Supplementary material associated to the manuscript "Is there a role for tau glutathione transferases in tetrapyrrole metabolism and retrograde signaling in plants?" by Sylvestre-Gonon et al.

"Retrograde signalling" theme issue of Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B

Methods

Cloning, protein expression and purification

The sequences coding for GSTU8 (At3g09270), GSTU16 (At1g59700), GSTU19 (At1g78380) and GSTU22 (At1g78340) from Arabidopsis thaliana and GSTU1 from Zea mays were cloned by PCR into pET-26b plasmids for the production of C-terminal his-tagged proteins. The cloning of Arabidopsis GAPC1 (At3g04120) in pET28a was described previously [1]. Expression was performed using the *Escherichia coli* Rosetta2 (DE3) pLysS strain (Novagen). The cells were classically grown at 37°C in LB medium supplemented with kanamycin (50 μg.ml⁻¹) and chloramphenicol (34 μg.ml⁻¹). When the cell culture reached an OD_{600nm} of 0.8, protein expression was induced with 0.1 mM IPTG and cells were grown for a further 4 h at this temperature. Alternatively, to boost bacterial heme synthesis, 0.25 mM FeCl₃ and 1.5 mM 5-aminolevulinic acid were added in the medium 2 h before the induction of protein expression with 0.1 mM IPTG performed when the cell culture reached an OD_{600nm} of 0.8. In this case, the cells were additionally grown for 18 h at 30°C. In all cases, cells were harvested by centrifugation, resuspended in a 30 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 200 mM NaCl lysis buffer and stored at -20°C. Cell lysis was completed by sonication (two times for 1 min with an interval of 1 min). The cell extract was then centrifuged at 42,000 g for 30 min at 4°C to remove cellular debris and aggregated proteins. The C-terminal His6-tagged proteins were purified as follows: 10 mM imidazole was added in the fraction containing soluble proteins before loading onto a Ni-NTA (Ni²⁺-nitrilotriacetate)—agarose resin (Qiagen). After a washing step with lysis buffer supplemented with 20 mM imidazole, the proteins were eluted using lysis buffer containing 250 mM imidazole. The fractions of interest were pooled, concentrated by ultrafiltration (Vivaspin turbo 15, Sartorius) then injected onto a gel filtration HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 prep grade (GE Healthcare) column connected to an ÄKTA purifier FPLC system (GE Healthcare) and eluted with 30 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 200 mM NaCl buffer. Again, fractions of interest were pooled, concentrated by ultrafiltration (Vivaspin, Sartorius) and stored in 30 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and 200 mM NaCl buffer at -20°C until use. The homogeneity of the

purified proteins was checked by SDS/PAGE. The concentrations of apo-proteins were determined by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm and using theoretical molar absorption coefficients of 46410, 36340, 44920 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹ for AtGSTU8, AtGSTU16, AtGSTU19 respectively, and of 40910 M⁻¹.cm⁻¹ for AtGSTU22, ZmGSTU1 and AtGAPC1 as deduced from the amino acid sequences. The concentrations of holo-proteins were determined using a bicinchoninic acid assay (Interchim, France). For electrospray ionization mass spectrometry analyses, AtGSTU8 was desalted onto a PD MidiTrap G-25 column (GE Healthcare) against 30 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 and analyzed as described [2]. All proteins were also analyzed after a liquid chromatography separation using the same mass spectrometry equipment.

Analytical gel filtration

 $100~\mu g$ of AtGSTU8 (final concentration of $3~\mu M$) were incubated or not with $100~\mu M$ of PPIX during 1~h in $250~\mu L$ of 30~mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 200~mM NaCl buffer. Samples were centrifuged at 13,400~rpm (minispin, Eppendorf) during 5~min at room temperature and then injected onto a gel filtration 10/300~GL Superdex 200~(GE~Healthcare) column connected to an ÄKTA purifier FPLC system (GE~Healthcare) and eluted with 30~mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0~and 200~mM NaCl buffer. Data processing was carried out with Unicorn 5.20~software.

Intrinsic fluorescence of tryptophan

Fluorescence measurements were performed on a Cary Eclipse (Varian) fluorescence spectrophotometer. The binding affinity of enzymes for porphyrins was determined by tryptophan fluorescence quenching titrations. The excitation wavelength was set at 290 nm, and the emission recorded between 300 and 400 nm. Titration was carried out in 30 mM of Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA buffer with 5 μ M of protein and increasing concentrations of PPIX from 0 to 150 μ M and of hemin and hematin from 0 to 100 μ M. To determine the dissociation constant (K_d) of GSTs for porphyrins, the following equation (Equation 1) was applied using GraphPad Prism 6.0 software:

$$\Delta F/F_{max} = \frac{B_{max} \times [S]}{K_d + [S]}$$

where $\Delta F/F_{max}$ ratio represents the changes in fluorescence intensity relative to the initial value (*i.e.* without ligand) after addition of PPIX at a concentration [S], B_{max} is the maximum number of specific binding sites and K_d corresponds to the dissociation constant.

Molecular docking study

In order to dock PPIX onto AtGSTU23, the coordinates of the ligand (ZINC4208846) from the ZINC15 database [3], together with the coordinates of AtGSTU23 crystal structure in complex with GSH (pdb code 6EP7) were prepared for docking with AutoDock Tools [4]. A search box of 40 ų was defined at the center of the active site. Docking calculation was performed with AutoDock Vina [5] using default parameters and side chains lining the active site were set as flexible. The predicted PPIX binding poses returned by the software were visualized with Pymol (The PyMOL Molecular Graphics System, Schrödinger, LLC). The most probable binding pose of PPIX has a configuration such that the negatively charged propionic groups are oriented toward the solvent whereas the tetrapyrrole ring sits in a hydrophobic pocket. The figures 3 and 4 were prepared with Pymol.

Figure S1. Unrooted phylogenic tree showing that the selected AtGSTUs belong to the three major clades.

The sequences used for this analysis are the GSTUs identified in *Arabidopsis thaliana* as well as *Zea mays* GSTU1. Sequences were aligned and poorly aligned positions and divergent regions removed using seaview software [6]. The phylogenetic tree was then constructed with BioNJ [7] and edited with Figtree software (http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/). The robustness of the branches was assessed by the bootstrap method with 1000 replications. The scale marker represents 0.1 substitutions per residue.

Figure S2. UV-visible absorption spectra of recombinant AtGSTU8, AtGSTU16, AtGSTU19, AtGSTU22 and ZmGSTU1.

All these proteins were expressed in *E. coli* using a medium supplemented with FeCl₃ and aminolevulinic acid, purified in a single IMAC step and dialyzed before recording a UV-Visible absorption spectrum between 250 and 650 nm. AtGSTU8 is in blue, AtGSTU16 in red, AtGSTU19 in green, AtGSTU22 in violet and ZmGSTU1 in orange. In the inset, focus on the 350-450 nm region showing differences in the absorbance band maxima (λ_{max}).

Figure S3. Electrospray ionization (ESI) mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) spectra of AtGSTU8, AtGSTU16, AtGSTU19 and ZmGSTU1 focusing on their co-purified metabolite obtained using liquid chromatography coupled to a Bruker microTOF-Q spectrometer.

A molecule with a molecular mass of 616.1604 or 616.1861 Da corresponding to a heme b was detected for AtGSTU8 and AtGSTU16 respectively. A molecule with a molecular mass of

609.2541 or 609.2816 Da corresponding to harderoporphyrin was detected for AtGSTU19 and ZmGSTU1 respectively. Intensity of the signal is represented as arbitrary units (AU).

Figure S4. Multiple sequence alignment of GSTUs from Arabidopsis thaliana.

This multiple alignment was performed with ClustalW implemented in BioEdit. Proteins that present biochemical evidence for PPIX-binding properties are highlighted in magenta including *Zm*GSTU1. The numbering is based on AtGSTU1 sequence. The structure of AtGSTU23 used for docking study is underlined. Putative catalytic signature is coloured in red. Conserved residues are highlighted in yellow and their positions are indicated below the alignment by the symbols G, H and * for residues of the glutathione binding site, of the hydrophobic site and putative PPIX-binding residues identified through docking studies, respectively (this work and [8]).

Class & symbol		Occurrence	Oligomeric state	Catalytic residue	Catalytic and non-catalytic Interaction with activities porphyrin moieties
Alpha	A	Mammals, birds, fishes	Dimer	Tyr	GSH-conjugation, peroxide Yes, ligandin/catalytic
					reduction, isomerase sites
Beta	В	Bacteria	Dimer	Cys*	GSH-conjugation, thiol transferase
Chi	С	Bacteria	Dimer	?	GSH-conjugation, thiol transferase
Delta	D	Insects	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation
Epsilon	E	Insects	Dimer	Ser	Peroxide reduction
Phi	F	Plants, fungi, bacteria, protists	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation, peroxide Yes, ligandin/catalytic reduction, isomerase, ligandin, sites deglutathionylation*
Eta	Н	Bacteria	Dimer	Arg	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction
Hemerythrin	Н	Plants	?	Cys	?
Iota	I	Plants	?	Cys	?
Kappa	K	Mammals, bacteria	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction, ligandin
Lambda	L	Plants	Monomer	Cys	Thiol transferase, deglutathionylation, ligandin
Mu	M	Mammals, arthropodes, protozoa, cestoda	Dimer	Tyr	GSH-conjugation, peroxide Yes, ligandin site reduction, isomerase, ligandin
Nu/Ure2p	N	Plants, fungi, nematodes, bacteria	Dimer	Tyr/Asn	GSH-conjugation, thiol-transferase, peroxide reduction, ligandin
Omega	О	Mammals, fungi, insects	Dimer	Cys/Ser	GSH-conjugation, thiol transferase, dehydroascorbate (DHA) reductase, ion channel modulation
Pi	P	Mammals, nematodes	Dimer	Tyr	GSH-conjugation, peroxide Yes, catalytic site reduction, isomerase, NO transport/scavenging
Rho	R	Fishes, mollusca	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation
Sigma (including PGDS, PfGST)	S	Animals, insects, algae, trematodes, apicomplexa	Dimer	Tyr	GSH-conjugation, peroxide Yes, ligandin/catalytic reduction, isomerase, prostaglandin sites synthesis
Theta	T	Animals, plants, insects, algae, bacteria	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction

Tau	U	Plants	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction, ligandin	Yes, ligandin/catalytic sites
GHR (Xi)	-	Plants, fungi, bacteria, archaea	Dimer	Cys	DHA reductase, thiol transferase, deglutathionylation	sues
Zeta	Z	Animals, plants, insects, fungi, bacteria	Dimer	Ser	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction, isomerase	
CLIC	-	Invertebrates, mammals, fishes	Dimer/Monomer	Cys/Asp	Ligandin, ion channel formation and modulation	
DHAR	-	Plants	Monomer	Cys	DHA reductase, thiol transferase, deglutathionylation	
EF1B	-	Animals, plants, fungi	Monomer/Dimer	?	GSH-conjugation, protein translation	
Grx2	-	Bacteria	Monomer	Cys	GSH-conjugation, esterase, thiol-transferase	
GSTFuA (GTE)		Fungi	Dimer	Ser/Gly	GSH-conjugation, transferase, ligandin, esterase	
GTT	-	Fungi	Dimer	?	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction	
MAPEG (PfEXP1)		Animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, apicomplexa	Trimer	?	GSH-conjugation, peroxide reduction	Yes, catalytic site
mPGES2	-	Mammals, plants, birds, fishes	Dimer	Cys	Isomerase	Yes, catalytic site
Metaxin		Animals, Fungi, Plants	?	Ser/Cys	Membrane protein import in mitochondria	
SSPA	-	Bacteria (Francisella)	Dimer	Asp?	Ligandin?	
TCHQD	-	Plants, bacteria	Dimer	Ser	Dehalogenase	

Table S1. Occurrence of GST classes and associated properties.

The classes found in plants are in italics. Note that Prostaglandin-D synthases (PGDS) and *Plasmodium falciparum* GST (PfGST) have been grouped with sigma class GSTs based on their sequence similarity. Noteworthy, the Iota and Xi nomenclature was also used for defining some atypical GSTs in *Aedes aegypti* [9] but they are different from those indicated in this table. Although structurally divergent, MAPEG (membrane-associated proteins in eicosanoid and glutathione metabolism) proteins have been listed here because they exhibit GST-type activities and a

MAPEG-like from *P. falciparum* (EXP1) was shown to bind heme. The conclusions shown in the column "interaction with porphyrin moieties" are essentially derived from the enzymatic studies listed in Table 1.

*Both serine and cysteine residues are present in the active site signature of some members which explain the existence of both GSH-conjugation and thiol transferase/deglutathionylation activities. This table was updated from a previous version [10].

References

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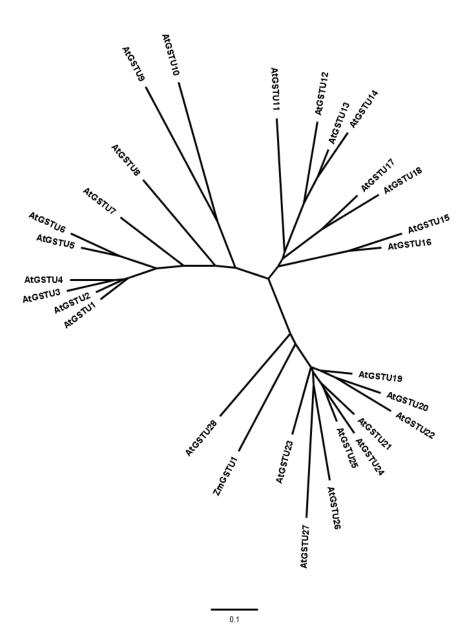


Figure S1

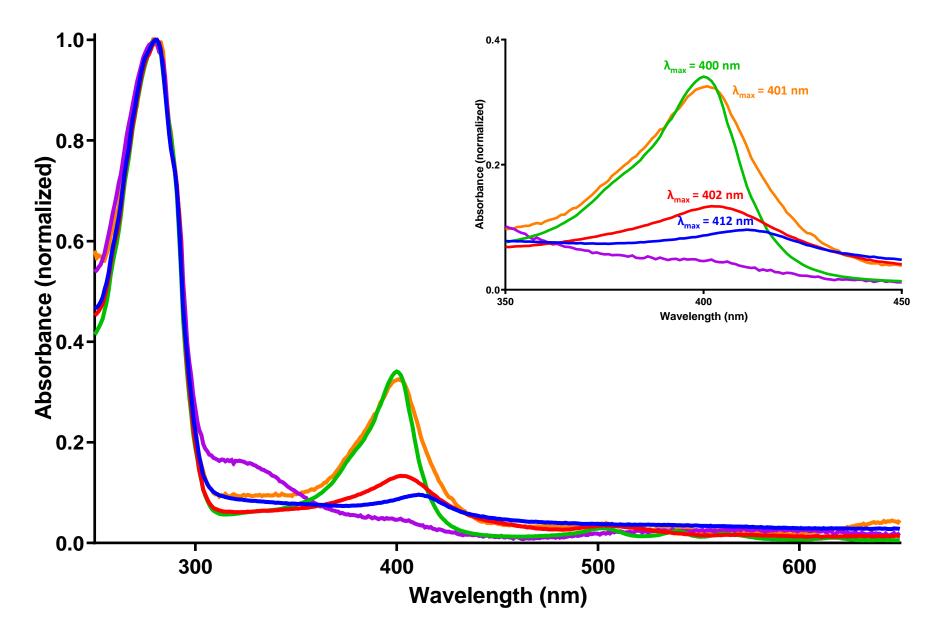


Figure S2

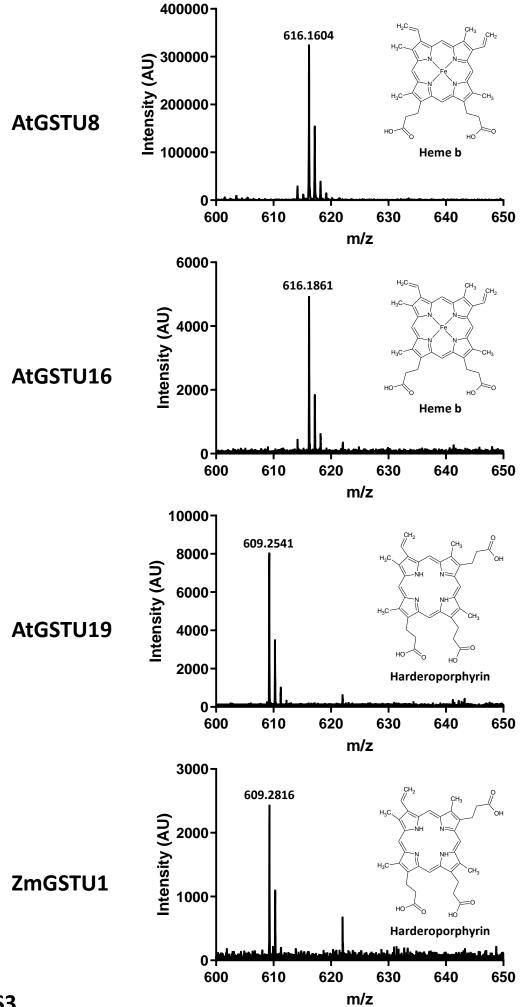


Figure S3

