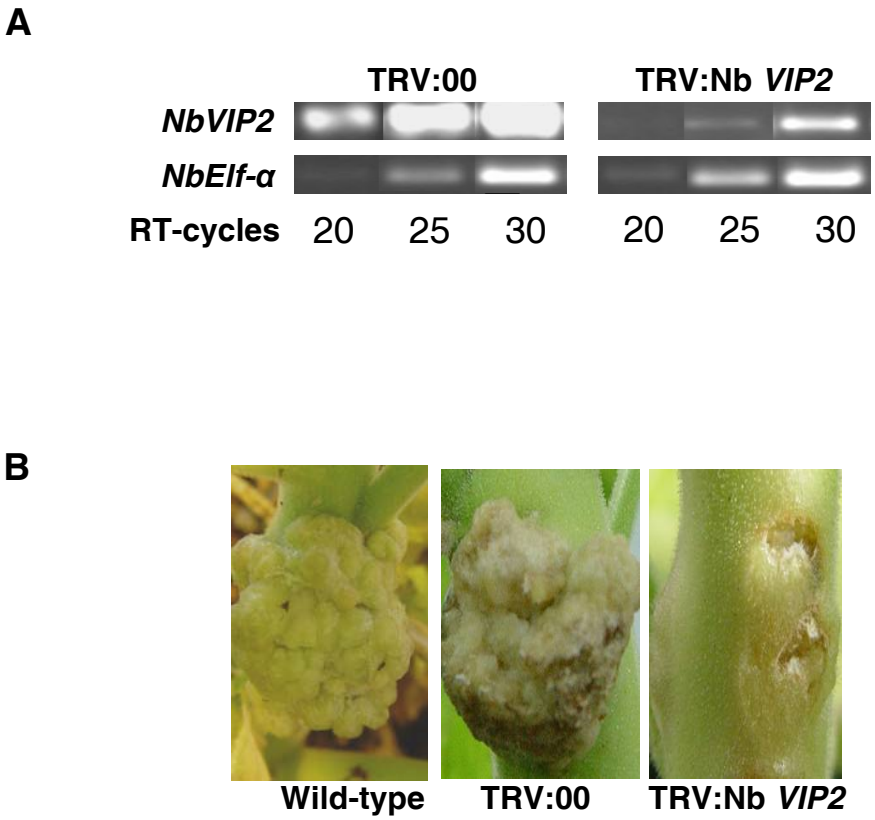

Supplemental Figure S3. (A) Semi-quantitative RT-PCR analyses confirm the silencing of Nb *VIP2* expression in the silenced plants. Total RNA was extracted from the leaf tissues three weeks post-TRV inoculation and was subjected to RT-PCR. PCR products were subjected to electrophoreses on an agarose gel, stained with ethidium bromide and photographed. PCR products for elongation factor 1-α (Nb *Elfα*) were used as a loading control for the RT-PCR amplification. **(B)** *In planta* tumor assays. A fragment corresponding to *N. benthamiana VIP2* gene was cloned into pTRV*2* and two-week old seedlings of *N. benthamiana* were agroinfiltrated with pTRV1 and pTRV2:Nb *VIP2*. The stems of the gene-silenced plants (Nb *VIP2*), TRV:00 inoculated and no virus inoculated plants (wild-type) were inoculated, with strain A348 (contains octopine type Ti plasmid) 3-wks post-TRV inoculation. Tumors on shoots were scored after four weeks of *Agrobacterium* infection. Smaller tumors and in some cases no tumors were detected in the Nb *VIP2* silenced plants in comparison to the TRV::00 and control plants**.**