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**Natural variation of magnesium content
&
Influence of magnesium supply
on root architecture
in Arabidopsis**



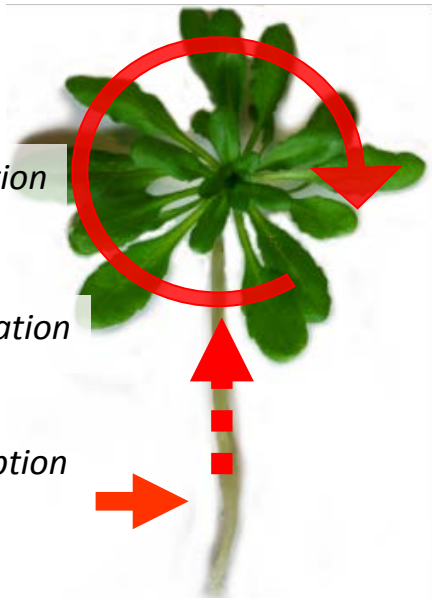
November 6th 2014

ULB

Storage and re-allocation

Translocation

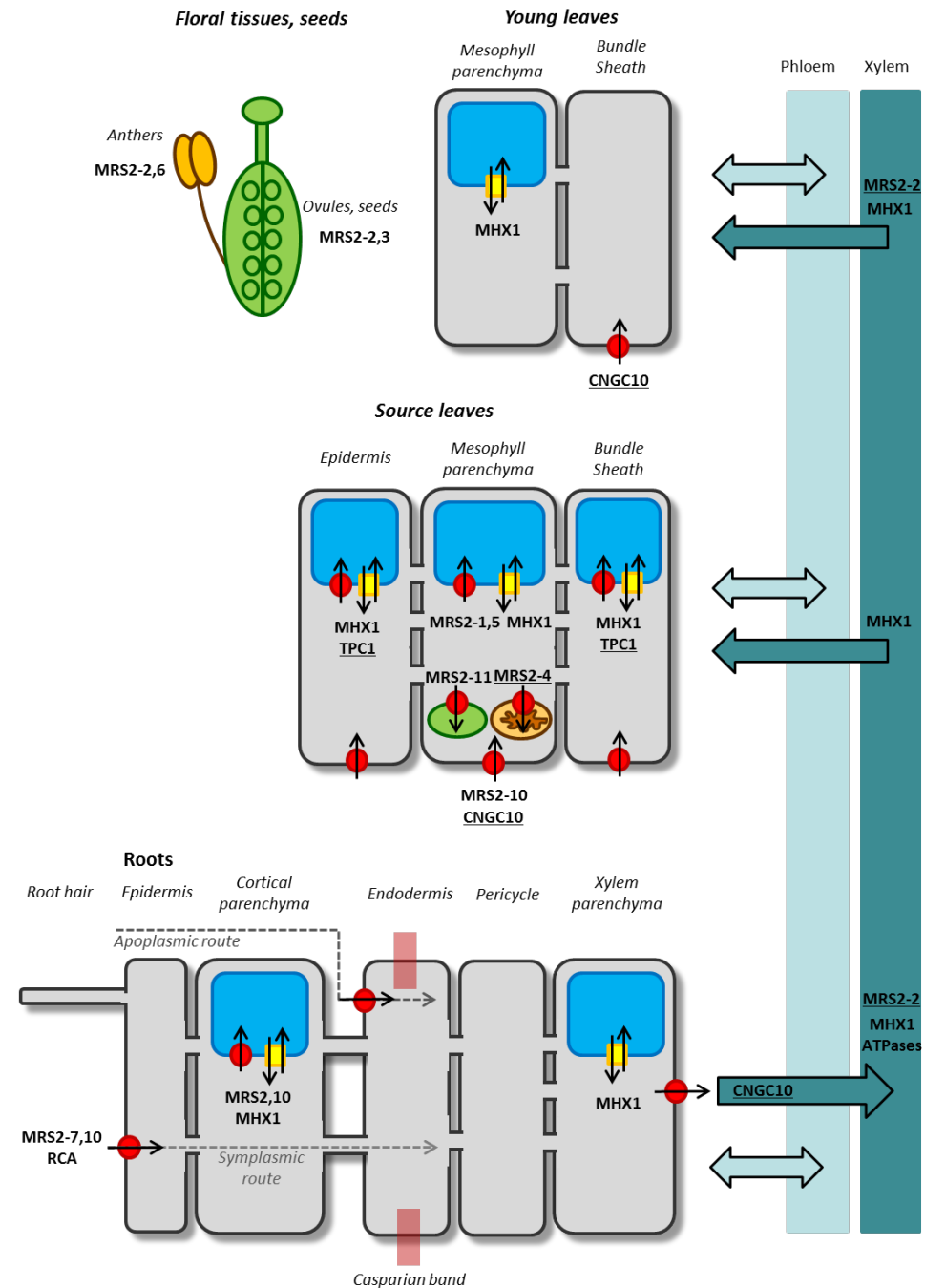
Absorption



Mechanisms of Mg homeostasis are poorly understood in plants

In this session: Julia Dreistein

Transporting magnesium: the MRS2-type Mg^{2+} channels in plants



I. Exploiting ionomic variation to clone genes regulating Mg tissue concentration

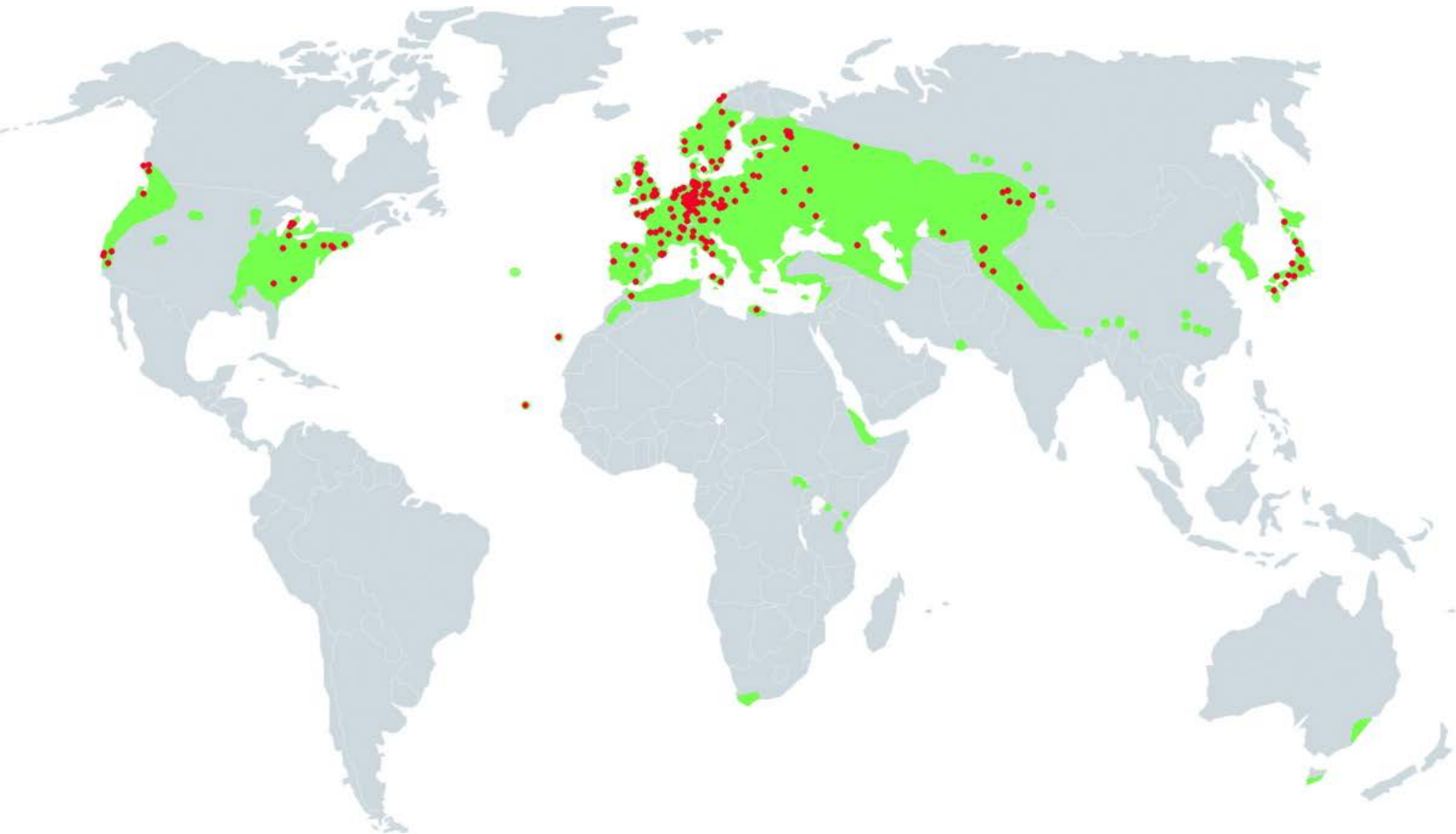
- Mutagenized-induced variation
- Natural variation in accessions/ecotypes

Screen of experimental populations derived from a cross between two accessions

Genome-wide screening in large diversity panels



Arabidopsis is globally distributed and consequently subject to varying environments which makes it a useful model for studying adaptation and selection.



Identification of accessions with contrasted Mg concentration in roots and shoots (hydroponics and soil)

① Linkage mapping

Screening [Mg] variation in existing experimental populations (Recombinant Inbred Lines) derived from a cross between 2 accessions (available resources in seed stock centres)

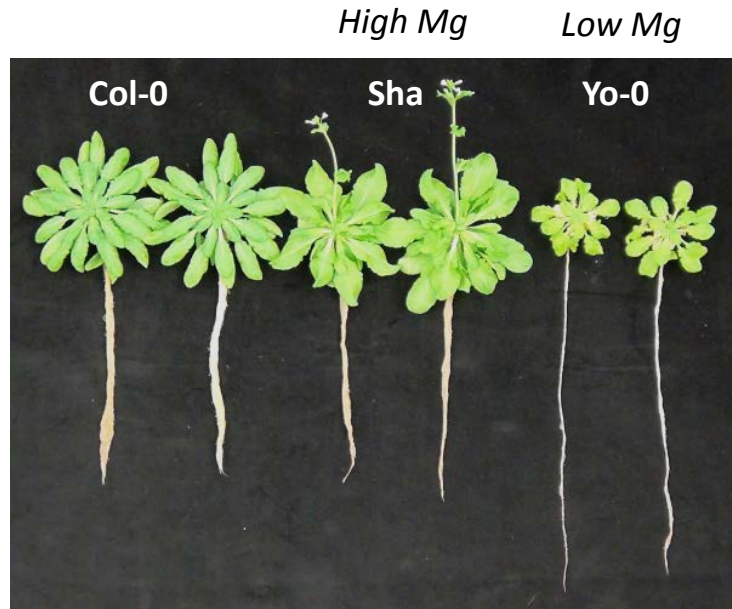
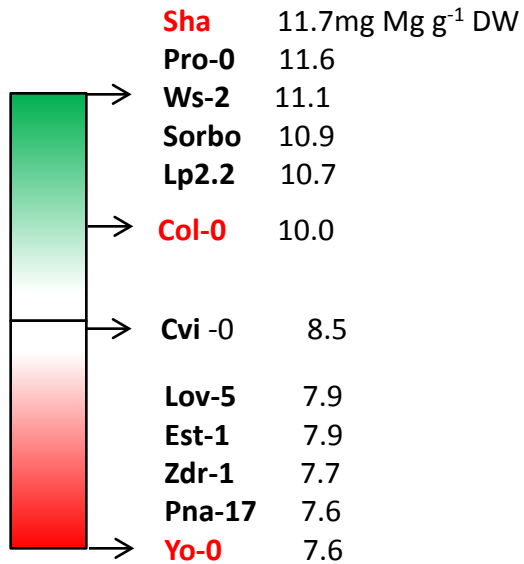
② Bulk segregant analyses

Screening [Mg] variation in newly-generated experimental populations derived from a cross between 2 extreme accessions

③ Genome association studies

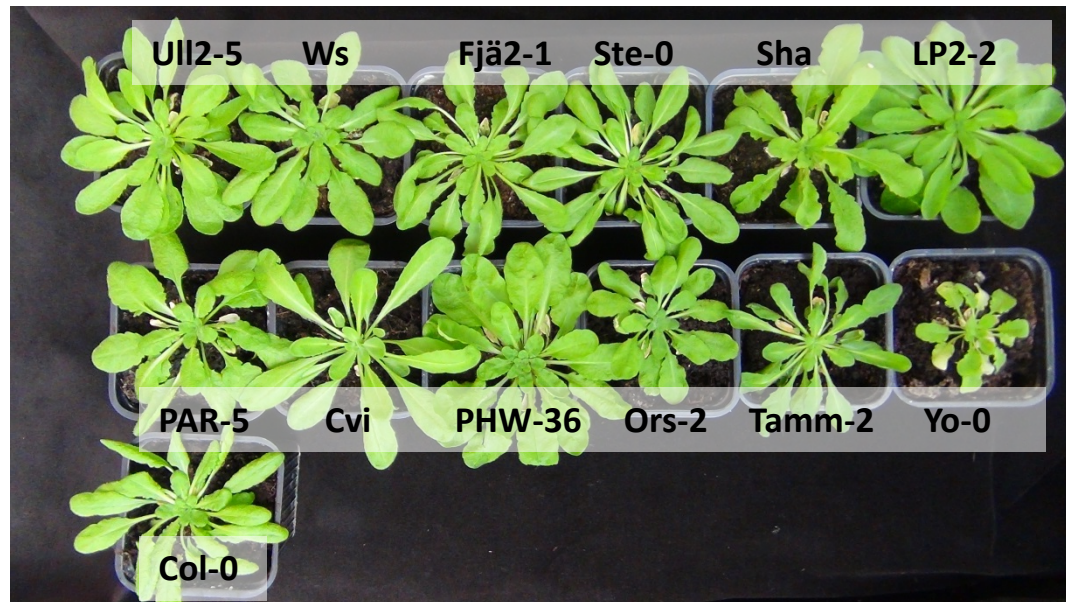
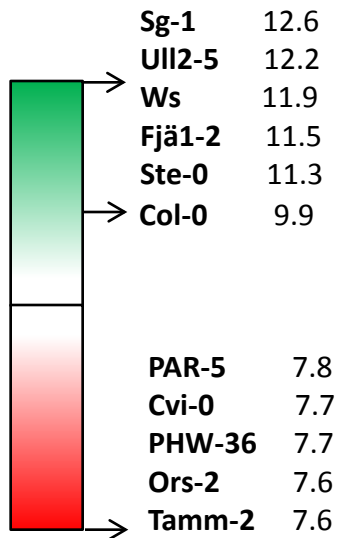
GWAs screening of [Mg] variation in large diversity panels

Nordborg (96) hydroponics



• Baxter et al. Plos ONE 7: e35121

HapMap (351) soil

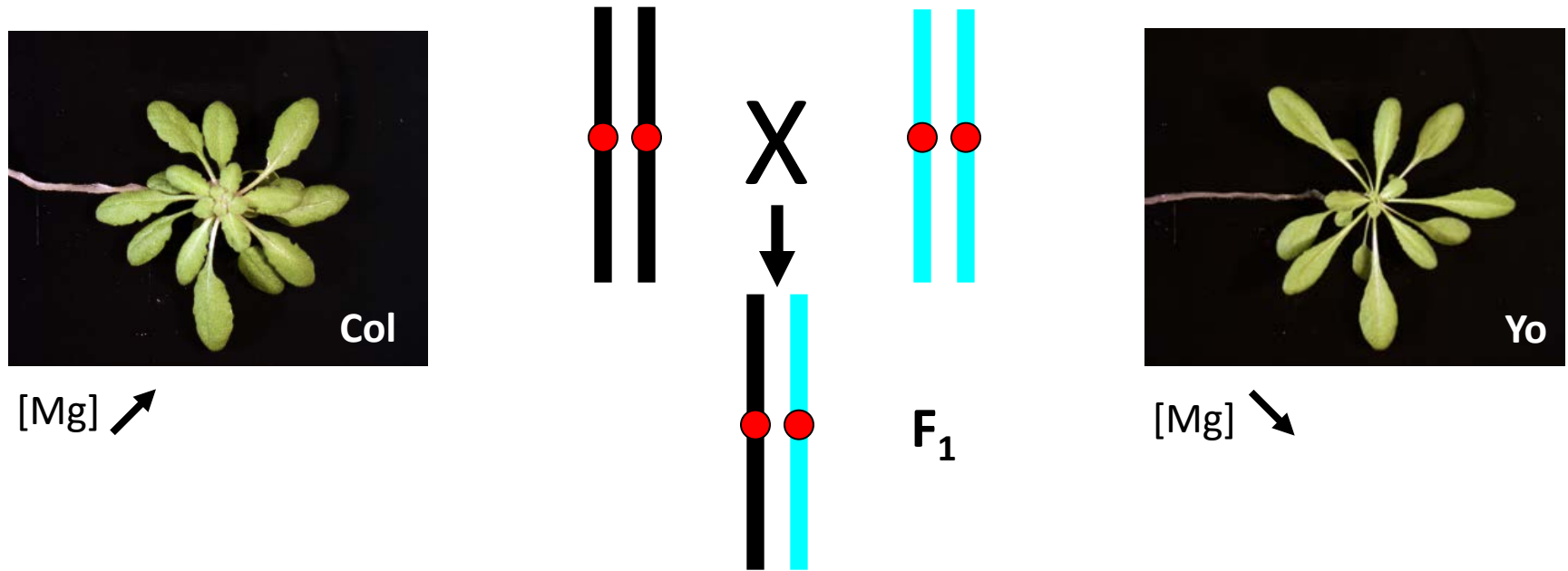


High Mg

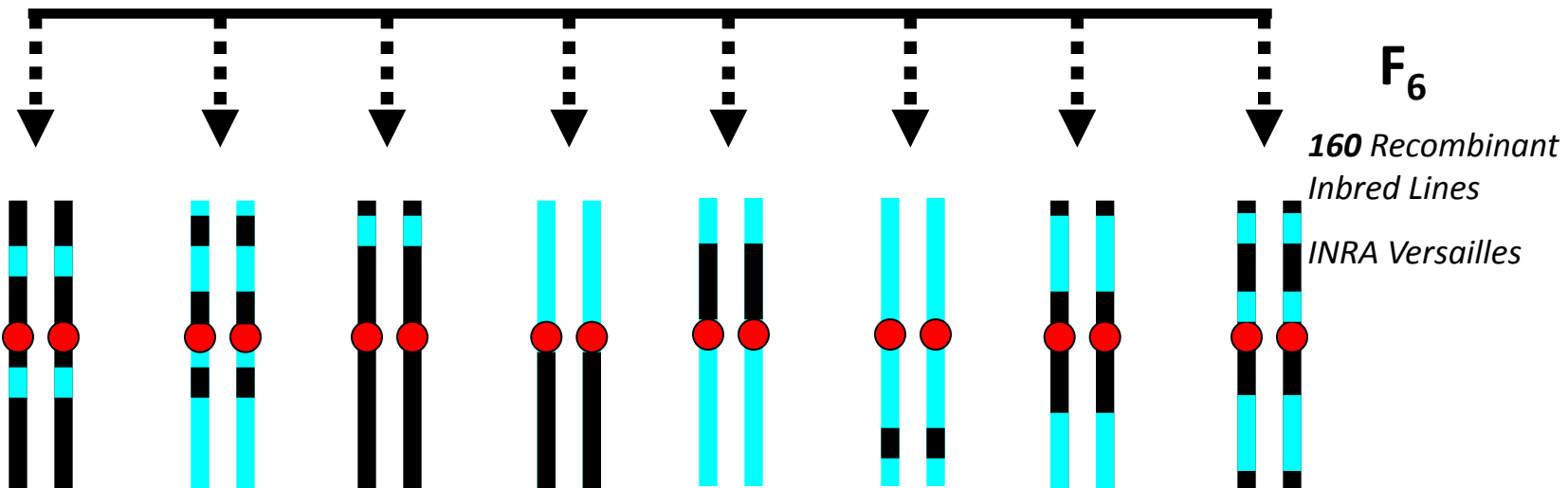
Low Mg

• www.ionomicshub.org/home/PiiMS

① Linkage mapping of Mg concentration in tissues



To identify genetic intervals influencing a quantitative trait (e.g. mineral concentration)



Nutrient solution composition

(Hermans et al. 2010)

Macronutrient concentrations (mM)

1.00	$\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$
1.00	MgSO_4
0.88	K_2SO_4
0.25	KH_2PO_4

Micronutrient concentrations (μM)

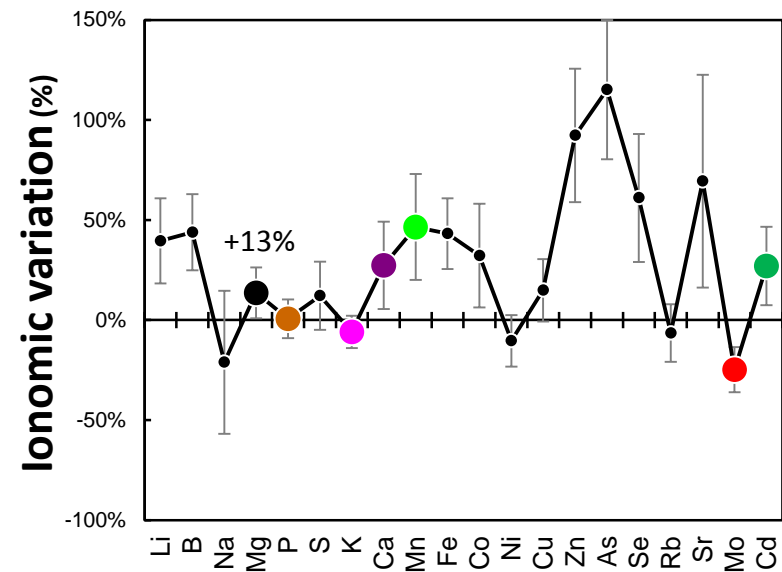
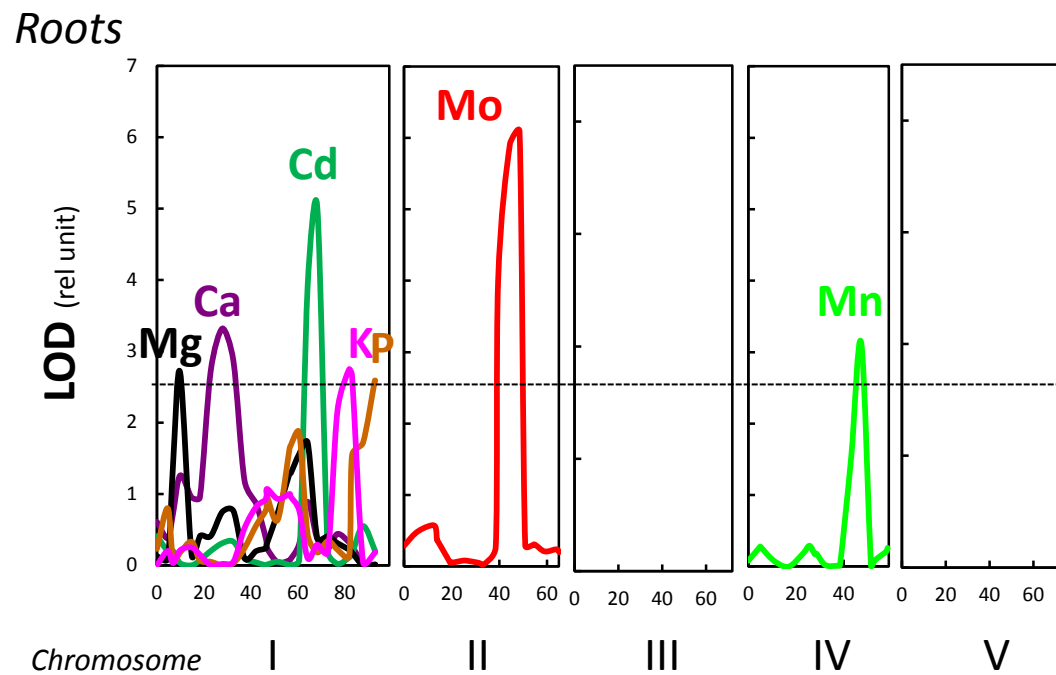
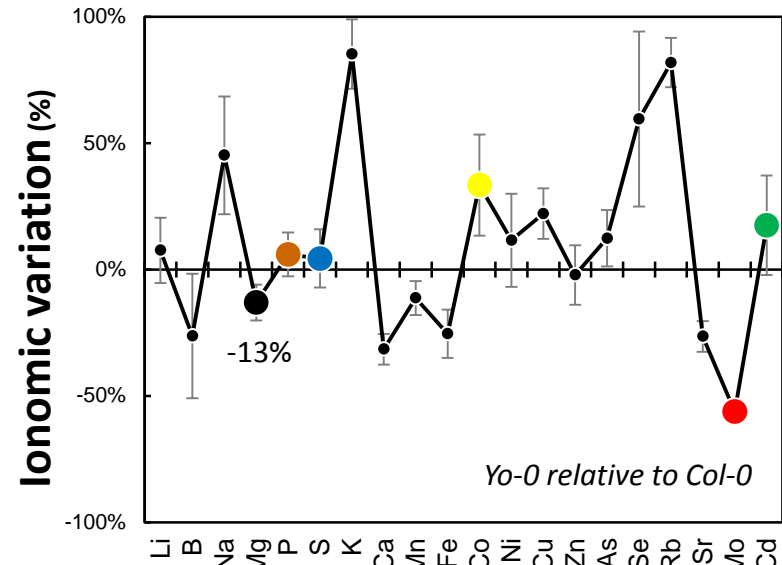
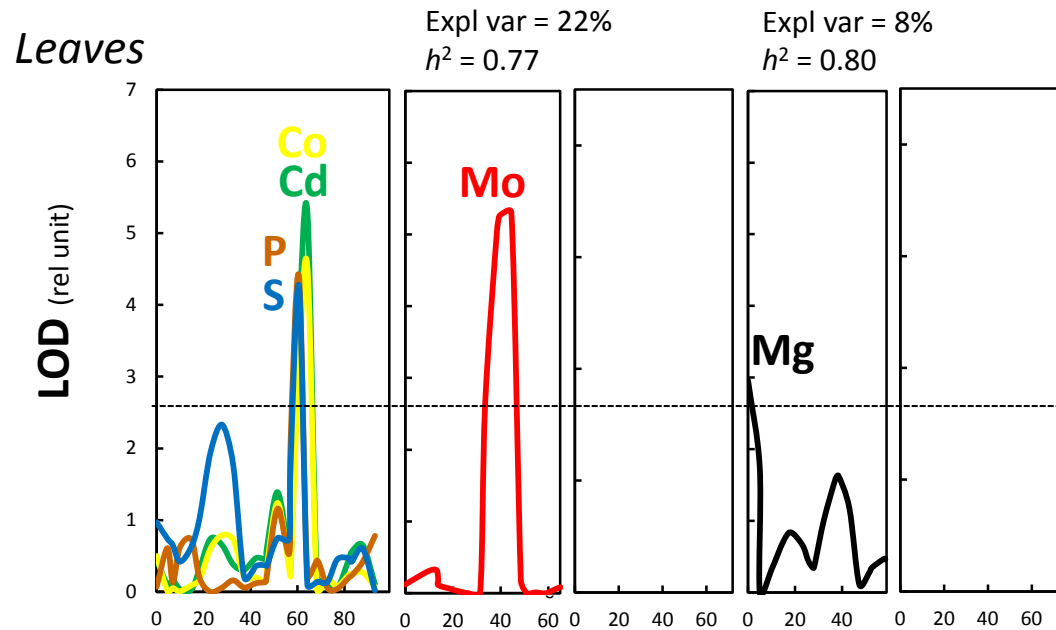
20	FeEDTA
10	NaCl
10	H_3BO_3
1	ZnSO_4
1	MnSO_4
0.10	CuSO_4
0.01	$(\text{NH}_4)_6\text{Mo}_7\text{O}_{24}$



Toxic element cocktail -added one week prior to harvest, at subtoxic concentrations (μM)

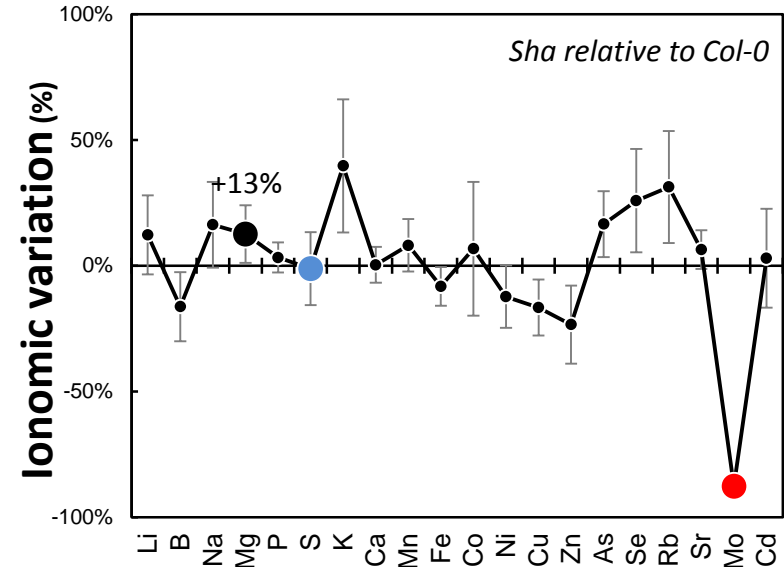
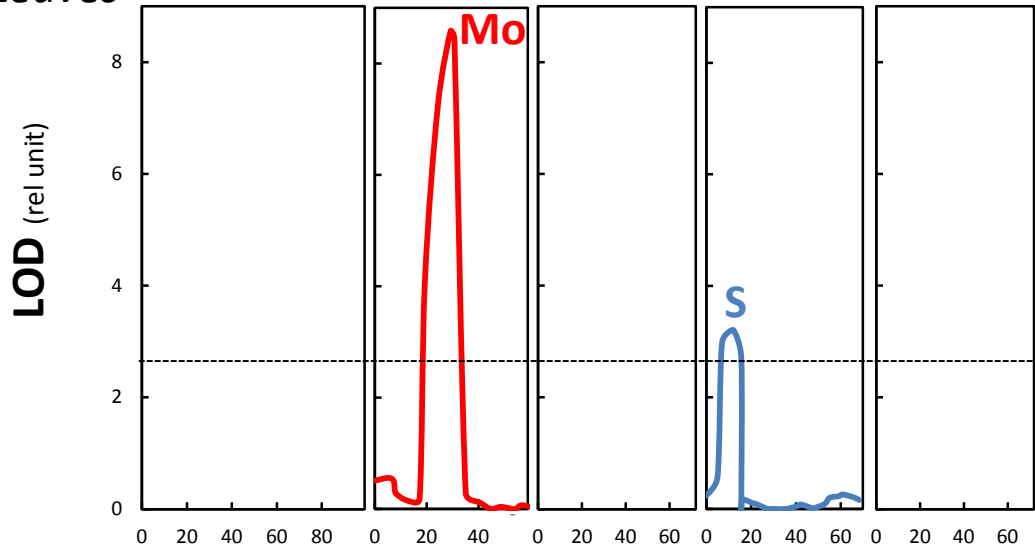
10	$\text{Na}_2\text{HAsO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$	1	$\text{CoCl}_2 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$
10	$\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$	1	$\text{NiSO}_4 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$
10	LiCl	0.50	$\text{KCr}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$
		0.10	$\text{CdSO}_4 \cdot 8/3\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Yo-0 X Col-0 (164 RILs tested)

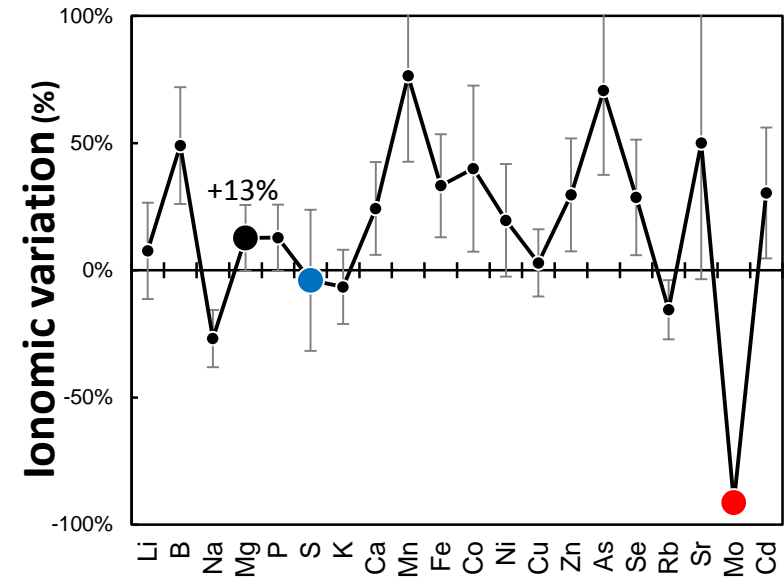
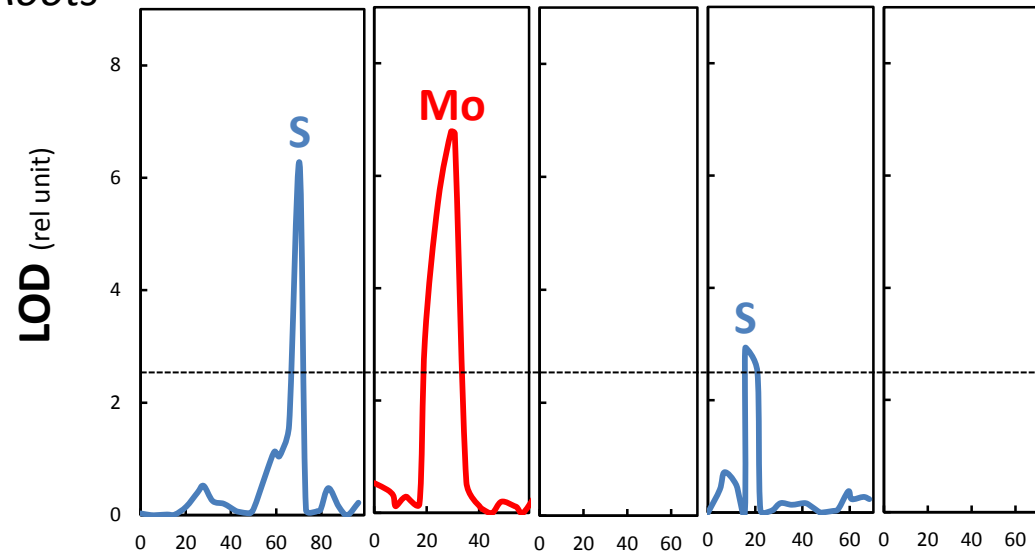


Sha X Col-0 (164 RILs tested)

Leaves



Roots



Chromosome

I II III IV V

② Creation of new F₂ mapping populations

Drawback to detect more robust Mg-QTL: limited choice of existing RIL families

→ Creation of new mapping populations originating from the crosses between the most contrasted accessions

Sg-1



Ull2-5



High Mg

Ws



Fjä2-1



Ste-0



Lp2-2



Sha



PAR-5



Low Mg

Cvi-0



Ors-2



PHW36



Tamm-2



Yo-0



Col-0

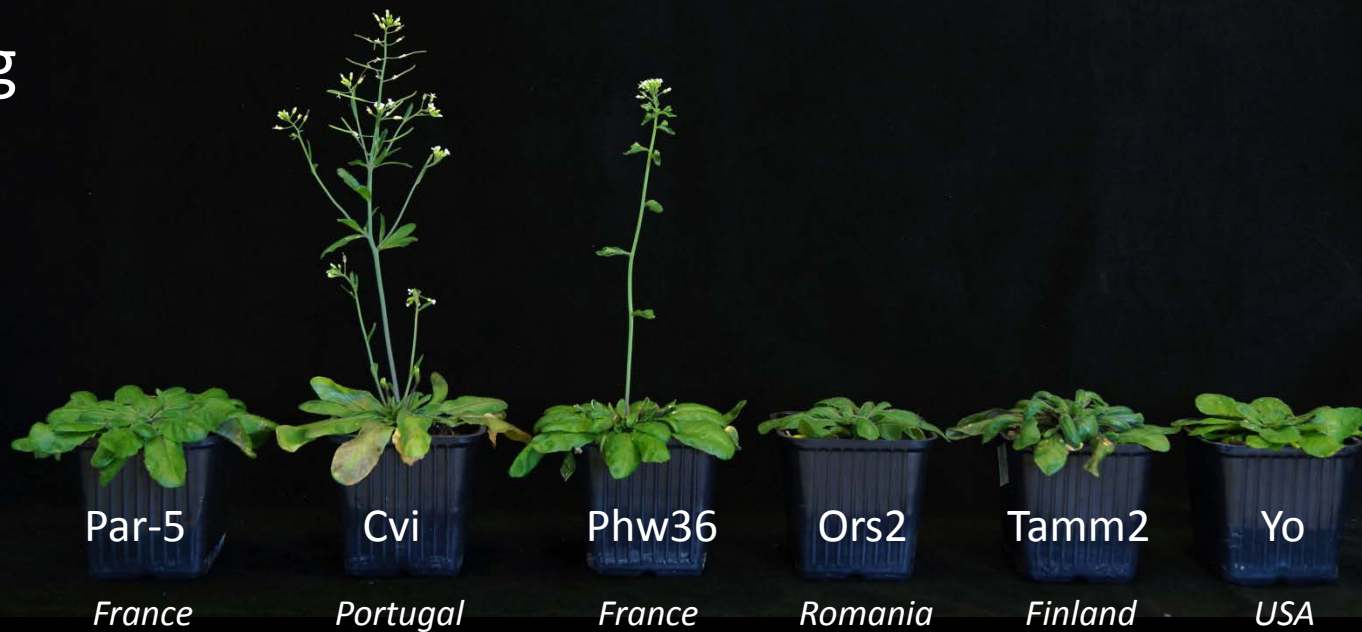


Reference

High Mg

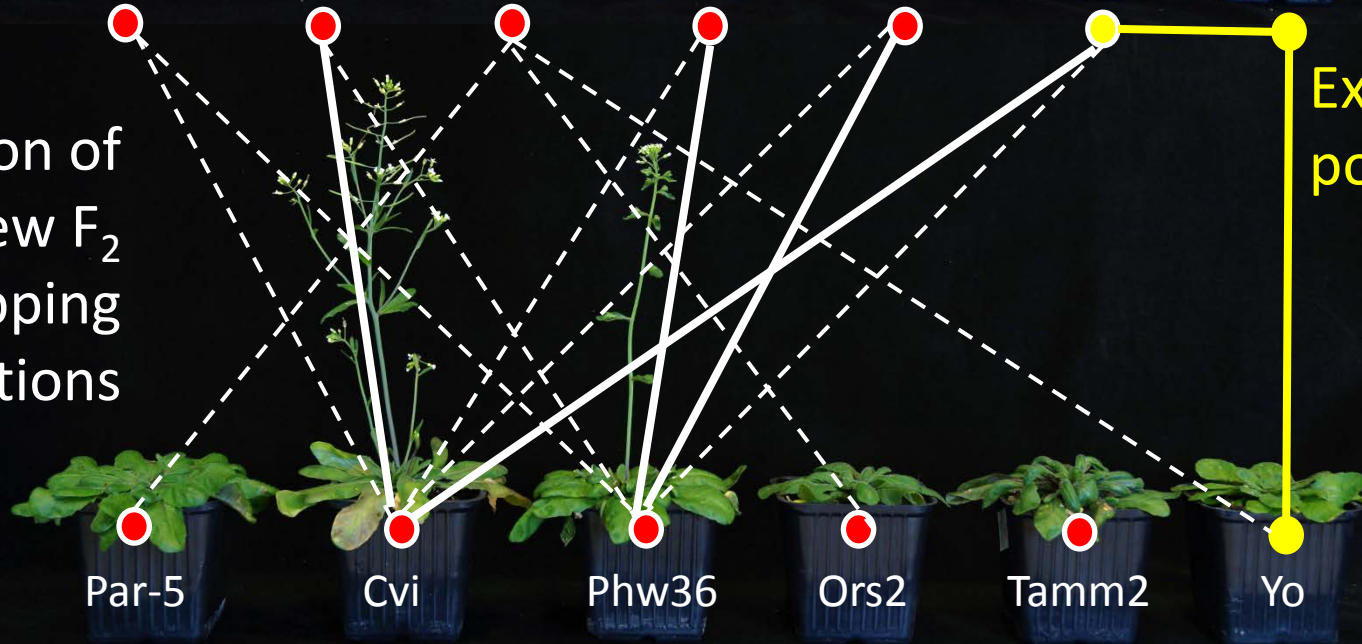


Low Mg





Creation of
new F_2
mapping
populations



Existing RIL
populations

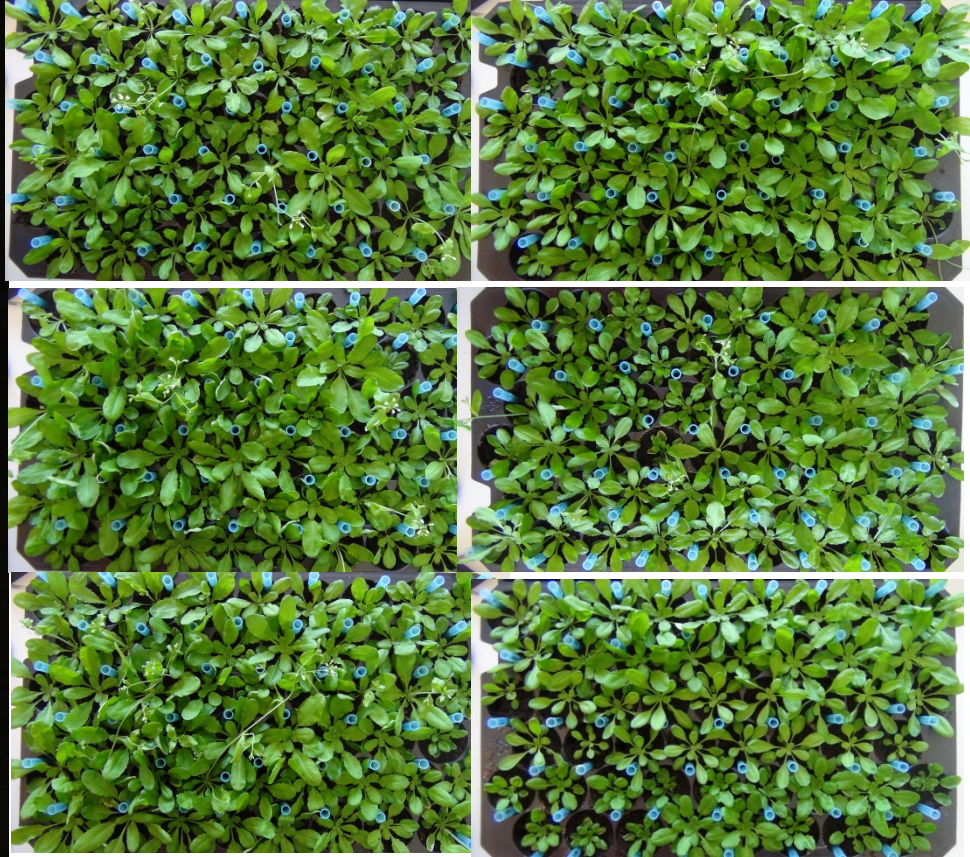
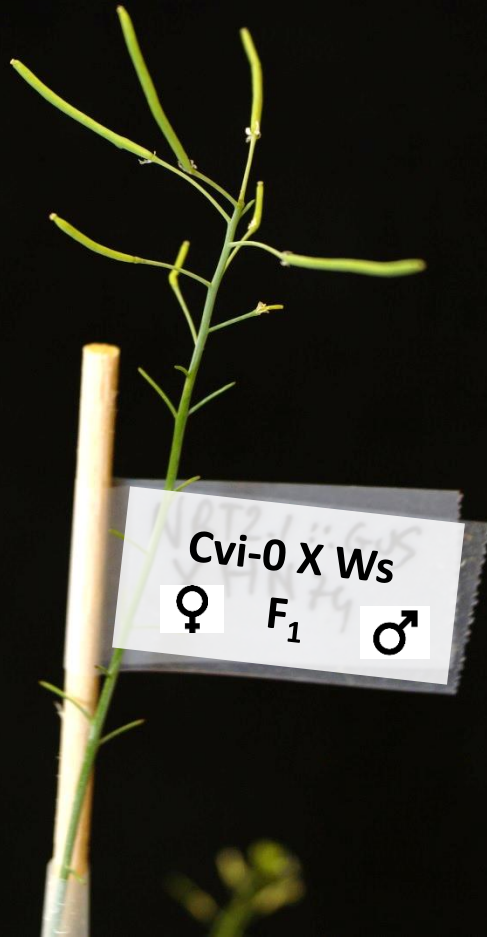
Mapping populations being screened:

Cvi-0 X Ws 254 F₂

Cvi-0 X Sha 103 F₂

PHW36 X Ste-0 170 F₂

Lp2-2 X PHW36 178 F₂

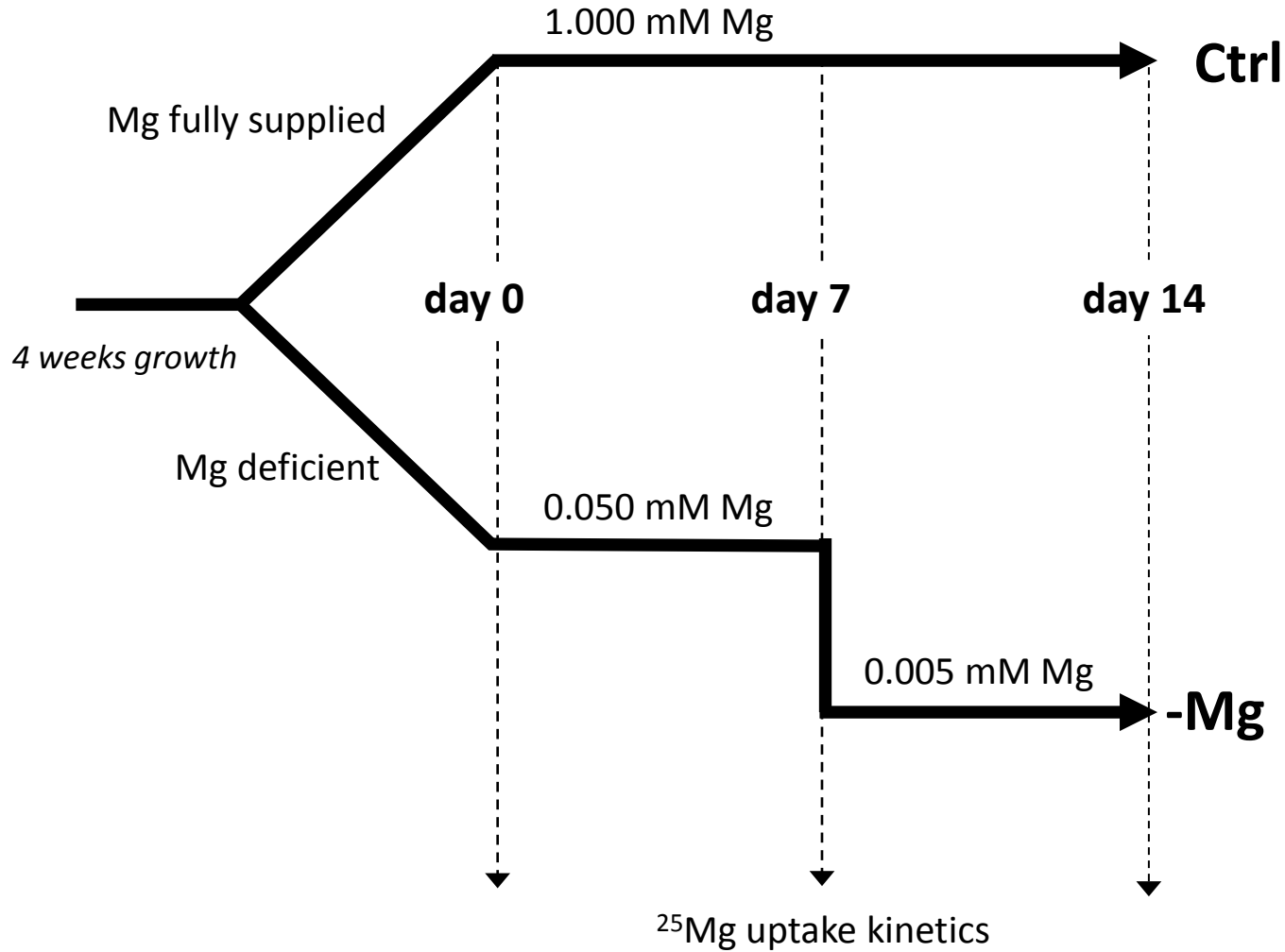


Determining ionic profile of F₂ individuals

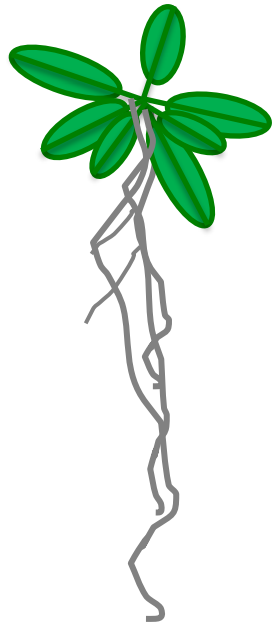
Sequencing 2 DNA pools of individuals with low and high Mg

Calculating allele frequencies
(Shoremap pipeline)

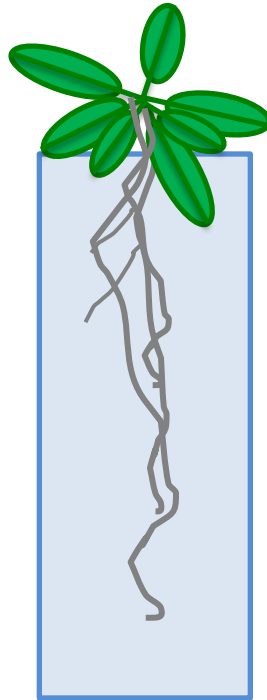
③ Physiological characterization of contrasting accessions



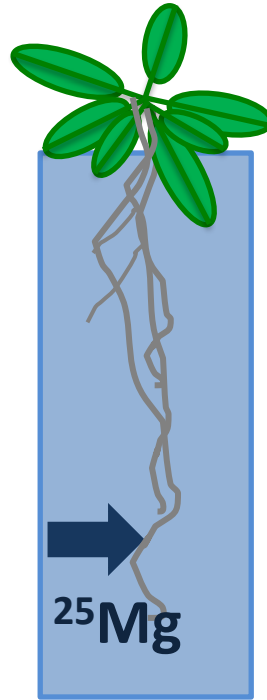
Experimental procedure to measure ^{25}Mg transport activity



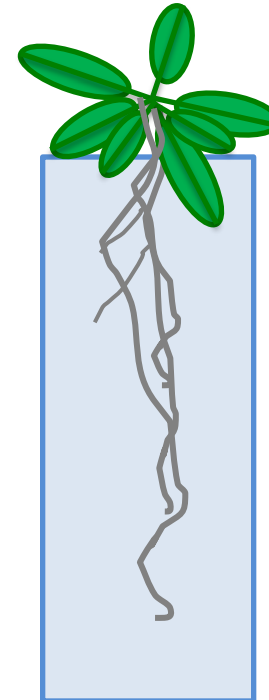
5-week-old
plants grown *in*
hydroponics
One week
treatment at
0.050 and 1.000
mM ^{24}Mg



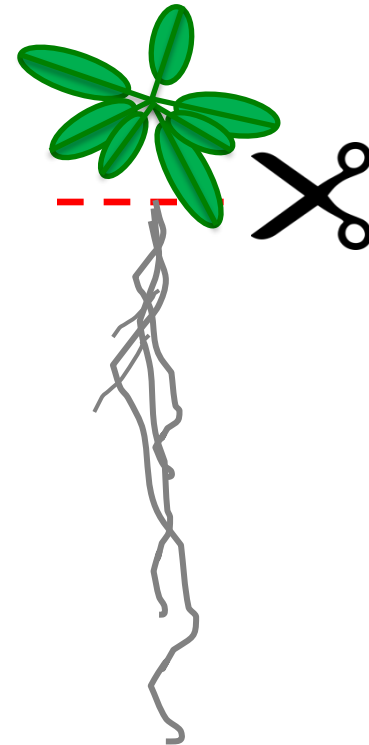
1 min
0.1 mM CaSO_4



1 min
HAT: 0.050 mM ^{25}Mg
LAT: 1.000 mM ^{25}Mg

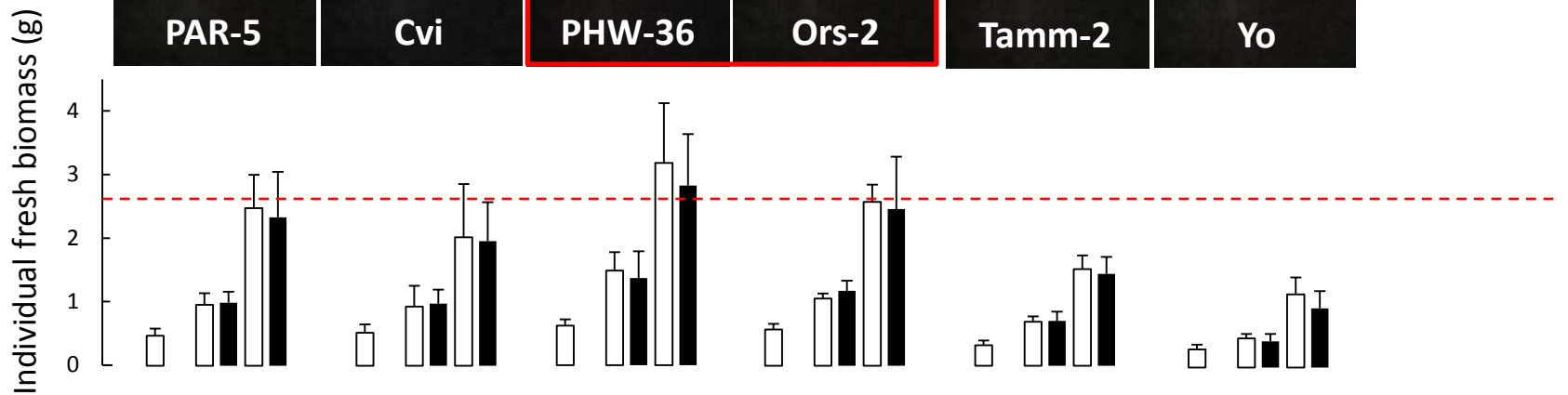
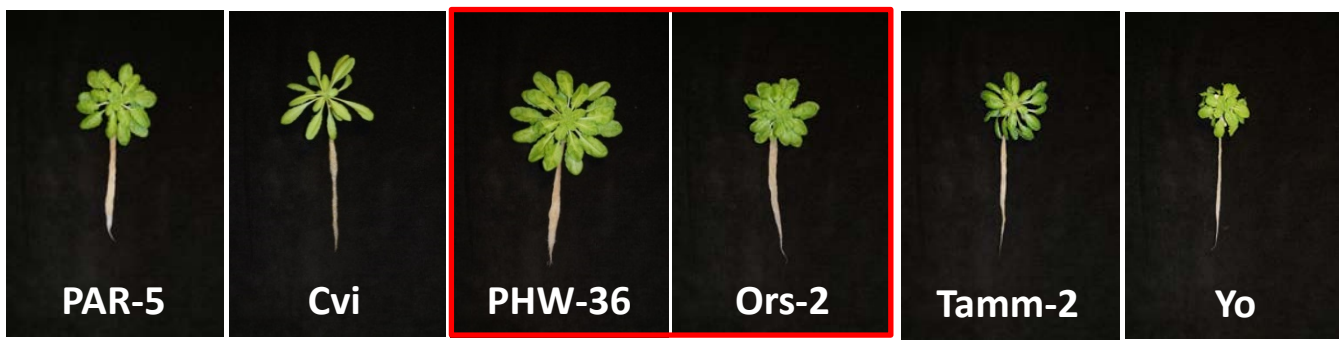
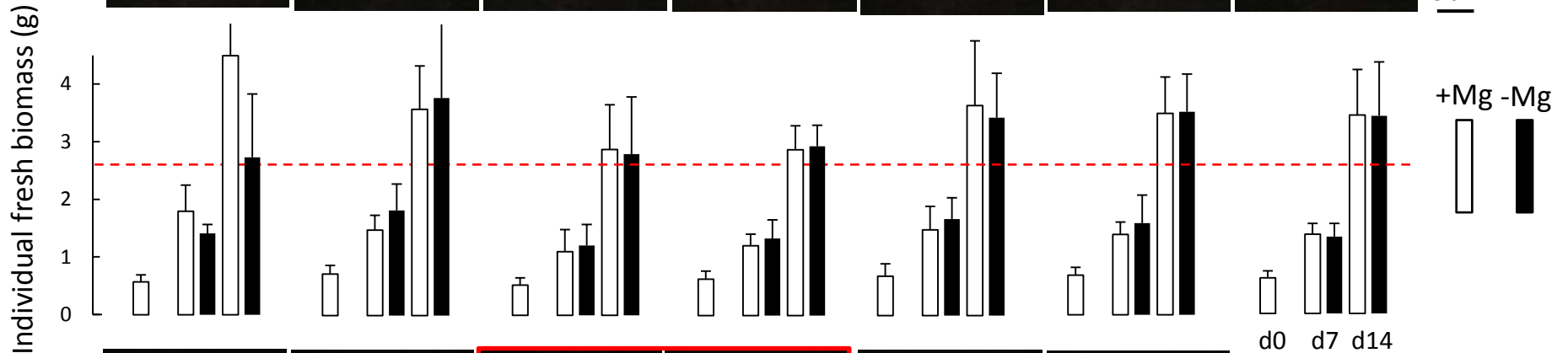
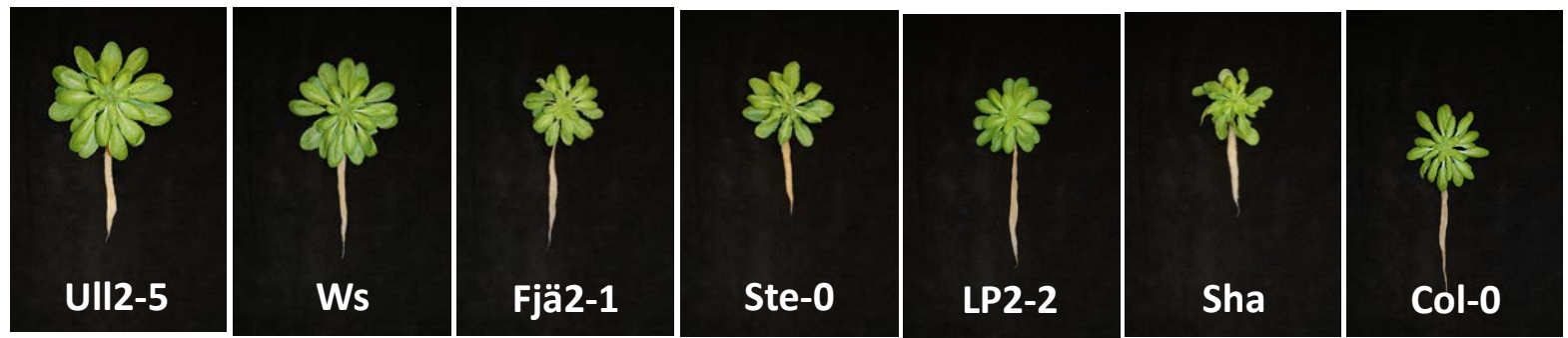


5 min
0.1 mM CaSO_4



Organs
harvesting

HAT: High Affinity Transport
LAT: Low Affinity Transport





3 weeks treatment

↖ *2 weeks treatment*

Conclusions and perspectives

- ✓ Natural variation for [Mg] in tissues exists in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (up to 50% difference between most contrasting accessions)
- ✓ [Mg] in plant tissues is a highly heritable trait ($h^2 \sim 0.8$)
- ✓ Drawback to detect robust Mg-QTL → numerous genes with small additive effects
- ✓ No co-localization with putative Mg transporters (MRS2)
- ✓ Early appearance of –Mg symptoms in some low Mg accessions
- ✓ The identification of loci regulating [Mg] could help drawing Mg biofortification strategies in crops

II. Influence of magnesium supply on root system architecture in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

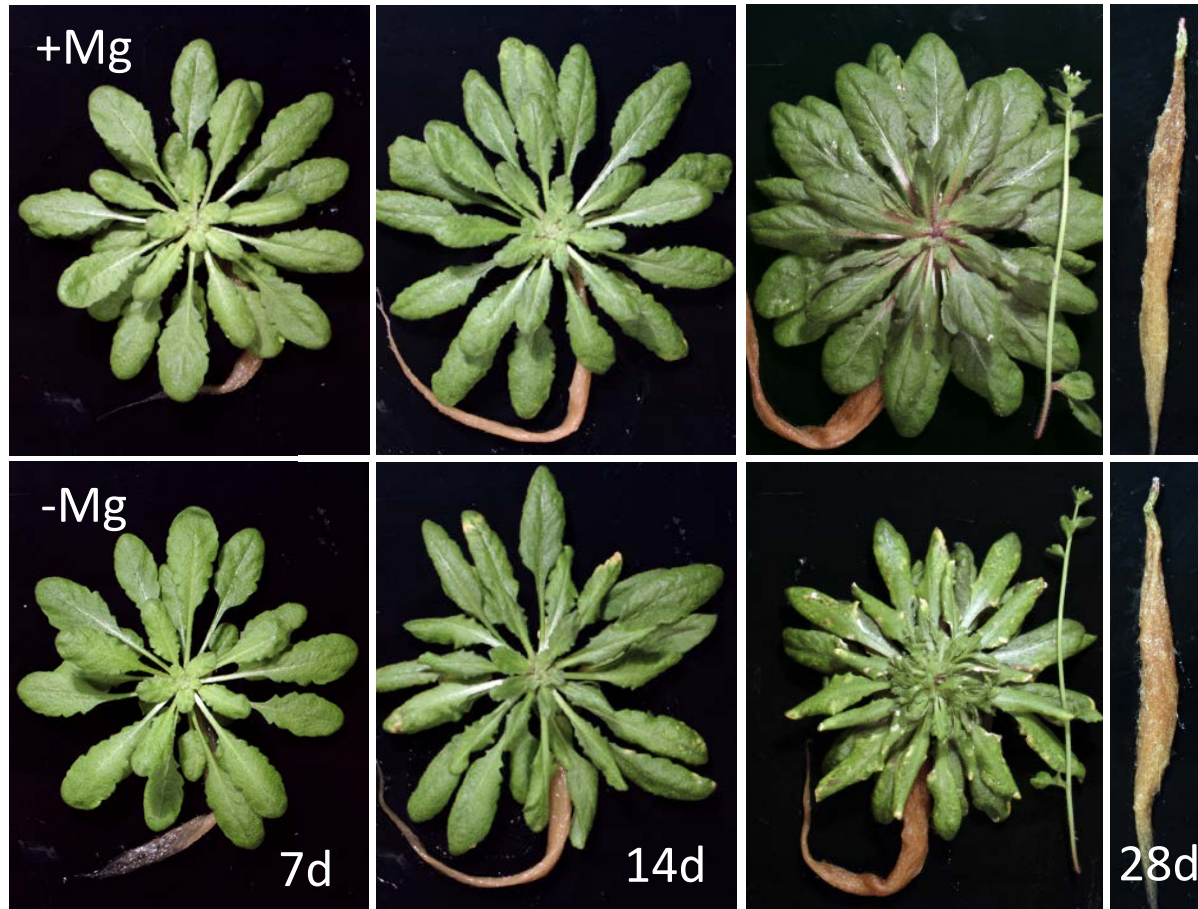
① Feeding plants with low Mg doses at a very young developmental stage

→ severe reduction of root growth and root biomass production in several species (bean, spinach, maize ...)

② Complete Mg starvation at a later growth stage of the plant

→ results in a limited reduction of the root biomass production in comparison to the aerial part in some species (Arabidopsis, rice, sugar beet, pea, Chinese cabbage ...) + transcriptome in roots relatively not affected upon -Mg

Visual symptoms of magnesium deficiency upon hydroponic culture

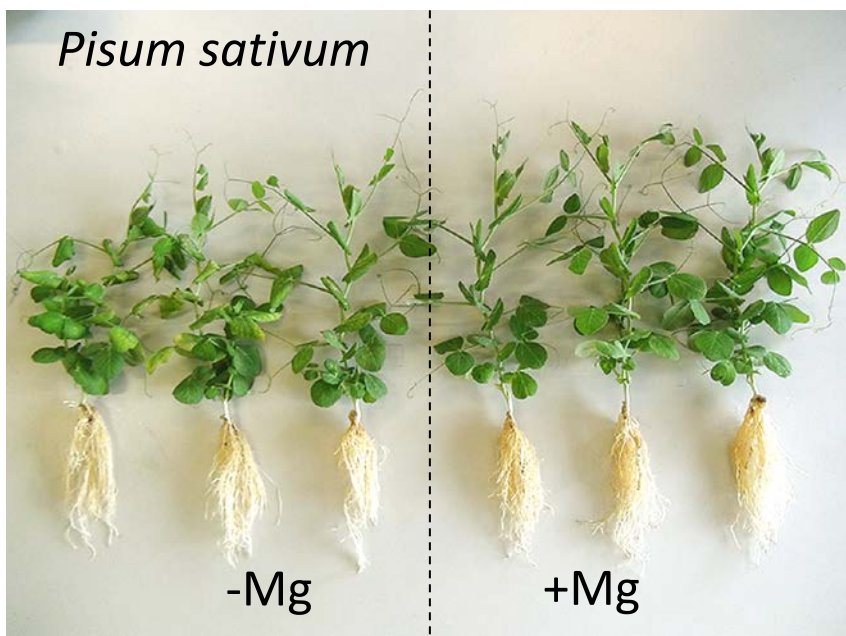


In *Arabidopsis thaliana*
grown in hydroponics:

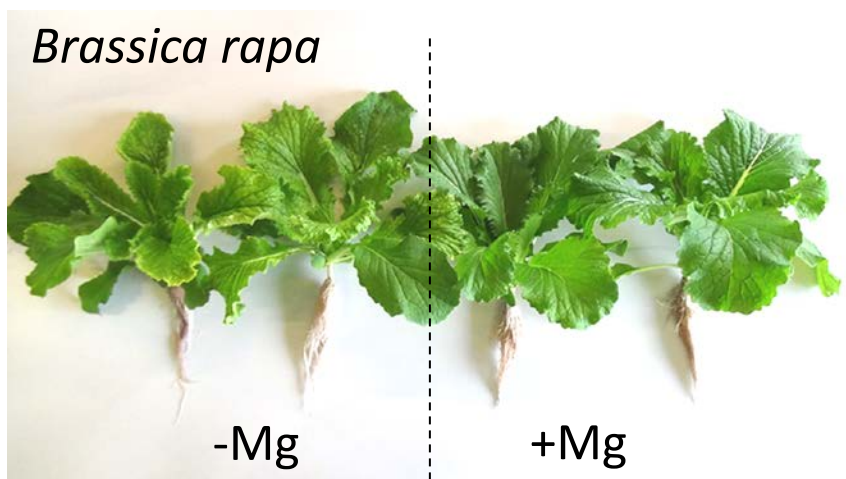
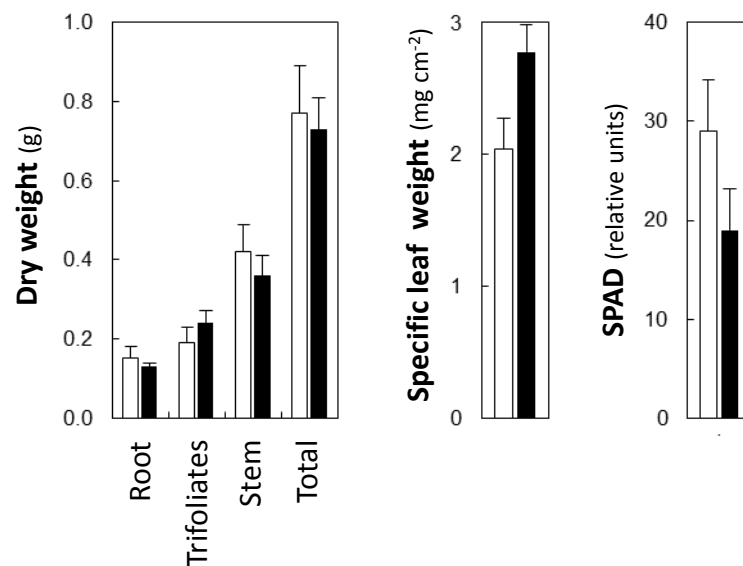
Efficient recycling
mechanisms from the above-
ground Mg pool to sustain
root growth.

Hermans et al. (2010) *New Phytol.* 187:
119-131. (2010) *New Phytol.* 187: 132-
144. (2011) *New Phytol.* 192: 428-436.

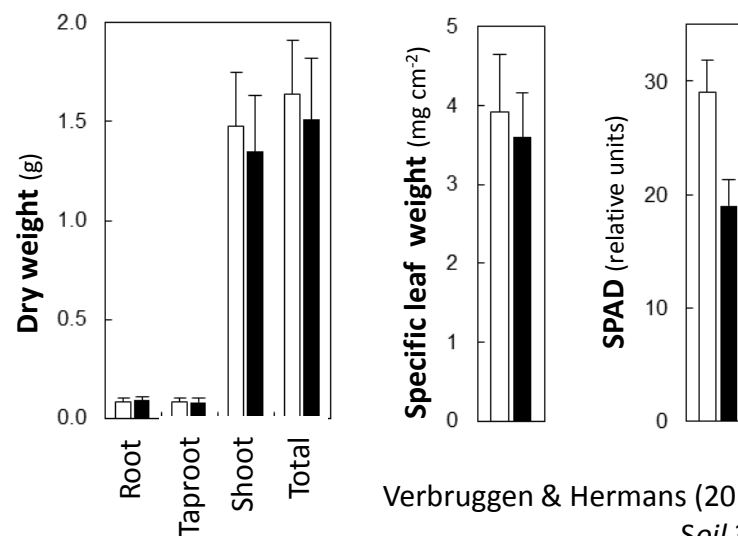
Visual symptoms of magnesium deficiency upon hydroponic culture



9 d + 2 weeks treatment

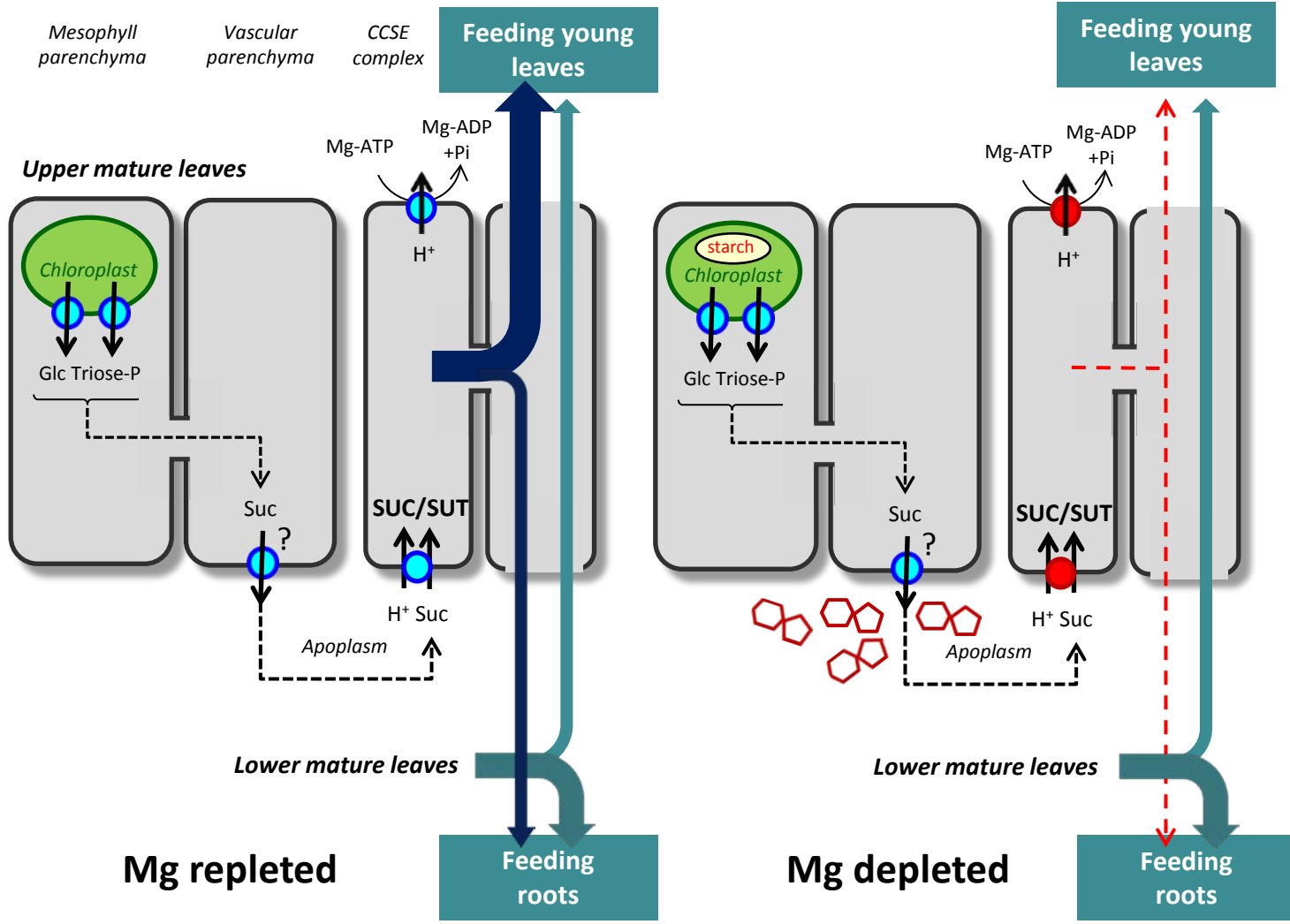


16 d + 2 weeks treatment



A model used to explain a higher biomass allocation in favor of the root emphasizes that sucrose export from the source leaves to the root is proportionally less affected than to the immature leaves at the onset of Mg deficiency

Verbruggen & Hermans (2013)
 Plant & Soil 368: 87-99



II. Influence of magnesium supply on root system architecture in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

- ① Setting experimental conditions to observe root morphology in response to Mg supply (*in vitro*)
- ② Elemental profile upon Mg depletion
- ③ Influence of Mg supply on lateral root developmental stages
- ④ Crosstalk with hormones

① Setting experimental conditions to observe root morphology upon Mg depletion



Effect of agar types on root morphology in response to Mg deficiency

Two agar types were used to grow Arabidopsis seedlings:

agar 1: plant agar (P1001, Duchefa)

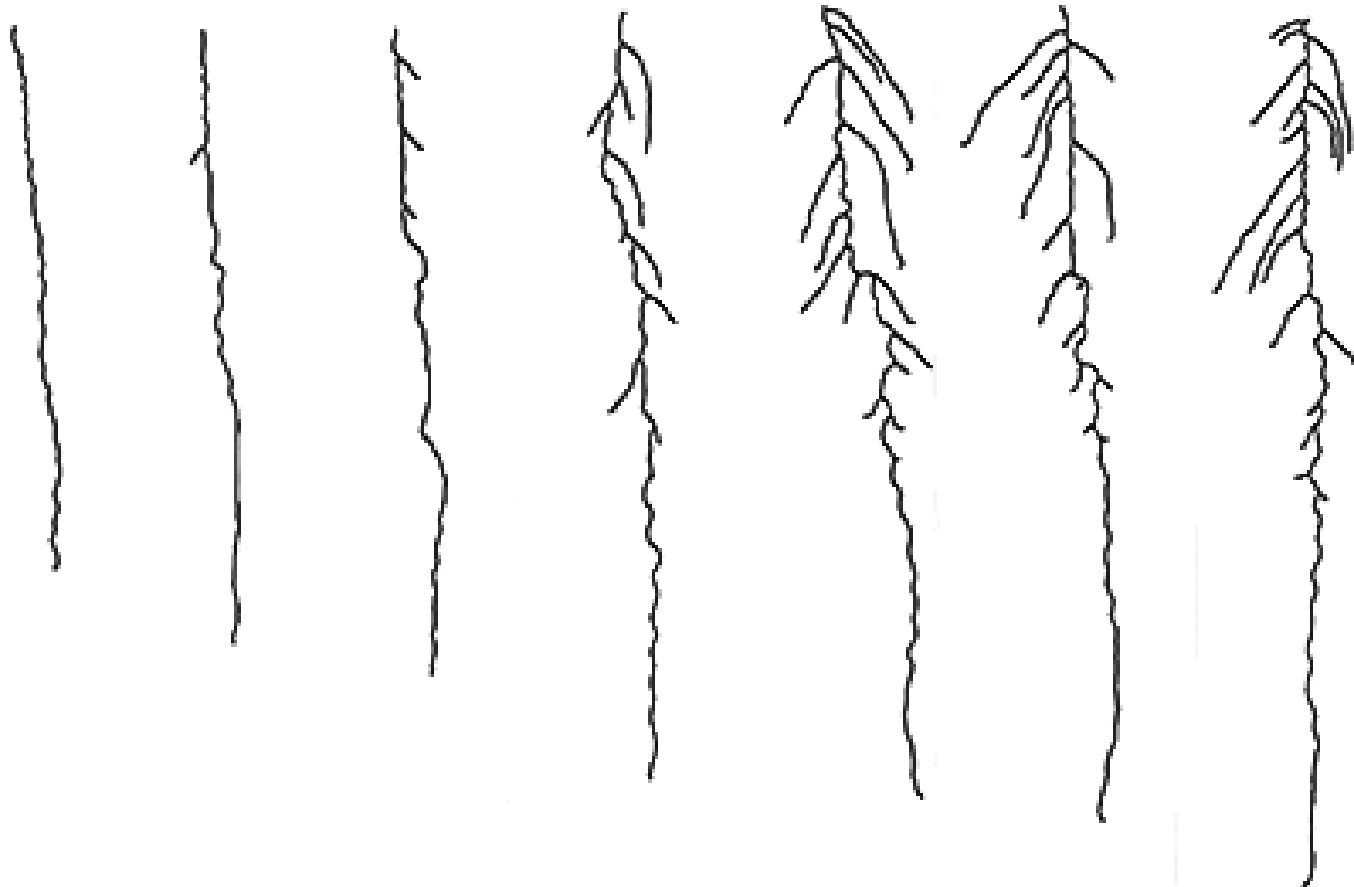
agar 2: high gel strength agar (A9799, Sigma)

1 cm

17 days after germination

Root morphological adaptation to uniformly distributed Mg supply

0 5 10 25 50 100 1,500 μM Mg



1 cm



17 days after germination

Root : Shoot

0.45

0.49

0.46

0.40

0.39

0.38

0.39

0

5

10

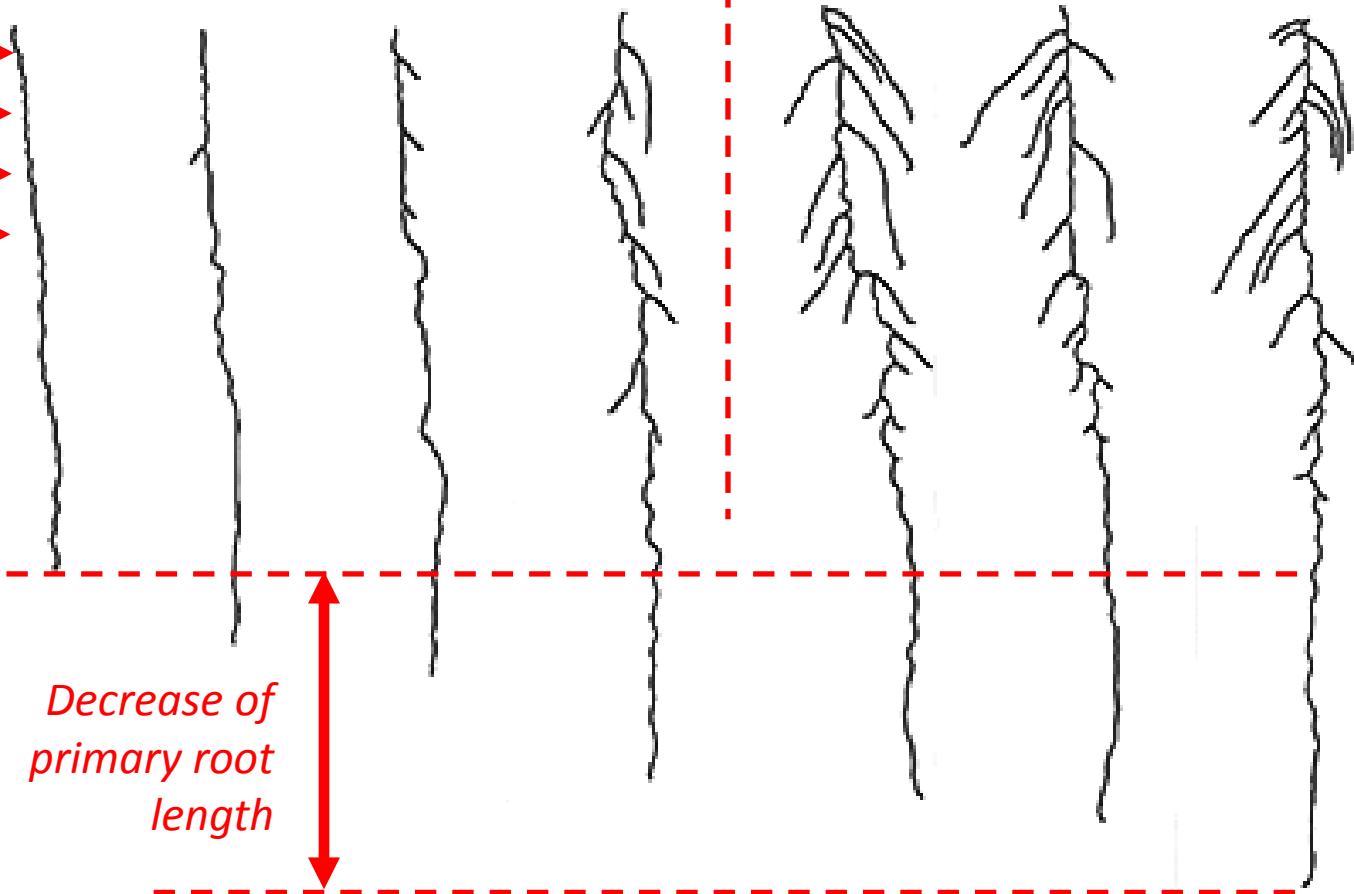
25

50

100

1,500 μM Mg

No
visible
lateral
roots



Decrease of
primary
root
length

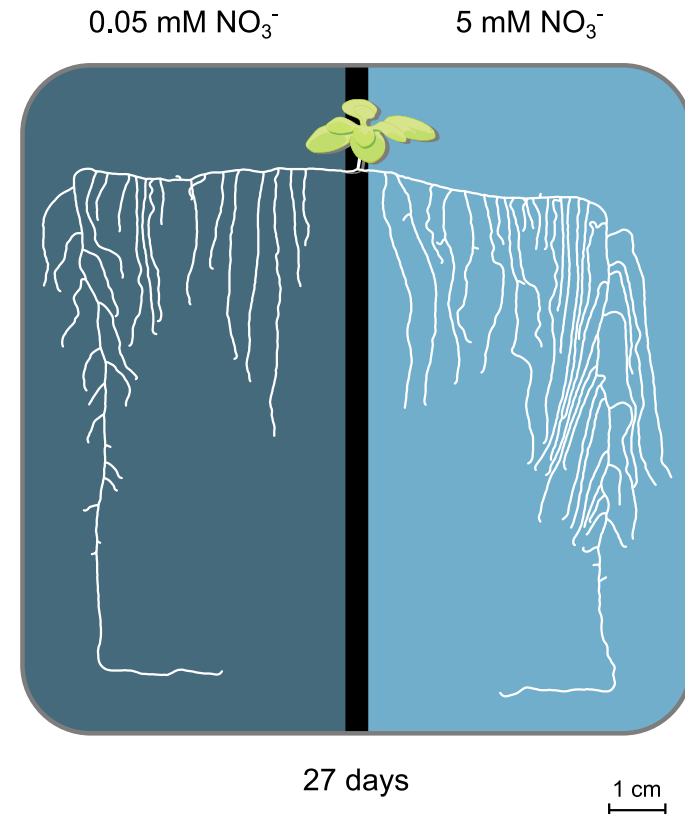
1 cm



17 days after germination

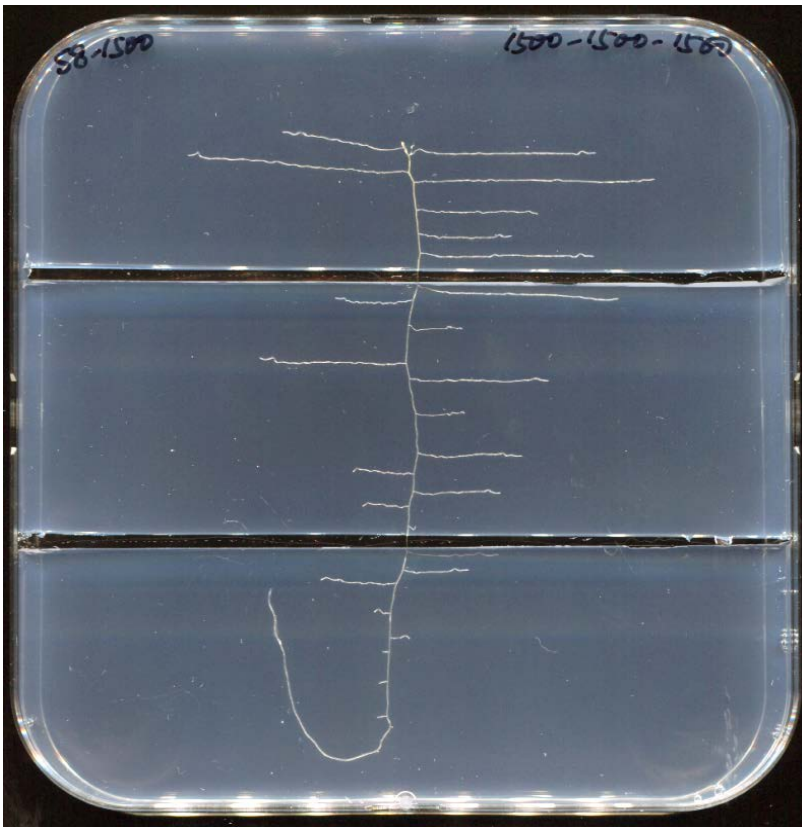
Root morphological adaptation to heterogenous Mg supply

- Nutrient distribution in soil is uneven.
- A stimulatory effect of localized nutritional treatment on root proliferation is frequently documented (e.g. nitrogen). Split-root experiments show a distinct promotion of root growth and mineral uptake in sectors of localized mineral supplies relative to depleted sectors.

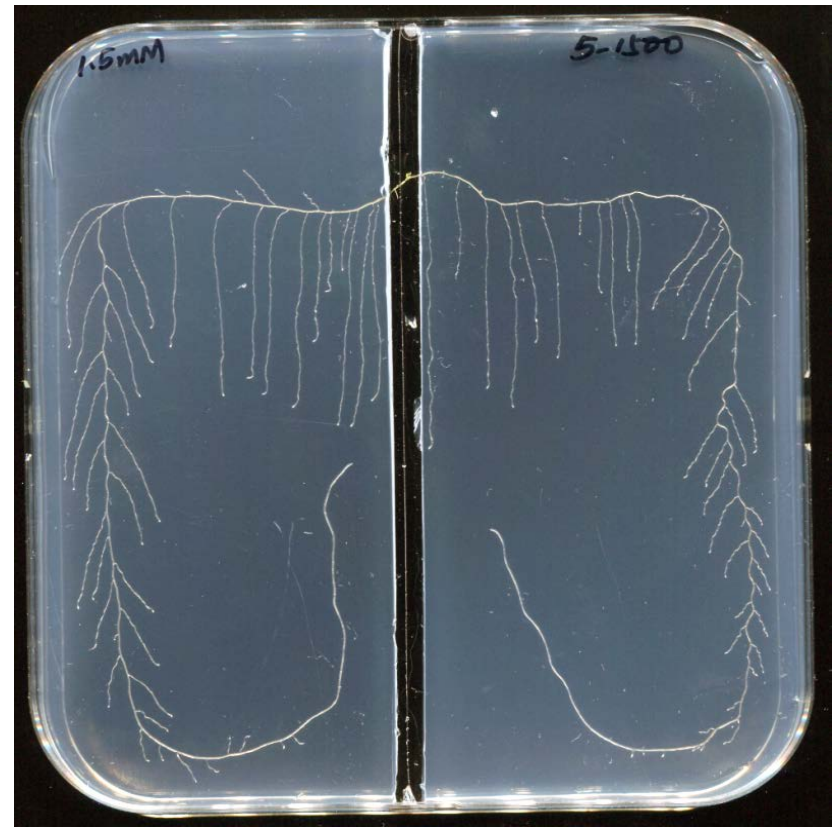


Root morphological adaptation to heterogenous Mg supply

Horizontal strip bands

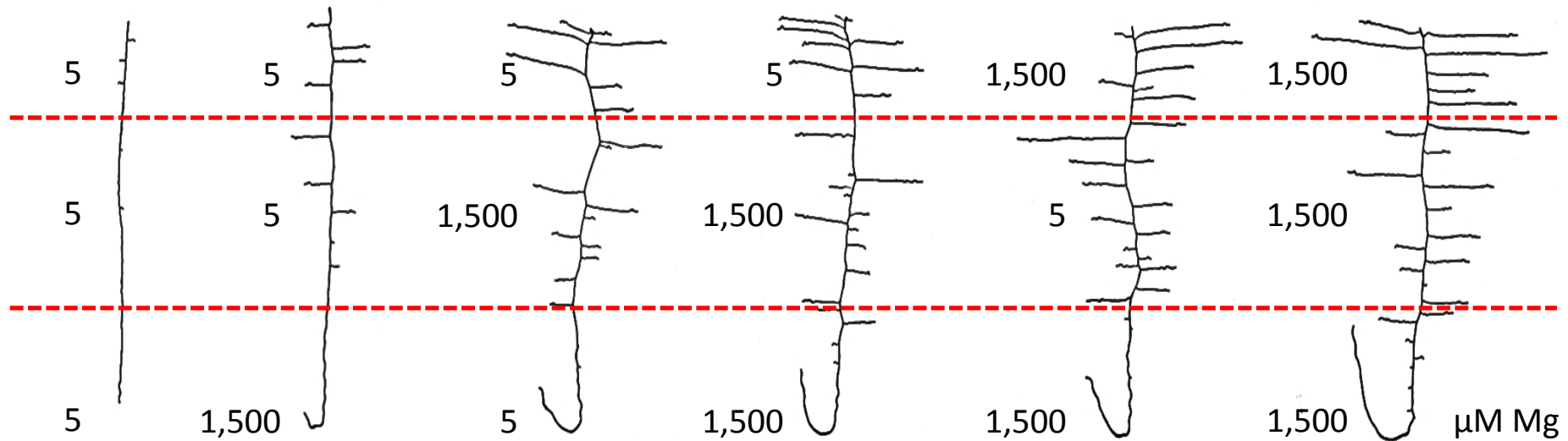


Vertical $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$



Root morphological adaptation to heterogenous Mg supply

Horizontal strip bands with contrasted Mg concentrations

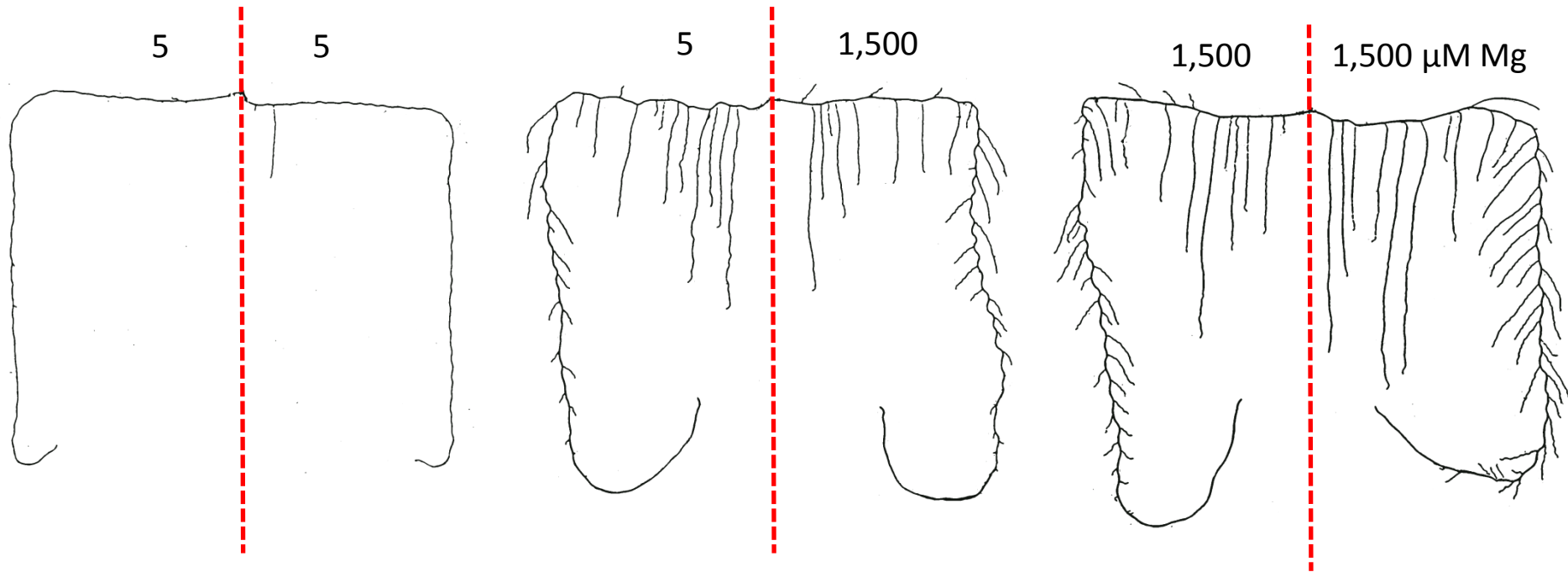


17 days after germination

2 cm

Root morphological adaptation to heterogenous Mg supply

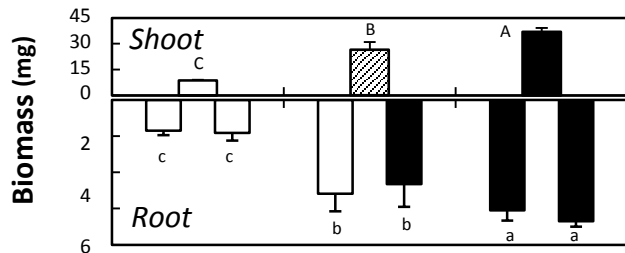
Vertical $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ split root system



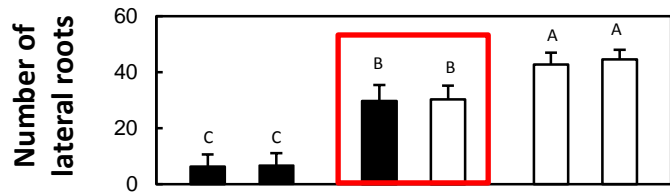
17 days after germination

2 cm

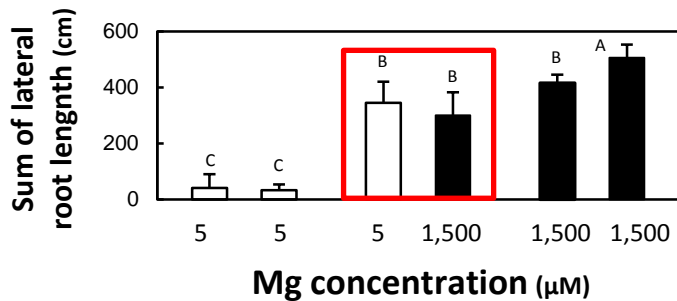
Root morphological adaptation to heterogenous Mg supply



Seemingly, there is no such sensing mechanism to refrain lateral root growth in the unfavorable nutrient zone.



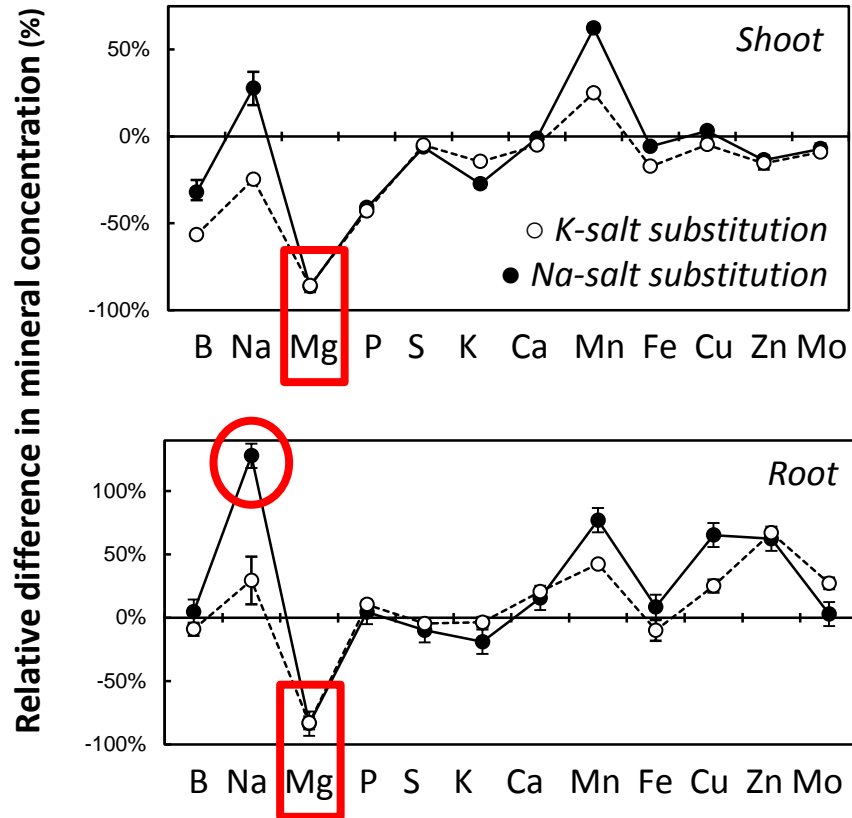
The extra source of the element acquired by the plant in the Mg-rich zone stimulates lateral root outgrowth in the Mg-deprived zone.



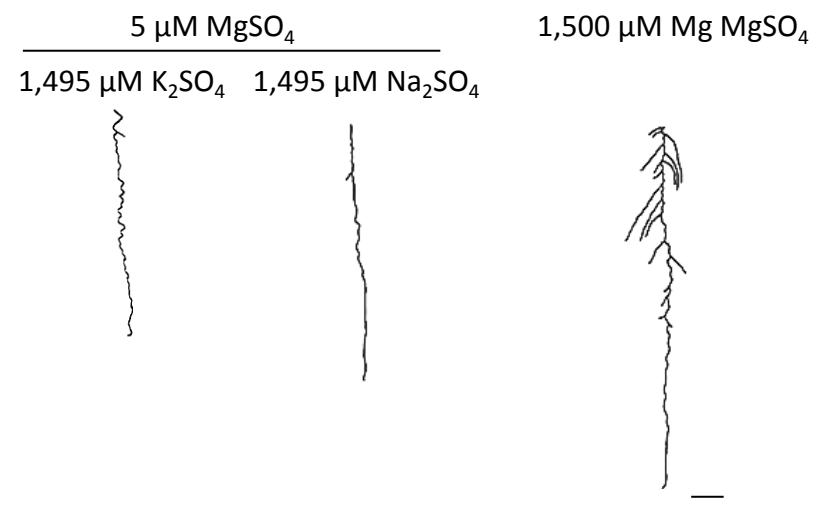
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- ④ Crosstalk with hormones

② Elemental profile variation in response to magnesium depletion

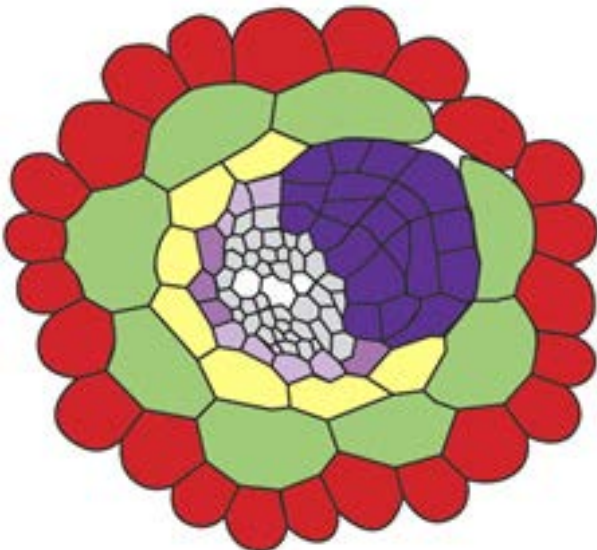
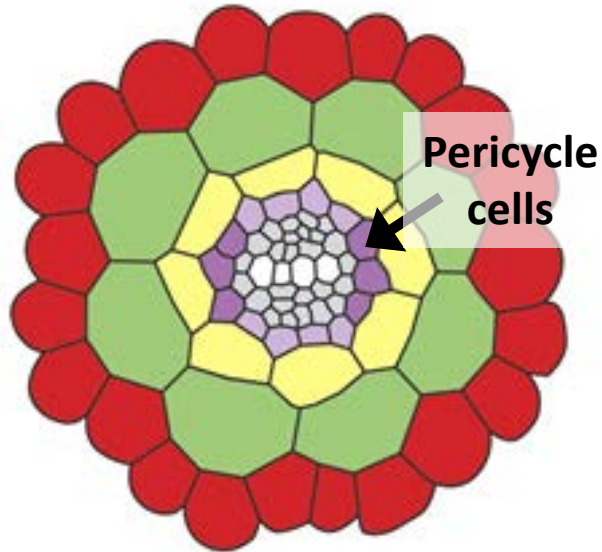


17 dag. n=4 (20 pooled organs) ± SE



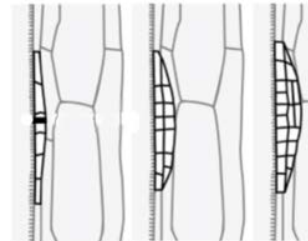
Is Mg deficiency associated with a combination of induced deficiencies and/or toxicities of other elements?

③ Influence of magnesium supply on lateral root developmental stages



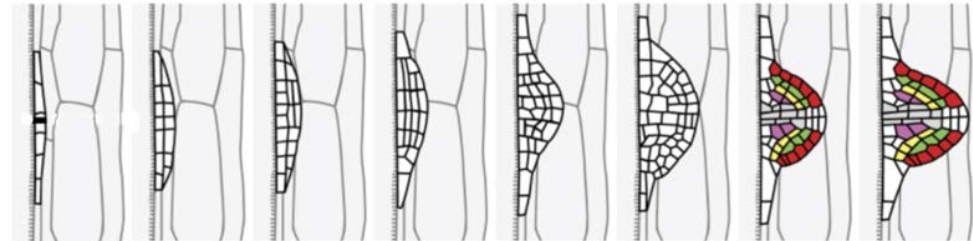
Primordium initiation

I II III



Meristem establishment, emergence, activation

IV V VI VII E



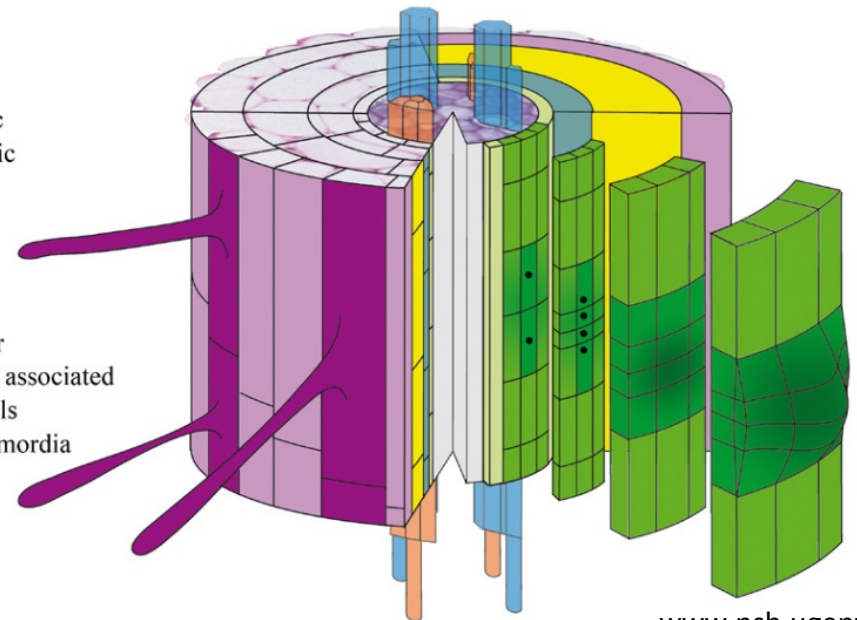
Lateral root > 1mm

Outer cell layers

- Epidermis
- trichoblastic
- atrichoblastic
- Cortex
- Endodermis

Inner cell layers

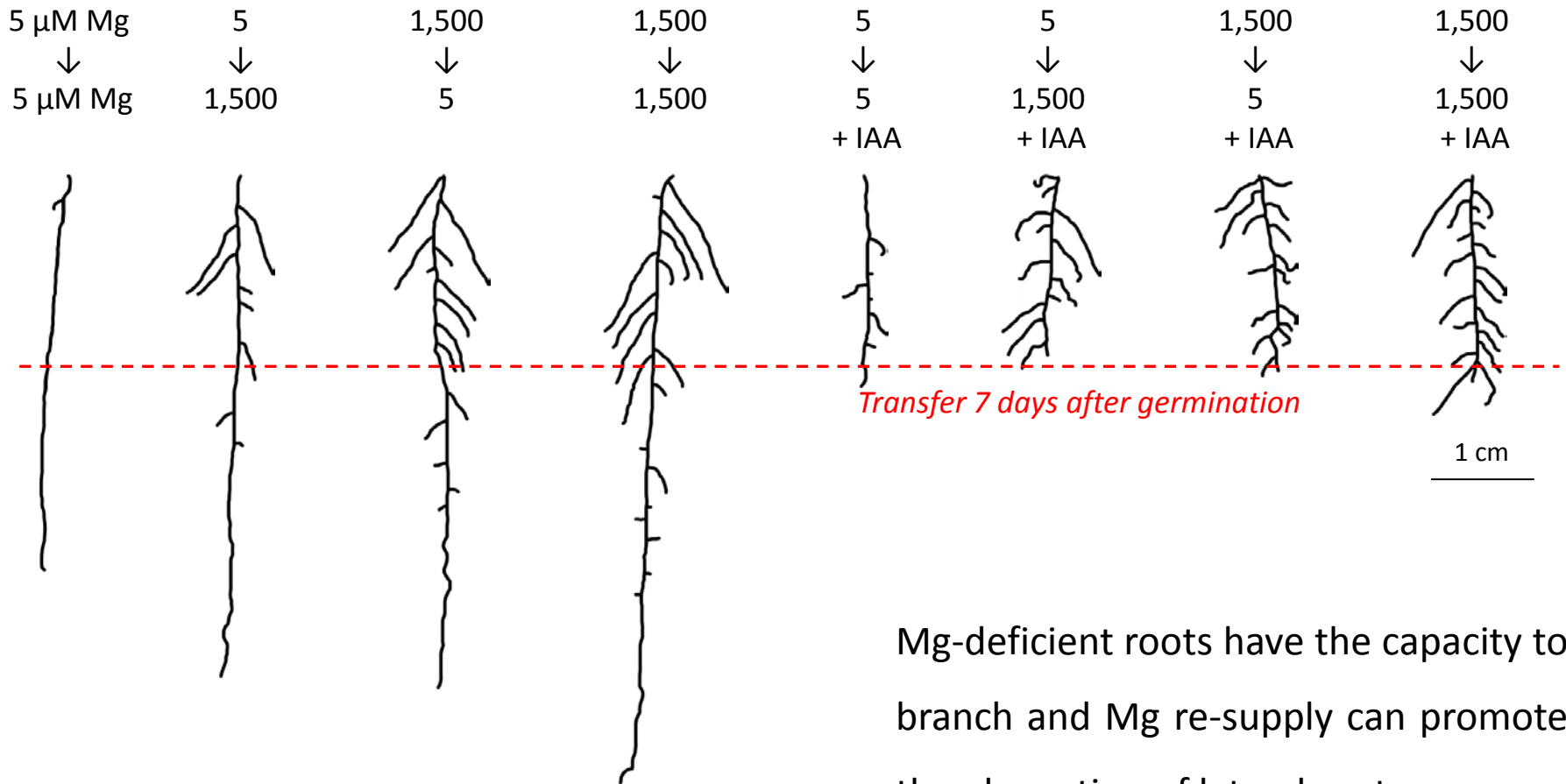
- Pericycle
- Whole layer
- Xylem pole associated
- Founder cells
- Nascent primordia
- Xylem
- Phloem



3

Influence of magnesium supply on lateral root developmental stages

Effect of 3-indole acetic acid (IAA) on lateral root development

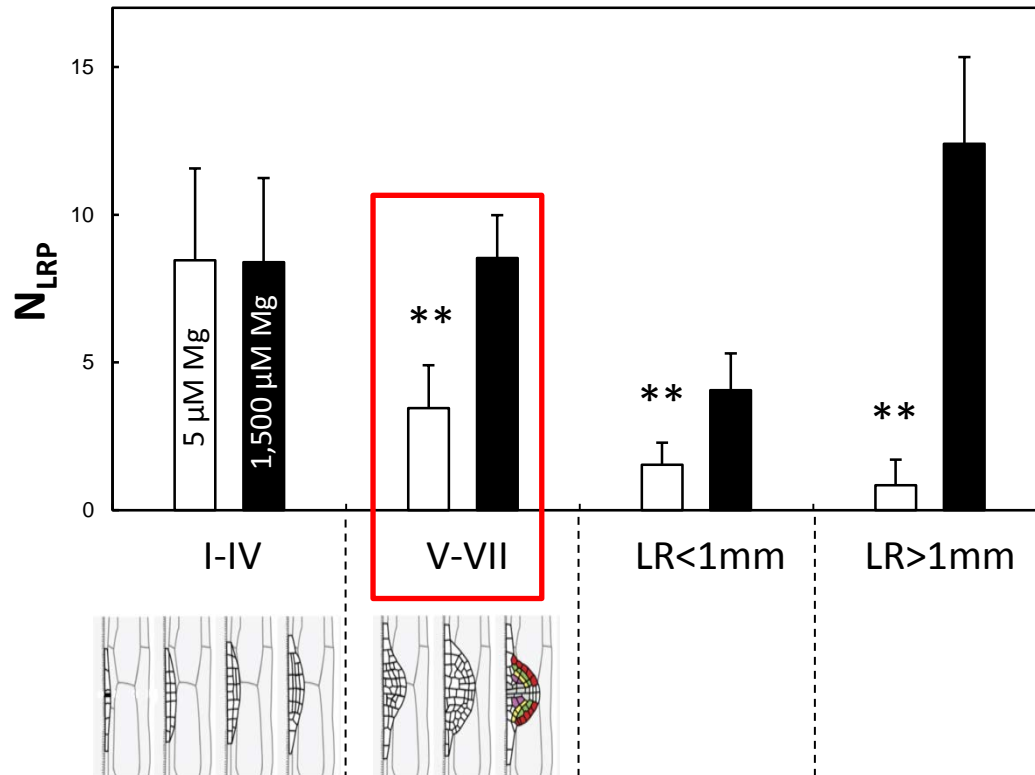


Mg-deficient roots have the capacity to branch and Mg re-supply can promote the elongation of lateral roots.

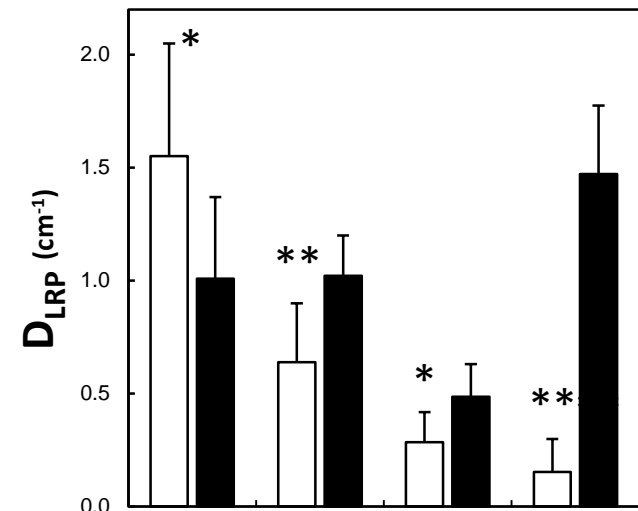
③ Influence of magnesium supply on lateral root developmental stages

Categories of lateral root primordia development in response to Mg deficiency

Number of lateral root primordia



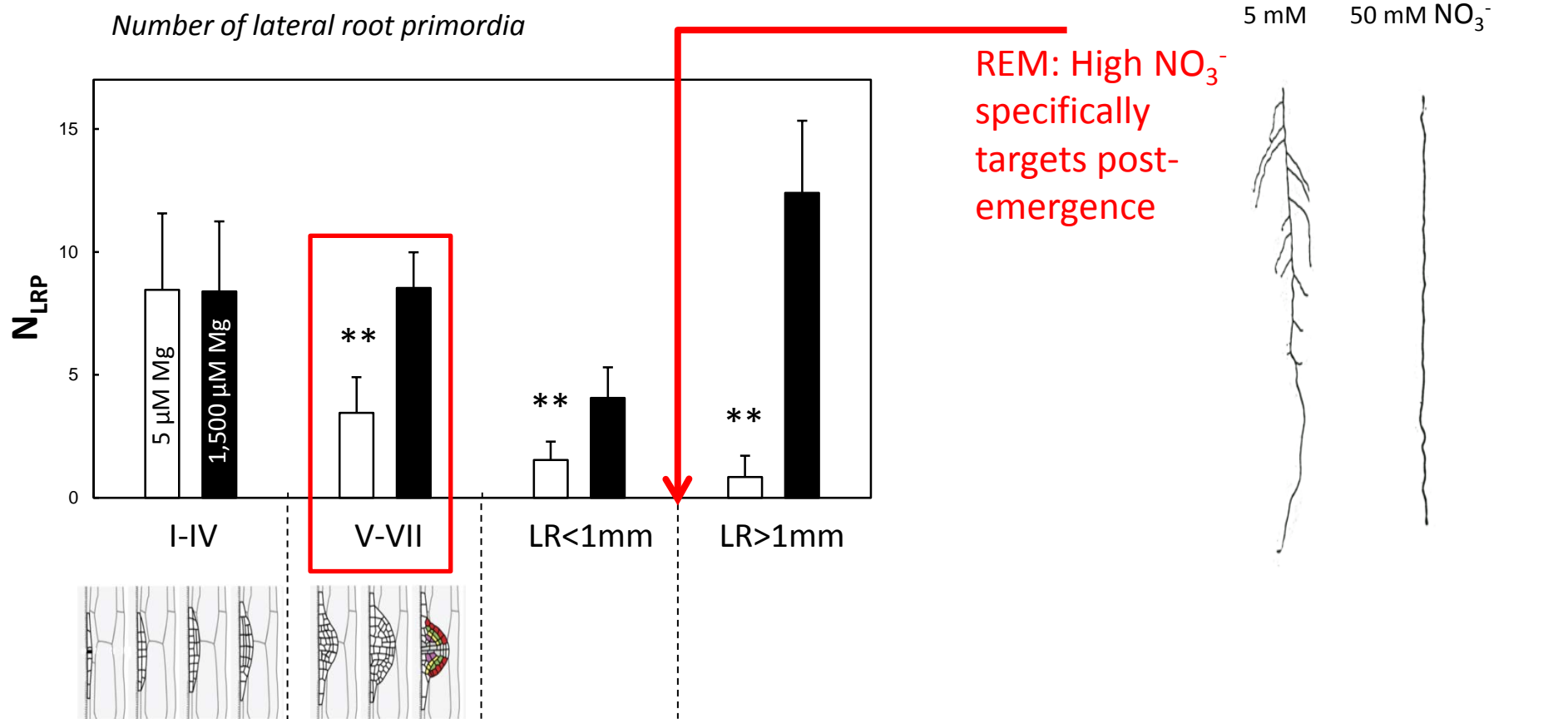
Density of lateral root primordia



17 dag. $n=15$ seedlings \pm std. Statistical significance: * ($P<0.01$), ** ($P<0.001$)

③ Influence of magnesium supply on lateral root developmental stages

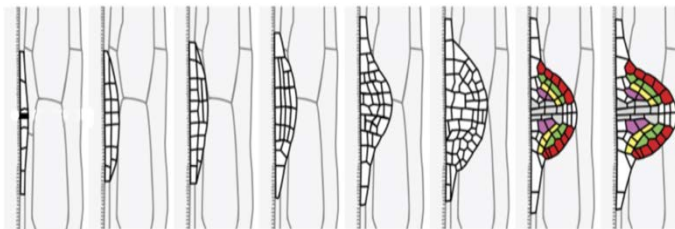
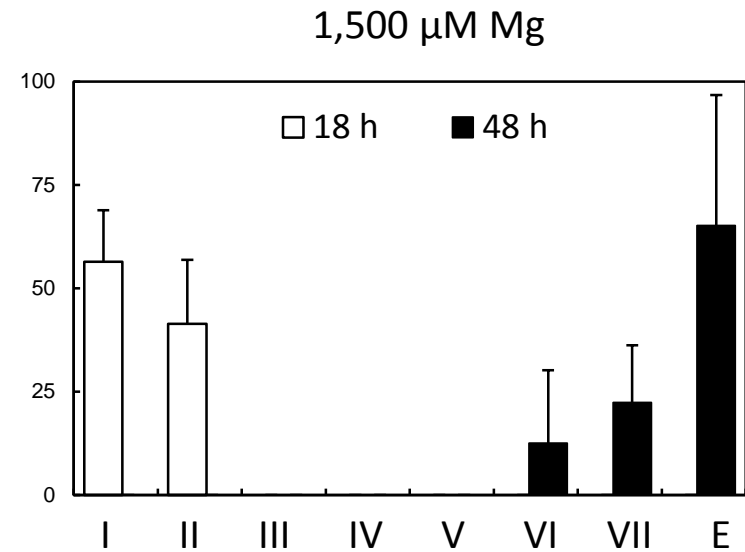
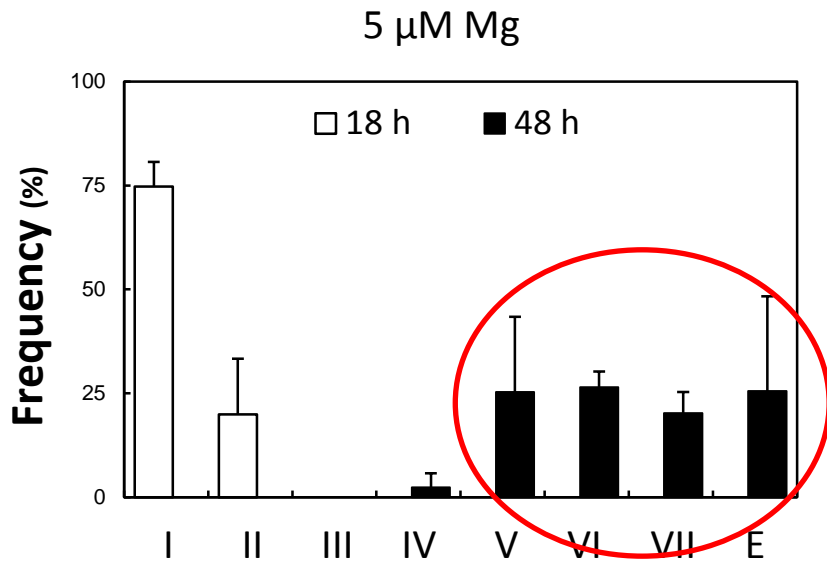
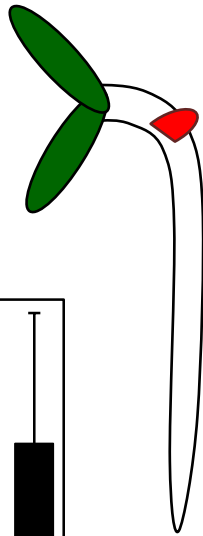
Categories of lateral root primordia development in response to Mg deficiency



③

Influence of magnesium supply on lateral root developmental stages

Lateral root primordia growth after gravitropic stimulus

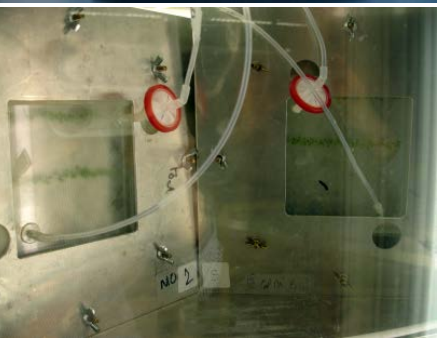
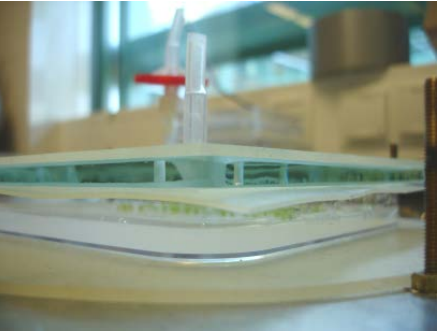


Progression from stage V is affected, in which the primordium undergoes anticlinal divisions and starts to grow through the cortex tissue.

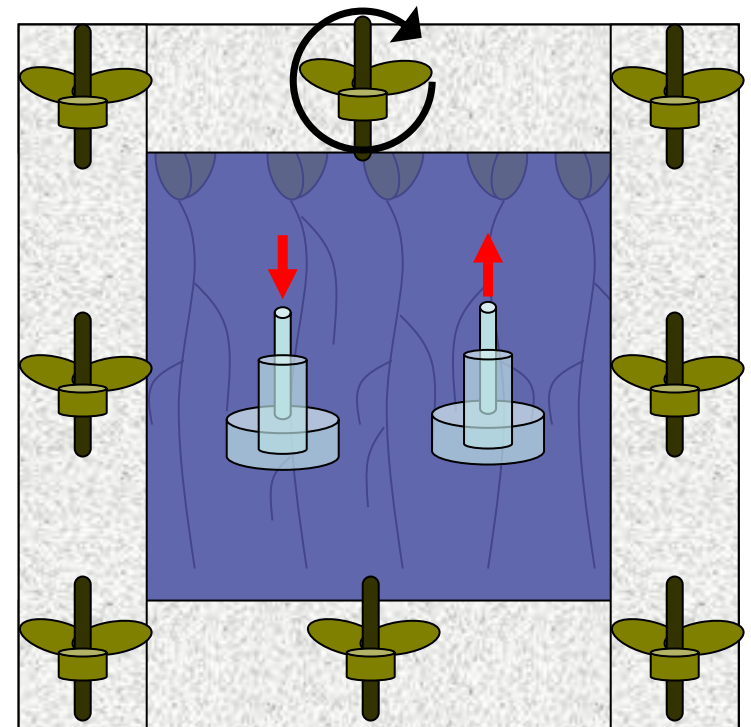
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- ④ Crosstalk with hormones

④ Interplay between magnesium nutrition and hormones

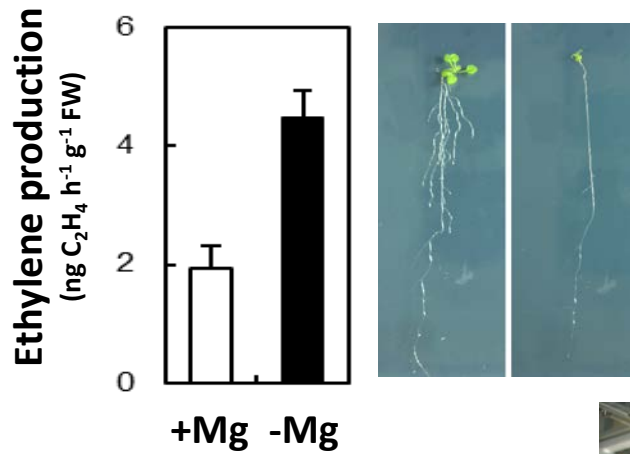


New experimental setting for measuring ethylene production in Petri plates.

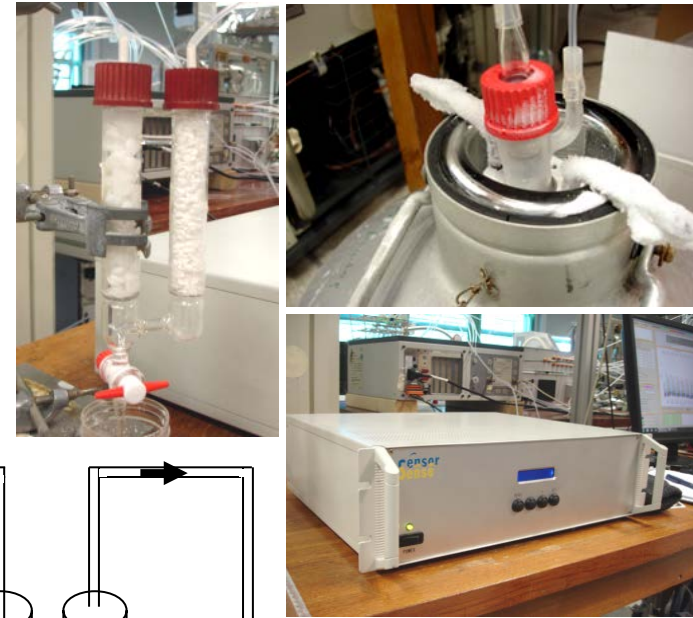


Ethylene

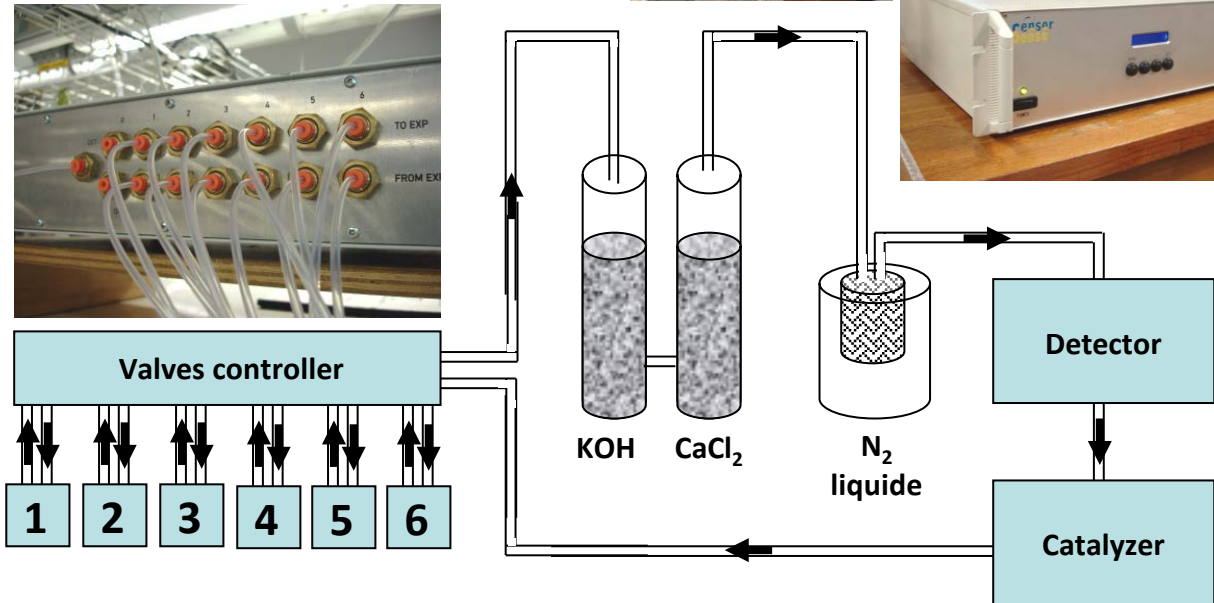
④ Interplay between magnesium nutrition and hormones



EDT-300 (Sensor Sense, the Netherlands)



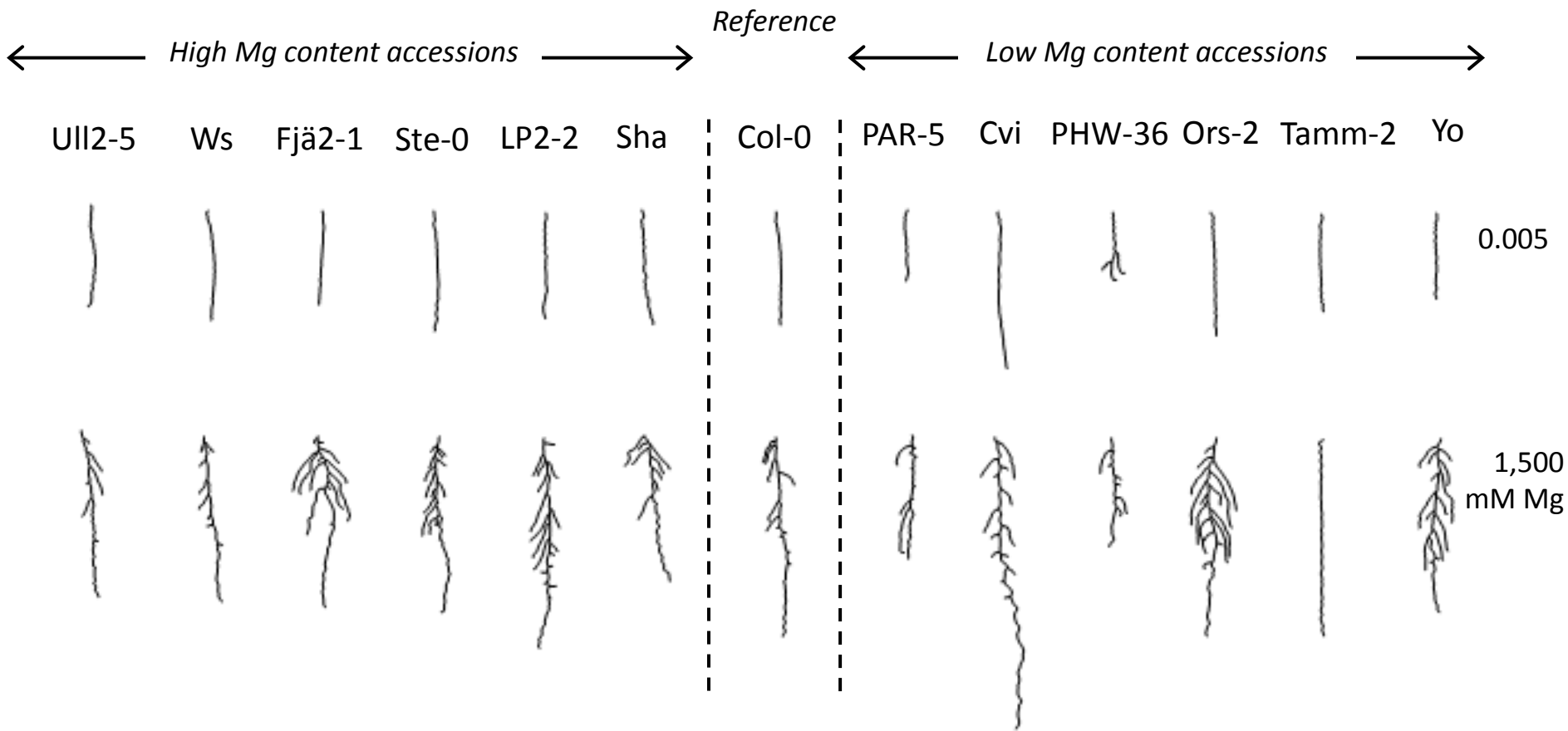
Double ethylene emanation by Mg deficient seedlings



Ethylene

Natural variation of root architecture in response to Mg

Does Mg tissue concentration correlate with root architectural features?



14 days after germination

1 cm

Conclusions and perspectives

- ✓ Mg depletion noticeably represses lateral root outgrowth, which makes it a remarkable case study.
- ✓ A slowdown in the growth of pre-emerged lateral root primordia was observed upon -Mg (target: stage V). → global transcriptomics upon bending assay.
- ✓ Neither root growth stimulation by localized Mg source, neither repression in Mg-deprived zone was emphasized. Absence of local Mg sensing mechanism in Arabidopsis?
- ✓ Ethylene may play a role in the control on primary root and lateral root elongation upon -Mg.

Collaborations and funding



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Genomics, root development



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C_2H_4



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