

Enhanced Boron Tolerance in Plants Mediated by Bidirectional Transport Through Plasma Membrane Intrinsic Proteins

Kareem A. Mosa^{1,2,3}, Kundan Kumar^{1,4}, Sudesh Chhikara¹, Craig Musante⁵, Jason C. White⁵ and Om Parkash Dhankher^{1*}

¹Stockbridge School of Agriculture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA.

²Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

³Department of Applied Biology, College of Science, Sharjah University, P.O. Box 27272, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

⁴Department of Biological Sciences, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, K. K. Birla Goa Campus, Goa 403726, India.

⁵Department of Analytical Chemistry, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT 06504-1106, USA

* **Corresponding author:** Om Parkash Dhankher (Email: parkash@umass.edu)

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure S1

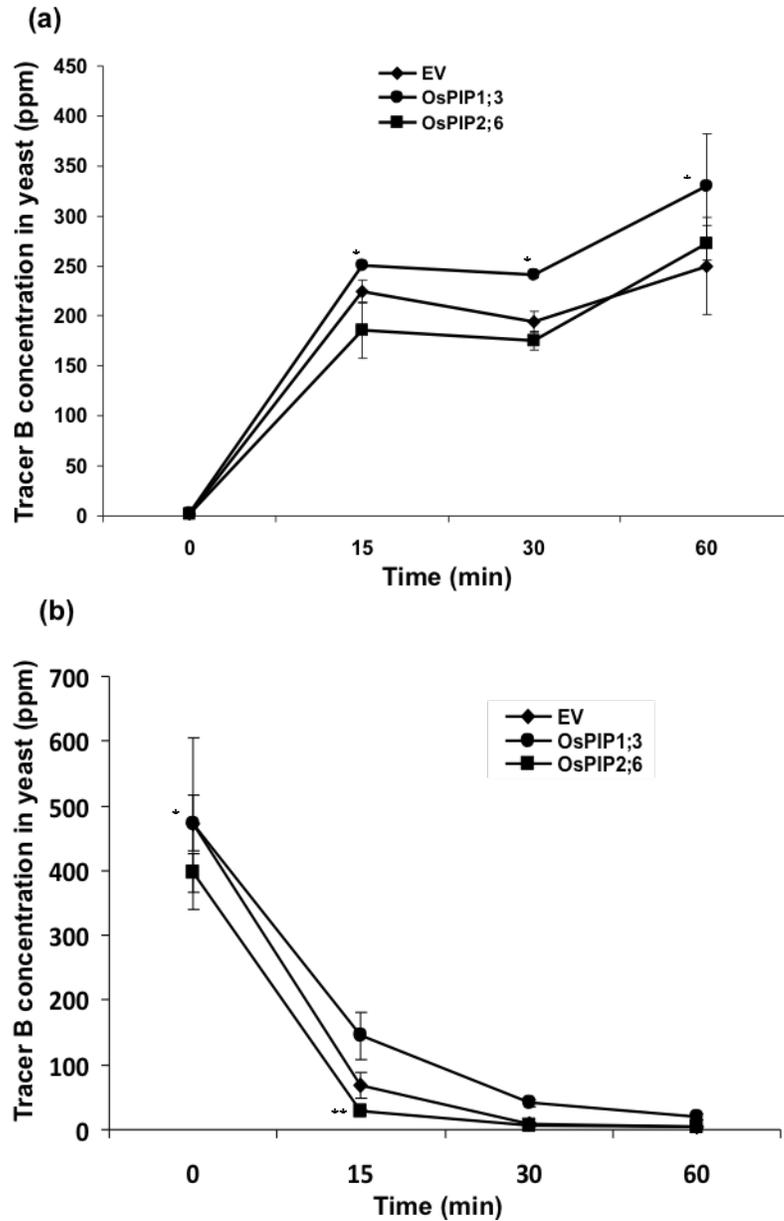


Fig. S1 Short-term assay for influx and efflux activity of OsPIP1;3 and OsPIP2;6 in *S. cerevisiae* HD9 strain ($\Delta fsp1\Delta acr3\Delta ycf1$). (a) Concentration of tracer B (^{10}B) in the HD9 mutant yeast cells harboring the empty pYES3 plasmid (EV) or plasmids expressing t-OsPIP1;3 and t-OsPIP2;6 for short duration exposure to ^{10}B for 0, 15, 30 and 60 minutes (influx). (b) Concentration of ^{10}B in the HD9 mutant yeast cells harboring the empty pYES3 plasmid (EV) or plasmids expressing OsPIP1;3 and OsPIP2;6 after re-suspension in B free media for 0, 15, 30 and 60 minutes (efflux). Data are means \pm S.D (n=3), (*) P<0.05.

Supplementary Figure S2

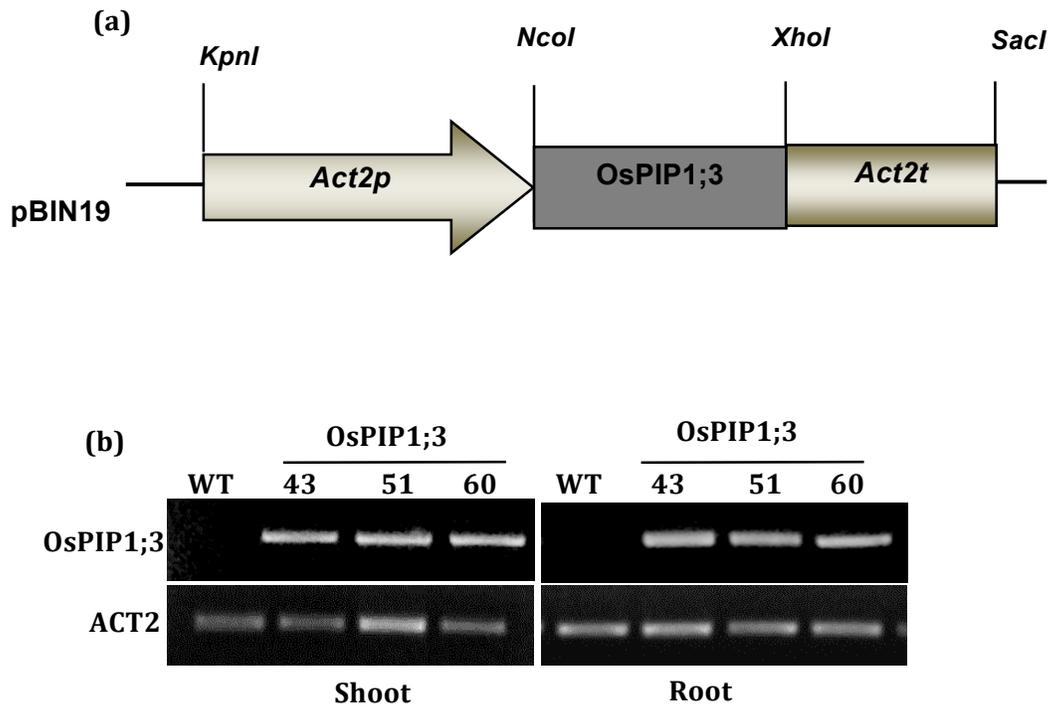


Fig. S2 Overexpression of OsPIP1;3 in *Arabidopsis*, map of overexpression construct, and RT-PCR analysis in transgenic lines. (a) Diagrams of OsPIP1;3 construct cloned under *actin2* promoter-terminator cassette (*ACT2pt*) in the binary vector pBIN19 for plant transformation. (b) Transcript level of OsPIP1;3 in the transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines 43, 51 and 60 in comparison with wild type control (WT). Transcriptional levels were determined using a semi-quantitative RT-PCR. *Actin2* gene (ACT2; lower panels) was used as a control.

Supplementary Figure S3

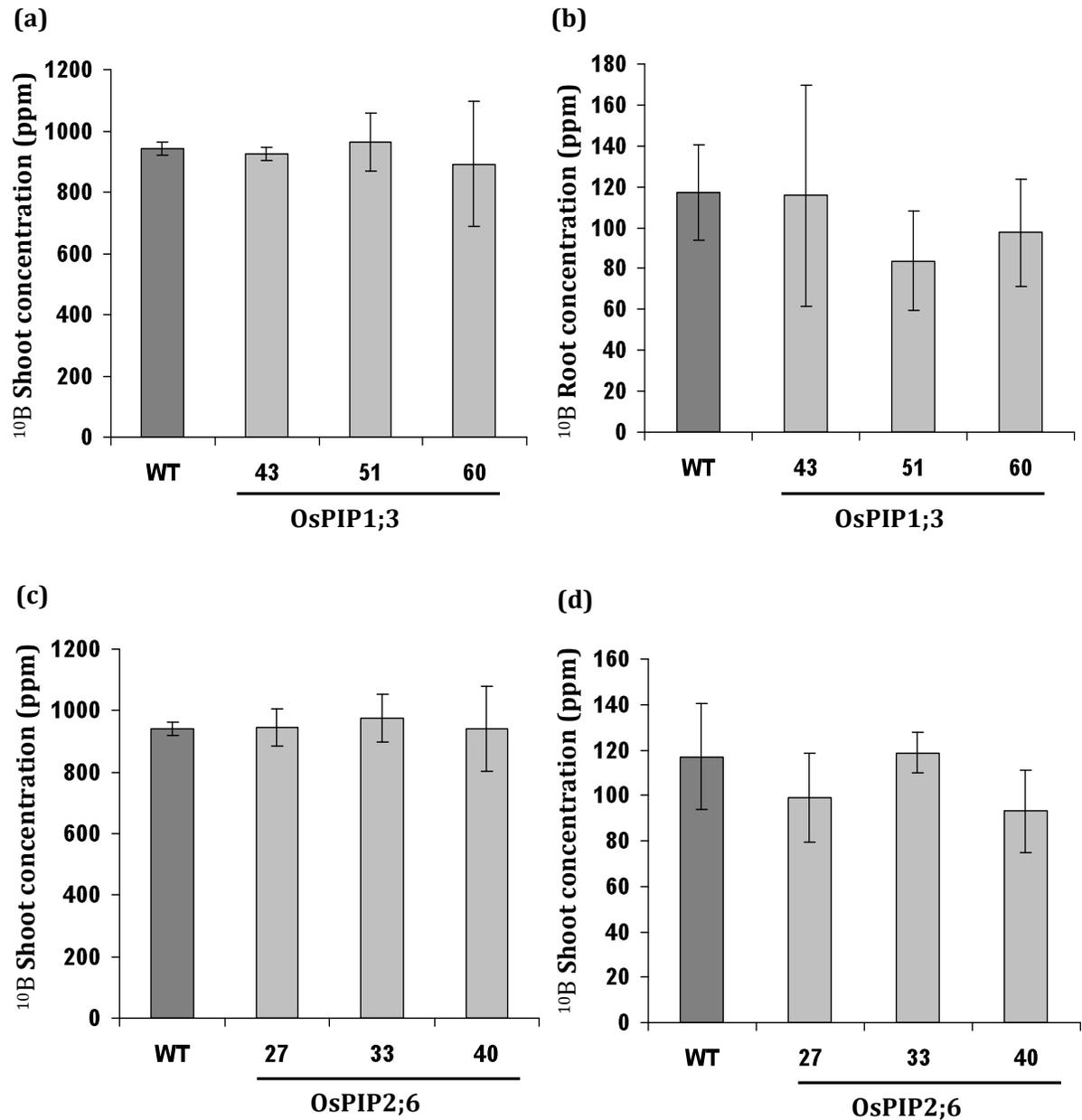


Fig. S3 Analysis of ^{10}B accumulation in the transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines expressing OsPIP1;3 and OsPIP2;6. ^{10}B concentration in (a) shoot and (b) root in the transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines 43, 51, and 60 overexpressing OsPIP1;3 in comparison with wild type (WT). ^{10}B concentration in (c) shoot and (d) in the transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines 27, 33, and 40 overexpressing OsPIP2;6 in comparison with wild type (WT). The average and standard error (SE) values are shown for three replicates of 25 plants each for WT and transgenic *Arabidopsis* lines.

Supplementary Figure S4

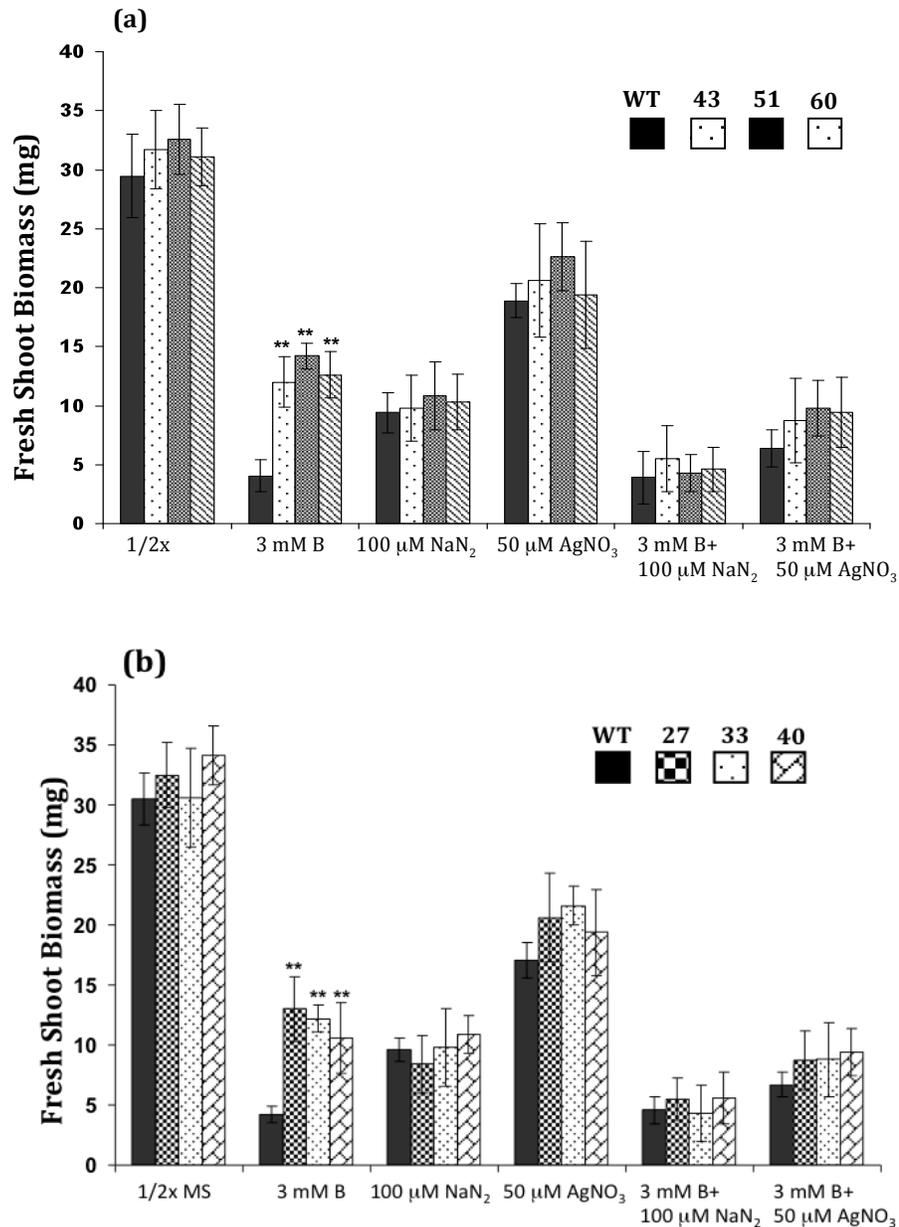


Fig. S4 Fresh shoot weight of *Arabidopsis* expressing OsPIP1;3 and OsPIP2;6 on boron containing media and aquaporin transporter inhibitors. (a) Fresh shoot weight of the transgenic lines 43, 51 and 60 expressing OsPIP1;3 as compared with wild type (WT). **(b)** Fresh shoot weight of the transgenic lines 27, 33 and 40 expressing OsPIP2;6 as compared with wild type (WT). Seedlings were grown for 3 weeks on 1/2x MS medium supplemented with 0, 3 mM B, 100 μM sodium azide, 50 μM silver nitrate, 3 mM B+100 μM sodium azide, and 3 mM B+50 μM silver nitrate. The values are presented as an average of four replicates of 40 plants. The asterisks represent the significant difference in biomass accumulation and root length compared with wild type (WT) plants. (*) P<0.05. (**)