



UNIVERSITAT DE
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Breaking speciation barriers through random and CRISPR/ Cas9-directed mutagenesis in plants

Rubén Alcázar

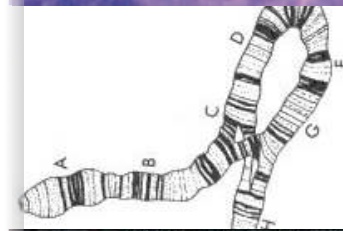
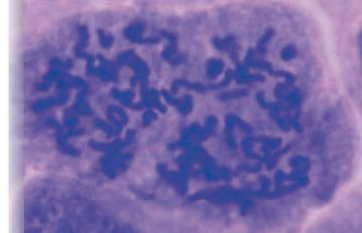
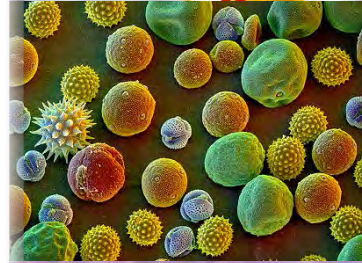
PLANT STRESS TOLERANCE LABORATORY

Department of Biology, Healthcare & Environment
Facultat de Farmàcia i Ciències de l'Alimentació
Universitat de Barcelona

Reproductive isolation (RI) barriers in plants

Pre-zygotic: - pre-pollination barriers
- pollen recognition

Post-zygotic: - polyploidy
- large chromosome rearrangements
- epistatic interactions between parental alleles
(Dobzhansky-Muller genetic incompatibilities)



The Dobzhansky-Muller (D-M) model of genetic incompatibilities

STUDIES ON HYBRID STERILITY. II. LOCALIZATION OF STERILITY FACTORS IN DROSOPHILA PSEUDOOBSCURA HYBRIDS

TH. DOBZHANSKY

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California

Received October 19, 1935

THE PROBLEM

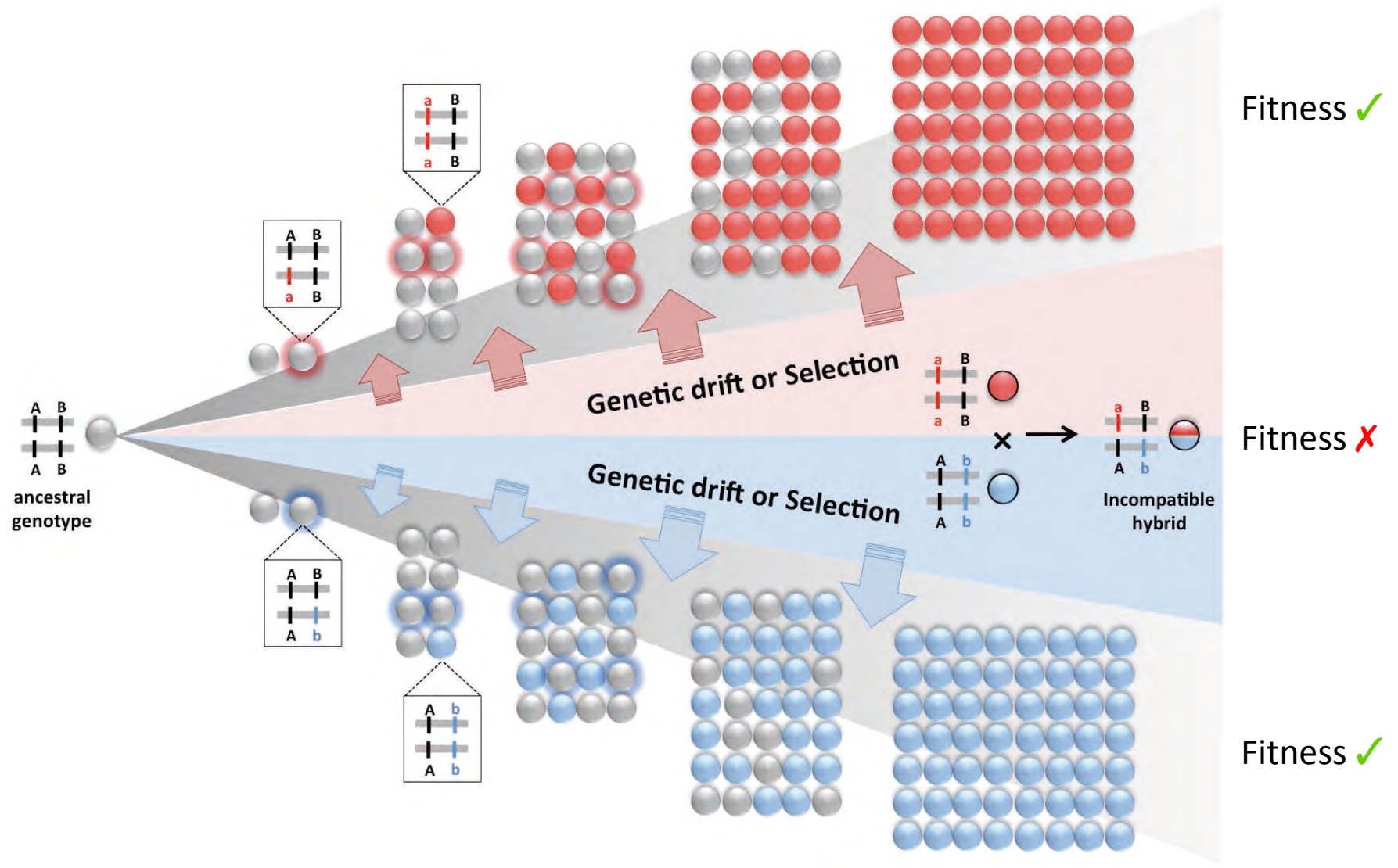
THE causation of hybrid sterility has long been one of the unsolved problems of biology. To date, probably the greatest advance in this field has been made by FEDERLEY who discovered a failure of the meiotic chromosome pairing in the sterile hybrids between moths of the genus *Pygaera*. This finding has since been amply corroborated by other investigators in sterile hybrids both in animals and in plants. Naturally enough it became tempting to suppose that the failure of the meiotic pairing is the cause of hybrid sterility. The restitution of the normal meiotic pairing as well as of fertility following the reduplication of the chromosome complement in allotetraploid hybrids seems to be further evidence in favor of this view. And yet, this view proves to be inadequate as a general explanation of hybrid sterility. Two difficulties deserve particular attention. First, some hybrids are sterile despite the fact that the meiotic pairing in their gametogenesis is apparently normal (MICHAELIS 1933 in *Epilobium*, DOBZHANSKY 1934 in some crosses in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*); while in other sterile hybrids the gametogenesis does not reach the meiotic stages (KERRIS 1933, in *Drosophila melanogaster* × *D. simulans*). Second, the failure of the meiotic pairing in sterile hybrids is usually attributed to an “incompatibility” of the chromosomes of species or races entering the cross. This, clearly, is a restatement of facts and not a causal explanation. It remains possible that suppression of meiotic pairing may be caused by different mechanisms in different cases, and that sometimes there is no cause and effect relation between the failure of pairing and the sterility.

In my previous publications (DOBZHANSKY 1933, 1934) a hypothesis was suggested according to which there exist at least two different types of hybrid sterility—the chromosomal type and the genic type. The chro-



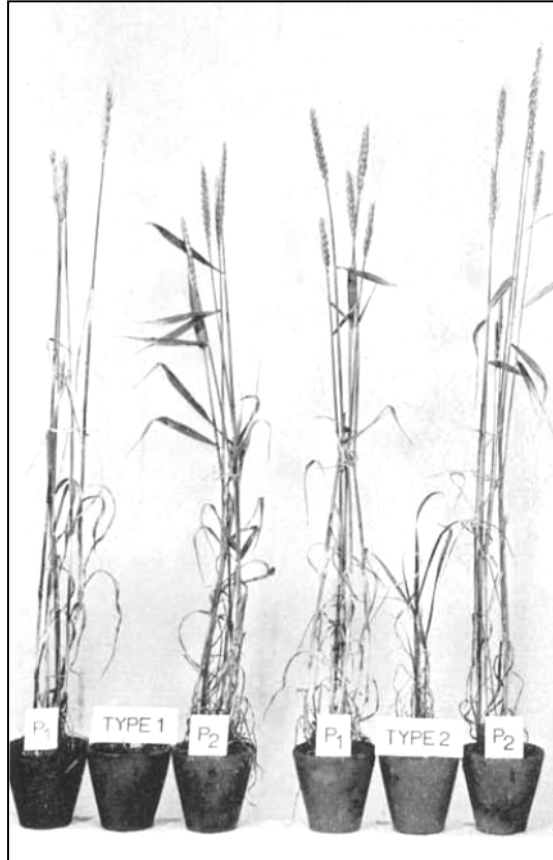
Theodosius Dobzhansky
1900 - 1975

The Dobzhansky-Muller (D-M) model of genetic incompatibilities

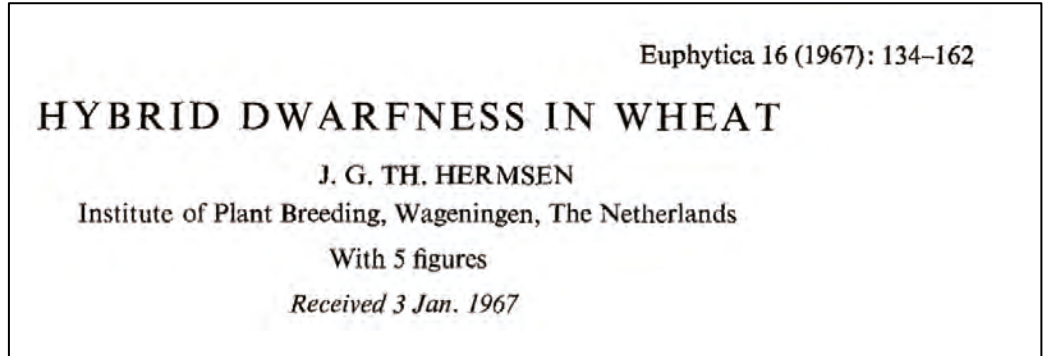


The study of RI in plants: from crops to model species

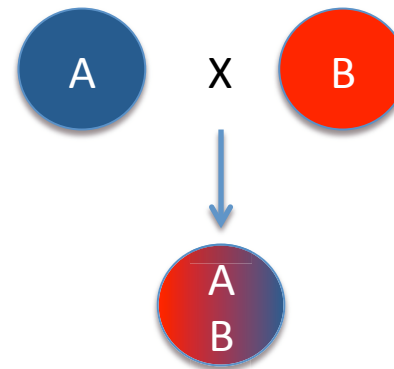
Blat, Trigo, Wheat



Euphytica 16 (1967) : 134-162



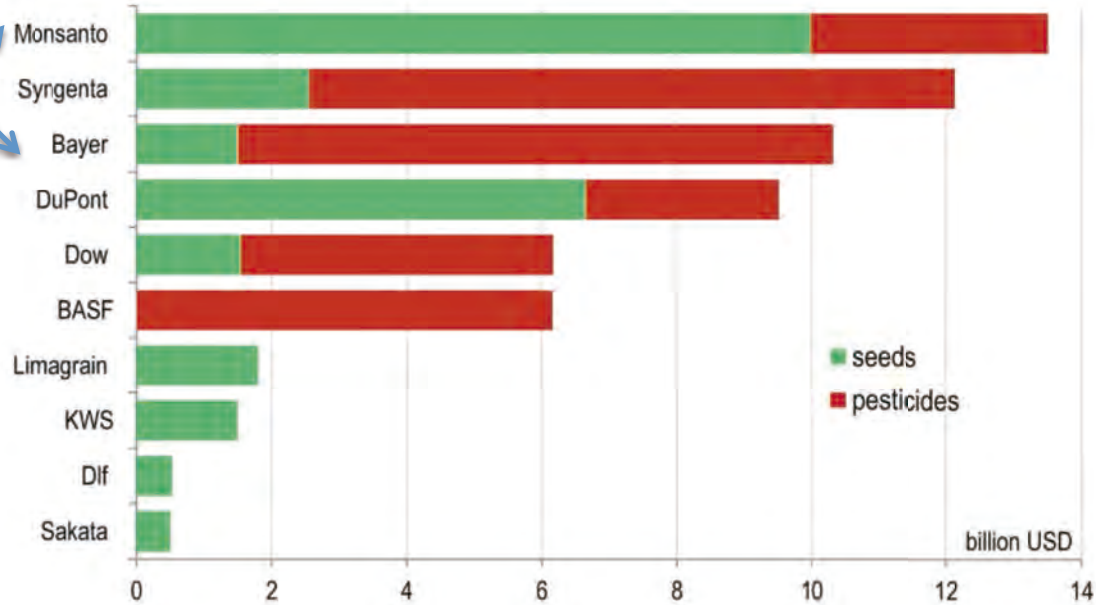
Problem for the development of new varieties (by crossing).



Seed and Agrochemical Industry Market distribution

La mayor part de la indústria de les llavors (biotecnologia vegetal) és farmacèutica.

Crop protection.



sustainability MDPI

Review

Corporate Concentration and Technological Change in the Global Seed Industry

Sylvie Bonny

Economie Publique, AgroParisTech, INRA, Université Paris-Saclay, 78850 Thiverval-Grignon, France; sylvie.bonny@inra.fr

2016 Monsanto acepta la oferta de compra de Bayer y crearán un gigante mundial

La compañía que emerge de la operación, valorada en 58.500 millones de euros, dominará el negocio de semillas y de pesticidas a escala global

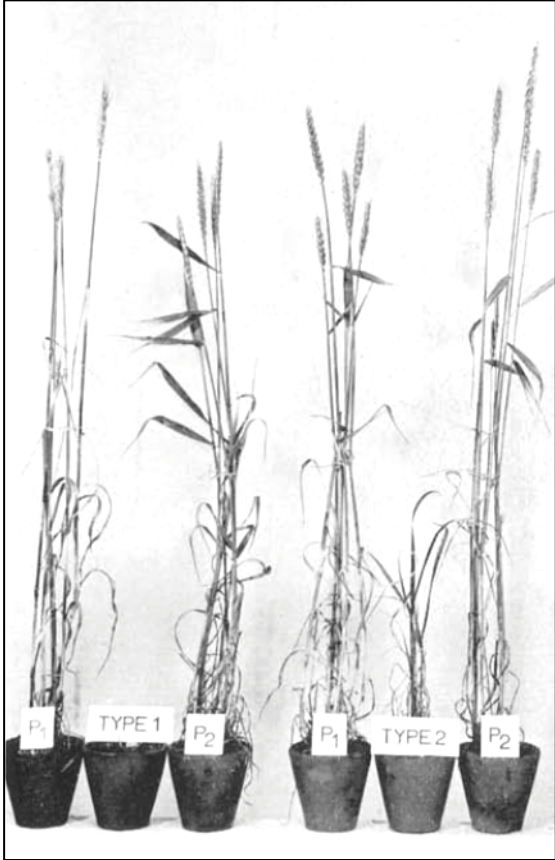


SANDRO POZZI

Nueva York - 16 SEP 2016 - 08:53 CEST

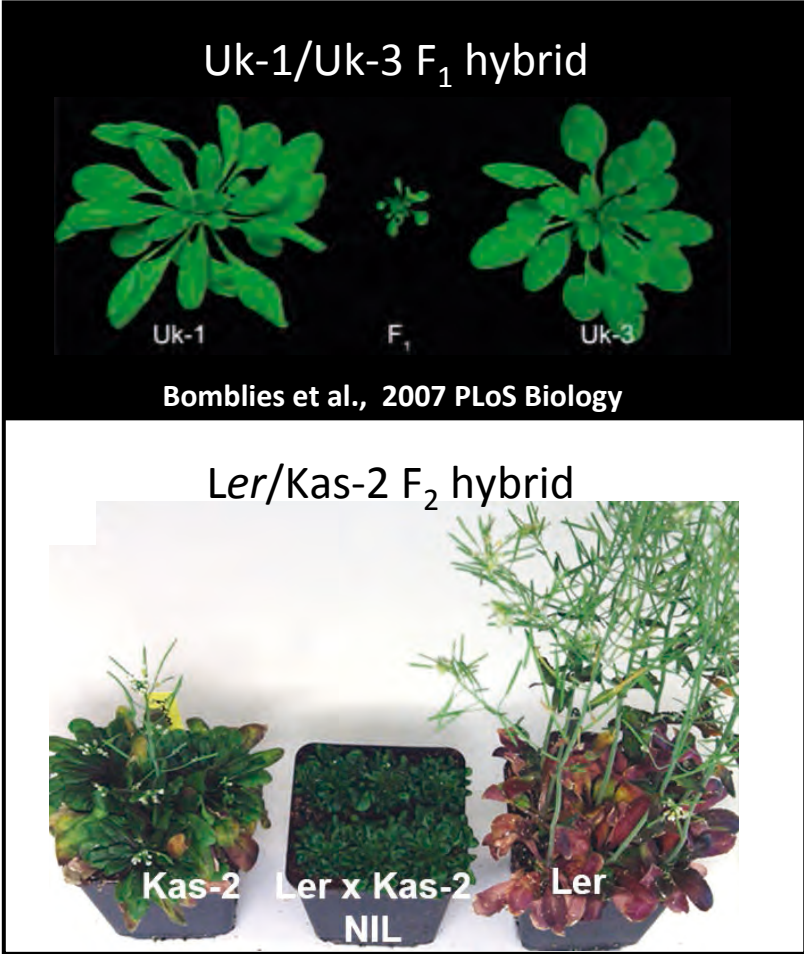
The study of RI in plants: from crops to model species

Blat



Euphytica 16 (1967) : 134-162

Arabidopsis thaliana



Alcázar *et al.*, 2009 PNAS 106:334-339

Alcázar *et al.*, 2010 Nature Genetics 42:1135-1139

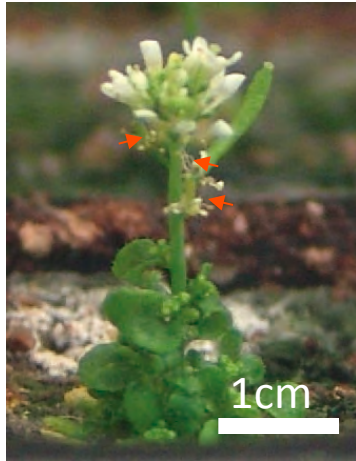
Reproductive isolation between *Landsberg erecta* (*Ler*) and Kashmir-2 (*Kas-2*)



Ler Landsberg *erecta* (Poland)
Kas-2 Kashmir-2 (India)

Sterility

14°C

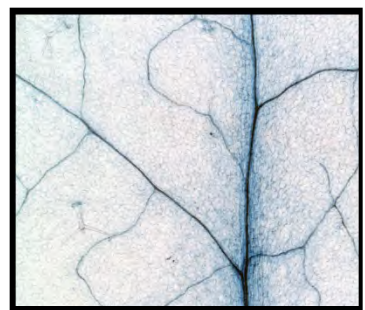


Cell death

14°C

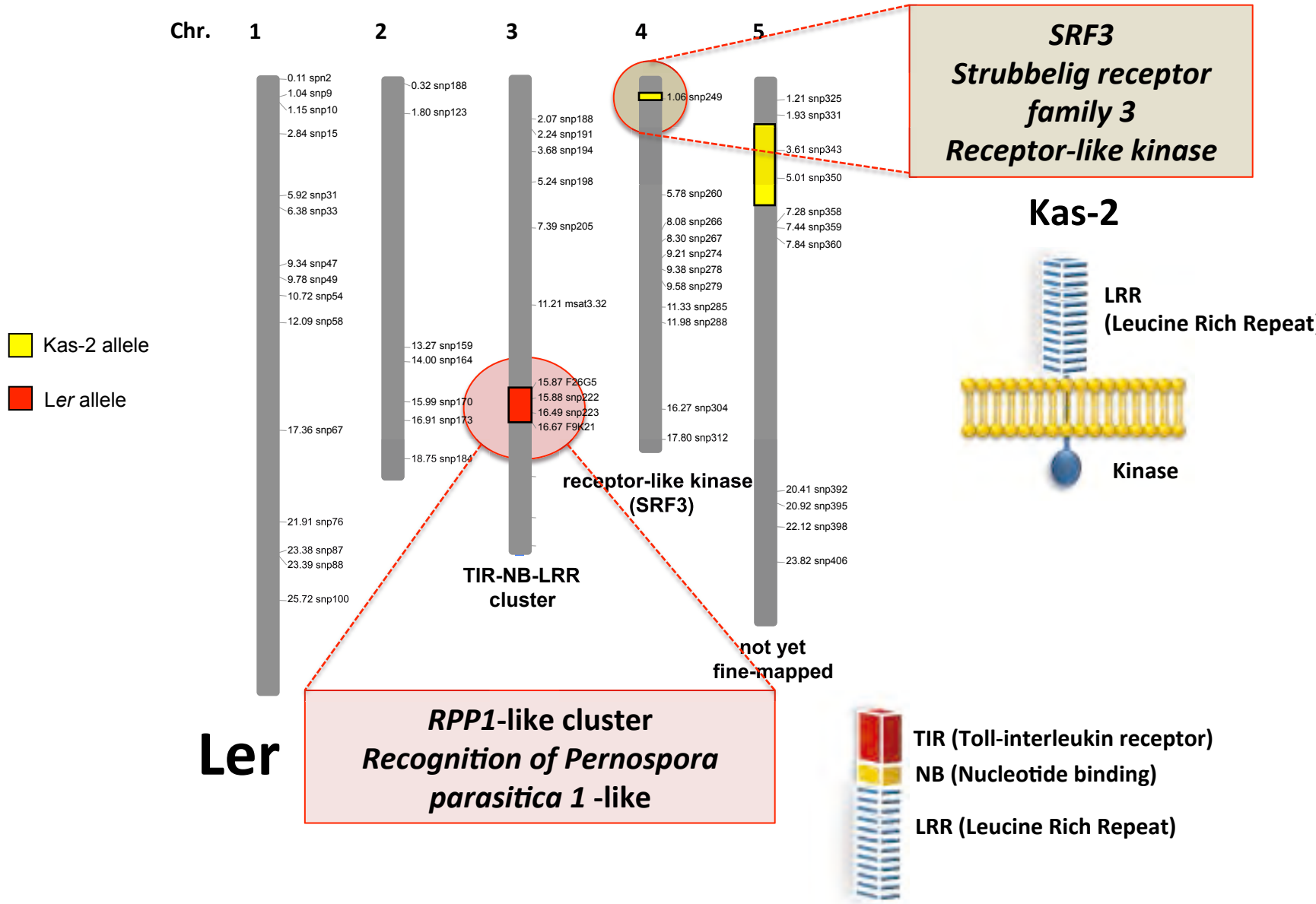


20°C



Síndrome autoimmune

Causal loci for the Ler/Kas-2 hybrid incompatibility



Molecular models of pathogen recognition

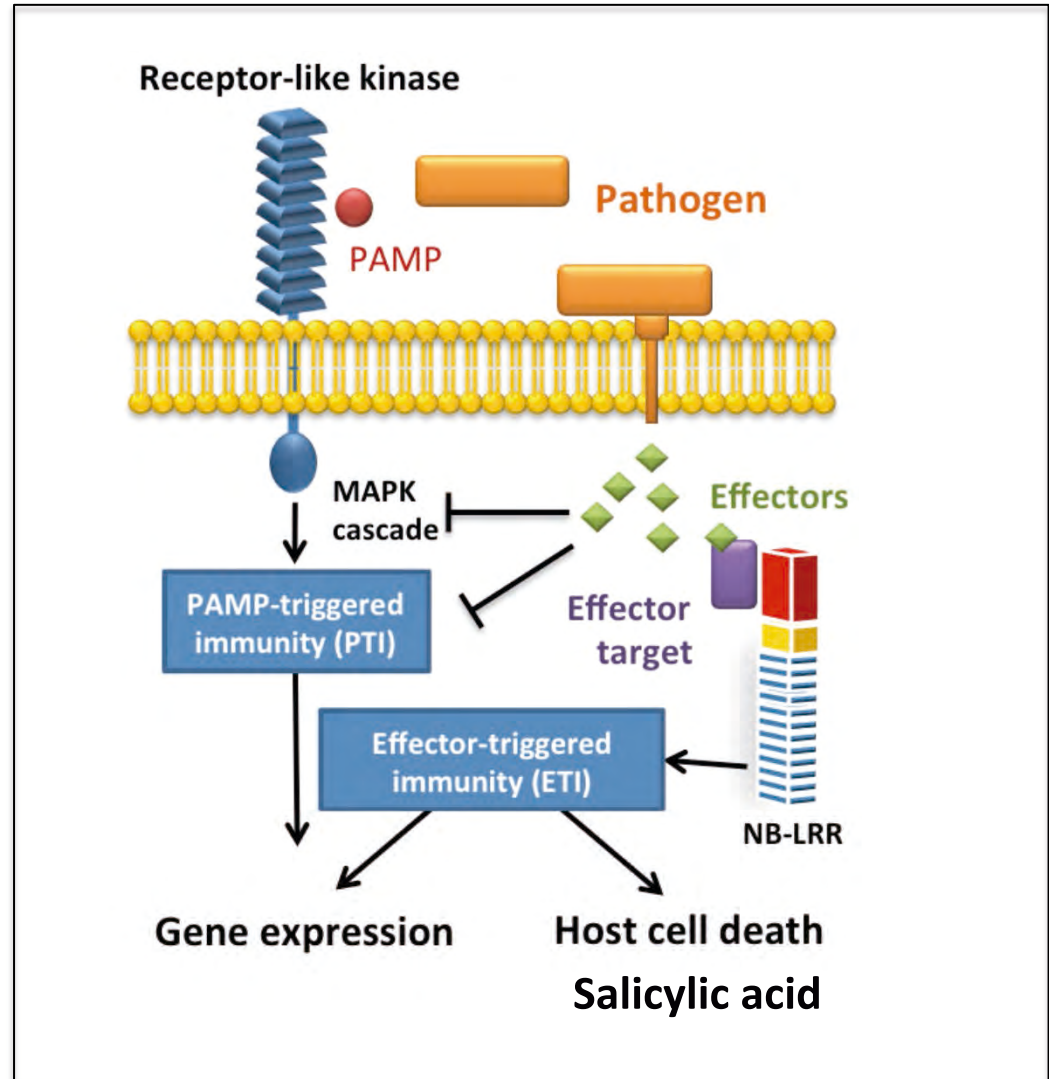
Plant immune system:

- ✓ Innate
- ✓ **Non-adaptive**

Animal immune system:

- ✓ Innate
- ✓ Adaptive

Plant immune system



Molecular models of pathogen recognition

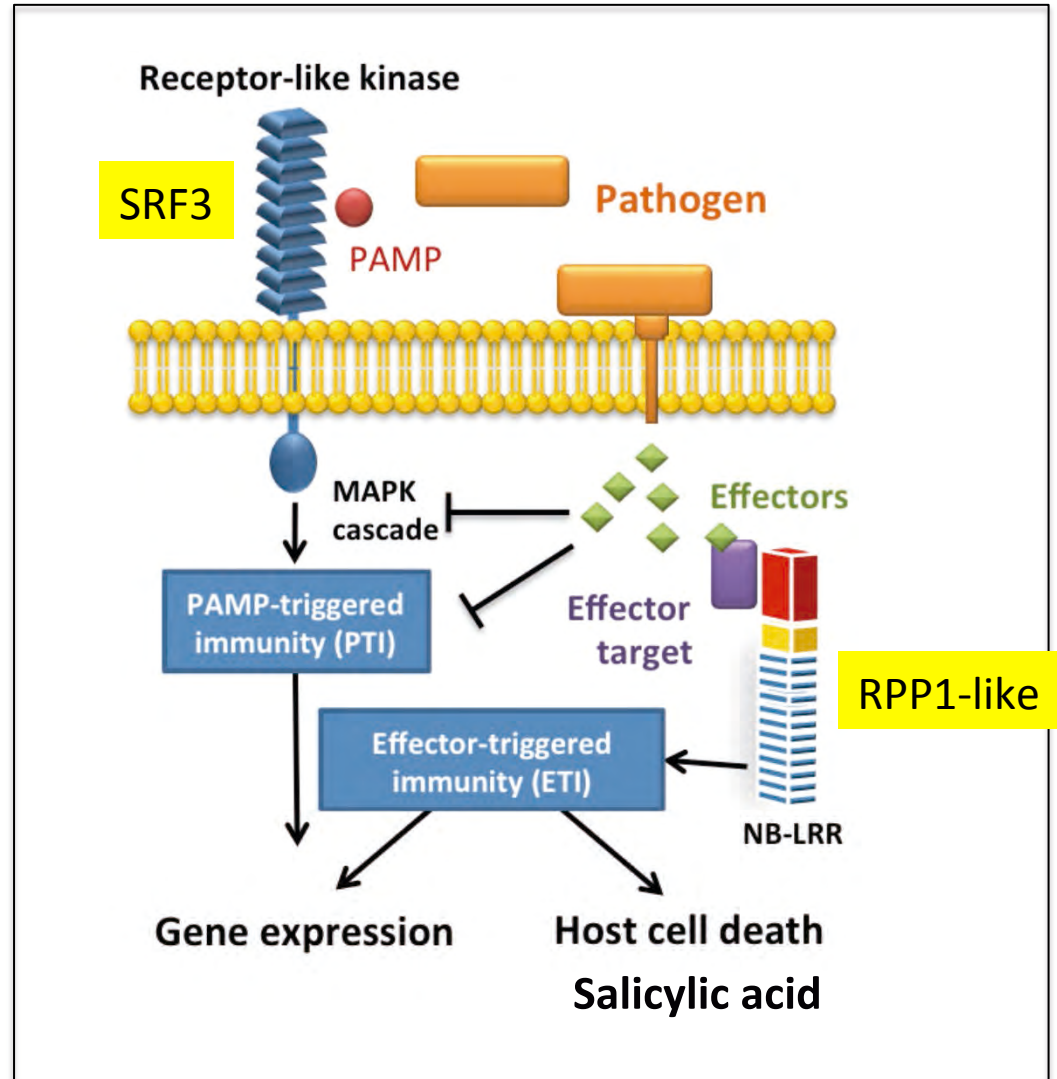
Plant immune system:

- ✓ Innate
- ✓ **Non-adaptive**

Animal immune system:

- ✓ Innate
- ✓ Adaptive

Plant immune system



RPP1-like genes: what do they do?

The Plant Cell, Vol. 10, 1847–1860, November 1998, www.plantcell.org © 1998 American Society of Plant Physiologists

Three Genes of the Arabidopsis *RPP1* Complex Resistance Locus Recognize Distinct *Peronospora parasitica* Avirulence Determinants

Miguel A. Botella,^{a,1} Jane E. Parker,^a Louise N. Frost,^a Peter D. Bittner-Eddy,^b Jim L. Beynon,^b Michael J. Daniels,^a Eric B. Holub,^b and Jonathan D. G. Jones^{a,2}

^aSainsbury Laboratory, John Innes Centre, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UH, United Kingdom

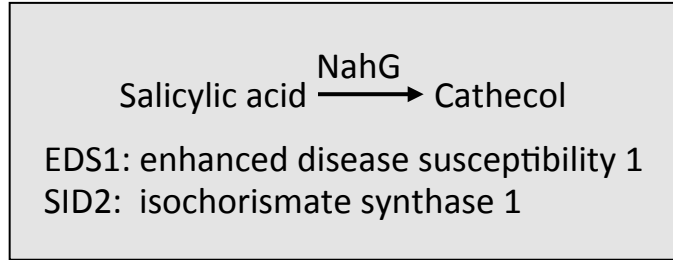
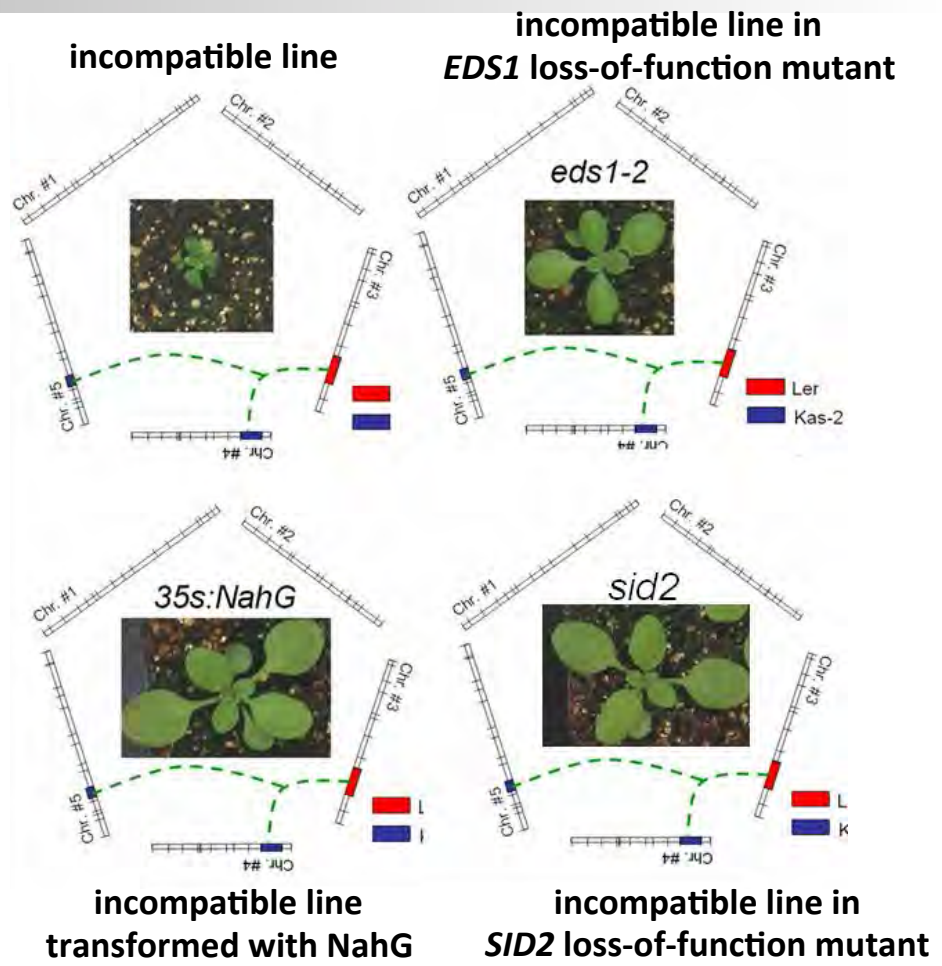
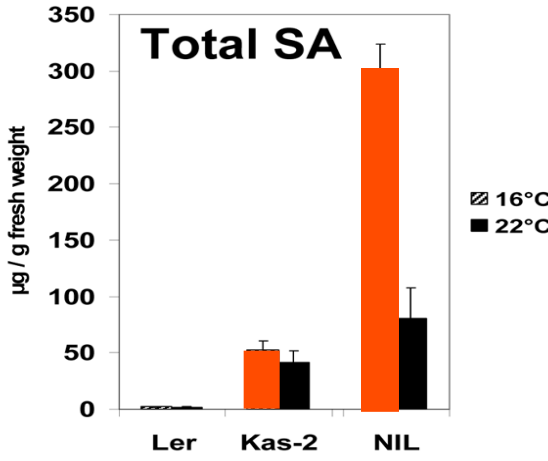
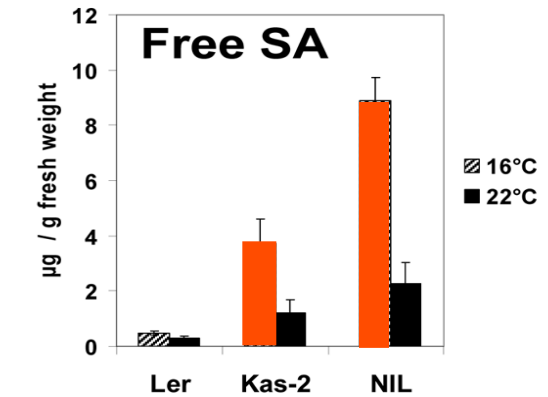
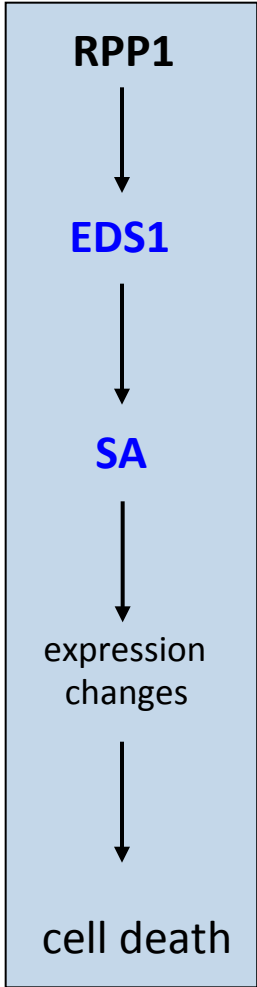
^bHorticulture Research International, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF, United Kingdom



downy mildew
(mildiú)

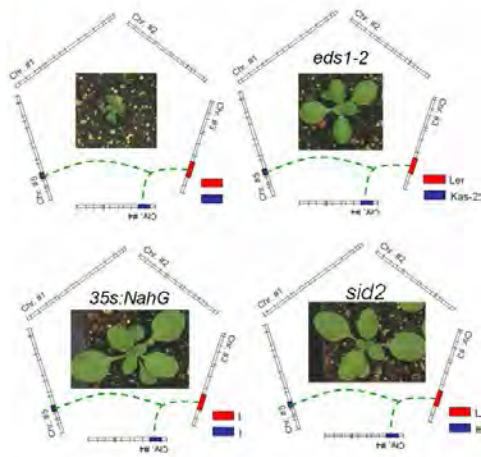


Ler/Kas-2 incompatibility requires *EDS1* and salicylic acid (SA) competence



Yes! we can

restore
growth



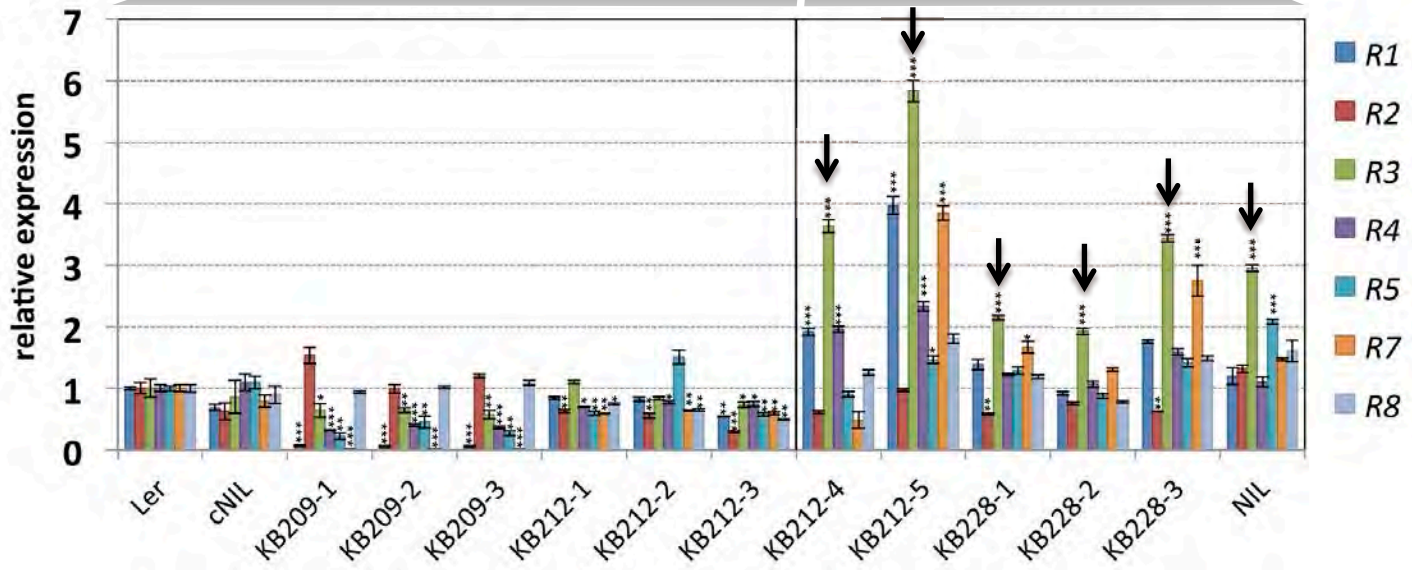
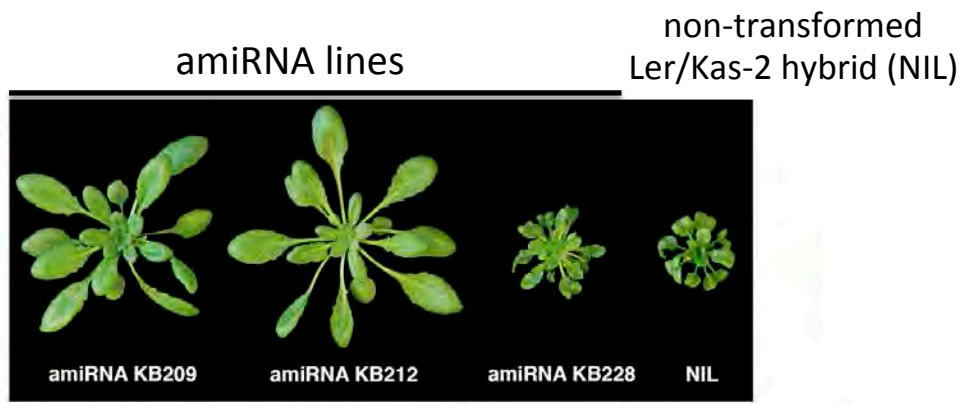
Ups! we can't.

keep resistance
against pathogens.



artificial microRNA (amiRNA) silencing of *RPP1*-like Ler genes

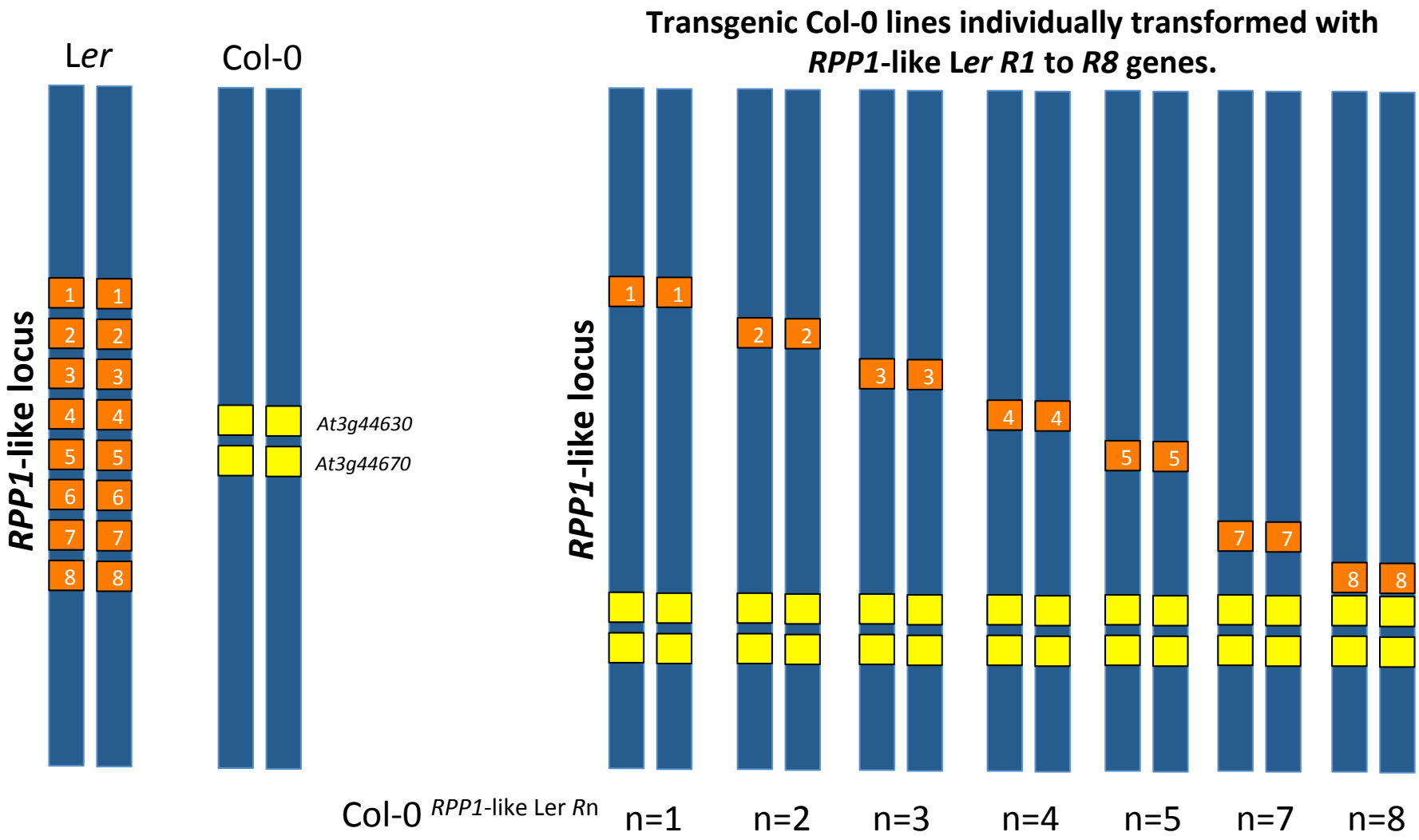
amiRNA lines suppress incompatibility



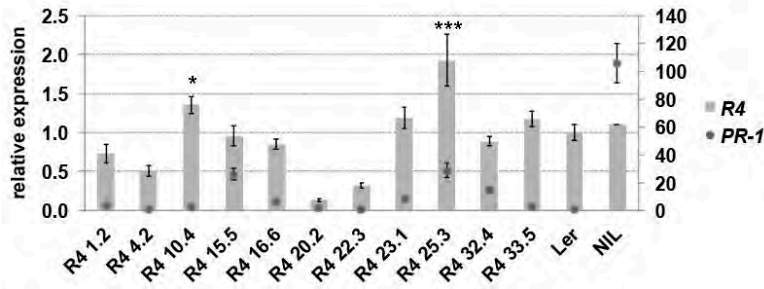
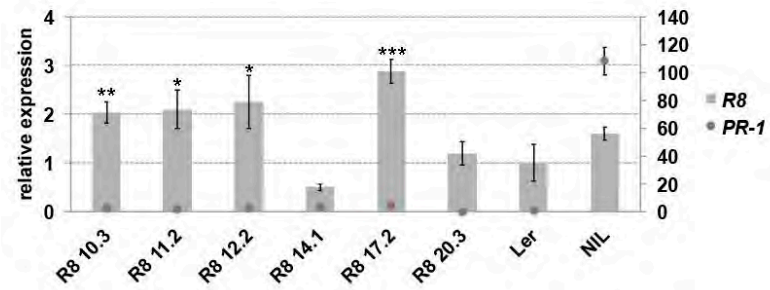
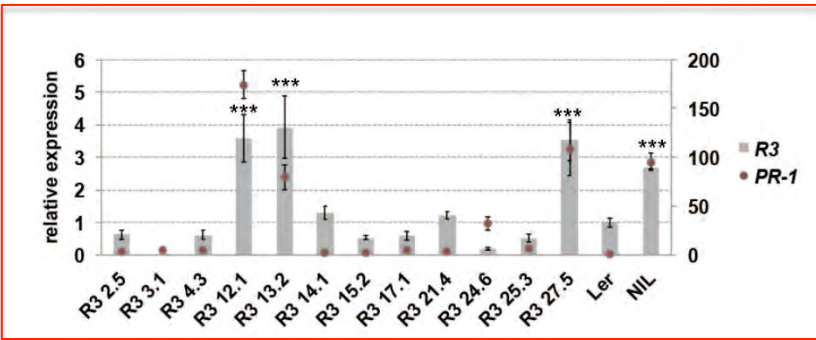
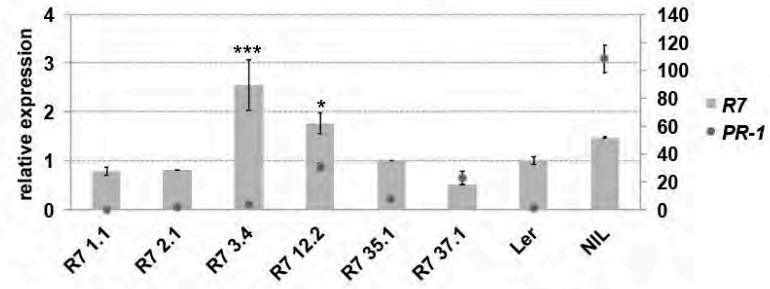
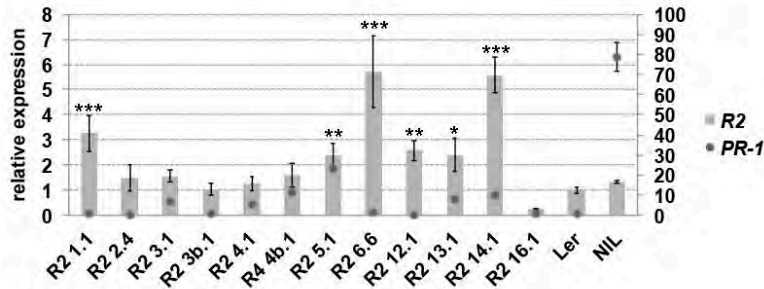
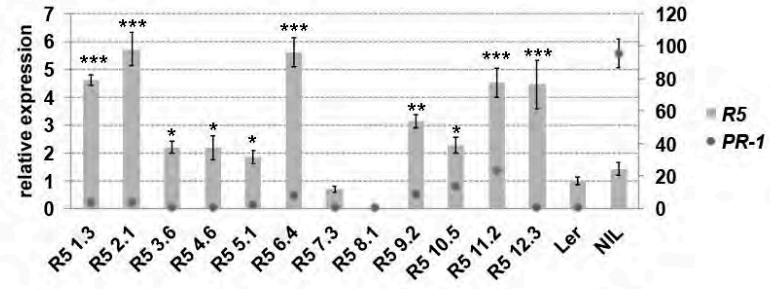
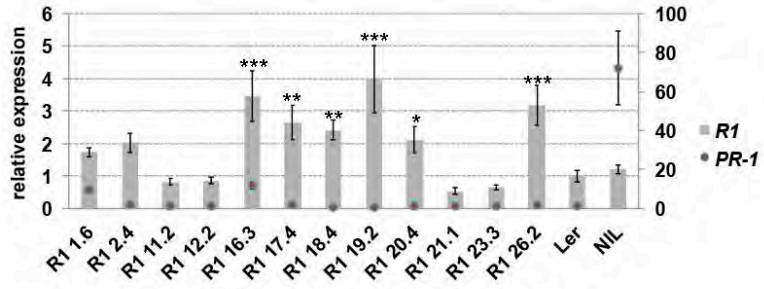
Many genes in the *RPP1*-like Ler cluster are silenced in suppressed lines.

Higher *R3* expression associates with occurrence of incompatibility

Reconstitution of incompatibility. Using a neutral background.



Variable transgene expression in different Col *RPP1*-like *Ler* lines



***PR1* is a marker for SA-pathway activation**

***R3* overexpression (> 3-fold) induces incompatible phenotypes**

Col^{RPP1} *R3* 12.1

14-16 °C

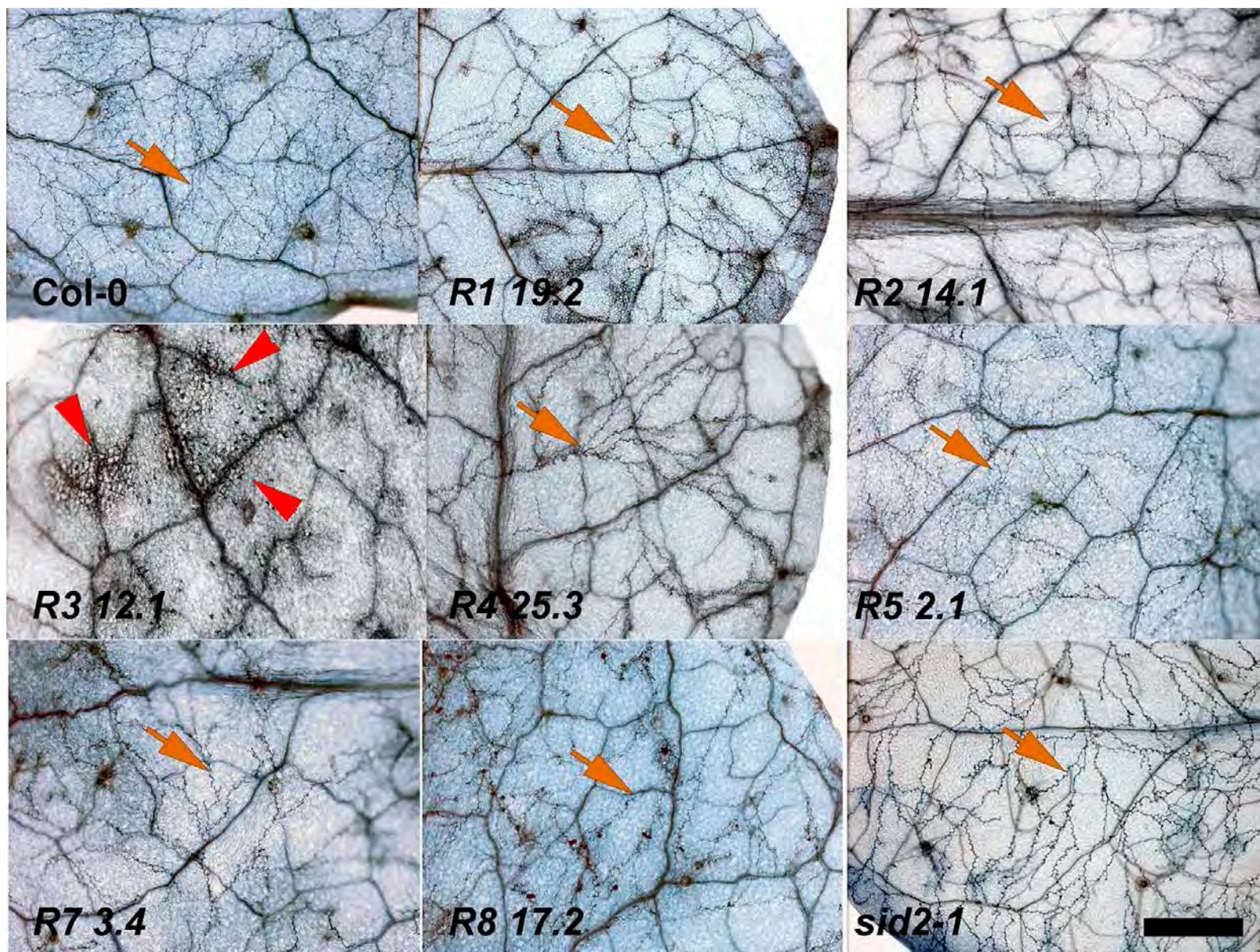
20-22 °C



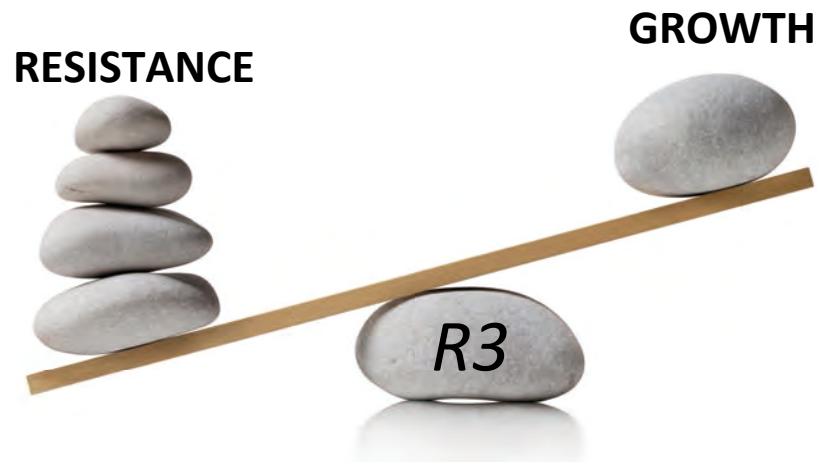
Overexpression of other *RPP1*-like genes in Col-0 does not induce incompatible phenotypes.



R3 overexpressor lines are resistant to *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* (Noco)



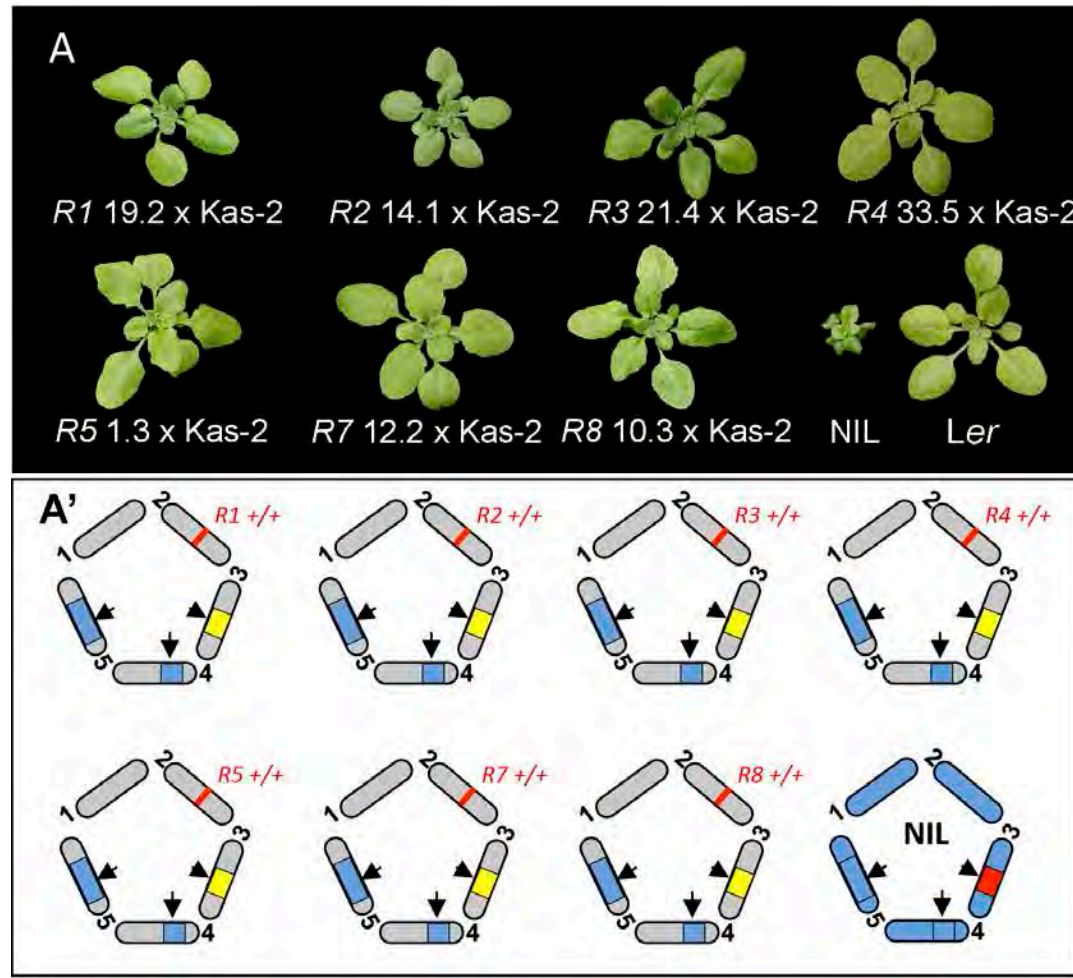
***R3* expression conditions the balance between growth and disease resistance**



TO GROW OR TO RESIST

but we want to GROW and TO RESIST

... but R3 is not sufficient to trigger incompatibility with Kas-2 when expression is at wild-type levels



Co-action of two or more RPP1-like *Ler* genes is required for incompatibility.

Screen for suppressors of Ler/Kas-2 incompatibility (*sulki*) mutants



25.000 seeds Ler/Kas-2 NIL

↓ EMS (mutagenesis)

M₁ Population

↓

M₂ Population

20 *sulki* mutants identified

↓ x 5 backcrosses to NIL

BC₅F₁

Whole genome sequencing

Illumina

Next generation sequencing



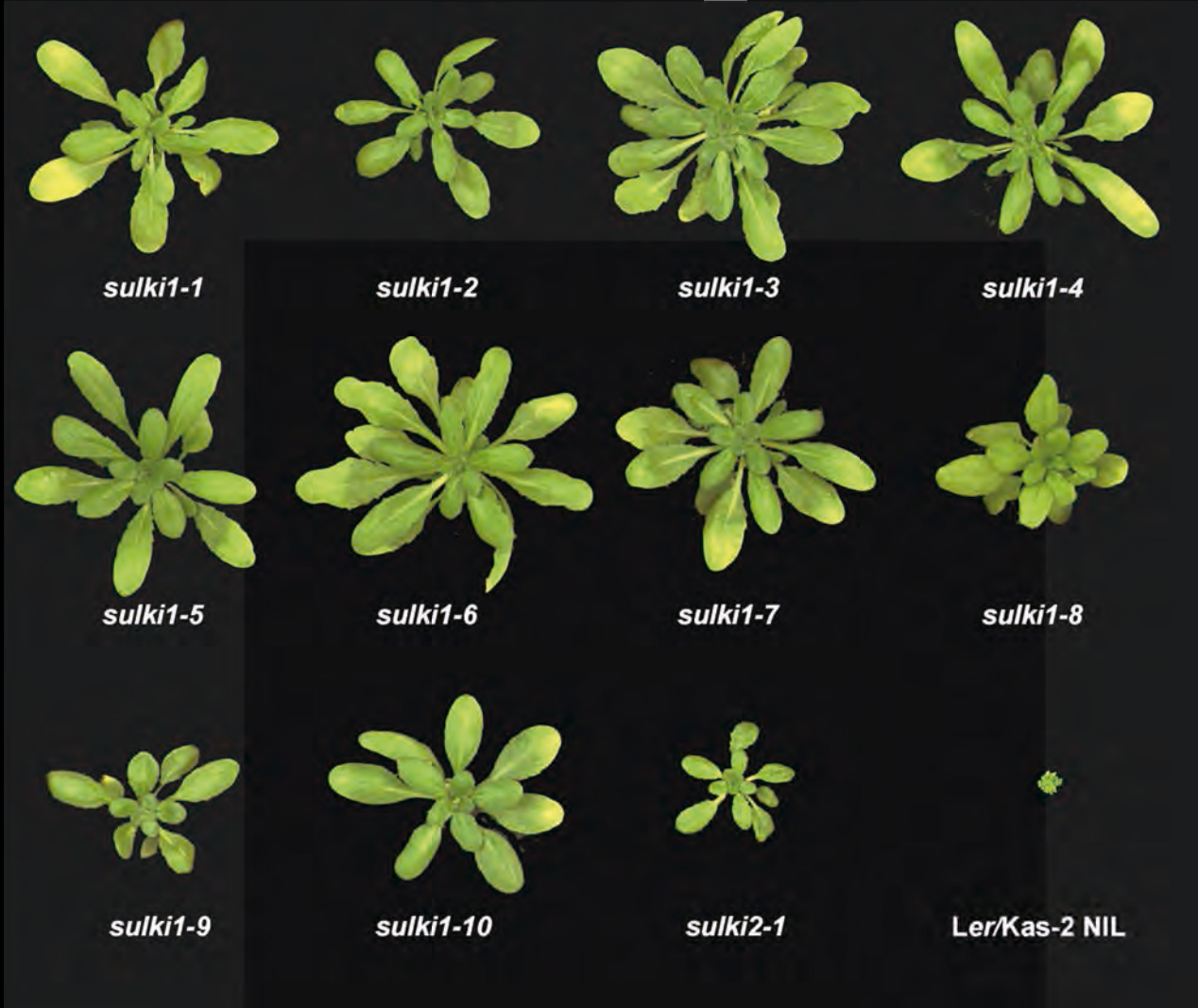
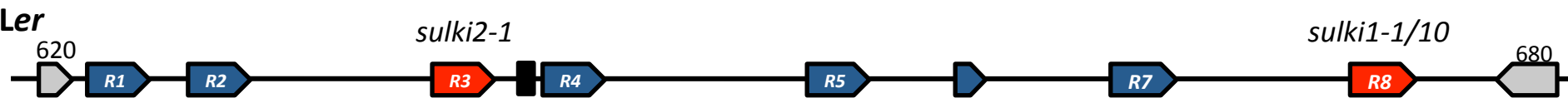
11 intragenic mutations, 10 allelic

9 extragenic mutations

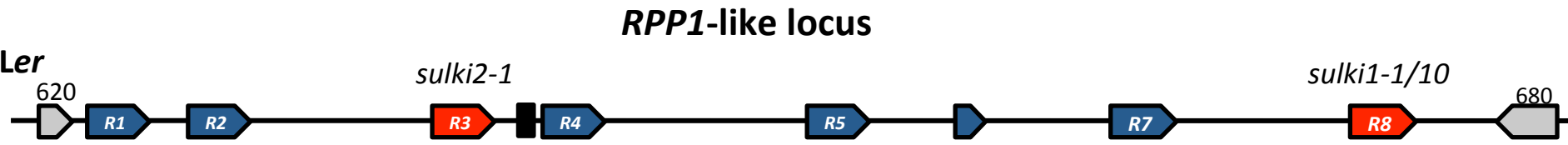


Screen for suppressors of Ler/Kas-2 incompatibility (*sulki*) mutants

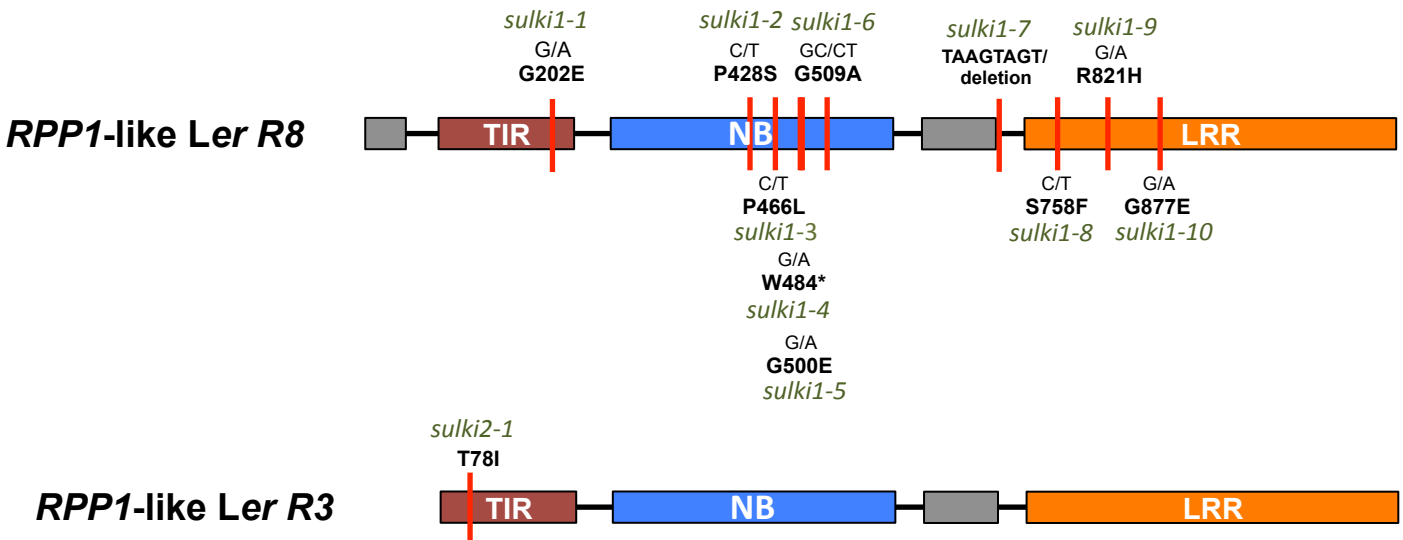
RPP1-like locus



Screen for suppressors of Ler/Kas-2 incompatibility (*sulki*) mutants



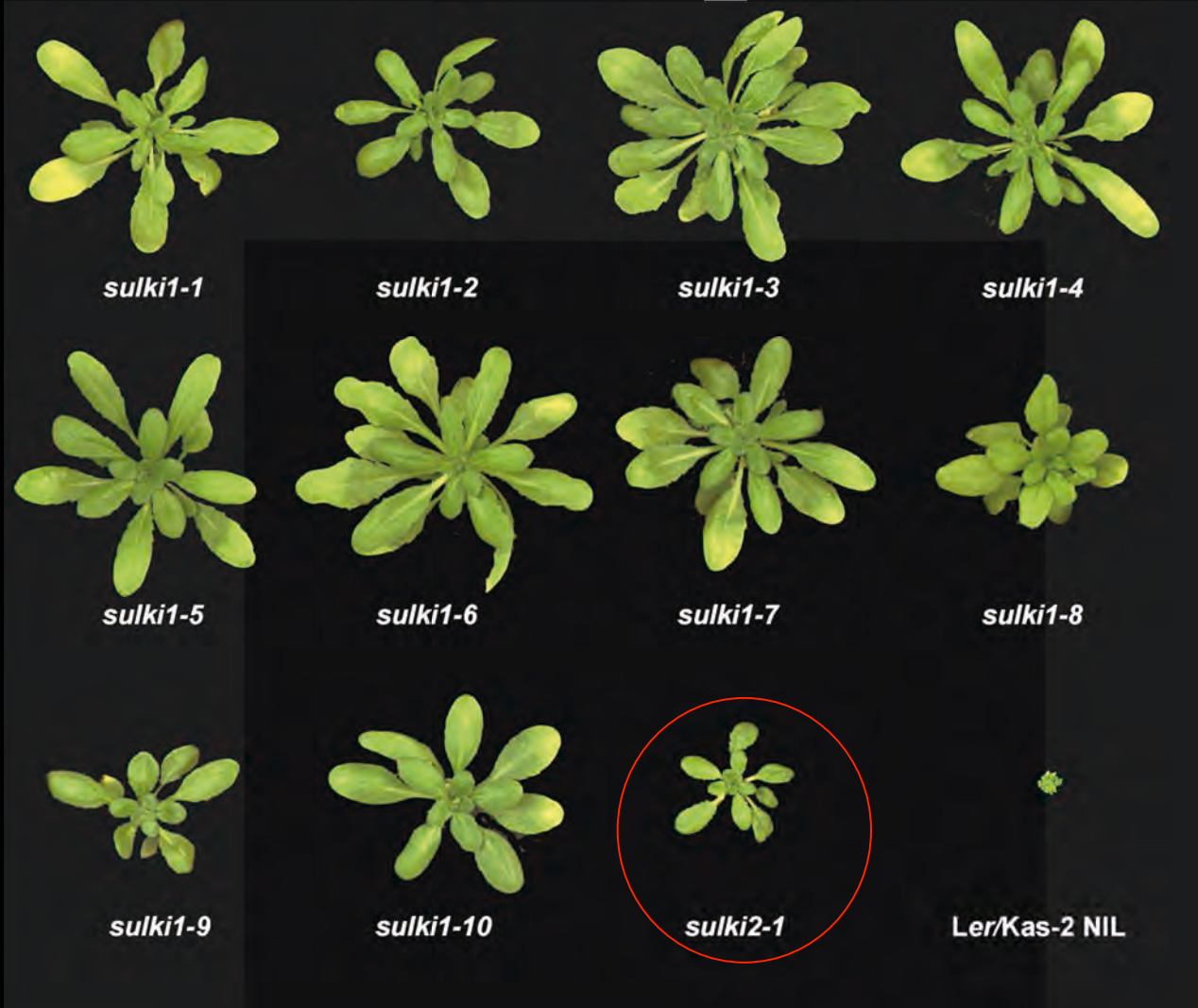
Mutations in invariable or highly conserved residues



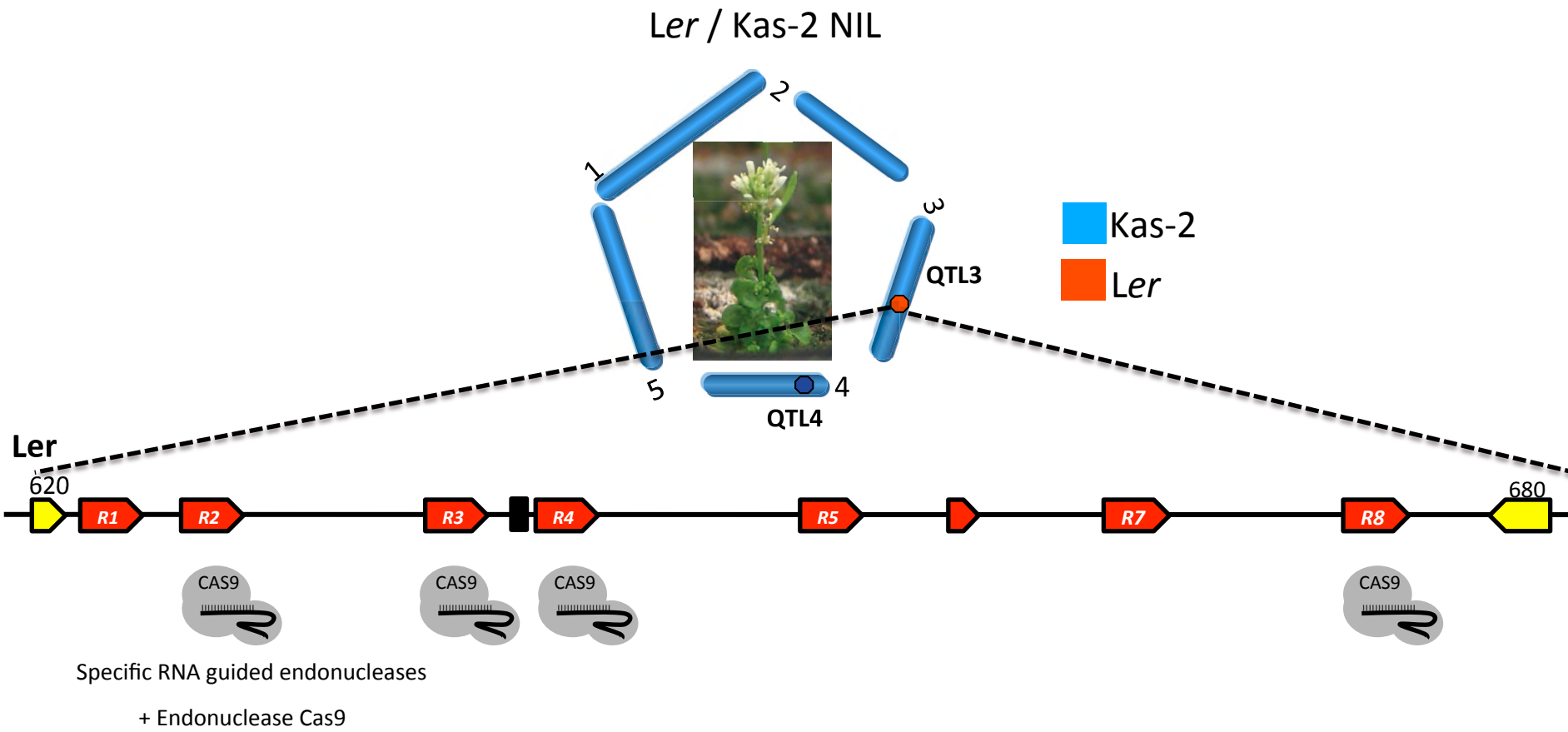
Not only the phenotype is restored, but also the **transcriptional (RNA-seq)** and **primary metabolism (GC/MS)** changes induced by the hybrid incompatibility.

Screen for suppressors of Ler/Kas-2 incompatibility (*sulki*) mutants

RPP1-like locus



Directed mutagenesis by CRISPR/Cas9



Precision breeding

Cas9-r2

PAM motif

wt CCGATATCATTCTCAC--AGCTGG
 G Y H S H S W
r2-1 CCGATATCATTCTCACAAAGCTGG
 G Y H S H K A G
r2-2 CCGATATCATTCTCAC-TAGCTGG
 G Y H S H *

MGSAMSLSCSKRKATSQDVDESCKRRKTCSTN
 DAENCIFIPDESSWLSLCANRVISVAVALTKFR
 FQDNQESNSSLSLSPATSVSRNWKHDVFPSP
 FHGADVRRRTFLSHIMESFRRKGIDTFIDNNIER
TIR SKSIGPELKKAIKGSKIAIVLLSRKYASSSWCL
 DELTEIMKCREVLGQIVMTIFYEVDPTDIKKQT
 GEFGKAFTKTKGKTKKEYVERWRKALEDVATIA
GYHSHKAGGMKQT*245 (r2-1) TIR4
GYHSH*237 (r2-2)

Cas9-r4

PAM motif

wt CCTTGC-TTGGGAGGTTAAGGCAT
 L A W E V K A
r4-1 CCTTGC-TTGGGAGGTTAAGGCAT
 L A L G G *417
r4-2 CCTTGCATTGGGAGGTTAAGGCAT
 L A L G G *417

MDSFFLVLVAAAIGFFIFFRKRFRFQDNQESN
 SSSLSPSLATSVSRNWKHDVFPSPFHGADVRRRT
 FLSHIMESFRRKGIDTFIDNNIERGKSIGPELK
TIR EAIKGSKIAIVLLSRKYASSSWCLDELAEIMIC
 REVLGQIVMTIFYEVDPTDVKKQTGEFGKAFTK
 TCRGKPKQEVRWRKALEDVATIAGEHSRNWRN
 EADMIEKIATDVSNMLNSCTPSRDFDGLVGMRA
 HMDKMEHLLRLDLDEVRMIGIWGTPGIGKTTIA
 ACMFDRFPSSRFPFAAIMTDIRECYPRLCLNERN
 AQLKLDQMLSQIFNQDKIKISHLGVAQERLKD
NB KKVFIVLDEVDHLGQLDALAKETRWFPGPSRII
 ITTEDQGLKAHGINHVYKVEYPSNDEAFOIFC
MNAFGQKOPCEGFCDLALGG*417 (r4-1/2)
 RNBS-c

Cas9-r3

PAM motif

wt CCTACC-TTGTGGTGAACCTCCCT
 T Y L A G E L P
r3-1 CTTACCCTTGTGGTGAACCTCCCT
 T Y P C W *
r3-2 CCTACC--TGCTGGTGAACCTCCCT
 T Y L L V N S L

MDSSFFLVVAAAIGFFILFRKFRFQESNSSSL
 SLSPATSVSRNWKHDVFPSPFHGADVRRRTFLSH
 ILESFRRKGIDTFIDNNIERSKSIGPELKEAIK
TIR GSKIAIVLLSRKYASSSWCLDELAEIMKCRQMV
 GQIVMTIFYEVDPTDIKKQTGEFGKAFTKTKG
 KLKEQVERWRKALEDVATIAGEHSRNWRNEADM
 IEKISTDVSNMLNSFTPSRDFDGLVGMRAHMDR
 MEHLLRLDLDEVRMIGIWGPPGIGKTTIARFLF
 NQVSDRFQLSAIMVNIKGCYPRPCFDEYSAQLO
 LQNEMLSQMINHKDIMISHLGVAQERLRDKKVF
NB LVLDEVDQLGQLDALAKETQWPLGSRITITTE
 DLGVLKAHGINHVYKVEYPSNDEAFOIFCMNAF
 GQKHPNDGPFDEIAREVTVPCW*418 (r3-1)
 GLPL
 GQKHPNDGPFDEIAREVTVLLVNSLWD*423 (r3-2)
 GLPL

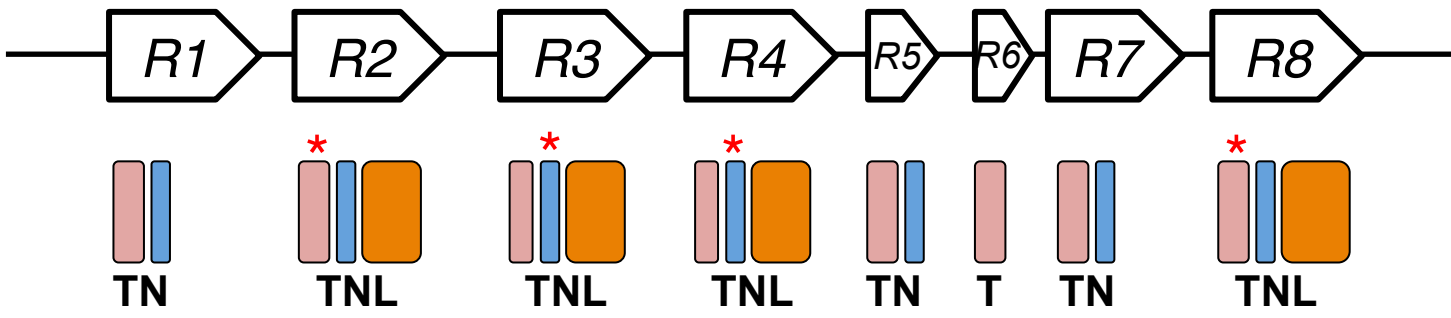
Cas9-r8

PAM motif

wt CCTTGAT-GAATTAGCAGAAATCA
 L D E L A E I
r8-1 CCTTGATGAATTAGCAGAAATCA
 L D *167
r8-2 CCTTGAT--AATTAGCAGAAATCA
 L D N *168

MGSAMSLSCSKRKTTSQDVDESRRKRRKICSTN
 DAENCRFIQDESSWKHPWLSLCVNVAATAFTKFR
 FQDNKYTKSSALSLSPPPTSVSRNWKHDVFPSP
 FHGADVRRKTIILSHILESFRRKIDPFIDNNIER
TIR SKSIGHELKEAIKGSKIAIVLLSKNYASSSWCL
 D*167 (r8-1)
 DN*168 (r8-2)

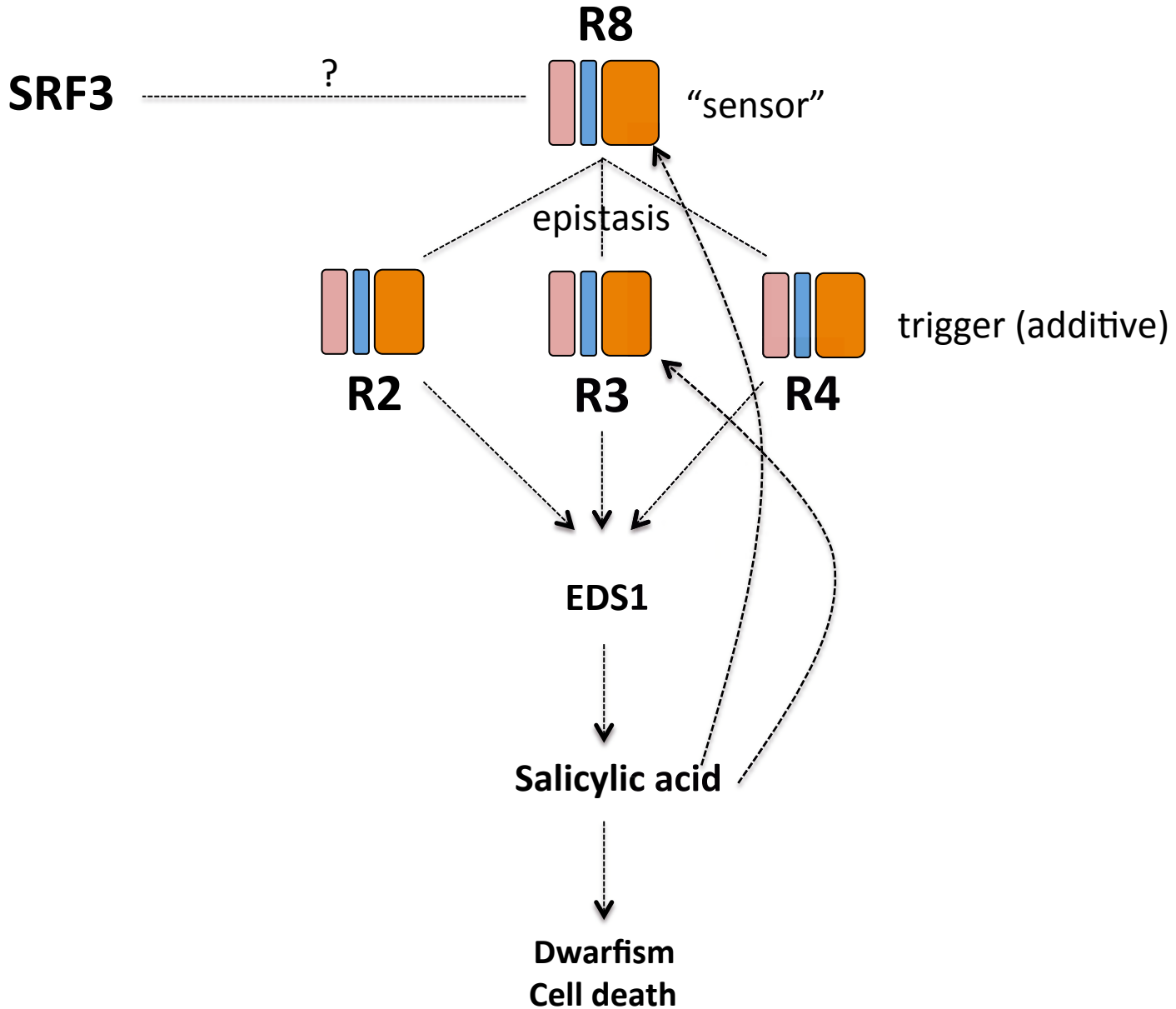
CRISPR/CAS9 – based mutagenesis of RPP1-like Ler genes in Ler/Kas-2 NIL



DOMAINS

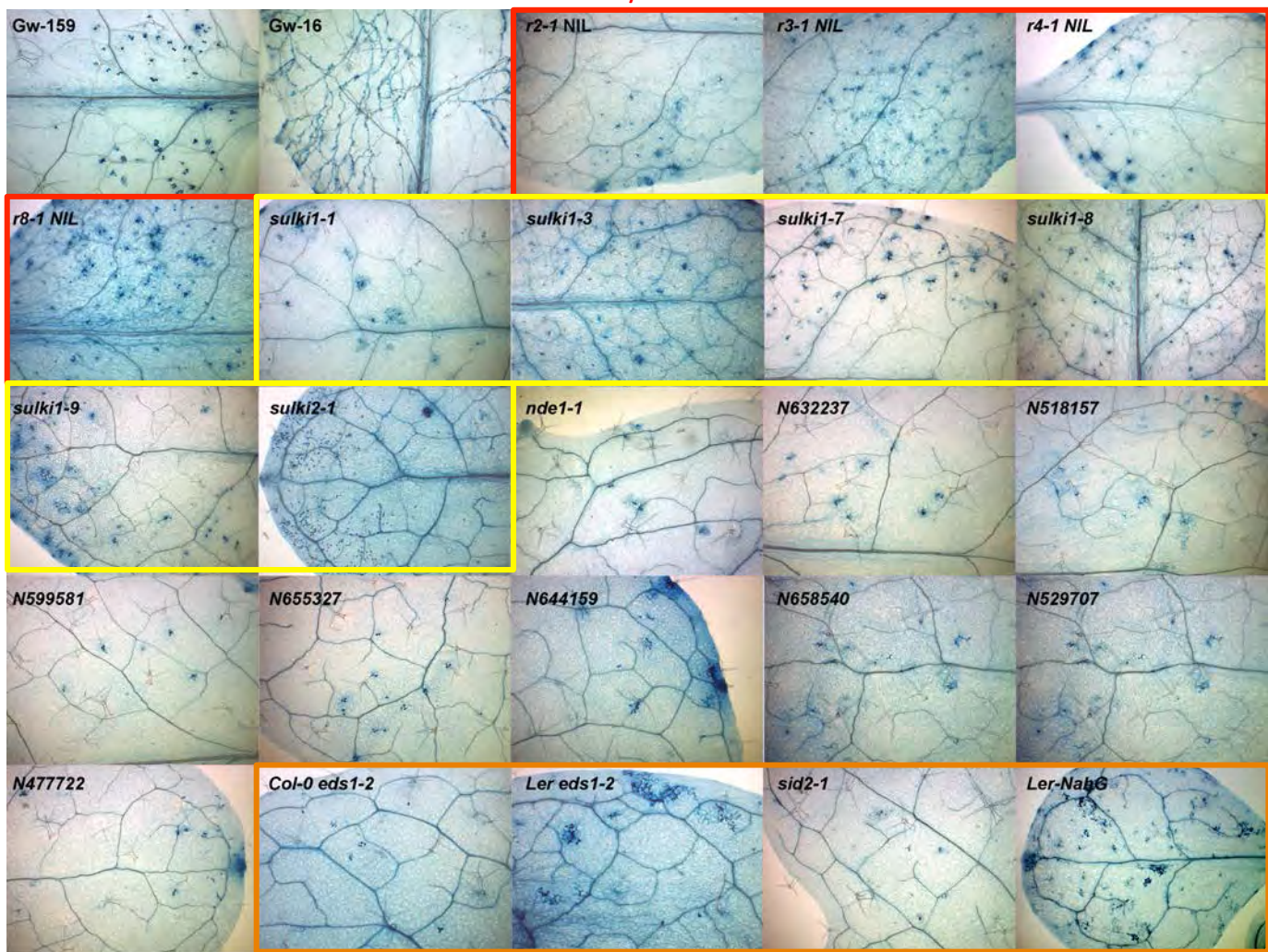
T: TIR (Toll Interleukin Receptor), N: NB (Nucleotide binding), L: LRR (Leucine Rich Repeat).

Current genetic model



CRISPR/Cas9 or sulki mutations suppressing incompatibility do not compromise *Hpa* disease resistance

CRISPR/Cas9 mutants



sulki mutants

eds1, sid2, NahG

Yes! we can

**restore
compatibility**



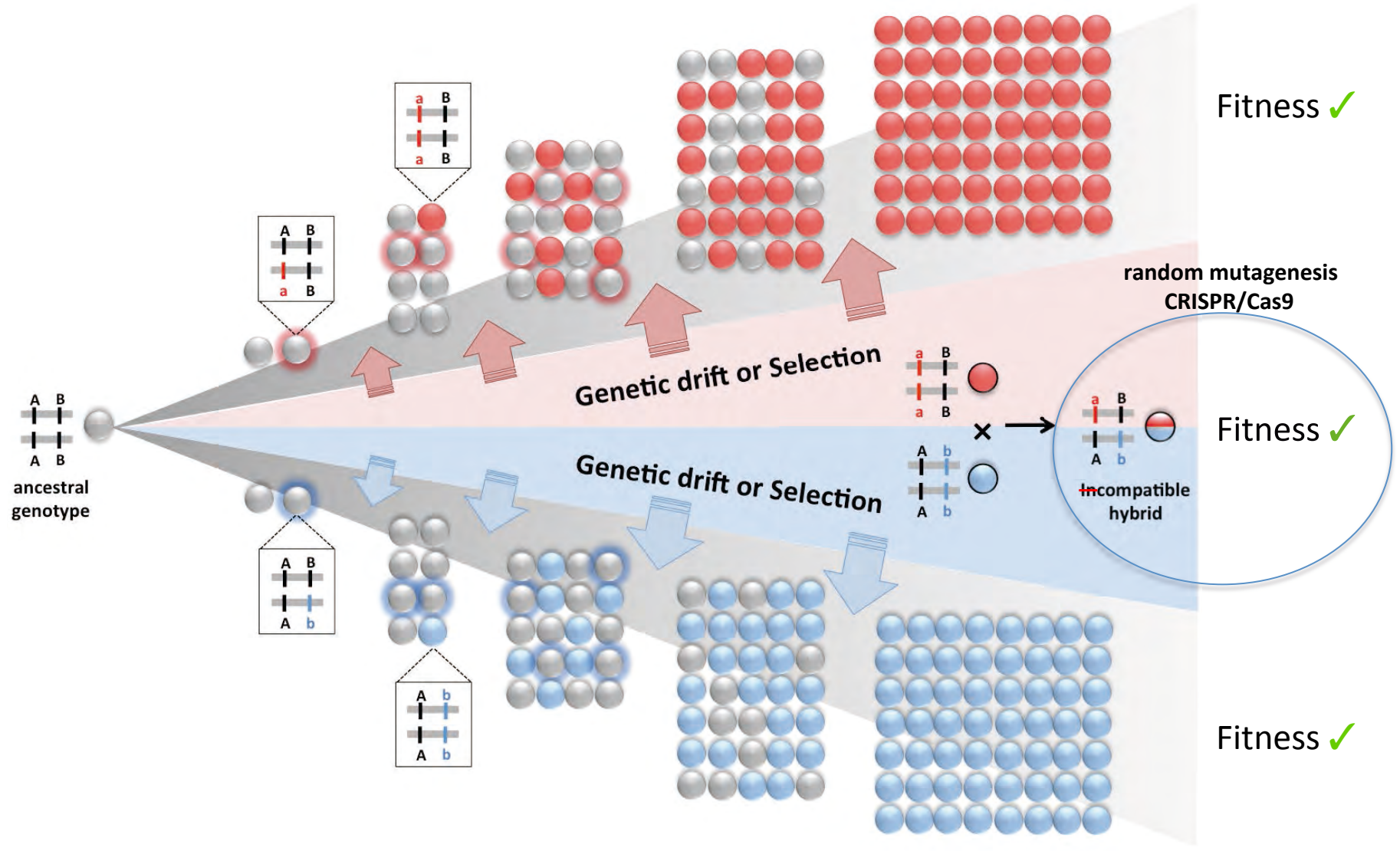
Yes! we can

**maintain resistance
against pathogens.**



Random and CRISPR/Cas9 directed mutagenesis enables the suppression of Dobzhansky-Muller genetic incompatibilities

The Dobzhansky-Muller (D-M) model of genetic incompatibilities



Main conclusions

Speciation events can be triggered by **single nucleotide mutations**.

The hybrids exhibit **fitness loss** associated with **constitutive activation of defense**.

Suppression of defense rescues compatibility, but **induces susceptibility**.

Through **random or directed** (when genes are known) mutagenesis, artificially-induced mutations can be selected that **restore compatibility at no cost on defense**.

This should enable the development of **new varieties** for which speciation (triggered by D-M incompatibilities) is a barrier.