

Nicotiana otophora **sequences mapped to the tobacco linkage group 14.**

Enlarged tobacco linkage group 14 showing the percentage of the genome for which more bases are covered by sequence identity to *N. otophora* (green) than to *N. sylvestris* (blue) or *N. tomentosiformis* (red).

GO term enrichment in *N. tabacum* **TN90 leaf tissue, relative to root tissue.**

The circles are shaded based on significance level. GO terms represented by the white nodes are not significantly overrepresented, and nodes without labeling are enriched in root and are included here to ease comparison with Supplementary Figure 3. The radius of each circle denotes the number of genes in each category.

GO term enrichment in *N. tabacum* **TN90 root tissue, relative to leaf tissue.**

The circles are shaded based on significance level. GO terms represented by the white nodes are not significantly overrepresented, and nodes without labeling are enriched in leaf and are included here to ease comparison with Supplementary Figure 2. The radius of each circle denotes the number of genes in each category.

Classical tobacco pathways

a, Alkaloid pathway in *N. tabacum*. b, Glutamate/aspartate pathway in *N. tabacum*.

Putative steroidal alkaloids biosynthesis genes from Nicotiana genomes mapped to the syntenic regions on chromosomes 7 and 12 of *Solanum lycopersicum***.** Gene families are indicated by colored arrows, a hatch pattern is used in the case of partial mapping. The arrowheads represent the direction of transcript in *S. lycopersicum*. The numbers above the arrows indicate the linkage group from the tobacco genetic map for the gene, and black lines above the arrows group genes located on the same sequencing scaffold. G, GAME.

Total free amino acids in green leaves of Burley, Flue-cured and Oriental tobacco.

Error bars indicate the standard deviation on a sample size of N=5 field replicates Burley (TN90: 10.4 ± 4.2 mg/g), Flue-cured (K326: 2.8 ± 0.8 mg/g), and Oriental (Basma Xanthi: 4.6 ± 0.9 mg/g).

PVY resistance in *N. tabacum* **varieties.** Detection by PCR amplification of eIF4E gene family from genomic DNA isolated from tobacco varieties either PVY resistant (Virgin A mutante (VAM) and TN90) or PVY susceptible (K326 and Basma Xanthi (Basma)), as well as the DNA of the two species related to tobacco ancestors *N. sylvestris* (Syl) and *N. tomentosiformis* (Tom). Gels for each eIF4E gene family member are stacked. The marker sizes are given in bases.

Supplementary Table 1: Reference sequences mapped to the tobacco genomes with at least 80% coverage

Supplementary Table 2: Tobacco genome repeat analysis

Over 70% of the sequenced genomes are repeat elements, with gypsy-like long terminal repeats (LTRs) representing about 20% of repeats and copia-like LTRs representing 13–15%. A smaller fraction of transposons was observed in Oriental (1.6%) compared with other varieties, eventually due to an assembly induced bias. Differences in repeat superfamilies were previously reported among *Nicotiana* species genomes; however, no significant deviations were found between *N. tabacum* and its ancestral species, which could be because of our broader definition of repeat superfamilies.

Supplementary Table 3: RNA-Seq read mapping statistics

Supplementary Table 4: Transcriptome statistics

amino acids and annotated with InterProScan

Supplementary Table 6: Alkaloid pathway in *N. tabacum*

R: root; L: leaf. Columns 3–8 give the average FPKM of three biological replicates.

Columns 10–13 give the measured Affymetrix $log₂$ expression

Supplementary Table 7: Differential gene expression significance of alkaloid

pathway in *N. tabacum*

Log 2 fold change between leaf and root, and the associated adjusted significance value, as

calculated using Cuffdiff (version 2.0.2) and HTSeq/DESeq (version 0.5.3/1.6.1**)**

Supplementary Table 8: Glutamate/Aspartate pathway in *N. tabacum*

Columns 3–5 give the average FPKM of three biological replicates in leaves.

Columns 7-10 give the measured Affymetrix $log₂$ expression. n.a., not available.

Supplementary Table 9: Expression of *eIF4E1* **gene in tobacco leaves and roots**

Average FPKM from RNA-seq triplicates.

R: root; L: leaf; n.g.: no gene.

Supplementary Table 10: DNA sequencing libraries

Supplementary Table 11: Mate-pair sequencing libraries from related Nicotiana

species

Supplementary Table 12: Number of ``tomato and potato proteins from each

chromosome mapped to tobacco linkage groups

Supplementary Table 13: PCR primers pairs used in *eIF4* **gene family diagnostic**

Supplementary Note 1: Alkaloid pathway

In Supplementary Table 6, the number of gene copies involved in the synthesis of nicotine (Supplementary Figure 4A) is presented, together with their affiliation to the genome of the ancestors *N. tomentosiformis* (T) and *N. sylvestris* (S) and RNA-seq data (mean of three replicates in root and leaf). On the right, transcript data were also compared with the root and leaf of BU-V5 and FC-V21, based on specific probes, exactly as reported by Martin *et al* 1 [.](#page-35-0) Investigations of CNVs in the alkaloid pathways showed that, in general, the number of gene isoforms in the three *N. tabacum* varieties corresponds to the sum of genes inherited from the ancestors *N. tomentosiformis* (T) or *N[.](#page-35-1) sylvestris* $(S)^2$.

For instance, seven *BBL* gene copies (three T and four S) were found in the tobacco genome. Phylogenetic diagnostics show that these can be structured as three pairs of gene isoforms, plus an additional duplicated gene for *BBL2*, namely *BBL2-S-2*. Interestingly, Flue-cured tobacco (K326) most likely lost two *QPT* copies originating from *N. sylvestris*, which may affect the oxidative deamination of Nmethylputrescine in K326. In addition, we found that a fifth *PMT* gene exists in tobacco which is possibly a duplication of *PMT4*[3](#page-35-2) . For the sake of clarity, we did not change the numbering of PMTs, but added their ancestral origin (S or T) to the former Uniprot annotation. The existence of five *PMTs* is in accordance with the identification of two and three genes in the *N. tomentosiformis* and *N. sylvestris* ancestors, respectivel[y](#page-35-1)². Although *PMT2* sequences identified in the three BX, K326, and TN90 *N. tabacum* genomes were only partial, sequencing data from other tobacco varieties (data not shown) and RNA-seq data clearly confirmed that *PMT2* can be annotated as a full sequence expressed in the roots of these three tobacco varieties (Supplementary Table 6), as published by Biastoff *et al*³[.](#page-35-2)

Concerning *CYP82E* sequences, five S copies and two T copies were clearly identified in *N. tabacum*, although the last one (*NND1*) was difficult to assign to a definite S or T ancestor. Nevertheless, eight *CYP82E* copies were found in total within these three tobacco accessions, which is in accordance with Sierro *et a[l](#page-35-1)*².. Interestingly, phylogenetic comparisons indicate that *CYP82E10* branched with *CYP82E5v2* as corresponding homoeologous S and T tobacco ancestors. In our data set, only one E4 isoform corresponding to *CYP82E4v2* was found in the BX, K326, and TN90 *N. tabacum* genome, with *CYP82E4v1* not represented as a distinct loci. We postulate that *CYP82E4v2* is a unique gene and that *CYP82E4v1* was artificially generated by changes introduced by PCR primer sequences, as described in Siminszky *et a[l](#page-35-3)*⁴.

As nicotine is synthesized in the roots and then translocated to the upper part of the leaves where it functions as an antiherbivore chemical, most of the gene accessions linked to the alkaloid pathway have to be actively expressed within the roots^{[5](#page-35-4)}. Based on RNA-seq data (Supplementary Table 6 and Supplementary Table 7), we confirmed that most of the genes are transcribed in the roots, except for *BBL3.S* and *BBL3.T*, *MPO2.S*, and *NND4-T*. In our experimental conditions, *BBL3.S*, *BBL3.T*, and *MPO2.S* were weakly or not at all expressed in the leaf, suggesting that they were either expressed in other tissues or present as pseudogenes. However, it is not surprising to find a lack of E4 gene expression in green leaves and roots, since *NND4- T* is specifically and strongly up-regulated during leaf senescence^{[6,](#page-35-5) [7](#page-35-6)}.

We observed that *PMTs*, *A622*, and most of the *BBLs* are exclusively expressed within the roots, so appear to be mainly devoted to alkaloid biosynthesis and regulated by *NIC* loci^{[8](#page-35-7)}. Nevertheless, some transcripts from AO , QPT , QS , and *MPO* genes were also detected in leaf, suggesting the presence of metabolic functions

different from alkaloid synthesis[.](#page-36-0) Confirming this hypothesis, Macho *et al.*⁹ recently reported the presence of a chloroplastic AO (*FIN4*) catalyzing an irreversible step in the *de novo* biosynthesis of *nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide* (NAD). In addition, Shoji and Hashimoto^{[10](#page-36-1)} and Ryan *et al*.^{[11](#page-36-2)} reported the expression of *QPT1* and *QPT2* within leaf tissues, although did not reveal their possible functions. The product of AO activity, α-iminosuccinate, is condensed with glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate and cyclized to produce quinolinic acid by quinolinate synthase (QS). Therefore, it is not surprising that *QS* is expressed in leaves since it is needed by other metabolic activities for the *de novo* synthesis of NAD from Asp^{[12](#page-36-3)}. Interestingly, the *Arabidopsis* QS mutant *old5* exhibits early developmental senescence triggered by cellular redox reactions^{[13](#page-36-4)}. *MPOs* are known to be less tightly regulated by *NIC* loci than the above-mentioned genes^{[14](#page-36-5)}. They belong to a subclass of diamine oxidases reported to exhibit activities in tobacco leaf^{[15](#page-36-6)}. This subclass may also include the products of the genes *MPO3.S* and *MPO3.T*, which do not contribute to the oxidative deamination of N-methylputrescine as this chemical compound is not abundant in tobacco leaf^{[16](#page-36-7)}. According to our data, *CYP82E5v2* and *CYP82E10* expression occurs in both green leaves and roots, although preferentially in the latter, and is not confined to one tissue type[17,](#page-36-8) [18](#page-37-0). This is not surprising since both genes originated from *N. tomentosiformis* and *N. sylvestris* (see above).

The observed RNA-seq expression is supported by gene-specific probes in Affymetrix expression profiles of a Burley (BU-V5) and a Flue-cured variety of tobacco (FC-V21) under different growth conditions¹[.](#page-35-0) This observation attests to the conservation of transcripts involved in the alkaloid biosynthesis pathway, although elements of the pathway are sensitive to the stress response. Notably, no Affymetrix probes were identified for *QPT1.S* and *QPT2.S* because probe sequences were

designed for TGI sequences from Hicks Broadleaf, a Flue-cured tobacco genetically similar to K326, in which the corresponding sequence could not be identified (see above text).

Supplementary Note 2: Glutamate/aspartate pathway

Tobacco types differ with respect to their nitrogen fertilizer needs for growth and yield (biomass per unit of applied nitrogen). Thus, Burley tobacco requires more nitrogen fertilizer than Flue-cured or Oriental tobacco. Consequently, Flue-cured tobaccos are considered low-biomass cultivars compared with Burley^{[19](#page-37-1)} and contain less total nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen, total alkaloids, free amino acids, and some protein $components²⁰$ $components²⁰$ $components²⁰$. With the exception of proline, which varies between tobacco varieties and is dependent on drought and irrigation treatments^{[21](#page-37-3)}, glutamate (Glu) and aspartate (Asp) are the amino acids that differ the most in green leaves between Burley and Flue-cured^{[22](#page-37-4)}. We repeated the amino acid analyses in TN90, K326, and BX grown under typical agricultural practices for each variety. Total free amino acids in green leaves were higher in Burley (TN90: 10.4 ± 4.2 mg/g, N=5) than in Flue-cured (K326: 2.8 ± 0.8 mg/g, N=5) and Oriental (BX: 4.6 ± 0.9 mg/g, N=5) (Supplementary Figure 6), and Burley tobacco had a higher content of glutamate (Glu), glutamine (Gln), and aspartate (Asp). The reason for the strong nitrogen requirement of Burley tobacco is unknown, but may derive from acquired genetic variations^{[23](#page-37-5)}, which could affect key enzymes of the nitrate assimilation pathway as well as other routes involved in nitrate uptake, translocation, and storage within the tobacco plants.

Amino acid synthesis requires nitrogen assimilation within a carbon skeleton form, ammonium being the nitrogen donor and α-ketoglutarate the carbon acceptor. This essential step is achieved via a key metabolic activity starting within the chloroplast, the GS/GOGAT pathway (Supplementary Figure 4B), which produces glutamate and glutamine^{[24](#page-37-6)}. For further transport, storage and conversion to other amino acids, additional steps are catalyzed by asparagine synthetase (AS) and aspartate amino transferase (AAT). This ensures the synthesis of asparagine and

aspartate, with asparaginase (AG) and glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH) functioning as asparagine and glutamate catabolic enzymes, respectively. In Supplementary Table 8, the potential series of tobacco genes encoding enzymes involved in the nitrogen assimilation into amino acids is shown together with gene isoforms and their affiliation to the genome of *N. tomentosiformis* (T) and *N. sylvestris* (S) ancestors, leaf RNA-seq data (mean of three replicates), and Affymetrix data from the pairs BU-V5– FC-V21 and TN90–K326 cultivated in the greenhouse¹[.](#page-35-0) Oriental tobacco was not included in the Affymetrix data set or alkaloid analyses because its field growing conditions are difficult to mimic in the greenhouse.

The GS tobacco sub-family is composed of four pairs of genes that originated from *N. tomentosiformis* (T) and *N. sylvestris* (S) ancestors. The cytosolic isoforms (GS1) of these, corresponding to Gln1-3 and Gln1-5, are known as GS1.T-GS1.S and GS4.T-GS4.S, respectively. Phylogenetic diagnostics reveal that GS2.S and GS2.T are also cytosolic isoforms, whereas GS3.S and GS3.T are chloroplastic isoforms. Interestingly, the eight GS isoforms are present in the three tobacco varieties of this study and are expressed at similar levels in leaf tissues. The chloroplastic isoforms GS2 and Fd-GOGAT^{[25](#page-37-7)} have major roles in the GS/GOGAT pathway, while GS1 and NADH-GOGAT are the cytosolic isoforms of glutamine synthetase and glutamate synthase, respectively. Gene expression of the former is notably influenced by plant growth conditions and sampling time.

Similarly, *GS1.S* is poorly expressed in fully expanded green leaves (Affymetrix data) compared with *GS1.T*, whereas both genes are expressed at comparable levels in the leaves of young axenically grown plants (see RNA-seq data, Supplementary Table 8). Conversely, *GS2.S* and *GS2.T* are strongly expressed in fully expanded leaves (Affymetrix data), but are weakly expressed in *in vitro* cultivated

plants (RNA-seq data), indicating that *GS* isoforms are differentially expressed in plants at different growing stages. *GS4.S* and *GS4-T*, which correspond to *Gln1-5*, are strongly expressed in senescent leaf tissues^{[25](#page-37-7)}, but weakly expressed in green leaves (Supplementary Table 8). *GS3.S* and *GS3.T* are strongly expressed in leaf tissue in accordance with their chloroplastic localization (as predicted by WoLF PSORT^{[26](#page-37-8)}), although they were identified as gene fragments in K326 and TN90.

Glutamate dehydrogenase (GDH) is a ubiquitous enzyme that catalyzes the reversible amination of 2-oxoglutarate to glutamate. It is composed of α and β subunits randomly associated within complex isoenzyme profiles^{[27](#page-38-0)}. Eight *GDH* subunit gene pairs were identified in the tobacco genome. With the exception of *GDH2.S*, most GDH isoforms are not strongly expressed in leaves. This supports the function of GDH in plant cells, which is glutamate deamination within the dark^{[28](#page-38-1)} and in root tissues 29 29 29 .

Asparagine (ASN) is the major transport compound in plants, particularly for nitrogen recycling from source to sink leaves^{[30](#page-38-3)}. One major site for asparagine synthetase activity is apparently close to vascular tissues (phloem companion cellsieve element complex) where *ASN*, *GS1*, and *GOGAT* genes are co-expressed^{[31](#page-38-4)}. In *Arabidopsis*, three ASN genes have been clearly identified: *ASN1*, *ASN2*, and *ASN3*. This compares with eight in tobacco: (1) two pairs similar to *ASN1*, *ASN1-S* and *ASN1-T*, and *ASN5-S* and *ASN5-T*, (2) *ASN2-S-1* and *ASN2-S-2* genes from the same tobacco ancestor and similar to both *ASN2* and *ASN3*, and (3) *ASN3-S* and *ASN4* genes that do not appear to be affiliated with a corresponding gene in *N tomentosiformis* or *N. sylvestris*. All these genes are expressed in leaves but with different levels of intensity. Asparaginase (AG) catalyzes the hydrolysis of asparagine to yield aspartate and ammonia^{[30](#page-38-3)}. Very limited AG activities were detected in leaves

of both the *in vitro* cultivated plant leaves (RNA-seq data) and mature green leaves (Affymetrix data), with the exception of *AG2-T* in the *in vitro* cultivated plant leaves. This is to be expected since the transcript levels of the two closest asparaginase genes from *Arabidopsis*, *ASPGA1* and *ASPGB1*, are highest in sink tissues, especially in early developing flowers and siliques, but not in source leaves^{[32](#page-38-5)}. Genetic comparison reveals that the *AG3* genes are similar to *ASPGB1*, and that *AG1* and *AG2* genes are similar to *ASPGA1* of *Arabidopsis*.

Aspartate aminotransferase (AAT) plays a crucial role in the metabolic regulation of carbon and nitrogen metabolism in all organisms. In eukaryotes, it is involved in the interchange of carbon and nitrogen pools between subcellular compartments. The reloading of the aspartate pool is essential to ensure asparagine production and nitrogen remobilization via ASN[33](#page-38-6). Four S and T gene pairs (*AAT1– AAT4*) and one single gene (*AAT5*) belong to the AAT gene family, although the *AAT5* isoform does not appear to be present in K326. By analogy with *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the cellular localization of the resulting tobacco AAT isoenzymes are likely to be in the cytosol (AAT1, AAT2), chloroplast (AAT3) or mitochondria (AAT4, AAT5) 34 .

Our dataset suggests that glutamate/aspartate pathway is close between Burley and Flue-cured tobacco, since no additional gene copies of the key players GS and GOGAT were found in Burley compared with Flue-cured tobacco, and because gene expression profiles were comparable between both tobacco varieties. This is also true for the four other gene families involved in the GS/GOGAT cycle, namely *AAT*, *AG*, *ASN*, and *GDH*, with the exception of the *AAT5* isoform that is absent from K326. As such, gene expression does not differ within the full GS/GOGAT pathway, the origin

of the high nitrogen demand of Burley tobacco does not seem to be linked to gene alteration within the GS/GOGAT pathway, with the exception of the *AAT5* gene.

Supplementary Note 3: Disease resistance

Because the symptoms of TVMV, TEV, and PVY are very similar, it is usually impossible to distinguish between these diseases without performing serological assays^{[35](#page-38-8)}. The first tobacco varieties developed with partial resistance conferred by the single recessive factor *va* assigned to chromosome $E^{36, 37}$ $E^{36, 37}$ $E^{36, 37}$ $E^{36, 37}$ were, however, susceptible to other disease because of the lack of trichome exudates^{[38](#page-39-2)}. "TN86" was the first Burley variety to produce normal trichome secretions and not to exhibit the insect susceptibility normally seen in PVY-resistant breeding lines registered in the US^{39} US^{39} US^{39} . Some years later, a sister line of TN86 sharing the same resistance pattern for TVMV, TEV, and PVY was developed and released under the variety name "TN90" by $\text{Miller}^{40}.$ $\text{Miller}^{40}.$ $\text{Miller}^{40}.$

Supplementary Note 4: Historical description of tobacco varieties

K326 (TC 319 or PI 552505) is a Flue-cured tobacco developed by Novartis Seeds, Inc., that was registered in the US Plant Variety Protection Office under the certificate number 008300070 in 1983. It is known for its high quality and ease of processing, and remains one of the most important Flue-cured tobaccos worldwide. However, it has only a low level of resistance to black shank and Granville wilt, is susceptible to mosaic, but demonstrates resistance to root-knot nematodes.

TN90 (TC 586 or PI 543792) is one of the most successful Burley tobacco varieties grown worldwide. It was developed by R. D. Miller at the University of Tennessee and was registered in 1990. Its success was due to a high level of resistance to several diseases such as TMV, TVMV, PVY, *Thielaviopsis basicola*, and *Pseudomonas tabaci*, and it is moderately resistant to tobacco etch potyvirus (TEV) and races 0 and 1 of *Phytophthora nicotianae* var. *parasitica*.

Basma Xanthi (inventory number BX 2a) is an Oriental tobacco from Xanthi in northeastern Greece. It is thought to be a descendent of old local varieties following hybridization and breeding. It is actively used in plant research and molecular farming.

SUPPLEMENTARY REFERENCES

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