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Identification of novel genes responsible for As^{5+} (砷) detoxification in rice

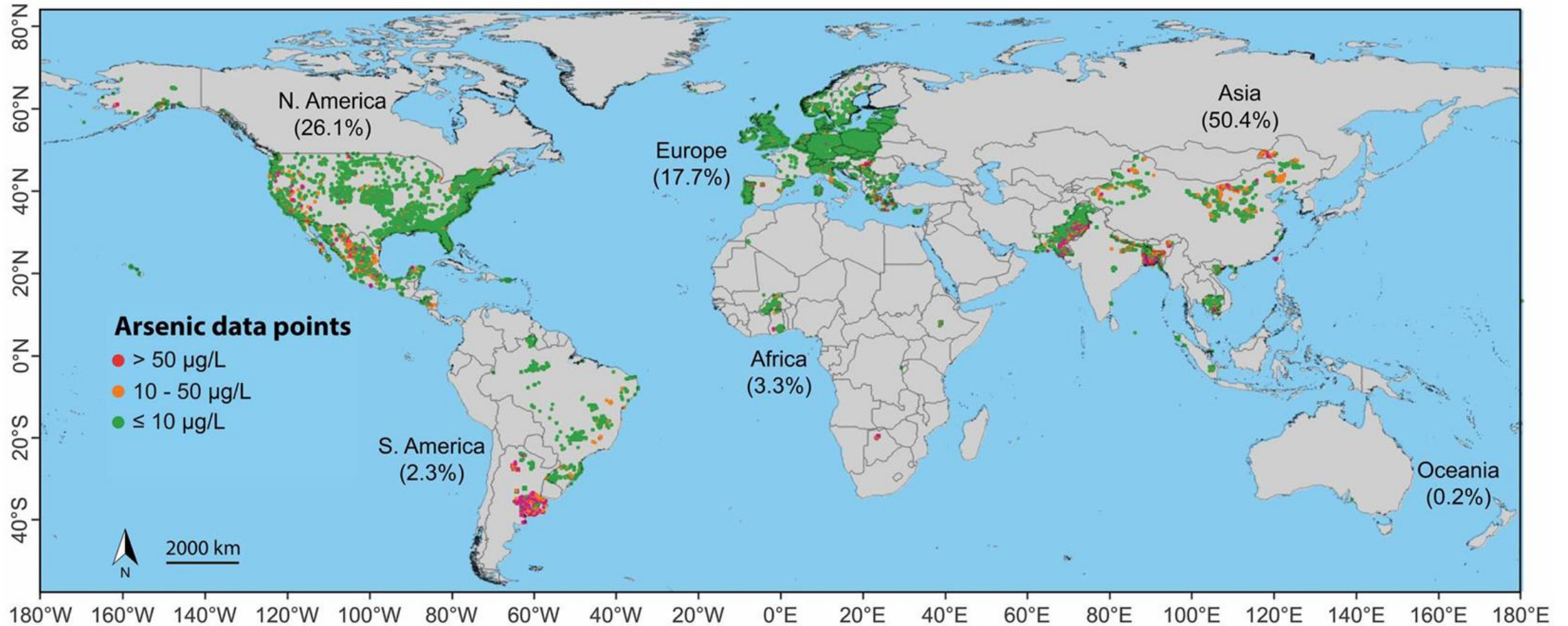
Speaker: Xuan Chen

Supervisor: Fenglin Deng, Meixue Zhou, Chenchen Zhao

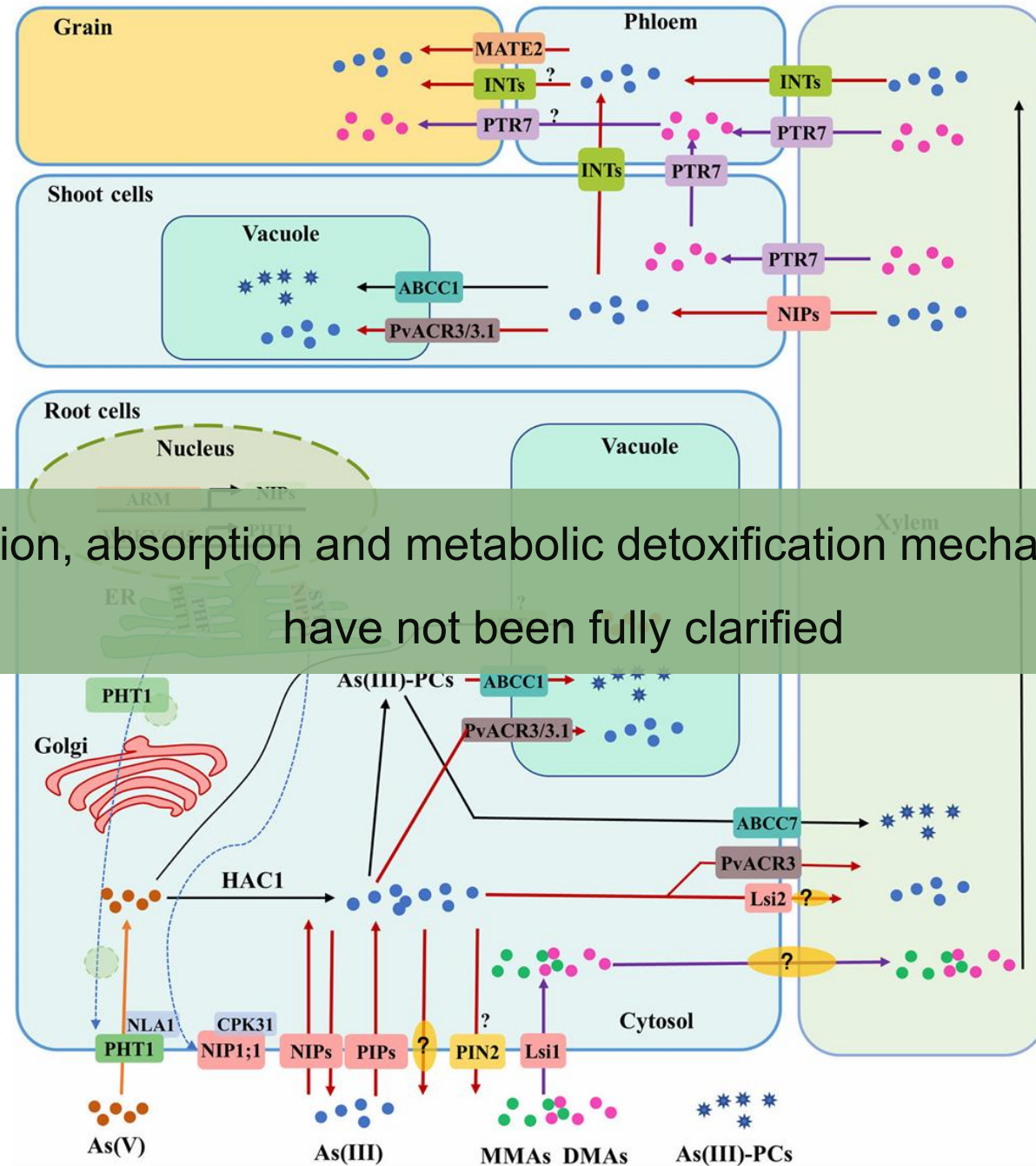
13 March 2026 Launceston

Background

Arsenic pollution in agricultural soils and irrigation water is becoming increasingly serious



Background

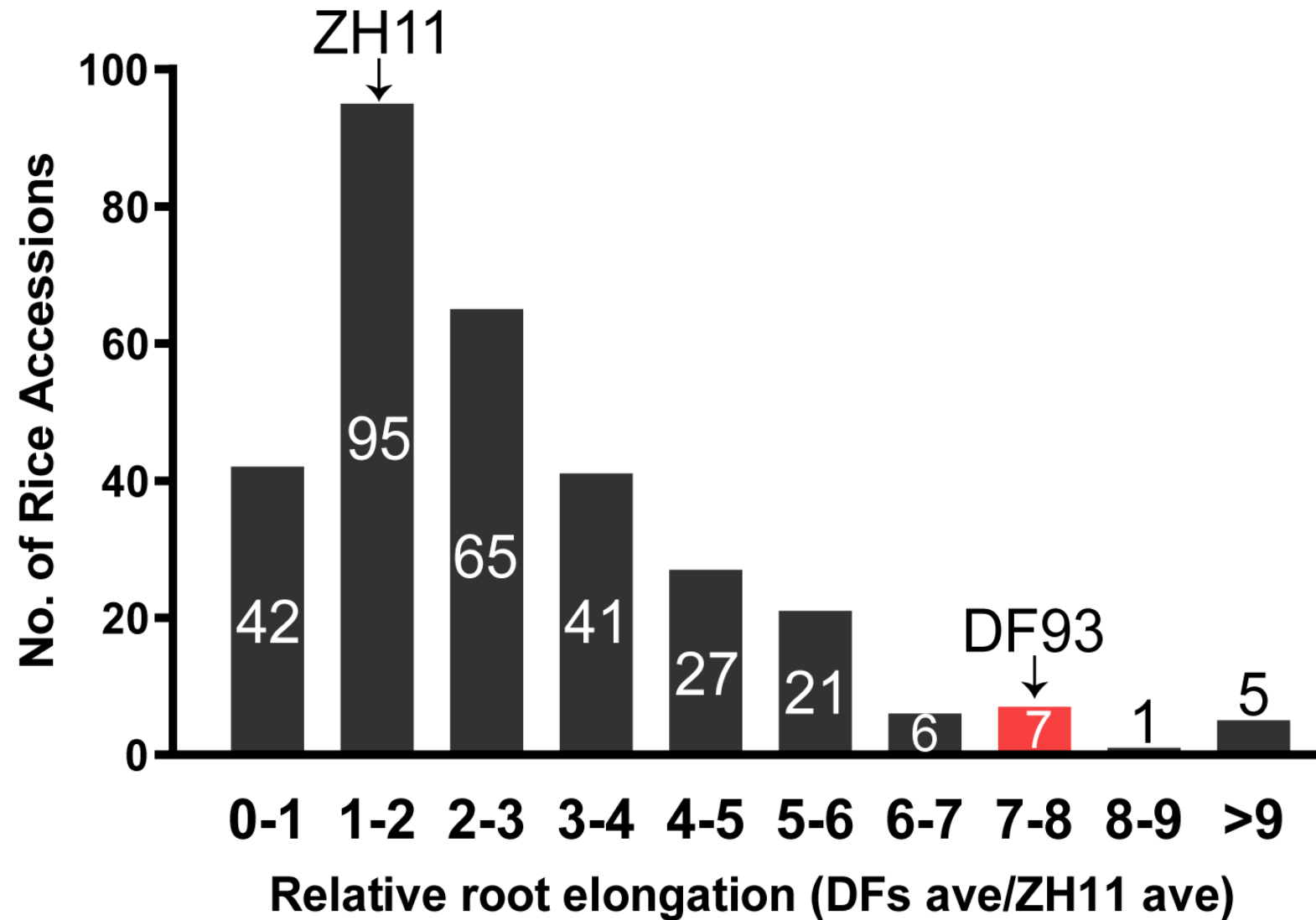


The signal perception, absorption and metabolic detoxification mechanisms of arsenic in rice have not been fully clarified

Research content

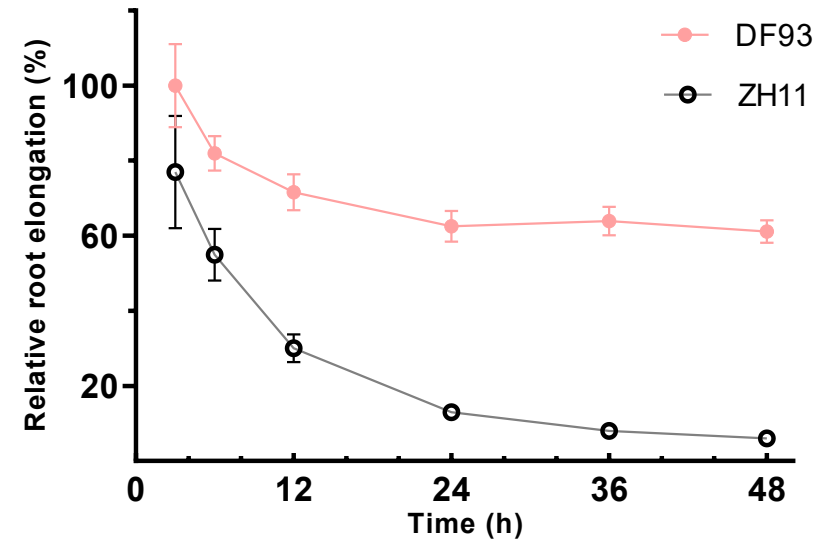
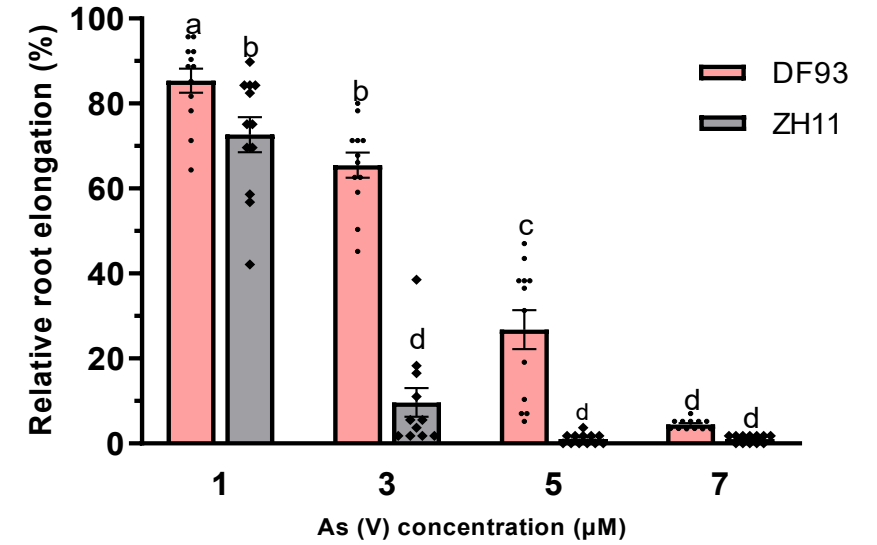
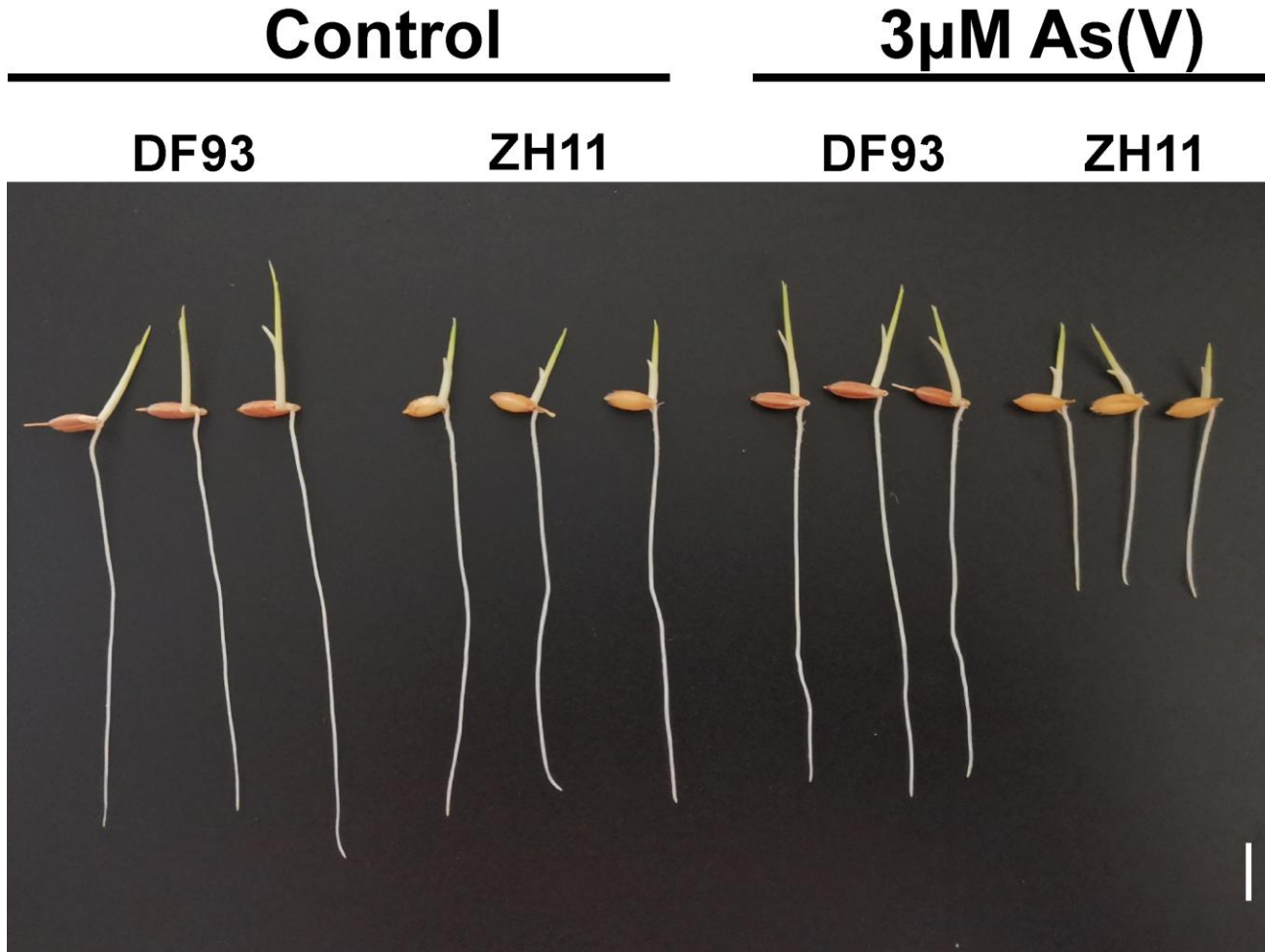
- 1 To identify novel genes related to arsenate tolerance and detoxification in rice.
- 2 To explore the natural variation of arsenate tolerance

Natural variation of As(V) tolerance of 310 rice genotypes

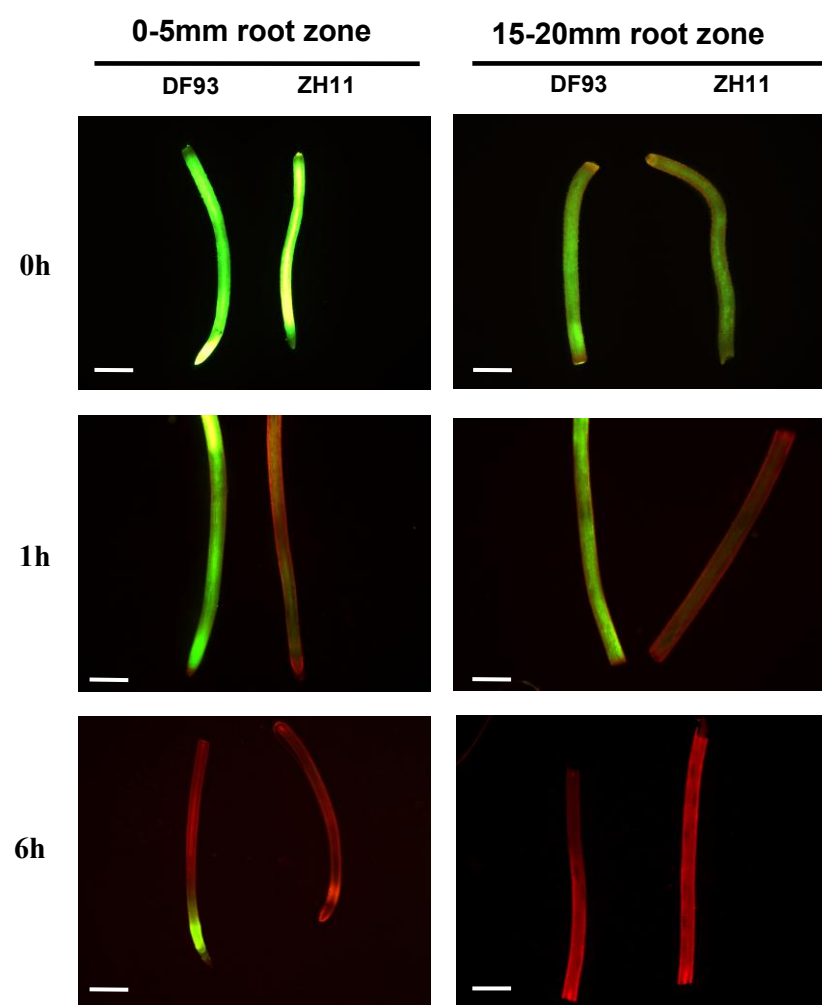


2.5 μ M AsV for 24 h

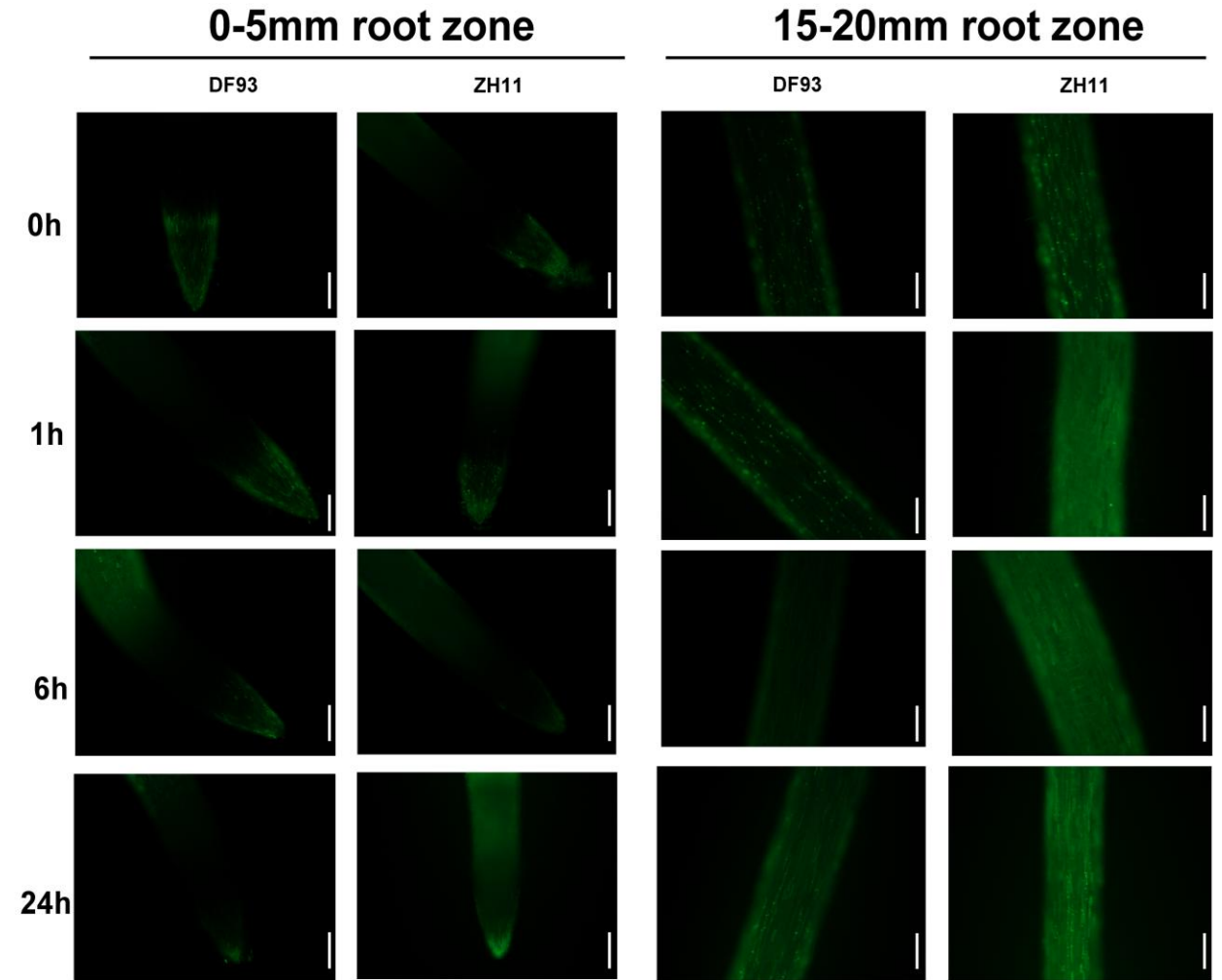
DF93 - an arsenate-tolerant genotype



Root cell viability was much higher in DF93 than that in ZH11



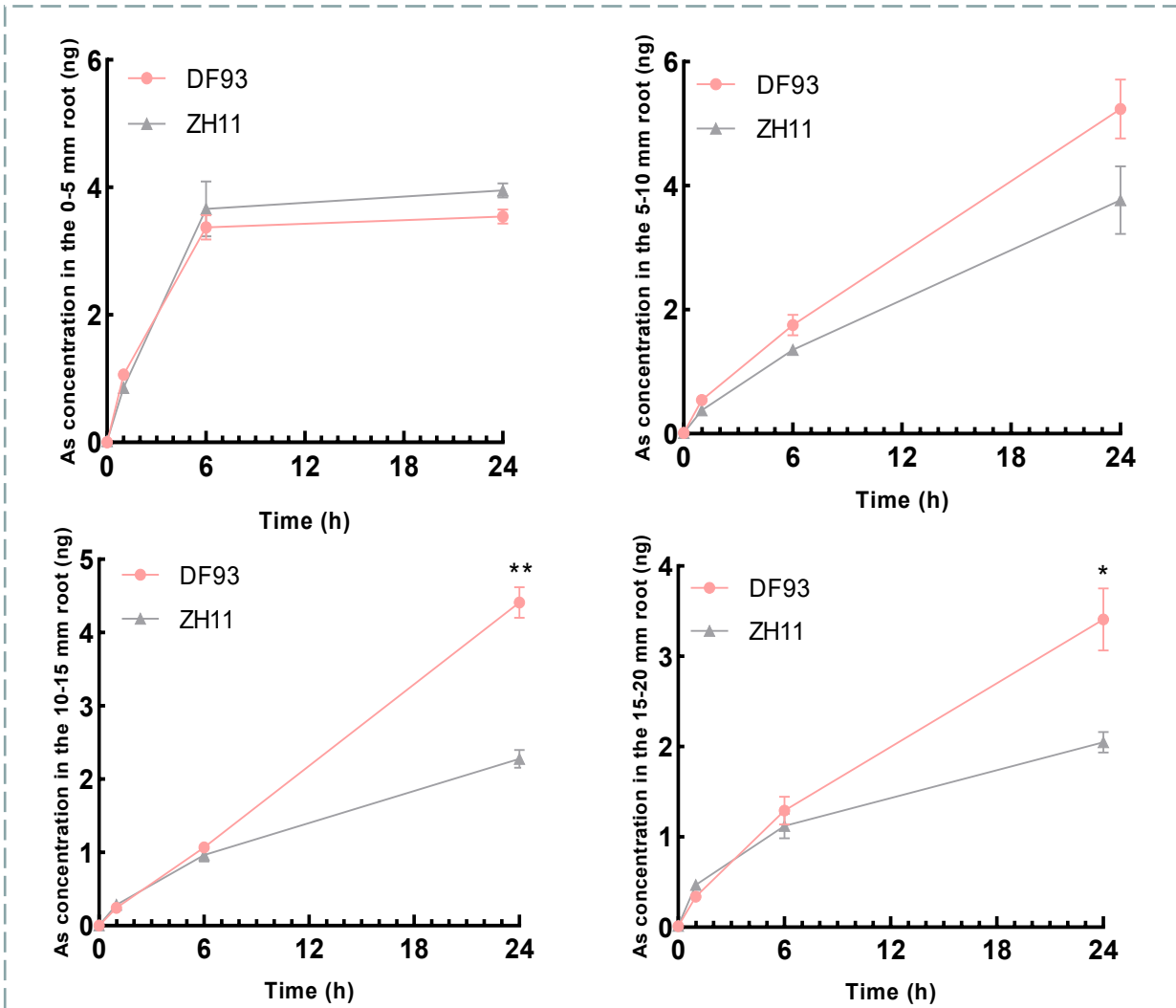
Fluorescein Diacetate (FDA) -Propidium Iodide (PI) staining
Red:dead cells Green: live cell



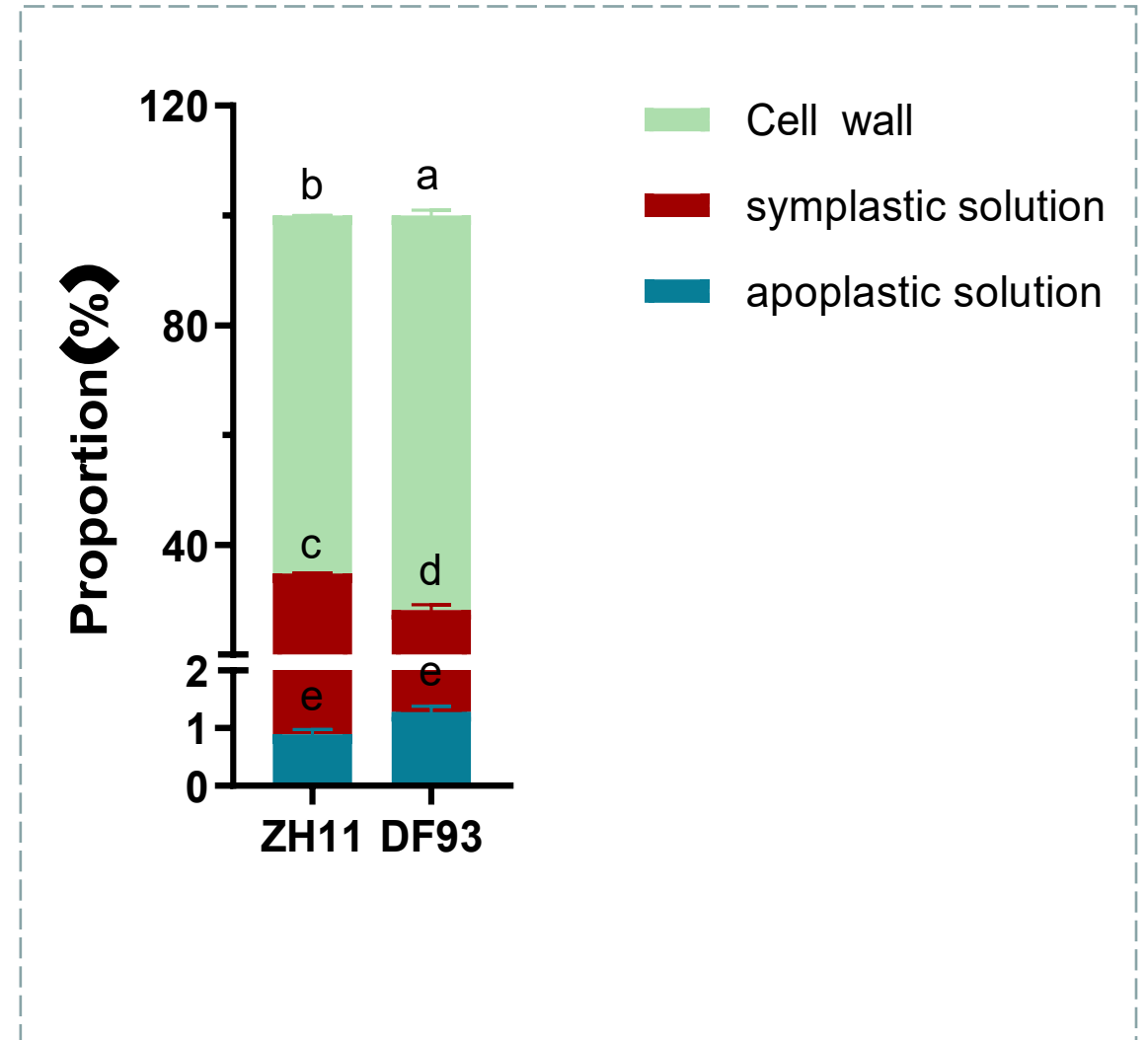
Reactive oxygen species staining

Differential As accumulation between DF93 and ZH11

As content in different root tip zone

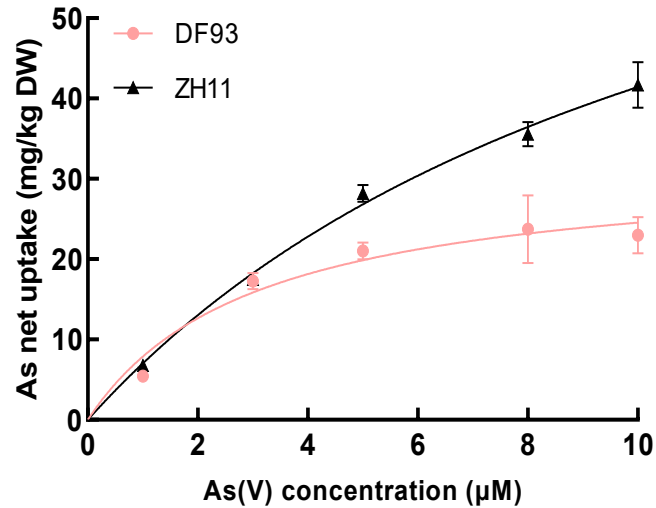


As content in root cell sap

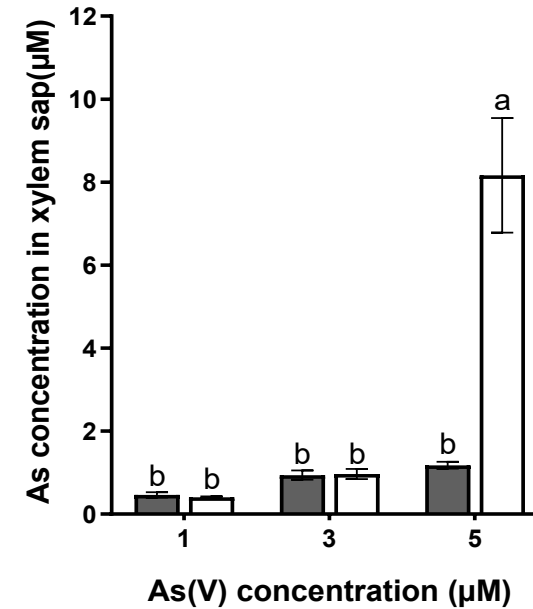
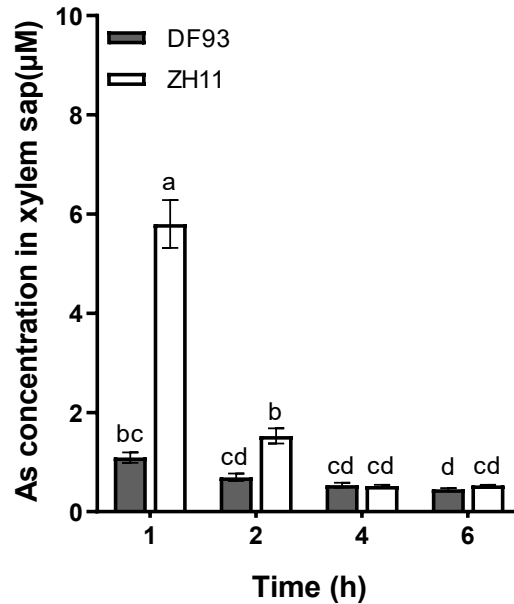


Differences in As(V) uptake, transport, and efflux

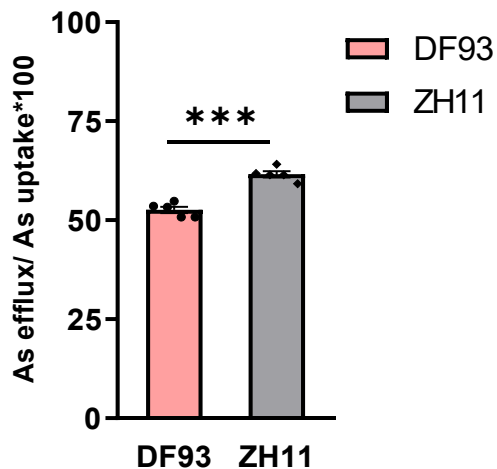
- **Net uptake**



- **Xylem sap**

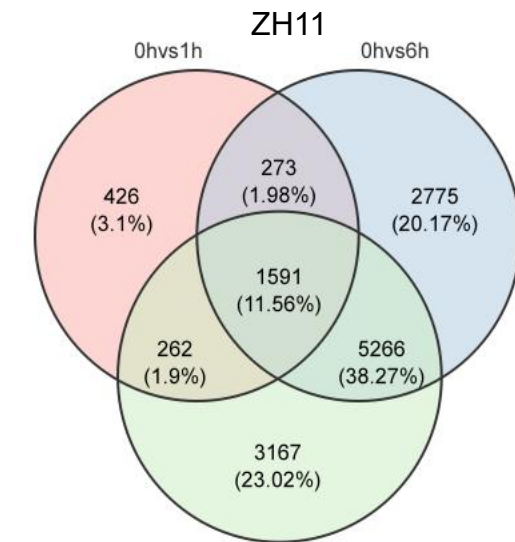
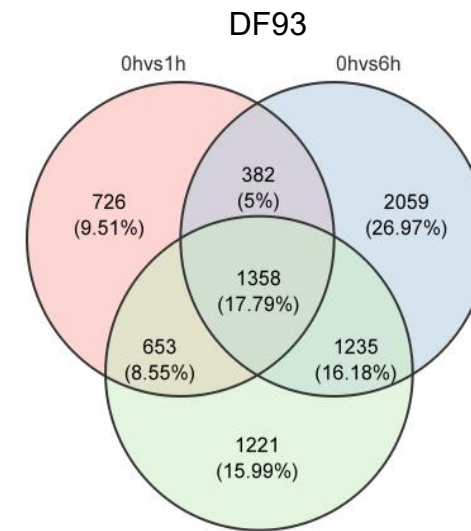
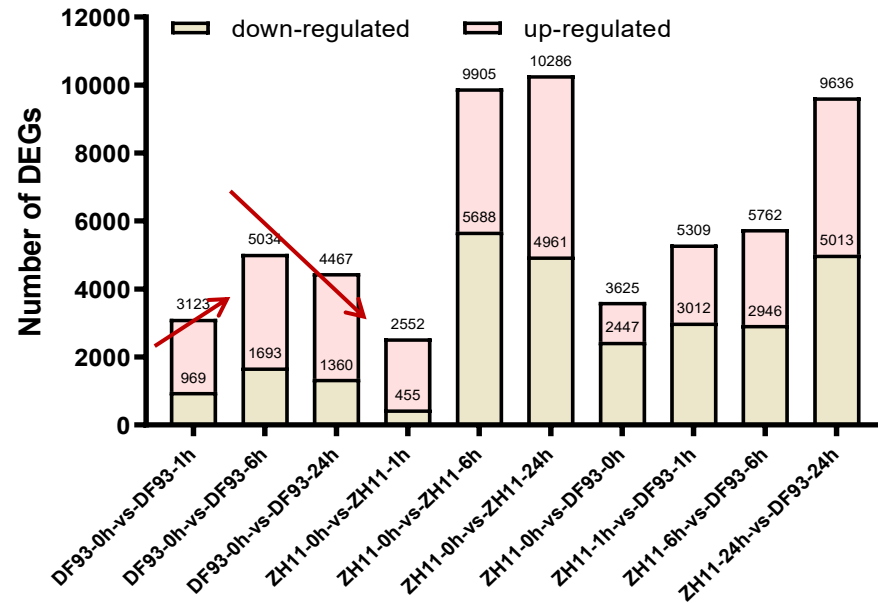


- **Efflux**

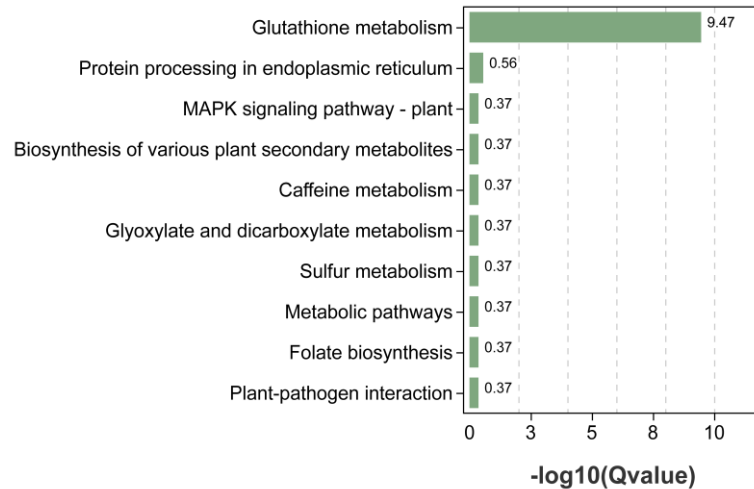


➤ The differential root uptake and xylem loading capacity of As may be main factors determining the contrasting As(V) tolerance in DF93 and ZH11, rather than the efflux capacity.

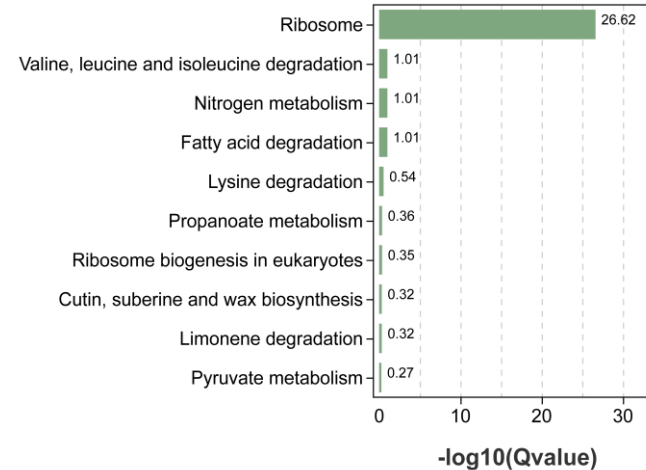
Transcriptome analysis of two genotypes in response to As(V) stress



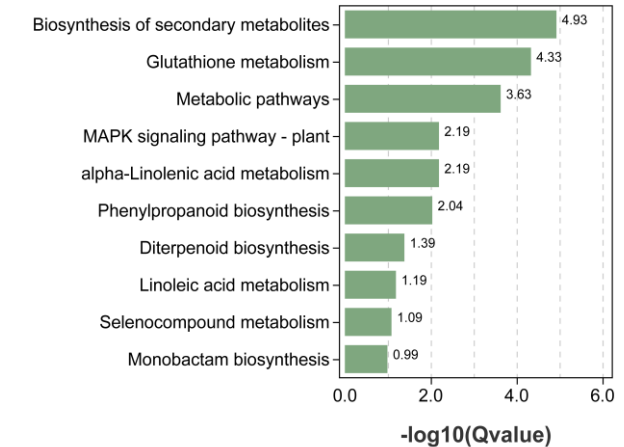
KEGG enrichment (430)



DF93 uniq (928) KEGG enrichment

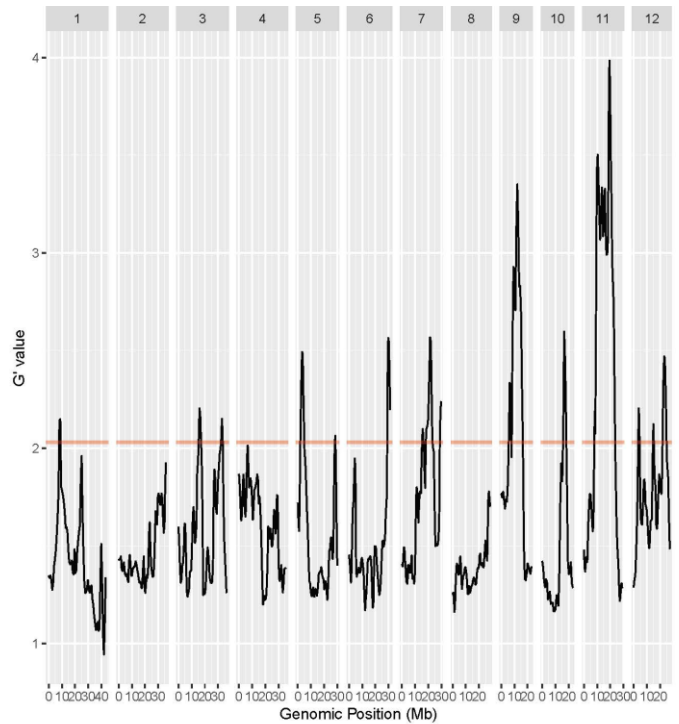
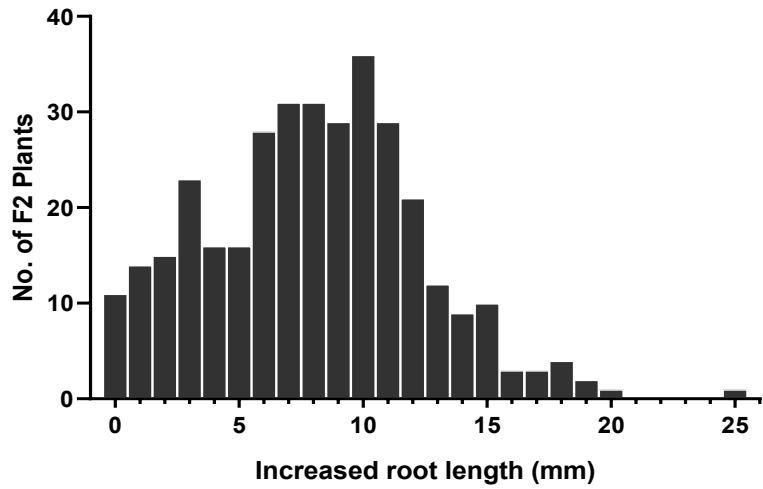


ZH11 uniq (1161) KEGG enrichment

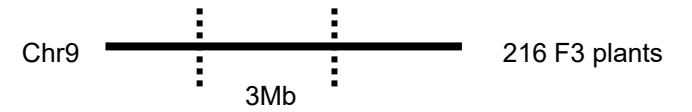
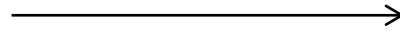


➤ The 928 DEGs unique to DF93 were mainly relevant to **protein synthesis, metabolism and ribosomes**.

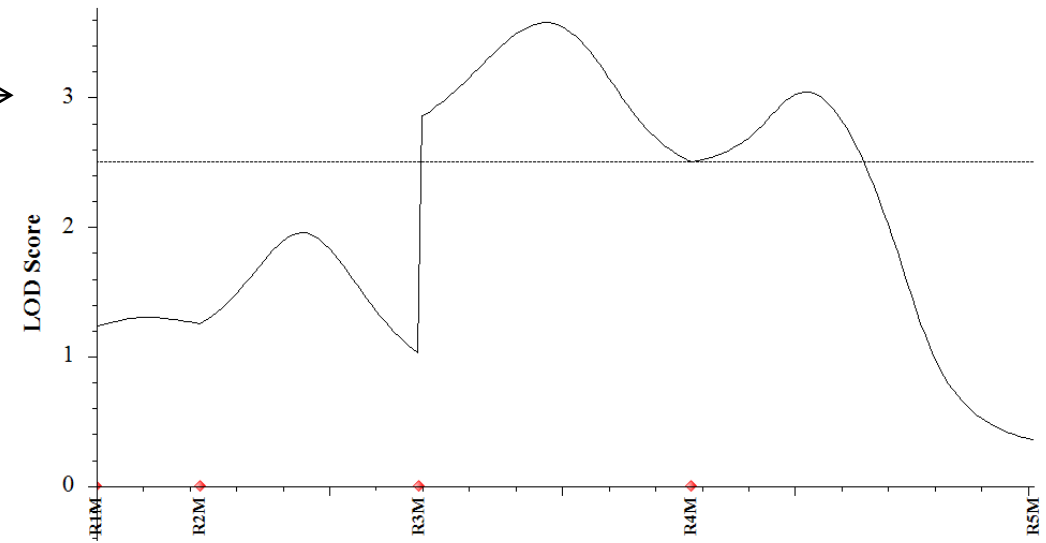
Identification of candidate genes through BSA-seq



Mapping

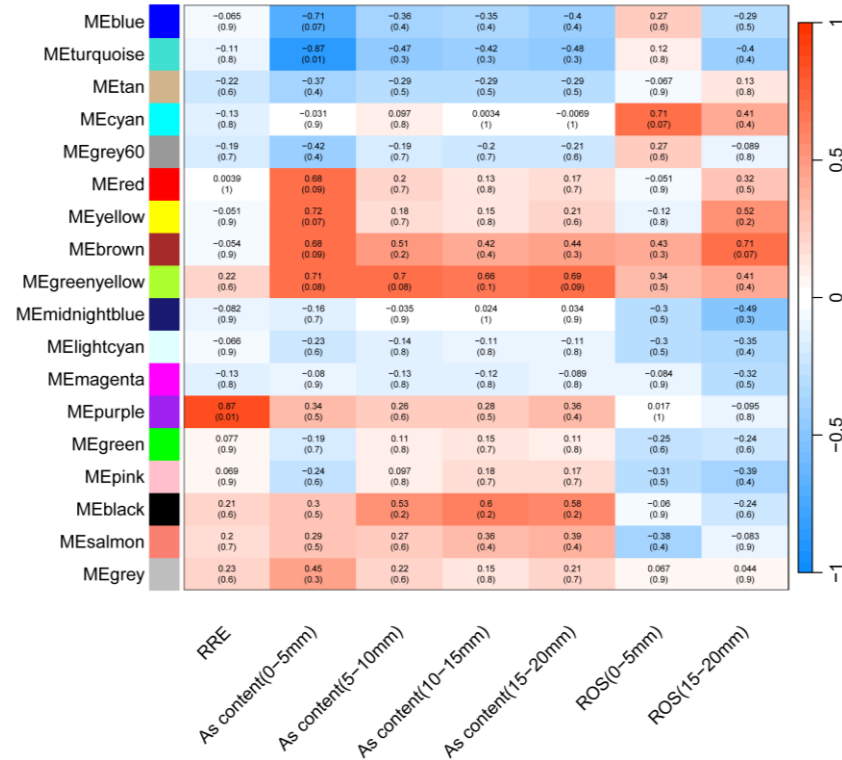


Resistance

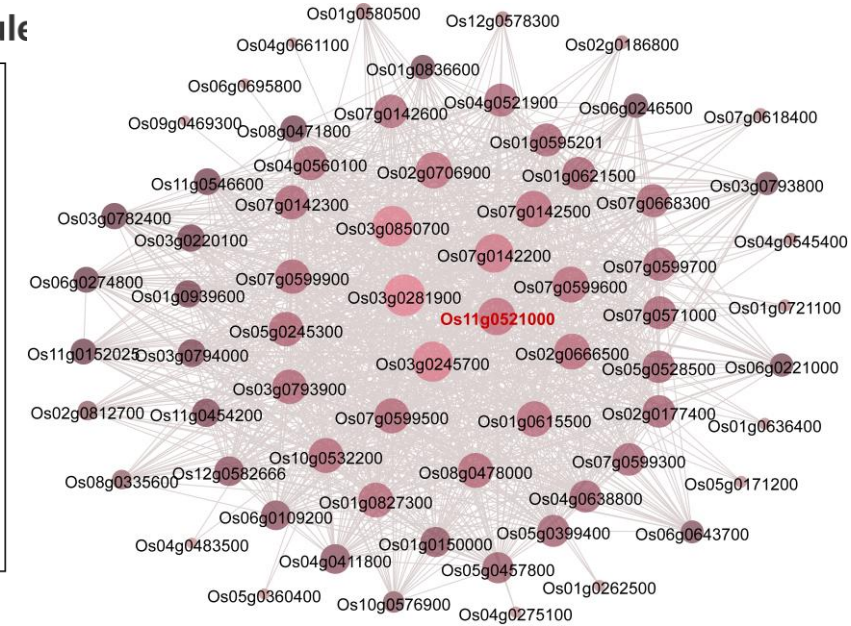
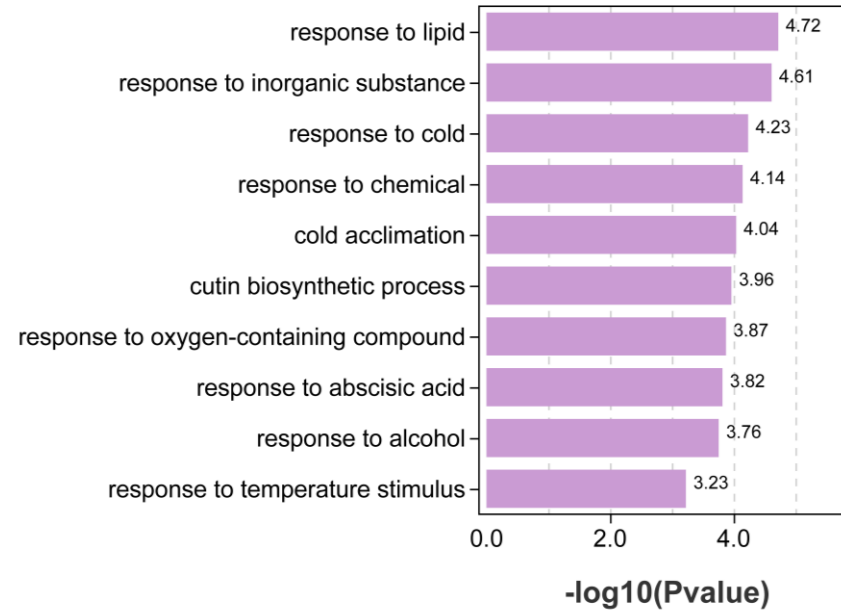


Identification candidate genes through intergrated BSA- & RNA-seq

Module-trait relationships

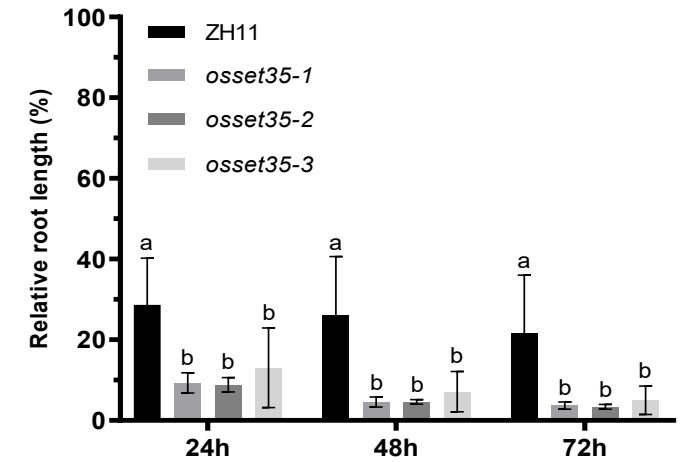
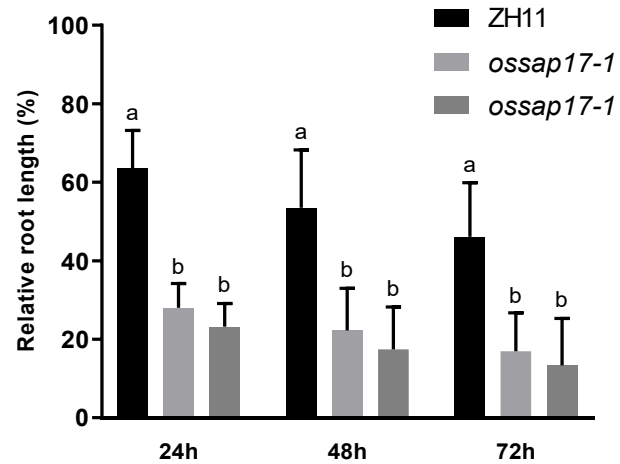
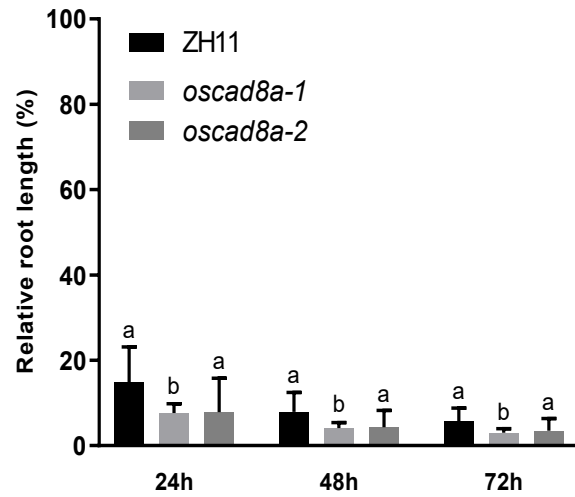
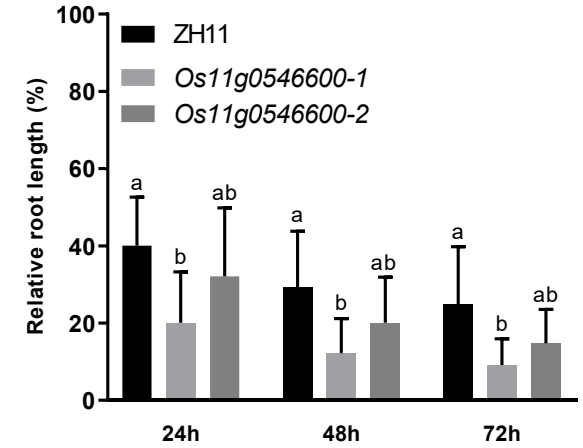
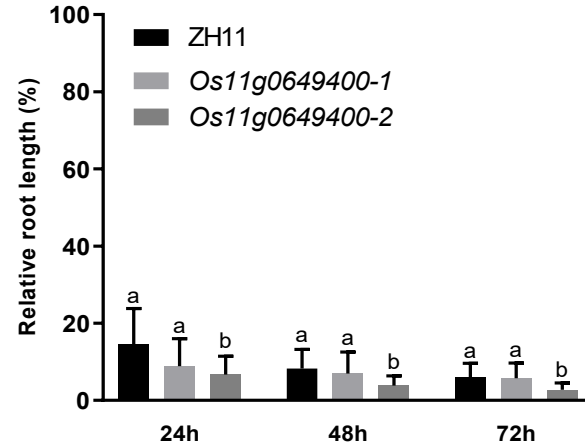
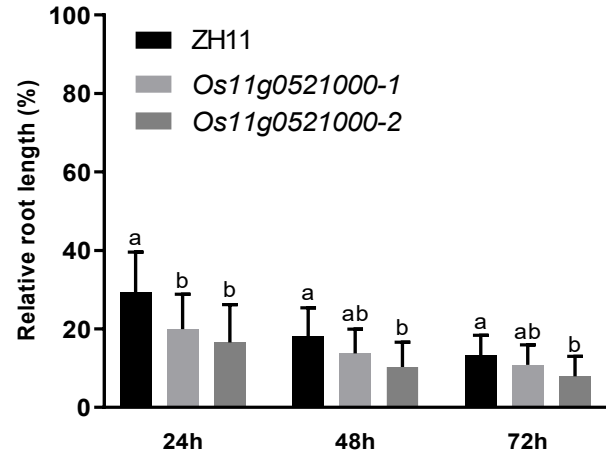


GO enrichment (purple module)



- The combination of BSA-Seq and RNA-Seq analysis identified six candidate genes. WGCNA analysis mainly selected the genes in the purple module related to the root length phenotype.

Knockout of the candidates lead to increased sensitivity to As(V)



Further verification of the candidate -*OsSAP17*

AN1-type zinc-finger protein

OsSAP17(LOC_Os09g21710)



Target1: ACGGAGGCGTTCCCGGACCTGGG

Target2: AGCCGTGGTCCCGGTACGTCCGG

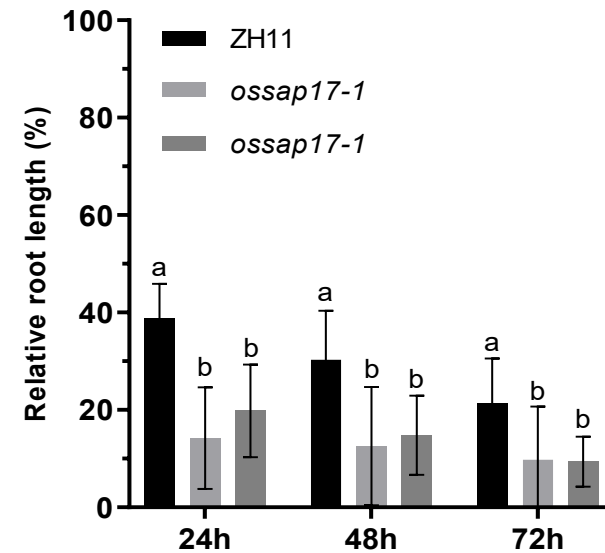
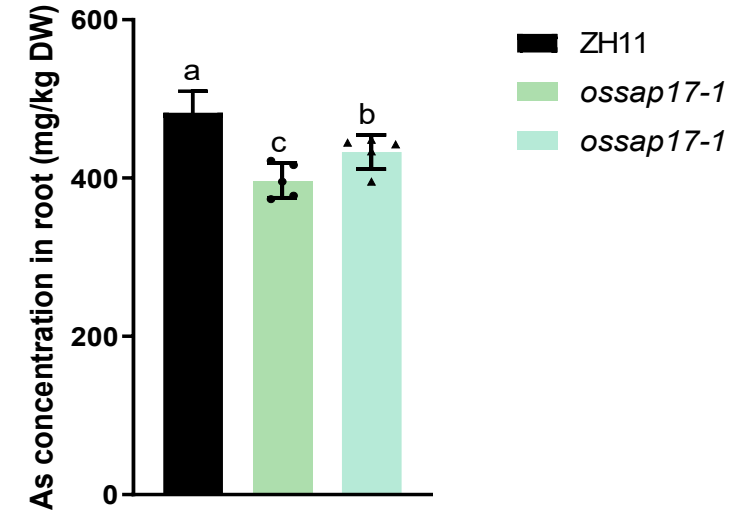
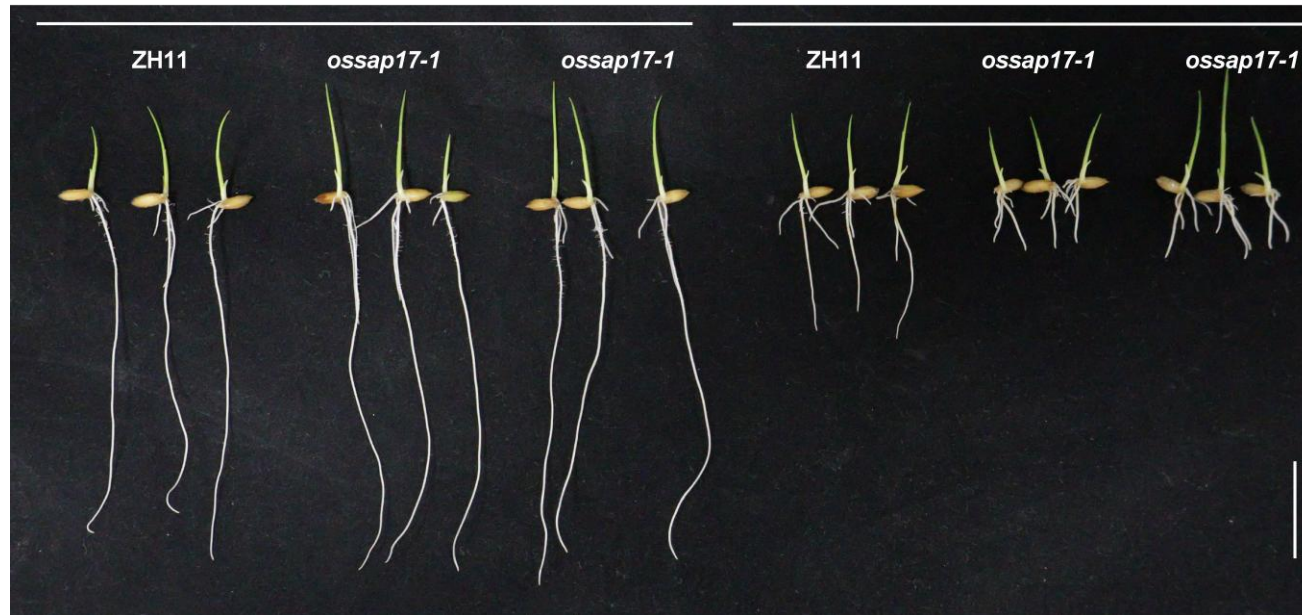
Target3: AGAAGGTGTGCCTCAAGCACCGG

ZH11: CCCGGACCTGGG...AAGGTGTGCCTCAAGCACCGGTTCCCGCGCGAC

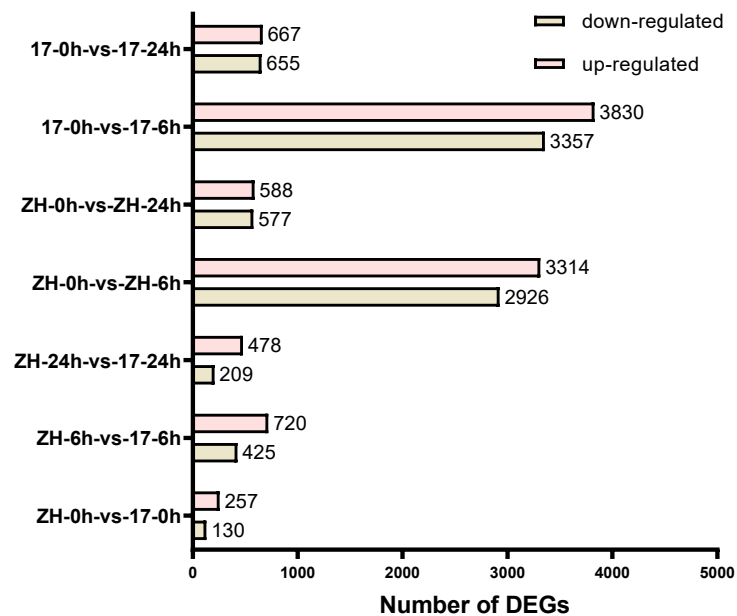
ossap17: CCCGGATC-----CACCGGTTCCCGCGCGAC (C-T,-360bp)

CK

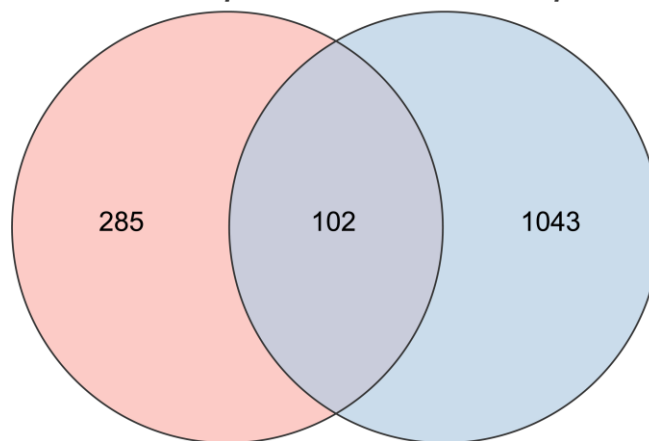
2.5 μ M As (V)



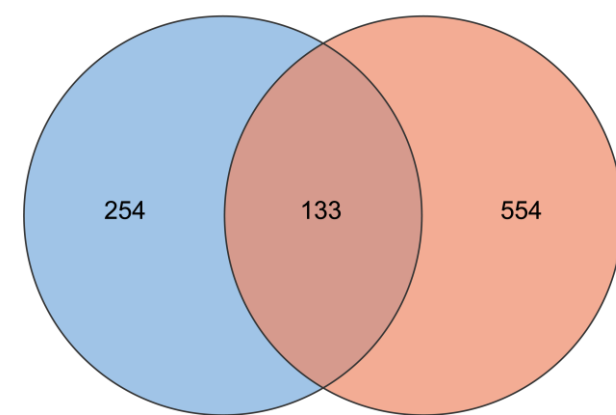
Transcriptomic analysis of *ossap17* mutants



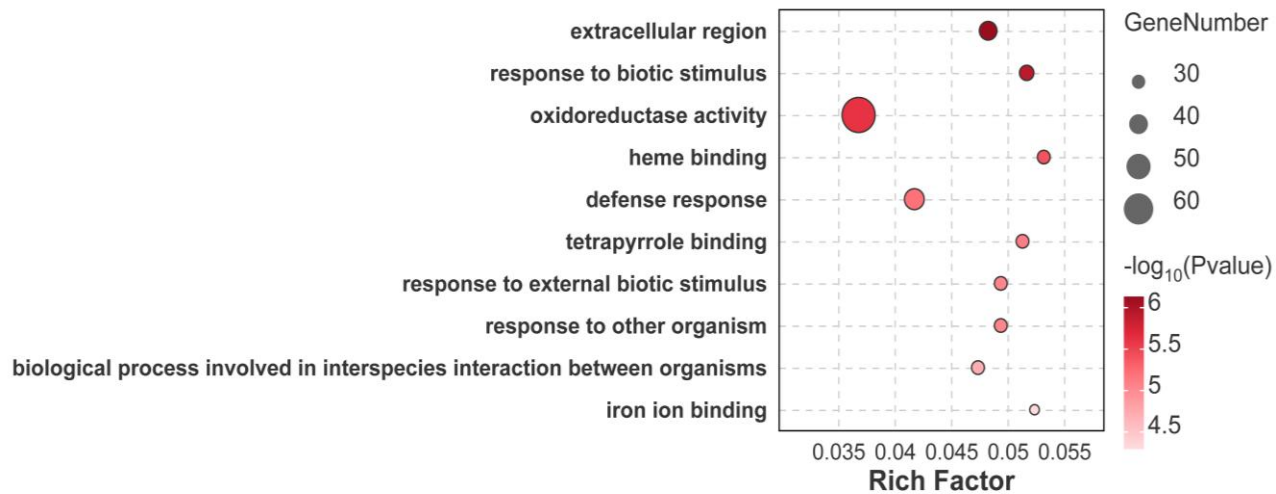
ZH11-0h vs *ossap17*-0h ZH11-6h vs *ossap17*-6h



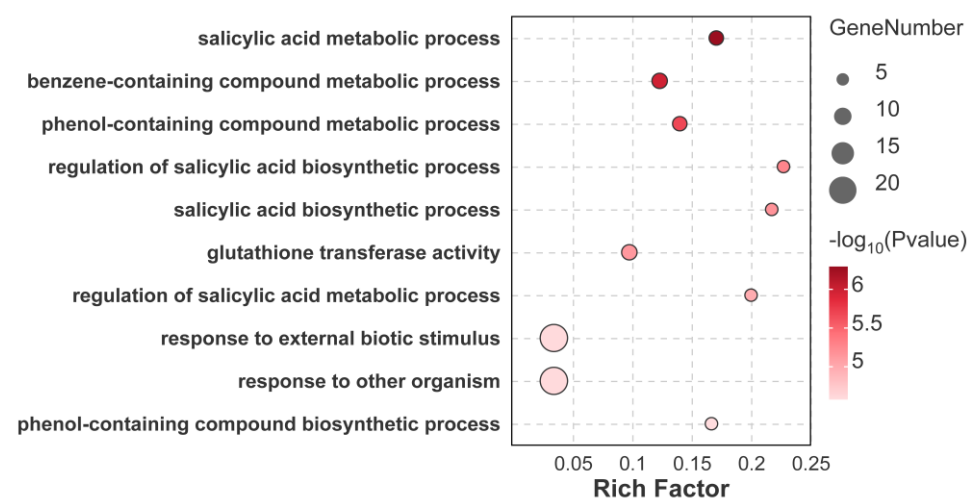
ZH11-0h vs *ossap17*-0h ZH11-24h vs *ossap17*-24h



6h- Down- Go enrichment



24h- Down- Go enrichment



Summary

- **The differences in root absorption and xylem loading capacity of arsenic, as well as cell wall adsorption, may be the main factors determining the differences in arsenate tolerance between DF93 and ZH11.**
- **Compared with ZH11, DF93 could respond to arsenate stress signal faster.**
- **OsSAP17 may respond to arsenate stress by regulating the redox balance and hormone signaling in rice.**



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Thanks for your attention

