



**IUFRO FOREST ENVIRONMENT
DIV 8 CONFERENCE 2023**

October 24th – 27th
ÉVORA, PORTUGAL



Responses of *Quercus ilex* seedlings to combined, drought and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, stresses: a metabolomic analysis.

Marta Tienda-Parrilla, Cristina López-Hidalgo, Rocío Valderrama-Fernández, María Dolores Rey, Jesús V. Jorrín-Novo

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Agroforestry and Plant Biochemistry, Proteomics and Systems Biology

University of Cordoba, Spain



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**SESSION 3. GLOBAL CHANGE, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF
FORESTED LANDSCAPES - HOW TO MANAGE INCREASING PRESSURES AND THREATS ABOVE
THE CURRENT RESILIENCE TIPPING POINTS**

Holm oak decline

How to manage?

Molecular Biology Approach



What scenario is the *queen* of the Mediterranean Basin facing?

God save the queen! How and why the dominant evergreen species of the Mediterranean Basin is declining?

Francesca Alderotti* and Erika Verdiani

Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry (DAGRI), University of Florence, Sesto Fiorentino, Florence 50019, Italy

*Corresponding author's e-mail address: francesca.alderotti@unifi.it

Morpho-anatomical, biochemical, genetic and physiological traits

Until now, considered the **best adapted and most drought tolerant** species within *Quercus* genus

Dominate the Mediterranean Basin



Healthy individual of holm oak (Huelva, Spain)

What scenario is the *queen* of the Mediterranean Basin facing?

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Francesca Alderotti* and Erika Verdiani

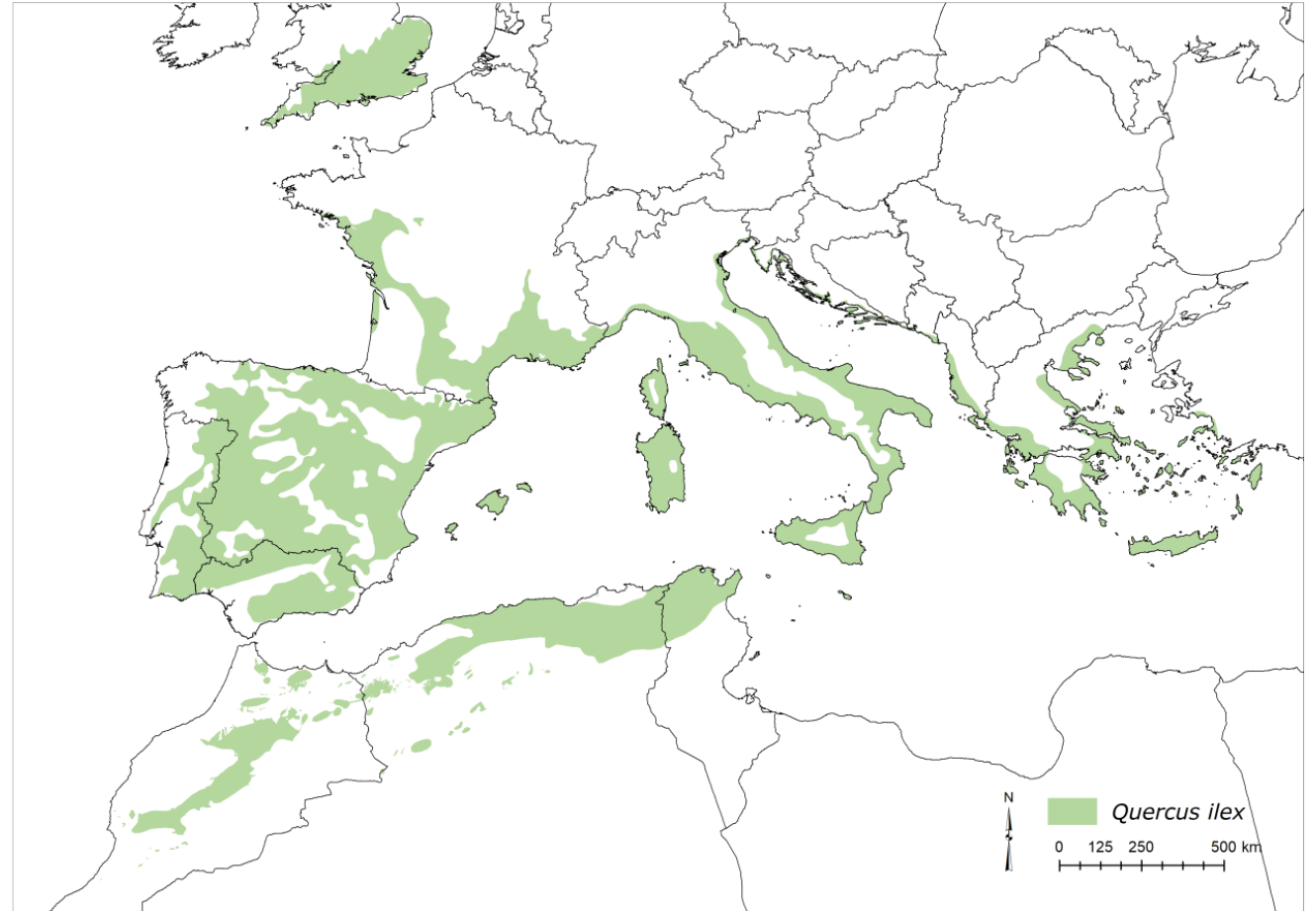
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Morpho-anatomical, biochemical, genetic and physiological traits

Until now, considered the **best adapted and most drought tolerant** species within *Quercus* genus

Dominate the Mediterranean Basin



Distribution of holm oak (*Quercus ilex* L.) within the Mediterranean Basin
(Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, 2006)

What scenario is the *queen* of the Mediterranean Basin facing?

The long-term survival of holm oak is threatened

ABIOTIC FACTORS

Extreme and long drought episodes

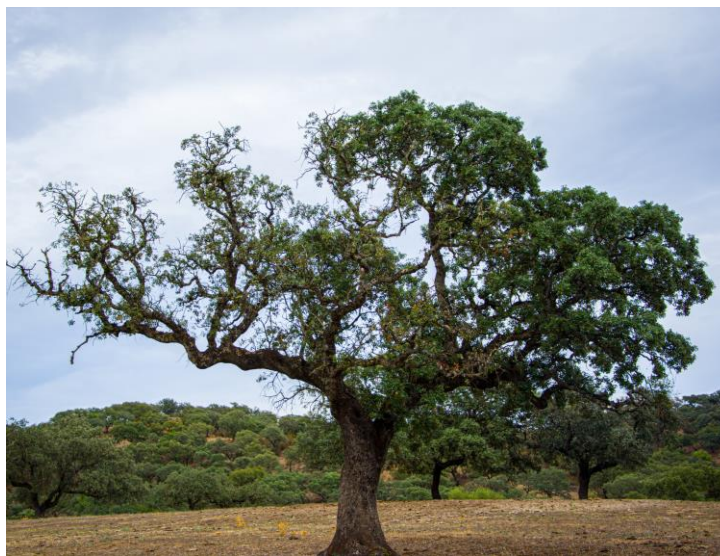
BIOTIC FACTORS

Phytophthora cinnamomi



Chlamydospores of *P. cinnamomi*

+++ Climate Change Scenario



Photographs provided by F. Moreno Romero
Individuals located in Hornachuelos, Córdoba

Dieback episodes

What scenario is the *queen* of the Mediterranean Basin facing?



Disease spiral with main interacting factors associated with holm oak decline

Constança de Sampaio e Paiva Camilo-Alves *et al.* 2013

Decline syndrome

Loss of vigour by trees

- (i) Shoot death and leaf detachment
- (ii) Production of epicormic shoots
- (iii) Fine root loss
- (iv) Root rot induced by *P. cinnamomi*
- (v) Decreased growth and increased mortality

Molecular research and breeding programs as a novel management strategy

The holm oak has **peculiar biological characteristics**, that makes its research **very challenging**:

Long life-cycle

Allogamy

Non-domesticated

Recalcitrance

High genetic diversity

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Molecular research can be useful in order to:

- Catalogue inter- and intra-**population variability**
- Develop **breeding programs** based on the **selection of elite genotypes** with **phenotypes of interest** (growth, resilience or productivity)

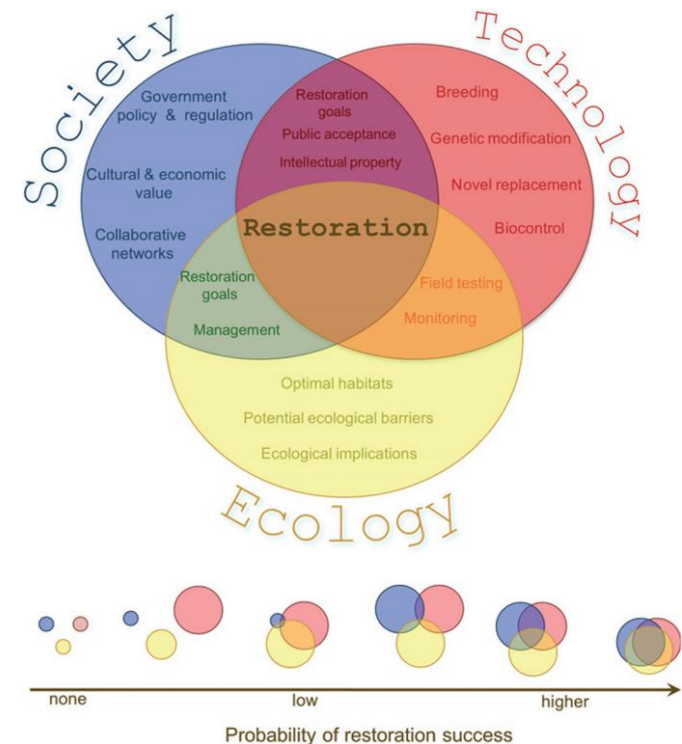
Genotype selection is based on **morphological, physiological, and molecular markers**, including nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), proteins and metabolites

Modern and future forestry based on biotechnology

Shihui Niu¹ | Jihua Ding² | Changzheng Xu³ | Jing Wang⁴

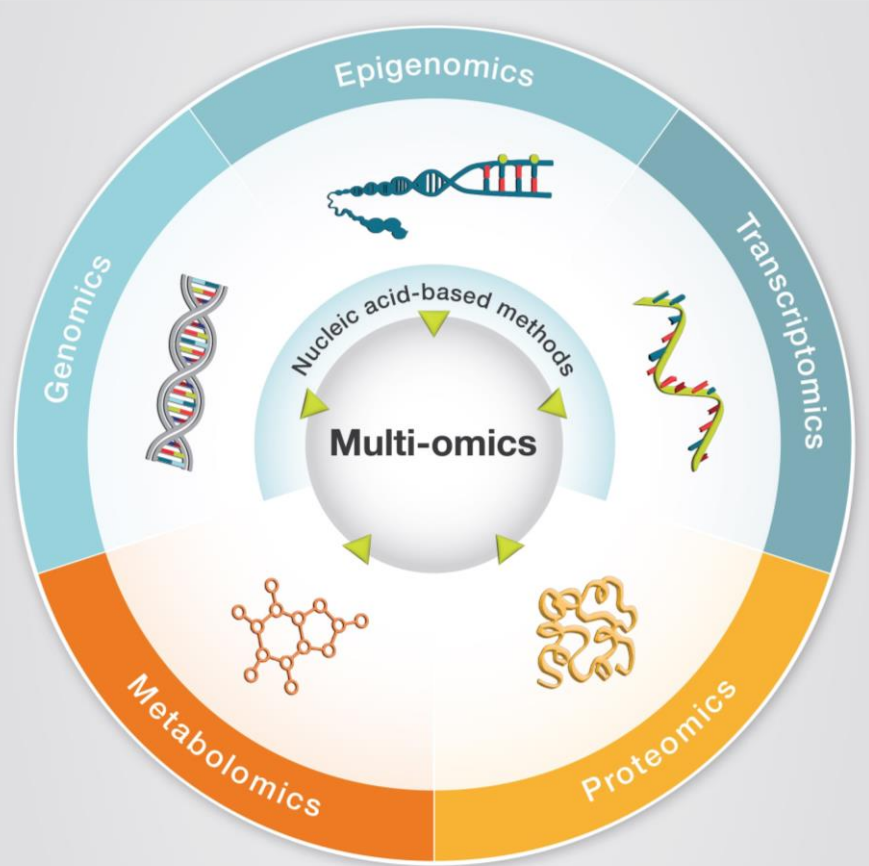
Tree breeding, a necessary complement to genetic engineering

C. Dana Nelson¹



(Nelson C. 2023)

Unravelling the **SPECIFICITY** of the holm oak's response to the decline phenomenon

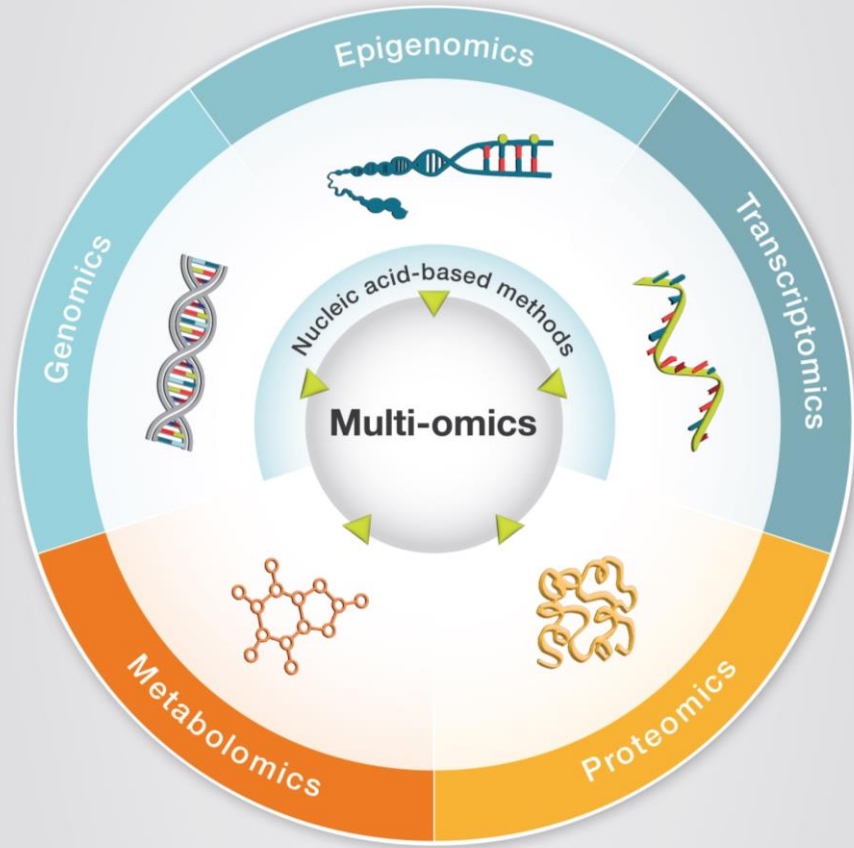


Review

Multiomics Molecular Research into the Recalcitrant and Orphan *Quercus ilex* Tree Species: Why, What for, and How

Ana María Maldonado-Alconada ¹, María Ángeles Castillejo ¹, María-Dolores Rey ^{1,*},
Mónica Labella-Ortega ¹, Marta Tienda-Parrilla ¹, Tamara Hernández-Lao ¹, Irene Honrubia-Gómez ¹,
Javier Ramírez-García ¹, Víctor M. Guerrero-Sánchez ^{1,2}, Cristina López-Hidalgo ^{1,3}, Luis Valledor ³,
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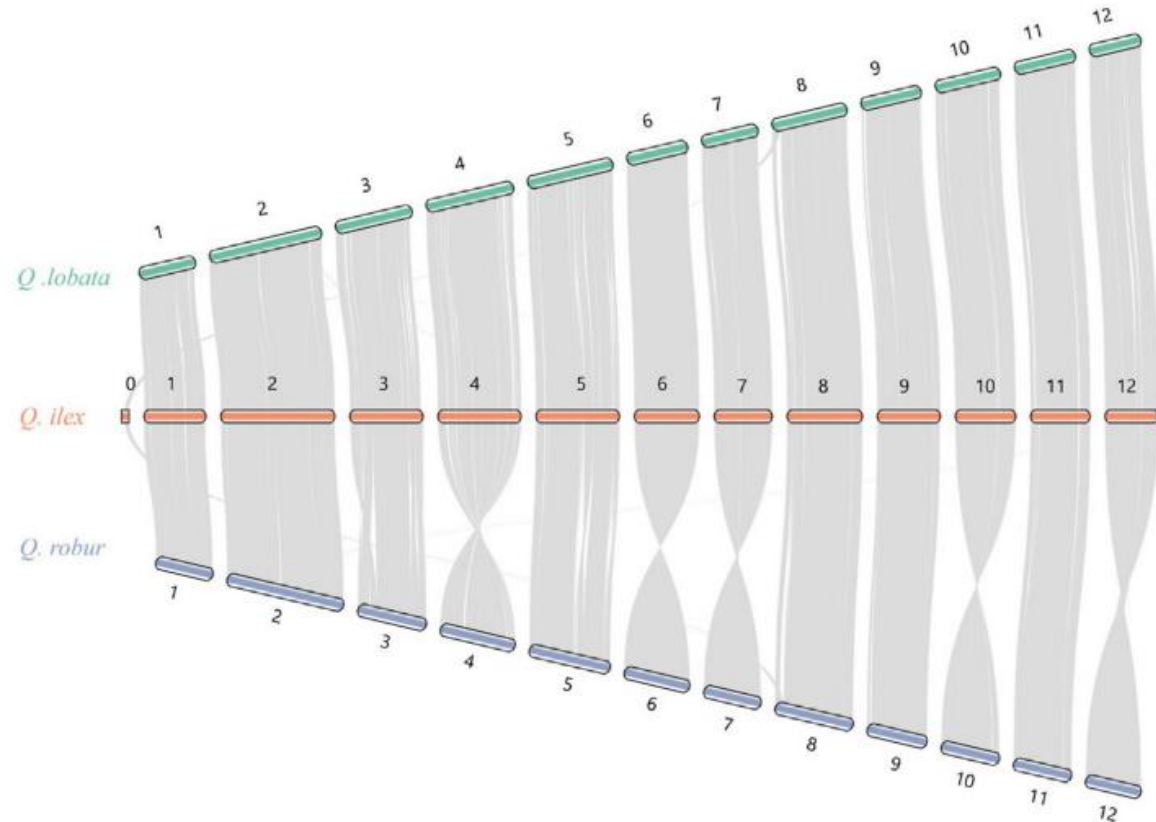


A first draft genome of Holm oak (*Quercus ilex* L.), the most representative species of the Mediterranean forest and the Spanish agrosilvopastoral ecosystem “dehesa”

María-Dolores Rey, Mónica Labella-Ortega, Víctor M. Guerrero-Sánchez, Rómulo Carleial,
 María Ángeles Castillejo, Antonio Rodríguez-Franco, Richard G. Buggs, Valentino Ruggieri,
 Jesús V. Jorrián-Novo

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.10.09.511480>

DNA

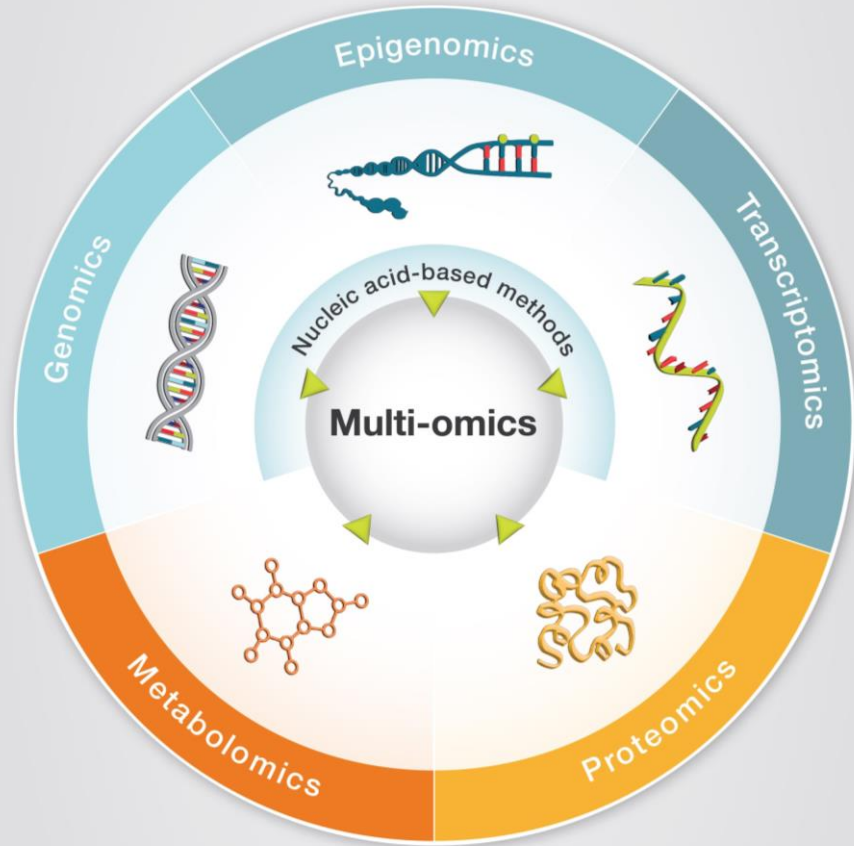


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[Maria-Dolores Rey](#), [Mónica Labella-Ortega](#), [Victor M. Guerrero-Sánchez](#), [Rómulo Carleial](#),
[María](#) **Unraveling DNA methylation dynamics during developmental stages in *Quercus ilex* subsp.**
[Jesús](#)
 doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11032-018-0950-0](#) **ballota [Desf.] Samp.**

Unpublished data

Labella-Ortega M^{*1}, Martín-Fernández MC², Valledor L³, Castiglione S⁴, Castillejo MA¹, Jorriño Novo JV¹, Rey MD^{*1}

DNA

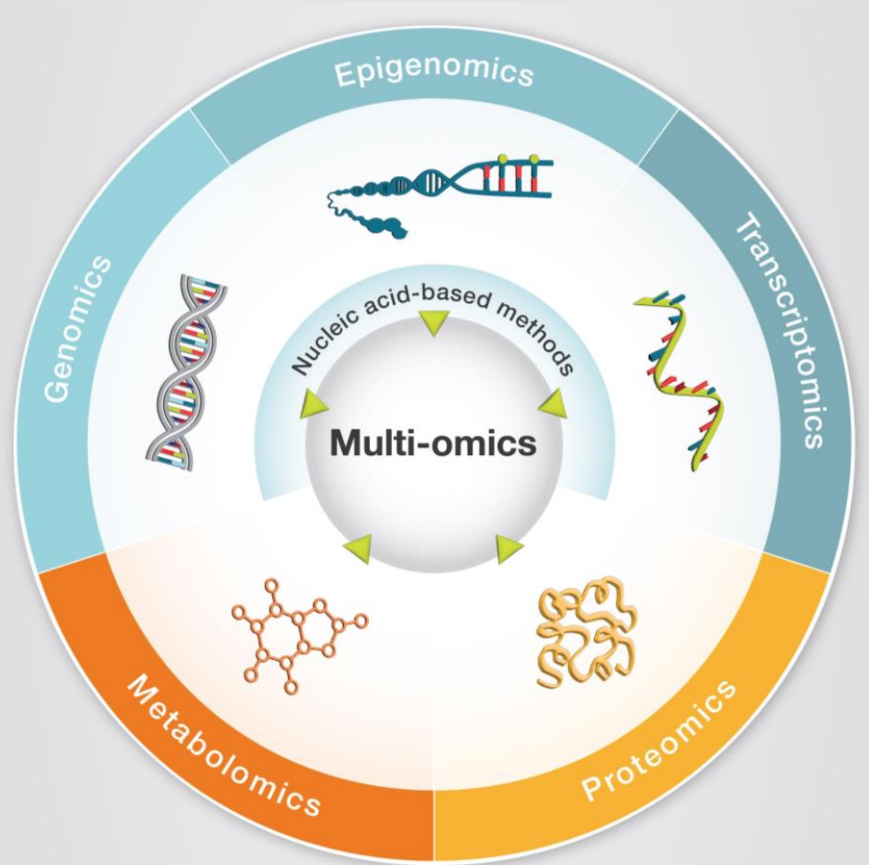
Epigenetic modifications

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Epigenetic modifications

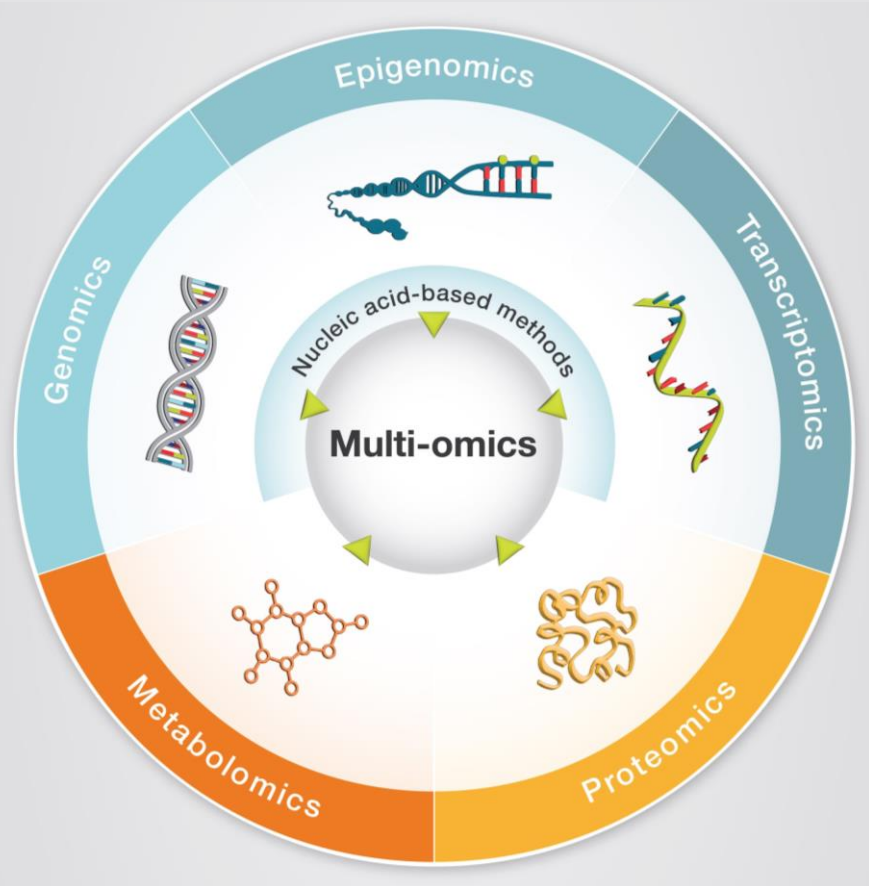
Lab
 Nov
Changes in the transcript and protein profiles of *Quercus ilex* seedlings in response to drought stress
[Víctor Manuel Guerrero-Sánchez](#)¹, [María Ángeles Castillejo](#), [Cristina López-Hidalgo](#)²,
[Ana María Maldonado Alconada](#), [Jesús Valentín Jorrín-Novo](#), [María-Dolores Rey](#)
Agroforestry and Plant Biochemistry, Proteomics and Systems Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Cordoba, UCO-CeIA3, 14014 Cordoba, Spain

RNA

Review
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Changes in the transcript and protein profiles of *Quercus ilex* seedlings in response to drought stress

[Victor Manu](#)
[Ana María M](#)
Agroforestry and Plant
Córdoba, Spain

RNA

Effect and Response of *Quercus ilex* subsp. *ballota* [Desf.] Samp. Seedlings From Three Contrasting Andalusian Populations to Individual and Combined *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and Drought Stresses

[Bonoso San-Eufrasio](#)¹, [María Ángeles Castillejo](#)¹, [Mónica Labella-Ortega](#)¹,
[Francisco J. Ruiz-Gómez](#)², [Rafael M. Navarro-Cerrillo](#)², [Marta Tienda-Parrilla](#)¹,
[Jesús V. Jorrin-Novo](#)¹ and [María-Dolores Rey](#)^{1*}

¹Agroforestry and Plant Biochemistry, Proteomics and Systems Biology, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain, ²Evaluation and Restoration of Agronomic and Forest Systems ERSAF, Department of Forest Engineering, University of Córdoba, Córdoba, Spain

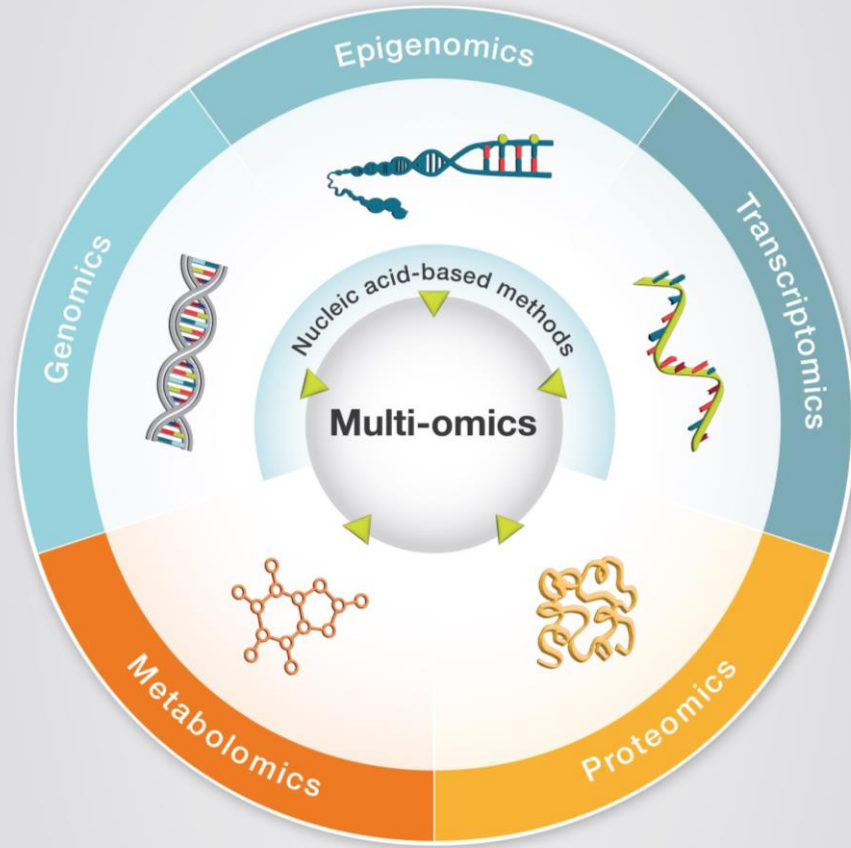
[dalgo](#)²,
[key](#)
 Córdoba, UCO-CeiA3, 14014

Proteins

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Unraveling DNA methylation dynamics during developmental stages in *Quercus ilex* subsp. *ballota* [Desf.] Samp.
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DNA

Epigenetic modifications

Changes in the transcript and protein profiles of *Quercus ilex* seedlings in response to drought stress

RNA

Víctor Manuel Jorrín-Novo, Ana María Maldonado-Alconada, María Ángeles Castillejo, Cristina López-Hidalgo, Luis Valledor, Rafael M. Navarro-Cerrillo and Jesús V. Jorrín-Novo
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Proteins

Article
Untargeted MS-Based Metabolomics Analysis of the Responses to Drought Stress in *Quercus ilex* L. Leaf Seedlings and the Identification of Putative Compounds Related to Tolerance
 Marta Tienda-Parrilla^{1,†}, Cristina López-Hidalgo^{1,2,*}, Víctor M. Guerrero-Sánchez^{1,3}, Álvaro Infantes-González¹, Rocío Valderrama-Fernández⁴, María-Ángeles Castillejo¹, Jesús V. Jorrín-Novo¹ and María-Dolores Rey^{1,*}

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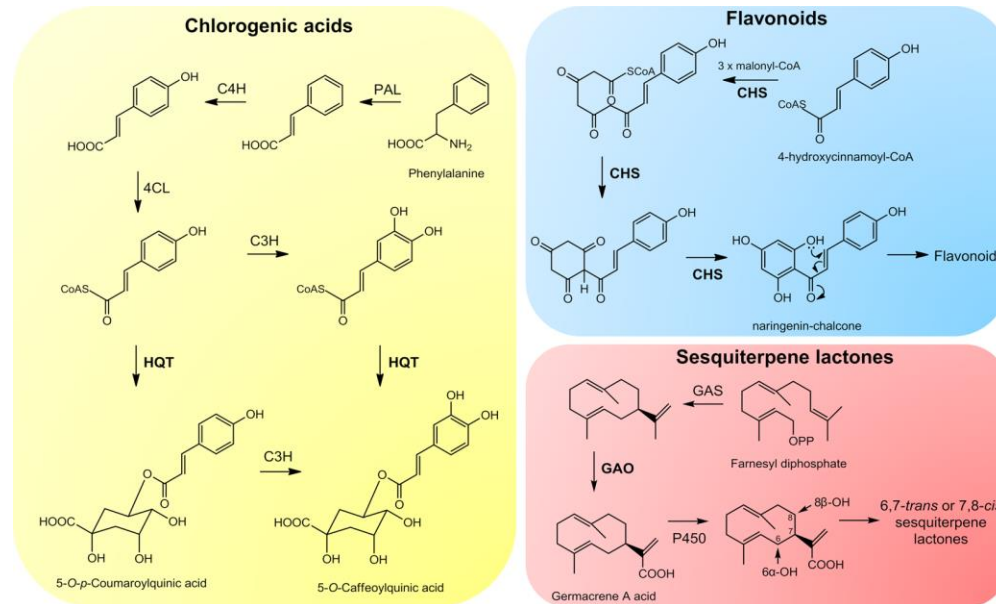
Metabolites ↔ Phenotype

Unravelling the **SPECIFICITY** of the holm oak's response to the decline phenomenon

Metabolites \longleftrightarrow Phenotype

OBJECTIVE

Study the **effect and response to stresses** associated to the decline syndrome and climate change in Holm oak: **drought** and ***Phytophthora cinnamomi***, and to **identify metabolites as molecular markers** associated with **resilience**



MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant material and experimental design

- **Nine-month-old seedlings** (from three holm oak individuals)
- **30-day experiment** (two sampling times corresponding to a drop in leaf fluorescence of 30 and 50%)
- **Experimental conditions:** control (well watered and not inoculated) and combined stresses (drought and *P. cinnamomi* inoculation)

Metabolite extraction and LC-MS/MS analysis

Data acquisition and processing, and statistical analysis



Declined Area

“Quercus breeding and conservation program in Spain” (Pérez, 2020 Foresta 78:56-61)



Control
30-day experiment
Combined stresses



Damage symptoms and seedling mortality
Relative Leaf Water Content (RLWC)
Leaf fluorescence (Fv/Fm)

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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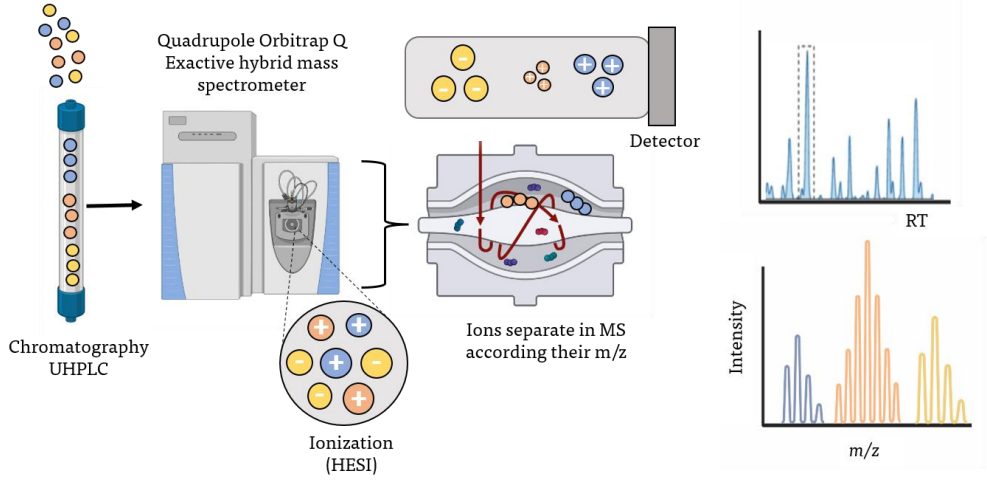
Leaves metabolites extraction:
80:20 (ethanol: water)

Metabolite Identification and Quantification
(UHPLC-QToF)

Data acquisition and processing, and statistical analysis



Leaf extract metabolite



Untargeted metabolomic analysis

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plant material and experimental design

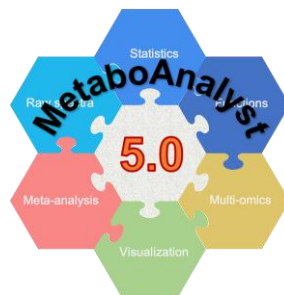
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Metabolite extraction and LC-MS/MS analysis

Leaves metabolites extraction:
80:20 (ethanol: water)
Metabolite Identification and Quantification
(UHPLC-QToF)

Data acquisition and processing, and statistical analysis

Multivariate Analysis (PCA)
Univariate Analysis (Kruskal-Wallis)
Fold-Changes
Venn Diagram



pRcess
omics

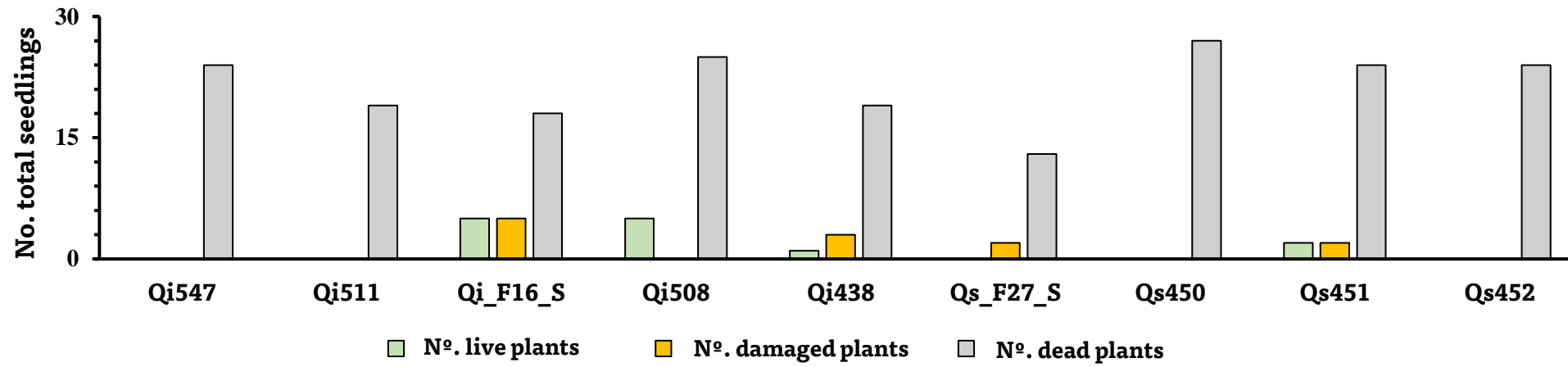


MoNA - MassBank of North America

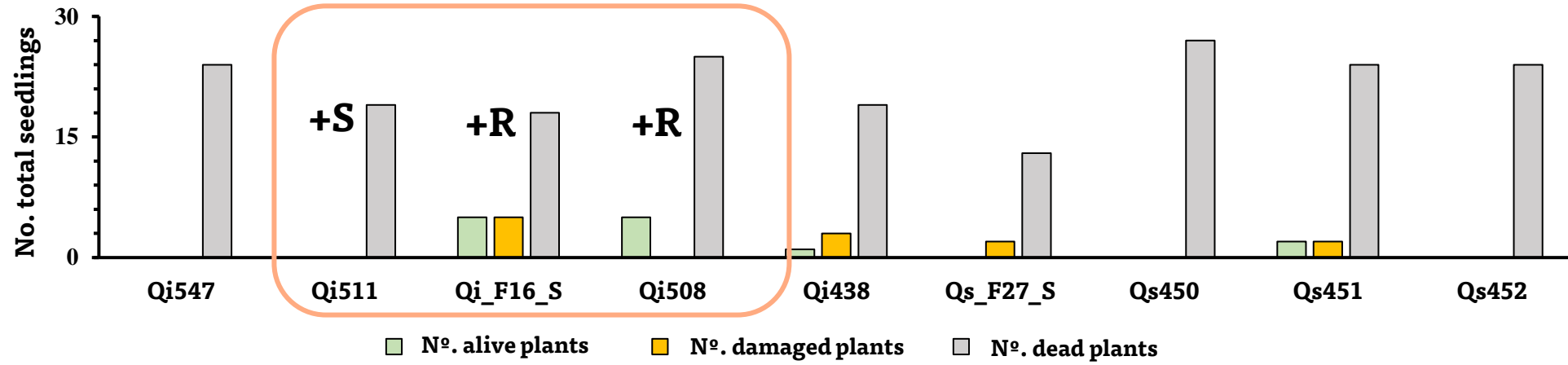
MassBank

PubChem

Analysis of damage and mortality in seedlings after 1 month of the experiment



Analysis of damage and mortality in seedlings after 1 month of the experiment



Sampling

Fluorescence decay analysis in leaves →

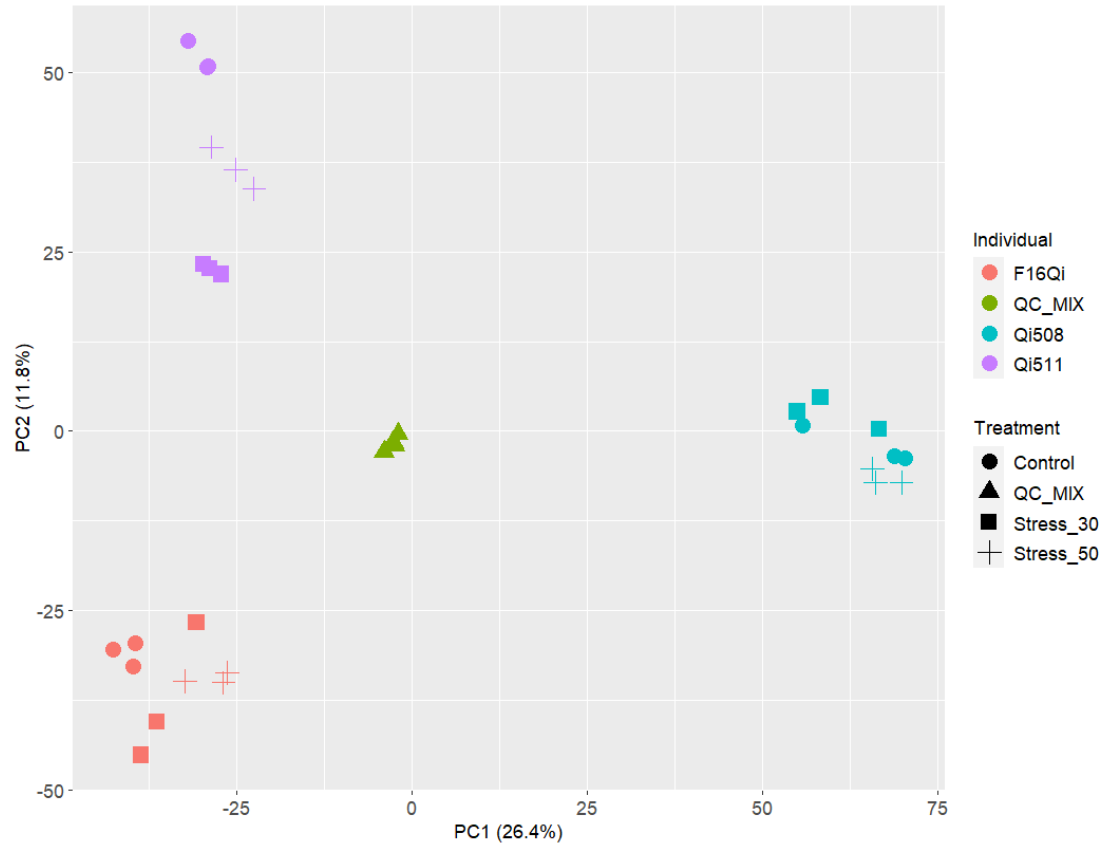
- ↓ 30 % Early response
- ↓ 50 % Later response



RESULTS

Untargeted metabolome profiling in *Q. ilex* leaves

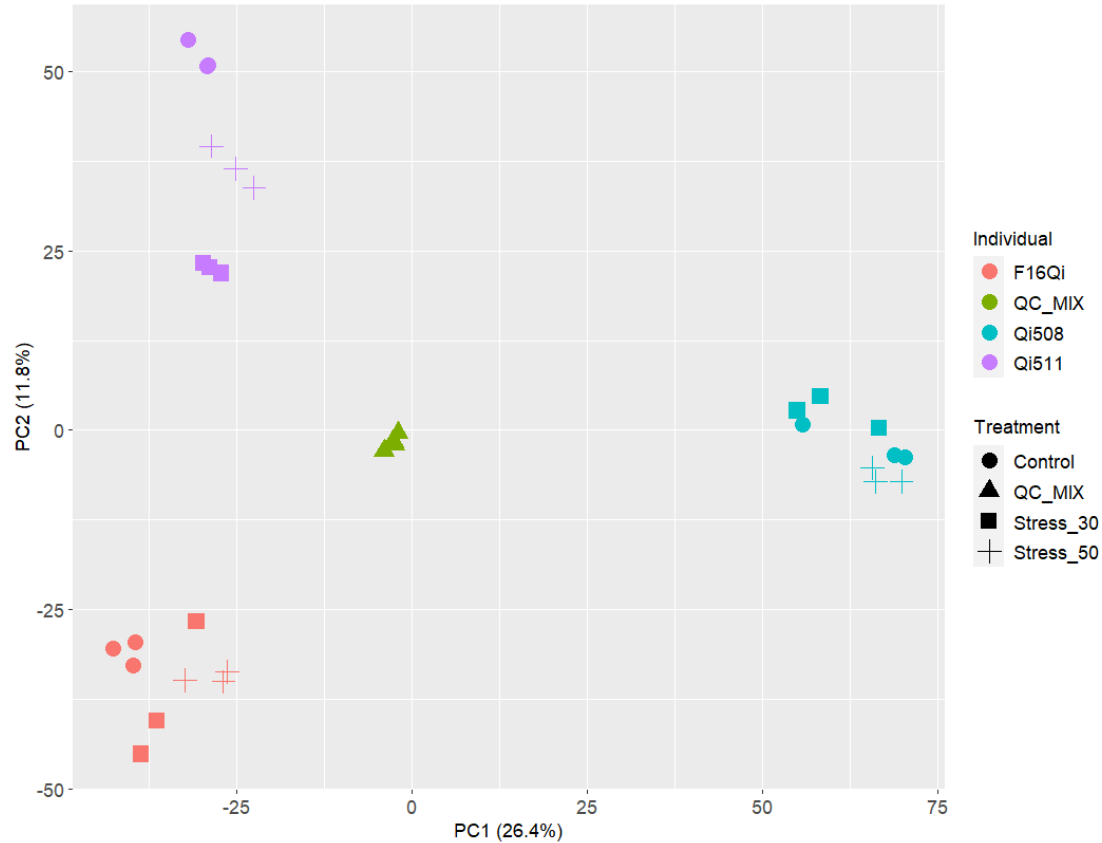
PCA Score plot



Dataset	Nº Features
Raw (both positive and negative ionizations modes)	17664
Selected features based on consistency filter	6996
Identified features *(Putative annotation without manual revision)	3100



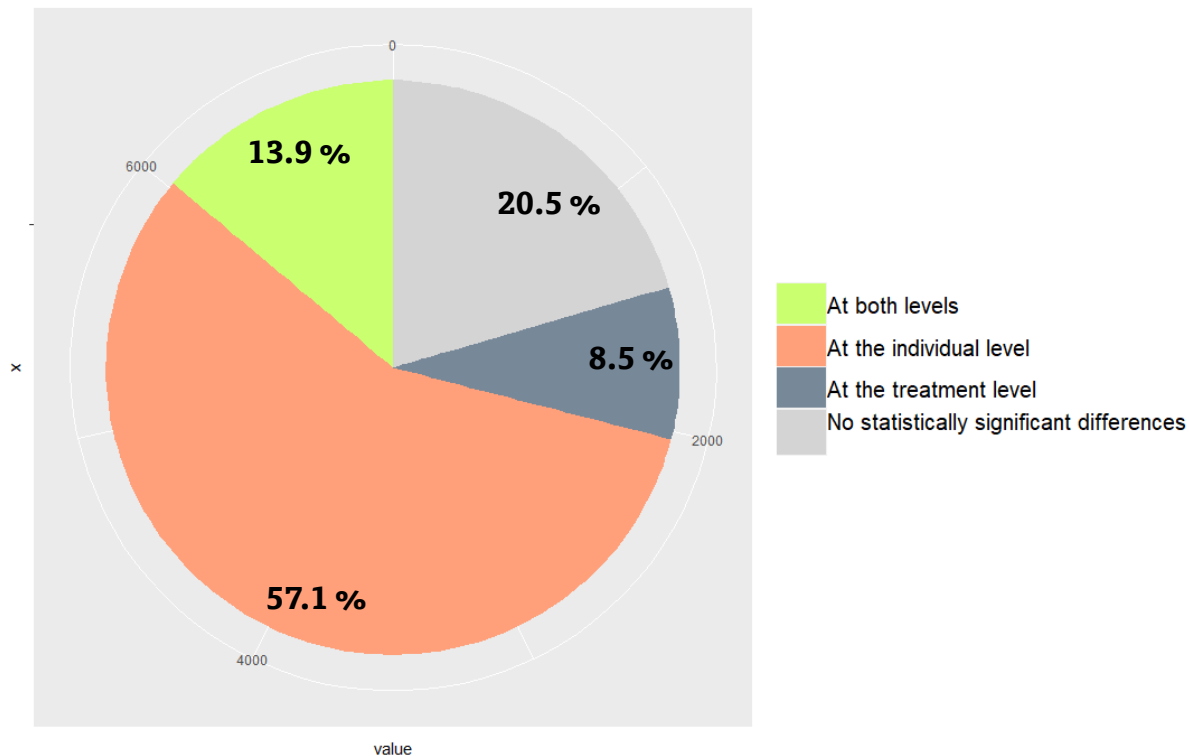
PCA Score plot



- Differences in the metabolome at the **individual level** are more pronounced than at the treatment level

Dataset	Nº Features
Raw (both positive and negative ionizations modes)	17664
Selected features based on consistency filter	6996
Identified features *(Putative annotation without manual revision)	3100





Dataset	N° Features
Raw (both positive and negative ionizations modes)	17664
Selected features based on consistency filter	6996
Identified features *(Putative annotation without manual revision)	3100
Variable features (p-value < 0.05 in Kruskal-Wallis test)	1569 (treatment) 4967 (individual)

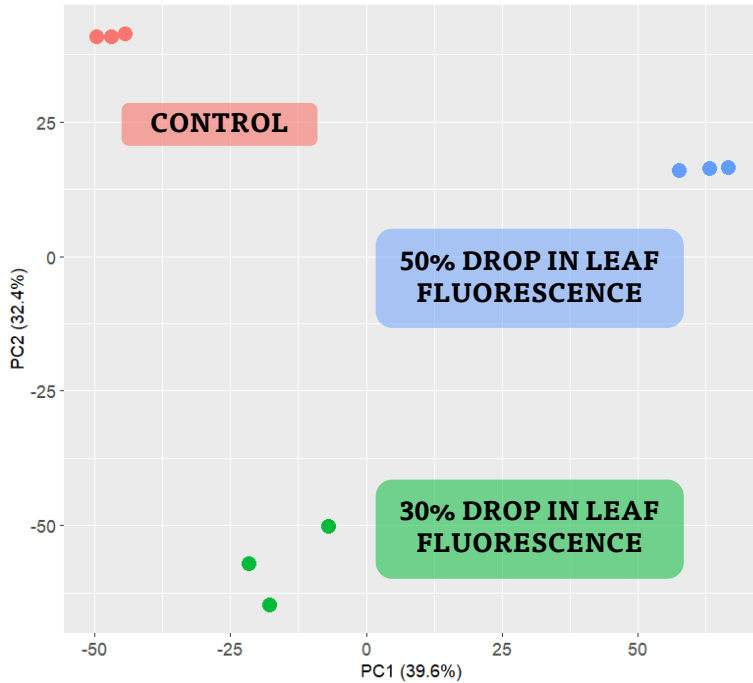
- Differences in the metabolome at the **individual level** are more pronounced than at the treatment level

RESULTS

Untargeted metabolome profiling in *Q. ilex* leaves

To avoid inter-individual variability...

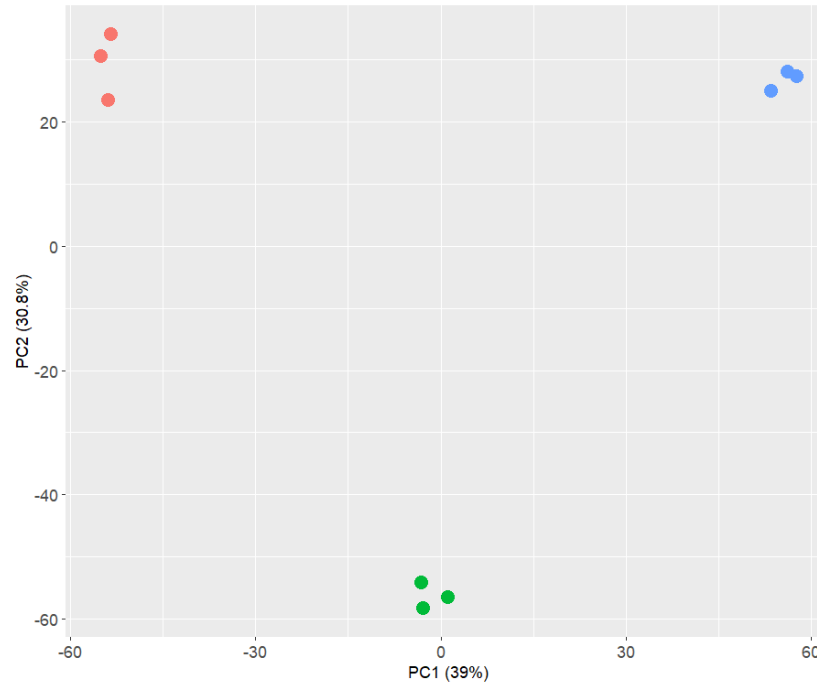
F16Qi +R



Dataset: 6085 features

(1133 identified)

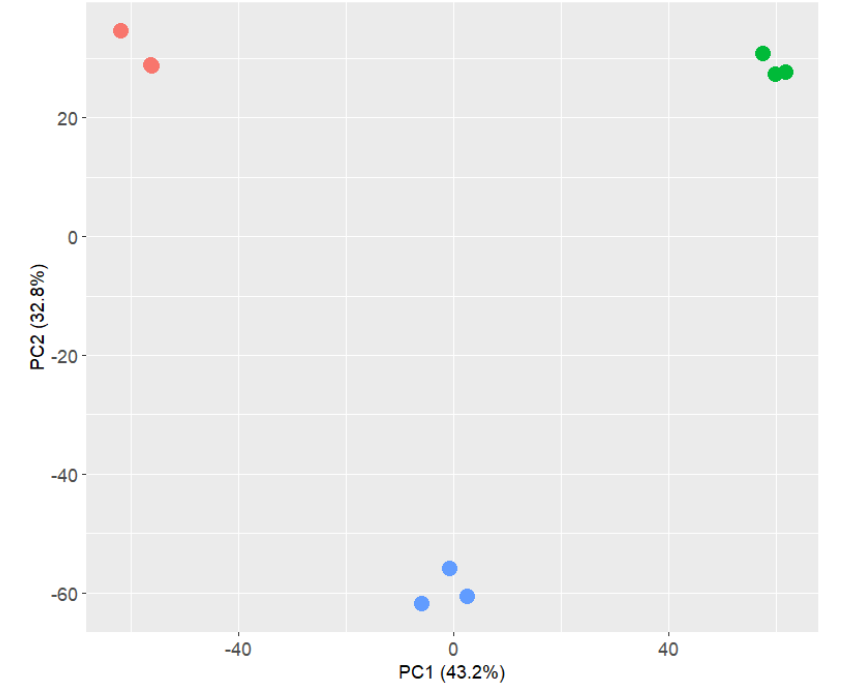
Qi508 +R



Dataset: 5812 features

(1144 identified)

Qi511 +S



Dataset: 6068 features

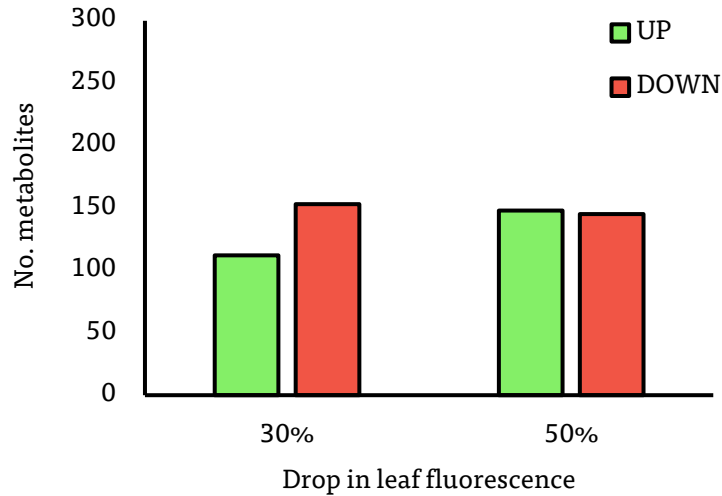
(1150 identified)

- PC1 (~40%) and PC2 (~30%) discriminate treatments and sampling times (early and late response VS Control) for each of the individuals

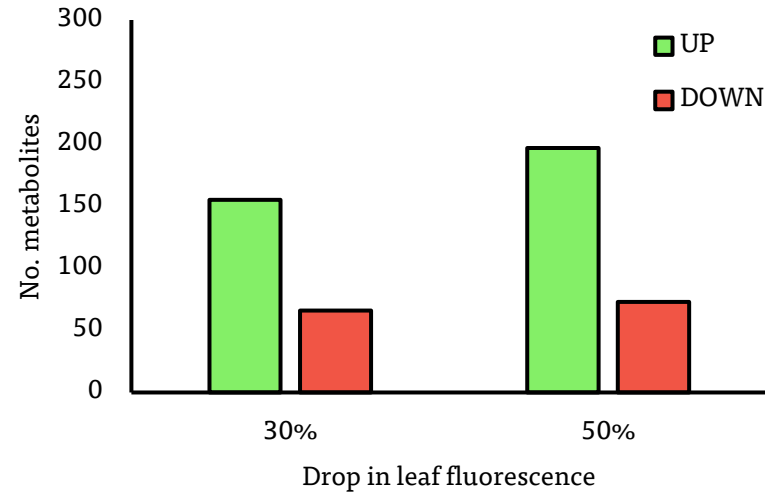
RESULTS

Search for resilience markers: Differential metabolites (DMs)

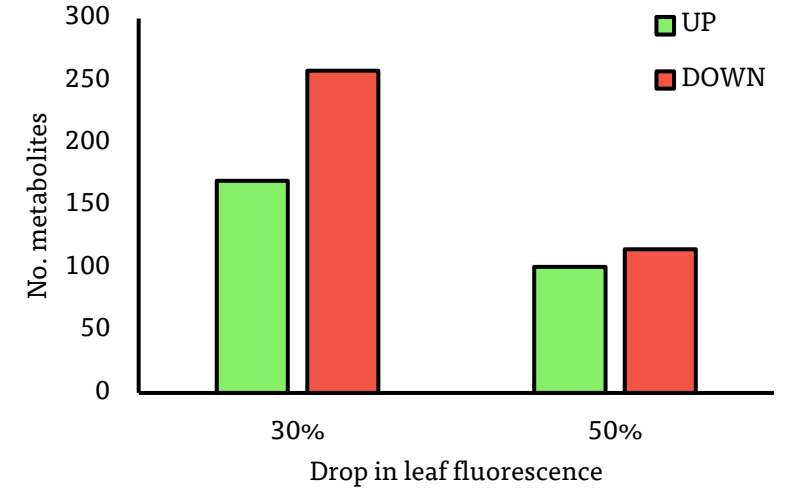
F16Qi +R



Qi508 +R



Qi511 +S






Early response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	63
	Quantitative response	49
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	70
	Quantitative response	83
Late response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	97
	Quantitative response	51
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	83
	Quantitative response	62

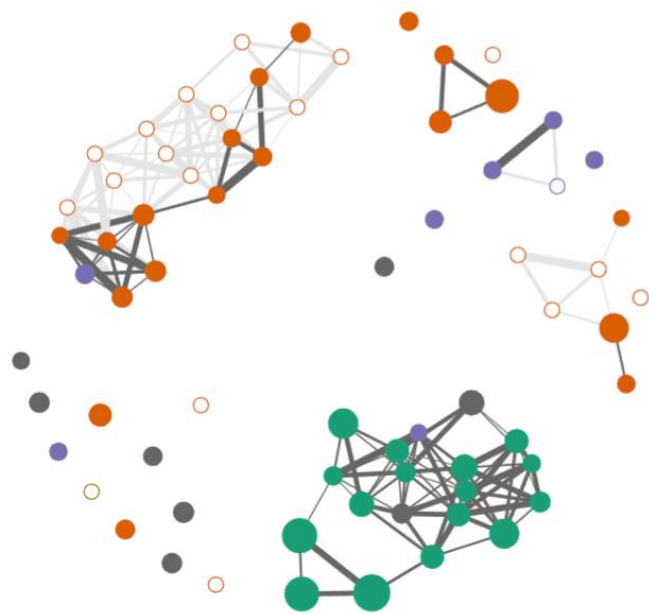
Early response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	80
	Quantitative response	75
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	44
	Quantitative response	22
Late response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	111
	Quantitative response	86
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	45
	Quantitative response	28

Early response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	103
	Quantitative response	67
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	96
	Quantitative response	162
Late response		
Up (FC > 2)	Qualitative response	60
	Quantitative response	41
Down (FC < 0.5)	Qualitative response	57
	Quantitative response	58

Methods

Quantifying chemodiversity considering biochemical and structural properties of compounds with the R package CHEMODIV

Hampus Petrén¹ , Tobias G. Köllner²  and Robert R. Junker^{1,3} 



Molecular Networking for metabolic diversity characterization and metabolic pathway enrichment analysis (chemodiv R package)

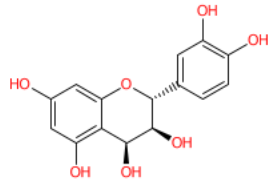
Up-accumulated stress response metabolites in resilient individuals

Chemodiv R package

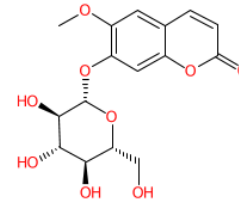
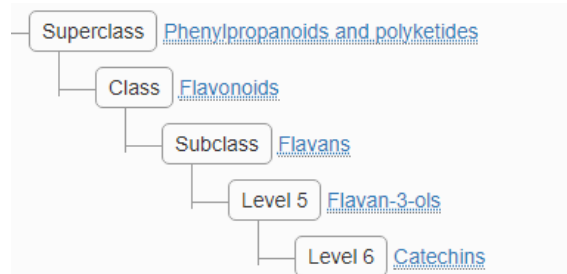
Pathway

- Alkaloids
- Amino acids and Peptides
- Carbohydrates
- Fatty acids
- Polyketides
- Shikimates and Phenylpropanoids
- Terpenoids
- NA

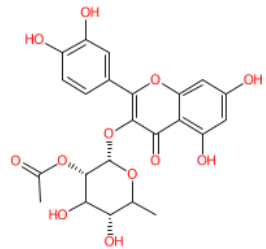
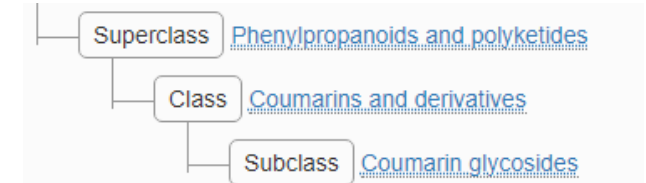
Phenolic Compounds



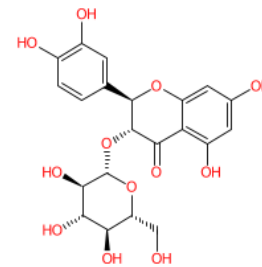
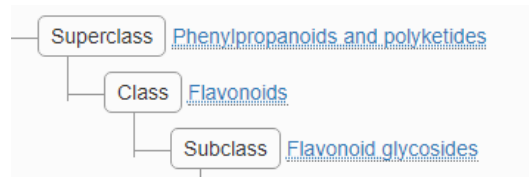
Catechin-4beta-ol



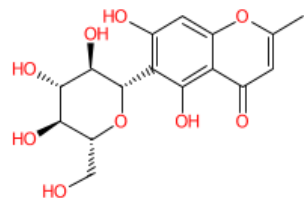
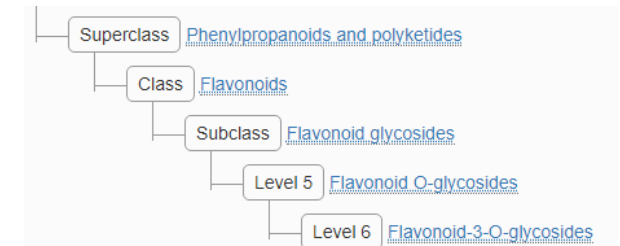
Scopolin



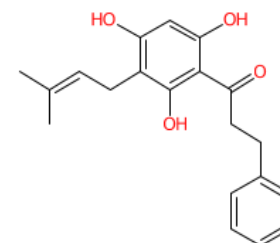
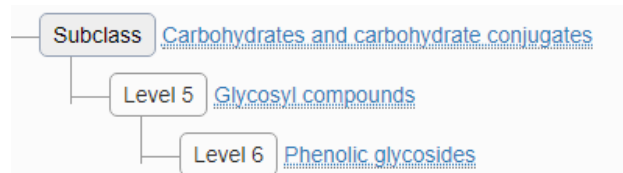
Quercetin 3- (2''-acetylramnoside)



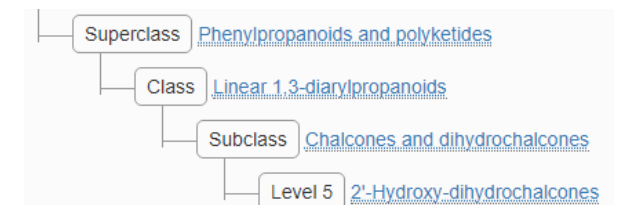
Taxifolin-3-glucoside



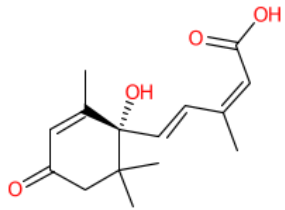
Biflorin



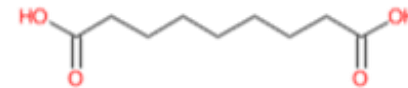
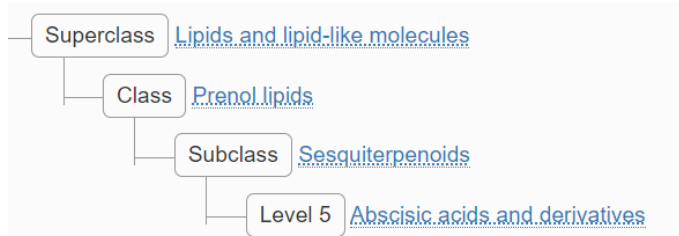
2',4',6'-Trihydroxy-3'-prenyldihydrochalcone



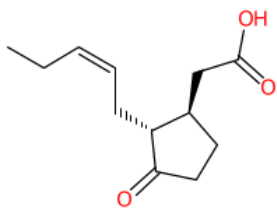
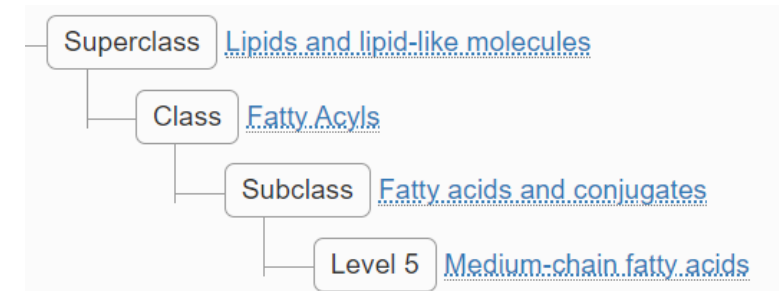
Other metabolites whose defensive function is well known in plants



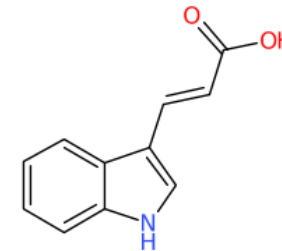
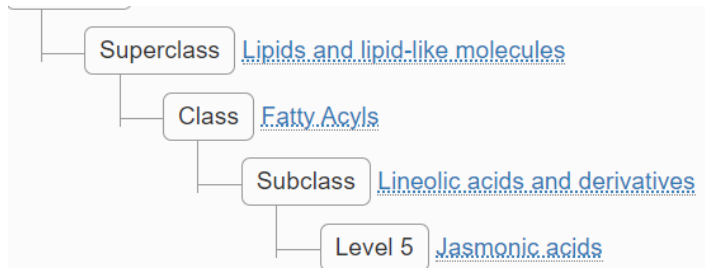
Abscisic acid (ABA)



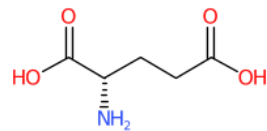
Azelaic acid



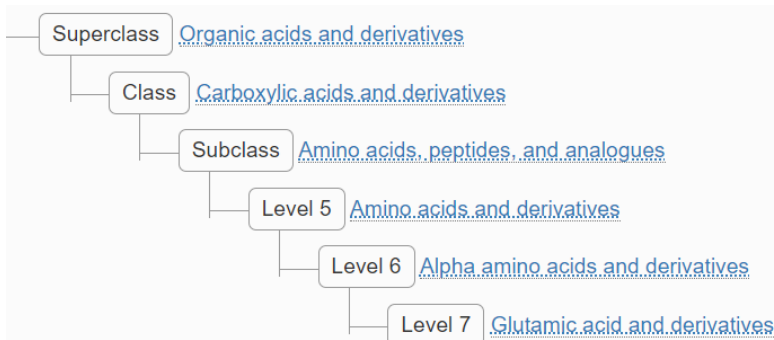
Jasmonic acid (JA)

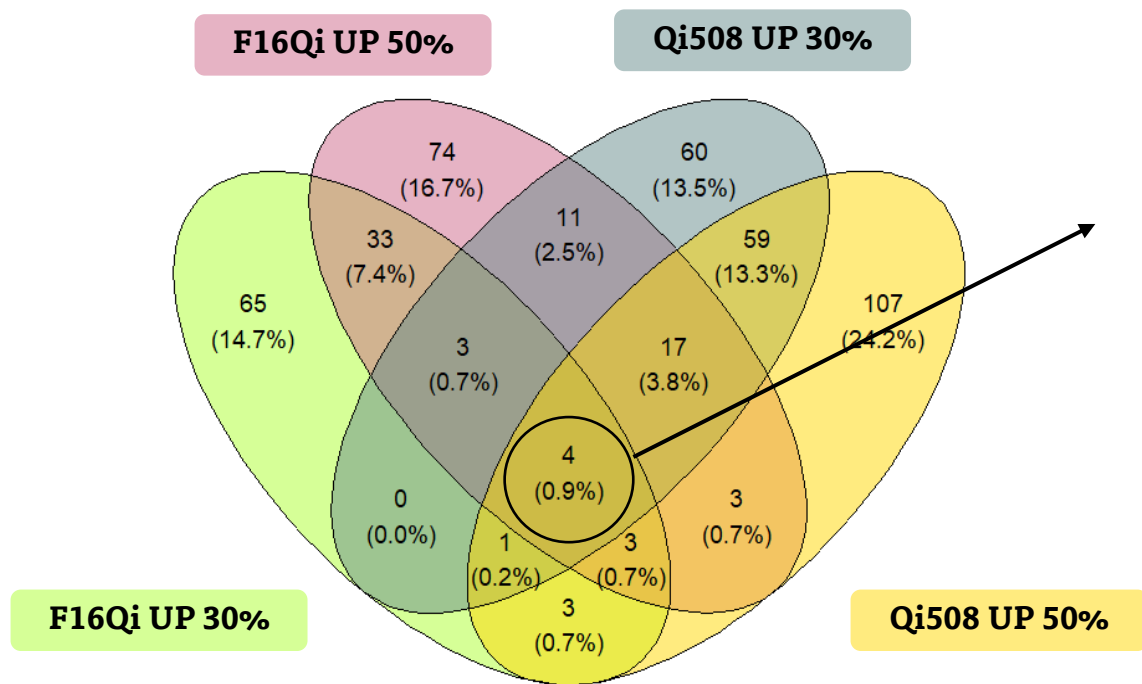


3-Indoleacrylic acid (IAA)

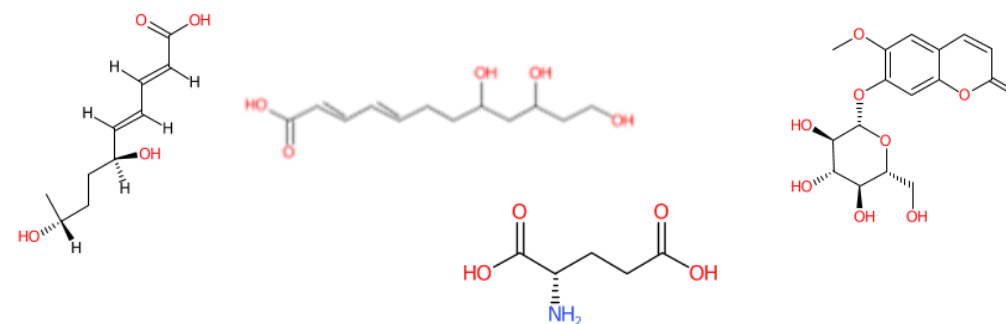


Glutamic acid





Compound	Formula	Chemical family
Murranoic acid A	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O ₄	Lipids and lipid-like molecules
YF-0200R-B ((2E,4E)-8,10,12-Trihydroxy-2,4-dodecadienoic acid)	C ₁₂ H ₂₀ O ₅	Hydroxy acids and derivatives
Glutamic Acid	C ₅ H ₉ N O ₄	Amino acids and derivatives
Scopolin	C ₁₆ H ₂₀ O ₉	Coumarin glycosides



Metabolites from the Endophytic Fungus *Curvularia* sp. M12 Act as Motility Inhibitors against *Phytophthora capsici* Zoospores

Muhammad Abdul Mojid Mondol,[†] Jannatul Farhouse,[‡] Mohammad Tofazzal Islam,[‡] Anja Schüffler,[§] and Hartmut Laatsch^{*,†}

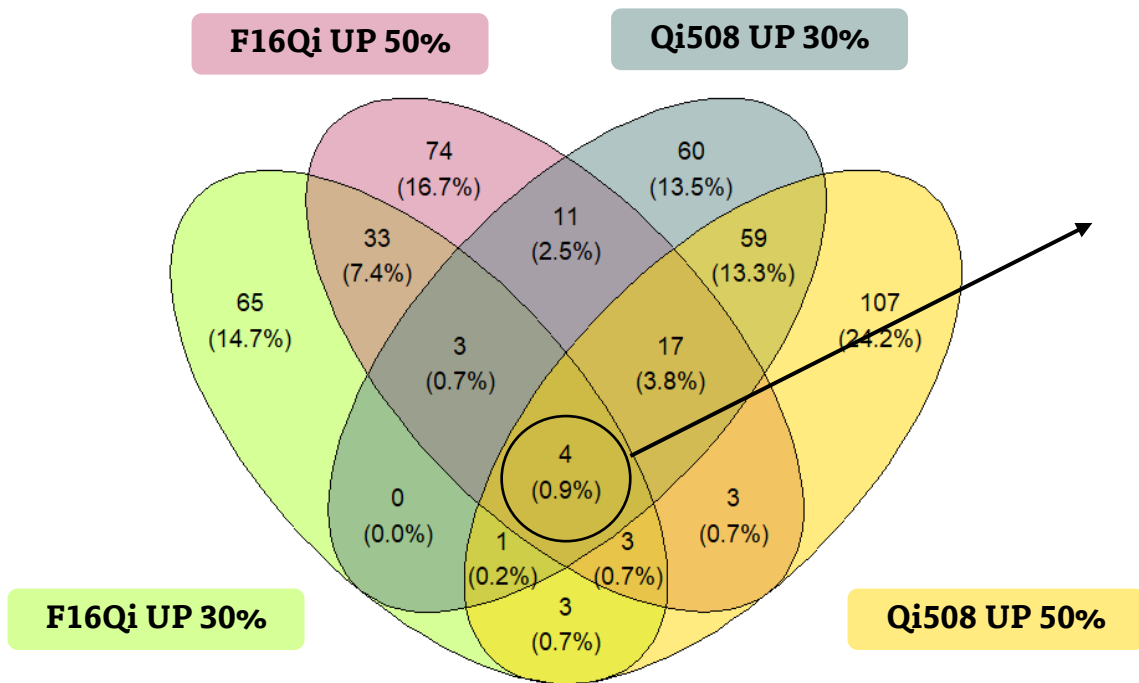
THE ROLE OF THE PHYLLOSHERE MICROBIOME IN PLANT HEALTH AND FUNCTION

Bram W. G. Stone, Eric A. Weingarten and Colin R. Jackson

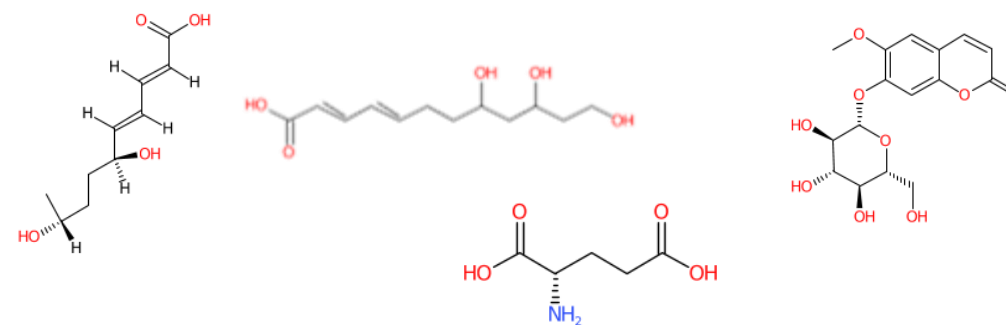
Department of Biology, University of Mississippi, University, MS, USA

RESULTS

Exploring putative metabolites as molecular resilience markers



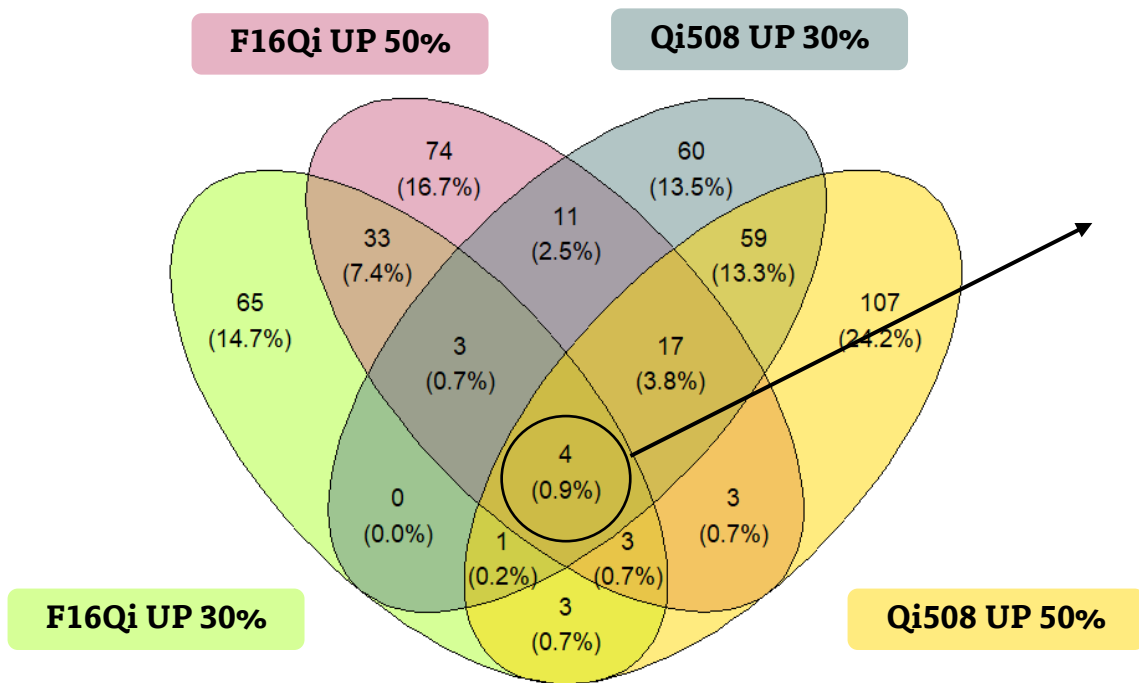
Compound	Formula	Chemical family
Murranoic acid A	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O ₄	Lipids and lipid-like molecules
YF-0200R-B ((2E,4E)-8,10,12-Trihydroxy-2,4-dodecadienoic acid)	C ₁₂ H ₂₀ O ₅	Hydroxy acids and derivatives
Glutamic Acid	C ₅ H ₉ N O ₄	Amino acids and derivatives
Scopolin	C ₁₆ H ₂₀ O ₉	Coumarin glycosides



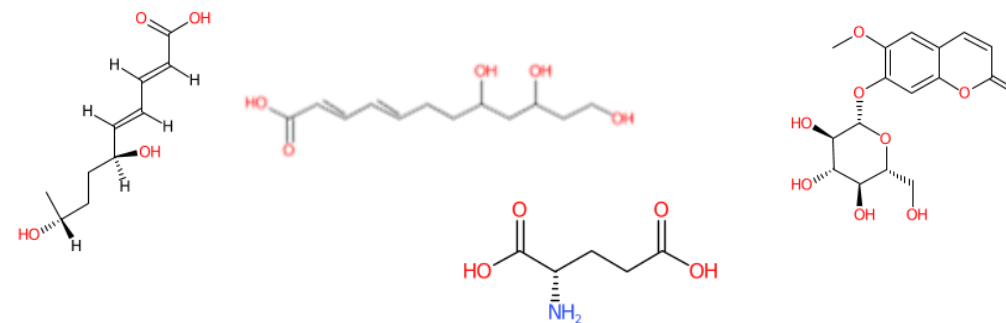
NOVEL ASPARTYL PROTEASE INHIBITORS, YF-0200R-A and B

TSUTOMU SATO, KOJI NAGAI, MITSUYOSHI SHIBAZAKI and KENJI ABE

Drug Serendipity Research Laboratories, Institute for Drug Discovery Research,
Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.,
1-1-8 Azusawa, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo 174, Japan



Compound	Formula	Chemical family
Murranoic acid A	C10 H16 O4	Lipids and lipid-like molecules
YF-0200R-B ((2E,4E)-8,10,12-Trihydroxy-2,4-dodecadienoic acid)	C12 H20 O5	Hydroxy acids and derivatives
Glutamic Acid	C5 H9 N O4	Amino acids and derivatives
Scopolin	C16 H20 O9	Coumarin glycosides



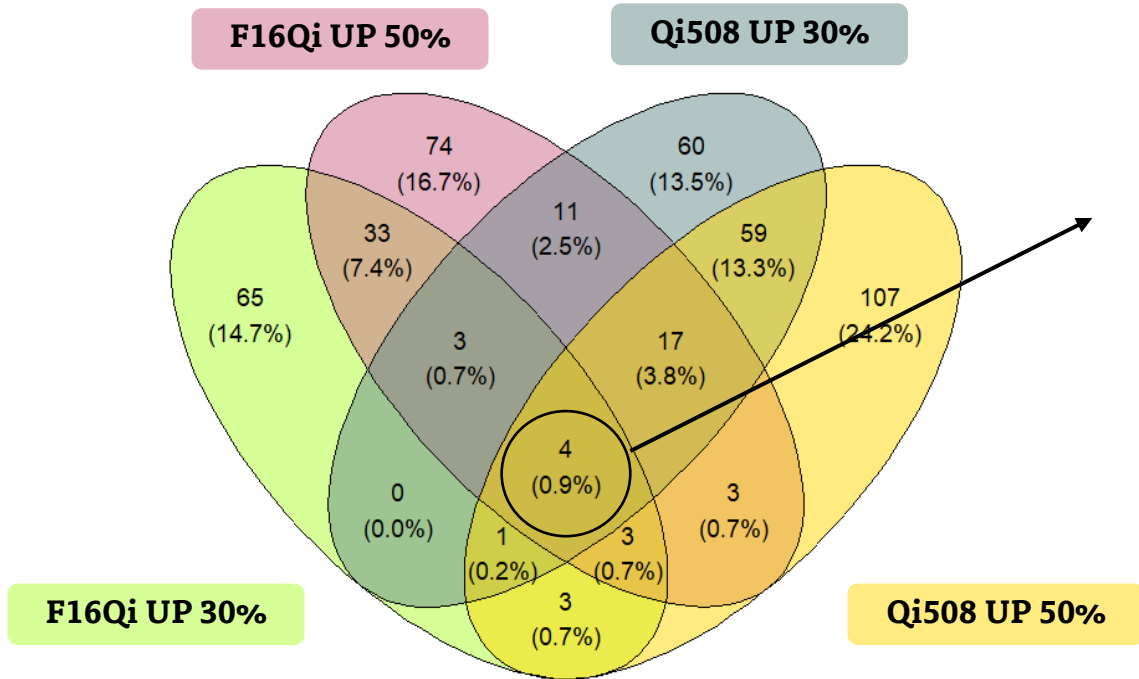
RESEARCH

Open Access

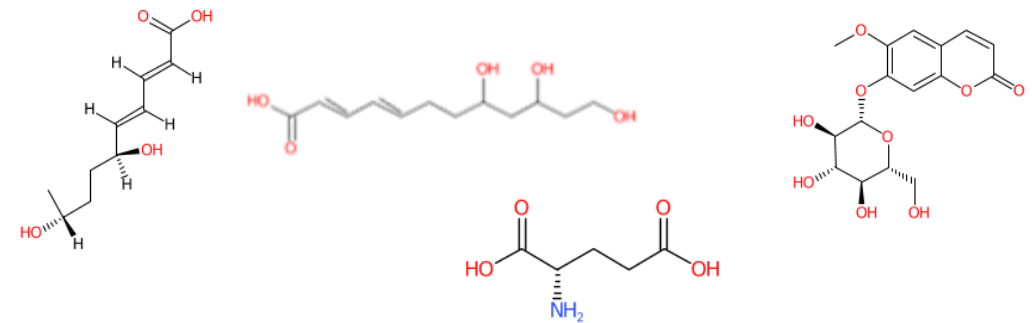
Glutamic acid reshapes the plant microbiota to protect plants against pathogens



Da-Ran Kim¹, Chang-Wook Jeon², Gyeongjun Cho², Linda S. Thomashow³, David M. Weller³, Man-Jeong Paik⁴, Yong Bok Lee² and Youn-Sig Kwak^{1,2,5*}



Compound	Formula	Chemical family
Murranoic acid A	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O ₄	Lipids and lipid-like molecules
YF-0200R-B ((2E,4E)-8,10,12-Trihydroxy-2,4-dodecadienoic acid)	C ₁₂ H ₂₀ O ₅	Hydroxy acids and derivatives
Glutamic Acid	C ₅ H ₉ N O ₄	Amino acids and derivatives
Scopolin	C ₁₆ H ₂₀ O ₉	Coumarin glycosides



CONCLUSIONS

- The leaf metabolome of *Quercus ilex* seedlings is highly variable between individuals, while it is possible to differentiate between the metabolomic profile of control and stressed seedlings in each individual.
- Metabolites up-accumulated in resilient individuals mainly belonged to secondary metabolism, highlighting coumarins, catechins, flavonoids and phenolic glycosides.
- Four metabolites were identified as putative molecular resilience markers, highlighting the microbial metabolites and the coumarin scopoline, as well as others whose defensive function is well known in plants such as glutamic acid, abscisic acid, jasmonic acid and azelaic acid

Work is now in progress to integrate metabolomic analysis with transcriptomics and proteomics in order to propose gene markers of resilience in Holm oak useful in breeding programs.

Non-targeted metabolomic analysis to dissect mechanisms of resilience to combined, drought and *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, stresses in Holm oak (*Quercus ilex*)

Tienda-Parrilla, M, López-Hidalgo C, Valderrama-Fernández R, Rey MD, Jorrín-Novo, JV

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

University of Cordoba, Spain



Effect and Response of *Quercus ilex* subsp. *ballota* [Desf.] Samp. Seedlings From Three Contrasting Andalusian Populations to Individual and Combined *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and Drought Stresses

Bonoso San-Eufrasio¹, María Ángeles Castillejo¹, Mónica Labella-Ortega¹, Francisco J. Rutz-Gómez², Rafael M. Navarro-Cerrillo², María Tenda-Parrilla¹, Jesús V. Jorán-Novo¹ and María-Dolores Rey^{1*}



**IUFRO FOREST ENVIRONMENT
DIV 8 CONFERENCE 2023**
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ÉVORA, PORTUGAL



Chlamydospores of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*



Molecular research as a novel management strategy

Conventional mitigation practices

Not sustainable over time
Sensitive to environmental alterations

Adaptive silviculture methods
(selective thinning)

Integrated pest management
(Recovery of transhumant-based
seasonal grazing regimes)

Related to *P. cinnamomic* infection:

- Encouraging soil drainage
- Lime fertilization
- The use of biofumigant crops
- The elimination of alternative host herbaceous species
- The avoidance and soil movements
- **Chemical control** (K₂HPO₃ and aluminium tris-O-ethyl phosphonate)