The Pattern of Systemic Acquired Resistance Induction within the Arabidopsis Rosette in Relation to the Pattern of Translocation¹

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Local leaf infections by a necrogenic pathogen can lead to systemic acquired resistance (SAR) in untreated leaves. We reasoned that, whatever the nature of the long-distance signal, if it is transported in the phloem, the pattern of SAR induced within the plant by treatment of a single leaf should match the pattern of translocation out of that leaf. The source-sink relationships (orthostichies) in the Arabidopsis rosette were established with [¹⁴C]Suc or phloem-mobile 3-aminotriazole at herbicidal concentrations. SAR was activated by infiltrating a single Columbia leaf with *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *maculicola* DC3000/*avrRPM1*, which causes a hypersensitive response. The pattern of SAR in the rosette was monitored by assessing the growth of wild-type DC3000 and by measuring the SAR markers salicylic acid and *PR1* transcripts. Although the orthostichy of a single leaf was clearly limited to a row of vertically aligned leaves, SAR and SAR markers were also found outside the orthostichy. This indicates that, whatever the nature of the long-distance signal from the treated leaf to the upper responding leaves, its transport is either not limited exclusively to the phloem or the minor proportion of translocate that is not confined to the orthostichy contains enough of the SAR systemic signal to set in motion events leading to the establishment of the SAR state in the upper leaves.

Plants that are susceptible to a particular pathogen can often be induced to become systemically resistant by a predisposing treatment on lower leaves with a pathogen that causes local lesions. This phenomenon has been termed induced systemic resistance or systemic acquired resistance (SAR) and has been known for some years (Chester, 1933; Kuc, 1982). SAR is typically effective against a wide range of pathogens, including those taxonomically unrelated to the original inducing organism. The resistant state is associated with the local and systemic accumulation of pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins and has been well characterized in tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum), cucumber (Cucumis sativus), and Arabidopsis (Uknes et al., 1992). A number of mutants compromised in their ability to be induced to the SAR state have been documented, but relatively little is known about the long-distance signaling events occurring between the original inducing stimulus and the onset of resistance in systemic leaves, and the nature of the longdistance signal substance is still unclear (Uknes et al., 1992; Ryals et al., 1996; Van Loon, 2000). It is postu-

lated that the systemic signal, produced at the lesion caused by the inducing infection, is translocated in the phloem to the upper leaves (Ross, 1966; Jenns and Kuc, 1977). White (1979) showed that acetyl salicylic acid (aspirin) could induce the accumulation of PR proteins and condition resistance in tobacco. Subsequently, Van Loon (1983) showed that the more commonly occurring plant secondary metabolites salicylic acid (SA) and 2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid were the only other hydroxylated benzoic acid derivatives that were effective at inducing SAR. After Malamy et al. (1990) and Métraux et al. (1990) independently showed that levels of SA in the phloem rise in tobacco mosaic virus-infected tobacco and Colletotrichum lagenarium- or tobacco necrosis virus-infected cucumber, respectively, there was speculation that SA might be the systemic signal substance in SAR (Yalpani et al., 1991; Uknes et al., 1992). However, as early as 1991, Rasmussen et al. (1991) showed that removal of the inoculated leaf before SA levels in the phloem begin to rise still led to resistance induction in upper leaves of cucumber. In addition, grafting experiments using transgenic tobacco plants expressing the *nahG* gene encoding salicylate hydroxylase, and thus unable to accumulate SA, suggested that SA was not the systemic signal in SAR (Vernooij et al., 1994). However, the authors clearly showed that SA was necessary for the local expression of resistance (Malamy et al., 1996). Use of ${}^{18}O_2$ in feeding experiments in tobacco showed that the majority (69%) of SA accumulating systemically was synthesized in, and exported from, the leaf harboring the inducing

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infection (Shulaev et al., 1995). Mölders et al. (1996) showed that in cucumber the SA accumulating in systemic leaves after an inducing treatment was the result of both import from the induced leaf and de novo synthesis. Mölders et al. (1996) interpreted their results as consistent with the hypothesis that SA could be the systemic SAR signal in cucumber. Thus, the nature of the systemic signal is still speculative, and the exact role of SA remains controversial (Cameron, 2000; Van Loon, 2000). Allografts between cucumber, muskmelon (*Cucumis melo*), and watermelon (*Citrullis vulgaris*) suggested that the systemic signal is not genus or species specific, at least within the Cucurbitaceae (Jenns and Kuc, 1979). Homografts in cucumber showed that the infected leaf alone is the source of the systemic SAR signal and that the signal is not remobilized from or produced in systemically protected leaves (Dean and Kuc, 1986).

An interesting recent development has been the characterization of the lesion in a T-DNA-tagged Arabidopsis mutant defective in long-distance SAR signaling as a mutation in the lipid transfer protein gene *DIR1* (Maldonado et al., 2002). The authors speculate that DIR1 interacts with a lipid-derived molecule to promote long-distance signaling.

Evidence that the systemic signal in SAR is propagated via the phloem comes from girdling experiments (Ross, 1966; Guedes et al., 1980). Although Guedes et al. (1980) used cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) and hot water to prevent phloem transport, Ross (1966) removed the outer layers of the stem down to (and including) the phloem. However, neither treatment can be regarded as specifically inhibiting only phloem transport. Thus, for example, an effect on the symplastic transport of a putative signal via other cells affected by such drastic treatments cannot be ruled out.

Plants generally employ one of two mechanisms to load substances into phloem for long-distance translocation. In symplastic loaders like Coleus blumei, loading is via the numerous plasmodesmatal connections between the mesophyll, bundle sheath, and phloem cells (Gamalei, 1989). In apoplastic loaders, the companion cell/sieve element complex is isolated from the symplast of the surrounding cells by a lack of plasmodesmatal connections. Thus, in apoplastic phloem loaders like Arabidopsis (Haritatos et al., 2000) and pea (*Pisum sativum*), Suc and presumably other phloem-transported metabolites are first exported from mesophyll cells into the apoplast and then loaded into the companion cell/sieve element complex by an energy-dependent transport system (DeWitt and Sussman, 1995); for example, the At-SUC2 Suc carrier (Stadler and Sauer, 1996). A further characteristic of apoplastic loaders is that phloem loading of Suc can be inhibited by the thiol reagent *p*-chloromercuribenzenesulphonic acid (PCMBS; Van Bel et al., 1994). Because the companion cell/sieve element complex in Arabidopsis is symplastically relatively isolated from the surrounding cells (Haritatos et al., 2000), presumably the systemic SAR signal must be loaded into the phloem via an apoplastic route in a similar manner to Suc. However, even in apoplastic phloem loaders, it is thought that loading of viruses into the phloem must occur symplastically through the few plasmodesmatal connections that are present (Santa Cruz, 1999). Thus, symplastic loading of other materials, e.g. the systemic SAR signal substance, must also be considered a possibility even in nominally apoplastic-loading species like Arabidopsis.

A characteristic of long-distance translocation is that not all sinks are equally supplied by source leaves and that source leaves preferentially serve sinks with a direct vascular connection forming what is known as an orthostichy (Joy, 1964; Ho and Peel, 1969; Taiz and Zeiger, 1998). Arabidopsis has a three + five spiral leaf phyllotaxy with a divergence angle between successive leaves of 137.5° (Callos and Medford, 1994), and leaves in an orthostichy are arranged in an approximately vertical line on the stem above each other in the phyllotaxy.

We reasoned that if the pathway of movement of the systemic signal in SAR is in the phloem, it might be predicted that the pattern of translocate movement and the induction of SAR and SAR markers such as SA and PR1 should coincide. To investigate the pathway of systemic signal movement in the SAR, we determined the orthostichy relationships in the Arabidopsis rosette and compared these with the pattern of the induction of SAR and SAR markers. The results are discussed in relation to the possible nature of the systemic SAR signal and the possible nature of long-distance signal transmission.

RESULTS

Translocation of 3-Aminotriazole (3-AT), [¹⁴C]SA, and [¹⁴C]Suc

The relative positions on the Arabidopsis rosette of the treated leaf (L1) and the other investigated leaves (L2, L3, L4) are shown in Fig. 1.

At 2 mm, the catalase inhibitor 3-AT causes lesions in leaves in a light-dependent manner. When applied



Figure 1. Relative positions of L1 (treated leaf), L2, L3, and L4 on the Arabidopsis rosette.

to the lower leaves of an Arabidopsis rosette, 3-AT lesions occur in the treated leaf itself and in a vertical row of leaves in the phyllotaxy (Fig. 2). This vertical row of leaves in the rosette forms an orthostichy, that is, they are all connected by a contiguous row of vascular bundles (Taiz and Zeiger, 1998).

When 2 μ Ci [¹⁴C]SA was applied to a single lower rosette leaf (L1), a weak signal was observed on an autoradiograph in a single upper leaf in the vertically aligned orthostichy after 24 and 48 h (Fig. 3, A–C).

When 2 μ Ci [¹⁴C]Suc was applied to a single lower rosette leaf (L1), the translocation pattern defining the vertically aligned orthostichy was also observed on autoradiographs (Fig. 3, D–F) to correspond es-









Figure 2. Demonstration of orthostichies in Arabidopsis. The photograph shows rosettes 96 h after infiltrating 2 mm 3-AT into: A, a single lower leaf; and B, two lower leaves on opposite sides of the rosette. TL, Treated leaf. Or1 and Or2, Leaves in separate orthostichies.

sentially to the orthostichy defined in Figure 2 by the herbicide effect of 3-AT. Interestingly, however, even as early as 6 h after application of [¹⁴C]Suc to L1, a weak signal was also seen in L4 and by 24 and 48 h, a weak signal could be seen in several upper leaves belonging to orthostichies other than L1/L3. Nevertheless, it is significant that no signal was ever observed in L2 lying opposite from L1 in the rosette and that more than 90% of the transported signal remained in the orthostichy, with the majority appearing in the young expanding L3 sink leaf (Table I).

SA Accumulation

Free and total SA levels in L1 to L4 48 h after inoculation of L1 with either 10 mM MgSO₄ or 5×10^7 cells mL^{-1} DC3000/*avrRPM1* are shown in Figure 4. The general pattern observed was an increase in both the free and total SA levels in leaves from inoculated plants when compared with buffer-treated controls. Compared with the controls significant increases in both free and total SA were observed in L1 and L3 (Student's *t* test, P < 0.001), with the largest magnitude of change in L1. Thus, in L1, approximately $6.5 \times$ and $10 \times$ increases in free and total SA, respectively, were observed, whereas in L3, $6.5 \times$ and $3 \times$ increases in free and total SA were recorded. The total SA in L4 showed a small $(1.6 \times)$ but nevertheless statistically significant increase from mean 230 ng g^{-1} fresh weight to mean 370 ng g^{-1} fresh weight (*P* < 0.05). The slight increase in free SA in L4 (from a mean of 60 ng g^{-1} fresh weight to mean 70 ng g^{-1} fresh weight) was not significant. There were no statistically significant changes in either free or total SA in L2 (50–25 ng g⁻¹ fresh weight and 260–310 ng g^{-1} fresh weight, respectively) over the period of the experiment.

PR1 Transcript Accumulation

Steady-state levels of *PR1* transcripts increased in all leaves, i.e. L1 to L4 by 48 h after inoculation of L1 with DC3000/*avrRPM1* (Fig. 5).

SAR

When a single, lower rosette leaf (L1 in Fig. 1) was treated with *P. syringae* pv *maculicola* DC3000/*avr-RPM1* to induce SAR, subsequent growth of virulent DC3000 cells was suppressed by 48 h after the inducing treatment in both of the upper, opposite rosette leaves tested (L3 and L4 in Fig. 1) but not in the L2 leaf opposite L1 in the lower rosette (Fig. 6). Multiplication of DC3000 cells in L2 matched the growth observed in control plants mock inoculated with 10 mM MgSO₄ (Fig. 6).

DISCUSSION

Vascular connections defining orthostichies in the Arabidopsis rosette were clearly demonstrated using





three test substances: 3-AT, [¹⁴C]SA, and [¹⁴C]Suc (Figs. 2 and 3). The endogenous transport substance Suc was more amenable to phloem transport than [¹⁴C]SA, as evidenced by a detectable autoradio-graphic signal in sink leaves of the orthostichy by as

Table 1. Relative proportions (%) of $[{}^{14}C]$ label in leaves L2, L3, and L4 calculated from the integral signal values from the autoradiograph in Figure 3

Leaf	Time		
	6 h	24 h	48 h
L2	0.0	1.1	3.2
L3	93.1	97.5	92.9
L4	6.9	1.3	3.9

early as 6 h after label application (Fig. 3). Although the orthostichy was clearly defined as the major route of [¹⁴C]Suc transport, a weak autoradiographic signal was apparent in other leaves in the rosette, but, interestingly, label was virtually absent from L2 directly opposite the treated leaf until the later sampling time in the experiments (48 h; Fig. 3). It must be noted that the autoradiographic signal observed may be partly due to metabolites derived from the labeled Suc rather than Suc itself. However, this is not relevant to the questions posed in the work reported here.

Available evidence suggests that phloem loading in Arabidopsis is apoplastic (Haritatos et al., 2000). There are very few plasmodesmatal connections be-



Figure 4. Changes in SA in individual Arabidopsis rosette leaves. Free (squlf) and total (\Box) SA levels are shown for leaves L1 (A), L2 (B), L3 (C), and L4 (D) 48 h after treatment of L1 with either 10 mM MgSO₄ (control) or 5 × 10⁷ colony forming units (cfu) mL⁻¹ *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *maculicola* DC3000/*avrRPM1*. * and **, Values significantly different from the control at the *P* = 0.05 and 0.01 levels (Student's *t* test), respectively. Note the use of a different concentration scale for L1.

tween the companion cell/sieve element complex and surrounding cells in Arabidopsis, but there are numerous plasmodesmata between companion cells and sieve elements themselves (Imlau et al., 1999) Interestingly, it appears that proteins are unloaded symplastically in sink tissues in Arabidopsis (Oparka et al., 1994). However, this observation does not preclude the possibility of carrier-dependent apoplastic unloading of other substances.

If the systemic SAR signal follows the assimilate transport pathway, presumably it must be loaded apoplastically in leaf L1 into the companion cell/ sieve element complex and will be unloaded symplastically or possibly apoplastically. Because apo-



Figure 5. A, Steady-state levels of *PR1* transcripts in leaves L1 to L4 48 h after inoculation with DC300/*avrRpm1* or 10 mM MgSO₄. B, Ethidium bromide-stained loading control.

plastic loading of Suc is inhibited by PCMBS (Van Bel et al., 1994), we reasoned that it would be interesting to see if the systemic SAR signal cannot be translocated out of an induced leaf in the presence of PC-MBS. However, *P. syringae* proved to be sensitive to PCMBS in the range 0.02 to 0.2 mm, which is well below the 0.5 to 2.5 mm working concentration routinely used to inhibit apoplastic loading; thus, this experiment could not be performed. In addition, PC-MBS is usually supplied to a detached leaf by placing the cut end of the petiole in the PCMBS solution (Van Bel et al., 1994) and monitoring Suc loading. We used the cut flap procedure to supply substances into the L1 leaf, and we were unable to demonstrate any effect of PCMBS in our system on the systemic transport of [¹⁴C]Suc to other leaves.

Pattern of SAR and SAR Marker Accumulation

When a single lower rosette leaf (L1) was treated with an SAR-inducing inoculum of *P. syringae* pv *maculicola* DC3000/*avrRPM1*, the pattern of SA accumulation coincided approximately with the biologi-



Figure 6. Induction patterns of SAR in Arabidopsis rosettes. Two days after treatment of L1 with either 10 mM MgSO₄ (control) or 5 × 10^7 cfu mL⁻¹ *P. syringae* pv *maculicola* C3000/*avrRPM1*, leaves L2, L3, and L4 were inoculated with 1 × 10^5 cfu mL⁻¹ DC3000 (virulent) and bacterial growth in the individual leaves monitored. \bigcirc , [invtrio], and \square , Growth of DC3000 in L2, L3, and L4, respectively, in the controls. ●, [invtrif], and \blacksquare , Growth of DC3000 in L2, L3, and L4, respectively, in DC3000/*avrRPM1*-inoculated plants.

cal induction of SAR (Figs. 4 and 6). Thus, SAR developed not only in L3 in the same orthostichy as L1 but also in L4. However, neither SAR nor a statistically significant SA accumulation were induced in L2 on the opposite side of the lower rosette to L1 (Figs. 4 and 6). Interestingly, *PR1* transcripts accumulated in all leaves, even L2, which did not show SAR or SA accumulation.

The pattern of phloem translocation of [¹⁴C]Suc does not correspond exactly with the induction of SAR or the pattern of SAR markers such as SA and PR1 transcripts. That is, after an inducing treatment of a single leaf (L1), SAR was induced beyond the orthostichy defined for phloem transport. Orthostichies define the major route of assimilate transport along physically connected vascular bundles. However, lateral transport between different orthostichies is known to occur, and our results show this in so far as a small amount of label was observed outside the L1/L3 orthostichy in L4 (Fig. 3). Because Dean and Kuc (1986) demonstrated that the systemic signal is not remobilized from, or produced in, systemically protected leaves, this implies that the small amount of signal that leaks into sink leaves in other orthostichies must be sufficient to induce SAR in those sink leaves. Alternatively, one could postulate other systemic signal routes, e.g. an electrical depolarization signal as was proposed for the induction of PI proteins in tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum) seedlings (Wildon et al., 1992). The induction of *PR1* transcript accumulation in all leaves suggests that multiple cues might be working together to achieve the SAR state and that SA accumulation alone is only part of the complex.

In a conceptually similar investigation of woundinduced systemic resistance to leaf-feeding insects in cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), Jones et al. (1993) found an exact correlation with the vascular architecture. Resistance of systemic cottonwood leaves to herbivores was presumably based on protease inhibitors regulated similarly as reported for the woundinduced systemin signaling reported in tomato and potato (*Solanum tuberosum*; Bergey et al., 1996). These results emphasize the multiplicity of signaling cues and mechanisms involved in systemic responses in different plant species and specific situations.

In conclusion, our results show clearly that the induction of SAR and SAR markers extends beyond the route of assimilate movement along an orthostichy and that some markers themselves are induced in a non-overlapping way. This has implications for the mechanism of action of the hypothetical SAR signaling substance and will be of interest when considering potential candidates for this role.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Arabidopsis

Seeds of the ecotype Columbia were stratified in damp potting compost for 2 to 3 d at 4°C. Plants were grown in controlled environment chambers with an 8-h photoperiod (58 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹) with day and night temperatures of 20°C to 23°C and 18°C to 20°C, respectively. Five-week-old rosettes in individual pots were used in the experiments, and all experiments were repeated at least three times unless otherwise stated.

In the present work, the treated leaf was designated L1 and the next approximately opposite leaf in the phyllotaxy further up the rosette spiral was designated L2. Leaf 3 (L3) is a test leaf in the same orthostichy as L1 further up the rosette spiral, and L4 is the leaf on the opposite side of the rosette to L3 (Fig. 1).

Bacteria

Pseudomonas syringae pv maculicola DC3000(pCR105) and DC3000(pCR105: avrRPM1), both resistant to kanamycin (Kan⁺) and rifampicin (Rif⁺) (Debener et al., 1991; Grant et al., 1995) and virulent and avirulent on Columbia, respectively, were stored as glycerol stocks at -80° C and working plates on King's B agar (King et al., 1954) containing 50 μ g mL⁻¹ Rif and 30 μ g mL⁻¹ Kan prepared 48 h before inoculation of liquid shake cultures (King's B with Rif and Kan) and cultivation at 28°C 250 rpm on an orbital shaker overnight. Inoculum was prepared by harvesting cells from shake culture by centrifugation (700g for 5 min) and resuspending and washing the pellets two times in 10 mM MgSO₄ and resuspending in 10 mM MgSO₄ for inoculation. The concentration of cells was adjusted to 5 \times 10⁷ and 1 \times 10⁵ cfu mL⁻¹, respectively, for the inducing and challenge inoculations. Bacteria were infiltrated locally into one leaf half under pressure using a 1-mL syringe without a needle. The other one-half of the leaf lamina was marked with a spot from an "Edding" permanent marker pen.

Leaf Treatments with 3-AT, [¹⁴C]Suc, [¹⁴C]SA, and Autoradiography

Approximately one leaf half was infiltrated with 2 mM 3-AT using a 1-mL syringe without a needle. The other half of the leaf lamina was marked with a spot from an "Edding" permanent marker pen.

To apply radiolabeled compounds, a small area of the epidermis over the central midrib of a lower rosette leaf was sliced away with a razor blade, and 20 μ L of test solution was applied to the site. In experiments with [¹⁴C-U]Suc, 20 μ L (2 μ Ci) containing 1.14 μ g of Suc dissolved in ethanol:water (2:98 [v/v]; Moravek Biochemicals, Inc., Brea, CA) was applied and in the

case of SA, 20 μ L (2 μ Ci) containing 3 μ g of SA dissolved in methanol (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis). At 6, 24, and 48 h after application of radionuclides, rosette leaves were detached and laid out systematically on a phosphor imaging plate and scanned using an FLA3000 (Fuji, Tokyo) fluorescent image analyzer. Results were recorded photographically and quantified using the manufacturer's integration software. Experiments with [¹⁴C] compounds were repeated twice and with 3-AT three times.

PR1 Transcript Determination

Leaves (five per treatment, approximately 0.5 g) were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen, ground to a powder, and resuspended in 300 µL of RNA extraction buffer (10 mм EDTA and 100 mм LiCl in 100 mм Tris/HCl [pH 8] to which 300 µL of Tris/HCl [pH 8]-saturated phenol was added immediately and the sample vortexed to mix the phases). The mixture was extracted (300 µL of 24:1 [v/v] chloroform:isoamyl alcohol) and centrifuged repeatedly in a microfuge until no more denatured protein was visible at the interface. The upper, aqueous phase was removed and 0.25 volumes of 10 м LiCl was added before overnight incubation at 4°C to precipitate the RNA. The precipitate was collected by centrifugation (14,000 rpm in a microfuge), the pellet was redissolved in 250 µL of diethyl pyrocarbonate-treated water and reprecipitated in 0.3 M sodium acetate with ethanol. The pellet collected after centrifugation was redissolved in 20 µL of diethyl pyrocarbonatetreated water, and the concentration was determined spectrophotometrically (Sambrook et al., 1989). RNA was separated electrophoretically under denaturing conditions (formaldehyde) in 1.2% (w/v) agarose gels according to standard protocols (Sambrook et al., 1989). After capillary blotting, RNA gel blots were hybridized overnight at 65°C with 3,000 μCi [α-32P]dCTPlabeled Arabidopsis PR1 probe (prepared with a Decalabel kit from MBI-Fermentas, St. Leon-Rot, Germany). After hybridization, blots were washed to a final stringency of 0.1% (w/v) SDS in 0.2 \times SSC at 65°C, wrapped in plastic foil, and autoradiographed at -80°C using enhancer screens and Hyperfilm MP (Amersham Biosciences, Freiburg, Germany).

SA Determination

SA was extracted and quantified after the modified method of Meuwly and Métraux (1993). Leaf material (50-200 mg) was ground in liquid nitrogen and resuspended in 0.7 mL of 90% (v/v) methanol, to which 500 pmol o-anisic acid had been added as a recovery and internal standard. After addition of 1.4 mL of 100% methanol, the sample was centrifuged (14,000 rpm in a microfuge), and the methanol was removed in a speedvac at 43°C. The residue was brought up to 1 mL with 5% (v/v) trichloroacetic acid on ice and divided into two 500-µL aliquots. One aliquot was used to measure free SA, and the other was hydrolyzed by adding $70 \ \mu L$ of concentrated HCl (12 M) and heating at 96°C for 60 min. The above aliquots were partitioned twice against 1 mL of ethylacetate:cyclohexane:isopropanol (50:50:0.5 [v/v]), the organic phase was taken to dryness in the speedvac, and the residue was redissolved in 200 µL of methanol for HPLC analysis. A sample (20 µL) was chromatographed under isocratic conditions with water:methanol:acetic acid (45:50:5 [v/v]) at 0.8 mL min⁻¹ using an LG-980-02 fitted with an FP920 fluorescence detector (Jasco, Gross-Umstadt, Germany) set at excitation and detection wavelengths of 313 and 405 nm, respectively. The results of a single representative experiment are shown.

SAR

To assess SAR induction, bacterial growth was measured in test leaves by re-isolating bacteria and plating out on selective antibiotic-containing medium. Half leaves were infiltrated with DC3000 cells in 10 mM MgSO₄ (10⁵ cfu), and plants were returned to the growth chamber until sampling. Leaf discs (5-mm diameter) were cut from infected leaves using a cork borer and were ground using a mortar and pestle in 10 mM MgSO₄. A series of 10-fold dilutions was prepared in 10 mM MgSO₄, and aliquots were plated out on King's B (50 μ g mL⁻¹ Rif and 30 μ g mL⁻¹ Kan) and incubated at 28°C. Experiments were repeated three times.

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