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Long-read sequencing of the coffee bean transcriptome reveals the diversity of full-length transcripts

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29 **Abstract**

30 **Background:** Polyploidization contributes to the complexity of gene expression resulting in
31 numerous related but different transcripts. This study explored the transcriptome diversity
32 and complexity of tetraploid Arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*) bean. Long-read sequencing
33 (LRS) by Pacbio Isoform sequencing (Iso-seq) was used to obtain full-length transcripts
34 without the difficulty and uncertainty of assembly required for reads from short read
35 technologies. The tetraploid transcriptome was annotated and compared with data from the
36 sub-genome progenitors. Caffeine and sucrose genes were targeted for case analysis.

37 **Findings:** An isoform-level tetraploid coffee bean reference transcriptome with 95,995
38 distinct transcripts (average 3,236 bp) was obtained. A total of 88,715 sequences (92.42%)
39 were annotated with BLASTx against NCBI non-redundant plant proteins, including 34,719
40 high quality annotations. Further BLASTn to NCBI non-redundant nucleotide sequences, *C.*
41 *canephora* coding sequences with UTR, *C.arabica* ESTs and Rfam resulted in 1,213
42 sequences without hits, were potential novel genes in coffee. Longer UTRs were captured,
43 especially in the 5'UTRs, facilitating the identification of upstream ORFs (uORFs). The LRS
44 also revealed more and longer transcript variants in key caffeine and sucrose metabolism
45 genes from this polyploid genome. Long sequences (>10kb) were poorly annotated.

46 **Conclusions:** LRS technology shows the limitation of previous studies. It provides an
47 important tool to produce a reference transcriptome including more of the diversity of full-
48 length transcripts to help understand the biology and support the genetic improvement of
49 polyploid species such as coffee.

50 **Keywords:** coffee, transcriptome, full-length cDNA, long sequences, isoform, polyploid,
51 UTR

52 **Background**

53 Polyploidy creates a complicated transcriptome with diverse transcript isoforms. As an
54 important evolutionary process in plants, polyploidization generates new species and
55 increases biodiversity [1]. A balance of genetic and biochemical features is required for the
56 polyploid to survive while carrying multiple genomes in the same nucleus [2]. Genetic
57 changes associated with the formation of polyploids include gene function, which may
58 remain unchanged, or diversification among the multiple homeologs, leading to
59 neofunctionalization, subfunctionalization, or pseudogenization [3]. Alternative splicing and
60 polyadenylation also contribute further to the diversity of transcripts [4, 5]. Additionally,
61 different 5'UTRs account for transcript variation, however, limited information is available
62 on this for most genes. This diversity may include different functional motifs, like upstream
63 open reading frames, or introns harboured in this area, influencing post-transcription
64 expression [6, 7]. All these influences contribute to the diversity and complexity of a
65 polyploid transcriptome.

66 The transcriptome represents all the genes expressed in the cell or tissue. RNA sequencing
67 (RNA-Seq) makes it possible to capture the identity of these genes. Generating a reference
68 transcriptome is essential for studying variation in expression of genes and the influence of
69 genotype or environment on their expression [8, 9]. Most studies generate a reference
70 transcriptome by short-read sequencing and reconstruct the transcriptome by the assembly
71 and/or mapping of reads to other available reference genomes [10-12]. However, this is
72 difficult for long transcripts, repetitive sequences and transposable elements. It is particularly
73 challenging for complex polyploid genomes [13]. The LRS technology (e.g. PacBio) has
74 recently become available and this technology overcomes these difficulties by generating
75 sequence information for the full length as a single sequence read, including very long
76 transcripts (*e.g.* those exceeding 10kb) without the need for further assembly. This technique

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77 has been applied in a few plant studies and provides further information on transcript
78 diversity, including alternative splicing and alternative polyadenylation [4, 5].
79 Arabica coffee is a recent allotetraploid ($2n=4x=44$; ~50,000 years old) derived from *C.*
80 *canephora* and *C. eugenioides*. A high-quality reference genome and annotation are not yet
81 available for Arabica coffee. However, a draft genome is available for one of the sub-
82 genomes, *C. canephora* [14]. Arabica coffee is highly regarded by coffee consumers, is of
83 great economic value and accounts for almost 70% of world coffee traded [15] However, it is
84 produced in limited high altitude tropical environments and is threatened by climate change.
85 Understanding the genetic and environmental control of coffee quality will be facilitated by
86 the availability of detailed knowledge of the transcriptome of the coffee bean. This study
87 used LRS by Pacbio Iso-seq to characterise the Arabica coffee bean transcriptome including
88 beans from immature, intermediate and mature stages in order to explore the complex
89 polyploid system and establish a reference transcriptome for future studies of gene
90 expression.

91 **Data Description**

92 *RNA sample preparation*

93 Fruits at different development stages (immature, intermediate and mature fruits) of *Coffea*
94 *arabica* var. K7 (Supporting Information 1 Fig. S1) were harvested from Green Cauldron
95 Coffee, Federal, Australia. Five coffee trees were selected randomly and ten coffee fruits
96 (five fruits from each of the upper and lower canopy of each tree) were collected separately
97 for each tree and each stage of development. Samples were collected in triplicate. In total,
98 450 coffee fruits (900 beans) from 15 trees were collected. Once each fruit was harvested, the
99 pericarp was removed immediately with a scalpel in 20 s or less. The coffee beans were
100 immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen, transported on dry ice and stored at -80 °C until further

101 use. Total RNA was extracted from coffee fruits as described by Furtado [16]. Equal amounts
102 of RNA from each of the 90 extractions (3 replicates of 5 trees at 2 levels in the canopy and 3
103 stages of development) were combined to provide a representative sample for sequencing to
104 generate a reference transcriptome. Afterwards, combined RNA was assessed for integrity
105 using an Agilent RNA 6000 nano kit and chips on a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies,
106 California, USA) and processed further for cDNA preparation.

107 *cDNA preparation*

108 The Pacbio Iso-seq protocol was used for cDNA preparation. cDNA was synthesised using a
109 Clontech SMARTer PCR cDNA Synthesis kit (ClonTech, Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan) and
110 amplified using a KAPA HIFI PCR kit (Kapa Biosystems, Boston, USA). The double-
111 stranded cDNA was split into two sub-samples. One was used directly for sequencing. The
112 other set was normalised to equalise transcript abundance and obtain rare sequences.

113 The cDNA was purified for normalisation using a QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen).
114 The purified cDNA was precipitated and normalised with a Trimmer-2 cDNA normalisation
115 kit (Evrogen, Moscow, Russia). The resulting cDNA was evaluated and quantified using an
116 Agilent DNA 12000 Kit and Chips on a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies, California,
117 USA). The same amount of non-normalized and normalised cDNA was used as input for
118 Pacbio Iso-seq.

119 Samples were subjected to a Pacbio Iso-Seq protocol through purification, size selection
120 (Blue Pippin system), re-amplification, SMRTbell template preparation and Iso-seq on a
121 Pacbio RS II platform. A size selection protocol was applied as smaller cDNAs are more
122 abundant and would otherwise be preferentially sequenced. Four Bluepippin bins were
123 selected for non-normalized cDNA sequencing, with size ranges of 0.5-2.5kb, 2-3.5kb, 3-
124 6.5kb and 5-10kb, respectively since Pacbio sequencing preferentially sequences short DNA

125 fragments. Two bins were selected for normalised cDNA sequencing, 2-3.5kb and 3-6.5kb, as
126 the normalisation biases against longer sequences.

127 *Raw read processing and error correction*

128 Sequence data was processed through the RS IsoSeq (version 2.3) pipeline [17]. The first step
129 was to remove adapters and artefacts to generate reads of insert (ROIs) consensus sequences.
130 Short sequences less than 300 bp were removed as the Bluepippin cDNA size selection starts
131 from 500 bp, where some sequences less than 500 bp have a chance to be sequenced. Non-
132 Chimeric ROIs sequences were filtered into two groups of sequences comprised of full-length
133 ROIs sequences and non-full length ROIs sequences. Full-length (FL) ROIs sequences were
134 identified based on the presence of the 5'-adaptor sequence, the 3' adapter sequences (both
135 used in the library preparation) and poly (A) tail. Further, FL ROIs sequences were passed
136 through the isoform-level clustering (ICE). ROI sequences were used to correct errors
137 (polish) the isoform sequences using the Quiver software module. The polishing process of
138 Quiver generated two isoform sequence files, one with high quality (HQ) isoform sequences
139 and the other with low quality (LQ) isoform sequences corresponding to an expected
140 accuracy of $\geq 99\%$ or below respectively. LQ output (or non-FL coverage sequences) is
141 useful in some cases, as it may result from rare transcripts or lower coverage sequences. And
142 these low coverage sequences can be further used to correct errors in HQ output. The Primer
143 IIA sequence motifs (used in the library preparation) which escaped removal at the ROIs
144 stage corresponded to 11 sequences were trimmed using CLC genomic workbench 9.0 (CLC,
145 QIAGEN, CLC Bio, Denmark). After combining the HQ and LQ transcripts, further
146 clustering was processed with CD-HIT-EST (c=0.99) [18].

147 In the following step, the contaminant sequences were removed by CLC stepwise as follows.

- 148 1) Chloroplast transcript sequences were identified by BLASTn to the *C.arabica* complete
- 149 chloroplast genome (GenBank: EF044213.1). 2) Mitochondrial transcripts were characterised

150 by BLASTn to *N. tabacum* and *V. vinifera* complete mitochondrial genomes (BA000042.1
151 and FM179380.1). 3) Ribosomal sequences were detected by BLASTn to the reported
152 *C.arabica*, *C.canephora* and *C. eugenoides* ribosomal genes (AJ224846, EU650386,
153 DQ153609, AF416459, EU650384, EU650385, AF542981, AF542990, JX459583,
154 JX459584, JX459585, JX459586, JX459587, DQ153593, AF542982, DQ423064,
155 DQ153588, DQ153621, AF542986). 4) Virus, viroid and prokaryote contaminants were
156 identified with BLASTn to their reference genomes from the NCBI database (April 4th,
157 2017). Prokaryotic contaminants were screened with available reference genomes from NCBI
158 (Feb 9th, 2017). 5) Fungal sequences were investigated by BLASTn to fungal proteins (April
159 4th, 2017). All the above analyses were processed one after another with a maximum E-value
160 threshold of 1e-10.

161 From the BLASTn results, significant matches were filtered with a bit score (A) ≥ 300 as
162 well as identity $\geq 80\%$. In each step, the filtered significant sequences were processed further
163 with cloud BLASTn to the NCBI non-redundant database (bit score: B) to further confirm the
164 matches. This validation step was confirmed by comparison of the bit score (comparison of
165 value A and B). If the higher bit score was associated with a contaminant sequence in the
166 BLASTn (A>B), then the sequence was discarded. In total 526 sequences corresponding to
167 chloroplastic (200), mitochondrial (264), ribosomal (37), viral (0), viroid (0), prokaryotic (0)
168 and fungal (25) contaminant sequences, respectively, were removed in this process. Sequence
169 quality was then accessed with the Fasta Statistics through Galaxy /GVL 4.0 (Galaxy,
170 RRID:SCR_006281) [19]. This set of Iso-seq processed isoforms was used for further
171 analysis and hereafter named the “Coffee long read sequencing (coffee-LRS) isoforms”. The
172 term ‘isoforms’, or ‘isoform sequence’ or ‘transcript’ used in this study represent individual
173 sequences from the coffee-LRS isoforms, while “transcript variants” indicate different
174 transcript of a gene, including alternative spliced variants, homeologs, etc.

175 *Transcriptome annotation*

176 A number of databases were used for annotation of the coffee-LRS isoforms described as
177 follows. 1) The plant Geninfo identifier (GI) list was downloaded from NCBI Protein Entrez
178 (May 2nd, 2017, 8,431,379 items). The plant proteins were retrieved from the NR database
179 using this GI list, yielding 5,099,147 sequences (NR-plant). Then, the full set of the coffee-
180 LRS isoforms was submitted to stand-alone BLASTx against the NR database below 1e-10.
181 2) Sequences without hits from step 1 were submitted further to NCBI non-redundant
182 nucleotide sequences (NT, May 5th, 2017) BLASTn at 1e-10. 3) Sequences without a hit from
183 step 2 were processed further with BLASTn (1e-20) to *C. canephora* coding sequences
184 (CDS) with UTR and *C. arabica* EST database [20, 21]. 4) The output of BLASTx was
185 filtered with query coverage (Qcovs), cumulative identity (ID) and sequence length into three
186 categories, high, medium and low quality annotation. Query coverage indicates the input
187 coffee-LRS isoforms covered by the matched sequences. Cumulative identity represents the
188 identity length to the aligned length (AL). ID can be expressed as the ratio of the sum of
189 identity length to the sum of the aligned length of all the Hsps (High-scoring Segment Pairs)
190 of a subject. The four databases above, NR plant, NT, *C. canephora* CDS with UTR and *C.*
191 *arabica* EST database, are named as FOUR databases in this manuscript. Finally, all the
192 BLASTx and BLASTn results were processed by function annotation with BLAST2GO
193 (BLAST2GO, RRID:SCR_005828) .

194 The Blast2GO Pro 4.0 (North America, US: USA2 Version: b2g_Sep 16) pipeline was based
195 on default settings [22]. InterProScan/IPS (InterProScan, RRID:SCR_005829) was used to
196 search sequence protein domains from EBI databases to improve annotation (North America,
197 US: USA2, Version: b2g_Sep 16). In the follow-up phase, Blast2GO Mapping, Annotation
198 and Annex functions were applied to retrieve GO (gene ontology) terms, select reliable
199 annotations and increase the number of annotated isoforms respectively. The GO-slim tool

200 was used against the plant database to provide plant generic GOs. Finally, GO enzyme
201 mapping and KEGG/ Kyoto encyclopaedia of genes and genomes (KEGG,
202 RRID:SCR_012773) pathway maps were loaded.

203 *Case studies with the caffeine and sucrose genes*

204 Two case studies were performed with genes encoding caffeine and sucrose biosynthesis
205 pathway (caffeine and sucrose genes) to investigate specifically the quality, advantage and
206 additional potential of the coffee-LRS isoforms. Reported coffee caffeine and sucrose
207 candidate genes were downloaded from the European Nucleotide Archive (EMBL-EBI)
208 (Table 3 and Table 4).

209 For potential caffeine candidate genes, coffee-LRS isoforms were processed with BLASTn
210 (1e-20) against the reported caffeine genes. Sequences with hits to the reported caffeine genes
211 were submitted to BLASTx (1e-20) with the NR database to confirm whether they were
212 caffeine genes (higher bit score). Confirmed transcripts (potential caffeine isoforms) and
213 sucrose isoforms annotated by Blast2GO (potential sucrose transcripts) were further
214 evaluated with Geneious 10.0.4 by aligning back to the reported candidate genes in allele
215 level [24]. Motif analysis was conducted with default parameters except for “ten motifs”
216 selected with MEME 4.11.2 [25]. UTRscan was used for UTR functional motifs annotation
217 [26].

218 *Comparison to other available coffee databases*

219 To compare with available coffee sequences, the full coffee-LRS isoforms were processed
220 with BLASTn (1e-20) to *C.canephora* CDS with UTR and *C. arabica EST database*,
221 respectively and the other way around [20, 21]. The *C. eugenioides* transcriptome (young
222 leaves and mature fruits) from Illumina was also used in the comparison [23].

223 *Novel genes*

224 Coffee-LRS isoforms without hits to the FOUR databases were submitted to the Rfam
225 database (Rfam, RRID:SCR_007891) by Blast2GO Pro package for non-coding RNA
226 analysis [27]. Sequences without hits to Rfam were probably novel genes in coffee.

227 *Analysis of long sequences*

228 In order to explore the advantage of using the LRS PacBio platform to obtain long sequences,
229 the BLASTx and BLAST2GO functional annotation result for the coffee-LRS isoforms
230 longer than 10kb were extracted from the total dataset.

231 **Analyses**

232 *Overview of full-Length RNA molecules from long-read sequencing*

233 A total of 2,618,905 raw reads were generated from LRS platform, which yielded 443,877
234 reads of insert. After 8,842 short sequences (less than 300 bp) were removed, 233,464 full-
235 length (FL) and 201,571 non-full-length (NFL) reads were generated. The individual
236 isoforms were sequenced in average five times. In total, 95,995 coffee-LRS isoforms were
237 recovered after sequences representing chloroplast, mitochondrial and ribosomal transcripts
238 were removed (Table 1). The length of the sequences in this dataset ranged from 301 bp to
239 23,335 bp, with an average length of 3,236 bp. The GC content was 41.4% and the N50 was
240 4,865 bp.

241 The BLASTx output (against NR plant) was divided into three groups, high, medium and low
242 quality based on Qcovs, ID and sequence length (Data description and Table 2). There were
243 34,719 (high), 13,655 (medium) and 40,314 (low) sequences were grouped into each quality
244 groups, respectively (supporting information 1 Table S1). Thereafter, 7,280 sequences
245 without hits were processed with BLASTn to NT database and resulting in 1,981 sequences
246 with hits. A total of 5,299 sequences without a hit were further accessed with *C. canephora*

247 CDS and UTR and *C.arabica* contigs. Finally, there were 1,217 sequences with no hits to any
248 of the above databases (FOUR databases).

249 *Functional Annotation*

250 Functional annotation of the coffee-LRS isoforms was investigated using different databases.

251 The data in Table 2 shows that 88,715 sequences (92.42%) had hits to NR plant proteins. A

252 total of 70,774 sequences (73.73%) matched to IPS protein domains with 33,605 IPS GOs

253 (35.01%). A number of 78,571 sequences (81.85%) had identified GOs. After the GOs were

254 merged, GOs of 58,050 sequences (60.47%) matched with GO-slim (plant).

255 Of all the hits to the NR plant proteins from BLASTx, the coffee-LRS isoforms (maximum

256 50 hits to each sequences) had the highest number of hits to the *Nicotiana tabacum* (tobacco,

257 174,6308 hits), followed by *C. canephora* (142,656 hits), *Vitis Vinifera* (grape, 134,025 hits)

258 and *Theobroma cacao* (cacao, 132,336 hits) proteins (supporting information 1 Figure S1).

259 Most hits found in tobacco were probably because the tobacco database is more extensive and

260 well annotated than those of other related species, like *C. canephora*. For top-hit species,

261 there is no doubt the majority of the sequences has top-hit with the progenitor, *C.canephora*

262 (73,587 sequences), followed by *Sesamum idicum* (1,321 sequences), *Nicotiana tabacum*

263 (767 sequences), etc. (supporting information Figure S2). The NR-plant database consists of

264 few proteins sequences from *Coffea arabica* as reflected by just 485 protein sequence hits and

265 is ranked seventh in the top-species hit list. This indicates the limit information on *Coffea*

266 *arabica*. Of the 33,512 sequences (34.91%) with IPS GOs, cytochrome P450 (IPR001128,

267 353 matches) had the most sequence matches among the IPS families (supporting information

268 1 Fig. S3).

269 Biological process (BP, 56,230 sequences) was more abundant than cellular component (CC,

270 44,528 sequences) and molecular function (MF, 45,604 sequences) (supporting information 1

271 Fig. S4). Within these functional groups, the highest number of sequences were annotated
272 with the biosynthetic process (11,627 sequences, 20.68%), membrane component (21,175
273 sequences, 47.55%) and transferase activity (11,921 sequences, 26.14%). A total of 156
274 pathways with 921 enzymes were annotated by KEGG, associated with 11.97% of the whole
275 dataset (11,489 sequences). Among these, starch and sucrose metabolism ranked as the fifth
276 most abundant pathways, with 36 encoding enzymes and 766 isoforms annotated (supporting
277 information 1 Fig. S5). The average number of coffee LRS isoforms encoding the 921
278 enzymes was 18 while the highest number was found in phosphatase (EC: 3.6.1.15, 2,969
279 sequences), encoding the purine metabolism and thiamine metabolism pathway. In
280 comparison, only 802 sequences were associated with 142 pathways and 374 enzymes in *C.*
281 *eugenioides* transcriptome and starch and sucrose pathway relating to 450 contigs was the
282 most encoded pathway [23].

283 The candidate genes for the major caffeine candidate genes were not identified by KEGG
284 pathway. To evaluate the annotated isoforms and their diversity, further analysis was
285 performed with caffeine pathway. The sucrose pathway was also analysed as a case study as
286 sucrose candidate genes were relatively long and highly diverse. Both of these pathways are
287 important for the understanding of coffee quality [28].

288 *Case study I: Isoform diversity in the caffeine biosynthesis pathway*

289 The caffeine pathway has been widely studied previously (Fig. 2a). Candidate genes and
290 complete coding sequences of both transcripts and genomic DNA are available in public
291 databases and can be used as well-established references for caffeine candidate gene analysis
292 (Table 3). From the BLASTn output, 25 long-read transcripts were annotated and related to
293 candidate caffeine genes. Further alignment suggests ten high quality isoforms were likely to
294 be putative caffeine genes, including three transcript variants of *XMT1*, one of *MXMT1*, one
295 of *MXMT2* together with two of *DXMT1* and three of *DXMT2*. All genes encoding caffeine

296 the primary pathway except the *XMT2* gene were present in this bean transcriptome (Fig. 2
297 and Table 3). The length distribution of these isoforms ranged between 977 and 1,517bp.
298 Importantly, all ten isoforms were extended at the 5' UTR region compared to the
299 corresponding sequences reported in Arabica and Robusta coffee (Table 3), while eight
300 isoforms were longer at the 3' end (Fig. 2b, 2c, 2e and supporting information 2 Fig. S6). The
301 most extended isoform (c695597/f1p2/1421) was 136 bp longer than the previously reported
302 candidate genes (*CaXMT1*, Fig. 2b). Nine isoforms were found to be longer than the reported
303 genomic DNA sequences. The other isoform was likely to have resulted from an alternative
304 polyadenylation event (c25904/f2p0/977, Fig. 2c) as two potential polyadenylation signals
305 (AAUAAA) were identified in the 3' UTR (Fig 2d). Alternative splicing was also presented
306 in caffeine isoforms, for example, intron retention was detected in one of the putative *DXMT2*
307 isoforms (Fig. 2e).

308 Coffee LRS isoforms encoding *XMT1* (Fig 2b), *MXMT1* (supporting information Fig. S6)
309 and *DXMT2* (Fig 2c, 2e) were better aligned to the corresponding *C.canephora* isoforms,
310 individually (higher identity, Fig. 2 and supporting information Fig. S6). This indicates these
311 transcript variants were potentially *C.canephora* sub-genome copies. In contrast, isoforms
312 encoding *XMT2* (Fig 2c), *MXMT2* (supporting information Fig. S6) and *DXMT1* (Fig 2c,
313 2e) were poorly aligned with *C. canephora* isoforms (more variants) and were probably
314 *C.eugenioides* sub-genome copies.

315 *Case study II: Long sucrose isoforms provide insight into the complexity of the polyploid* 316 *system*

317 Sucrose genes were used to investigate the transcriptome sequence diversity of the polyploidy
318 system. For the sucrose synthase 1 gene (*SSI*), one of the important genes in the sucrose
319 metabolism, nine transcript variants were identified (Fig. 3, Table 4 and Fig. 4a). Compared
320 to c86432/f7p9/4842, the other eight transcript variants varied in motif replacement (motif 7

321 replaced motif 9 in c106591/f2p0/4381), deletion (for example c92344/f1p26/4662) and
322 relocation (intron retention, c92296/f1p5/4676 and c91298/f1p1/3137), etc. (Fig. 4b). The
323 length of these nine putative *SSI* transcript variants ranged from 2,961 to 4,842 bp.
324 Importantly, all the sucrose transcript variants studied in this research were extended in the
325 5'UTR region relative to previous reports, except for *SPSI*, c51110/f2p0/3136 (Table 4).
326 Some transcript variants, such as the longest putative *SSI* sequence identified,
327 c86432/f2p7/4842 (4,842 bp), extended 2,131 bp upstream of the *C.canephora* coding
328 sequence (*G-CcSSI*) and 1,994 bp upstream of the Arabica sucrose synthase 1 mRNA coding
329 sequence (*CaSSI*). The length of the 5' leading region of the *SSI* transcript variants ranged
330 between 218 and 2,131 bp (Table 5). To understand the diversity in this region, the 5' leading
331 sequences of the nine putative *SSI* transcript variants were scanned using the UTRdb online
332 server. A maximum of 12 upstream open reading frames (uORFs) were identified and the
333 number was positively correlated with the length of the sequences. No uORFs were identified
334 in the two transcript variants with short 5'UTR, c62911/f29p21/2965 (218 bp leader
335 sequence) and c72639/f25p28/2961 (232 bp leader sequence).
336 The nine *SSI* transcript variants revealed transcript diversity that resulted largely from
337 different copies from the progenitors. When aligned to *G-CcSSI* (*C. canephora SSI* genomic
338 sequence), the top four putative *SSI* transcript variants showed high identity and consistent
339 nucleotide variants (like the guanine highlighted at 3,726 bp in the consensus sequence, Fig.
340 4c), suggesting that these were copies from the *C. canephora* sub-genome. For example,
341 compared to the consensus sequence, the same indels were present in 3,707bp and 3,733bp, a
342 cytosine at 3,713bp and guanine at 3,715bp, etc. Consistently, the sequence of intron
343 retention in one of the top four sequences, c91298/f1/p1/3137 (Fig. 4d) shows high homology
344 to the intron sequence of *C. canephora*. However, the bottom five transcript variants had a
345 higher number of variations compared to *G-CcSSI* that are likely to be *C. eugenioides* sub-

346 genome derived copies. The lower five transcripts had lots of variations compared to
347 *C.canephora* intron 10, further indicating this group was from a different copy, probably *C.*
348 *eugenioides* (Fig. 4e). Additionally, some alleles of *G-CcSSI* were common in nine putative
349 Arabica *SSI* transcript variants and Arabica sucrose synthase 1(*CaSSI*), such as the variant at
350 3,666 bp (Fig. 4e). This type of allele probably results from different genotypes. Polyploid
351 expression patterns were also observed in *SPI* transcript variants, the top two alignments
352 were similar to *C.canephora* and the other two were slightly different but related. All of the
353 four transcript variants were longer in the upstream sequences while three extended further
354 downstream than had previously been reported.

355 Another essential potential of LRS is to explore sequences not yet complete or published. For
356 instance, four transcript variants were identified from this research while *SPS2* has only been
357 identified in *C. canephora* rather than *C. arabica* (Fig. 4f).

358 *Comparison to other available coffee databases*

359 To understand the advantage and the diversity of this polyploid coffee transcriptome, a
360 comparison was made with the available coffee database. More than twice the number of
361 isoforms were identified in the tetraploid Arabica LRS transcriptome (immature, intermediate
362 and mature fruits) compared with the *C. eugenioides* contigs (36,935 de novo assembled
363 contigs, average length: 701 bp, from immature leaves and mature fruits), *C.canephora* CDS
364 with UTR (25,570 sequences, from a variety of tissues, including fruits) and *C. arabica* EST
365 database (35,153 contigs, including fruits) (Table 2) [14, 20, 23]. The coffee-LRS isoforms
366 show greater transcript length, diversity and a lower GC content. The N50 of the Pacbio
367 dataset (4,865 bp) was more than three times longer and the average length was more than
368 twice that of the other databases. The sequence distribution of *C.arabica* contigs peaks at 655
369 bp while *C.canephora* CDS with UTR reaches the largest number of sequences at 1,490 bp

370 (Fig 5). Most of the sequences from the *C. canephora* CDS with UTR and the *C. arabica*
371 EST database were less than 3,770 bp. By comparison, 39,917 coffee LRS isoforms (41.6%)
372 were longer than 3,770 bp
373 Results of the BLASTn analysis indicated that of the 95,995 coffee-LRS isoforms, 9,308
374 (9.7%) had no matches to the *C.canephora* CDS with UTR while 3,682 (3.8%) isoforms had
375 no hits to the *C.arabica* contigs. This indicates coffee-LRS isoforms are very diverse
376 compared to these two databases. Conversely, 9,167 (26.1%) of *C.canephora* CDS with UTR
377 and 4,830 (18.9%) of *C.arabica* contigs had no hits to the coffee-LRS isoforms. These two
378 sets of sequences without hits are probably sequences from leaf or other tissues not expressed
379 in the tissues investigated in this study.

380 *Novel genes*

381 The 1,217 sequences without hits to the FOUR databases (NR plant proteins, NT database, *C.*
382 *canephora* CDS with UTR and *C. arabica* EST database) were submitted to the Rfam server
383 to predict non-coding RNAs (ncRNA). The four isoforms that matched were in three
384 biotypes, two transcripts were identified as CD-box snoRNA, one as HACA-box snoRNA
385 and the other one as a miRNA (supporting information Table S2). Other than these, the other
386 1,213 sequences had no hit to the FOUR databases and Rfam are likely to be novel genes that
387 have not been discovered in coffee or contaminants from other organisms with no sequence
388 information to date. Length distribution of this new dataset ranged from 325 to 19,189 bp.

389 *Long transcripts*

390 In order to assess the value of LRS in discovering long sequences, 577 transcripts longer than
391 10 kb were further analysed. Functional annotation of this extremely long dataset shows the
392 majority of the sequences (564 sequences, 97.8%) matched to the FOUR databases. The
393 HSP/Hit coverage distribution was relatively evenly distributed from 0 to 100% compared to

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394 the HSP/Seq coverage. In parallel, the majority of sequences distributed less than 50%
395 HSP/Seq coverage and peaked at 6%, representing limited information of long sequences in
396 the NR database. IPS matches were found for 352 sequences (61.0%) while 61 of them had
397 IPS GOs. A total of 446 sequences (77.3%) were retrieved with GO terms, while 201
398 isoforms (34.8%) from these were also annotated with GO-Slim.

399 In total, 144 sequences were classified into the biological process, with 92 sequences into
400 cellular component and 79 into molecular function (supporting information Table Fig. S7).
401 Among them, biosynthetic process (31 sequences), member (43 sequences) and hydrolase
402 activity (25 sequences) were the top groups, separately, from the three functional process.
403 Among the annotated isoforms, 18 sequences encoding 12 enzymes from 13 pathways were
404 annotated with a KEGG pathway. The starch and sucrose metabolism ranking the third most
405 encoded pathway with two isoforms encoding two enzymes.

406 **Discussion**

407 Full-length transcripts generated by LRS in this study provided an isoform level polyploid
408 coffee bean reference transcriptome. Compared to its sub-genome progenitors, the Arabica
409 coffee bean transcriptome was more diverse and complicated with more isoforms, enzymes
410 and pathways. Case studies in caffeine and sucrose identified that this diversity and
411 complexity were a result of alternative splicing, polyadenylation, 5'UTR extension and sub-
412 genome copies. Discovery of novel genes and long transcripts was also an advantage of using
413 the LRS technology.

414 *Polyploid expression*

415 Different transcript variants may vary in function within the cell and be differentially
416 expressed in tissues or environmental conditions. The abundance of variants in the Arabica

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417 transcriptome and case studies of caffeine and sucrose genes compared to the sub-genome
418 progenitors clearly shows the complexity of the polyploid expression.

419 Generally, polyploidy results in three main expression patterns of non-additive expression,
420 dominant expression in which total gene expression in the hybrid is similar to one of the
421 parents, transgressive expression compared to the progenitors or unequal homeolog
422 expression [1]. Previously, it was proposed in coffee that the lower caffeine in Arabica coffee
423 was due to the *C. eugenioides* sub-genome attributes. Based on phylogenetic analysis,
424 CaXMT1, CaMXMT1 and CaDXMT2 were believed to be from the *C. canephora* sub-
425 genome while CaXMT2, CaMXMT2 and CaDXMT1 were from the *C. eugenioides* sub-
426 genome[29]. *C. eugenioides* has a very low caffeine biosynthesis together with a rapid
427 catabolism [30]. The expression of sub-genome copies from *C. eugenioides* suggested lower
428 caffeine in Arabica coffee compared to Robusta coffee. This study supports this hypothesis of
429 transcript variants from sub-genome copies controlling the trait.

430 Using the LRS isoforms, further studies are now possible at the isoform level (this study was
431 at the transcript variant level) to understand sub-genome gene expression in the polyploid *C*
432 *arabica*. First, it will be possible to determine directly whether the expression of Arabica
433 caffeine genes follows a non-additive expression pattern. Secondly, it would be interesting to
434 determine the reason for more transcript variants identified changes in differential expression
435 in tissues and at development stages. Thirdly, it will be possible to determine whether this
436 expression pattern is influenced by environment, influencing coffee quality. Fourth, whether
437 these different gene expression patterns result in different phenotypes. Similar analysis could
438 be applied to many other genes or pathways of interest. Isoforms and transcript variants
439 found in LRS tetraploid Arabica coffee bean transcriptome in this study were assigned to a
440 number of functional groups, pathways and to specific enzyme functions. Arabica is believed
441 to be more adaptive to temperature change than its diploid parents [31]. This study may also

1 442 help elucidate the genetic basis of the higher sucrose in Arabica coffee. More generally, the
2 443 complete polyploid transcriptome from this study will improve our understanding of the
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4 444 evolutionary adaptation and plasticity of polyploid species. However, further improvement is
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7 445 still needed in LRS technologies to improve the sequencing depth. Candidate genes in the
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9 446 caffeine pathway are reported to be expressed at low levels in fruits compared to leaves,
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11 447 especially XMT2 (detected by quantitative RT-PCR) [29]. Transcripts were not detected in this
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13 448 study probably due to low expression of XMT2 and the PacBio iso-seq technology not being
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15 449 sensitive enough to capture these transcripts. This is likely to happen in the case of other
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17 450 isoforms expressed at low levels that may not be captured by the Iso-Seq technology even
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19 451 after application of the cDNA library normalisation step, as was applied in this study.
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25 452 *5'UTR extension*

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27 453 Full-length transcripts captured in this study show the advantage of LRS. All the caffeine and
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29 454 sucrose isoforms annotated in this study, except for *SPS1*, were extended in the 5'UTR
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31 455 compared to those available from public databases. Previously, it was difficult to sequence
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33 456 the 5' end as cDNA library preparation starts from the 3' end and normally fails to reach the
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35 457 5' end. Further, it was not easy to assemble the non-coding parts of transcripts as limited
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37 458 cDNA sequence was available to guide the assembly and confirm the contigs obtained.
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42 459 Therefore, less information is available on the 5'UTRs, especially for plants. Generally, the
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44 460 length of the 5'UTR ranges from 100 up to a few thousand bp [32]. This length difference is
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46 461 proposed because of the complex gene regulation maintained in eukaryotes [33]. Few post-
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48 462 transcriptional mechanisms have been studied in 5'UTRs, including the regulation by the pre-
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50 463 initiation complex and uORF re-initiation.
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54 464 uORFs are common in 5'UTRs that have critical regulation. They contain their own set of
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56 465 start and stop codons that can be scanned by ribosomes and translated. This regulation can
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58 466 inhibit translation of the main ORF transcript and reduce the amount of protein translated.
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467 Regulation of re-initiation of uORF translation was found to be associated with the length of
468 sequence between the uORF and the main ORF, suggesting interactions with translation
469 factors are required before initiation of translation [34]. This was also shown to be influenced
470 by stress conditions [34]. However, not all uORF may have a role in translation control. In
471 the leucine zipper transcription factor (*bZIP*) 11 gene, for example, harbouring four uORFs,
472 only uORF2 was required for this regulation and this uORF is relatively conserved [35].
473 Other types of 5'UTR regulation may also be found such as that due to introns in the 5'UTRs.
474 This happens to approximately 35% of human genes [6].

475 Understanding the mechanism of 5'UTR regulation will be greatly facilitated by the use of
476 the full-length transcripts. In this study, multiple uORFs were characterised in the *SSI* 5'
477 UTR and these may contribute to diverse functions and regulation that may be influenced by
478 stress conditions. Climate change is a threat to Arabica coffee, which grows at high altitude.
479 It may be possible to influence 5'UTR regulation in Arabica coffee and have the potential to
480 influence coffee quality. To confirm this, further phenotype, proteome and metabolome
481 studies are required.

482 *Long transcripts*

483 LRS also has potential in discovering long transcripts, such as the sucrose synthase genes
484 annotated here. Even though numerous studies have defined the sucrose pathways, not all the
485 candidate genes have been identified. Many sucrose metabolism genes are too long to be
486 captured by short read sequencing without significant *de novo* assembly. For example, the *C.*
487 *arabica* *SS2* coding sequence is 2,889 bp and the genomic DNA sequence (exon 1 to 15) is
488 5,672 bp (Table 4). Sucrose synthase genes (6-7 different isoforms) were previously
489 identified in cotton, rice, and Arabidopsis, However, in coffee, only two had been reported
490 [36-38]. For genes that were only previously available for *C. canephora*, (e.g. *SPI*), this
491 study also identified isoforms in Arabica. For genes that previously only had partial

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492 sequences available, (e.g. *SPS2*), the transcripts identified in this study will guide further
493 studies and improve current databases. Furthermore, the low coverage annotation of long
494 sequences (>10kb) by BLASTx and BLASTn against the FOUR databases indicated the
495 limited information on long sequences requiring further study.

496 *Transcriptome analysis of polyploids using long-read sequencing*

497 LRS technologies show advantages in understanding complex transcriptomes, especially
498 from polyploid species [4, 39, 40]. First, this eliminates transcriptome reconstruction and that
499 reduces the computation time. This is an essential goal for bioinformatics data analysis and
500 software development [41]. To avoid obsolescence, transcriptome analysis calls for rapid
501 genomics and bioinformatics to reduce the time from experiment to publication. Secondly, as
502 there is no assembly of reads with LRS, there are no erroneous results due to misassemblies
503 caused by complex polyploid transcriptomes with a large number of repeats or homeolog
504 genes. For example, almost 80% of the wheat genome is repetitive [40]. Last but not least, it
505 shows the potential to capture rare or long sequences to provide an overview of the
506 transcriptome and fully characterise RNA diversity, like 5'UTR extension in this study,
507 alternative splicing, polyadenylation, etc. [4, 42].

508 However, LRS technologies have been normally biased with high error rates, for example,
509 previously released PacBio single molecule real-time sequencing (SMRT) reads had a very
510 high error rate, 11-14%, therefore, numerous methods have been proposed to correct the
511 sequences [43]. One common approach was to map back to a reference genome and (or) use
512 hybrid sequencing, for example, using short reads with high throughput to correct LRS
513 isoform sequences [5, 44]. However, caution is necessary when using this strategy. The
514 reference genome is often far from 100% accurate: 1) most draft genomes have numerous
515 fragmented contigs or scaffolds with huge imbedded gaps. Even genomes previously
516 considered well assembled have had many gaps[45]. 2) Problems also exist in poorly

1 517 assembled gene loci. Few recently released genomes have been re-visited to generate
2 518 improved assemblies [13]. 3) LRS isoform sequences normally come from different sources
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4 519 (e.g. genotype) to the reference genomes that they can be compared with. Hybrid sequencing
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7 520 correction may have system bias and result in loss of isoforms/transcript variants or generate
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9 521 a “compromised” consensus. Previously, it has been estimated that there was no approach
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11 522 that has achieved more than 60 % accuracy for transcript reconstruction, even for the most
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13 523 studied human genome [46]. For instance, short read platforms deliver data that is less
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15 524 representative of rare or long isoforms and there is a high chance of losing these reads from
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17 525 the long-read dataset when correcting.
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22 526 Improved accuracy may be generated from the platform itself, for example, Pacbio Iso-seq
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24 527 generates improved accuracy from CCS reads. This allows multiple passes of each transcript.
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26 528 Each pass can be used to correct the others with their random errors (mainly indels). The
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28 529 isoform clustering and polishing in this protocol is expected to deliver 99% accuracy. Prior to
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30 530 size selection, normalisation was further applied in parallel to the dataset in this study to
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32 531 decrease the frequency of abundant reads and produce a more even representation of the
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34 532 transcriptome and to capture rare sequences. A highly diverse transcriptome has resulted. The
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36 533 abundance of genes that had not been previously sequenced (1,213), transcript variants and
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38 534 longer isoforms indicate the limits of previous studies and potential of LRS technologies.
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40 535 However, the limitation shows in detecting short sequences less than 300bp (raw data cut-
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42 536 off). The chances of large errors due to indels from Pacbio sequencing may produce reads
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44 537 shorter than the actual reads. Additionally, the Blue pippin size selection system starts from
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46 538 500bp in the cDNA library preparation, with few sequences from the boundary (400-500bp).
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54 539 Therefore, improvement is needed to capture a broader transcriptome.
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540 In conclusion, this study will improve the understanding of the biology and genetic
541 improvement of polyploid species such as coffee. It provides a useful technique to generate a
542 full-length reference transcriptome and improve understanding of UTR regions.

543 **Data availability**

544 New sequence data used in this manuscript has been submitted to European Nucleotide
545 Archive at EMBL database with accession number: PRJEB19262. Additionally information
546 on specific selected sequence IDs, such as high quality annotated sequences, novel genes in
547 coffee, etc, are shown in supporting information 2. The python script to calculate cumulative
548 identity and alignment length has been submitted to Github
549 (https://github.com/chengbing0404/BLAST5_result_handle). Annotations and other
550 supporting data are also available via the *GigaScience* repository GigaDB (GigaDB,
551 RRID:SCR_004002) [47].

552 **Completing interests**

553 All authors have no conflicts of interest to this manuscript.

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557 **Author's contributions**

558 B.C., A.F. and R.H. designed the research and discussed the results. B.C performed the
559 experiment and analysis. B.C drafted the manuscript, R.H and AG refined it.

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605 [Tutorial-%232.-Isoform-level-clustering-%28ICE-and-Quiver%29](https://github.com/PacificBiosciences/cDNA_primer/wiki/RS_IsoSeq-%28v2.3%29-Tutorial-%232.-Isoform-level-clustering-%28ICE-and-Quiver%29).
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- 674

675 Tables and figure legends

676 Table 1 Arabica long-read sequencing transcriptome annotation with different databases

Databases	Number of sequences annotated	% of sequences annotated
Long-read sequencing transcriptome	95,995	-
BLAST	94,709	98.66
Mapped	78,571	81.85
InterProScan	70,774	73.73
InterProScan GOs	33,605	35.01
GO slim	58,050	60.47
KEGG	11,489	11.97

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678 Table 2 Arabica long-read sequencing isoforms compared to *Coffea canephora* coding sequences and *Coffea arabica* EST sequences

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Different datasets	GC content %	N50 (bp)	average length (bp)	min length (bp)	max_length (bp)	Number of sequences
<i>Coffea arabica</i> EST database ¹ [20]	44.7	734	662	32	3,584	35,153
<i>Coffea canephora</i> coding sequences with UTR ²	42.6	2,046	1,616	45	17,206	25,570
<i>Coffea arabica</i> long-read sequencing isoforms	41.4	4,865	3,236	301	23,335	95,995

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681 Note: ¹ <http://bioinfo03.ibi.unicamp.br/coffea/data/CA.fasta>; ² http://coffee-genome.org/sites/coffee-genome.org/files/download/coffea_cds.fna.gz.

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Table 3 Details of caffeine candidate genes, putative transcript variants annotated and 5'UTR extension information

Candidate genes	Accession number	Species	Source	Abbreviation	length (bp)	completeness	Putative transcript variants from LRS isoform sequences	5'UTR extension
xanthosine methyltransferase 1	AB048793	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaXMT1	1,316	YES	c69597/f1p2/1421 c154338/f1p2/1360 c71416/f3p3/1376	YES
	JX978514	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaXMT1	1,987	YES		
	DQ422954	<i>C. canephora</i>	mRNA	CcXMT1	1,316	YES		
	JX978509	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcXMT1	1,994	YES		
xanthosine methyltransferase2	JX978515	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaXMT2	2,038	YES	Not identified	-
7-methylxanthine N-methyltransferase 1	AB048794	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaMXMT1	1,298	YES	c20397/f5p1/1361	YES
	JX978511	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaMXMT1	1,838	YES		
	HQ616707	<i>C. canephora</i>	mRNA	CcMXMT1	1,222	YES		
	JX978507	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcMXMT1	1,829	YES		
7-methylxanthine N-methyltransferase 2	AB084126	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaMXMT2	1,155	YES	c10402/f2p3/1277	YES
	JX978512	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaMXMT2	2,010	YES		
3,7-dimethylxanthine N-methyltransferase 1	AB084125	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaDXMT1	1,155	YES	c25904/f2p0/977 c71881/f6p2/1386	YES
	JX978510	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaDXMT1	2,063	YES		
3,7-dimethylxanthine N-methyltransferase 2	KJ577793	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaDXMT2	1,155	YES	c63815/f1p2/1273 c48759/f1p1/1517 c26870/f6p5/1402	YES
	KJ577792	<i>C. arabica</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CaDXMT2	2,006	YES		
	DQ422955	<i>C. canephora</i>	mRNA	CcDXMT1	1,364	YES		

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Table 4 Details of sucrose candidate genes, putative transcript variants annotated and 5'UTR extension information

Candidate genes	Accession number	Species	Source	Abbreviation	length (bp)	completeness	Putative transcript variants from LRS isoform sequences	5'UTR extension
Sucrose synthase 1	AM087674.1	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaSS1	2,979	YES	c86432/f7p9/4842 c91298/f1p1/3137 c84406/f3p18/2975	YES
	DQ834312.1	<i>C. canephora</i>	mRNA	CcSS2	2,989	YES	c62911/f29p21/2965 c92344/f1p26/4662 c92296/f1p5/4676 c89510/f1p6/4592	
	AJ880768.2	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcSS1	3,957	exon 1-13	c106591/f2p0/4381 c72639/f25p28/2961	
Sucrose synthase 2	AM087675.1	<i>C. arabica</i>	mRNA	CaSS2	2,889	YES	c73322/f3p2/3080	YES
	AM087676.1	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcSS2	5,672	exon 1-15	c75363/f3p2/2906	
Sucrose phosphate synthase 1	DQ834321.1	<i>C. canephora</i>	mRNA	CcSPS1	3,150	YES	c51110/f2p0/3136	YES
	DQ842233.1	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcSPS1	8,215	YES		
Sucrose phosphate synthase 2	DQ842234.1	<i>C. canephora</i>	Genomic DNA	G-CcSPS2	1,550	NO	c103631/f1p2/4695 c88660/f2p0/4282 c106342/f1p4/4274 c104672/f1p1/4440 (reverse)	YES

Table 5 Results of 5' UTRs from long-read sequencing scanned with UTRdb. uORF, Upstream Open Reading Frame.

No.	Sequence name	5' UTR length (bp)	uORF
1	c86432/f2p7/4842	2,131	12
2	c91298/f1p1/3137	347	2
3	c84406/f3p18/2975	242	2
4	c62911/f29p21/2965	218	0
5	c92344/f1p26/4662	1,981	10
6	c92296/f1p5/4676	1,884	12
7	c89510/f1p6/4592	1,871	11
8	c106591/f2p0/4381	1,683	11
9	c72639/f25p28/2961	224	0

Figure 1 Coffee fruits of immature, intermediate and mature stages

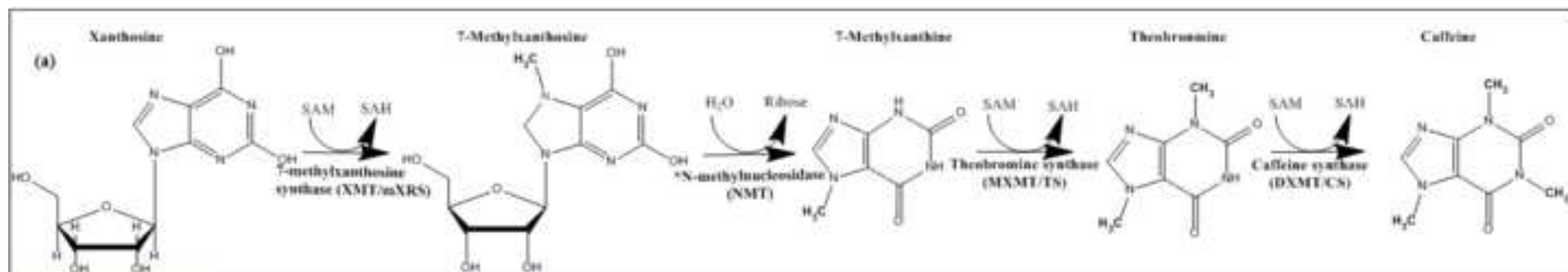
Figure 2 Sequence distribution, comparison of the number of sequences and their length. Coffee long-read sequencing isoforms, *C.canephora* coding sequences with UTR and *C. arabica* EST database were included.

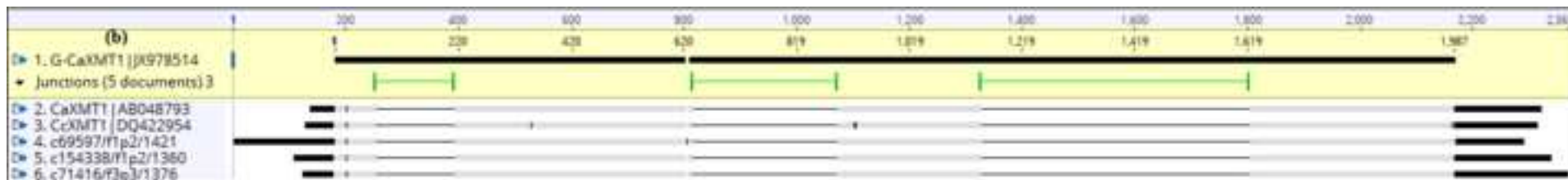
Figure 3 Putative transcript variants from long-read sequencing aligned to reference caffeine genes. a. Main caffeine biosynthesis pathway in coffee, adaptive from Cheng, Furtado [28]. b. Alignment of three Arabica putative XMT1 variants from long-read sequencing (c69597/f1p2/1412, c154338/f1p2/1360 and c71416/f3p3/1376), *Coffea arabica* and *Coffea canephora* XMT1 (CaXMT1 and CcXMT1) to Arabica XMT1 genomic DNA sequence (G-CaXMT1). c. Possible alternative polyadenylation of putative XMT1 Iso-seq variant (c25904/f2p0/977) from long-read sequencing; G-CaDXMT1, Arabica DXMT1 genomic DNA sequence; CaDXMT1, DXMT1 coding sequence; d. Two polyadenylation signals were identified in 3'ends of c25904/f2p0/977; e. Possible alternative splicing (intron retention) in one of the putative DXMT2 variants (c48759/f1p1/1517) from long-read sequencing transcripts; G-CaDXMT2, Arabica DXMT2 genomic DNA sequence; CaDXMT2, Arabica DXMT2 coding sequence. (Note: black colour in the alignment means different nucleotides to reference sequence, Arabica genomic XMT1, while grey colour means the same nucleotides as the reference.).

Figure 4 Motif search results of putative sucrose synthase gene 1 from long read sequencing. a. Ten motifs were annotated in 9 putative sucrose synthase 1 variants from long-read sequencing, analysed by MEME 4.11.2. b. Motif location of 9 putative sucrose synthase 1 variants. Different motifs were highlighted with red arrows and intron retention was shown with dashed boxes.

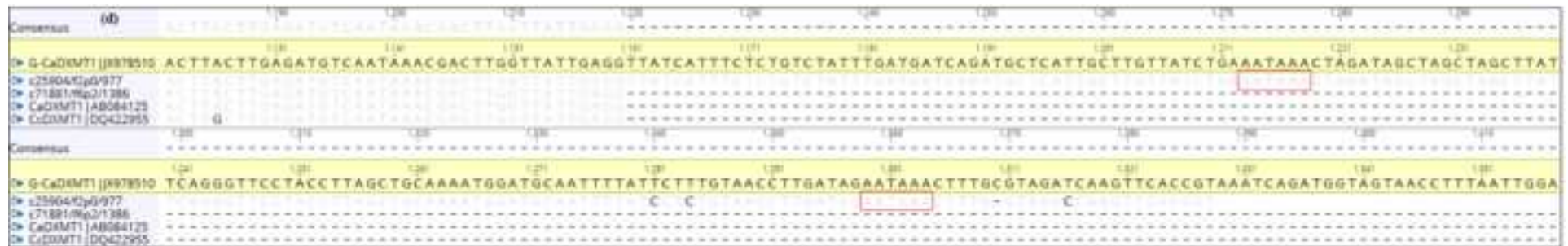
Figure 5 Putative variants from long-read sequencing aligned to the reference sucrose genes. a. Possible sucrose metabolism in coffee; SS, sucrose synthase; SPS, sucrose phosphate synthase; SP, sucrose phosphatase; INV, invertase; CINV, cell wall invertase (modified from Cheng B. et al. (2016)); b. Alignment of 9 Putative Sucrose synthase variants from long-read sequencing and *C.arabica* sucrose synthase gene 1 (CaSS1) to *Coffea canephora* genomic sucrose synthase 1 (exons 1-13) (G-CcSS1 (1-13)); Green box highlights variants result from different sub-genome copies, while intron retention events were marked with the blue box highlight; c. polyploid expression when zooming green area in 100%; d. possible alternative splicing (intron retention) from a *C.canephora* sub-genome copy when zooming blue box in 100%; e. possible intron retention from a *C.eugenioides* sub-genome copy when zooming blue area in 100%.red line classifies two groups of variants as different sub-genome copies. Different nucleotides compared to the consensus were highlighted in black in the alignment; f. Putative variants from long read sequencing aligned with *C.canephora* genomic sucrose phosphate synthase 2 sequence (G-CcSPS2); FWD, forward sequence; REV, reverse sequence. Different nucleotides compared to the consensus were highlighted in black in the alignment.

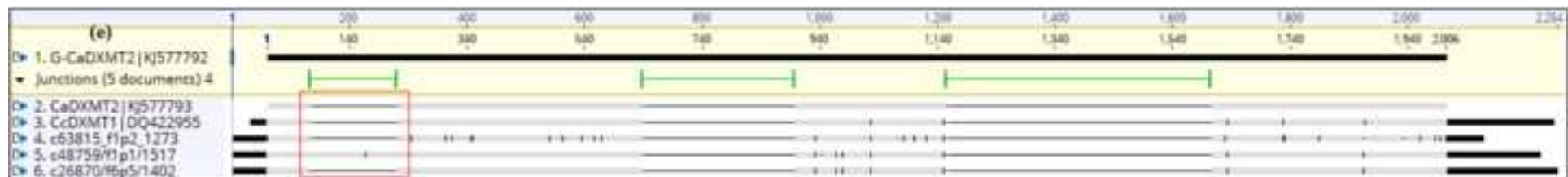


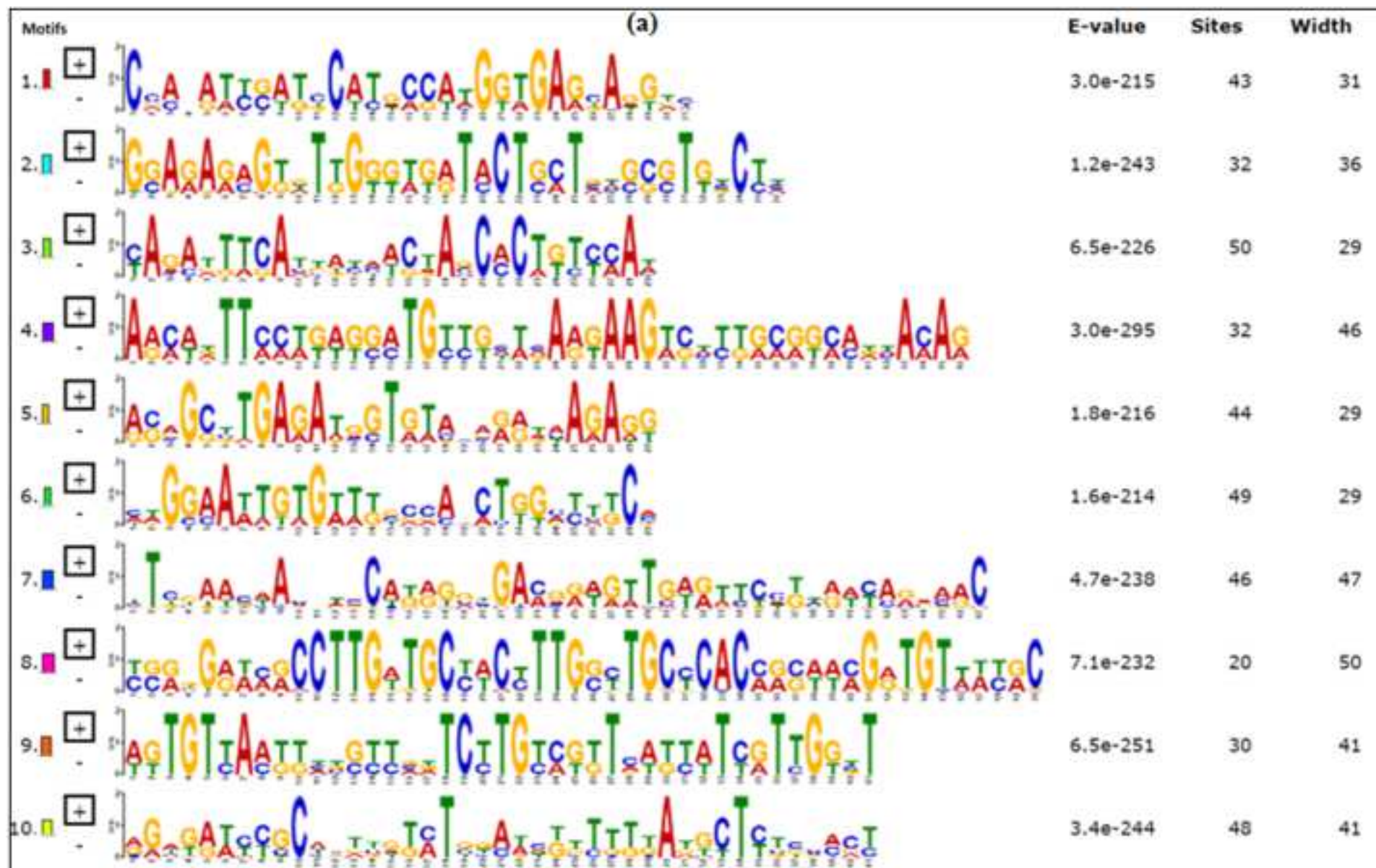


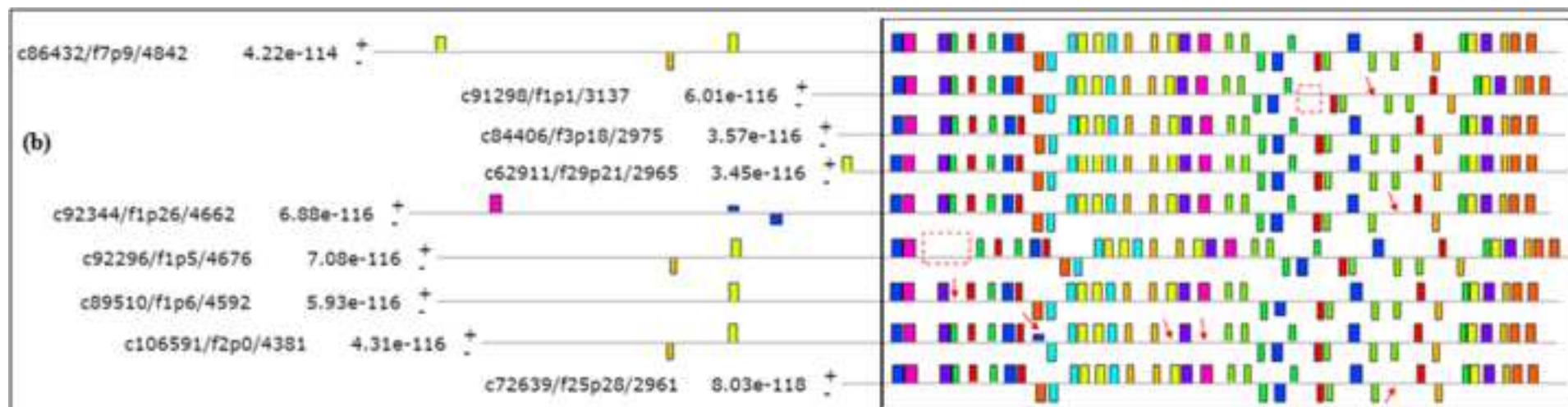


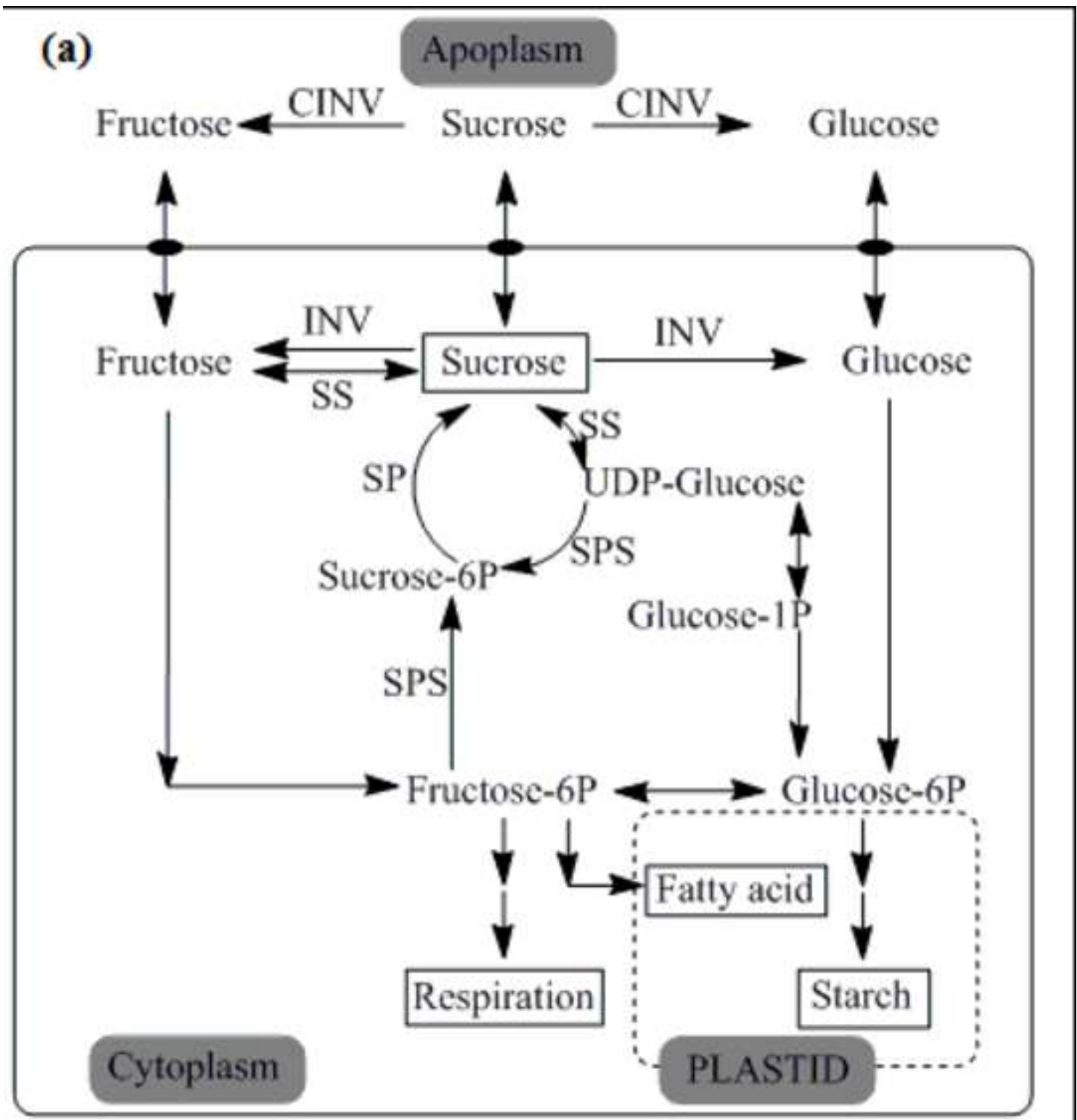






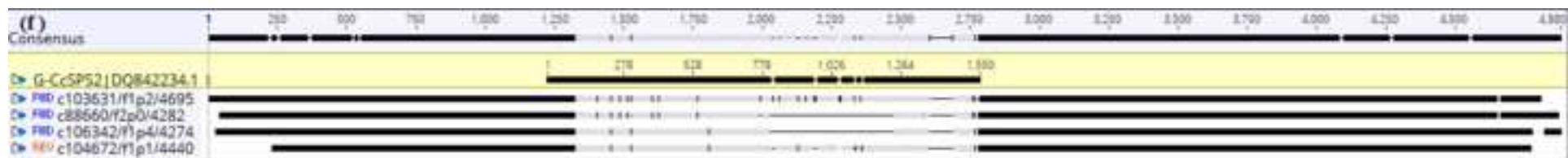




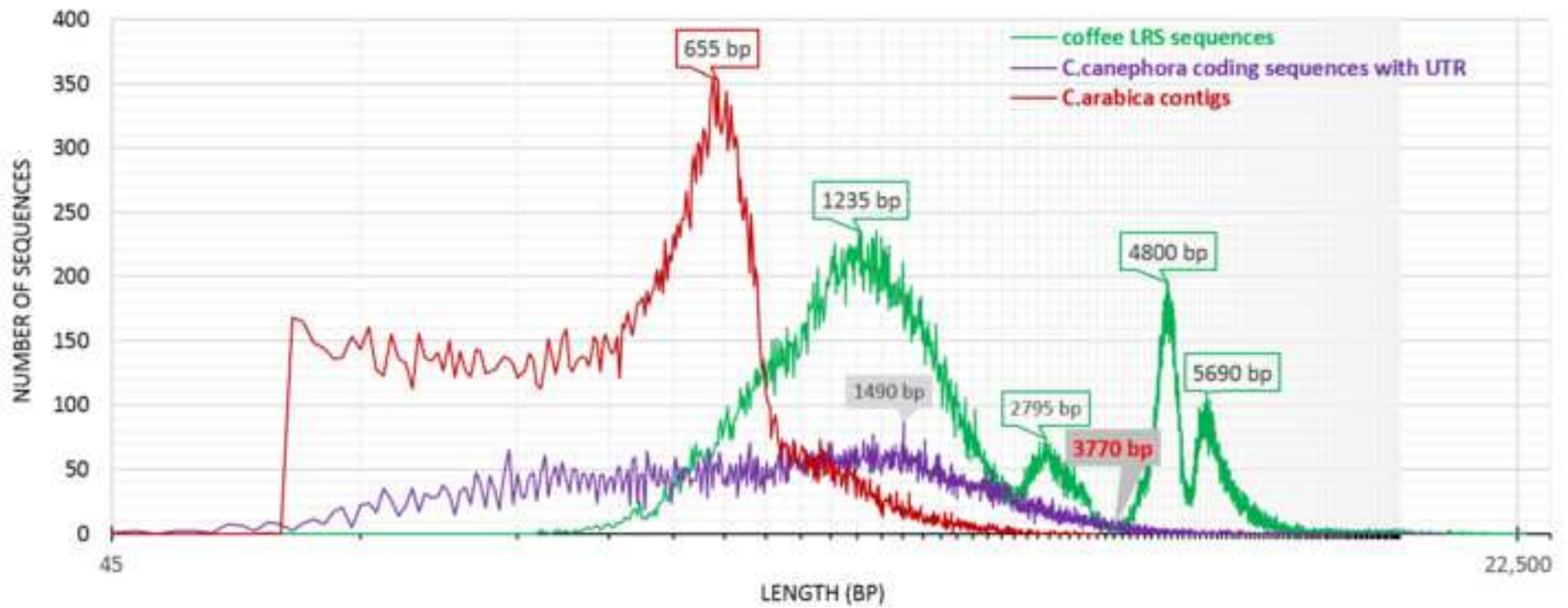


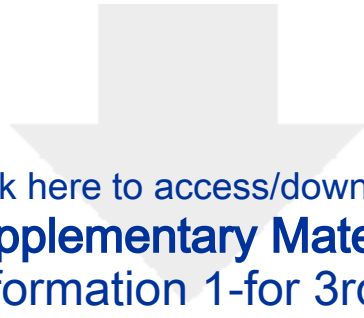






Distribution of number of sequences with length





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