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Comparative transcriptome provides molecular insight into defense-associated mechanisms against spider mite in resistant and susceptible common bean cultivars --Manuscript Draft--

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Abstract:	Common bean (<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i> L.) is a major source of proteins and one of the most important edible foods for more than three hundred million people in the world. The common bean plants are frequently attacked by Spider mite (<i>Tetranychus urticae</i> Koch), leading to a significant decrease in plant growth and economic performance. The use of resistant cultivars and the identification of the genes involved in plant-mite resistance are practical solutions to this problem. Hence, a comprehensive study of the molecular interactions between resistant and susceptible common bean cultivars and spider mite can shed light into the understanding of mechanisms and biological pathways of resistance. In this study, one resistant (Naz) and one susceptible (Akhtar) cultivars were selected for a transcriptome comparison at different time points (0, 1 and 5 days) after spider mite feeding. The comparison of cultivars in different time points revealed several key genes, which showed a change increase in transcript abundance via spider mite infestation. These included genes involved in flavonoid biosynthesis process; a conserved MYB-bHLH-WD40 (MBW) regulatory complex; transcription factors (TFs) TT2, TT8, TCP, Cys2/His2-type and C2H2-type zinc finger proteins; the ethylene response factors (ERFs) ERF1 and ERF9; genes related to metabolism of auxin and jasmonic acid (JA); pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins and heat shock proteins.
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1 **Comparative transcriptome provides molecular insight into defense-**
2 **associated mechanisms against spider mite in resistant and susceptible**
3 **common bean cultivars**

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38 **Abstract**

39 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is a major source of proteins and one of the most
40 important edible foods for more than three hundred million people in the world. The common
41 bean plants are frequently attacked by Spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae* Koch), leading to a
42 significant decrease in plant growth and economic performance. The use of resistant cultivars
43 and the identification of the genes involved in plant-mite resistance are practical solutions to this
44 problem. Hence, a comprehensive study of the molecular interactions between resistant and
45 susceptible common bean cultivars and spider mite can shed light into the understanding of
46 mechanisms and biological pathways of resistance. In this study, one resistant (*Naz*) and one
47 susceptible (*Akhtar*) cultivars were selected for a transcriptome comparison at different time
48 points (0, 1 and 5 days) after spider mite feeding. The comparison of cultivars in different time
49 points revealed several key genes, which showed a change increase in transcript abundance via
50 spider mite infestation. These included genes involved in flavonoid biosynthesis process; a
51 conserved *MYB-bHLH-WD40* (MBW) regulatory complex; transcription factors (TFs) TT2, TT8,
52 TCP, Cys2/His2-type and C2H2-type zinc finger proteins; the ethylene response factors (ERFs)
53 ERF1 and ERF9; genes related to metabolism of auxin and jasmonic acid (JA); pathogenesis-
54 related (PR) proteins and heat shock proteins.

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56 Keywords: Common bean, Spider mite, Transcriptome, Defense mechanisms, Biological
57 pathways.

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64 **Introduction**

65 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), is one of the most important edible foods in the world
66 which provides about 50% of the grain legumes for direct human consumption [1-3]. In addition,
67 it is an inexpensive healthy food due to having the richest sources of proteins (20-25%),
68 micronutrients and calories [2]. Common bean is widely distributed around the world. In Asia,
69 most collections exist in India [4], and Iran [5]. Notably, over the last 10 years, the production of
70 common bean has increased ~33% in Asia [2]. Because of high nutrient content and commercial
71 potential, common bean holds great promise for fighting hunger and increasing income. Low
72 yield of this crop is attributed to pest attack, weak soil fertility, drought and salinity, and poor
73 agronomic practices [6]. According to the records, *Tetranychus urticae* Koch (TSSM) is the most
74 widespread and the most polyphagous herbivores mites which feed on cell contents of common
75 bean and causes serious substantial economic losses (up to 100% yield losses) in fields and
76 greenhouses [7, 8]. The TSSM damages plant cells by its stylet that pierces the leaf either in
77 between epidermal pavement cells or through a stomatal opening, suck-out their contents and
78 forms the chlorotic lesions at the feeding sites [8, 9]. In recent years, it has become evident that
79 insect-resistant crops have brought great benefits, not only in terms of economic, but also
80 because of the reduction of pesticides use and keeping a safe environment. The development of
81 new cultivars is being established as one of the most appropriate methods and the main objective
82 of plant breeding programs for resistance to TSSM [10, 11]. However, lacking information on
83 how plant and mite interact with each other emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive study
84 of the molecular interactions between common bean and *T. urticae* to understand the
85 mechanisms and potential biological pathways of common bean resistance. Although RNA-Seq
86 has been used to study the expression profiles of stress response genes in model and non-model
87 plants, but there has not been any study of common bean transcriptome changes due to spider
88 mite feeding. In this study we used RNA-seq  analysis to detect differences in gene expression
89 between two cultivars of *P. vulgaris* (susceptible and resistant), and specify effective genes and
90 pathways in response to *T. urticae* infestation. Such information could lead to identify resistant
91 mechanisms and genes in common bean and improve the breeding efforts by identifying
92 molecular markers to incorporate resistance into commercial bean varieties.

93

94 **Materials and Methods**

95 **Plants and insect infestation**

96 According to our previous study [12], two cultivars, including *Akhtar* and *Naz* were selected as
97 susceptible and resistant cultivars to *T. urticae*, respectively. The experiment was conducted
98 using a factorial experiment based on completely randomized design with three replicates in
99 greenhouse condition ($28 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ temperature, 40-50% relative humidity, photoperiod 16h light
100 and 8h darkness). In six-leaf stage of Meier [13], 45 same-aged adult female mites were placed
101 on sixth leaf of cultivars. The leaves were collected after 0, 1 and 5 days of infestation. Treated
102 leaves were frozen in liquid nitrogen and kept at -80°C until they were used for RNA
103 extraction.

104 **RNA isolation and transcriptome sequencing**

105 Total RNA was extracted from two biological replicates, which each were pooled samples from
106 at least three plants using TRIzol[®] Reagent (Invitrogen) as described by the manufacturer's
107 protocol, and then treated with RNase-free DNaseI (Invitrogen). Nanodrop[™] 2000
108 spectrophotometer, agarose gel electrophoresis and Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent) were used to
109 check and confirm quantity and quality of RNAs. All RNAs were sent to Beijing Genomic
110 Institute (BGI) in China for library preparation and transcriptome sequencing using the Illumina
111 HiSeq 2500 platform to generate Paired-end (2×150 bp) reads.

112 **Reads preprocessing and differentially expression analysis**

113 ~~The raw reads were downloaded from BGI institute web site in Fastq format~~ and then deposited
114 in the NCBI SRA database under the project PRJNA482175. All RNA-Seq data were subjected
115 to quality control (QC) analysis using Trimmomatic software [14] to drop out low quality reads,
116 adapters and other Illumina-specific sequences, minimum length 50 bp and minimum quality 30
117 determined as quality thresholds. Before and after filtering, the quality of the raw sequences was
118 assessed with FastQC (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). Clean reads
119 were mapped to the *P. vulgaris* [15] (<https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov>) and *T. urticae* [16] reference
120 genomes V. 2.0 via RNA-seq aligner STAR software [17] requiring at least 90% of the read
121 sequence to match with at least 95% identity. The STAR-resultant *.bam* files were used to

122 estimate the abundance of mapped reads, differential expression analyses, and visualization of
 123 analyses results using Cufflinks [18] package coupled with CummeRbund [19]. Cufflinks was
 124 used to calculate FPKM values and differential expression analysis was done with Cuffdiff. The
 125 analysis focused on genes with statistically significant difference in expression levels between
 126 times and cultivars. The genes were considered significantly differentially expressed if false
 127 discovery rate (FDR, the adjusted P value) was <0.01 and Log2 FPKM (fold change) was ≥ 1.0 .

128 GO Enrichment Analysis

129 The functions of the DEGs were characterized using AgriGO's Singular Enrichment Analysis
 130 (SEA) module to identify the enriched Gene Ontology terms
 131 (<http://bioinfo.cau.edu.cn/agriGO/analysis.php>) with the agriGO database [20]. The enrichment
 132 analysis was performed at significance level of 0.05.

133 Quantitative real-time PCR validation

134 To validate candidate differentially expressed genes (DEGs), qRT-PCR was performed for six
 135 DEGs and *Actin 11* as a reference gene with three replicates. Primers were designed by Primer
 136 3.0 [21] (Table 1), and cDNAs were synthesized by using TaKaRa cDNA Synthesis Kit
 137 (TaKaRa, Dalian, China) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The 20 μ L qRT-PCR
 138 solutions contained EvaGreen Master Mix (Solis Biodyne, 5x), 0.3 μ L forward and 0.3 μ L
 139 reverse primers, and 30 ng of cDNA template. qRT-PCR reactions (95 $^{\circ}$ C, 3 min; 95 $^{\circ}$ C, 5 s;
 140 60 $^{\circ}$ C, 34 s; 40 cycles) were carried out on a Bio-Rad iQ5 Optical System (Bio-Rad Laboratories,
 141 CA, USA). Finally, relative gene expression was calculated using $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ formula and REST
 142 software [22].

143 **Table 1. Description of the candidate genes and primer sequences for qRT-PCR**
 144 **assay efficiencies.**

Functional annotation	Gene ID	Forward primer	Reverse prime
Pathogenesis-related protein	Phvul.004G155 500	TGGGATACAGCTACAGCA TCGT	TCTTCATTGGGTGGAGC ATCT
WRKY transcription factor 50	Phvul.009G080 000	GTCGCTGAGATCGGAGAA TC	GCAAATCCAGCTTTGACC AT
Heat shock protein (Molecular chaperone)	Phvul.008G011 400	CTTCAACACCAACGCCAT G	GCTCAAGCTCCGAGTAGG

Leucine Rich Repeat	Phvul.008G044 600	CTTGACTATGAGCTTGTC CC	TGCTTTCTCTGTAAGGTGT CC
MYB113	Phvul.008G038 200	GTCGCTGAGATCGGAGAA TC	GCAAATCCAGCTTTGACC AT
Xyloglucan endotransglucosylase/hydro lases	Phvul.005G111 300	AGTTCGACGAGCTGTTCCA G	ACGTTGGTCTGCACGCTG TA

145

146 Results and Discussion

147 Quality control and mapping statistics

148 A total of 12 RNA libraries were sequenced with the ~~sequencing depth~~ ranging from 26.8–30.2
 149 million paired-end reads (Table 2). Approximately 70-73% of reads passed the quality control
 150 and an 84.58-90.30% of the clean reads were mapped to unique location in the common bean
 151 reference genome. Alignment of clean reads to *T. urticae* reference genome was also carried out
 152 to determine whether a significant mite RNA contamination exists in our datasets. Assessment of
 153 quality of mRNA-seq data revealed less than 0.1% mapping, indicating a strong enrichment of
 154 genes specific for *P. vulgaris* in all samples.

155 **Table 2. Summary of sample information and transcriptome sequencing output statistics**
 156 **for the RNA-seq libraries**

Cultivars	Replicate	Time points	Reads before quality control	Reads after quality control	Removing percent
<i>Akhtar</i> (susceptible)	Replicate 1	Control	30261354	21020563	30.54
		1 Day	28834008	20871380	27.62
		5 Day	26832585	19131482	28.70
	Replicate 2	Control	31261254	22020354	29.56
		1 Day	27836208	20971682	24.66
		5 Day	26632382	19231180	27.79
<i>Naz</i> (resistant)	Replicate 1	Control	30593227	22305624	27.09
		1 Day	27677349	19152514	30.80
		5 Day	29214322	21461892	26.54
	Replicate 2	Control	30243118	22212456	26.55
		1 Day	28123454	19252314	31.54
		5 Day	28876322	21863542	24.29

157

158 Distribution of differentially expressed genes (DEGs)

159 Differentially expressed genes analysis was performed for the pairwise comparisons of twelve
160 libraries. The largest differences in expression occurred among three time points of resistant
161 cultivar. When comparing the different time points for resistant cultivar, 274 differentially
162 expressed genes were identified (Table S1), almost the same number of DEGs for susceptible
163 cultivar (270 DEGs, Table S2). The number of up-regulated genes was higher than down-
164 regulated genes in all different time point comparisons in both cultivars. To gain a better
165 understanding, the overlap differentially expressed patterns of DEGs were analyzed between
166 cultivars in each time point and across time points in each cultivars using Venn diagram. The
167 comparison of cultivars in each time points revealed 48, 65 and 81 up-regulated genes along
168 with 46, 59, 68 down-regulated genes in resistant cultivar for control samples and these infested
169 at 1 and 5 days post-feeding, respectively (Fig 1, Table S3-5). The number of DEGs showed a
170 rising trend with the extension of infestation time, So that the smallest and largest differences
171 were observed between resistant and susceptible plants at first and third time points, in which 94
172 and 146 DEGs were identified, respectively. This result indicates there are probably no
173 significant differences in gene expression patterns during the first attempts of spider mite in both
174 susceptible and resistant reactions. However, gene expression patterns were more different
175 during the second phase of infestation depending on the resistance/susceptibility of the plant.

176 **Fig 1. Venn diagram showing the number of specific, commonalities and differences DEGs**
177 **between pair time points in both cultivars. Up_T0, genes upregulated in resistant cultivar**
178 **in comparison with susceptible cultivar at first time point. Down_T0, genes downregulated**
179 **in resistant cultivar or upregulated in susceptible cultivar at first time point. T1 and T5**
180 **represent the second and third time points, respectively.**

181 Gene expression patterns were also different with the extension of infestation time depending on
182 the resistance/susceptibility of common bean cultivars. Among DEGs, approximately 44% and
183 37% of up-regulated genes were common among three time points, while less than 7% of down-
184 regulated genes were shared among times in both cultivars. Interestingly, there was no any
185 common up or down regulated gene between T0T1 (comparison of first and second time points)
186 and T1T5 (comparison of second and third time points) and also any unique gene for T0T5
187 (comparison of first and third time points). As shown in the Venn diagram in Fig 2, the number
188 of uregulated DEGs in T0T5 comparison was higher than T0T1 comparison in both cultivars.

189 This analysis indicated that more than 70% and 85% of DEGs were common between T0T1 and
190 T0T5 comparisons, respectively.

191 **Fig 2. Venn diagram representing commonly and specifically up- and down-regulated**
192 **genes between two sets in each cultivar. Pink circle (first set) represents the comparison of**
193 **first and second time points and green (second set) is the comparison of first and third**
194 **time points. Up and Down represent upregulated, downregulated genes. Res and Sus**
195 **represent resistant and susceptible cultivars.**


196 Functional Classification and GO enrichment analysis of DEGs


197 To eliminate the effects of genetic differences, DEGs were compared between cultivars at the
198 same time points. GO analysis detected 57, 39 and 46 categories, according to biological process
199 (P), molecular function (F), and cellular component (C) among all up- and down-regulated genes
200 at time 0, 1 and 5, respectively.

201 Secondary Metabolism




202 The differences between control samples was determined by the metabolism of phenylpropanoid,
203 a central secondary metabolite production of defense-related compounds [23-25], including
204 anthocyanins and flavonoids (Fig 3). The two most induced genes involved in flavonoid
205 biosynthesis process corresponded to dihydroflavonol reductase (DFR) and chalcone synthase
206 (CHS). We found transcripts of DFR which were up-regulated in resistant cultivar (Fig 4). DFR
207 has been previously reported as induced by *Fusarium oxysporum* inoculations on *Linum*
208 *usitatissimum* [26]. *Colletotrichum camelliae* on *Camellia sinensis* [27] and *Elsinoe ampelina* in
209 *grapevine* [28]. DFR is also a key regulatory point belonging to the subgroup of late anthocyanin
210 biosynthesis genes which can be activated by TFs such as MYBs [29, 30]. CHS showed more
211 than 7-fold change increase in resistant cultivar. O-methyltransferases (OMTs), involved in
212 phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, and anthocyanin methylation, was up-regulated in resistant
213 cultivar and showed an 8-fold increase in expression level upon spider mite feeding. O-
214 Methylation plays key roles in plant defense following pathogen attack [31]. Additionally, the
215 interaction network suggests the possible involvement of *CYP* genes (*CYP72A7* and
216 *CYP71A26*) in resistance, previously reported in several studies [32, 33]. In the susceptible
217 genotype, *CYP83B1* gene required for the synthesis of indole glucosinolates, was down-

218 regulated during infestation which is not consistent with previous reports in a number of
219 researches [26, 34]. Finally, other secondary metabolism gene (BAS: beta-amyrin synthase) with
220 higher transcript abundance in resistant cultivar was related to sesquiterpenoid and triterpenoid
221 biosynthesis.

222 **Fig 3.**  enrichment analysis for up-regulated genes in resistant cultivar as compared to
223 susceptible cultivar at day 0 (control samples). Boxes in the graph represent GO IDs, term
224 definitions and statistical information. Significant GO terms ($p \leq 0.05$) are marked with
225 color. The degree of color saturation of a box is positively correlated to the enrichment
226 level of the term.


227 **Fig 4.**  Interaction networks of up-regulated genes identified in resistance cultivar as
228 compared to susceptible cultivar at day 0 (control samples).

229 **Transcriptional Regulation**

230 TF families found in our study are widely reported to be involved in plant defense responses,
231 including MYB, WRKY, ethylene responsive factors (ERFs), zinc finger domain proteins and
232 basic helix-loop-helix (bHLH). A key TF that currently appears in the studies of plant-pathogen
233 interactions [26, 35] and had a significant expression in resistant cultivar of our study is
234 MYB113. **TRANSPARENT TESTA4** 4), a chalcone and stilbene synthase family protein, is a
235 key enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of flavonoids to encode chalcone synthase (CHS), and
236 is required for the accumulation of purple anthocyanins in leaves and stems [36]. TT4 along with
237 TRANSPARENT TESTA8 (TT8), a bHLH DNA-binding superfamily protein which is required
238 for normal expression of DFR [37] associated with MYB113 in the interaction network. An
239 important candidate TF for spider mite resistance is WD40 protein, which was expressed only
240 during mite infestation in the resistant cultivar. Many studies have shown that a conserved *MYB*-
241 **bHLH-WD40** BW) regulatory complex control the expression of anthocyanin biosynthesis
242 genes [38]. So, we deduced that MBW regulatory complex has the same function in common
243 bean and is involved in resistance. In addition, another TF for spider mite resistance may be TCP
244 protein, ~~whose~~  expression was increased during spider mite infestation in the resistant cultivar.
245 Recent studies suggested that TCP proteins play an important role in systemic acquired
246 resistance (SAR) which is induced plant immunity, activated by pathogen infection [39-41].

247 Additionally, we identified a gene encoding WRKY50 which was significantly up-regulated in
248 resistant cultivar during the middle-to-late stages (at day 5) of spider mite feeding. The spider
249 mite infestation also affected the expression levels of Cys2/His2-type and C2H2-type zinc finger
250 proteins as up-regulated genes in resistance and susceptible cultivars at day 5 post-infestation,
251 respectively. The Cys2/His2-type zinc finger proteins are not only related to plant stress
252 responses, but also enhance the resistance against pathogen infection [42]. ERFs, another
253 important group of TFs, which play roles in integrating ET/JA signals [30, 43], activating the
254 phenylpropanoid biosynthetic pathway and expression of resistance genes [44, 45], were
255 activated in resistance cultivar at day 5 post-infestation. We observed increased transcript
256 abundance of two key ERFs, including ERF1 and ERF9. The role of ERF1 as a regulator of
257 ethylene responses after pathogen attack has been documented in *Arabidopsis* [46] but ERF9 has
258 not proven to be relevant in the defense responses.

259 **Hormone Regulation**

260 GO enrichment analysis showed other GO terms that significantly overrepresented among up-
261 regulated genes of resistant cultivar, including “response to stress”, “response to stimulus” and
262 “response to jasmonic acid”. JA signaling has closely been associated with defense mechanisms
263 against pathogens and insects [47, 48]. In our study, 13S-lipoxygenase 2 (LOX2),  A signaling
264 and biogenesis gene, was detected as up-regulated gene in resistant cultivar, where it had a low
265 transcript abundance in susceptible cultivar. Up-regulation of allene oxide synthase (AOS),
266 needed to JA production, at day 1 post-feeding suggests that common bean resistance to the
267 disease is enhanced by the activation of JA signaling pathways. Our result is corroborated with
268 the previous studies where the expression levels of *LOX* and *AOS* significantly increased after
269 infestation [26, 49]. In addition, the expression of two auxin signaling pathway genes, *SAUR*
270 (small auxin-up RNA) and *ARF5* (Auxin response factor 5), were down- and up-regulated in
271 resistant cultivar, respectively. *SAUR* genes are related to cell division [50, 51] and reportedly
272 regulated by the auxin level, indicating that this process could be impaired by spider mite
273 feeding. The down-regulation of *SAUR* gene is in agreement with the previous studies on *A.*
274 *thaliana* [52] and soybean [53].

275 **Pathogen Elicitor Perception**

276 In our study, only one disease resistance protein from TIR-NBS-LRRs class
277 (Phvul.005G093400.1) had higher transcript abundance in resistance cultivar, while one TIR-
278 NBS-LRR (Phvul.010G029800.1), two NB-ARC domains-containing (Phvul.002G130666.1,
279 Phvul.010G064700.1), and one CC-NBS-LRR (Phvul.003G247601.1) showed a high level of
280 expression in susceptible cultivar before infestation. During the first stage of mite infestation,
281 five TIR-NBS-LRRs (Phvul.002G323100.1, Phvul.002G323400.2, Phvul.004G046400.1,
282 Phvul.011G140300.1 and Phvul.010G132433.1), three NB-ARC (Phvul.003G002926.1,
283 Phvul.004G013300.1 and Phvul.008G071300.3) and one leucine-rich repeat (LRR) protein
284 kinase (Phvul.007G087550.1) were highly expressed in resistance cultivar, whereas one TIR-
285 NBS-LRR (Phvul.004G058700.1) and three NB-ARC (Phvul.008G031200.10,
286 Phvul.010G064700.1, Phvul.011G195400.1) were found to be up-regulated in susceptible
287 common bean cultivar. But these genes could not fully exert their expression with the extension
288 of infestation time except one NB-ARC (Phvul.010G064700.1) in susceptible cultivar. At the
289 first glance, it seems that the susceptible cultivar has a higher number of up-regulated disease
290 resistance genes than the resistant one before mite infestation. But our results indicated that the
291 response of the resistant plants was more robust than that of the susceptible cultivar upon
292 pathogen attack. This can be elucidated by the role of miRNAs in down-regulating defense-
293 related genes expression in susceptible cultivar [54, 55]. The non-specific defense responses to
294 deter the pathogen can also explain loss of defense-related genes expression at fifth day.
295 In addition, one gene encoding the Cysteine-rich RLK (CRK10) was highly expressed upon
296 spider feeding. This highly up-regulated *CRK* gene seems to indicate its potential role in
297 resistance against spider mite. We also observed receptor-like proteins (RLPs) and receptor-like
298 kinase (RLK) genes that have a direct effect on the pathogen in the both cultivars [56].

299 **Antioxidant and detoxification processes**

300 Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are involved in various processes along the plant life, but are
301 best known as a key component of the signaling events involved in abiotic and biotic stress
302 responses, so that are rapidly induced and accumulated after pathogen attack [57]. An important
303 response to control ROS is the induction of scavenging genes. In this respect, heat shock proteins
304 (HSPs) play an important role in supporting ROS scavenging activity and stress tolerance [58].
305 In our study, HSP 70 was found to be up-regulated during spider mite feeding only in resistant

306 cultivar, which highlight the function of HSPs in plant defense against pathogenic infection and
307 reduce accumulation of ROS. This notion can be supported by the *P. vulgaris-Colletotrichum*
308 interaction study [59], that HSPs are highly expressed against *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*
309 infection. Among detoxification genes, UDP-glycosyltransferase significantly up-regulated in
310 resistant cultivar at all-time points, suggesting this gene may play an important role in the
311 common bean resistance to spider mite feeding. The previous studies conducted on nematode
312 attack in wheat (Qiao et al, 2018) and *Fusarium* in *Brachypodium distachyon* (Schweiger et al,
313 2013) reinforces our argument about UDP-glycosyltransferase function.

314 **Cell wall**

315 Xyloglucan endotransglucosylase/hydrolases (XTHs) are a family of enzymes that facilitate cell
316 wall expansion [60] and also have the functions, probably associated with resistance mechanism
317 [61]. In current study, we observed two XTHs (XTH22: Phvul.003G147700 and XTH9
318 :Phvul.005G111300) in resistant cultivar significantly expressed at day 1 post infestation.
319 Another important candidate gene for spider mite resistance may be the malectin-like receptor
320 kinase FERONIA (FER), which was up-regulated and showed increase abundance during mite
321 infestation, although there is no significant information on the role of this gene in response to
322 feeding.

323 **Other genes**

324 There are substantial reports regarding expression of pathogenesis-related (PR) genes under
325 numerous stresses in common bean [59, 62]. Our transcriptome study successfully identified one
326 PR-5 like receptor kinase (Phvul.004G155500) as up-regulated gene in resistant cultivar at day 5.
327 2-oxoglutarate (2OG) and Fe (II)-dependent oxygenase is another up-regulated gene in resistance
328 cultivar under infestation which make it a potential candidate gene for resistance against spider
329 mite and probably suitable for breeding programs. This gene has been previously described as
330 responsive to pathogens [26].


331 **Validation of DEGs by using qRT-PCR**

332 In order to verify gene expression results of transcriptome data analysis, six DEGs having
333 annotations were selected for qRT-PCR analysis. They include the genes encoding pathogenesis-
334 related proteins PR5, heat shock protein, leucine rich repeat, MYB113, XTH and a WRKY50

335 (Fig 5). Quantitative RT-PCR analysis was conducted on 12 RNA samples that were used in the
336 preparation of sequencing libraries. Relative expression profiles of DEGs in the both resistant
337 and susceptible evaluated using qRT-PCR were in complete agreement with the RNA-seq data.
338 This is in line with other studies, which showed almost the same level of fold changes between
339 RNA-seq data and qPCR [63, 64].

340 **Fig 5. qRT-PCR results of genes selected from the RNA-seq analysis of common bean–**
341 **spider mite interaction. Expression levels of tested genes were normalized based on of *Actin***
342 **gene and then compared to relative expression values determined by RNA-seq. Relative**
343 **expression values of samples were determined by using the average expression value of all**
344 **replicates of a particular group. Standard deviation among replicates is represented by**
345 **error bars. Res and Sus represent resistant and susceptible cultivars. TP0, TP1 and TP5**
346 **represent first, second and third time points. RT and RS in parentheses represent qRT-**
347 **PCR and RNA-seq.**

348 **Conclusion**

349 To our knowledge, this investigation is the first study to identify molecular mechanisms involved
350 in the common bean resistance to spider mite feeding by using RNA sequencing technology. In
351 summary, DEGs were identified for control samples ~~and~~ 1 and  days after infestation of spider
352 mite in resistant and susceptible cultivars of common bean. Importantly, we identified secondary
353 metabolism, multiple disease resistance proteins, TFs and genes involved in cell wall expansion
354 and antioxidant processes that were modulated by spider mite attack. Overall, this study
355 extended our understanding of the defense molecular mechanisms of two common bean cultivars
356 with different genetic backgrounds during spider mite infestation. We came to the conclusion
357 that these data provide important and valuable information for future research in common bean.

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362 **Availability of supporting data**

363 All RNA-Seq data were deposited to the NCBI sequence read archive (SRA) under the project
364 PRJNA482175.

365 **Declarations**

366 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

367 Not applicable.

368 **Consent to Publication**

369 Not applicable.

370 **Competing interest**

371 The authors have no competing interests to declare.

372 **Author contribution statement**

373 AHH, RMA, HA and MS participated in the experimental design. MS collected the samples.
374 MS, MTM and RM performed RNA extraction. AS carried out bioinformatics analyses and
375 wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript for publication.

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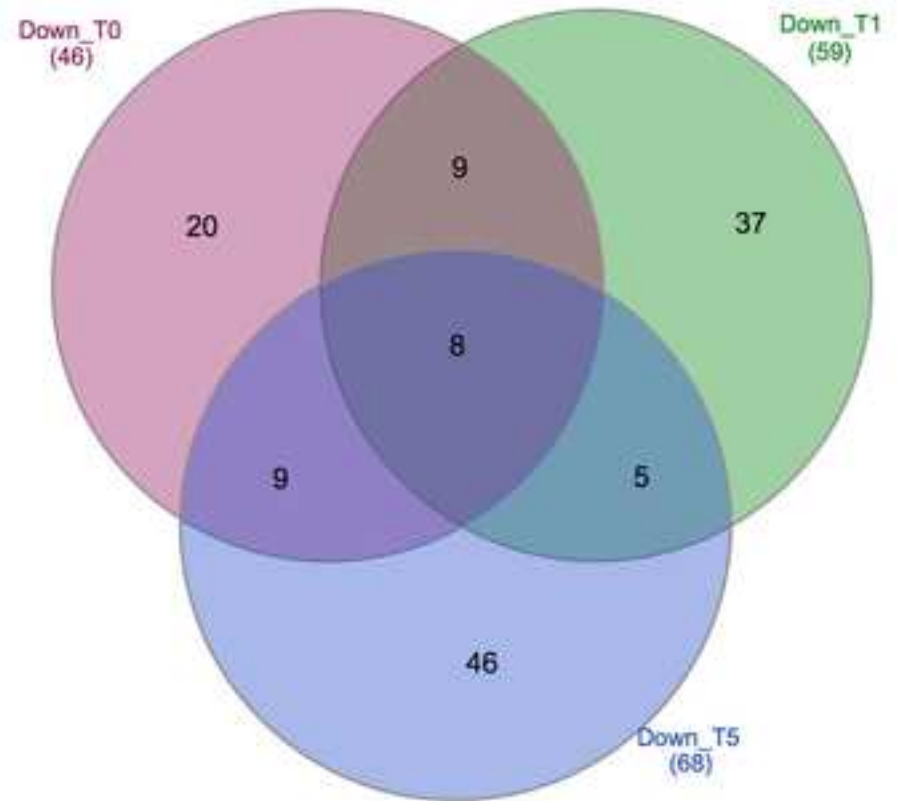
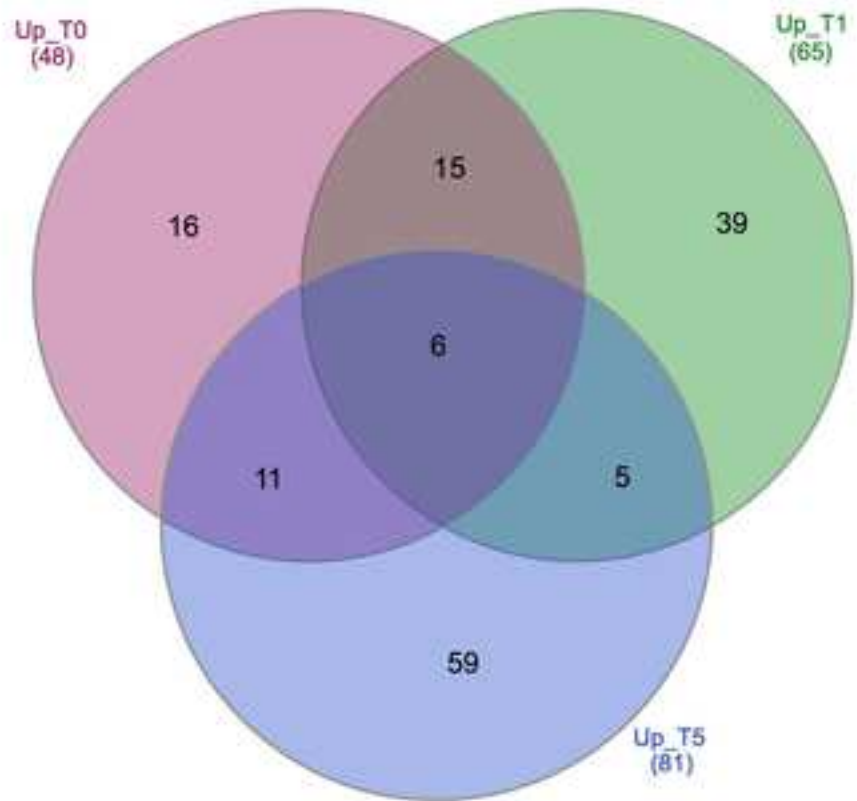
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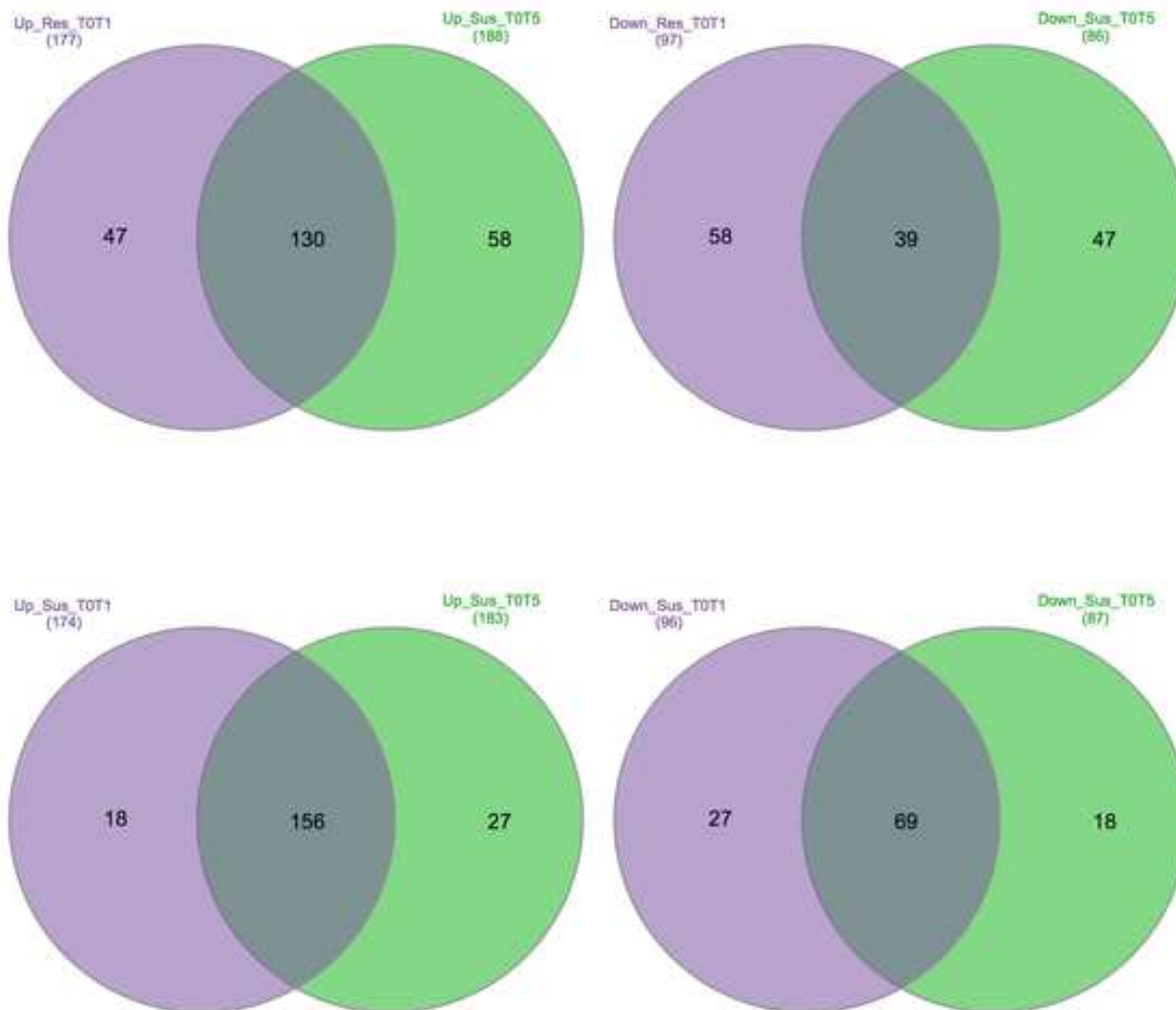
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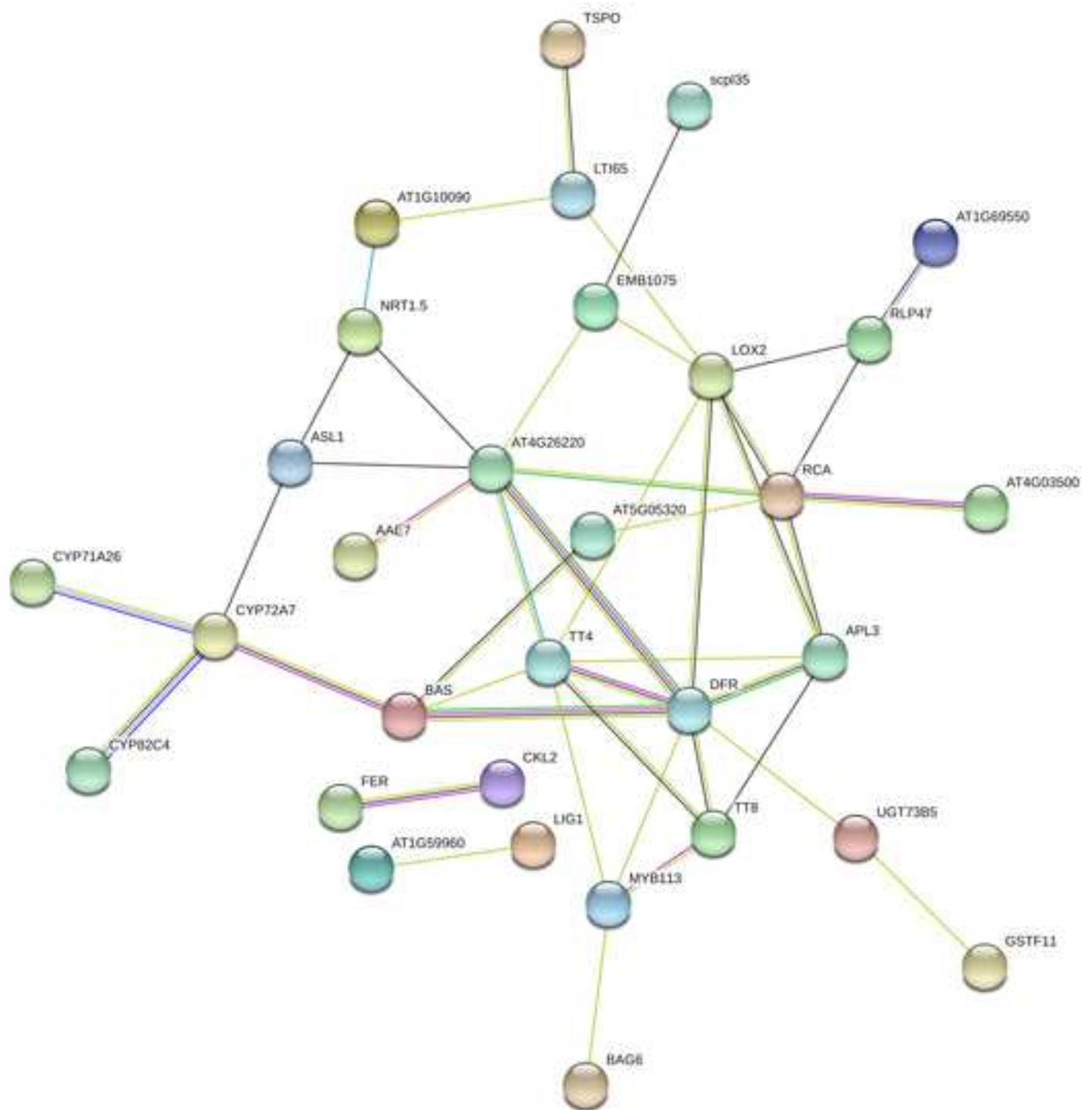
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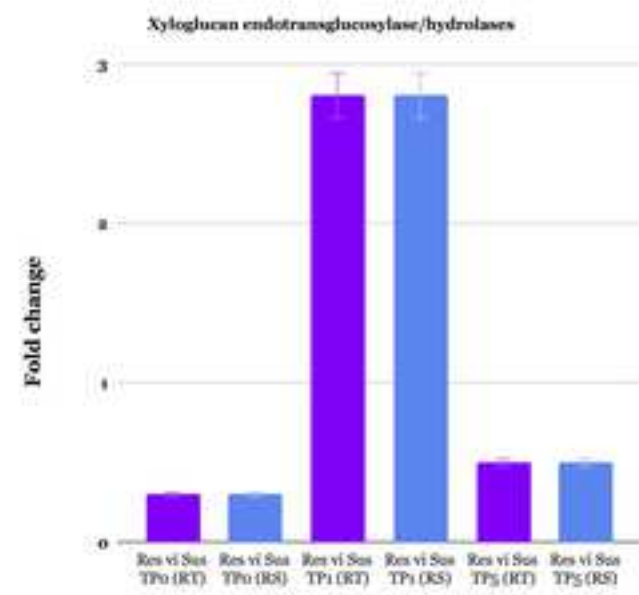
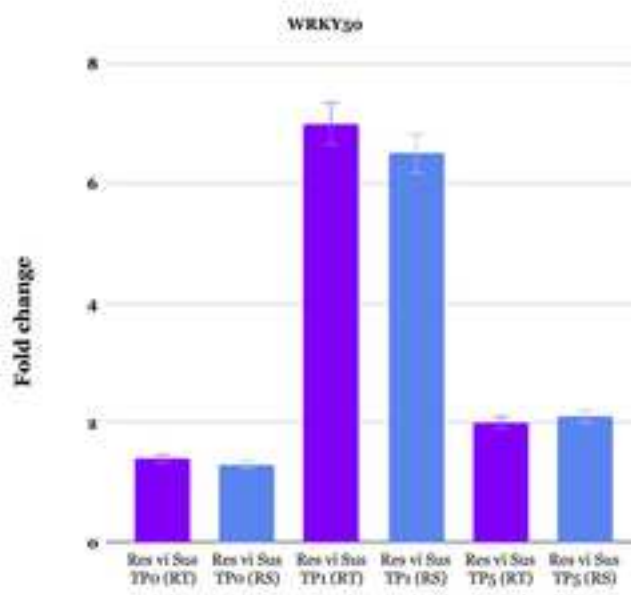
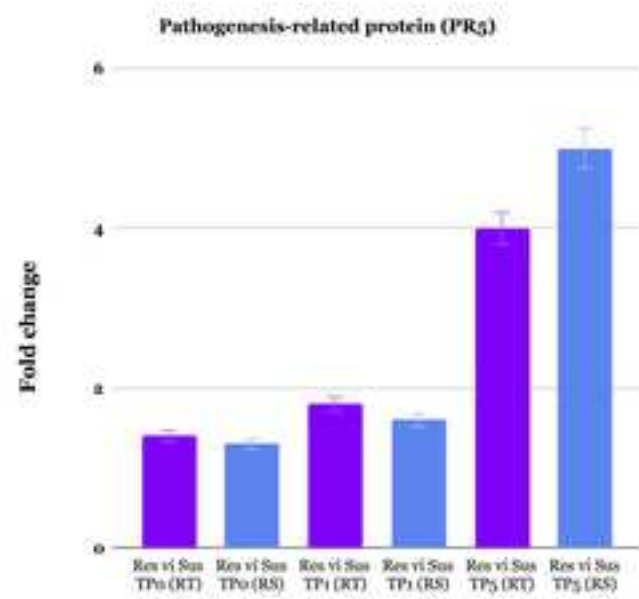
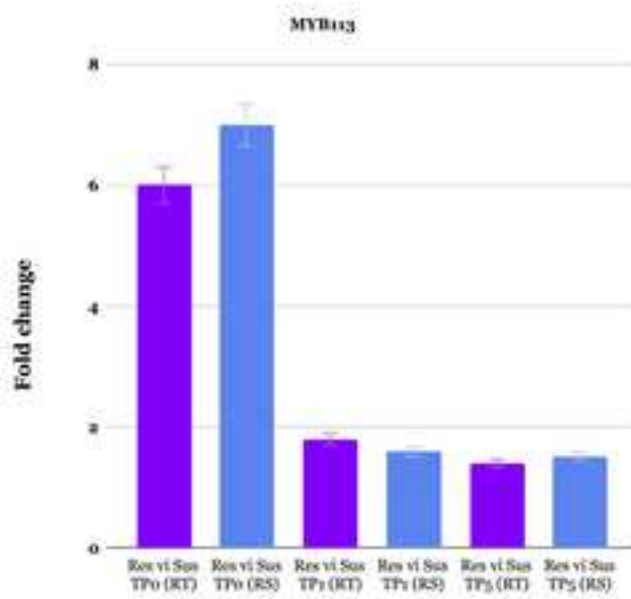
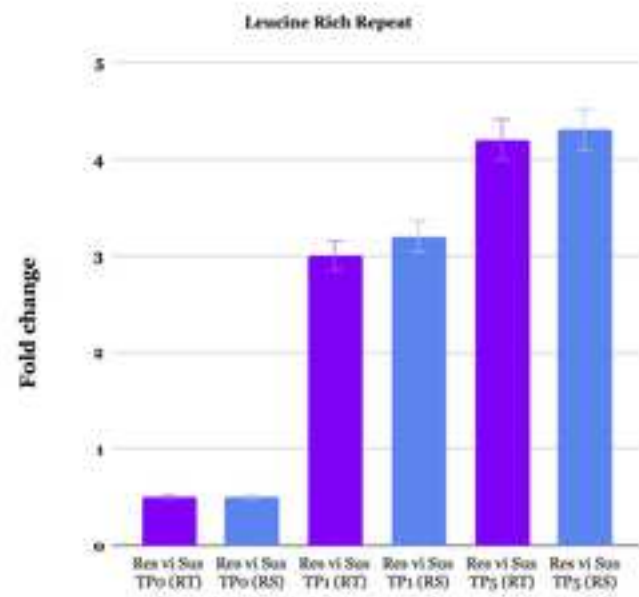
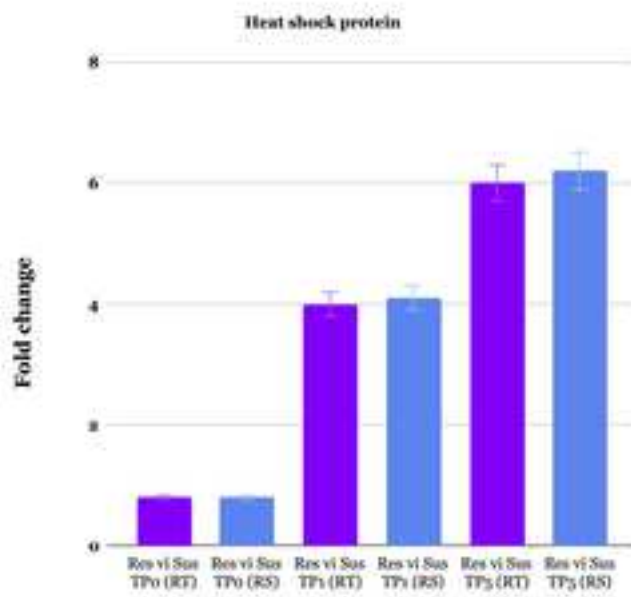
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