficients for the two treatments or b) different intercepts (i.e.,

magnitude of expression) between the two treatments. To cluster transcripts with similar profiles,

we employed fuzzy clustering via the "mfuzz" option in maSigPro. The clustering steps require a

user-defined value for *k* number of clusters. We assessed the optimal number of clusters for each

species' data by examining the within group sum of squares for *k*=1:20 clusters. A *k* was chosen

where the plot has a bend or elbow, typically just before the group sum of squares levels off for

higher values of *k*. A *k* of 9, 12, and 15 was used for *Y. aloifolia, Y. gloriosa*, and *Y. filamentosa*,

respectively. To estimate *m*, the "fuzzification parameter" for fuzzy clustering, we employed the

mestimate() function in the Mfuzz package. *m* of 1.06, 1.05, and 1.05 was estimated for *Y.*

aloifolia, *Y. gloriosa*, and *Y. filamentosa.*

By default, the clustering steps in maSigPro are run on genes that are not only significant

with regards to temporal expression (non-flat profiles across time), but also only on the subset of

genes that are significantly different between treatments. We modified the code for the

see.genes() function to fuzzy cluster all transcripts that had non-flat profiles, regardless of

whether they showed a significant change in expression as a result of drought stress. Afterwards,

we found transcripts that were significantly different between treatments with an R-squared cut

off of 0.7. The modified code for the see.genes() function, as well as detailed guide to the steps

taken for this analysis, are available at www.github.com/kheyduk/RNAseq.

For genes of interest, additional tests were done to assess whether species differed

significantly in their temporal pattern of expression. Because count data cannot be accurately

compared between species, we instead used TPM values. For each gene family of interest, we

selected a single transcript per species, typically one that was highest expressed and had time-

structured expression as determined by maSigPro. TPM values were scaled within each species'

transcript, separately for well-watered and drought-stressed libraries, by the maximum TPM

value. All TPM values for each gene for each treatment had a polynomial model fit with

degree=5 without distinguishing species, and a second polynomial model that included species as

a factor. Using ANOVA, we compared the fits of the two models. For genes that had a

significantly better fit when species was treated as a factor, we report the t-statistic and p-value

for the species that had a significant coefficient.

Networks were constructed for PEPC and "anti-PEPC" clusters – those that had the

highest negative correlation (mean of the median expression of all transcripts in cluster A,

correlated to mean of the median expression of all transcripts in cluster B) to the cluster

containing PEPC in each species. In *Y. gloriosa*, two clusters had nearly identical correlation

values to PEPC, so both were included in the anti-PEPC cluster. Networks were constructed in

ARACNE (Margolin et al., 2006) without assigning transcripts as transcription factors; instead,

all transcripts were inputted equally into the program. Resulting networks were visualized in

Cytoscape (Shannon et al., 2003), with highly connected nodes (based on number of edges)

having a large hub circle representation.

Gene annotation and gene tree estimation

All transcripts were first annotated by their membership in gene families; gene family

annotations were based on the *Arabidopsis* sequences that belong to the gene family, using

TAIR10 annotations. Putative transcription factors were annotated based on their *Arabidopsis*

ortholog in the PlantTFDB v. 3.0 (Jin et al., 2014). To address homology of transcripts across

species, gene trees were constructed from protein-coding sequences of gene families of interest,

and included *Yucca* transcript sequences as well as the 14 angiosperm sequenced genomes.

Nucleotide sequences were first aligned via PASTA (Mirarab et al., 2014). Gene trees were

estimated via RAxML (Stamatakis, 2006) using 200 bootstrap replicates and GTRGAMMA

nucleotide model of substitution.

Metabolomics

Tissue for metabolic analysis was harvested in a separate growth chamber experiment

conducted in February 2017 at the University of Georgia greenhouses. Growth conditions in the

chamber were identical to conditions used when harvesting tissue for RNA-Seq (above), and

plants used were the same genotype, but not the same clone, as for RNA-Seq. Because we expect

hybrid genotypes to be more variable than either parental species, we sampled metabolites from

only *Y. filamentosa* and *Y. aloifolia.* Samples were collected every 4 hours starting 1 hour after

the lights turned on from 6 replicate plants per species; replicates were from different genotypic

backgrounds (see Supplemental Table S1). Samples for metabolomics were only collected under

well-watered conditions, and gas exchange data was collected concurrently to ensure plants were

behaving as when RNA was collected previously (Supplemental Figure S1). Collected leaf tissue

was flash frozen in liquid N_2 then stored at -80°C until samples were freeze-dried. A 1:1 mixture

of MeOH and chloroform (400µL) was added to 10mg of freeze-dried, ball-milled (Mini-

beadbeater, Biospec products Bartlesville OK, USA) tissue along with adonitol as an internal

standard. Mixtures were sonicated for 30 minutes at 8-10°C, equilibrated to room temperature,

and polar metabolites recovered by liquid phase partitioning after 200µL H_2O was added to the

extract. Ten µL of the aqueous-methanol phase was dried and derivatized for GCMS by adding

15µL methoxyamine hydrochloride and incubating at 30°C for 30 minutes, then by adding 30µL

MSTFA and incubating at 60°C for 90 minutes. Derivatized samples were analyzed via gas

chromatography as in Frost et al (2012). Chromatograms were deconvoluted using AnalyzerPro

(SpectralWorks, Runcom, UK). Peak identities were based on NIST08, Fiehnlib (Agilent

Technologies, (Kind et al., 2009)), and in-house mass spectral libraries. Peak matching between

samples was based on the best library match according to AnalyzerPro and retention index

(Jeong et al., 2004). Initial metabolite peak calls were filtered first by the confidence level of

their best library match (>0.5) and then by raw peak area (>1000). Filtered metabolite peak areas

were then normalized based on adonitol peak areas. Standard curves were run for ascorbate,

sucrose, malic acid, and citric acid to determine absolute concentrations in umol/g of dry weight

(Supplemental Figure S5).

Normalized values were imported into R v. 3.3.3 and, where appropriate, multiple

metabolite peaks were summed to obtain a single value per metabolite. Time points 3 and 6 (last

day time point and last night time point) were removed from analysis due to errors in

derivitization steps. Remaining values were filtered for sample presence, retaining only

metabolites that were found in at least 25% of all samples. The resulting 217 metabolites were

imported into maSigPro, where we tested for time-structured expression using species as a

treatment in the design matrix, allowing for polynomials with degree=3, and using a

quasipoisson distribution in the glm model.

Accession numbers: The datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are

available in NCBI's Short Read Archive (RNA-seq data, BioProject #PRJNA413947), or at

github.com/karohey/RNAseq_Yucca/C_3-CAM (for count matrices and raw metabolite data).

Supplemental Material

Supplemental Table S1 - Genotypes sequenced through RNAseq

Supplemental Figure S1 - Gas exchange data for metabolomics samples.

Supplemental Table S2 - GO term enrichment

Supplemental Table S3 - Differentially expressed transcription factors

Supplemental Figure S2 - Decarboxylation gene expression

Supplemental Figure S3 - Carbonic anhydrases gene expression

Supplemental Table S4 - Significantly different metabolites between C_3 and CAM *Yucca*.

Supplemental Figure S4 - Temporally variable metabolite regressions

Supplemental Figure S5 - Calibrated concentrations of key metabolites

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Table 1 – Direct gene-to-gene connections to PEPC in each of the three species. Bolded annotations are genes that were differentially

expressed in well-watered vs. drought conditions.

Yucca aloifolia (CAM)		*Yucca gloriosa* (C$_3$-CAM)		*Yucca filamentosa* (C$_3$)	
double Clp-N motif-containing P-loop nucleoside triphosphate hydrolase	AT2G40130	two-pore channel 1	AT4G03560	staurosporin and temperature sensitive 3-like A	AT5G19690
RING/U-box	AT2G25410	protein of unknown function	AT4G14270	amino acid permease 2	AT5G09220
DEAD/DEAH box helicase, putative	AT1G70070	pumilio 4	AT3G10360	phosphofructokinase family protein	AT1G76550
CCL/CCR-like	AT3G26740	DEA(D/H)-box RNA helicase	AT2G07750	CTC-interacting domain 9	AT3G14450
octicosapeptide/Phox/Bem1p	AT5G63130	**gigantea protein (GI)**	AT1G22770	tudor/PWWP/MBT superfamily protein	AT5G40340
RNA helicase	AT3G62310	**mechanosensitive channel of small conductance-like 10**	AT5G12080	polynucleotidyl transferase, ribonuclease H-like superfamily protein	AT3G25430
protein of unknown function	AT3G32930	Mitochondrial transcription termination factor	AT4G19650	NOP2A/oligocellula2	AT5G55920
plastid developmental protein DAG, putative	AT3G06790	phosphofructokinase 2	AT5G47810	translocon at the inner envelope membrane of chloroplasts 20	AT1G04940
phototropic-responsive NPH3	AT4G37590	**major facilitator superfamily protein**	AT5G14120		
ABI-1-like 1	AT2G46225	**BTB and TAZ domain protein 1**	AT5G63160		
		DNA/RNA polymerases	AT2G24120		
		NAC domain containing protein 1	AT1G56010		
		protein of unknown function DUF829	AT2G15695		
		dual specificity protein phosphatase-related	AT4G18593		

Figure 1 – A) CAM pathway diagram. CA, carbonic anhydrase; PEP, phosphoenolpyuvate;

PEPC, PEP carboxylase; PPCK, PEPC kinase; OAA, oxaloacetate; NADP-me, NADP-malic

enzyme; PEPCK, PEPC carboxykinase; PPDK, orthophosphate dikinase. B) Net CO_2

accumulation on the same samples used for RNA-seq, with error bars representing 1 standard

deviation from the mean. C) Delta H+ (the total titratable acid accumulated during the night)

measured on samples used for RNA-seq from well-watered ("W") and drought-stressed

conditions ("D"). Both gas exchange and titratable acidity plots are modified from data published

in (Heyduk et al., 2016).

Figure 2 – A) PCA of SNP diversity from transcriptome data, and B) up/down differential

expression between well-watered and drought stressed plants at each time point based on EdgeR,

with counts as a proportion of total transcripts expressed.

Figure 3 – Heatmaps and gene trees of PEPC (A) and PPCK (B) in the day (white bar) and night

(black bar), under both well-watered (blue bar) and drought-stressed (red bar) conditions.

Maximum TPM for each gene shown below the gene tree; asterisks indicate transcripts with

expression profiles that fit a polynomial (time-structured) regression model significantly better

than a simple linear model and red coloring indicates a significant treatment effect. Some genes

have low expression values and are displayed with faint shading, but can still have detectable

time-structured expression. For PEPC, only the gene family that had high and temporal

expression in *Yucca* is shown. Gene tree circles are color coded by species (black=*Y. aloifolia*

(CAM), white=*Y. filamentosa* (C$_3$), light grey=*Y. gloriosa* (C$_3$-CAM). C-E) Network on PEPC

(blue) and anti-PEPC (yellow) gene clusters in *Y. aloifolia* (C), *Y. filamentosa* (D) and *Y.*

gloriosa (E), where larger nodes indicate more highly connected genes.

Figure 4 – Heatmap of abundance of the 89 metabolites that could be fit to a polynomial

regression, shown for each species during the day (white bar) and night (black bar).

Figure 5 – Gene expression and related metabolites, shown over a day (white bar) and night

(black bar) period, under both well-watered (blue bar) and drought-stress (red bar) in RNA-seq

data only. Maximum TPM for each gene shown below the gene tree; asterisks indicate

transcripts that were significantly time-structured, with red coloring indicating differential

expression between watered and drought. Gene tree circles are color coded by species (black=*Y.*

aloifolia (CAM), white=*Y. filamentosa* (C_3), light grey=*Y. gloriosa* (C_3-CAM). The colors are

carried to the metabolite plots (black bars=*Y. aloifolia,* white bars=*Y. filamentosa*). A) Starch

synthase 1 (SS1), involved in the production of starch; glucan phosphorylase (PHS), involved in

degradation of starch B) Maltose exporter 1 (MEX1), transports maltose out of plastids. C)

Malate dehydrogenase (MDH), responsible for interconversion of oxaloacetate and malic acid.

Figure 6 – A) Gene expression and related metabolites, shown over a day (white bar) and night

(black bar) period, under both well-watered (blue bar) and drought-stress (red bar) in RNA-seq

data only. Maximum TPM for each gene shown below the gene tree; asterisks indicate

transcripts that were significantly time-structured, with red coloring indicating differential

expression between watered and drought. Gene tree circles are color coded by species (black=*Y.*

aloifolia (CAM), white=*Y. filamentosa* (C_3), light grey=*Y. gloriosa* (C_3-CAM). The colors are

carried to the metabolite plots (black bars=*Y. aloifolia,* white bars=*Y. filamentosa*). A) Fructose

bisphosphate aldolase, responsible for interconversion of fructose-6-P and triose phosphates, and

sucrose phosphatase (SPP) produces sucrose from glucose and fructose molecules. B) Triose

phosphate isomerase (TPI) interconverts the two forms of triose phosphates, APE2 is a triose

phosphate transporter out of the plastid, and G3PDH is involved glycolysis.

Figure 7 – Abundance over the day (white bar) and night (black bar) period for A) ascorbic acid,

B) dehydroascorbic acid, and C) citric acid. Gene expression for D) cytochrome-C (CYTC), E)

galactono-gamma-lactone dehydrogenase (GLDH), and F) phosphoglycolate phosphatase (PGP)

over the day (white bar) and night (black bar), under both well-watered (blue bar) and drought-

stressed (red bar) conditions. Maximum TPM for each gene shown below the gene tree; asterisks

indicate transcripts that were significantly time-structured, with red coloring indicating

differential expression between watered and drought. Gene tree circles are color coded by

species (black=*Y. aloifolia* (CAM), white=*Y. filamentosa* (C$_3$), light grey=*Y. gloriosa* (C$_3$-CAM).

The colors are carried to the metabolite plots (black bars=*Y. aloifolia,* white bars=*Y.*

filamentosa).

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A

CO₂ → CA → HCO₃⁻
+PEP
PEPC ← P ← PPCK
OAA
malic acid
vacuole
malic acid
NADP-me
PEPCK
Pyruvate → CO₂ → C₃ cycle
PPDK
PEP → glycolysis

B Gas exchange

Well-watered | Drought stressed

Net CO₂ uptake (umol m-2 s-1)

C Titratable acidity

delta H+ (umol g⁻¹ FW)

W   D   W   D   W   D
Y. aloifolia   *Y. gloriosa*   *Y. filamentosa*

● *Yucca aloifolia* (CAM)
● *Yucca gloriosa* (C₃-CAM)
○ *Yucca filamentosa* (C₃)

A

SS1

PHS

Starch

Starch (ug/mL g^{-1})

B

MEX1

Maltose

Normalized peak area

C

MDH

Malic acid

Normalized peak area

A
Acorbic acid
Normalized peak area

B
Dehydroascorbic acid
Normalized peak area

C
Citric acid
Normalized peak area

D
CYT-c
197

E
GLDH
35

F
PGP
325