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Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture

CRICOS 00586B



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The First China-Australia Symposium  
on Crop Stress and Climate Adaptation

# QTL mapping for low-phosphorus tolerance in barley

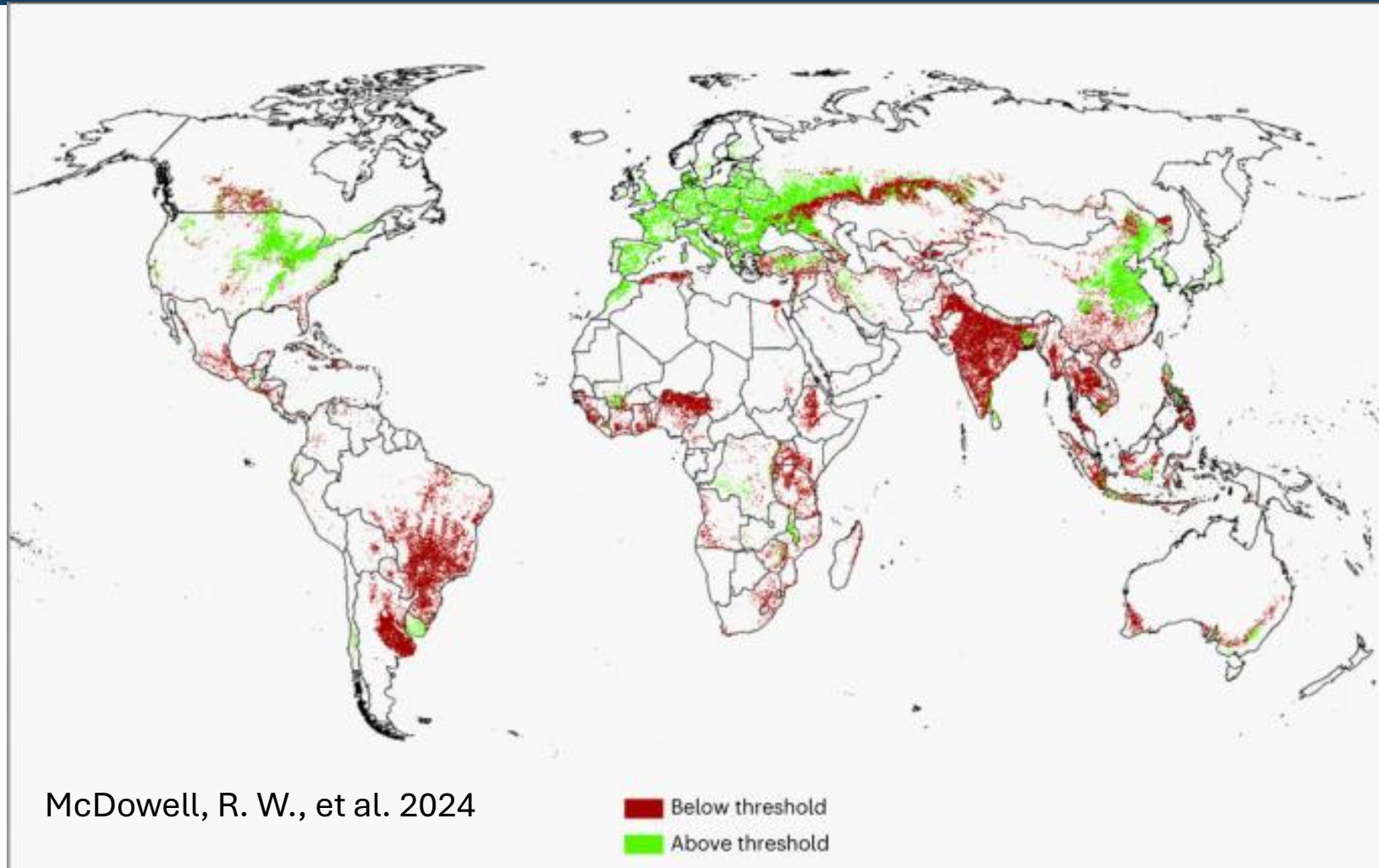
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**Master student**

Supervisor: Meixue Zhou, Chenchen Zhao, Shubing Liu

13 March 2026 Launceston

# Background



The global distribution of cropland growing major crops with soil phosphorus above or below the agronomic threshold of 15 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>

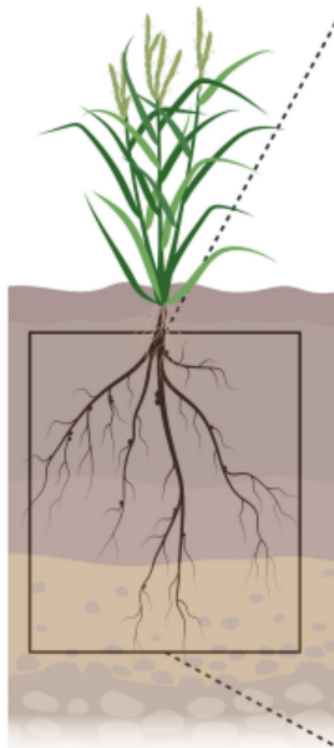
# Background

- Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) is an important cereal crop that can grow under low-fertility conditions
- Genetic variation in phosphorus use efficiency makes barley a suitable crop for identifying QTLs related to low-phosphorus tolerance



# Barley challenged by low phosphorus stress

## Effect of N, P and K deficiencies



	N	P	K	Factors influencing contradictory effects
Root length	↓	↓	→	Low precipitation
Root biomass	↓	↓	na	Genotype
Root length per shoot biomass	↑	↑	→	Development stage
Root-to-shoot ratio	↑	→	na	Soil type
Specific root length	→	→	na	Tillering
				Rate of nutrient input

Soil

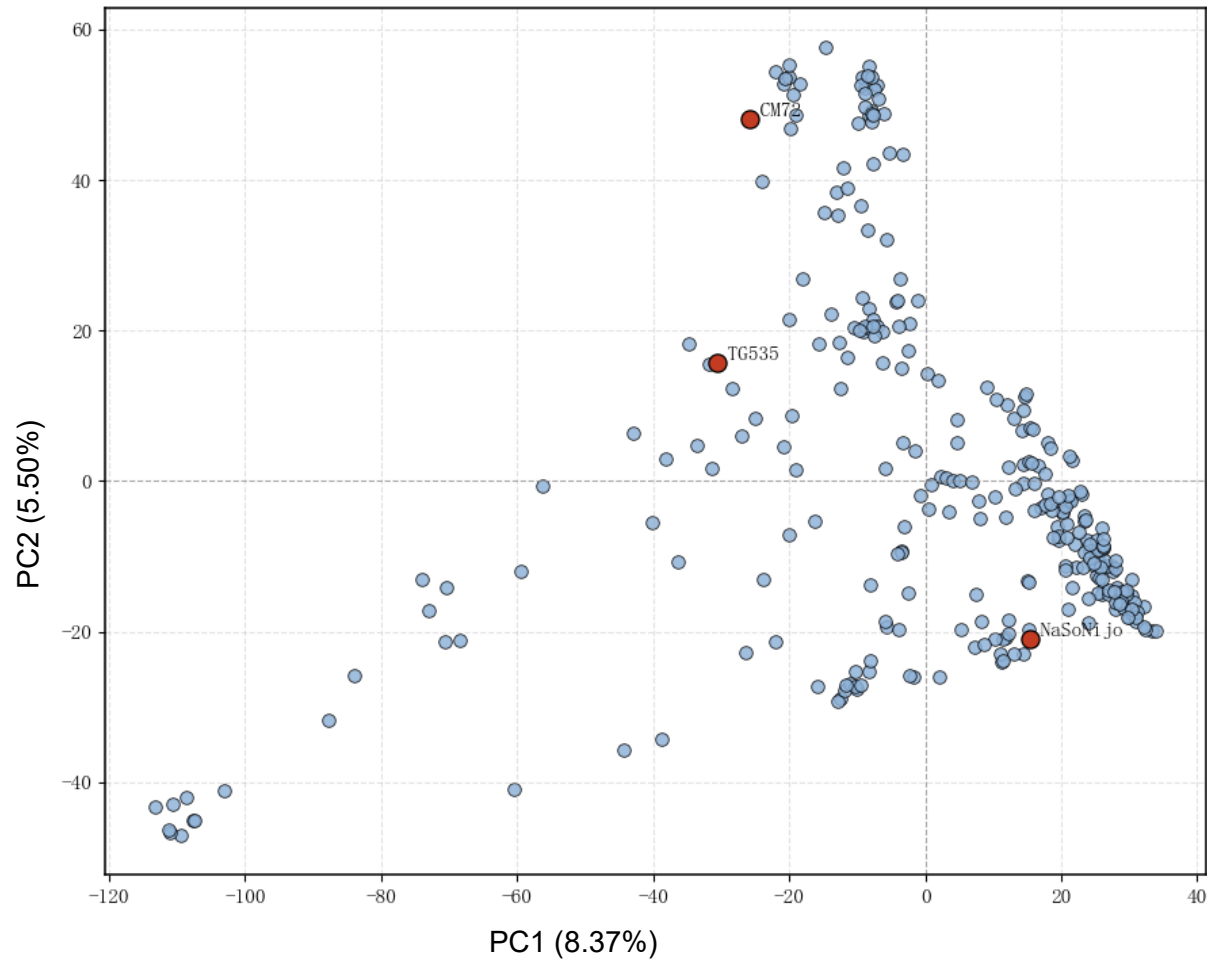
Gina et al.2023

# Objectives

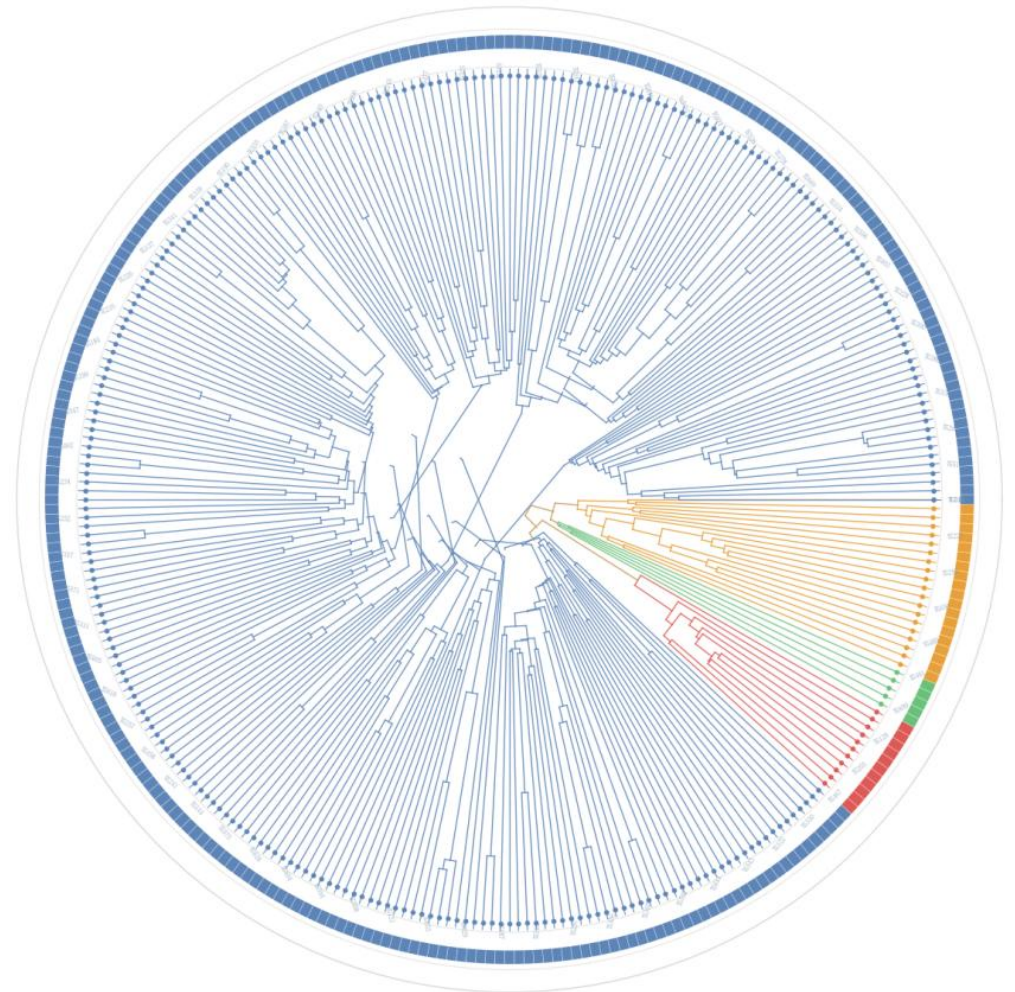
- **To develop screening methods for low-phosphorus tolerance in barley**
- **To identify QTLs associated with low-phosphorus tolerance**

# Genetic relationship of the barley GWAS panel

Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the Natural Population



Phylogenetic tree of the barley natural population



# Low-P tolerance grading in the natural population



0

1

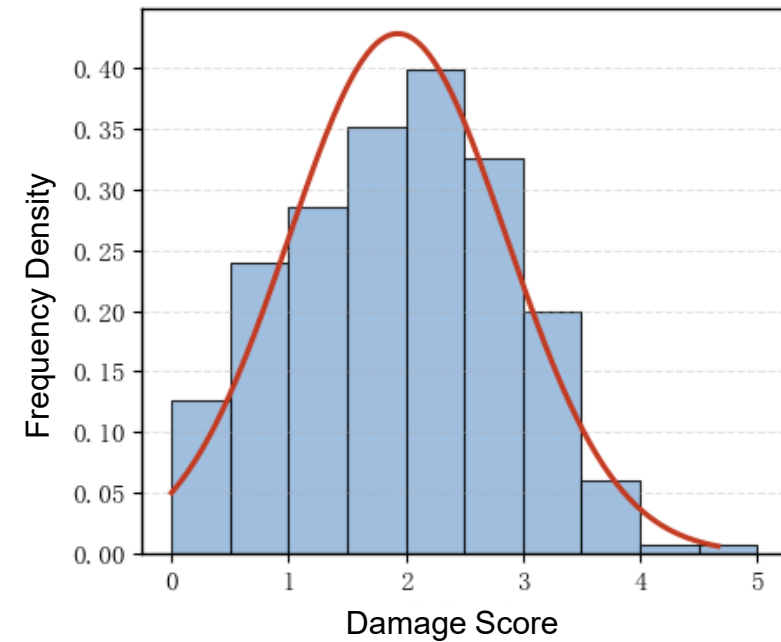
2

3

4

5

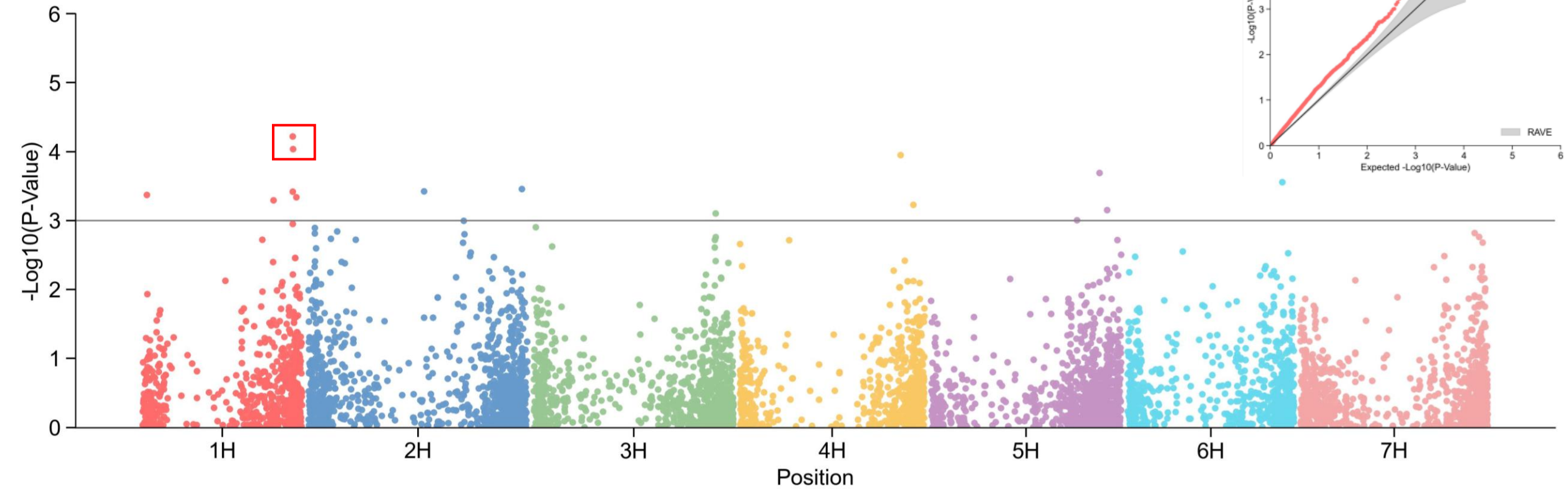
Frequency Distribution of Damage Score



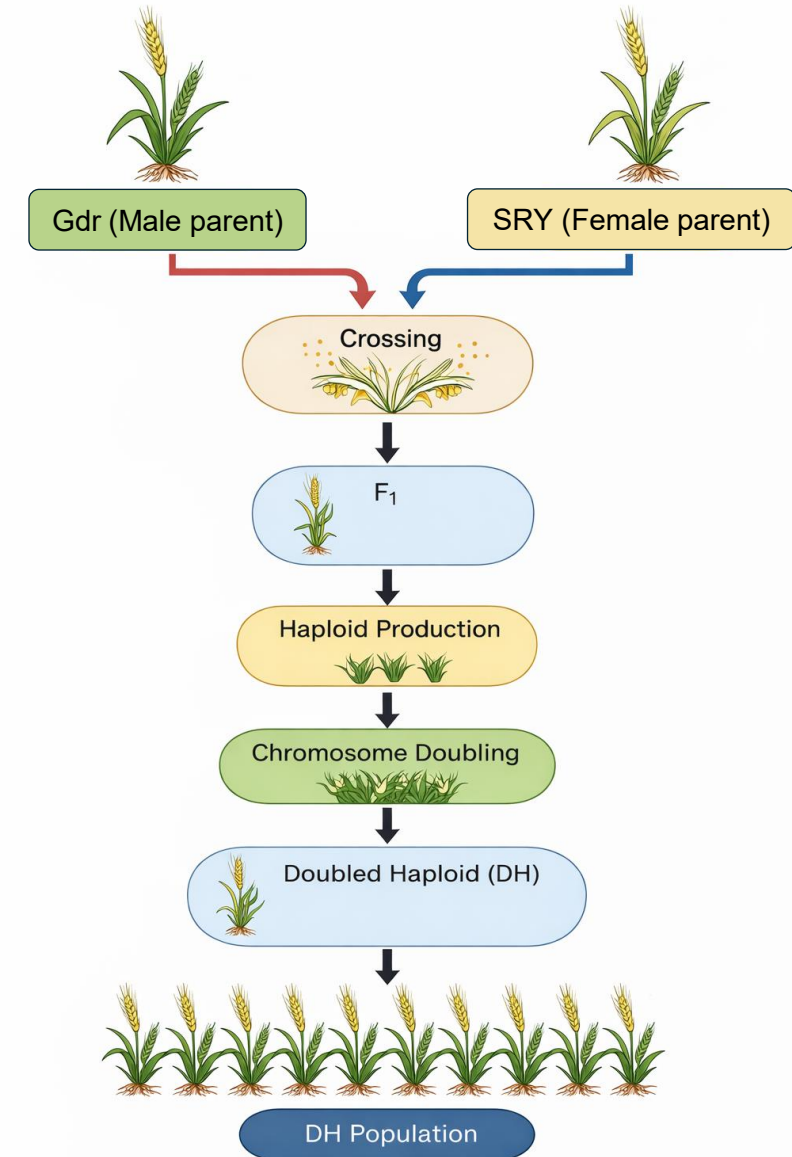
Low-P tolerance was evaluated using a 0–5 scoring scale based on leaf chlorosis and plant vigor. Score 0 indicates highly tolerant plants with normal growth, while score 5 represents highly sensitive plants with severe chlorosis.

# GWAS Manhattan plot

A significant SNP association was identified on chromosome 1H



# Parental Performance and Development of the DH Population

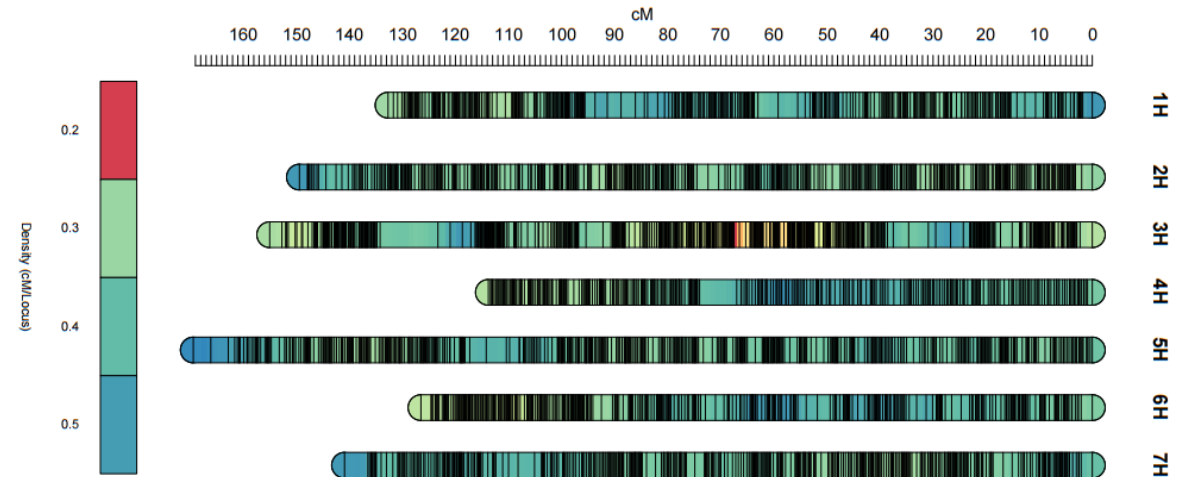


# Phenotypic Analysis and Genetic Map of the Barley SGDH Population

Phenotypic statistics of traits under low-phosphorus stress

Trait	Plant Height (cm)	Tiller Number at 20 Days After Emergence	Damage Score	Tiller Number at 30 Days After Emergence	Shoot Dry Weight(g)	Total Dry Weight(g)	Root Dry Weight(g)
Mean	19.59	0.45	1.47	1.56	0.63	1.16	0.53
Max	27.89	1.50	3.50	2.42	1.01	1.73	0.94
Min	12.74	0.00	0.17	0.83	0.20	0.38	0.18
SD	3.42	0.31	0.81	0.33	0.16	0.27	0.14
CV(%)	17.46%	68.92%	54.78%	21.01%	24.85%	23.22%	25.60%

Genetic linkage map of the barley SGDH population

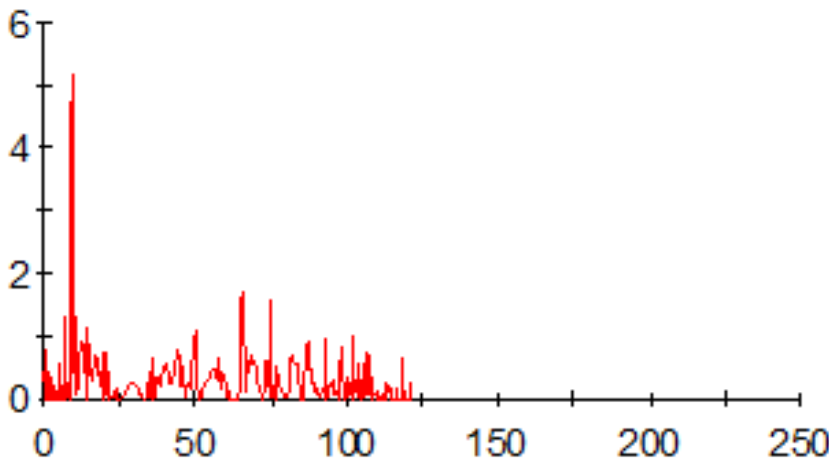


Substantial phenotypic variation was observed. Damage score showed the largest variation. The genetic map supports QTL mapping.

# QTL for Damage Score under Different Sowing Conditions

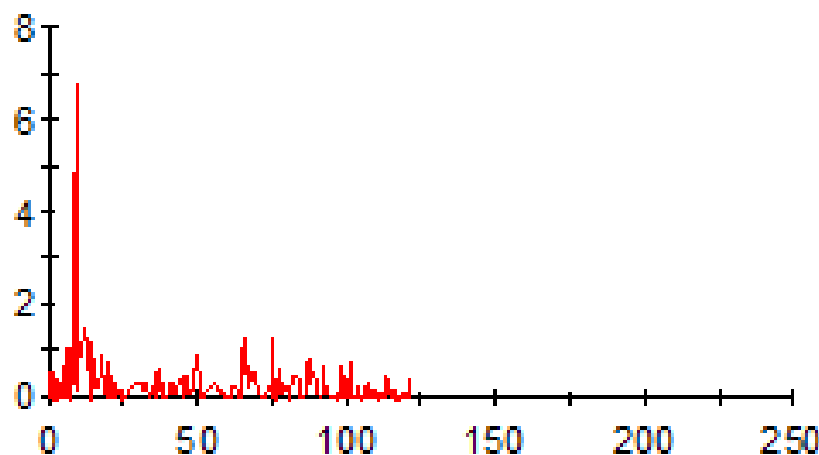
A stable QTL controlling damage score was identified on chromosome 1H, with its effect varying under different sowing conditions.

PVE=14%  
1H



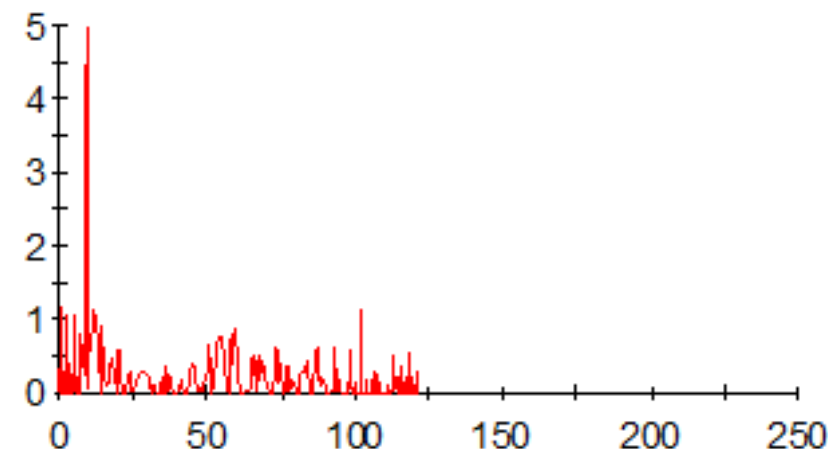
Damage score QTL

PVE=22.6%  
1H



Damage score QTL under  
spring sowing

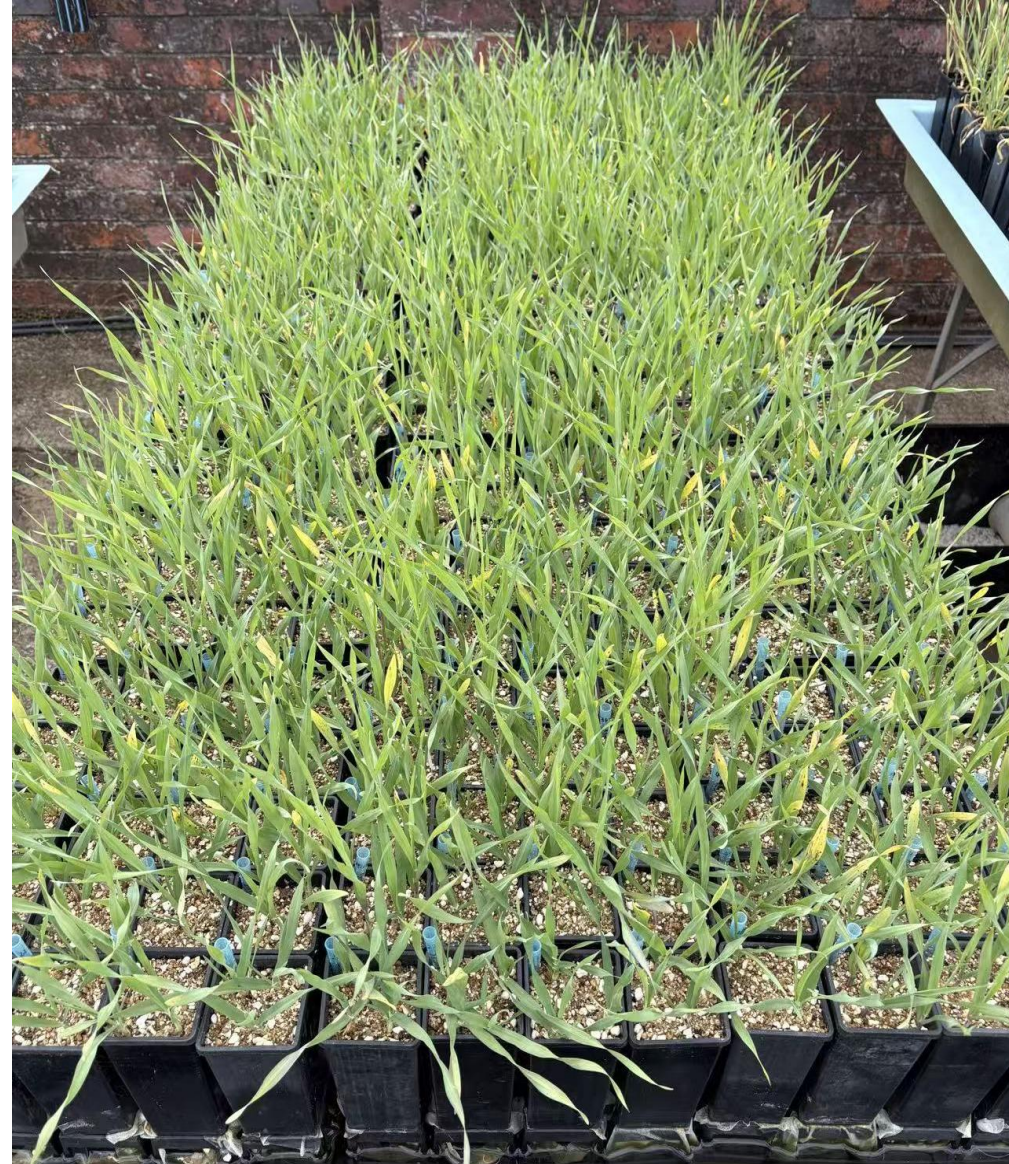
PVE=19.3%  
1H



Damage score QTL under  
summer sowing

# summary

1. A stable QTL for damage score identified on chromosome 1H
2. Environmental conditions influenced the QTL effect
3. Provides a basis for marker-assisted breeding





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# Thank you

