

DISSERTATION

INVOLVEMENT OF *CYP72A219* IN HERBICIDE-RESISTANT PALMER AMARANTH
AND THE ROLE OF P450 REDUCTASE IN THE MECHANISM OF METABOLIC
RESISTANCE

Submitted by

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ABSTRACT

INVOLVEMENT OF *CYP72A219* IN HERBICIDE-RESISTANT PALMER AMARANTH AND THE ROLE OF P450 REDUCTASE IN THE MECHANISM OF METABOLIC RESISTANCE

Herbicide resistance in weeds poses a major challenge to modern agriculture worldwide, impacting effective weed control strategies. Metabolic resistance stands out as the major and more complex resistance mechanism due to its ability to metabolize a wide range of herbicides within weed species. Metabolic resistance involves herbicide metabolism through three key phases: activation, conjugation, and sequestration. These phases involve the action of important enzymes such as cytochrome P450 monooxygenases, glutathione *S*-transferases, and ABC transporters. Metabolic resistance mechanisms have gained prominence in the past decade, posing significant challenges to sustainable agriculture and weed management practices.

Amaranthus palmeri (Palmer amaranth) one of the most troublesome weeds globally has evolved metabolic resistance to HPPD inhibitor tembotrione. Understanding and addressing the mechanism are crucial for developing effective strategies to combat herbicide resistance and ensure global crop production. In the present study, four upregulated P450 genes were identified in HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth from Nebraska (NER), a troublesome weed species. Among these genes, *CYP72A219_4284* demonstrated the ability to deactivate the herbicide tembotrione in a heterologous system. This gene was also upregulated in metabolic HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth plants from different fields across the United States, indicating its involvement in conferring herbicide resistance. Our study also investigated the regulation of these resistance

genes, including the promoter sequences and transcription factors involved. Additionally, quantitative trait loci associated with herbicide resistance were identified. This work represents the first identification and validation of genes responsible for herbicide metabolism in Palmer amaranth. Validation of the metabolic resistant gene and the exploration of regulatory mechanisms contribute to a better understanding of metabolic herbicide resistance in weeds, facilitating the development of effective weed management strategies.

Cytochrome P450 reductase (CPR), an essential enzyme localized in the endoplasmic reticulum, provides electrons for P450 enzymes during monooxygenase reactions. The transfer of electrons from NADPH to the P450 active site occurs through a complex CPR:P450 interaction. Despite the numerous P450 genes in plant genomes, CPR genes are limited, typically consisting of two or three copies. In Arabidopsis, the two CPR genes, *ATR1* and *ATR2*, have distinct roles in primary and inducible metabolism, respectively. Our study investigated the function of *ATR1* and *ATR2* in transgenic Arabidopsis plants overexpressing the *CYP81A12*, which is known to metabolize a wide range of herbicides. The hypothesis was that silencing these *ATR1* or *ATR2* genes would lead to a reduction of P450 activity involved in herbicide metabolism. *ATR1* predominantly transfers electrons to *CYP81A12*, as knocking down *ATR1* led to a significant reduction in herbicide resistance. Knockouts of the *ATR2* gene also resulted in decreased herbicide resistance, although the effect was less pronounced. Variation in the number and function of CPR genes among different weed species suggests diverse genetic pressures and potential targets for herbicide resistance management. Inhibition of CPR activity could be a promising approach to restore herbicide effectiveness against metabolic herbicide-resistant weeds. This is the first study to our knowledge that explores the involvement of CPR genes in herbicide resistance in weeds, providing valuable insights into their crucial role. The findings

significantly advance our understanding of the mechanisms underlying CPR-mediated herbicide resistance and offer potential targets for the development of effective weed management strategies.

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“Throughout life, you encounter numerous judgments from other, but only a few who are genuinely willing to invest the hard work needed to create a meaningful impact.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT..... ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS v
1. INTRODUCTION..... 1
 REFERENCES..... 7
2. CHAPTER I - HERBICIDE METABOLISM IN WEEDS: WHAT WE’VE LEARNT. 10
 INTRODUCTION..... 10
 MILESTONES IN METABOLIC RESISTANCE IN WEEDS 11
 GENES INVOLVED IN METABOLIC HERBICIDE RESISTANCE 18
 FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS..... 21
 CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES 22
 FIGURES 24
 REFERENCES..... 28
3. CHAPTER II - CYTOCHROME *CYP72A219* IS INVOLVED IN METABOLIC RESISTANCE TO TEMBOTRIONE IN PALMER AMARANTH..... 32
 INTRODUCTION..... 32
 MATERIALS AND METHODS..... 34
 RESULTS..... 52
 DISCUSSION..... 65
 TABLES 71
 FIGURES 72
 REFERENCES..... 88
4. CHAPTER III - UNRAVELING THE ROLE OF P450 REDUCTASE IN HERBICIDE METABOLIC RESISTANCE MECHANISM 93
 INTRODUCTION..... 93
 MATERIALS AND METHODS..... 95
 RESULTS..... 106
 DISCUSSION..... 113
 TABLES 117
 FIGURES 124
 REFERENCES..... 135
5. APPENDIX A..... 138
 REFERENCES..... 170
6. APPENDIX B..... 171

1. INTRODUCTION

The world is currently witnessing a significant rise in food demand, primarily driven by the escalating global population¹. It is estimated that by 2050, the world population will reach approximately 9.1 billion individuals, compared to the current 8 billion¹. Pests pose a major threat to the goal of increasing crop production by causing significant reductions in yield². Among the various crop protection factors, weeds stand out as the most prominent pests due to their competition with crops for essential resources such as light, nutrients, and water³. As a consequence, weed infestation can lead to a considerable reduction of around 34% in crop yield^{2,4}. The magnitude of this issue amplifies when weeds are resistant to herbicides, creating a major hurdle for modern agriculture worldwide and compromising the effectiveness of weed control strategies⁵.

Weeds play a crucial role in agricultural systems, and their ability to evolve resistance poses a significant challenge. The extensive use of herbicides has led to the selection of herbicide-resistant biotypes from various weed species⁶. Currently, there are over 522 documented cases of resistant weeds worldwide⁷. Among the most prevalent resistance cases are those targeting acetolactate synthase (ALS), Photosystem II (PSII) 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS), acetyl Coa-carboxylase (ACCCase), auxinic herbicides, PSI, and microtubule herbicides⁷. Notably, *Lolium rigidum*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Poa annua*, *Amaranthus palmeri*, and *Eleusine indica* are among the key weed species that have evolved resistance to multiple herbicides, however, 269 species have evolved resistance including 154 dicots and 115 monocots.^{6,7} The rapid evolution of herbicide resistance across multiple herbicides and weed species highlights the urgent need for effective strategies to manage these resistant weeds and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

Herbicide resistance in weeds arises through diverse mechanisms that enable their survival and reproduction despite herbicide treatments. These mechanisms of resistance are categorized into target-site (TSR) and non-target site resistance (NTSR)^{6, 8, 9}. TSR involves genetic mutations occurring within the herbicide's target site DNA. This common mechanism caused by mutations can alter the structure of the target protein, decreasing the binding affinity of the herbicide⁶. In some cases, the target gene may undergo amplification or overexpression, leading to an increased production of the target protein and reducing the ratio of herbicide molecule and target protein. Some examples are the *EPSPS* in glyphosate resistant *Amaranthus palmeri*¹⁰ and *ACCase* in resistant *Digitaria sanguinalis*¹¹. On the other hand, NTSR encompasses a range of mechanisms that operate outside the direct target site of the herbicide^{8, 12}. Reduced translocation or absorption of the herbicide occurs when the weed develops traits that limit the movement of the herbicide within its tissues^{6, 13}. Sequestration is when a weed actively isolates the herbicide within specialized cellular compartments, minimizing its interaction with critical sites of action¹⁴. Additionally, weeds can evolve enhanced metabolic detoxification mechanisms, such as increased enzymatic activity, to break down or inactivate the herbicide before it can exert its intended effect⁸.

Among the NTSR, enhanced metabolic resistance poses a significant threat to weed management efforts⁸. This form of resistance is particularly challenging because of its unpredictable nature and the ability of weeds to metabolize herbicides from different chemical families¹⁵. This mechanism involves three main phases: Phase I involves oxidative reactions. Cytochrome P450 monooxygenases (P450s) are key enzymes in this phase and catalyze the introduction of polar functional groups (e.g., hydroxyl, carboxyl) into the herbicide molecule, making it more reactive and susceptible to further modification^{8, 16}. Phase II known as

conjugation, involves the attachment of a polar molecule (e.g., sugars, amino acids, glutathione) to the herbicide. This conjugation process is mediated by various enzymes, including UDP-glycosyltransferases (UGTs), glutathione *S*-transferases (GSTs), and amino acid transferases^{8, 17}. Phase III encompasses processes related to the transport and compartmentalization of herbicide metabolites⁸. ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters are integral membrane proteins that play a vital role in Phase III of the metabolism by sequestering the herbicide in the vacuole or other cellular compartments, limiting their interaction with target sites and minimizing their phytotoxic effects¹⁸⁻²⁰.

Numerous P450 enzymes have been identified in crops, and recently, a significant number of genes have been discovered in weeds that are responsible for herbicide metabolism. Noteworthy examples include various P450s found in *Echinochloa phyllopogon*, such as *CYP81A12*, *CYP81A21*, *CYP81A15*, and *CYP81A14*^{21, 22}. These enzymes are capable of metabolizing herbicides from more than five different modes of action. Additionally, *CYP81A69* and *CYP81A70* from *Cynodon dactylon* have been identified as enzymes involved in metabolizing ALS inhibitors and auxinic herbicides²³. Furthermore, *CYP81A10v7* from *Lolium rigidum* plays a role in metabolizing ACCase-, ALS-, PSII-, HPPD-, and tubulin-inhibitors²⁴. Dicot weeds have a limited number of identified genes associated with herbicide resistance. Notable examples include *DsCYP77B34* from *Descurainia sophia*, which provides resistance to ALS-, PPO-, VLCFA-, and PSII-inhibitors²⁵. Additionally, *RrCYP704C1* or *RrCYP709B1* from *Raphanus raphanistrum* confer resistance specifically against HPPD-inhibitors²⁶. These identified genes highlight the capacity of dicot weeds to develop resistance mechanisms against certain herbicide classes by enhanced metabolism, which was not previously considered.

Every P450 in plants necessitates the involvement of a partner P450 reductase for its proper functioning, called cytochrome P450 reductase (CPR)²⁷. Each reaction of P450 monooxygenase requires subsequent reactivation through CPR. While the plant kingdom boasts numerous P450 monooxygenases, they universally rely on one, two or three P450 reductases²⁷⁻²⁹. In *Arabidopsis*, two CPR genes exist, known as *Arabidopsis thaliana* cytochrome P450 reductase 1 (*ATR1*) and 2 (*ATR2*)^{30, 31}. These isoforms are categorized into two distinct classes, each serving different functions. Class I comprises *ATR1*, which plays a crucial role in primary and basal metabolic processes. On the other hand, Class II encompasses *ATR2*, which demonstrates inducibility in response to environmental stimuli such as wounding, pathogen attacks, or exposure to high light intensity^{32, 33}. The reliance of P450 enzymes on CPRs presents an excellent opportunity for the development of innovative synergistic chemistry. These potential advancements hold the promise of enhancing the effectiveness of herbicides, opening new avenues for improved weed control and crop protection.

HPPD inhibitors have emerged as effective herbicides in weed management strategies for crops such as corn, barley, oat, rice, and wheat³⁴. To date, only three weed species, namely *Amaranthus palmeri* (Palmer amaranth), *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (common waterhemp), and *Raphanus raphanistrum* (wild radish), have been identified as resistant to HPPD inhibitors³⁵⁻³⁷. HPPD stands for 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase, an essential enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of carotenoids, a class of pigments crucial for plant growth and development. By inhibiting the activity of HPPD, these herbicides disrupt the production of carotenoids, leading to the impairment of chlorophyll synthesis, then “bleaching”, and ultimately causing weed death³⁸.³⁹ They are characterized by low application rates and can be applied either pre- or post-emergence, providing flexibility in weed control timing.^{38, 40, 41} Moreover, HPPD inhibitors offer

effective control against challenging and hard-to-manage weed species, including those that have developed resistance to other herbicide classes, such as glyphosate resistant weeds⁴⁰. These combined attributes make HPPD inhibitors an important tool in diversified weed management programs.

Palmer amaranth, an invasive annual broadleaf weed native to the southwestern United States, has emerged as a significant threat to agricultural crops and ecosystems worldwide^{42, 43}. Its adaptability, aggressive growth, and resistance to herbicides have made it a troublesome problem in various regions^{43, 44}. With distinct male and female plants, Palmer amaranth efficiently cross-pollinates, facilitating the exchange of genetic material and the emergence of novel traits⁴⁴. These biologic characteristics of this species led to resistance evolution to multiple herbicide modes of action, including ALS-, EPSPS-, synthetic auxins, PPO-, PSII-, HPPD-, VLCFA-, and tubulin-inhibitors⁷. To enhance our understanding of the genetic factors underlying resistance and other crucial traits in Palmer amaranth, further investigation in resistant biotypes is necessary.

The present dissertation is structured into three chapters, each focusing on different aspects of metabolic herbicide resistance. Chapter 1 provides a comprehensive review of metabolic herbicide resistance, which is considered the most significant mechanism among NTSR mechanisms in weeds⁸. This chapter encompasses key milestones in research on metabolic resistance in weeds, as well as the identification of crucial genes associated with this resistance mechanism. Chapter 2 presents a research study conducted on a specific population of HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth, known as NER. This population has been characterized by its resistance to tembotrione through enhanced metabolism³⁶. The chapter encompasses RNA-seq analysis, utilization of heterologous systems and other experiments to identify and validate the

genes responsible for the resistant trait. Additionally, the chapter explores the *cis*- and *trans*-elements that may be involved in the resistance mechanism. The third and final chapter focuses on elucidating the role of P450 reductase in relation to metabolic resistance in weeds. The objective of this chapter is to gain a better understanding of the involvement of this protein in metabolic resistance and explore its potential as a target for developing new management tools for weed control.

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2. CHAPTER I - HERBICIDE METABOLISM IN WEEDS: WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

INTRODUCTION

Herbicide resistance in weeds poses a significant challenge to modern agriculture worldwide, compromising effective weed control strategies¹. Herbicide resistance can arise through two main mechanisms: target-site (TSR) and non-target-site resistance (NTSR)². TS resistance involves mutations in the herbicide's target site, reducing its binding affinity and rendering the herbicide ineffective². NTSR, on the other hand, encompasses a diverse range of mechanisms that facilitate the detoxification, sequestration, or altered translocation of herbicides within weed plants, ultimately reducing their efficacy. Although both TSR and NTSR contribute to herbicide resistance in weeds, the metabolic mechanism stands out as the major and more complex resistance mechanism, owing to its extensive capacity to metabolize a wide range of herbicides within weed species^{3, 4}.

Metabolic resistance in weeds is a process involving the enzymatic detoxification and metabolism of xenobiotics, including herbicides^{4, 5}. This process is divided into three key phases: Phase I - activation, phase II - conjugation, and phase III – sequestration (Figure 2-1). During the activation phase, xenobiotics, such as herbicides, undergo chemical modifications to generate more reactive forms. In this phase, cytochrome P450 monooxygenases (P450s) play a central role in metabolizing herbicides by adding a small functional group on the herbicide molecule. P450 enzymes catalyze various reactions, including hydroxylation, dealkylation, deamination and others, which modify the chemical structure of herbicides and reduce their toxicity². In the phase II, other enzymes such as glutathione *S*-transferases (GST) and esterases, contribute to herbicide detoxification through conjugation and hydrolysis reactions, respectively⁶. In the phase III, modified herbicides or their metabolites are sequestered and compartmentalized within

specific cellular compartments, mainly by ABC transporters, preventing their interaction with essential plant targets^{2, 3}.

In the last decade, there has been a growing recognition of the increasing importance of metabolic resistance mechanisms in weeds. The emergence and spread of herbicide-resistant weed populations have posed significant challenges to sustainable agriculture and weed management practices. While TSR has long been studied and documented, the significance of metabolic resistance mechanisms has gained prominence due to their ability to confer broad-spectrum resistance to multiple herbicides. The complexity and diversity of metabolic pathways involved in herbicide metabolism highlight the adaptability and evolutionary potential of weeds. Understanding and addressing the metabolic resistance mechanisms in weeds have become crucial for developing effective strategies to combat herbicide resistance and enable global crop production. Our current understanding of metabolic resistance in weeds has significantly advanced in recent decades, thanks to various scientific breakthroughs discussed in the next section.

MILESTONES IN METABOLIC RESISTANCE IN WEEDS

In 1957, the first herbicide resistant weed was documented, in wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) with resistance to 2,4-D⁷ (Figure 2-2). Subsequently, additional cases of resistance emerged; however, the underlying resistance mechanisms remained elusive. The introduction and widespread use of acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACCase) and acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitors in the early 1970s and 1980s, respectively, resulted in a substantial increase in reported cases of herbicide resistance in weeds. Besides the growing number of reported cases, many of them were not extensively investigated.

The continued use of selective herbicides in early 1980s, especially ALS-inhibitors in cereals, selected weeds resistant to herbicides. The mechanisms of selectivity in crops were well known to be enhanced metabolism⁸. However, cases of weeds resistant to different herbicides started to arise. The term cross-resistance was not utilized in weeds but well documented and understood in insects⁹. At that time, the first cases of weeds with cross-resistance start to evolve and scientist were worried that resistant biotypes were cross-resistant to different chemical families and in some cases cross-resistant to herbicide never used before. More than 20 years after the first weed resistance report, one of the first papers published assuming metabolic resistance was evolved in ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*) biotype from Australia collected in 1980 (Figure 2-2). This biotype was resistant to diclofop, fluazifop, haloxyfop, quizalofop, sethoxydim, tralkoxydim (ACCase inhibitors) and cross-resistant to chlorsulfuron (ALS inhibitor) and trifluralin (Microtubule inhibitor)^{10, 11}. A similar resistance mechanism was identified in a blackgrass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*) biotype at Peldon, Essex, United Kingdom in 1984. This biotype was resistant to chlortoluron, and interestingly it was cross-resistant to pendimethalin and diclofop-methyl¹². The levels of resistance for these cases were lower if compared to the ones found in triazine resistance plants¹³, but even though the problem of cross-resistance was a big concern in that time due to cross-resistance to herbicides that were never even applied in the field before¹².

At that time, the knowledge about metabolic resistance was limited. The use of P450 inhibitors like 1-aminobenzotriazole (ABT), piperonylbutoxide (PBO), and malathion were used to start the metabolic resistance studies. In both *Lolium* and *Alopecurus*, the herbicides had synergistic effects with P450 inhibitors on controlling the resistant weeds, showing the involvement of metabolism in the resistance mechanism^{12, 14}. These cases were the first cases of

involvement of metabolic resistance in weeds. However, during the middle 1980s and early 1990s the use of ^{14}C herbicides and identification of the metabolites produced by resistant weeds helped to confirm the metabolic resistance and to infer about which metabolic enzymes were involved. Resistance to chlortoluron and isoproturon in blackgrass population from Peldon was attributed to metabolism due to a faster degradation of C^{14} herbicides in the leaves to different metabolites¹². *Lolium rigidum* were identified to be resistant to simazine (Photosystem II inhibitor, PSII) by a faster rate of metabolism of simazine to N-de-ethyl derivatives¹⁵, probably done by P450 enzymes. Population of *L. rigidum* and *A. myosuroides* resistant to chlorsulfuron and chlortoluron, respectively, had the same detoxification pathway as wheat, by hydroxylation of the phenyl-ring followed by conjugation to glucose in *L. rigidum*¹⁶, or by N-demethylation in *A. myosuroides*¹⁷ inferring the participation of P450 and GSTs enzymes. Populations of *Abutilon theophrasti* resistant to atrazine were identified to conjugate atrazine in a faster rate than susceptible plants, showing the involvement of GST enzymes in the metabolic resistance mechanism¹⁸.

With the passage of time and repeated herbicide use, new cases of metabolic resistance have been identified in different species. Metabolic resistance in *Amaranthus hybridus* was reported in 1999. Resistant plants metabolized ^{14}C -chlorimuron faster than susceptible biotypes¹⁹. The first report of enhanced metabolism in *Lolium multiflorum* was reported in 2001. Resistant plants from UK rapidly detoxified diclofop by glycosyl ester formation and was cross-resistant to tralkoxydim and cycloxydim²⁰. In early 2000, a population of *Avena* spp, evolved resistance to fenoxaprop and cross resistant to tralkoxydim²¹. *Bromus tectorum* was reported resistant to propoxycarbazone (ALS inhibitor) by rapid rate of metabolism compared to sensitive plants and probably P450 enzymes were involved in the mechanism²².

Questions about the evolution of metabolic resistance in weeds were arising. It was suggested that high pesticide rates would select major genes, as target-site resistance had been selected. However, applications of low herbicide rates were suggested to evolve polygenic herbicide resistance²³. One notable experiment on metabolic resistance was a study using recurrent selection with herbicide low rates in *L. rigidum* (Figure 2-2). This experiment was performed in middle 2000s and was conducted with susceptible plants. After only three cycles of plant selection using low doses of diclofop, the progenies had high level of resistance by enhanced metabolism. More than that, the progenies evolved cross-resistance²⁴. These results were a milestone on this subject and showed the rapid evolution of this type of mechanism of resistance and the consequence of using the same herbicide mode of action for consecutive years. It proved that low rates could favor the selection of minor alleles and hence stack up in the progenies and evolve resistance due to a polygenic trait.

Early studies on herbicide metabolism in weeds primarily relied on in vivo P450 inhibitors, lacking evidence of detoxification enzymes. In the 1990s, microsome isolation from crops facilitated in vitro investigations of P450-mediated metabolism with various herbicides²⁵. It took around 15 more years before microsomes isolation from herbicide resistant weeds was performed. In 2005, isolation of microsome from resistant *Echinochloa phyllopogon* showed that microsomes had higher P450 activity when incubated with bispyribac, fenoxaprop and thiobencarb, which may correspond with the hydroxylation of the herbicide molecules²⁶. Heterologous expression in yeast was another method used to understand P450 function and substrate affinity (Figure 2-2). Numerous P450 genes from crops were randomly isolated, expressed in yeast and subjected to incubation with herbicides²⁵; however, due to the limited

availability of isolated P450 enzymes from weeds at that time, this method was not extensively employed for weed-related studies.

Around 2010, through the isolation and identification of highly induced genes in the resistant population of *Echinochloa phyllopogon*, two significant genes, *CYP81A12* and *CYP81A21*, were discovered as the first weed genes capable of conferring herbicide metabolism (Figure 2-2). By transforming these genes into *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants, resistance to multiple herbicides was observed, including bensulfuron-methyl through O-demethylation and penoxsulam²⁷. Same results were observed when these genes were heterologous expressed in yeast²⁷. Recently, recombinant expression of these *CYPs* from 81A family in *E. coli* has demonstrated their ability to metabolize a wide range of herbicides, including those targeting ALS, ACCase, phytoene desaturase (PDS), 4-Hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD), Protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) and PSII inhibitors²⁸.

At the same time, nearly 2014, whole transcriptome analysis started to be performed to compare the transcripts levels between resistant and susceptible weeds aiming to identify metabolic candidate genes (Figure 2-2). The first study was performed in *L. rigidum* resistant to diclofop²⁹. Subsequently, numerous studies have utilized RNA-seq analysis to identify candidate genes responsible for metabolic resistance in various weed species, including *Lolium* spp.³⁰, *Polypogon fugax*³¹, *Alopecurus aequalis*³², *Echinochloa crus-galli*³³ and others.

The identification and the advanced biotechnologies make it easier, but not less challenging, to validate metabolic candidate genes found in RNA-seq analysis using heterologous expression systems. Jumping to recent years, rice and *Arabidopsis* are the most common plants used for transformation. As cited before, *Arabidopsis* carrying *CYP81A12* and *CYP81A21* from *E. phyllopogon* were the first successful validation of metabolic genes from

weeds. One case that was important in the history of metabolic resistance in weeds was found in an *Echinochloa colona* biotype resistant to glyphosate. Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide in the world and was not known to be metabolized by plants. This *E. colona* biotype evolved resistance to glyphosate and TSR was discarded. By RNA-seq analysis, the authors identified an aldo-keto-reductase (*AKR*) gene that was upregulated in resistant plants. Rice plants were transformed with this *AKR* from *E. colona* and became resistant to glyphosate. The mechanism of resistance is based on oxidation reaction of glyphosate to AMPA performed by *AKR*. This result was a milestone because glyphosate is basically never detoxified by plants³⁴. In the same population of *E. colona*, an ABC transporter gene (*EcABCC8*) was identified in the RNA-seq analysis and transformed rice, maize, and soybean overexpressing *EcABCC8* became glyphosate resistant. The authors used CRISPR/Cas9 to knockout the *OsABCC8* in rice and the plants became resistant to glyphosate. The mechanism of resistance is based on movement of glyphosate molecules to extracellular space of the cell (apoplast)³⁵.

With advancements in technology, the identification of the underlying causal genes responsible for metabolic resistance in most weed species has become increasingly feasible. The availability of genome sequences for weed species, with the expectation of more through initiatives like the International Weed Genomics Consortium (<https://www.weedgenomics.org/>), has opened new possibilities for research. Previously unattainable studies such as QTL mapping can now be conducted in weeds. The first QTL mapping study was performed in *Amaranthus tuberculatus* with metabolic resistance to HPPD-inhibitors³⁶. Such studies contribute to understanding the regulation of metabolic genes, representing the next step in researching metabolic mechanisms.

Since 1980, research has been focused on the identification of metabolic resistance in grasses. Recently, metabolic resistance has been reported in various important dicot weed species. Metabolic resistance was reported in *A. tuberculatus* in 2017³⁷, *A. palmeri*³⁸ in 2018, and *Raphanus raphanistrum* in 2020³⁹, all of which exhibited resistant to HPPD inhibitors. Additionally, in 2020, *A. tuberculatus* was identified as resistant to 2,4-D through metabolic resistance⁴⁰. Early efforts involved the use of P450 inhibitors, ¹⁴C herbicides, and the analysis of metabolites. However, we have now entered an era of gene identification, validation and regulation^{2, 3, 41}. Recently, researchers have successfully identified and validated numerous genes as potential contributors to metabolic resistance (detailed in the next section). To gain further insights into the underlying mechanisms, protein modeling techniques were employed, particularly for P450, to better understand substrate affinity and identify potential substrate binding sites. Looking ahead, we anticipate that in the coming years, advancements in our understanding will allow us to identify specific genes and predict their broad substrate recognition solely based on their DNA sequences. However, it is important to note that our knowledge of the genetic regulation of these resistance-related genes in plants is still incomplete. Therefore, we believe that future studies should prioritize investigating the genetic regulation of these genes in order to enhance our understanding of metabolic resistance. Overall, research in metabolism-based resistance has made significant strides in unraveling the complexities of metabolic resistance in both grasses and dicots. The future is optimistic about the prospects of gene identification and substrate recognition and remain committed to furthering our understanding of the genetic regulation underlying metabolic resistance in plants.

GENES INVOLVED IN METABOLIC HERBICIDE RESISTANCE

In the field of herbicide resistance, significant progress has been made in the identification and functional validation of numerous genes associated with herbicide metabolism in both resistant weeds and crops. This section focuses on the key genes that have been discovered in weeds and crops, demonstrating their ability to metabolize different herbicides. The identification and validation of these important genes in both weeds and crops represent significant advancements in our knowledge of metabolic resistance and provide a foundation for further research in this field. By understanding the specific genes families involved in herbicide metabolism, researchers can gain insights into the mechanisms underlying resistance and potentially develop strategies to overcome it.

The cytochrome P450 (P450) gene family is widely recognized as the predominant detoxification gene family in plants⁴². Arabidopsis and rice have 244 and 326 cytochrome P450^{42, 43}, respectively, which exhibit diverse functions and play essential roles in various metabolic pathways, including the metabolism of herbicide. In weeds the number of P450 genes are overrepresented in some species. For example, *Echinochloa crus-galli* and *Echinochloa colona* have a total of 867 and 694 P450s, respectively, which is significantly higher when compared with other species⁴⁴. The extensive number of P450 genes in weeds highlights their metabolic versatility and its potential to adapt to various environmental challenges.

Cytochrome P450 genes from various families have been identified and validated in both crops and weeds (Figure 2-3). In crops like rice, *OsCYP72A31* and *OsCYP76C6* were found to metabolize ALS-inhibitors such as bispyribac and bensulfuron⁴⁵, while *OsCYP81A6* exhibited a broad spectrum of activity, metabolizing several ALS-inhibitors and clomazone^{46, 47}. In soybean, a mutation in the *GmCYP81E22* gene was identified as the cause of high sensitivity to bentazon

in specific cultivars⁴⁸ and *GmCYP71A10*, when expressed in yeast and transformed into tobacco plants, demonstrated the ability to metabolize Chlortoluron⁴⁹. Among corn genes, *ZmCYP81A2* was found to hydroxylate bentazon at multiple positions, and *ZmCYP81A9* exhibited a wide range of activity, metabolizing HPPD, ALS, and PSII-inhibitors⁵⁰. In weeds, CYPs from multiple herbicide resistant *Echinochloa phyllopogon* (e.g., *EpCYP81A12*, *EpCYP81A21* and *EpCYP81A24*) metabolized a wide range of substrate metabolism, including ACCase, ALS, PSII, DXS, PDS, and HPPD-inhibitors^{27, 28}. *EpCYP81A14* and *EpCYP81A18* shared high similarity with the previous enzymes but exhibited different substrate specificity, metabolizing only ALS-inhibitors²⁸. Similarly, *Cynodon dactylon* genes *CdCYP81A69* and *CdCYP81A70*, from the same family, when transformed into soybean, conferred resistance to ALS inhibitors and 2,4-D⁵¹. Another gene with a broad spectrum was found in multiple herbicide-resistant annual ryegrass, where transgenic rice overexpressing *Lolium LrCYP81A10v7* exhibited high resistance to ACCase, ALS, and moderate resistance to PSII, HPPD, and tubulin inhibitors⁵². In other hand, the genes from *Beckmannia syzigachne* including *BsCYP81Q32*, *BsCYP704A177* and *BsCYP99A44* when transformed in Arabidopsis plants confer herbicide resistance specific to ALS inhibitor herbicides^{53, 54}. In dicot weed species, fewer P450 genes have been identified. For instance, *DsCYP77B34* from *Descurainia sophia*, a broadleaf weed in Asian wheat fields, rendered transformed Arabidopsis resistant to ALS-, PPO-, very long chain fatty acid (VLCFA-), and PSII-inhibitors⁵⁵. Arabidopsis expressing *Raphanus raphanistrum RrCYP704C1* or *RrCYP709B1* demonstrated resistance to HPPD inhibitors such as mesotrione (*RrCYP704C1*), tembotrione (*RrCYP709B1*), and isoxaflutole (*RrCYP709B1*)⁵⁶. The evolution of multiple genes in grass weed species can be attributed to prolonged exposure to herbicide modes of action, particularly ACCase and ALS-inhibitors, over the years. It is evident that the P450 family 81

plays a pivotal role in grasses, while other families are found in both grasses and dicots (Figure 2-3).

Fewer genes have been identified and validated for phase II and III of herbicide metabolism, with significant research focused on corn, soybean, and wheat (Figure 2-3). In these crops, efforts have been made to isolate and study *GSTs*. Expression of various *Phi* and *Tau* *ZmGSTUs*, *Phi TaGSTs*, and *Tau* class *GmGSTUs* in *E. coli* demonstrated some degree of conjugation to ALS-, PPO-, and VLCFA-inhibitors⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹. Among weeds, only *AmGSTF1* from *Alopecurus myosuroides* has been identified and validated. This black-grass population exhibited multiple herbicide resistance, and transgenic Arabidopsis overexpressing *AmGSTF1* displayed resistance to Chlortoluron (ALS), Alachlor (VLCFA), and atrazine (PSII), the same herbicides to which the resistant black-grass plants were resistant^{60, 61}. Knocking out *AmGSTF1* through virus-mediated transient expression in resistant black-grass plants restored sensitivity to fenoxaprop (ACCase), confirming the essential role of *AmGSTF1* in herbicide resistance⁶¹. The genes associated with phase III, such as ABC transporters, which sequesters herbicides into the vacuole, have received limited attention as mechanisms of resistance. In glyphosate resistant *Echinochloa colona*, it was found that *ABCC8* was constitutively expressed at higher levels in resistant plants. Transgenic rice expressing this gene exhibited resistance to glyphosate by extruding the herbicide from the cytoplasm to the apoplast³⁵. Similarly, three ABC transporters (*AmABCC1*, *AmABCC2*, *AmABCC3*) was recently identified in multiple-resistant populations of *Alopecurus myosuroides*. Transgenic yeast carrying *AmABCC1* or *AmABCC2* had enhanced tolerance to mesosulfuron-methyl (ALS), highlighting the role of these proteins in sequestering the herbicide into the vacuole in resistant blackgrass⁶².

Ongoing research advancements are expected to uncover more genes, especially in dicots, benefiting from advancements in technology and genome availability. Comprehending their functions and correlation will aid in combating herbicide resistance evolution. Armed with this understanding, we can devise focused approaches to efficiently manage weeds and impede resistance development. Through the utilization of advanced tools and scientific methodologies, we are steadily advancing towards sustainable agriculture and improved weed control.

FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS

Functional genomics is playing a crucial role in agronomic weed science, particularly in understanding evolution of different resistance mechanisms. With the advancements in high-throughput sequencing technologies, scientists can now obtain complete genomes of weed species more efficiently. These new genomic resources will provide a wealth of information about the genetic variations and functional elements in weed populations, enabling researchers to identify key genes involved in metabolic resistance and develop targeted management approaches.

Scientists employ various techniques to study functional genomics in the context of weed science. One commonly used approach is transcriptomics, which involves analyzing the expression patterns of genes in different weed populations, including both resistant and susceptible biotypes. This helps identify genes that are upregulated or downregulated in resistant weeds, providing insights into the metabolic pathways and processes involved in herbicide resistance^{29, 32}. Another technique is proteomics, which involves studying the complete set of proteins produced by weed species⁶³. Proteomics can shed light on the proteins involved in herbicide metabolism and target-site interactions, contributing to a better understanding of resistance mechanisms. Additionally, metabolomics, the study of small molecule metabolites,

allows researchers to explore the metabolic changes associated with resistance⁶⁴. By applying these techniques, scientists can gather comprehensive data on the functional elements of weed genomes and their interactions with herbicides.

Gene validation techniques such as Arabidopsis or tobacco transformation, virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS), and mutants database are valuable tools for determining gene functions involved in the evolution of herbicide resistance in weeds as it was described in the section 2. Furthermore, recent advancements in gene editing technologies such as RNA interference (RNAi) and CRISPR have revolutionized our ability to understand and address herbicide resistance in weeds^{65, 66}. RNAi allows for targeted gene knockdown, enabling researchers to assess the impact of specific genes on resistance phenotypes⁶⁶. CRISPR, on the other hand, enables precise gene editing, facilitating the study of gene functions and the discovery of new targets for sustainable weed management. These technologies hold great promise for both unraveling the mechanisms behind metabolic resistance evolution and developing innovative strategies for weed control.

CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Herbicide resistance in weeds poses a global challenge to agriculture, necessitating a deep understanding of resistance mechanisms, especially metabolic resistance, for effective weed management. The future holds promising prospects for gene identification, substrate recognition, and the prediction of broad substrate recognition based on DNA sequences. Advancements in technology and the availability of genomic databases are expected to expedite gene discovery, particularly in dicot weed species. Investigating the genetic regulation of resistance-related genes should be a priority to enhance our comprehension of metabolic resistance.

Continuous advancements in metabolic research provide valuable insights into the complexities of metabolic resistance in weeds. Combined with an improved understanding of genetic regulation, this knowledge will aid in combating the evolution of herbicide resistance and developing targeted strategies for effective weed management. By leveraging advanced tools and scientific methodologies, we are making strides toward achieving sustainable agriculture and enhanced weed control practices.

In addition, the public-private partnership model, exemplified by the International Weed Genomics Consortium (IWGC), plays a crucial role in advancing weed science. Through efforts such as hosting comprehensive databases, integrating new datasets specific for metabolic resistance, providing training, and facilitating research coordination, it promotes the sharing of advancements in metabolic resistance research across the scientific community. Utilizing this collaborative approach will further enhance our understanding of metabolic resistance and contribute to improved weed management strategies.

By embracing these perspectives and leveraging the power of interdisciplinary collaboration, we can effectively address the challenges posed by herbicide resistance in weeds, ensuring sustainable agriculture and enhanced weed control practices for the future.

FIGURES

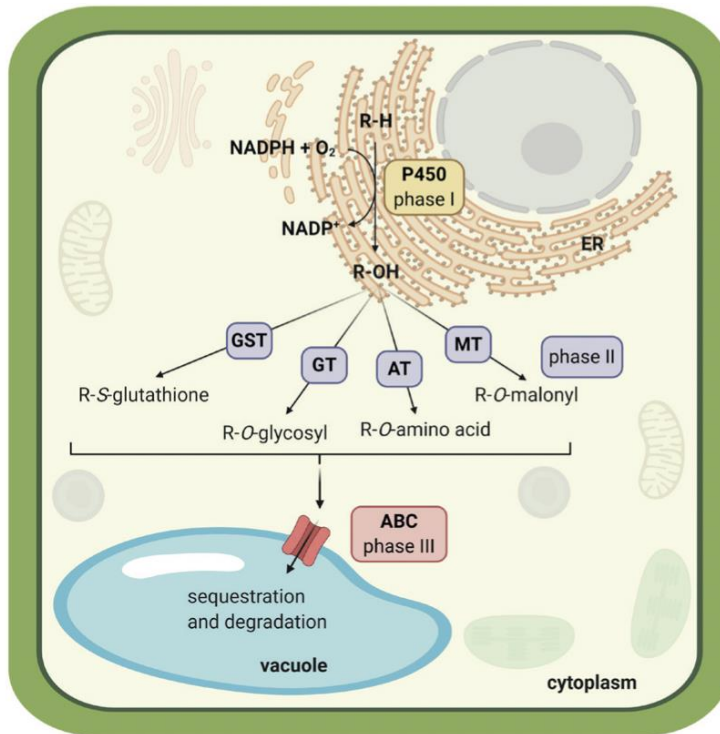


Figure 2-1. Phases of herbicide metabolic process, in which herbicides can undergo when inside plant cells. Note: Figure from “Metabolism-based herbicide resistance, the major threat among the non-target site resistance mechanisms”, by C. A. G. Rigon, T. A. Gaines, A. Küpper and F. E. Dayan, *Outlooks on Pest Manag.* 2020. Vol. 31 Issue 4 Pages 162-168. DOI: 10.1564/v31_aug_04.

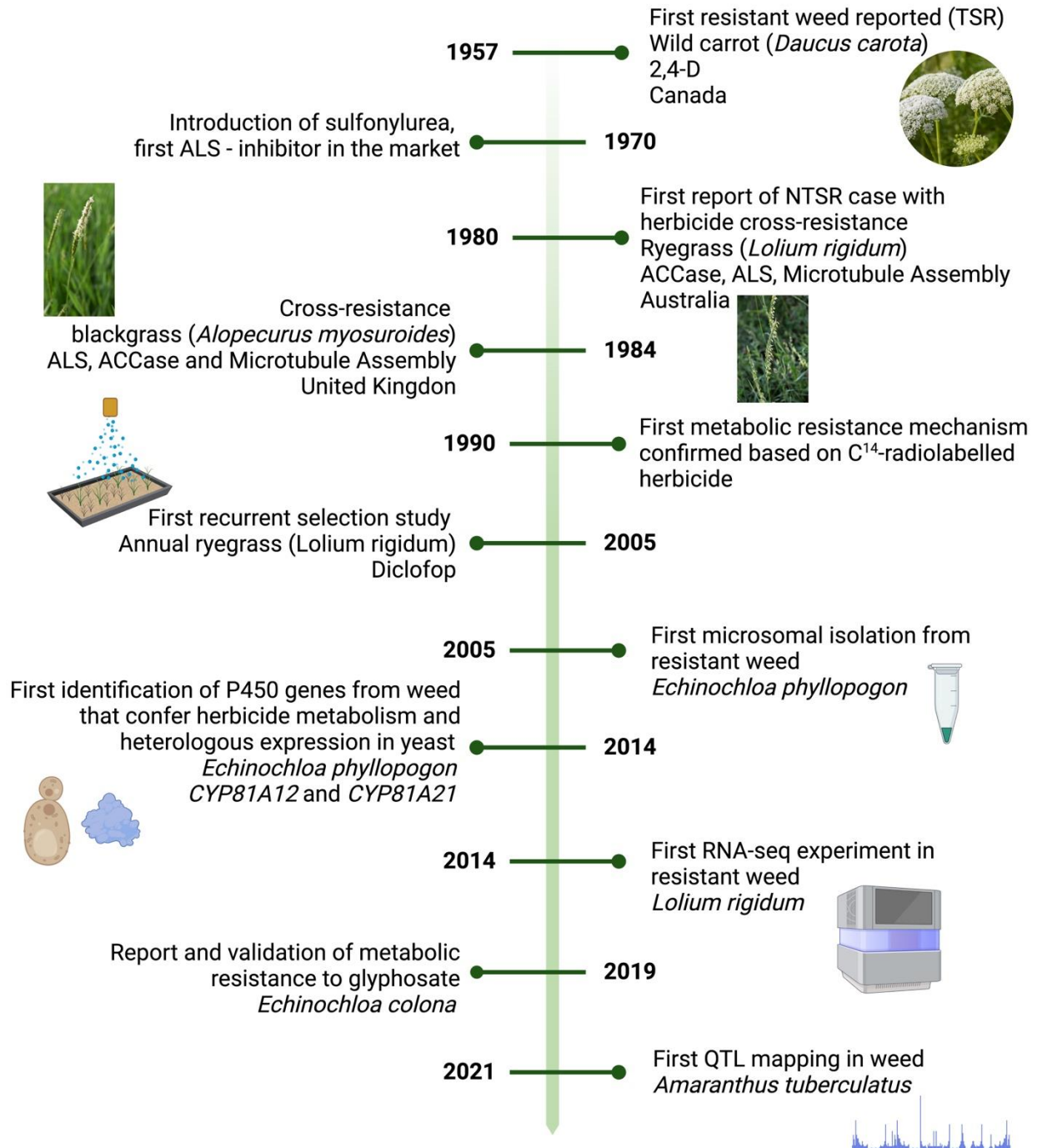


Figure 2-2. Timeline of key milestones in understanding metabolic resistance mechanisms in weeds over the past decades.

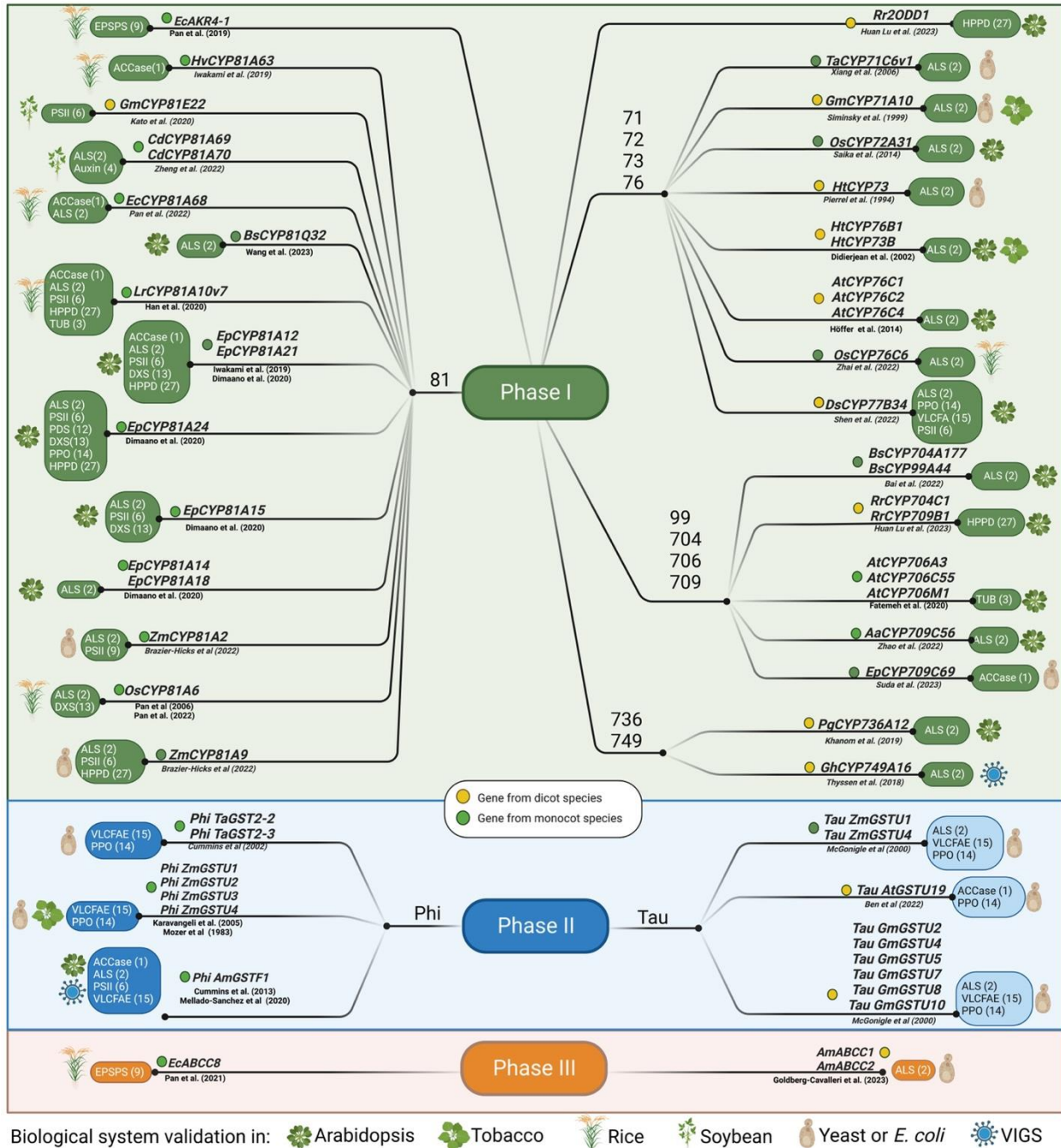


Figure 2-3. Illustration of herbicide metabolic resistance genes in weeds and their corresponding herbicide mechanisms of action (HRAC) for metabolism. Genes are separated by their function in the metabolic process, as phase I (activation), phase II (conjugation), and phase III (compartmentalization and incorporation). Green and yellow circles represent genes found in grass and broadleaf species, respectively. Note: VIGS - virus-induced gene silencing, Aa - *Alopecurus aequalis*, Am - *Alopecurus myosuroides*; At - *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Bs - *Beckmannia syzigachne*, Cd - *Cynodon dactylon*, Ds - *Descurainia sophia*, Ep - *Echinochloa phyllopogon*; Ec - *Echinochloa colona*; Gh - *Gossypium hirsutum*, Gm - *Glycine max*, Ht - *Helianthus tuberosus*; Hv - *Hordeum vulgare*, Lr - *Lolium rigidum*; Os - *Oryza sativa*, Pg - *Panax ginseng*, Rr -

Raphanus raphanistrum, Ta - *Triticum aestivum*, Zm - *Zea mays*. Genes: AKR=aldo-keto reductase, CYP - cytochrome P450 monooxygenase, GST - glutathione-S-transferase, ABC - ATP binding cassette.

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3. CHAPTER II - CYTOCHROME *CYP72A219* IS INVOLVED IN METABOLIC RESISTANCE TO TEMBOTRIONE IN PALMER AMARANTH

INTRODUCTION

The emergence and spread of herbicide-resistant weeds poses a major challenge to sustainable agriculture, as they can diminish crop yields and increase the costs associated with weed control^{1, 2}. Evolution of herbicide resistance is a consequence of consistent selection pressure exerted by the repeated use of herbicides with the same mode of action over time³. This selection process gives rise to herbicide-resistant plants through different mechanisms, primarily classified as target-site (TSR) and non-target-site resistance (NTSR)^{3, 4}. Between these two groups, NTSR, specifically metabolic resistance, is an especial critical issue due to the potential interaction of a single metabolic resistance mechanism with a wide range of different classes of herbicides⁴.

Plants possess a diverse array of enzymes involved in the detoxification of xenobiotics. Within these enzymes, cytochrome P450 enzymes (P450) play a key role in the initial step of the detoxification process, while GST and GT enzymes function in the subsequent steps, and ABC transporters facilitate compartmentalization^{3, 4}. These enzymes have been identified in various crops, demonstrating their ability to metabolize herbicides in heterologous systems, including CYP81E22 and CYP71A10 from soybean^{5, 6}, CYP81A6 from rice^{7, 8}, CYP81A9 from corn⁹, GST2 from wheat¹⁰ and GSTU from corn¹¹. Over the past decade, there has been an increasing identification of genes in resistant weeds capable of metabolizing different herbicides. Notable examples include *CYP81A12*, *CYP81A21*, *CYP81A15*, and *CYP81A14* from *Echinochloa phyllopogon*¹²⁻¹⁴, *CYP81A69* and *CYP81A70* from *Cynodon dactylon*¹⁵, *CYP81A10v7* from *Lolium rigidum*¹⁶, *CYP77B34* from *Descurainia sophia*¹⁷, *CYP736A12* from *Panax ginseng*¹⁸,

GSTF1, *ABCC1* and *ABCC2* from *Alopecurus myosuroides*, and *ABCC8* from *Echinochloa colona*. Additionally, other types of oxidoreductase enzymes have been identified to play a role in herbicide resistance, such as AKR4-1 from *Echinochloa colona* which metabolizes glyphosate into less toxic metabolites¹⁹, *HIS1* from rice that encodes a 2-oxoglutarate (2OG)/Fe(II)-type oxidoreductase capable of detoxifying triketone by hydroxylation and recently ODD1, encoding 2-oxoglutarate/Fe(II)-dependent dioxygenase, from *Raphanus raphanistrum*, providing resistance to tembotrione and isoxaflutole²⁰. The majority of the identified genes are found in grasses, with only a few genes identified in dicot weeds⁴.

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is a highly invasive and troublesome weed that poses a significant threat to agricultural crops and ecosystems. Native to the southwestern United States, this annual broadleaf weed has become a pervasive problem across various regions due to its aggressive growth, adaptability, and resistance to herbicides^{21, 22}. Its dioecious nature, with separate male and female plants, allows for efficient cross-pollination, leading to the exchange of genetic material and the emergence of novel traits²¹. Combined with its fast growth and extensive root system, Palmer amaranth possesses a remarkable capacity for adaptation, including the evolution of resistance to many different herbicides. Palmer amaranth populations evolved resistance to eight different modes of action, including those targeting acetolactate synthase (ALS)^{23, 24}, 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS)^{25, 26}, synthetic auxins²⁷, protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO)²⁸, photosystem II (PSII)²⁹, 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD)^{29, 30}, very long chain fatty acid elongase (VLCFAE)³¹, and tubulin³².

Palmer amaranth has evolved herbicide resistance through two main mechanisms, TSR and NTSR. The most commonly observed cases of resistance involve TSR to ALS- and EPSPS-

inhibitors. However, there is an increasing resistance cases due to metabolic mechanism^{27, 30}, and further analysis is necessary to identify the specific genes involved and their regulation. RNA-seq analysis plays a crucial role in deciphering the genetic basis of herbicide resistance, especially if it is a multigenic trait^{33, 34}. Additionally, with the availability of complete genomes for weed species, such as Palmer amaranth, conducting QTL (Quantitative Trait Locus) mapping experiments becomes a valuable approach for mapping key traits in resistant weeds³⁵. By combining the comprehensive gene expression data obtained from RNA-seq analysis with QTL mapping, researchers can gain valuable insights into the genetic factors underlying resistance and other important characteristics in weeds.

The research aimed to achieve several objectives. Firstly, it sought to identify and validate the metabolic genes associated with the tembotrione-resistance mechanism in a specific population of Palmer amaranth that exhibited enhanced metabolism. Additionally, the study aimed to determine if these identified causal genes could also be involved in conferring resistance in other Palmer amaranth populations that exhibit enhanced metabolism towards HPPD inhibitors. Finally, the research aimed to deepen our understanding of the regulatory mechanisms governing the identified genes responsible for herbicide resistance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material for QTL mapping and RNA-seq analysis

The resistant (NER) and susceptible (NES) *A. palmeri* populations were collected from fields in Shickley, Nebraska in 2011. NER is resistant to atrazine and the HPPD inhibitors tembotrione, mesotrione, and topramezone^{29, 30}. The enhanced metabolism of tembotrione to hydroxy-tembotrione was identified as the mechanism of herbicide resistant in NER population³⁰. *A. palmeri* is a species with high genetic variability. Therefore, plants with a similar genetic

background were generated for QTL mapping and RNA-seq experiment by controlled pairings of NER and NES parents to utilize genetic recombination in an F2 population to minimize the impact of genetic differences unrelated to EMR traits. The approaches for the generation of the Pseudo-F2 plants are in Appendix A Supporting Information Material and Methods and Supporting Information Figure 3-1.

RNA-sequencing analysis

Descriptions of plant population, herbicide application, plant tissue collection, and library preparation are in Appendix A Supporting Information Material and Methods. Raw reads were pre-processed by removal of library adapter sequences, removal of low quality reads, and assessing the quality control using fastp³⁶. Read alignment of the 108 libraries to the available male genome of Palmer amaranth (v1.1, id55760)³⁷ was performed using Hisat2.2.1³⁸. Most of the reads (>77%) aligned concordantly once, while >7% aligned concordantly more than one time and about 14% of reads aligned not concordantly. Mapped reads were assigned using featureCounts³⁹.

P450 gene sequences and phylogenetic tree

Consensus sequences of the candidate P450 genes were extracted from the transcriptome and aligned to the reference Palmer amaranth genome³⁷ to analyze SNPs. PCR was performed to amplify the coding sequences in four samples of each S and R from pseudo-F2 population that were used for the RNA-seq experiment. cDNA synthesis was performed using ProtoScript® II First Strand cDNA synthesis kit with 1 ug of RNA and treatment with DNase I. Protein sequences from cytochrome P450 known to metabolize herbicide in different weed species were obtained from NCBI. Multiple protein alignment was performed using ClustalO and used for tree

construction with Neighbor-joining method using Geneious Prime® 2023.0.1. P450 sequences are listed in Supporting Information.

Quantitative reverse transcription-PCR (RT-qPCR) validation

NES and NER populations were grown and herbicide applied at 91 g a.i. ha⁻¹ as mentioned before. Four plants of each population were used for gene expression analysis validation. Youngest leaf tissue was collected at 0, 3, 6, and 12 h after herbicide application in 2 mL Eppendorf tubes and placed in liquid nitrogen. The tubes were kept at -80 °C for further analysis. Tissue was ground with 3 mm stainless steel beads in a TissueLyser (Qiagen) with intensity of 30 for 1 min. RNA was isolated using Direct-zol RNA Miniprep from Zymo Research. cDNA synthesis was performed using ProtoScript® II First Strand cDNA synthesis kit using 1 µg of RNA and purified with DNase I.

Relative gene expression was analyzed on a T100 Thermal Cycler (BioRad), using SsoAdvanced™ universal SYBR® Green supermix. Reactions mixtures consisted of 10 µL of SsoAdvanced universal SYBR® Green supermix (2 ×), 2.5 µL of forward and reverse primers at 10 µM and 5 µL of cDNA (1:20). Thermocycler conditions consisted of an initial step of 30 sec at 95°C followed by 35 cycles of 5s at 94C and 30 s at 60C. Melting curve analysis was added using 65°C with 0.5°C increments of 5 sec/step.

The reference genes used were *18S rRNA* and *Actin7*. These two genes had the best gene stability as assessed by the NormFinder algorithm⁴⁰ (Supporting Information Table 3-1). Primers for the reference genes were designed based on conserved regions after alignment of *18S* (*FJ669720.1*), *actin* (*HQ656028.1*) and *TUB* (*XM_010693569.3*) from *Beta vulgaris* with the reference genome from Palmer amaranth (CoGe – v1.1, id55760). The candidate genes tested based on RNA-seq results were *CYP72A219_4284*, *CYP72A219_4285*, *CYP72A219_7285*, and

CYP81E8. Another *CYP72A-like* gene, hereafter named as *CYP72A219_4286* was used as a cytochrome P450 not associated with herbicide resistance based on RNA-seq data. This gene is localized around 1200 bp downstream of the gene *CYP72A219_4285* and in antisense strand based on reference genome. Primers for candidate genes were designed on regions based on consensus sequences from the transcriptome and Sanger sequencing of the genes. Primers sequences are listed in Supporting Information Table 3-2.

Heterologous expression of CYPs

To explore the potential involvement of candidate genes, which exhibited constitutive up-regulation in the RNA-seq data, in tembotrione metabolism, a heterologous expression approach was employed. The genes of interest were introduced and expressed in yeast for further investigation of their role in tembotrione metabolism. Coding sequences of the candidate genes were sent for gene optimization for yeast transformation and inserted in the pUC-WG/ampv vector. The gene sequences used were *CYP72A219_4284* allele 1 and 2, *CYP72A219_4285*, *CYP72A219_7285* allele 1 and 2, and *CYP81E8* allele 1 and 2. Another version of *CYP81E8*, named as *CYP81E8_v.18aa*, was synthesized with an insertion of 54 bp in the position 191 of the gene which corresponds to a sequence that is present in cytochrome P450 genes of the family *CYP81* from grasses (Supporting Information). As positive control, the gene *CYP81A9* from corn, known as *Nsf1*, was used. This gene was identified as the major resistance locus in corn for the herbicides nicosulfuron and mesotrione ⁴¹. Restriction sites for BamHI and EcoRI were added to the 5' and 3' ends, respectively. Kozak sequence (AAAAAATCT) was added at the 5' end as a protein translation initiation site. Restriction enzyme reactions were performed to cut the optimized sequence from the vector using 1 µL EcoRI, 1 µL BamHI, 500 ng of the vector, with

incubation at 37°C for 2 h. Reaction products were run 1% agarose gel electrophoresis and the gene band was cut and purified using DNA Gel Purification Kit from New England Biolabs®.

The pYES2 yeast expression vector was used for recombinant expression. It contains the *URA3* gene for selection in yeast and 2 μ origin for high-copy maintenance and GAL1 promoter to express protein (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The ligation reaction was performed using LigaFast™ Rapid DNA Ligation System from Promega. The reaction consisted of 50 ng digested pYES2 plasmid vector, 5 μ L 2 \times Rapid Ligation Buffer, 1 μ L T4 DNA ligase (3 Weiss unit/ μ L), 50 ng of gene and purified water up to 10 μ L. The reaction was incubated overnight at 4°C. The product from the reaction was used to transform *E. coli* using the One Shot® TOP 10 kit (Invitrogen). The transformed cells were plated in petri dish with ampicillin and incubated at 37°C overnight. Single colonies were selected, and gene insertion was confirmed by colony PCR using high-fidelity PrimerStar HS DNA polymerase. The gene sequence was confirmed by Sanger sequencing. Plasmids were isolated using ZymoPure II Plasmid Miniprep Kit.

Yeast transformation and tembotrione incubation

The strains WAT11 and WAT21 of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* containing cytochrome P450 reductase 1 and 2⁴², respectively, were used as a heterologous system to test the hypothesis that the candidate P450 genes could metabolize tembotrione. Yeast cells were grown in glucose SC (-ura) agar plates. Single cells were inoculated in YPD(A) medium and transformed using a modified lithium acetate procedure⁴³. Transformed yeast cells were selected by glucose SC (-ura) agar plates. Yeast colony PCR to confirm the gene insertion was performed using high-fidelity PrimerStar HS DNA polymerase by heating the master mix at 94°C for 4 min before the PCR protocol.

Single colonies containing empty pYES2 or the candidate CYP genes were incubated in 15 mL 2% raffinose medium and allowed to grow for 2-3 d at 30 °C. Cell density was measured spectrophotometrically until the OD600 in 20 mL of induction medium was 5. The exact volume was removed and pelleted at $1,500 \times g$ for 15 min at 4 °C. The cells were resuspended with 1 mL of induction medium containing 2% galactose and inoculated into 20 mL of the same medium. Tembotrione at 1500 μ M diluted in EtOH was applied right after the cells were incubated in the induction medium. The yeast cells were incubated at 30°C at 200 rpm. Twenty-four hours after herbicide application, 5 mL of the medium were collected in 15 mL falcon tubes and cells were pelleted at $1,500 \times g$ for 5 min. The supernatant was collected, and cleaned by adding 5 mL of 5% acetic acid acetonitrile + quenchers, vortexed for 30 s, and centrifuged for 15 min at $2,000 \times g$. The supernatant was collected, filtered through an Econofltr Nyln 13 mm 0.2 μ m (Agilent Technologies), and injected in the LC/MSMS.

LC-MSMS protocol

LC-MS/MS system consisted of a Nexera X2 UPLC with 2 LC-30AD pumps, a SIL-30AC MP autosampler, a DGU-20A5 Prominence degasser, a CTO-30A column oven, and SPD-M30A diode array detector coupled to an 8040 quadrupole mass-spectrometer. For tembotrione, the MS was in negative mode with a MRM optimized for 439.1>226.05 and set for 100 ms dwell time with a Q1 pre-bias of 11.0V, a collision energy of 11.0V and a Q3 pre-bias of 14.0V. For hydroxy-tembotrione, the MS was in negative mode with a MRM optimized for 455.1>419.05 and set for 100 ms dwell time with a Q1 pre-bias of 11.0V, a collision energy of 11.0V and a Q3 pre-bias of 14.0V. The samples were chromatographed on a 100 \times 4.6 mm Phenomenex Kinetex 2.6 μ m biphenyl column maintained at 40°C. Solvent A consisted of water with 0.1% formic acid and solvent B was acetonitrile with 0.1% formic acid. The solvent program started at 80% B

and increased to 100% B in 3.5 min and maintained at 100% for 2 min. The solvent was returned to 80% B and maintained there for 3 min before the next injection. The flow rate was set at 0.4 mL/min and samples were analyzed as 1 μ L injection volumes.

Promoter sequencing and validation

CYP72A219_4284 and CYP81E8 promoter amplification

To investigate the potential regulatory mechanisms governing the expression of candidate genes, the promoter region was sequenced. The aim was to identify any *cis* elements present within the promoter that could potentially influence gene expression. Pseudo-F2 plants were grown in the greenhouse and the youngest leaf tissue was collected when the plants achieved four to five true leaf stage. Tembotrione was applied at 77 g ha⁻¹ rate. Shoot fresh weight was measured at 28 d after herbicide application. Five resistant and susceptible plant from a pseudo-F2 population produced by crossing NER and NES were chosen for promoter amplification. DNA extraction was performed using modified hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) method. DNA quantification was carried out using nanodrop 2000c. Primers were designed by Primer3Plus (<https://www.bioinformatics.nl/>) using as reference the available draft genome of Palmer amaranth ³⁷. The primers sequences used to amplify the genes are listed in the Supporting Information Table 3-2. Reverse primers were designed on the conserved sequence of the first exon for each gene. PCR was performed using PrimeSTAR® HS DNA Polymerase kit (Takara) consisting of 10 μ L 5 \times PrimSTAR buffer (Mg2+ Plus), 4 μ L dNTP mix (2.5 mM each), 1.5 μ L of each primer (forward and reverse), 0.5 μ L PrimeSTAR HS DNA Polymerase, 1 μ L of DNA (50 ng) and sterile water up to 50 μ L. PCR cycling conditions were initial denaturation at 98°C for 30 s, followed by 40 cycles of denaturation at 98°C for 10 s, annealing at 60°C for 15 s and extension at 72°C for 2.5 min. PCR product was run in 1% agarose gel electrophoresis for 30

min to check for a single band. Amplicons were sent for sequencing using the long-read sequencing technology Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT) by SNPsaurus LLC (<https://www.plasmidsaurus.com>). Sequences results were confirmed by blasting the reads to the Palmer amaranth genome and submitted to analysis for common or different motifs using the Multiple Expectation maximizations for Motif Elicitation (MEME-suite) tool ⁴⁴. Nucleotide motifs were scanned for biological roles using Gene Ontology for Motifs (GOMo) tool ⁴⁵ to determine if any motif was significantly associated with genes linked to one or more genome ontology (Go) using *Arabidopsis thaliana* database.

Construct of promoter::GUS vector

For the functional validation of the *CYP72A219* promoter from R and S Palmer amaranth pseudo-F2 population, three 5'- fragments composing different lengths of the *CYP72A219_4284* gene promoter (–1500 bp, – 750bp and –250bp) from sensitive and resistant plants were cloned into vector pBI121 replacing the 35S::GUS promoter. Nested PCR reaction was performed to amplify the different promoter lengths using product PCR cited above (Figure 3-1A). The pairs of primers were designed specifically for each population. A set of primers was designed to amplify a chunk DNA from *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a negative control. Primers were designed by adding a leader sequence, BamHI and SbfI restriction site in the reverse and forward primers, respectively. The primers sequences and their composition are listed in the Supporting Information Table 3-2. The PCR product was run in 1% agarose gel electrophoresis to confirm the different promoter sizes amplification. Digestion reaction was performed for each of the treatments and vector pBI121 using 1 µg of DNA, 5 µL of 10× rCutSmart buffer, 1 µL of each restriction enzyme SbfI-HF and BamHI-HF, and nuclease-free water to 50 µL. The samples were incubated for 15 min at RT. 6× DNA loading dye was added into the samples and run in 1%

agarose gel electrophoresis (Figure 3-1B), bands were cut and purified using Monarch® DNA Gel Extraction kit.

Ligation reaction was performed using 1 μ L T4 ligase PROMEGA, 5 μ L 2 \times rapid ligation buffer, 50 ng vector and insert in a proportion of 3:1. Reactions were incubated in room temperature for 15 min. Transformation of *E. coli* was performed using One Shot™ TOP10 Chemically Competent cells following the manual instructions. Cells were plated in selection medium containing kanamycin. Colony PCR was performed for six colonies for each construct using primers pBI121_F, designed on *GUS* coding sequence and M13_R (Supporting Information Table 3-2) to check for correct replacement of 35S promoter by the ones from *CYP72A219_4284*. Transformants were incubated in LB broth medium, and plasmid were extracted using ZymoPURE plasmid miniprep kit. Plasmid were sent for full-length sequencing and annotation of clonal circular plasmid DNA using long-read sequencing technology from Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT) by SNPsaurus LLC (<https://www.plasmidsaurus.com>). The different vectors achieved were 35S::*GUS* (positive control), *chunk*::*GUS* (negative control), 250_S::*GUS* (250 bp promoter from Pseudo-F2 sensitive plants), 250_R::*GUS* (250 bp promoter from Pseudo-F2 resistant plants), 750_S::*GUS*, 750_R::*GUS*, 1500_S::*GUS* and 1500_R::*GUS*.

***Agrobacterium tumefaciens* transformation**

The heat/shock method was used to transform *Agrobacterium* with the different constructs of promoter::*GUS*. *Agrobacterium* strain GV3101 was inoculated in 3 mL LB supplemented with gentamycin (50mg/L) and kanamycin (50mg/L) in a 15 mL cell culture tubes and grown overnight at 30 °C. Cells were inoculated into 50 mL LB medium and allowed to grow until it reaches OD600 of 0.8. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation at 2,000 \times g for 5 min and kept at

4°C. The supernatant was discarded, and pellet was resuspended with 1 mL of ice cold 20 mM CaCl₂. In pre-chilled 1.5 mL tubes, 0.1 mL of bacterial suspension was dispensed and combined with 1 µg DNA of each vector with gentle mixing. The control treatment had no addition of DNA. The transformations were performed by freezing the tubes in liquid nitrogen and thawing for 5 min at 37°C, followed by adding 1 mL LB medium and incubation for 2 h at 28°C and shaking at 10 × g. The *Agrobacterium* cells were transformed with plasmid pBI121 that harbors a *GUS* gene under the control of different promoter, 35S CaMV (positive control), DNA chunk (negative control), 250_S, 250_R, 750_S, 750_R, 1500_S, 1500_R. The transformants were plated on LB plates with kanamycin and gentamycin as selection marker and incubated for 2 d at 28°C. Colony PCR was performed using the same primers indicated above to confirm the transformation.

Tobacco growth condition and Agroinfiltration

Seeds of *Nicotiana benthamiana* were planted into the pots containing soil in growth chamber under the conditions of 50%–75% relative humidity, 16 h light/8 h darkness photocycle at 23°C. The 4-week-old plants were used for agroinfiltration. Agroinfiltration was performed as described by Liu et al.⁴⁶. *Agrobacterium* strain GV3031 containing each individual construct described earlier was incubated in 2 mL LB medium supplemented with appropriate antibiotics (kanamycin and gentamycin) and then inoculated (1%) into 25 mL LB with 10 mM MES, 20 µM acetosyringone as well as the antibiotics. The culture was grown to achieve log phase (OD₆₀₀ 0.8) at 28°C, centrifuged and resuspended in MMA solution (10 mM MES, 10 mM MgCl₂, 100 µM acetosyringone) to a final OD₆₀₀ of 0.8 and kept at room temperature for 3 h. One mL of the bacterial suspension was infiltrated into intercellular spaces of fully expanded leaves using a 1 mL plastic syringe. Typically, up to four infiltrating spots separated by veins could be arranged

in a single leaf of *N. benthamiana*. Each treatment was infiltrated in three different leaves and in three different plants. Infiltrated area was marked for later analysis. After agroinfiltration, the treated plants were maintained in the growth chamber at the dark for 2 d and samples for GUS analysis were collected 4 d after the infiltration.

GUS expression and histochemical assay

For *GUS* expression analysis, in the infiltrated area, two leaf discs (1.3 cm diameter) were collected for each leaf, totaling a biological replicate with six discs, two of each treated leaf. Samples were collected in 1.5 mL tubes and kept in liquid nitrogen and subsequently stored at -80°C. RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis were performed as described above. Reference genes evaluated were *18S* rRNA (accession number TC23401 - AtMg01390) and *GAPDH* (accession number TC21175 - At1g12900) and its primers sequences were based on previous studies⁴⁷. Primer set for *GUS* gene were designed based on gene sequence in pBI121 vector sequences results. Primers sequences are listed in the Supporting Information Table 3-2.

For the *GUS* histochemical analysis, one leaf disc (1.6 cm diameter) was collected from each treated leaf, totaling three leaf discs for each plant replicate and incubated in 6-well culture plates with 2 mL of 50 mM Na₃PO₄ buffer at pH 7.2, 10 mM EDTA, 2 mM K₃Fe (CN)₆, 2 mM K₄Fe (CN)₆ and 1mM of X-gluc. The samples were vacuum infiltrated for 1.5 min and incubated at 37°C overnight in the dark. The solution was removed, and leaf discs were incubated with 70% ethanol shaking at 150 rpm. Ethanol was replaced by 80% ethanol until all chlorophyll was removed. Discs were incubated with 70% ethanol until assayed.

Involvement of *CYP72A219_4284* in different HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth populations

Seeds from Palmer amaranth populations were collected in the season 2019 in United States with suspected herbicide resistance to mesotrione and tembotrione. Initial screening was performed in the greenhouse using one and two times the label rate of mesotrione and tembotrione to confirm the herbicide resistance. Ten suspected resistant populations (WR2019-274, WR2019-141, WR2019-140, WR2019-137, WR2019-199, WR2019-200, WR2019-044, WR2019-144, WR2019-198, WR2019-273), two known tembotrione-resistant (WR2013-034 and NER) and one sensitive control (IHX_3361) population were used for the following experiments.

Whole-plant dose response

Seeds from 13 Palmer amaranth populations were sown in plastic trays filled with soil and kept in the greenhouse at 28° C and photoperiod of 16 h light. After one week, two seedlings were transplanted into single fiber pots with dimensions of 11 × 7 × 11.5 composing one replicate. The dose response experiment consisted of 11 doses, which were 0, 1/128, 1/64, 1/32, 1/16, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2 and 4 × the label rate (91 g a.i. ha⁻¹). Every dose had six replicates, with a total of 12 plants for each dose. The herbicide tembotrione (Laudis, 419 g a.i. L⁻¹, Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany) was applied together with 2,200 g a.i. ha⁻¹ of the wetting agent Mero (Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany) and 170 g a.i. ha⁻¹ ammonium sulfate using a stationary research sprayer (Höchst AG, Höchst, Germany) calibrated to deliver a spray volume of 300 L ha⁻¹. Survival and fresh shoot weight were recorded 28 d after application.

¹⁴C-Tembotrione metabolism

Metabolism of tembotrione was measured in 13 populations over time in six individuals per population and treatment. Tembotrione was applied on the two youngest expanded leaves of individuals at the four-leaf stage with a total of ten 1- μ L droplets (5 μ L per leaf) of ¹⁴C-tembotrione (Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany) in a 0.3% v/v Mero solution (Bayer) with 3.3 kBq or 200,000 dpm μ L⁻¹, corresponding to 0.762 μ g μ L⁻¹ of tembotrione. Treated plants were kept in a growth chamber at 28°C under continuous light conditions with a light intensity of 500 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹ and 70% humidity. Plant shoots were harvested at 6, 12, 24, and 48 h after treatment (HAT).

The harvested tissue was washed in 80% acetone three times to remove any non-absorbed ¹⁴C-tembotrione, and then disrupted in 500 μ L of methanol with 5-mm stainless steel beads at 30 Hz for 10 min. The homogenate was centrifuged at 6,000 \times g for 10 min. The residue was re-extracted with 600 μ L of methanol followed by a final extraction with 600 μ L of 90% acetonitrile. All solvents used were high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) grade (Sigma-Aldrich, Steinheim, Germany; \geq 99.9 % HPLC grade).

The pooled supernatant was evaporated under continuous air flow at 55 °C and then re-suspended in 200 μ L of 90% acetonitrile using a shaker and ultrasonic bath and then filtered through a 0.45- μ m low-binding hydrophilic polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) mesh for 10 min at 2,200 \times g in the centrifuge. The recovered radioactivity in the filtrate was 92% of the total applied, on average.

A non-treated control sample, spiked with ¹⁴C-tembotrione just prior to extraction, was also included. Separation and HPLC identification of the parent tembotrione herbicide and its metabolites were performed on a reverse-phase HPLC system (LC Net II/ADC with PU-980 pump unit, LC-980-02 gradient unit and CO-2060 Plus column thermostat; Jasco, Oklahoma

City, OK, USA). Chromatographic separation was achieved with a 150 × 2.0 or 3.0 mm internal diameter (I.D.) Luna C18 (2) column with a particle size of 3 µm (Phenomenex, Aschaffenburg, Germany) at a flow rate of 0.5 mL min⁻¹. The mobile phases consisted of 0.05% phosphoric acid (A) and acetonitrile:0.2% formic acid (B) and were run at a 60-min linear gradient from 0 to 60% solvent B, followed by a 1-min linear gradient from 60 to 90% solvent B, plateauing for 4 min. The column was then flushed with 100% solvent A for 7 min.

P450 genes expression

To ascertain the involvement of *CYP72A219_4284* in the newly identified resistant population, a gene expression experiment was conducted. The aim was to assess the expression levels of *CYP72A219_4284* and determine its potential role in conferring resistance within the population. Plant growth and herbicide application at 91 g a.i. ha⁻¹ were performed as mentioned before. Nebraska sensitive population³⁰ was used as a second negative control in this experiment. Four plants of each population were used for gene expression. Tissue of the first and second youngest leaves were harvested before and 6 h after herbicide application, respectively. Tissue was collected into 2 mL Eppendorf tubes and placed in liquid nitrogen. The tubes were kept in -80 °C for further analysis. Tissue was ground with 3 mm stainless steel beads in a TissueLyser (Qiagen) with intensity of 30 for 1 min. RNA was isolated using Direct-zol RNA Miniprep from Zymo Research. cDNA synthesis was performed using ProtoScript® II First Strand cDNA synthesis kit using 1 µg of RNA and purified with DNase I. Gene expression analysis and conditions were the same as defined in the section of gene validation. The reference genes evaluated in the experiment was *18S rRNA*, whereas the candidate genes tested were *CYP72A219_4284* and *CYP81E8*.

Gene copy number

The six most resistant Palmer amaranth populations to tembotrione described above, along with NES, NER and another sensitive population IHX_3361 were used for *CYP72A219_4284* gene copy number analysis. Plants growth, tissue collection and DNA extraction were performed as described before. Genomic DNA at 50 ng/μL was used for relative gene copy quantification using a modified method $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ ⁴⁸. The *ALS* gene was used as a low-copy control gene. The primers for *ALS* were used from previous research studying *EPSPS* copy number in *Amaranthus palmeri*²⁶. Relative quantification of *CYP72A219_4285* was calculated with a modified method ΔCt (Ct, ALS – Ct, CYP). qPCR conditions were the same as described in the section for gene expression validation. Each population had eight biological samples run in two technical replicates.

Mapping of HPPD resistance in NER Palmer amaranth population

Dose-response and segregation analysis.

A dose-response was conducted to define delimiting rate to best differentiate the S × S (NES) and R × R (NER) populations. Seed of NES, NER and two F1 populations NERmale × NESfemale (crosses A and B) were sown on soil and then germinated in greenhouse at 28° C, photoperiod of 16h light and transplanted to 4 × 4 cm inserts after seven days. The dose response experiment consisted of 11 doses, which were 0, 1/128, 1/64, 1/32, 1/16, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, 1, 2 and 4 × the label rate (91 g a.i. ha⁻¹). Each dose was applied on two plants with eight replicates. The herbicide tembotrione (Laudis, 419 g a.i. L⁻¹, Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany) was applied together with 1% v/v MSO using an automated spray chamber (Greenhouse Spray Chamber, model Generation IV) using a TJ8002E nozzle, calibrated to deliver 200 L ha⁻¹ at a pressure of 280 kPa and speed of 1.2 m s⁻¹. Survival and fresh shoot mass were recorded 28 d after application and fitted to a three-parameter log-logistic model using the drc package in R⁴⁹.

Segregation in the pseudo-F₂ population was performed in response to a delimiting rate of 77 g ha⁻¹ with 606 plants in cross A and 1,277 plants in cross B. At 28 d after tembotrione application, plants were rated and shoot fresh mass was measured. For QTL analysis, the 71 and 110 most susceptible plants and 49 and 91 most resistant plants, from cross A and B, respectively, were selected based on survival and shoot fresh mass. Parental NES and NER were grown and submitted to the same herbicide screen and 20 of each population were selected for QTL mapping.

Library preparation and sequencing

Plant tissue was collected before herbicide application and had DNA extracted from single leaves following a modified CTAB method. DNA samples were assessed for quality using Qubit. Double-digest restriction site-associated DNA sequencing (ddRADseq) libraries were generated with ApeKI and sequenced using NovaSeq S4 with 150 bp paired-end reads (Illumina). The average yield was around 7.4 M reads per library and the mean quality scores were over Q30 for all libraries. The sequencing was performed at the University of Minnesota Genomics Center.

QTL identification and markers

The ddRAD-seq libraries were trimmed using trimmomatic v0.36⁵⁰, aligned to the reference male genome of *Amaranthus palmeri* (scaffold file - v1.1, id55760)³⁷ with Burrows-Wheeler Aligner⁵¹ and variants called using a GATK 4.2.0⁵². Samples were computationally binned by shoot fresh mass. The variant sites were separated by SNPs and insertion/indels and hard filter was performed as following for SNPs - QD < 2.0, QUAL < 30.0, SOR > 4.0, FS > 20.0, MQ < 50.0 and insertion/indels QD < 2.0, QUAL < 30.0, FS > 200.0. The variant sites were filtered based on depth (at least five reads) and selected only variants that were homozygous. R/qtl2 package was used to find QTLs⁵³. The analysis was performed separately

for cross A and B and combined A + B. QTLs intervals were calculated using Bayes credible intervals with the function `bayes_int()`. To determine the threshold for identifying potential QTL, 1000 permutation tests were conducted at a confidence level of 95%. The critical F value obtained from this analysis was used as the criterion to declare putative QTL. The functional analysis of the genes present in QTLs was conducted using DAVID Bioinformatics Resources v6.8⁵⁴.

Statistical analysis

The alignment of the RNA-sequencing experiment was used to analyzed differentially expressed genes (DEGs) using DESeq2 (v1.20.0)⁵⁵ package in R (v4.0.4)⁵⁶. Populations S and R were considered as factor of conditions. Samples from cross A and cross B were pooled together for the analysis. Contrast analysis performed were R versus S before treatment (0 h), and 6 and 12 h HAT, and 6 h versus 0 h and 12 h versus 0 h for each population. The data were submitted for shrinkage log₂ foldchange (LFC). Counts were normalized by creating a “virtual reference sample” using geometric mean of counts over all samples for each gene⁵⁷. Principal component analysis (PCA), volcano and MA plots were performed on the normalized gene expression data. Genes with less than ten reads were excluded from analysis. A P-adjusted value <0.05 cutoff and log₂ fold-change of 1 was used to identify DEGs.

The validation of candidate P450 genes in NER and NES was performed in four biological samples and two technical replications. *GUS* expression analysis was performed in three biological samples composed by six leaf disc and two technical replications. Analysis of the *CYP72A219_4284* and *CYP81E8* role in the newly resistant Palmer amaranth populations from 2019 were performed using four biological samples and two technical replications. The mean Ct values and the standard deviation were calculated by treatment. A melt curve analysis confirmed

the presence of a single amplified product for each reaction, based on presence of a single melting temperature consistent across samples for each gene. Relative transcript abundance was calculated using $2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ method⁴⁸. The reference population used for the P450 validation analysis was NES untreated. For P450 role analysis in the newly resistant populations, the sensitive control (IHX_3361) before herbicide application was used as control. The reference treatment used for the calculation of *GUS* expression was control, consisting of infiltration of *Agrobacterium* not carrying the pBI121 vector. Fisher's LSD's test ($p < 0.05$) was used to compare the relative expression between treatments for each experiment.

For the whole-plant dose responses, the statistical software R v.3.5.3⁴⁹ was used for data analysis. Data were adjusted using the three-parameter log-logistic model with the function `modelFit ()` from the `drc` package⁴⁹. The herbicide doses that caused a 50 % reduction in each variable were estimated using the model: $Y = d / (1 + \exp[b(\log x - \log e)])$, where d is the upper limit, b is the slope, x is the dose, and e is the dose that causes 50 % reduction in Y . The statistical difference between the resistant biotype and the sensitive biotype for ED_{50} (survival) or GR_{50} (fresh shoot weight) was calculated using the function `EDcomp ()`. Resistance index (RI) was calculated using the ratio of GR_{50} values of each biotype with sensitive biotype. Graphs were generated using GraphPad Prism version 8.2.1 (San Diego, California).

For ^{14}C -tembotrione metabolism analysis, the identification of the main metabolites M1, M2, M3, M4, and M5 were based on previous results³⁰ and retention time. Peak area (% of recovered) was obtained from HPLC and used to quantify and compare metabolites. The means of six replications of each biotype were compared to IHX_3361 (sensitive) population by Dunnett's multiple comparison.

RESULTS

Differentially expressed genes (DEGs)

A total of 20,846 genes were analyzed for differential expression (DEGs) out of the initial set of 29,758 genes assigned by featureCounts. Genes with less than ten reads were excluded from the analysis. After applying data shrinkage, a gene-wise dispersion curve was fitted using the DESeq2 model (Supporting Information Figure 3-2). There was favorable dispersion pattern, with decreasing dispersion as the mean expression levels increased, indicating a good fit of the DESeq2 model to the analyzed data. The principal component analysis (PCA) plot revealed that PCA1 and PCA2 accounted for 35% and 21% of the variation in the data, respectively (Supporting Information Figure 3-3). PCA1 separated cross A from cross B, while PCA2 exhibited separation of gene clusters based on HAT within each cross. When clustering all 72 analyzed transcriptome samples, two major clusters emerged, with samples from different crosses grouped together, indicating similarities in gene expression response (Supporting Information Figure 3-4).

DEGs were observed in different comparisons. In the contrast comparison of R versus S at constitutively (0H), 6 H and 12 H after herbicide application, R had 37, 2, 9 up-regulated genes and 3, 2, 4 down-regulated genes, respectively (Figure 3-2A). Among these genes, only two genes were commonly up-regulated (Figure 3-2A). For the analysis of the genes that were responsiveness to herbicide application for each biotype, it was identified that 39, 530 and 106 genes were up-regulated in S and 6, 185 and 160 were up-regulated in R for the comparisons of time 6 vs 0 HAT, 12 vs 0 HAT and 12 vs 6 HAT, respectively (Figure 3-2A). The heatmap illustrates the expression of DEGs from these comparisons and indicates a separation in clusters of resistant and susceptible plants (Figure 3-2B).

Several genes associated with the detoxification of xenobiotic substances were consistently identified, suggesting an enhanced genetic metabolism in plants with resistance. These genes included four cytochrome P450 genes, four glutathione-S-transferase genes, seven glycosyltransferase genes, a disease resistance protein, and a detoxification 27 gene (Supporting Information Table 3-3). Additionally, two MADS-box transcription factors of types 23 and 27 were found, indicating a potential regulation of gene expression in resistant plants. The resistance mechanism in the resistant population was characterized by an increased metabolism³⁰, and among all differentially expressed genes (DEGs), our focus was on the four cytochrome P450 genes that were consistently up regulated in the resistant plants. These genes were identified with the IDs MAKER_29886, MAKER_25717, MAKER_10107, and MAKER_25718, and exhibited fold changes of 18.3, 11.8, 6.2, and 5.4, respectively (Figure 3-2B-D and Supporting Information Table 3-3). None of these genes had differential expression at the 6 h time point compared to the susceptible plants (Figure 3-2C), and only one gene (MAKER_29886) exhibited a reactivation at the 12 h time point (Figure 3-2C). This indicates that the susceptible plants responded to the herbicide treatment (Figure 3-2C), where an increased transcription of these genes was observed at 6 and 12 HAT. However, the resistant plants consistently expressed these cytochrome P450 genes without any treatment.

Constitutively expressed P450s, namely MAKER_25717, MAKER_25718, and MAKER_29886, have been designated as *CYP72A219* due to their significant similarity to *CYP72A219* from *Spinacia oleracea* (NCBI: XM_056843192.1), with identities of 76.2%, 74.3%, and 76.3% respectively. Similarly, the gene ID MAKER_10107 has been assigned the name *CYP81E8* due to its high similarity (73.3%) to *CYP81E8* from *Chenopodium quinoa* (NCBI: XP_021724107.1). Hereafter, the genes MAKER_25717, MAKER_25718,

MAKER_29886, and MAKER_10107 will be referred to as *CYP72A219_4284*, *CYP72A219_4285*, *CYP72A219_7285*, and *CYP81E8* respectively. The number after CYP gene name indicates the gene number ID in the reference genome of Palmer amaranth.

SNPs in cytochrome P450 candidate

There were no consistent SNPs or amino acid changes between S or R in important domains of the P450s⁵⁸. *CYP72A219_4284* has a coding sequence of 1544 bp and protein with 517 amino acids. *CYP72A219_4285* has a coding sequence of 1578 bp and 526 amino acids. Both populations share the same two alleles. *CYP72A219_7285* has a length of 1394 bp and 464 amino acids. Susceptible plants have two same alleles and R plants have a second allele with amino acid substitution of Thr307Ser, Phe388Leu, and Ile407Val. The former two *CYP72A219* (4284 and 4285) are localized in chromosome four and the latter is localized in chromosome 16. *CYP72A219_4284* has an identity with *CYP72A219_4285* and *CYP72A219_7285* of 76.1% and 55.1%, respectively. Two alleles of *CYP81E8* were present in S and R samples. The gene has a length of 1470 bp and 1479 bp in each allele. The short allele has a deletion of 18 bp in position 35, and the longest allele has a deletion of 9 bp in the position 37 when aligned to the draft genome (Supporting Information). In the available Palmer amaranth genome, this specific region of the gene exhibits a triplication of PPS amino acids, which is likely due to incorrect assembly. All cytochrome P450 possess a conserved cluster of proline in the membrane hinge. Similarly, the sequenced cytochrome P450 exhibits this conserved region. For more detailed gene sequences and alignments information, refer to the Supporting Information.

In the phylogenetic tree analysis, *CYP72A219* genes were cluster with the *CYP72A31* from *Oryza sativa*, which can metabolize bispyribac-sodium and bensulfuron-methyl⁵⁹. *CYP81E8* was clustered with other P450 of family 81 from grasses but with some significant distances between

them (Figure 3-3). This gene has a low identity when aligned with the other P450s. *ApCYP81E8* has an identity of 40.5%, 41.0% and 39% with *ZmCYP81A9* (Genbank: EU955910.1), *LrCYP81A10v7* (Genbank: MK629521.1) and *EpCYP81A12* (Genbank:AB818460.1), known to metabolize herbicides in grasses ^{9, 16, 60, 61}.

P450 qPCR validation

To confirm the upregulation of candidate cytochrome P450 genes in NER plants, their gene expression was measured before and after the application of tembotrione. The genes *CYP72A219_4284*, *CYP72A219_4285*, and *CYP72A219_7285* were upregulated in NER plants at 3, 6, and 12 HAT, respectively (Figure 3-4). Among the *CYP72A219* genes, *CYP72A219_4284* had a higher upregulation at 3 and 6 h after herbicide treatment. Additionally, *CYP81E8*, located on chromosome 4, had upregulation specifically at the 6 h time point following herbicide treatment (Figure 3-4). In contrast, *CYP72A219_4286*, which was not upregulated in the RNA-seq data, displayed similar results, indicating a lack of responsiveness to herbicides. These observations deviate from those obtained in the RNA-seq analysis, which indicated that these genes are constitutively expressed in resistant plants (Figure 3-2). However, this discrepancy arises due to the utilization of the parental populations NES and NER for gene validation, which exhibit significant variation in their response to tembotrione. Consequently, these results may differ from those identified in the RNA-seq analysis. Nevertheless, despite the disparity, the consistency of these findings indicates that the upregulation of these genes in NER plants differs from that in NES plants.

***CYP72A219* metabolizes tembotrione**

The yeast strains WAT11 and WAT21 were genetically transformed using the pYES2 vector containing the candidate cytochrome P450 genes. Following a 24 h incubation period with

tembotrione, some transformed yeast treatments converted tembotrione into hydroxy-tembotrione. The chromatogram of the empty vector pYES2 revealed solely the presence of the parent tembotrione peak at a retention time of 2.9 min (Figure 3-5). Notably, the *Nsf1* gene from corn exhibited a pronounced affinity for tembotrione, resulting in the production of a hydroxy-tembotrione peak at a retention time of 2.7 min and a dihydroxy tembotrione peak at 2.5 min (Figure 3-5). Among all the candidate P450 genes tested, only *CYP72A219_4284* demonstrated the ability to convert the parent tembotrione into hydroxy-tembotrione. Both alleles of this gene in either the WAT11 or WAT21 strain were capable of metabolizing the herbicide. Conversely, *CYP72A219_4285*, *CYP72A219_7285*, and *CYP81E8* did not exhibit any ability to metabolize tembotrione. Based on these results, it can be concluded that only *CYP72A219_4284* possesses the capacity to recognize the tembotrione molecule and effectively metabolize it.

CYPs promoter analysis

The DNA segment amplified upstream *CYP81E8* was 1,250 base pairs for both the sensitive and resistant plants (Figure 3-6). For the promoter of the *CYP72A219_4284* gene on chromosome four (MAKER-25717), the primers amplified regions ranging from 1991 to 2004 base pairs for S plants and from 1747 to 1768 base pairs for R plants. The needle alignment between two samples revealed 100% identity between the promoters of S and R plants for *CYP81E8* promoter (Supporting Information Figure 3-5), indicating there was no difference between S and R plants, except for one S sample that exhibited a higher similarity to the genome sequence (Figure 3-6A). In contrast, needle alignment of *CYP72A219_4284* promoter revealed sequence differences between the samples S and R, with identity of 76.8% (Supporting Information Figure 3-5). Resistant plants had unique insertions, such as a cytosine at position 45 base pairs, an eight-base-pair insertion at position 458 base pairs, an eight-base-pair insertion at

position 1247 base pairs upstream, and a 31-base-pair insertion at position 1291 base pairs upstream. Sensitive plants, on the other hand, had unique insertions, including a 13-base-pair insertion at position 82, a 10-base-pair insertion at position 309 base pairs, and a 277-base-pair insertion at position 746 base pairs upstream of the gene (Figure 3-6B and Supporting Information Figure 3-5). The 277-base-pair insertion in sensitive plants was further analyzed by blasting against the Palmer amaranth genome, resulting in hits on chromosomes 16, 4, and 9 were found, which indicates a genetic variability within the sensitive population.

A total of fifteen significant binding-site motifs were identified in the promoter region of *CYP81E8*. Interestingly, all of these motifs were found in both sensitive (S) and resistant (R) promoters (Supporting Information Figure 3-6). In the case of the *CYP72A219_4284* promoter, a total of twenty-five motifs were discovered. Among these, two motifs were specific to the S promoter, two were specific to the R promoter, and twenty-one motifs were shared between S and R (Figure 3-7 and Supporting Information Figure 3-6). Notably, the R promoter exhibited replication of four motifs. The specific function of the R motif (MAAGYMKMATTTACM) in the *CYP72A219_4284* promoter was not determined using GOMo analysis. However, the motif GTTRRTKWGKCTTKWWRKCWTKMWGATWWWTACTRYTAWTAYMWYTSTCT was identified as a binding site for transcription factors such as MYB88 (AT2G02820), suppressor factor AIF1 (AT3G05800), and abiotic stress-responsive transcription factor DREB (AT1G77200) based on GOMo analysis. Additionally, the motifs TCWYYMTTTTTTCTCCATCATACAAAATAAATGAGACTGW, which is a binding site for zinc finger transcription factors like C2H2-type (AT2G28710), and CTAATRCTYATTTTYAAATG, which is a binding site for NAC transcription factor NAC050 (AT3G10480), were duplicated in the R promoter (Figure 3-7). Furthermore, the motif

GTTATTTAGTAACTTWKYGTD, which serves as a binding site for the MYB gene transcription factor, was triplicated in the R promoter (Figure 3-7). Based on these findings, it appears that the high expression of *CYP81E8* in HPPD-resistant plants may be regulated by a trans-regulatory element. Conversely, the constitutive increased expression of *CYP72A219_4284* may be regulated by a *cis*-element due to differences in the promoter sequence that co-segregate with resistance in the pseudo-F2 generation, however, a *trans*-element is not discarded.

Transient GUS expression and histochemical analysis

GUS expression was analyzed 96 h after Agroinfiltration, where the vector pBI121 carrying different promoters with the *GUS* gene was used. The *35S::GUS* construct, serving as the positive control, exhibited a robust upregulation of the *GUS* gene. Similarly, the *750_R::GUS* and *1500_R::GUS* promoters had the highest average *GUS* expression compared to other treatments. These two treatments did not differ significantly from the *35S::GUS* control; however, due to the variability in the data, they also did not differ significantly from the negative control *chunk::GUS* (Figure 3-8A). While results were not statistically significant, the promoters derived from resistant plants with lengths of 750 bp and 1,500 bp demonstrated a trend of increased *GUS* expression. These findings were further supported by the *GUS* histochemical assay, which revealed a stronger intense blue reaction in these two treatments (Figure 3-8B).

Whole-plant dose response, metabolism and *CYP* expression in different herbicide resistant Palmer amaranth

Based on the whole-plant dose response (Figure 3-9), the confirmation of Palmer amaranth populations with suspected tembotrione resistance revealed distinct variations. The sensitive population had an LD₅₀ and GR₅₀ parameters of 22.8 g and 7.3 g, respectively, and the suspected resistant populations had a significantly higher LD₅₀ values ranging from 55.4 g (WR2019-141)

to 183 g (WR2019-137) (Figure 3-9C). Similarly, for GR₅₀, the resistant populations ranged from 19.8 g (WR2019-199) to 50.1 g (USA 12001) (Figure 3-9D). In general, the resistance index ranged from 2.4 (WR2019-144) to 7.9 (WR2019-044) for LD₅₀ and from 2.7 (WR2019-199) to 6.8 (WR2019-137) for GR₅₀ (Figure 3-9C and D). The findings conclusively establish resistance to tembotrione in all populations examined, demonstrating varying levels of resistance across the tested samples. The logistic parameter tables are indicated in the Supporting Information Table 3-4 and 3-5.

Tembotrione metabolism was assessed in the Palmer amaranth populations using ¹⁴C herbicide (Figure 3-10). The hypothesis was that enhanced metabolism in the field-collected populations is the main mechanism of resistance, similar to the previously studied tembotrione-resistant population NER³⁰. The reverse-phase HPLC method was able to detect the five main metabolites and parental tembotrione. The method used in the present study is slightly different from the previous study of tembotrione metabolism³⁰, hence, retention times are slightly different. Parental tembotrione had a retention time of 66.9 min and its major metabolites had retention times of 47.3 (M1), 50.1 (M2), 56.3 (M3), 59.0 (M4), and 67.7 min (M5) (Supporting Information Figure 3-7 and 3-8).

In the previous study, the metabolic pathway of HPPD in herbicide-resistant plants was thoroughly examined and discussed (Supporting Information Figure 3-7). NER population had enhanced metabolism of tembotrione to hydroxy-tembotrione at a faster rate than NES, occurring as early as 6 HAT³⁰. In our study, there was no difference in the metabolites peak areas at 6 HAT; however, NER had a smaller peak of parental ¹⁴C-tembotrione than sensitive plants at this time point. When 90% of the parental ¹⁴C-tembotrione was detected in sensitive plants, in NER it was detected only 59% of total recovered ¹⁴C-tembotrione. The same results were found in

WR2019-140, -137, -199, -200, -044, -198 and -273 populations, which showed smaller area peak of parental ¹⁴C-tembotrione at 6 HAT than sensitive plants, with a range of 52 to 67 % of total recovered.

Analyzing the hydroxy-tembotrione (M3/M4), the main metabolite which confer herbicide resistance, NER had higher % area peak than sensitive population at 12 HAT. The other resistant populations were similar, except for WR2019-044 and WR2019-273. NER and WR2019-034, -274, -141, -140, -137, -199, -200 had a higher hydroxy-tembotrione peak than sensitive plants at 24 h and along with WR2019-044 at 48 h after herbicide application (Figure 3-10D). M3 and M4 despite having two separate peaks, were identified to have the same mass, suggesting they are isomers with the hydroxy group attached in different locations of the tembotrione³⁰ (Supporting Information Figure 3-7). The faster hydroxy-tembotrione production in the majority of the populations suggests that enhanced metabolism capacity is the main mechanism of resistance of these populations (Supporting Information Figure 3-7).

The production of M1 was higher in some population at 24 HAT than sensitive and NER. The production of M2 was not detected in the majority of the populations. The production of M5 was lower or higher in different populations when compared to sensitive plants. Altogether, the different metabolites production among the populations, suggests a secondary different pathway through tembotrione can be metabolized. Different resistance mechanisms than enhanced metabolism could be associated in the populations WR2019-273. This conclusion arises from the observation that this population had minimal hydroxy-tembotrione production across various time points (Figure 3-10). However, this observation can be attributed to the lower level of resistance detected in this population (Figure 3-9).

With the hypothesis that *CYP72A219_4284* gene is involved in the metabolism of tembotrione in the newly characterized tembotrione-resistant populations collected from the field in 2019, gene expression analysis was performed. *CYP72A219_4284* was upregulated in majority of the resistant populations, either before or 6 h after herbicide application (Figure 3-11). The populations WR2019-034, -137, -140, -199, and -274 had a significantly higher relative expression compared to the sensitive population of 363.6, 350.8, 539.9, 335.0 and 657.8. Other populations, including NER, WR2019-141, -144, and -198, had over 100-fold up-regulation of *CYP72A219_4284* compared to the sensitive population; however, due to data variability within each population the data was not significant, indicating potential segregation. At 6 h after herbicide application, expression of *CYP72A219_4284* responded even in sensitive plants (292.7), but this gene had higher expression at this time point in the resistant populations WR2019-034, -137, -140, -199, and -274. The newly identified tembotrione-resistant populations collected in 2019 demonstrated constitutive and responsiveness overexpression of the *CYP72A219_4284* gene, with some populations even exhibiting higher expression levels than NER. In contrast, the expression of *CYP81E8* was not constitutively or responsiveness to tembotrione treatment in Palmer amaranth populations, except in WR2019-140 (Figure 3-11). The gene copy number of *CYP72A219_4284* remained consistent across all resistant populations when compared to sensitive plants (Supporting Information Figure 3-9). Therefore, the increased expression of this *CYP72A219_4284* is not due to increased gene copy number. The higher gene expression of *CYP72A219_4284*, constitutively and after tembotrione application in resistant plants, suggests its crucial role in herbicide resistance in Palmer amaranth, potentially attributed to enhanced metabolism.

Degree of dominance and QTL identification

Increasing doses of tembotrione were applied to parental NER and NES plants together with two F1 populations generated from two crosses. The sensitive NES population had an ED₅₀ of 7.9 g and NER had an ED₅₀ of 37.3 g (Table 3-1). The ED₅₀ found in the present study was smaller than the one previously reported for these populations³⁰; however, the resistance index (RI) between these two populations was similar. In the present dose-response the RI was 4 compared with 3.3 from the previous study³⁰. Both F1 populations were intermediate between NES and NER in response to tembotrione (Figure 3-12), having ED₅₀ of 16.6 and 23.6 g, respectively, for cross A and B (Table 3-1). The degree of dominance was calculated and indicated that HPPD resistance in NER is a co-dominant or semi-dominant trait (cross A = 0.42 and cross B = 0.67) based on the formula proposed by Bourguet and Raymond (1998)⁶². When tembotrione at a rate of 77 g ha⁻¹ was applied in the pseudo-F2 populations resulting from the cross between A and B, they exhibited survival rates of 11.4% and 8.8%, respectively. These survival rates are similar to the parental homozygous line NER, which was cultivated alongside the pseudo-F2 plants and had a survival rate of 12.4%.

Frequency distribution for QTL mapping on pseudo-F2 plants had two distinct peaks for each cross, with one peak each indicating phenotypic similarity with each parental population. A normal distribution of R plants had higher biomass (red bars) similar to the average biomass of parental resistant NER (RxR) population indicated by the dashed red line (Figure 3-13A). The same was identified for S samples, having a normal distribution around the average biomass of the parental NES (SxS) plants (Figure 3-13A).

The variant calling analysis identified over 3.4 million single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) sites in the Palmer amaranth genome. After filtering for homozygosity at each site and a minimum read depth of five, a total of 4,404 SNP variants were detected throughout the entire

Palmer amaranth genome. Genome scanning in cross A did not detect any QTLs surpassing the LOD threshold of 6.4 after conducting a permutation test. However, when examining pseudo-F₂ plants from cross B, significant QTLs with high effects were found in multiple scaffolds overpassing LOD threshold of 6.7. The scaffolds include scaffold 10 with LOD of 11.6, scaffold 81 with LOD of 10.1, scaffold 6 with LOD of 9.5, and scaffold 14 with LOD of 8. Each QTL are accompanied by other significant QTLs nearby (Figure 3-13B, Supporting Information Table 3-6). For instance, in Scaffold 10, there are three QTL peaks, the biggest peak with a LOD score of 11.6 at position 11,877,263, and two others peaks with LOD scores of 8.4 and 7.9 at positions 10,336,852 and 10,337,656, respectively (Supporting Information Table 3-6). The same happened in scaffold 81, 6 and 14 with nearby peaks (Supporting Information Table 3-6). Combining the datasets from cross A and cross B increased the sample size and enhanced the statistical power for the analysis. As a result, the genome scan revealed a more robust QTL effect on scaffold 10, precisely at the same genomic location 11,877,263. The QTL exhibited a higher LOD score of 12.2, indicating a stronger and more significant association with the target trait (Supporting Information Table 3-6). Additional QTLs were found on scaffolds 6, and 14, but with lower effects.

The proportion of phenotypic variation explained by each identified QTL was calculated. For cross B, the QTL located in scaffold_10 accounted for 23% of the phenotypic variation observed in the data. Additionally, the QTLs in scaffold 81, 6, and 14 explained 20%, 19%, and 16% of the phenotypic variation, respectively. However, when the data from both cross A and cross B were combined, the overall phenotypic variation explained by the QTLs decreased. This decrease can be attributed to the absence of any QTL in cross A. Specifically, for the combined

data, the QTL in scaffold_10 explained 15% of the phenotypic variation, while the QTLs in scaffold 6 and 14 accounted for 10% each (Supporting Information Table 3-6).

In order to conduct further analysis, the combined dataset was chosen for functional annotation due to its larger number of genes and sample size. Additionally, a significant overlap was observed between the genes in the combined dataset and those identified in cross B. Therefore, the combined dataset provides a more comprehensive representation of the genes of interest and is thus suitable for functional annotation analysis. The QTLs found in scaffolds 10, 6, and 14 are localized on chromosomes four, eight, and fifteen of Palmer amaranth, respectively, and encompass 82, 196, and 25 genes, respectively (Supplemental Information Table 3-6). Functional annotation of these genes indicates a predominant molecular function of protein binding (GO:0005515), RNA binding (GO:0003723), and mRNA binding (GO:0003729), consistent with proteins involved in regulating other proteins or molecules through selective protein interactions⁶³ (Figure 3-14). The important TFs that were identified includes *DREB2A*, *WRKY* and *GATA16* within the QTLs. The QTLs also include nine zinc finger proteins, four ubiquitin proteases, three F-box proteins, three ABC transporters, and three cytochrome P450 enzymes. A *CYP86A1* is localized in one of the QTLs in scaffold 6, *CYP707* and *CYP71A* are localized in the QTL of scaffold 14, which have small phenotype effects.

For each QTL, multiple markers were identified. In the case of the QTL in scaffold 10, a total of 54 markers were found, while for the QTL in scaffold 6, 94 markers were identified. However, for the QTL in scaffold 14, only a single marker was detected within a 1 Mb range upstream and downstream of the QTL region. The markers associated with scaffolds 10 and 6 displayed a consistent pattern with the evaluated phenotype, where the RR genotype exhibited higher biomasses, while the SS genotype had lower biomasses (Figure 3-15). In contrast, the

single marker found in scaffold 14 did not demonstrate the same consistency as the markers identified in the other QTLs (Figure 3-15I).

DISCUSSION

Metabolic herbicide resistance mechanisms in weeds represents a significant challenge in weed control practices⁴. These mechanisms enable weeds to metabolize a diverse array of herbicides from various chemical families. Identifying the genes responsible for metabolic resistance and comprehending their regulation holds immense potential for developing improved herbicides. In our current investigation, four P450 genes that are consistently upregulated were identified in HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth, a troublesome weed species. These four genes did not have any polymorphisms in the coding sequences between R and S plants. Among these genes, only one, named *CYP72A219_4284*, deactivated the herbicide tembotrione when tested in a heterologous system. Furthermore, our study revealed that this specific gene is upregulated in other HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth populations collected from various fields across US, supporting its involvement in conferring herbicide resistance to this globally significant species.

In the past, metabolic herbicide resistance in dicot weeds was relatively uncommon, with most documented cases of metabolic resistance and identified P450 genes occurring in monocots. However, recent studies have reported instances of metabolic resistance in dicots such as *A. tuberculatus* in 2017⁶⁴, *A. palmeri*³⁰ in 2018, and *Raphanus raphanistrum* in 2020⁶⁵. These weed species exhibited resistance to HPPD inhibitors. Furthermore, in 2020, metabolic resistance to 2,4-D was identified in *A. tuberculatus*⁶⁶. The identification of P450 genes capable of metabolizing herbicides in dicots is relatively limited. For example, *DsCYP77B34* from *Descurainia sophia*, a broadleaf weed found in Asian wheat fields, conferred resistance to ALS-, PPO-, VLCFA-, and PSII-inhibitors when expressed in transformed *Arabidopsis thaliana*¹⁷.

Arabidopsis expressing *Raphanus raphanistrum* genes *RrCYP704C1* or *RrCYP709B1* was resistant to HPPD inhibitors such as mesotrione (*RrCYP704C1*), tembotrione (*RrCYP709B1*), and isoxaflutole (*RrCYP709B1*)²⁰. In *Amaranthus palmeri*, only one study has identified *CYP81E8* as the primary gene responsible for metabolic resistance in a HPPD-resistant population from Kansas, USA (KCTR)⁶⁷. This study found that the population exhibited enhanced metabolism of tembotrione, and *CYP81E8* expression, measured only by qPCR, was implicated as the likely cause of tembotrione resistance. However, our study indicates that although *CYP81E8* is upregulated, it is not the causal gene for tembotrione resistance in the NER population. Instead, we have identified *CYP72A219_4284* was identified as the gene capable of converting tembotrione to hydroxy-tembotrione. This finding represents the first study which validated the gene responsible for herbicide metabolism in Palmer amaranth.

CYP81E8 has been identified as the responsible gene for 2,4-D resistance in *Amaranthus tuberculatus*⁶⁸. In a previous study, it was observed that this specific cytochrome P450 gene co-segregated with 2,4-D resistance based on RNA-seq analysis. However, it did not co-segregate with HPPD resistance, indicating that the genetic association was specific to 2,4-D resistance, but further gene validation was not performed⁶⁸. Interestingly, *CYP81E8* in waterhemp and Palmer amaranth exhibits a high similarity, with a sequence identity greater than 92% (Supporting Information). A similar behavior of *CYP81E8* was observed in this study, with higher expression levels in resistant plants of Palmer amaranth; however, when tested in a heterologous system, this gene did not inactivate tembotrione. Based on this finding, we hypothesized that the NER population might have resistance to 2,4-D due to up-regulation of *CYP81E8*. The NER population had a resistance index ranging from 2 to 2.5, but complete control was achieved when 500 a.e. g ha⁻¹ of 2,4-D was applied (data not shown). This suggests

that the NER population may indeed be evolving resistance to 2,4-D, however, resistance to tembotrione is not attributed to *CYP81E8* but rather to *CYP72A219_4284*.

Previous research has highlighted *CYP72A219* as a gene involved in herbicide resistance in weeds. Through RNA-seq analysis, a study indicated that among other metabolic genes, *CYP72A219* had constitutive expression in glufosinate-resistant *Amaranthus palmeri* plants, with eight times higher expression levels in resistant plants compared to susceptible ones, but no gene validation was performed⁶⁹. Furthermore, *BsCYP72A219*, along with *BsCYP81Q32* from *Beckmannia syzigachne*, was upregulated in mesosulfuron-methyl-resistant plants following RNA-seq analysis⁷⁰. These genes were validated in transgenic rice, where only *CYP81Q32* conferred resistance to ALS-inhibitors. Notably, upregulation of two genes and only one gene being actually responsible for the herbicide resistance, resembled the observed pattern in HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth in the present study. Additionally, an alignment of *CYP81E8* from Palmer amaranth revealed a 92.7% identity with *CYP81Q32-like* from *Amaranthus tricolor* (XP_057543510.1), a recently sequenced *Amaranthus* species⁷¹. This finding indicates a very close relationship between *CYP81E8* and *CYP81Q32* and may even represent the same gene, designated with different names. The pattern of co-segregation and upregulation of these genes in different weed species suggests the presence of common *cis* or *trans*-elements that potentially regulate CYP expression in resistant plants.

Distinct promoter sequences for *CYP72A219_4284* were found in resistant pseudo-F2 plants compared to susceptible, while no such variations were observed for *CYP81E8*. The *GUS* expression analysis revealed a significant trend of upregulation when the promoter derived from resistant plants was inserted in the vector, specifically when the promoter region located 750 base pairs or more upstream of the gene was utilized. Our findings indicate that the promoter

segment positioned at least 250 base pairs upstream of the gene exhibited duplicated cis-elements and motif sequences, suggesting the possibility of enhancing gene expression. QTLs with high effects on the herbicide resistance trait, localized in chromosomes four, eight and fifteen were also identified. These QTLs include three cytochrome P450 genes and ABC transporters. While these are important genes and warrant further analysis, the gene responsible for metabolizing tembotrione was already identified through RNA-seq analysis and validated, suggesting that the new P450s in the QTL mapping might have a small effect or even not be crucial for the resistance mechanism of the NER population. The key findings by the QTL are the diverse set of regulatory genes, including key transcription factors that could play a crucial role in the upregulation of *CYP72A219* in resistant plants. Transcription factors such as *DREB2A*, *WRKY*, and *GATA16*, along with zinc finger family found in the mapping analysis are known for their involvement in abiotic stress responses⁷²⁻⁷⁴. Significantly, it should be highlighted that the identified QTL on chromosome four is located two Mbp upstream of *CYP72A219_4284* gene. This proximity suggests that the transcription factor (TF) within the QTL region may regulate the gene, potentially influencing its expression. This regulatory effect could be particularly relevant due to the presence of a distinct promoter sequence observed in resistant plants.

Promoters of P450s were also investigated in other weeds species. Nucleotide polymorphisms were observed in the promoters of *CYP81A12* and *CYP81A21* in the R alleles of multiple herbicide resistant *Echinochloa phyllopogon* plants; however, these single nucleotide polymorphisms did not exhibit a significant association with herbicide resistance⁶¹. Three SNPs were identified in the promoter region of *BsCYP81Q32* between the R and S variants, spanning approximately 567 to 1207 base pairs upstream of the gene. These SNPs were responsible for

increased expression of *GUS* in tobacco leaves transformed with the gene, suggesting the presence of a crucial sequence within that specific region⁷⁰. Additionally, the researchers identified a transcription factor, *BsTGAL6*, belonging to the bZIP family, which demonstrated efficient binding to the promoter of *BsCYP81Q32*⁷⁰. This finding suggests the involvement of a *trans*-element that regulates the expression of *BsCYP81Q32* in resistant plants.

To determine the responsible transcription factors involved in *CYP72A219_4284* regulation in the present study, further analysis is required. One approach is to conduct a ratiometric luciferase assay using candidate TFs and the promoter of *CYP72A219*⁷⁵. This assay involves the detection of firefly luciferase and renilla luciferase, which can indicate the interaction between TFs and the resistant promoter of *CYP72A219*. Another potential method is the Yeast one-Hybrid assay (Y1H)⁷⁶. This assay utilizes a reporter construct with the DNA of interest (promoter) upstream of a reporter gene. Additionally, a second expression vector is used to generate a fusion between the candidate TF of interest and the transcription activation domain (AD). If the TF binds to the promoter, AD will induce the reporter gene, allowing for detection and analysis. These approaches can provide valuable insights into the interaction between TFs and the resistant promoter of *CYP72A219*, aiding in the validation of gene regulation mechanisms.

In conclusion, our study successfully identified and validated the metabolic resistant gene, *CYP72A219_4284*, in the HPPD-resistant *Amaranthus palmeri* population NER. This gene demonstrated the ability to metabolize tembotrione into the main metabolite hydroxy-tembotrione. The identification of this gene as highly upregulated in various Palmer amaranth populations across the United States poses a potential threat to weed management strategies

targeting this species. We also discovered important QTLs associated with the resistance trait, warranting further investigation and validation.

To our knowledge, this is the first study to identify and validate a gene responsible for tembotrione resistance in Palmer amaranth. Future research focusing on validating the identified transcription factors will shed light on the regulation of P450 genes and enhance our understanding of their regulation in weed species.

TABLES

Table 3-1. Logistic equation parameters and resistance index (RI) for survival (% of untreated control) in parental *Amaranthus palmeri* herbicide-susceptible (NES), herbicide-resistant (NER), F1 cross A, and F1 cross B populations in response to tembotrione.

Population	b	ED ₅₀			SE	RI	p-value
		Dose (g ha ⁻¹)	Lower CI (95%)	Upper CI (95%)			
NES	2.4	9.3	7.9	10.6	0.7	-	
NER	2.1	37.3	31.2	43.4	3.1	4	<0.001
F1 cross A	2.4	16.6	14.2	19.1	1.2	1.8	0.2
F1 cross B	2.6	23.6	20.15	27	1.7	2.5	<0.001

b: slope; ED₅₀: herbicide dose that causes a 50 % reduction in plant survival; CI: confidence interval of parameter ED₅₀ ($\alpha = 0.05$); RI: resistance index = ED₅₀ ratio between populations with NES.

FIGURES

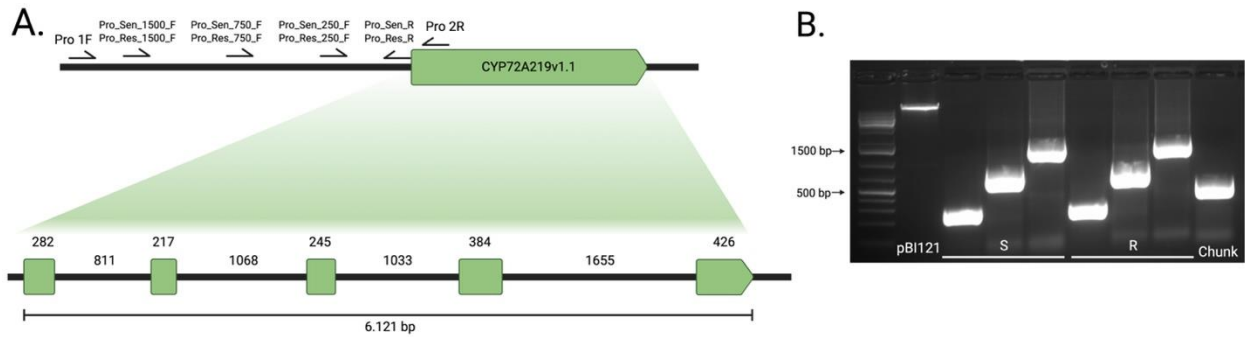


Figure 3-1. Illustration of *CYP72A219_4284* promoter, gene structure and agarose gel of promoter pieces amplification. A) Scheme representing *CYP72A219_4284* promoter with the primers localization to amplify different promoter sizes. B) Agarose gel from the digestion reaction of the different promoter sizes.

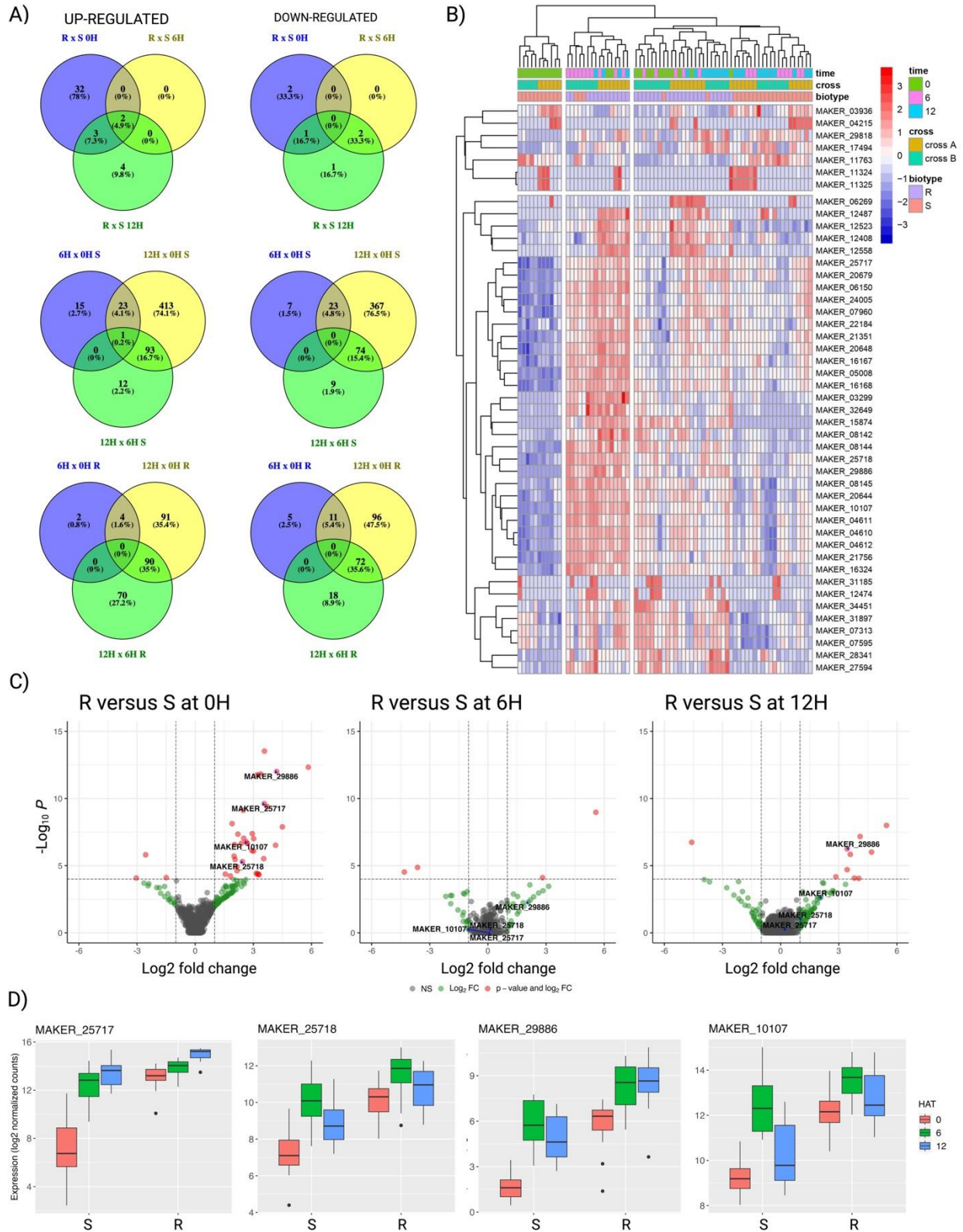


Figure 3-2. Analysis of differentially expressed genes (DEGs) in Pseudo-F2 *Amaranthus palmeri* susceptible (S) and HPPD-resistant (R). A) The Venn diagram of the up- and down-regulated

DEGs indicating unique and common DEGs for 18 different comparisons. B) Heatmap of top DEGs for the comparisons R vs S at 0H, 6 and 12 HAT. C) Volcano plots displaying gene expression differences between *Amaranthus palmeri* and treatments of contrast of R versus S before herbicide application (0H), contrast of R versus S at 6 h after herbicide application and contrast of R versus S at 12 h after herbicide application. Differentially expressed genes with significant thresholds of p-value <0.0001, adjusted p-value <0.05, log₂ fold-change >1 or < -1 are represented by red circles. Dashed lines represent significance thresholds of adjusted p-value <0.05 and log₂ fold-change >1 or < -1. D) The log₂ normalized counts of top four cytochrome P450 genes in response to tembotrione in S and R population. Differently expressed genes had a threshold of adjusted p-value of 0.05 and log₂ fold-change 1.

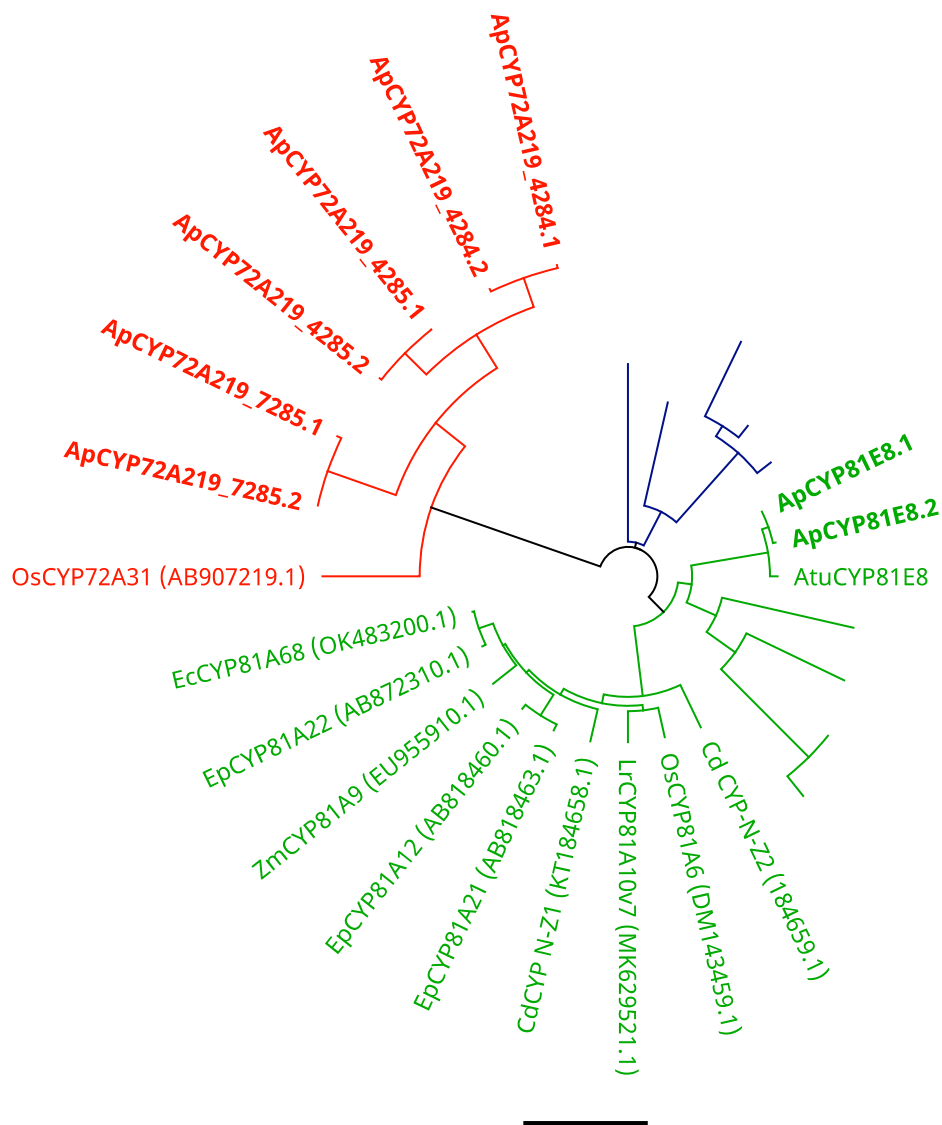


Figure 3-3. Phylogenetic analysis of CYP72A219_4284, CYP72A219_4285, CYP72A219_7285 and CYP81E8 proteins from *Amaranthus palmeri* and other P450s that metabolize herbicides from different species. Ap – *Amaranthus palmeri*, Atu – *Amaranthus tuberculatus*, At – *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Cd – *Cynodon dactylon*, Ec – *Echinochloa crus-galli*, Ep – *Echinochloa phyllogon*, Gm – *Glycine max*, Ht – *Helianthus tuberorus*, Lr – *Lolium rigidum*, Nt – *Nicotiana tabacum*, Os – *Oryza sativa*, Zm – *Zea mays*.

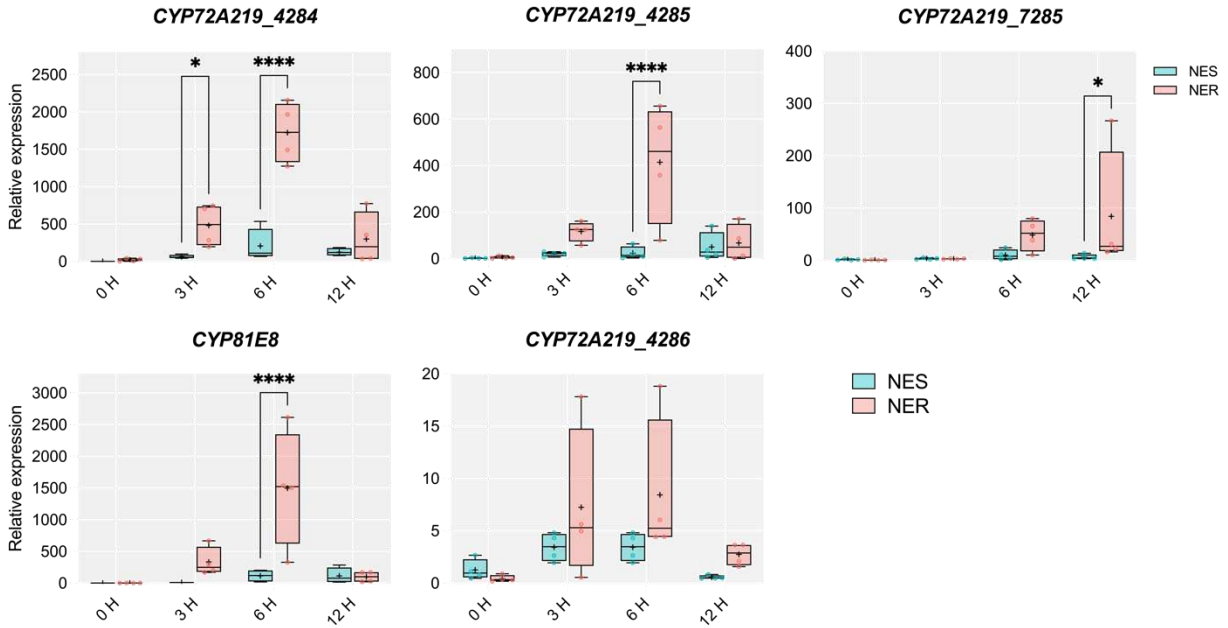


Figure 3-4. Relative gene expression of candidate cytochrome P450 genes in parental NES and NER plants. Boxplot indicates the average, the minimum and maximum values obtained from four biological and two technical replicates. Plants samples were collected before, 3, 6 and 12 h after tembotrione application (91 g a.i. ha⁻¹). The relative expression values were calculated by normalizing to the gene expression of NES untreated, using the average of the normalization gene *18S* and *Actin7*. Statistical differences at each time point were determined using the Fisher's LSD test, with asterisks indicating the significance level: * p < 0.05, and **** p < 0.0001.

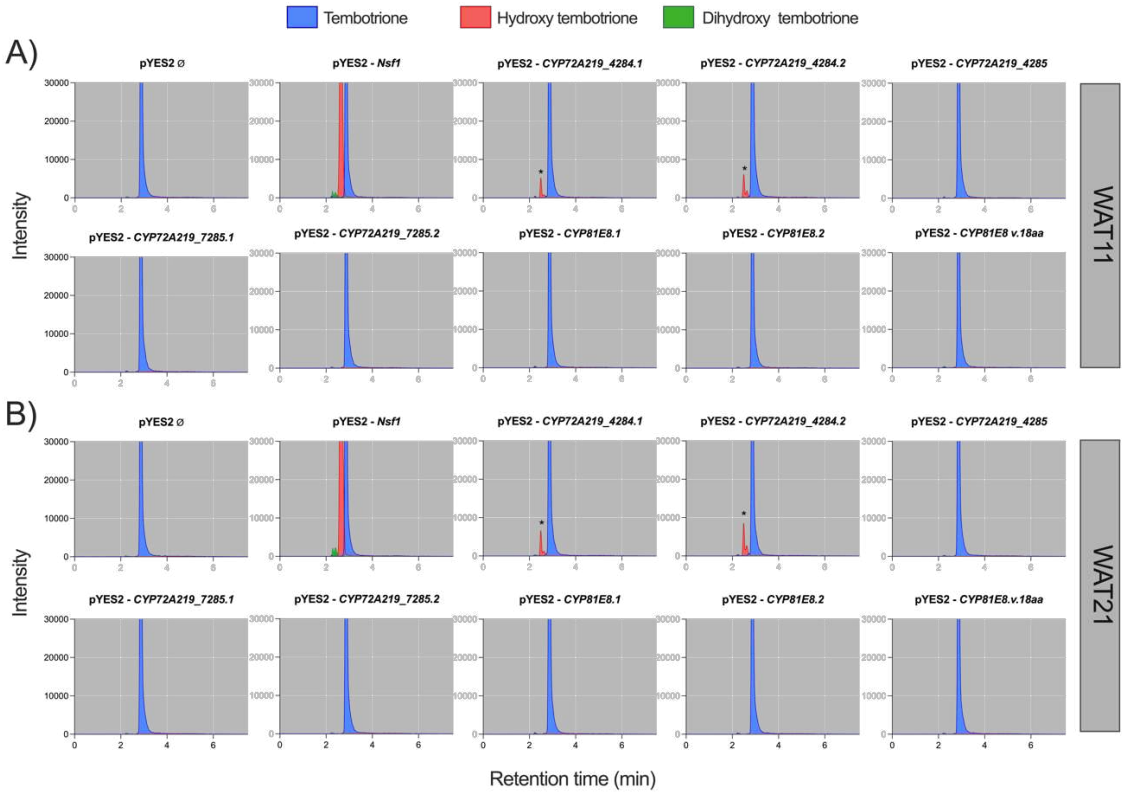
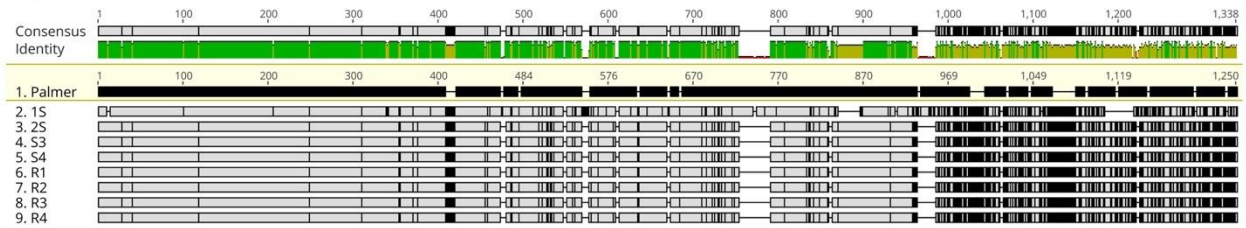


Figure 3-5. LC-MS/MS chromatogram of metabolites formed in yeast transformed with P450 genes from Palmer amaranth. Blue peak – parental tembotrione, red peak – hydroxy-tembotrione, green peak, dihydroxy-tembotrione. A) WAT11 and B) WAT21 yeast strain carrying *Arabidopsis thaliana* cytochrome P450 reductase 1 and 2, respectively. * at least 10-fold higher peak than the background signal.

A)



B)

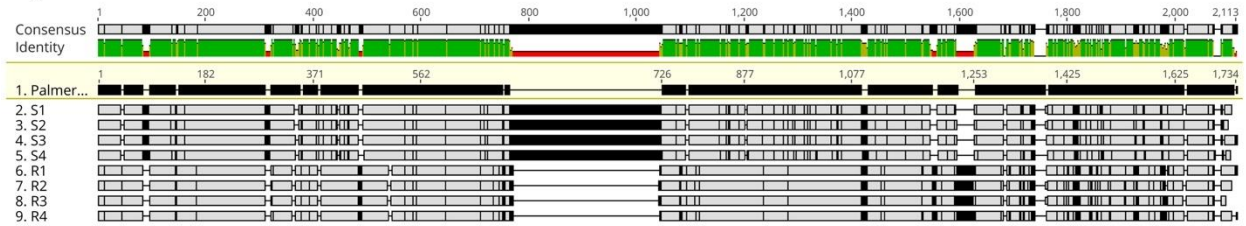


Figure 3-6. MUSCLE v5 multiple alignment of *CYP81E8* (A) and *CYP72A219_4284* (B) promoter sequences. The promoter sequences were reverse-oriented to facilitate the positions understanding. Black space indicates differences from the reference Palmer amaranth genome (id 55760).

Motif	Logo	Presence in promoter	Molecular Function
TCWYYMTTTTTTCTCCATCATACAAAATAAATGAGACTGW		1x S 2x R	TF ZI
TATAATAHMTTATATTTTTRGRTTATAAHAWADTATWWTBG		3x S	TF
GTRRRTKWVKCTTKWWRKWCWKMWGATWWWTACTRYTA WTAYMWYTSTCT		1x R	TF
GTTATTAGTAACTTWKYGD		1x S 3x R	TF
CTAATRTCTYATTTYAAATG		1x S 2x R	TF
CTTTCCATCYCCGTTTTTAAGCGGAATA		1x S	TF
MAAGYMKMATTACM		2x R	-

Figure 3-7. Motif sequences found in *Amaranthus palmeri* CYP72A219_4284 promoter in sensitive and resistant pseudo-F2 plants. TF, transcription factor activity. ZI, zinc ion binding.

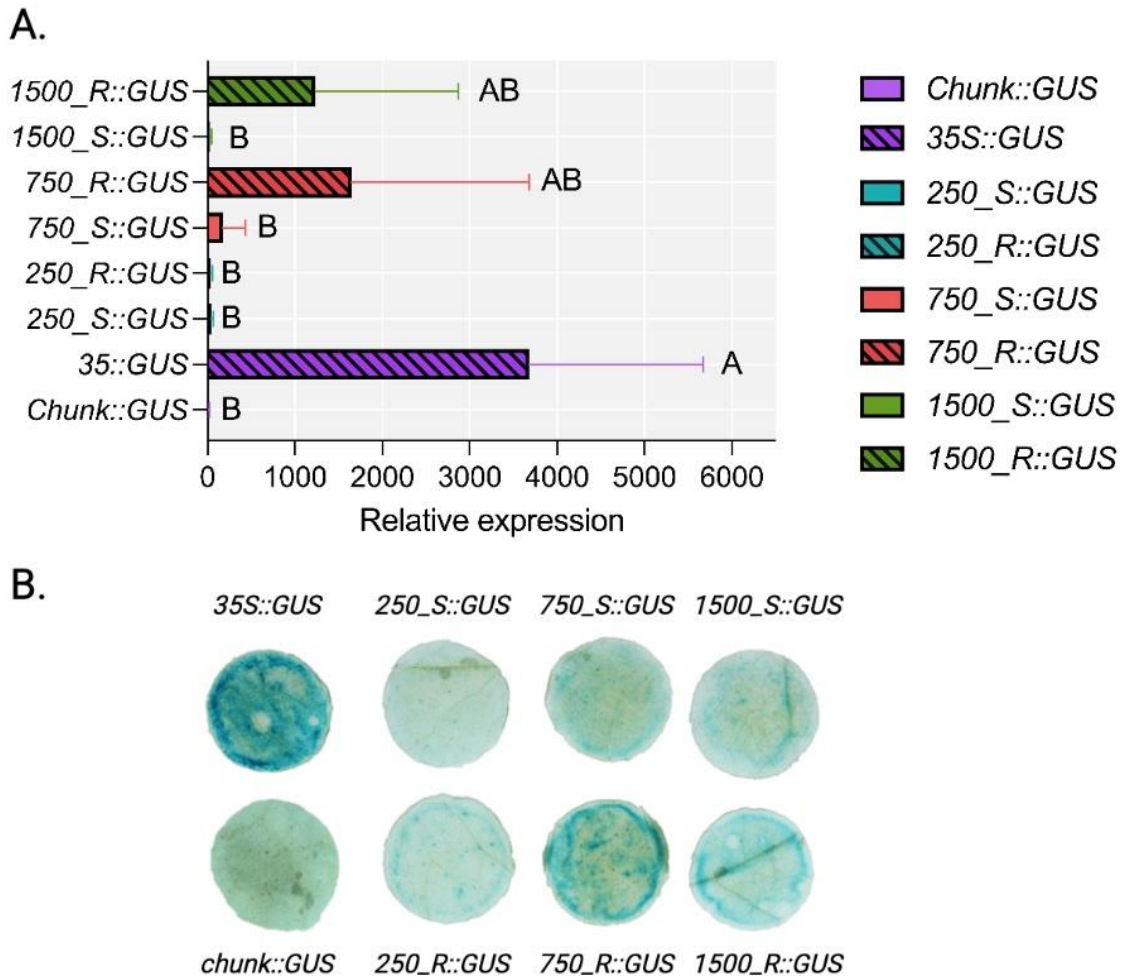


Figure 3-8. Transient expression of *GUS* and histochemical analysis in *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaf infiltrated with *Agrobacterium* carrying vector pBI121 with different promoters harboring the *GUS* gene. A) Relative *GUS* expression in *N. benthamiana* leaves infiltrated with *Agrobacterium* carrying the pBI121 vector with various promoters harboring the *GUS* gene. The promoters included: 35S - Cauliflower Mosaic Virus promoter; chunk - Arabidopsis chunk DNA; 250, 750, 1500 - 250, 750, 1500 bp DNA sequences of the *CYP72A219_4284* promoter from *Amaranthus palmeri* obtained from sensitive (S) or resistant (R) plants. The bar represents the standard deviation. Different letters indicate significance based on Tukey's Test ($p < 0.05$). B) Histochemical analysis of *GUS* expression 96 h after infiltration.

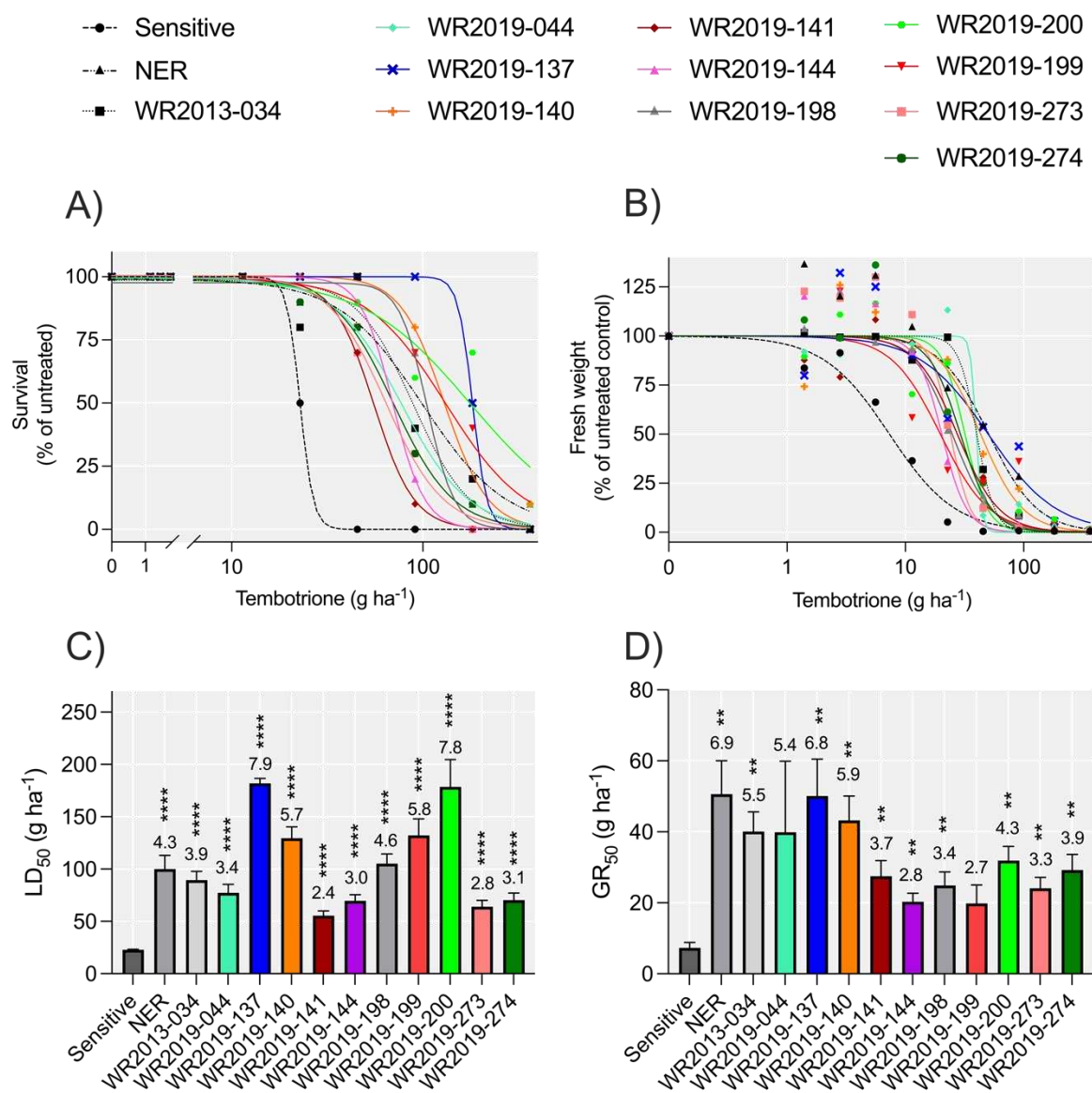


Figure 3-9. Dose response of tembotrione in different Palmer amaranth populations. A) Survival (% of untreated control) and B) Fresh shoot weight (% of untreated control) of Palmer amaranth populations submitted to increasing doses of tembotrione. Field rate 91 g a.i. ha⁻¹. C) Estimated LD₅₀ and (D) GR₅₀ that caused a 50 % reduction in each variable, along with the corresponding resistance index when comparing the parameter with sensitive population. Bars indicates standard error: ** <0.01, ****<0.0001.

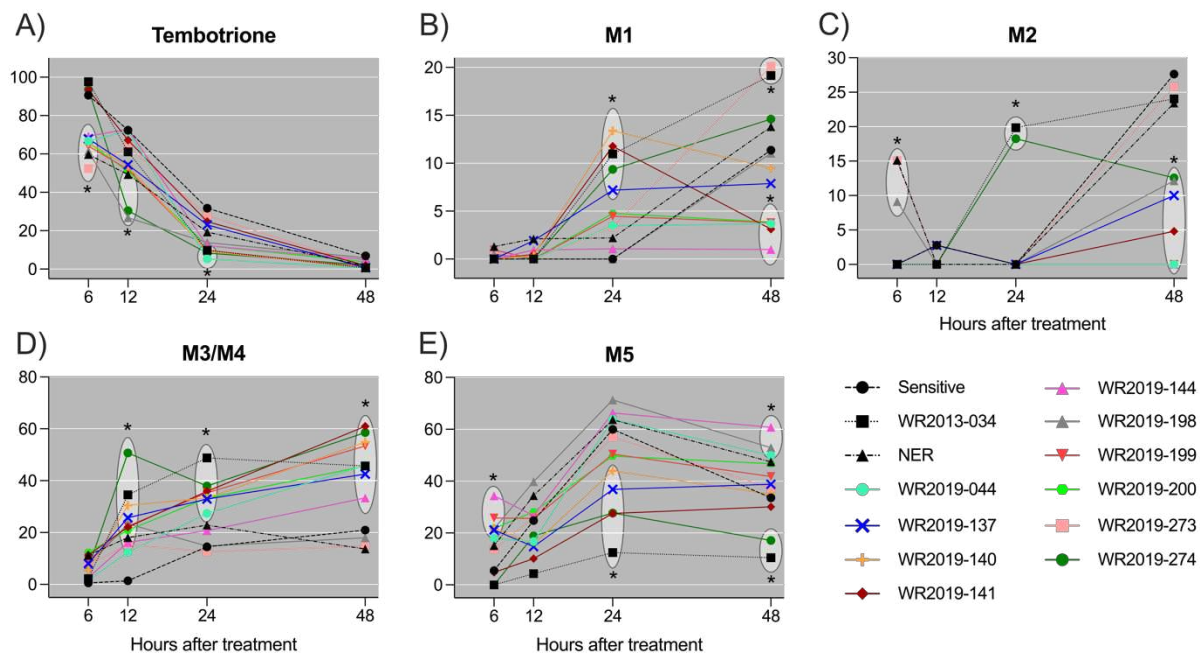


Figure 3-10. Parental tembotrione and metabolites in HPPD resistant populations of Palmer amaranth over time after tembotrione application. Average of six plants per population and treatment. A) Parental tembotrione, B) Metabolite 1, Glycosylated tembotrione; C) Metabolite 2; D) Metabolite 3 and 4 – Hydroxylated-tembotrione. E) Metabolite 5 – Reduced tembotrione. Asterisk indicates significant differences ($p < 0.05$) between each population with sensitive by Dunnett's Test.

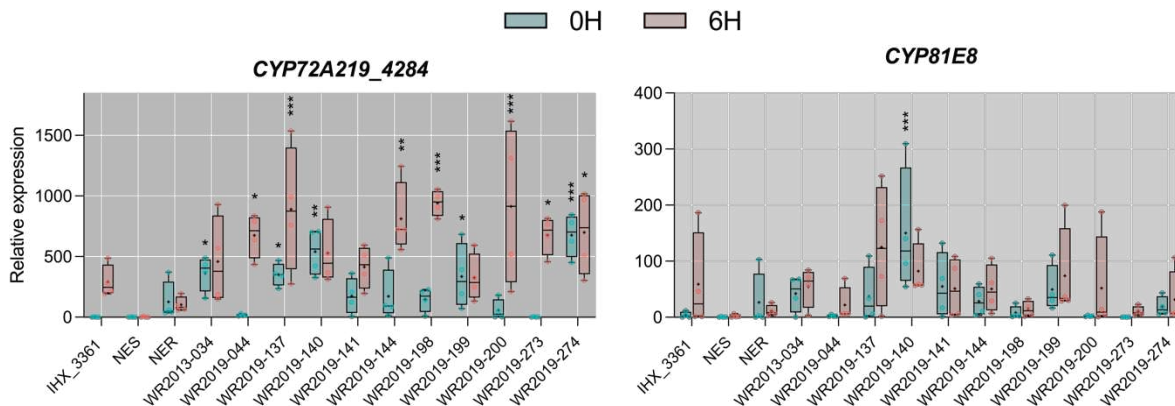


Figure 3-11. Relative gene expression of candidate cytochrome P450 genes in different Palmer amaranth population. Boxplot indicates the average, the minimum and maximum values of four biological and two technical replicates. Plants were collected before (0 h) and after (6 h) tembotrione application (91 g a.i ha⁻¹). Relative expression was calculated using the average of the normalization gene *18S* and normalized relative to the gene expression in the Sensitive biotype untreated. IHX_3361 and NES are herbicide sensitive control, NER and WR2013-034 are HPPD resistant control. The asterisk indicates the statistical difference between each population with sensitive for each time point by the Fisher's LSD test, * <0.05, ** <0.01, *** <0.001.

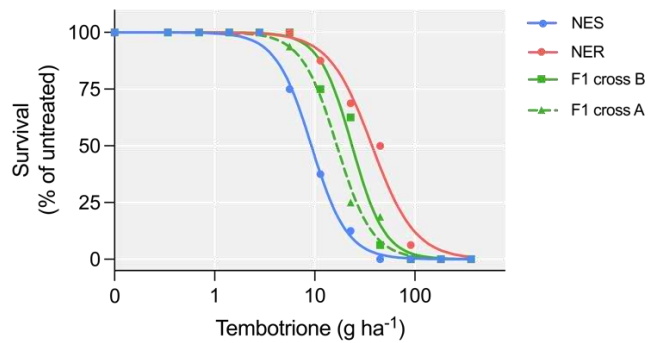


Figure 3-12. Dose-response of *Amaranthus palmeri* herbicide susceptible (NES), resistant (NER), F1 cross A and F1 cross B plants in response to tembotrione.

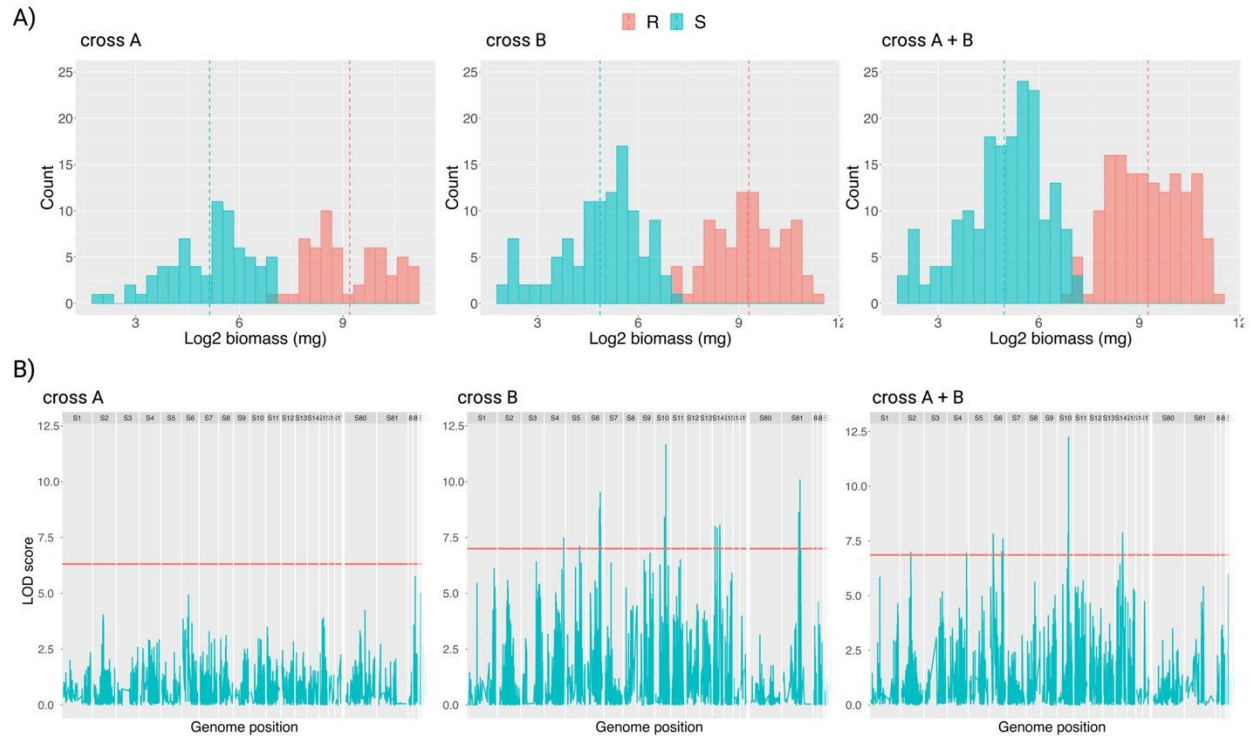


Figure 3-13. Frequency distribution and genome scan analysis. A) Distribution of fresh biomass in plants used for QTL mapping of pseudo-F₂ populations from cross A, B, and combined A+B. Blue and red colors represent sensitive and resistant pseudo-F₂ plants, respectively. Dashed line indicates the average biomass for parental NES (blue) and parental NER (red). B) Genome scan of pseudo-F₂ Palmer amaranth populations from cross A, B, and combined A+B. The plants were treated with 77g ha⁻¹ of tembotrione, and fresh biomass was measured after 28 d.

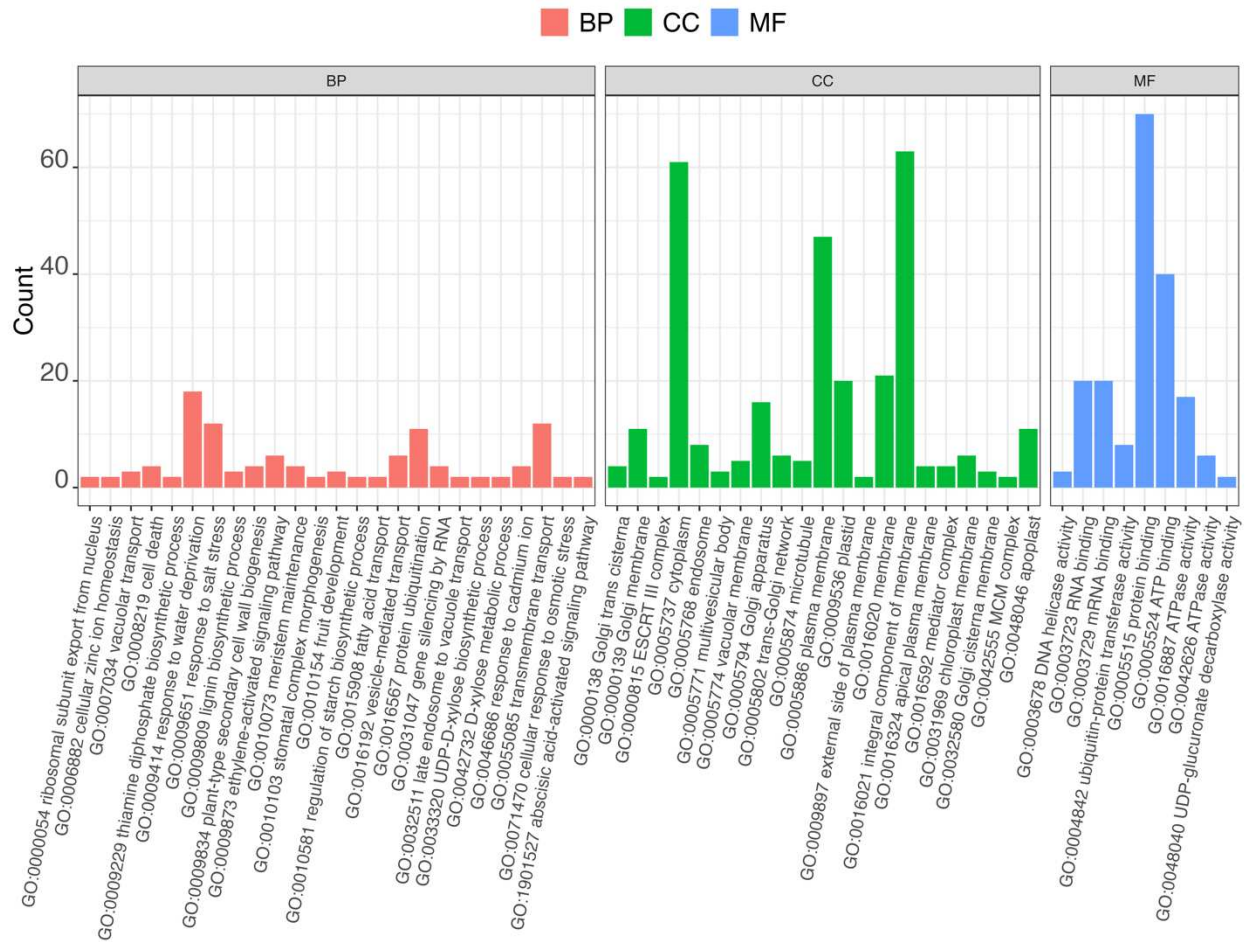


Figure 3-14. Functional enrichment of genes from QTLs of scaffold 10, scaffold 6 and scaffold 14. Detailed information of functional annotations of all the genes based on GO classification, including biological process (BP), cellular component (CC) and molecular function (MF).

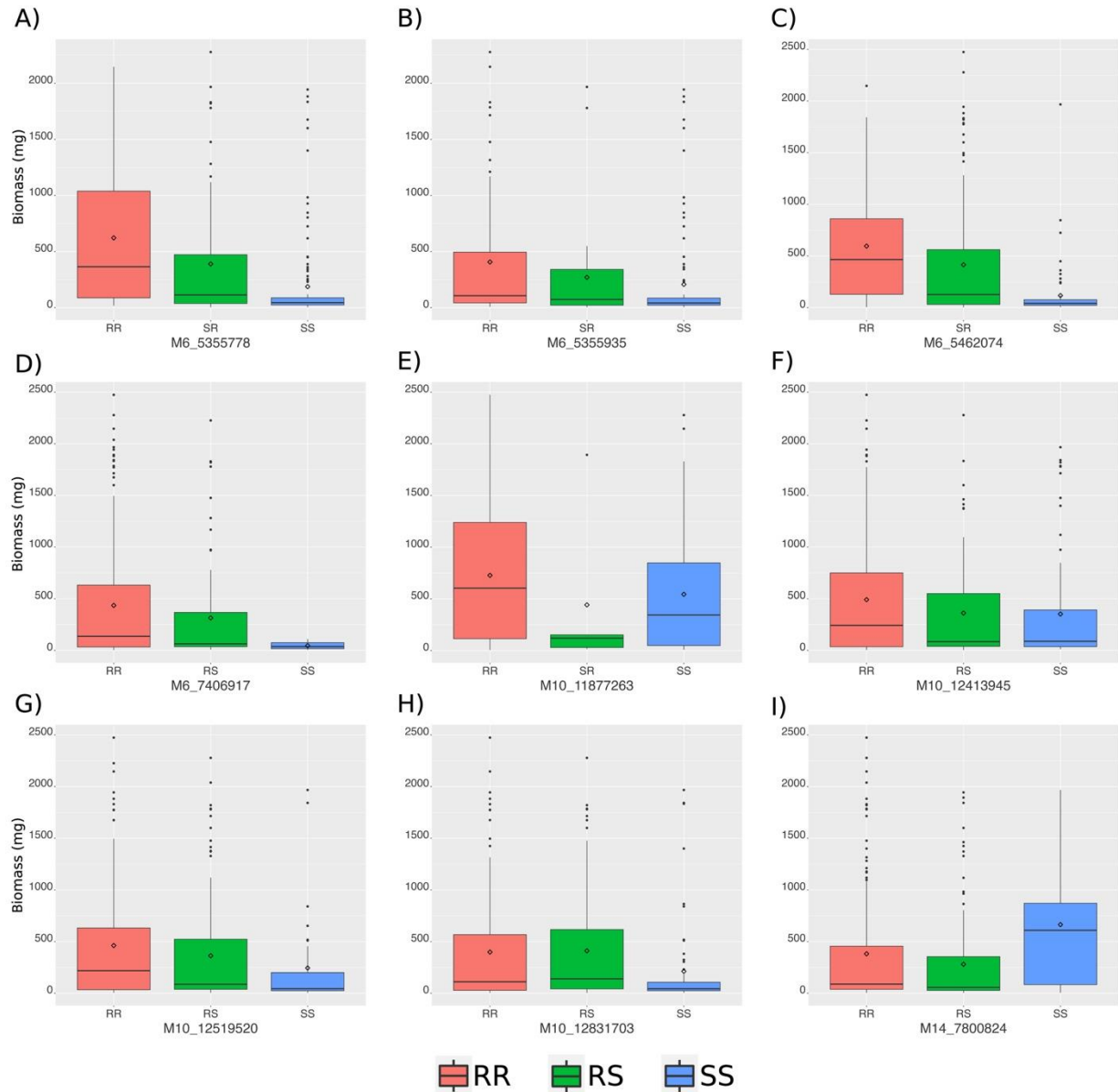


Figure 3-15. Markers associated with QTLs for tembotrione resistance in Palmer amaranth population. A - D) Markers corresponding to the QTL in scaffold 6 (M6). E - H) Markers corresponding to the QTL in scaffold 10 (M10). I) Marker found in scaffold 14 (M14). Boxplots represent the range of biomass values, including the maximum and minimum values, lower and upper quartiles, and the median. The diamond-shaped symbols indicate the average biomass for each genotype.

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4. CHAPTER III - UNRAVELING THE ROLE OF P450 REDUCTASE IN HERBICIDE METABOLIC RESISTANCE MECHANISM

INTRODUCTION

Metabolic resistance is one of the most important mechanisms of herbicide resistance in weeds. Herbicide metabolism occurs in weeds that were selected by herbicides with enhanced capacity to metabolize herbicides before reaching the target enzyme¹. This mechanism of resistance threatens weed management due to its broad substrate specificity to many herbicides from different mechanisms of action². Metabolic herbicide resistance is divided in three phases, known as Phase I – oxidation, Phase II – conjugation, and Phase III – sequestration and degradation. Phase I is mediated primarily by cytochrome P450 monooxygenase (P450) enzymes. These enzymes are membrane-bound, localized in the endoplasmic reticulum, and are involved in the biosynthesis of many molecules including antioxidants, secondary metabolites, and in detoxification of many xenobiotic compounds³. P450s are the most important in phase I herbicide metabolism. Plant genomes have a high number of P450 genes that play a crucial role in herbicide resistance in metabolic resistant weed species².

Cytochrome P450 reductase (CPR) is a membrane-bound enzyme localized in the endoplasmic reticulum that plays a critical role in the biosynthesis of a wide range of compounds in living organisms, including plants, animals, and bacteria. The structure of P450 reductase is divided in four domains, including N-terminal FMN-binding domain, a connecting domain, an FAD-binding domain, and a C-terminal NADPH-binding domain^{4, 5} (Figure 4-1). CPR enzymes arose from of a fusion of different genes encoding FAD-binding, ferredoxin-NADP⁺, and an FMN-flavodoxin⁶. Living organisms require CPR to supply two electrons for P450 enzymes to conduct each monooxygenase reaction with the organic substrate^{7, 8}. The CPR reduction includes

multiple steps for electron transfer. The first step is reduction from NADPH to FAD, then FMN, and finally to the P450 acceptor⁹ (Figure 4-1). The transfer of electrons to the P450 active site in the P450 catalytic cycle relies on a robust and intricate CPR:P450 complex in the membrane¹⁰. This function of CPR makes it an essential component of specialized metabolism.

In contrast to the huge number of P450 genes within plant genomes, for example, 246 in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*)¹¹, 328 in *Oryza* spp. (rice)¹², 867 in *Echinochloa crus-galli* (barnyardgrass)¹³, 694 in *E. colona* (jungle rice)¹⁴, and 323 in *Conyza canadensis* (horseweed)¹⁵, CPRs generally have only two or three copies in plant genomes. There are two CPR genes in *Arabidopsis*, referred to as *Arabidopsis thaliana* cytochrome P450 reductase 1 (*ATR1*), 2 (*ATR2*)^{16, 17} and one hypothetical reductase 3 (*ATR3*) that encodes a diflavin reductase essential for embryogenesis, but that is unable to reduce P450 *in vitro*¹⁸. The isoforms are grouped in two distinct groups with different roles. Class I is *ATR1*, which is involved in primary and basal metabolism. Class II is *ATR2*, which is inducible by environmental stimuli such as wounding, pathogen attack, or high light intensity exposure^{19, 20}.

The hypothesis of this study was that *ATR1* and *ATR2* are the main source of electrons for P450 enzymes and that silencing these genes would decrease the activity of P450s that are involved in herbicide metabolism. The main objective was to evaluate the function of *ATR1* and *ATR2* in transgenic *Arabidopsis* over-expressing the P450 *CYP81A12*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

Mutant SALK lines of *Arabidopsis* were ordered from the Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center (ABRC - <https://abrc.osu.edu/>). The lines SALK_111558, SALK_208483C have a T-DNA insertion in *Arabidopsis* cytochrome P450 reductase 1 (*ATR1* - at4g24520), hereafter named as *atr1-a* and *atr1-b*, respectively. The lines SALK_026053 and SALK_152766 have T-DNA insertion on *Arabidopsis* cytochrome P450 reductase 2 (*ATR2* - at4g30210), hereafter named as *atr2-a* and *atr2-b*.

Seeds from mutants and wild-type Columbia_0 (Col_0) were sown in soil and kept in a growth chamber at 22°C/18°C with a light intensity of 120 $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ for 16 h. When seedlings had four true leaves, they were transplanted into individual pots and kept in the growth chamber in the same conditions. All the following experiments used the same methods to grow the *Arabidopsis* plants.

Characterization and confirmation of T-DNA insertion

PCR assays were performed to identify and confirm the presence of T-DNA insertion in the *ATR1* and *ATR2* genes in the mutant lines and to verify the homozygosity. To amplify the wild type (WT) version of *ATR1* or *ATR2* genes, different primers set named as LP (forward) and RP (reverse) spanning the T-DNA insertion specific for each gene and line were used. The primers to identify the T-DNA insertion for all the mutant lines were RP primers, specific for each gene and line, with LBb1.3 (Figure 4-2). The primer LBb1.3 is a primer designed in the right border of the T-DNA sequence (Figure 4-2). Primer sequences of LBb1.3, LP and RP for *atr1-a*, *atr1-b* and *atr2-a* were provided by SIGnAL (<http://signal.salk.edu/>). Primer set for *atr2-*

b were designed using Primer3plus. The primers sequences and their characteristics are described in Table 4-1.

Leaf tissue was collected from individual plants of mutants and Col_0 and incubated in 1.2 mL tubes when the plants were at rosette stage. Around 20 plants for each mutant line were genotyped. The tissues were frozen at -20°C until further analyses. Frozen materials were ground using a Qiagen TissueLyzer and DNA was extracted using a modified hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) method. The quality and quantification of DNA were assessed using Nanodrop2000.

PCR reactions were performed with Econotaq Plus 2 × Master Mix. PCR reaction consisted of 12.5 µL of Econotaq Master Mix, 6.5 µL nuclease-free water, and 2.5 µL of forward and reverse primers (10 µM). Each sample was submitted to two different reactions, called “WT PCR” and “T-DNA PCR”. The former consisted of LP and RP primers to amplify the wild-type form or heterozygous and the latter was composed by RP and LBb1.3 primers to amplify the T-DNA insertion if present in the sample. PCR cycling conditions were composed by initial denaturation of 94°C for 2 min, followed by 35 cycles consisting of denaturation of at 94°C for 30s, annealing at 55°C for “WT PCR” and 48°C for “T-DNA PCR” for 30 s, followed by extension at 72°C for 1:10 min, with a final extension time at 72°C for 5 min. Schemes of the primers and PCRs are represented in Figure 4-2. The DNA amplification was confirmed by running in 1% agarose gel electrophoresis and PCR products were sent for Sanger sequencing to confirm the T-DNA insertion.

Generating transgenic herbicide-resistant Arabidopsis with mutant *atr1* or *atr2* genes

Aiming to generate a transgenic Arabidopsis line with a loss of function in *ATR1* or *ATR2*, a transgenic Arabidopsis line carrying the P450 *CYP81A12* from *Echinochloa phyllopogon* (or *E.*

oryzicola, late watergrass) was provided by Dr. Iwakami from Kyoto University. The transgenic *Arabidopsis* metabolizes five different herbicide modes of action including acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibitors (bensulfuron-methyl, pyrazosulfuron-ethyl, chlorsulfuron, azimsulfuron, imazamox, propoxycarbazone-sodium and penoxsulam), 4-hydroxyphenylpyruvate dioxygenase (HPPD) inhibitor (mesotrione), protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) inhibitor (pyraclonil), deoxyxylulose phosphate synthase (DXS) inhibitor (clomazone), and photosystem II (PSII) inhibitor (bentazon)²¹. This population hereafter is called *Arabidopsis CYP81A12*.

Transgenic *Arabidopsis CYP81A12* and mutant lines *atr1-a*, *atr1-b*, *atr2-a* and *atr2-b* were grown with the same conditions as indicated before. When plants were in the flowering stage, around four weeks after transplanting, the mutant lines were crossed with the transgenic *Arabidopsis CYP81A12*. The crossing consisted of cutting out the stamens from the immature flowers of *Arabidopsis CYP81A12* and in the next day pollinating the carpel with pollen from different mutant lines flowers. The cross was repeated more three times with the new flowers within an interval of a week. The crossed flowers were labeled, and the seeds were collected when siliques turned brown. In total, four crosses were performed, cross A – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr1-a*, cross B – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr1-b*, cross C – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr2-a*, and cross D – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr2-b* (Figure 4-3).

F1 plants were grown, and tissue collected at 2 weeks after transplanting for DNA extraction. Extracted DNA was used to genotype for T-DNA insertion and presence of *CYP81A12* gene. T-DNA insertion was genotyped as indicated before, using two PCR reactions, WT PCR and T-DNA PCR. PCR amplification for the whole *CYP81A12* was performed to genotype for the presence of the gene using genomic DNA. Primer sequences for *CYP81A12* are listed in Table 4-1. Plants that were heterozygous for T-DNA insertion and had the presence of

CYP81A12 were selected and self-pollinated. Seeds were collected when mature. F2 plants were grown with the same conditions as described before, and tissue collected for genotyping. Genomic DNA was extracted, and T-DNA insertion was genotyped using the same two PCR reactions as indicated before. It was expected that 25% of the F2 population were homozygous for T-DNA insertion. These plants were selected for genotyping the presence of *CYP81A12* by gene amplification and those plants that have the gene were selected. These plants were genotyped for copy number analysis of *CYP81A12* using QX200 Droplet Digital PCR system (ddPCR) due to its precision and sensitivity for detection of low copy numbers. ddPCR consisted of a master mix composed of 10 μ L of 2 \times QX200 EvaGreen[®] Supermix, 2.5 μ L of each primer (5 μ M), and 5 μ L of genomic DNA (5 ng/ μ L).

Selected samples were processed for droplet generation using QX200[™] droplet generator, followed by PCR reaction with initial cycle of 5 min at 95 $^{\circ}$ C followed by a sequence of 40 cycles starting at 95 $^{\circ}$ C for 30 s and 60 $^{\circ}$ C for 1 min. Droplet reading of PCR products was conducted in the QX200 Droplet Reader. The *ALS* gene was used as a reference gene containing only two copies (one copy per haplotype). Primer sequences for *ALS* and *CYP81A12* used for ddPCR are listed in Table 4-2. The samples were analyzed by QuantaSoft AP Software, which measures the number of positive and negative droplets for each gene in each well. Droplets are assigned as positive or negative by thresholding based on their fluorescence amplitude. The software calculates the starting concentration of each target DNA molecule by modeling a Poisson distribution; the formula used for Poisson modeling is: Copies per droplet = $-\ln(1-p)$ where p= fraction of positive droplets. Concentrations are provided in units of copies per microliter of input sample with 95% confidence intervals. The ratio of the number of copies per droplet of *ALS* and *CYP81A12* was calculated. After genotyping, the Arabidopsis transgenic

CYP81A12 carrying mutant *atr1* or *atr2* hereafter are named as *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b*.

Generating double knockout *atr1 atr2* Arabidopsis lines

In order to obtain an Arabidopsis line with a double knockout of *ATR1* and *ATR2* within the same plant, mutant lines *atr1-a*, *atr1-b*, *atr2-a*, and *atr2-b* were cultivated under the same specified conditions as previously indicated. Upon reaching the flowering stage, crosses were performed as described earlier. F1 plants were subjected to genotyping to determine homozygosity for *ATR1* and *ATR2* using the same PCR reactions as previously mentioned. Heterozygous plants were selected for self-pollination. F2 seeds were then sown in soil, and subsequent plants were genotyped for *atr1* and *atr2* mutations.

Gene expression analysis in *atr1* and *atr2* mutant lines

Mutant and transgenic mutant lines were grown in a growth chamber with the same conditions as specified before. Approximately 100 mg of leaf tissue were collected from plants in the rosette stage, around two weeks after transplanting. Sampling consisted of cutting the youngest fully expanded leaf for each biological replication, placing in 2 mL tubes, and incubating immediately in liquid nitrogen and afterwards kept at -80°C. Plants of lines Col_0, transgenic *CYP81A12*, and transgenic mutants *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b* were kept for fresh mass measurement at 28 d after transplant to analysis any fitness cost in the mutant lines.

RNA extraction was conducted using Direct-zol™ RNA miniprep from Zymo Research following manufacturer instructions. DNase I treatment was conducted during the RNA extraction protocol. Quantification and quality control were performed using Nanodrop 2000. cDNA synthesis was conducted using iScript™ from Zymo Research using 1 µg of RNA. Gene

expression was analyzed on CFX96 Real Time System using SsoAdvanced™ Universal SYBR® Green Supermix. The reactions consisted of 5 µL of cDNA from samples diluted in Nuclease-Free Water in 1:20, 2.5 µL of each primer at 5 µM and 5 µL of SsoAdvanced universal SYBR® Green supermix (2×). Thermal cycler conditions consisted of an initial cycle of 30 s at 95°C, followed by a sequence of 35 cycles starting at 95°C for 10 s and 72°C for 30 s. Melt-curve analysis was performed by adding steps incrementing temperature 65–95°C by 0.5°C.

Primer sets were specifically designed to target various regions of the genes, both upstream and downstream of the T-DNA insertion site. This systematic design allowed for accurate analysis of how the gene was affected by the T-DNA insertion, facilitating the identification of gene knockout. For *ATR1* gene, four sets of primers were designed, called ATR1_A with forward primers in the 5'UTR and reverse primers in the 1st exon (spanning the T-DNA insertion position in *atr1-a* line), ATR1_B with forward and reverse primers in the 1st exon, ATR1_C with the forward primer in exon 4th and reverse primer in exon 5th (spanning the T-DNA insertion position in *atr1-b* line) and ATR1_D with forward in the 8th exon and reverse in the 9th exon (Figure 4-4). For *ATR2* gene, five sets of primers were designed, ATR2_A with forward and reverse primers localized in the 1st exon, ATR2_B with forward primer in the 3th exon and reverse primer in the 4th exon (spanning the T-DNA insertion position in *atr2-a* line), ATR2_C with forward primer localized in the 9th and reverse in the 10th exon, ATR2_D with forward primer in the 12th exon and reverse in the 13th (spanning the T-DNA insertion position in *atr2-b* line) and ATR2_E with forward and reverse primers designed in the 14th exon. The primer location in *ATR1* and *ATR2* are represented in Figure 4-4 A and B, respectively. Primer sequences for gene expression and their characteristics are listed in Table 4-2.

Herbicide sensitivity of Arabidopsis lines in ½ MS medium

Plant growth of different lines of *Arabidopsis* were evaluated on ½ Murashige and Skoog (MS) solid medium containing different doses of bensulfuron, chlorsulfuron, penoxsulam, propoxycarbazone, mesotrione and bentazon. Seeds of *Arabidopsis* wild type (Col_0), transgenic *Arabidopsis CYP81A12*, mutant *atr1-a*, *atr1-b*, *atr2-a*, *atr2-b* and transgenic mutant *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b* were sterilized by chloride gas for 7 h by mixing 100 mL of bleach with 3% hydrochloric acid. Technical grade herbicides were diluted in ethanol (bensulfuron, penoxsulam, propoxycarbazone, bentazon) or methanol (chlorsulfuron, mesotrione) to mix with ½ MS medium before it solidified. Petri dishes containing ½ MS with different herbicides doses were divided by 10 sections, where six seeds of each *Arabidopsis* line were placed. The plates were incubated in growth chamber at 25°C, 14-h photoperiod and 110 $\mu\text{E m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ light intensity until the day of evaluation. The number of green leaves were counted 14 d after plating, and the data were normalized to percentage of untreated control.

Whole-plant dose response

Arabidopsis plants of Col_0, transgenic *CYP81A12* and transgenic mutant *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b* were grown with same conditions as specified before. Plants in rosette stage (14 d after transplanting) were sprayed with increasing doses of Chlorsulfuron (Telar ® XP, 750 g Kg⁻¹), penoxsulam (Ricer, 217 g a.i. kg⁻¹), mesotrione (Callisto 480g a.i. L⁻¹) and 2,4-D (Shredder 2,4-D LV4, 455g a.e. L⁻¹). The experimental design was completely randomized in 6 × 11 with four replications. Factor A was *Arabidopsis* lines as described above. Factor B was increasing herbicides dose for each herbicide. Chlorsulfuron and penoxsulam doses were 0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8, 1.6, 3.2, 6.4, 12.8, 25.6 and 51.2 g a.i.; mesotrione doses were 0, 3, 6, 12, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 400 g a.i.; and 2,4-D

doses were 0, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, and 128 g a.e. The shoot fresh mass was measured at 28 d after herbicide treatments by cutting the plant close to the soil surface.

Herbicide metabolism analysis

Seedlings of Arabidopsis lines Col_0, transgenic *CYP81A12*, and transgenic mutant *CYP81A12 atr-a*, *CYP81A12 atr-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b* were transplanted into pots filled with foil and grown under same conditions as cited before. At rosette stage, mesotrione (Calisto ®, 480 g L⁻¹ mesotrione, Syngenta, Switzerland) or chlorsulfuron (Telar ® XP, 750 g Kg⁻¹ chlorsulfuron, Bayer CropScience, Germany) were applied in an automated spray chamber (Greenhouse Spray Chamber, model Generation IV) using a TJ8002E nozzle, calibrated to deliver 200 L ha⁻¹ at a pressure of 280 kPa and speed of 1.2 m s⁻¹. Herbicides were applied at 100 g ha⁻¹ for mesotrione and 50 g ha⁻¹ for chlorsulfuron. The doses were chosen based on the whole-plant dose-response curve experiment described above as a good dose to discriminate the resistant and sensitive plants. After herbicide application the plants were kept in the growth chamber at same conditions and whole plants were collected at 6, 12, 24, 48, and 96 h for mesotrione and adding 144 h and 196 h for plants treated with chlorsulfuron. At each time of tissue collection, plant weight was measured and washed with 80% acetone for three times, dried out with towel paper and incubate in 15 mL Falcon tubes and kept at -70°C ultra-freezer until the extraction. The extraction was conducted by grinding the tissue with a pestle, then adding ten times of the plant's weight with 80% methanol and 0.1% formic acid. The solution was homogenized for 30 s using PowerGen 125 (Fisher Scientific) and centrifuged for 10 min at 4,700×g (Sorvall Legend X1R (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA). The supernatant was filter with Econofiltr Nylon 13 mm 0.2 µm (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA) and injected in the LC/MSMS.

LC-MS/MS system consisted of a Nexera X2 UPLC with 2 LC-30AD pumps, a SIL-30AC MP autosampler, a DGU-20A5 Prominence degasser, a CTO-30A column oven, and SPD-M30A diode array detector coupled to an 8040 quadrupole mass-spectrometer (Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Columbia, MD). For mesotrione, the MS was in positive mode $[M+H]^+$ with MRM optimized for mesotrione $340 > 227.95$ and set for 100 ms dwell time with a Q1 pre-bias of -16.0V, a collision energy of -18.0V and a Q3 pre-bias of -16.0V and for hydroxy-mesotrione $356 > 55 > 228$ and set for 100 ms dwell time with a Q1 pre-bias of -16V, a collision energy of -18.0V and a Q3 pre-bias of -16.0V. For chlorsulfuron, the MS was in positive mode with MRM optimized for chlorsulfuron $357.9 > 141.1 > 167.05$ and set for 100 ms dwell time with a Q1 pre-bias of -25.0V, a collision energy of -20.0V and a Q3 pre-bias of -15.0V and for hydroxy-chlorsulfuron $374.0 > 127.0 > 182.0$ and set for a collision energy of -35.0. The samples were chromatographed on a 100×4.6 mm kinetex $2.6 \mu\text{m}$ biphenyl column (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA) maintained at 40°C . For both herbicides, solvent A consisted of water with 0.1% formic acid and solvent B was methanol with 0.1% formic acid. The solvent program started at 50% B and increased to 95% B in 5 min and maintained at 95% for 4 min. The solvent was returned to 50% B and maintained there for 3 min before the next injection. The flow rate was set at 0.4 mL min^{-1} and each sample were analyzed with $5 \mu\text{L}$ injection volumes.

Identification and phylogenetic analysis of CPRs in different weeds

The presence of *CPRs* and their copies was searched in several important weed species. The genomes of *Alopecurus myosuroides*, *Chenopodium formosanum*, *Bassia scoparia*, *Eleusine indica*, *Bromus tectorum*, *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *E. oryzicola*, *E. colona*, *Ipomoea purpurea*, *Poa annua* and *Conyza canadensis* were accessible through WeedPedia (<https://weedpedia.weedgenomics.org>). CPRs were identified with a blast search using *ATRI*

(AT4G24520) or *ATR2* (AT4G30210) against the genomes or utilized the InterPro ID for NADPH-cytochrome P450 reductase (IPR023208). Additionally, the genome of *Amaranthus palmeri* (Palmer amaranth) and *A. tuberculatus* (common waterhemp) were available, and the COGE web browser (<https://genomeevolution.org/coge>) was used for blasting purposes. The *CPRs* in *Amaranthus* species were identified using a comparative analysis approach. Firstly, *ATR1* and *ATR2* sequences were subjected to a sequence similarity search against the *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* (Prince-of-Wales feather) genome, which is accessible through the Phytozome database. Subsequently, the identified sequences were further compared against the Palmer amaranth and common waterhemp genomes. Other already known plant *CPRs* were extracted from genbank NCBI, such as corn (*Zea mays*, CPR2a: NP_001159331.1, CPR2b: NP_001146345.2), rice (*Oryza sativa*, CPR2a: XP_015651232.1, CPR2b: XP_015650780.1), soybean (*Glycine max*, CPR1: NP_001236742.2, CPR2: XP_003549436.1), cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*, CPR1: ACN54323.1, CPR2: NP_001314398.2), and Barrel medic (*Medicago truncatula*, CPR1: XP_003602898.1, CPR2: XP_003610109.1). Multiple protein alignment was performed using ClustalO and used for tree construction with Neighbor-joining method using Geneious Prime® 2023.0.1. The N-terminal, transmembrane, FMN binding, FAD binding, and NADP binding domains were identified. The transmembrane was identified using DeepTMHMM tool²² (<https://dtu.biolib.com/DeepTMHMM>).

Statistical analysis

Gene expression analysis of *ATR1* and *ATR2* gene in mutant plants was performed using *ALS* as reference gene due to its stability with different conditions and herbicide applications²³. Expression analyses were performed utilizing four biological and two technical replicates for each line. The mean Ct values and the standard deviation were calculated by treatment. A melt

curve analysis confirmed the presence of a single amplified product for each reaction, based on presence of a single melting temperature consistent across samples. Relative transcript abundance was calculated using $2^{(-\Delta\Delta Ct)}$ method for each gene and biotype²⁴. The reference population used for the calculation was Col_0. Dunnett's test ($p < 0.05$) was used to compare the relative expression between Col_0 and mutant lines.

For the dose-response experiments *in vitro* and *in planta*, the response variables evaluated were number of green leaves at 14 d after seeds were planted and shoot fresh weight (% of untreated control) at 28 d after herbicide application (DAA) for the whole-plant dose-response experiment. Data were converted into percentages relative to untreated treatment for both experiments. The drc package²⁵ from statistical software R v.3.5.3²⁶ was used for data analysis. The data were tested for the best nonlinear model by comparing different models by *ANOVA()* and using function *modelFit()* testing for lack-of-fit. Based on the analysis, the data were adjusted using the three-parameter log-logistic model with the function *modelFit()* from the drc package²⁵. For the whole-plant dose response experiment, the herbicide doses causing 50% reduction in shoot fresh weight (GR_{50}) were determined using the function *summary()* and the resistance index (RI) was calculated by the function *EDcomp()* by dividing the GR_{50} from transgenic *CYP81A12* or transgenic *CYP81A12* mutants (*atr1* or *atr2*) by the GR_{50} of Col_0. For the dose-response in plates the calculation was the same, using the GR_{50} obtained by the variable green leaves analyzed. The x and y data from the dose-response curves of both experiments were extracted from R using the function *write.csv()* and plotted with the treatment means by GraphPad Prism version 9 for Windows (San Diego, California).

The metabolism data obtained by LC/MSMS were submitted to analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the means were compared using Dunnett's test ($p < 0.05$). The peak area of the herbicides and metabolites of all the different Arabidopsis lines were compared to the Col_0 line.

RESULTS

Arabidopsis mutants

SALK lines *atr1-a*, *atr1-b* and *atr2-a* were segregating for T-DNA insertion and heterozygous plants were selected to self and seed kept for seed production. *atr2-b* was homozygous for T-DNA insertion and four plants were selfed and produce seeds. Progeny plants from *atr1-a*, *atr1-b* and *atr2-a* were genotyped again and individuals homozygous for the T-DNA insertion were selected to self and seeds were produced. Homozygous T-DNA insertion in *ATR1* in *atr1-a* and *atr1-b* lines and homozygous T-DNA insertion in *ATR2* in *atr2-a* and *atr2-b* lines were confirmed by PCR. Primers LP and RP for both genes amplified only when Col_0 DNA was in the reaction. No SALK line amplified the WT version of the respective gene and only amplified the T-DNA reaction, confirming the homozygosity for T-DNA insertion. The amplifications were confirmed by electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel (Figure 4-5), followed by Sanger sequencing. Based on Sanger sequencing results, the insertion of T-DNA was in the 5' UTR and in the 4th intron in *atr1-a* and *atr1-b* mutant line, respectively, for *ATR1* gene, and in the 4th intron and the 12th exon in *atr2-a* and *atr2-b* mutant line, respectively, for *ATR2* gene (Figure 4-5).

Transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* with *atr1* and *atr2* knockdown

F1 plants from crosses were genotyped for T-DNA insertion. Around 20 plants were genotyped from each cross and around 90% of the plants were heterozygous for *ATR1* T-DNA

insertion for cross A and B and heterozygous for *ATR2* T-DNA insertion in cross C and D, indicating success in the crosses. These plants were genotyped for *CYP81A12* presence by PCR and plants that had the gene were selected for self-pollination to generate F2. F2 plants segregated 1:2:1 for *ATR1* T-DNA insertion for cross A and B and for *ATR2* T-DNA insertion for cross C and D (Table 4-3). Homozygous mutants were submitted for PCR amplification of *CYP81A12* and when confirmed, samples were submitted for ddPCR. Four, one, three, and five plants out of 15, 12, 9 and 15 plants homozygous had *CYP81A12*. These plants were analyzed by ddPCR. When only one gene copy was identified in comparison to *ALS* gene, the plants were self-pollinated, and their progenies were analyzed again using ddPCR.

The ddPCR results indicated the same copy number of *CYP81A12* and *ALS* for the parental transgenic line *CYP81A12* (Table 4-4). Plants selected based on previous genotyping (as indicated above from crosses A, B, C, and D) had a ratio of *ALS* and *CYP81A12* from 0.9 to 1.1, suggesting two copies of each gene, one copy per haploid genome. These plants were selected and used for further experiments.

***atr1* and *atr2* double knockouts**

Genotyping analysis of F2 plants obtained from various crosses between *atr1* and *atr2* mutants demonstrated an absence of double knockout genotypes (Supporting information Table 4-1). A total of 416 F2 plants were genotyped, revealing seven out of the nine possible genotypes. Among the genotyped plants, 46.2% exhibited heterozygosity for both genes, 5% displayed heterozygosity for one gene and wildtype for the other, 6.2% exhibited homozygous mutation in one gene and heterozygosity in the other, while 42.6% exhibited homozygous mutation in one gene and wildtype in the other. Notably, double wildtype and double mutant genotypes were not observed. The segregation pattern observed in the F2 generation deviated

from the expected Mendelian segregation for two independent genes, indicating the presence of linked genes. Further investigation revealed that the *atr1* and *atr2* genes are localized on chromosome four of Arabidopsis and are approximately two megabases (MBp) apart, providing supporting evidence that the two genes may be linked.

***ATR1* and *ATR2* gene expression in mutant and transgenic mutant lines**

Different primer sets were able to detect the loss of function of *ATR1* and *ATR2* genes in the mutant lines. Mutant *atr1-a* showed a reduced transcription of *ATR1* when the set primer used was spanning the T-DNA insertion (Figure 4-6A); however, normal expression of *ATR1* gene was observed when primer set used was downstream of the T-DNA insertion (Figure 4-6B-D), indicating that the T-DNA insertion in 5' UTR did not decrease *ATR1* expression in *atr1-a* line. In other hand, mutant line *atr1-b*, which has T-DNA insertion in the 4th intron was able to reduce significantly the *ATR1* transcripts. It was confirmed by disrupting the *ATR1* transcript when the primer set used was spanning the T-DNA insertion and downstream it (Figure 4-6B-D). Interesting that this line had an increased transcript when set of primers used was upstream the T-DNA (Figure 4-6A). These results indicate some tentative evidence of compensation of the gene expression of the disrupted gene by the plant.

Mutants for *ATR2* showed similar results. Mutant *atr2-a* had an upregulation of transcript upstream of the T-DNA insertion in this line (Figure 4-6E); however, this line had a significant reduction of *ATR2* expression downstream of the T-DNA insertion, especially when the set of primers used was spanning the T-DNA insertion (Figure 4-6F-I). Mutant *atr2-b* has T-DNA insertion in the 12th exon and had a reduction in the transcription upstream and downstream of the T-DNA insertion (Figure 4-6E-I). T-DNA insertion in the *ATR1* mutant *atr1-b* and in the *ATR2* mutants *atr2-a* and *atr2-b* had knockdown of expression of their respective mRNA.

CYP81A12 expression was analyzed, and all the transgenic mutant line had the same transcription production as the transgenic *CYP81A12* (Figure 4-6J).

Knocking down of *ATR1* or *ATR2* did not affect plant growth. Transgenic *CYP81A12* had a lower fresh mass with a smaller height of the plants in comparison to Col_0 (Supporting Information Figure 4-1).

***atr1* mutant increases herbicide sensitivity in *CYP81A12* line**

Based on whole-plant dose response, Arabidopsis *atr1* and *atr2* mutant lines carrying *CYP81A12* treated with herbicides were more sensitive to all herbicides tested in the study, including penoxsulam, chlorsulfuron, mesotrione, and 2,4-D (Figure 4-7, Supporting Information Figures 4-2, 4-3). The transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* had a resistance index of 6.8, 23.6 and 20.9 for penoxsulam, mesotrione and 2,4-D, respectively (Table 4-5). When *ATR1* was knocked down (*CYP81A12 atr1-b*), the RI decreased to 1.0, 5.7, and 4.2, respectively to penoxsulam, mesotrione and 2,4-D. The chlorsulfuron doses used in this study were not able to control the transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* and *CYP81A12 atr1-a* (Figure 4-7B and Supporting Information Figures 4-3). The resistance to chlorsulfuron of these lines was very high. The lines *CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b* showed that the highest doses imparted a slight plant control and the model was fitted to the three-parameter model. These lines had a RI of 97.7 and 86.7 for chlorsulfuron (Table 4-5). The line *CYP81A12 atr1-b* was able to significantly reduce the RI to 3.7 (Table 4-5). *CYP81A12 atr1-b* had the highest decreasing in the RI to all herbicides. *ATR2* knockdown lines (*CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b*) also reduced the RI, but not with the same magnitude as *atr1-b* (Table 4-5).

The control of different herbicide doses on Arabidopsis lines grown in ½ MS medium yielded similar results (Figure 4-8 and Table 4-6). Among the mutants, the *CYP81A12 atr1-b*

line exhibited the most significant reversal of resistance to bensulfuron, penoxsulam, chlorsulfuron, propoxycarbazone, mesotrione, and bentazon, as evidenced by the highest magnitude of response (Figure 4-8). Notably, *CYP81A12 atr1-b* displayed symptoms similar to the Col_0 line at lower herbicide doses (Figure 4-8). In contrast, *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, and *CYP81A12 atr2-b* did not exhibit reduced herbicide resistance compared to *CYP81A12*. Specifically, *CYP81A12* displayed resistance indices (RI) of 111.0, 35.7, 2.1, 4.2, 4.6, and 107.3 for bensulfuron, chlorsulfuron, penoxsulam, propoxycarbazone, mesotrione, and bentazon, respectively, while *CYP81A12 atr1-a* demonstrated reduced RIs of 22.3, 10, 0.9, 1.2, 0.9, and 0.9 for the same herbicides, reflecting similar GR₅₀ values as Col_0 for penoxsulam, propoxycarbazone, mesotrione, and bentazon (Table 4-6).

Reduction of herbicide metabolism

Metabolism of mesotrione and chlorsulfuron was analyzed in the different Arabidopsis lines after herbicide application. The transgenic Arabidopsis line *CYP81A12* had a smaller peak area for the parental mesotrione than Col_0 in all time points after herbicide application, indicating faster herbicide metabolism (Figure 4-9A-B). The transgenic lines *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a* and *CYP81A12 atr2-b* had similar profiles, with smaller peak area of parental mesotrione than Col_0. The only Arabidopsis line that showed the same peak area as Col_0 was *CYP81A12 atr1-b*. Hydroxylation of mesotrione was higher than Col_0 for all lines in all times points, except for *CYP81A12 atr1-b* (Figure 4-9A-B), which had a very small amount of hydroxy-mesotrione, highlighting that knockdown of *ATR1* prevents mesotrione metabolism in *CYP81A12 atr1-b*. Similar results were observed for chlorsulfuron metabolism (Figure 4-10A-B). Transgenic *CYP81A12* had a significantly smaller peak area of parental chlorsulfuron than Col_0, inferring faster herbicide metabolism. The transgenic mutant line *CYP81A12 atr1-a* was

not different in area peak of parental chlorsulfuron and hydroxy-chlorsulfuron when compared to Col_0, indicating a loss of the metabolism capacity.

NADPH-cytochrome P450 reductase in weeds

Thirteen different weed species were analyzed, and their corresponding CPRs (cytochrome P450 reductase) were identified (Figure 4-11). The number of CPR copies varied within each weed species, ranging from two to three copies (Supporting Information Table 4-2). Through the construction of a phylogenetic tree, it was observed that CPRs can be categorized into two distinct classes, namely CPR I and CPR II (Figure 4-11). These findings align with previous research, which suggests that CPR Class I is exclusive to dicot species, while Class II is present in both monocots and dicots^{5, 27}.

To differentiate between the CPRs within weed species, they were denoted as "a", "b" or "c" and individual copies were numbered as ".1", ".2" or ".3" to represent one, two, or three copies, respectively. Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*), common waterhemp, common morningglory (*Ipomea purpurea*), and Djulis (*Chenopodium formosanum*) have both CPR 1 and CPR 2 (Figure 4-11). Common morning glory possesses two copies of CPR 1 and one copy of CPR 2, whereas Djulis has three copies of CPR 1 and three copies of CPR 2. Kochia and common waterhemp possess one copy of each CPR class. On the other hand, Palmer amaranth and horseweed possess two copies of CPR 2, with horseweed having an additional third copy, while neither species has any copies of CPR 1. Class II Palmer amaranth CPRs have 93% identity, while the CPRs of horseweed (Class II) had a 74-76% identity among their three copies. Djulis, a hexaploid species with 27 chromosomes, exhibits three copies of each CPR class. Notably, each copy is localized within a different subgenome (B, C, and D).

Monocot plants exhibit diverse CPR compositions within CPR Class II, forming a distinct branch. Although their classification into specific classes is not documented in the literature, various monocot species possess CPR variants within Class II. For instance, blackgrass and goosegrass each possess three different CPR II variants: Am_CPRa, Am_CPRb, and Am_CPRc for blackgrass, and Ei_CPRa, Ei_CPRb, and Ei_CPRc for goosegrass. These CPR variants are categorized into separate branches based on phylogenetic analysis. Similarly, annual bluegrass, a tetraploid species, possesses three CPR variants, with two copies of each CPR variant present in subgenomes A or B. Similarly, late watergrass, an allotetraploid species, exhibits two copies of each of the three CPR variants, distributed across its subgenomes. Jungle rice, an allohexaploid species, possesses nine CPR variants, with copies of each CPR variant located in subgenomes D, E, or F. On the other hand, barnyardgrass, also an allohexaploid species, diverges from jungle rice as it possesses eight CPR variants. Among these variants, two CPRs have three copies each, while one CPR has two copies. It is noteworthy that downy brome is the sole monocot weed species analyzed in this study with only two CPR variants, whereas the remaining weed species all possess three distinct CPR variants with different copies numbers.

All CPRs had a well conserved domain (Supporting Information Figure 4-5). Among the identified CPRs in weed genomes, three CPRs, namely Eco_CPRc.1, Ec_CPRc.3, and Eo_CPRc.1, stand out with significantly larger protein sizes compared to the others. These three CPRs have 1520, 1905, and 1948 amino acids, respectively, whereas the remaining CPRs range from 689 to 823 amino acids. Eo_CPRc.1, Ec_CPRc.3 had a bigger N-terminal and additionally Eco_CPRc.1 have a long C-terminal when comparing to the other CPRs. Additionally, these three CPRs exhibit a similarity ranging from 87% to 94% among themselves. Additionally, there is close genetic relationship between subgenome D of Jungle rice and subgenome C of

Barnyardgrass^{28, 29}. This suggests a common diploid ancestor, explaining the high similarity observed in CPRs among these three species.

DISCUSSION

Cytochrome P450 reductases (CPR) are a class of enzymes that play a crucial role in the electron transfer system from NADPH to P450s^{5, 30}. While there are numerous P450 genes, the number of CPR genes is much smaller³¹. In Arabidopsis, two CPR, class I *ATR1* and class II *ATR2*, have been identified. *ATR1* is consistently expressed, while *ATR2* is induced in response to stress^{5, 30}. Since P450s are implicated in the herbicide metabolic herbicide resistance in weeds, it is important to understand the specific role of P450 reductases in the herbicide-metabolizing capabilities of these P450s.

Through the generation of transgenic mutant Arabidopsis lines, i.e., transgenic Arabidopsis carrying *CYP81A12* from late watergrass able to metabolize a wide range of herbicides and with knockdown of either the *ATR1* or *ATR2* gene, our observations indicate that *ATR1* plays a predominant role in facilitating electron transfer from NADPH to *CYP81A12*. Upon knocking down the *ATR1* gene in the transgenic *CYP81A12* plants (*CYP81A12 atr1-b*), a 3.6-fold and 5.6-fold reduction in herbicide resistance for 2,4-D and mesotrione were observed, respectively. Conversely, the *CYP81A12 atr1-a* line, with a T-DNA insertion in the 5' untranslated region, did not exhibit a reduction in herbicide resistance due to insufficient gene expression reduction (Figure 4-6). Knockouts of the *ATR2* gene (*CYP81A12 atr2a* and *atr2-b*) also led to a decrease in herbicide resistance, although not to the same extent as *ATR1*.

In Arabidopsis, *ATR1* is commonly referred to as *CPR1*, while *ATR2* is known as *CPR2* in other species. Among the identified CPRs in weeds, it was observed that only CPR class II is present in grasses. In our current study, the *ATR1* of Arabidopsis was the most crucial in

providing electrons to *CYP81A12*. We hypothesize that different CPRs may exhibit varying interactions with various P450s, including those involved in herbicide metabolism. A recent investigation utilizing human CPRs indicated that mutations in the FMN binding domain significantly enhanced CYP activity. This suggests that amino acid variations within this domain play a significant role in the diverse interactions between CPRs and P450s³². Based on our results, it is evident that the presence of CPR in weed species exhibits variation. Notably, all examined grasses possess at least three different homologs of CPRs class II, except for downy brome, which has two. This discrepancy in the number of CPRs among grasses suggests duplication events that occurred prior to species differentiation within the grass family⁵. A detailed analysis of protein sequences revealed substantial differences primarily in the N- and C-terminal regions. However, the FMN-binding and FAD-binding domains in all CPRs displayed a high degree of conservation due to their specialized functions (Supporting Information Figure 4-5) and because of that, it is hypothesized that electrostatic interactions are considered to play a crucial role in guiding the formation of P450:CPR complexes.

The presence of varying numbers of CPRs in different weed species suggests distinct genetic pressures these weeds have encountered over time, leading to the acquisition of diverse functions. If herbicide application has selected resistant plants with enhanced herbicide-metabolizing activity, it becomes evident that it also selected weed biotypes with heightened CPR activity to support the increased activity of P450s by facilitating electron transfer; however, this aspect needs further investigation. Additionally, in our study, we observed that in *Arabidopsis*, *ATR2* is unable to complement the electron transfer to *CYP81A12* when *atr1* is knocked out. However, this may not be the case for other weed species that possess different CPR isoforms. For instance, jungle rice harbors three CPR isoforms, each with three copies.

These CPRs could potentially be paralogs with distinct functions, interacting differentially with various P450 enzyme families, or they may have complementary functions. Another relevant factor is that Arabidopsis *ATR1* and *ATR2* are linked, leading to the hypothesis that double knockout plants would be inviable. However, the absence of double wildtype plants in the F2 generation dismissed this hypothesis (Supporting Information Table 4-1). For most weed species examined in this study, the CPRs are dispersed across different chromosomes and not exhibit linkage. Nevertheless, our laboratory is actively pursuing the generation of a double knockout Arabidopsis line using CRISPR/Cas 9 to gain further insights into the role of *ATR1* and *ATR2* in metabolic resistance mechanisms in weeds.

Research on the role of CPR in the evolution of pesticide resistance has primarily focused on insects, with limited investigations into the functions of CPRs in plants. In insect studies, inhibiting CPR in deltamethrin-resistant *Cimex lectularius* increased susceptibility to deltamethrin, indicating that CPR could be targeted to reduce P450 activity³³. Similarly, downregulating CPR in resistant *Tetranychus cinnabarinus* (carmine spider mite) and *T. urticae* (spider mite) through RNA interference reduced P450 activity and increased susceptibility to fenpropathrin and various acaricides, respectively³⁴. In plants, which possess one, two, or three CPR isoforms, no research exists regarding the diverse functions of CPRs for herbicide evolution. For instance, Arabidopsis *ATR2*, which is co-expressed with lignin biosynthetic genes, showed significant alterations in lignin composition when mutated, leading to reduced activity of P450 enzymes such as cinnamate 4-hydroxylase, p-coumarate 3-hydroxylase, and ferulate 5-hydroxylase^{35, 36}. The crystal structure of Arabidopsis *ATR2* revealed that mutations in the interflavin electron transfer region can impact *ATR2* activity³⁷, offering opportunities to exploit these reliable enzymes for reducing P450 activity against herbicide metabolism.

Protein alignments revealed the presence of conserved domains shared across various CPRs, along with significant variation in the FMN binding domain (Supporting Information Figure 4-5). There were conserved regions among CPRs in both dicot and monocot weeds, presenting a valuable opportunity to target and reduce P450 activity. Inhibiting CPR activity, either through chemical inhibitors or RNA-targeting approaches, offers a potential means to restore herbicide effectiveness against weeds exhibiting metabolic herbicide resistance. Combining CPR inhibition with herbicide treatments can serve as a strategy to control metabolic herbicide-resistant weed populations and, additionally, delay the evolution of metabolic herbicide resistance in sensitive weed populations.

The study of cytochrome P450 reductases and their interactions with cytochrome P450 enzymes is crucial for understanding metabolic herbicide resistance in weeds. Our findings highlight the importance of CPRs, particularly *ATR1* in Arabidopsis, in transferring electrons to P450 involved in herbicide metabolism. The presence of varying numbers of CPRs in different weed species indicates the diverse genetic pressures these weeds have undergone. Inhibiting CPR activity could serve as a promising approach to mitigate herbicide resistance, control weed populations and prolong the activity of herbicides. Further research on CPRs and their functions in plants will contribute to our understanding of herbicide resistance evolution and the development of effective weed management strategies.

TABLES

Table 4-1. Primers and their characteristics used to genotype by PCR *ATR1* and *ATR2* genes with the T-DNA insertion and *CYP81A12* in F1 or F2 plants.

Gene	line	primer	sequence 5' to 3'	amplicon size (bp)
<i>ATR1</i> (AT4G24520)	<i>atr1-a</i>	LP	ATCATCGGCAGCATAGTCATC	1045
		RP	AATGAATGGGCACAAAAACAG	
	<i>atr1-b</i>	LP	TGATTCTTTCCTGCAAACCAC	1098
		RP	TTATCCGAAGAAATCAAAGCG	
<i>ATR2</i> (AT4G30210)	<i>atr2-a</i>	LP	ACCTGAACAACCCACTCAATG	1085
		RP	ATTGGTTGCATCGTTATGCTC	
	<i>atr2-b</i>	LP	TCACTCTTCTCGTAAGGCAC	1173
		RP	GCTTCATACTCCCGAGTCTG	
-	-	LBb1.3	ATTTTGCCGATTTCCGGAAC	
<i>CYP81A12</i>	-	<i>Forward</i>	ATGGATAAGGCCTACGTGGCC	1557
	-	<i>Reverse</i>	TCAGAGCTCCTGAAGAACATCATG	

LP – left border, RP – right border, LBb1.3 - primer designed in the right border of the T-DNA sequence.

Table 4-2. Primers and their characteristics used for gene expression analysis of *ATR1*, *ATR2* and *CYP81A12*.

Gene	Exp. ¹	primer	Comment	sequence 5' to 3'	size (bp)	
<i>ATR1</i>	qPCR	ATR1_A	Forward (spanning the <i>atr1-a</i> T-DNA insertion site)	CAAATCGGAAGCATACAAAG	167	
			Reverse (spanning the <i>atr1-a</i> T-DNA insertion site)	CACCACCGATAACTCAATTA		
	qPCR	ATR1_B	Forward	ATCATCCTCGTCCTTAGCCATA	172	
			Reverse	TATGGGGACAGATTCGTTATCC		
	qPCR	ATR1_C	Forward (spanning the <i>atr1-b</i> T-DNA insertion site)	TG TTCATATTGGCGATTACC	130	
			Reverse (spanning the <i>atr1-b</i> T-DNA insertion site)	CCTACTGACAATGCTGCCA		
	qPCR	ATR1_D	Forward	TCCTTCTGCACAGCAACATC	103	
			Reverse	CTGAATACCGGGTGGTGACT		
	<i>ATR2</i>	qPCR	ATR2_A	Forward	GTCCGTAGCTGCTGAATTATCC	103
				Reverse	GAGCATAACGATGCAACCAATA	
qPCR		ATR2_B	Forward (spanning the <i>atr2-a</i> T-DNA insertion site)	GAAGAAAGAGGATGTGGCTT	85	
			Reverse (spanning the <i>atr2-a</i> T-DNA insertion site)	CCATTTGTAGAATCTCGCTGC		
qPCR		ATR2_C	Forward	TGGAATTTGACATTGCTGGA	167	
			Reverse	GATTGGTGTGCCGTCTTCTT		
qPCR		ATR2_D	Forward (spanning the <i>atr2-b</i> T-DNA insertion site)	GTCAAAGAAGTCTACTTGAGGT	171	
			Reverse (spanning the <i>atr2-b</i> T-DNA insertion site)	TTCATAAACCAGTGCACATG		
qPCR		ATR2_E	Forward	TCCAGGGACTGGATTAGCTC	93	
			Reverse	AACAAAACCTGATGGCCCAAG		
<i>ALS</i>	qPCR and ddPCR	ALS_A	Forward	CATATGCTTGGAATGCATGG	99	
			Reverse	CGTGACACGATCATCAAACC		
<i>CYP81A12</i>	qPCR and ddPCR	CYP	Forward	ACCTCCAGAGCATCATCCAC	136	
			Reverse	TACACGTTCCACCAGCAGCAT		

¹ Experiment, qPCR – primers were used for real-time qPCR gene expression analyses for the respective gene. ddPCR, primer used for genotyping the copy number of the respective gene by digital droplet PCR.

Table 4-3. PCR genotyping for T-DNA insertion in F2 segregating plants derived from crosses between *atr1* or *atr2* mutants with transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12*.

Cross	Gene	Genotype	plants	frequency (%)
A	<i>ATR1</i>	HM-WT	7	12.1
		HM-M	15	25.8
		HZ	36	62.1
		total	58	

B	<i>ATR1</i>	HM-WT	16	25.8
		HM-M	12	19.3
		HZ	34	54.8
		total	62	

C	<i>ATR2</i>	HM-WT	20	34.8
		HM-M	9	15.5
		HZ	29	50
		total	58	

D	<i>ATR2</i>	HM-WT	9	17.3
		HM-M	15	28.8
		HZ	28	53.84
		total	52	

HM-WT – homozygous wild type, HM-M – homozygous mutant, HZ – heterozygous. Cross A – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr1-a*, cross B – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr1-b*, cross C – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr2-a*, and cross D – transgenic *CYP81A12* × *atr2-b*.

Table 4-4. ddPCR results of parental transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* and four selected F3 plants from crosses A (*CYP81A12* × *atr1-a*), B (*CYP81A12* × *atr1-b*), C (*CYP81A12* × *atr2-a*), and D (*CYP81A12* × *atr2-b*).

Cross	Samples	conc (copies/μL)					ALS/ CYP81	
		ALS	Pmin ¹	Pmax ²	<i>CYP81A12</i>	Pmin		Pmax
Parental	<i>CYP81A12</i>	25.2	21.5	26.4	24	22.6	27.9	1.1
	<i>CYP81A12</i>	12.6	11.7	15.4	13.6	10.8	14.4	0.9
A	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-a</i>	86	81	92	77.6	72.7	82.5	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-a</i>	110	104	116	104	99	110	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-a</i>	135	128	141	120	114	126	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-a</i>	116	110	122	109	103	115	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-b</i>	72.7	68.1	77.4	72.1	67.4	76.8	1.0
B	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-b</i>	83.1	78.1	88	74	69	79	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-b</i>	50.8	47	54.7	49.7	45.7	53.6	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr1-b</i>	78.6	73.8	83.4	75	70	80	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-a</i>	187	194	208	200	179	194	0.9
C	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-a</i>	115	109	120	111	105	117	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-a</i>	67.2	62.8	71.6	59.8	55.4	64.2	1.1
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-a</i>	178	170	185	176	168	183	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-b</i>	45.1	41.3	48.8	45.7	41.8	49.6	1.0
D	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-b</i>	86	81	91	89	84	94	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-b</i>	77	72	82	75.2	70.4	80.2	1.0
	<i>CYP81</i> <i>atr2-b</i>	98	93	104	89	84	94	1.1

¹Pmin – Minimum target concentration normalized for the low error bar of the droplet Poisson distribution for the 95% confidence interval. ²Pmax – Maximum target concentration normalized for the high error bar of the droplet Poisson distribution for the 95% Confidence Interval.

Table 4-5. Parameters of the logistic equation and resistance index (RI) for shoot fresh weight (% of untreated control) of transgenic *Arabidopsis CYP81A12* and *atr1*, *atr2* mutants treated with different doses of 2,4-D and mesotrione.

Line	Herbicide	b	GR50			SE	RI	p-value	
			Dose (g ha ⁻¹)	Lower CI (95%)	Upper CI (95%)				
Col_0		0.5	2.3	0.9	3.7	0.7	-		
<i>CYP81A12</i>		0.7	15.7	6.7	24.6	4.5	6.8	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	PENO	1.8	17.1	11.2	23.1	3.0	7.4	0.01	
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		0.7	2.3	1.2	3.5	0.6	1.0	0.9	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		2.9	6.7	5.0	8.4	0.8	2.9	0.04	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		0.7	3.4	1.5	5.2	0.9	1.5	0.4	
Col_0			1.3	0.9	0.7	1.1	0.1	-	-
<i>CYP81A12</i>			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	CHLO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		2.4	3.4	2.5	4.4	0.4	3.7	<0.01	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		2.6	87.9	1.8	174.1	42.5	97.7	0.03	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		0.6	77.5	1.1	153.9	37.7	86.7	0.04	
Col_0			3.7	4.4	3.85	5.1	0.3	-	-
<i>CYP81A12</i>			15	93.6	58.6	128.6	17.7	20.9	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	MESO	5.5	89.3	78.9	99.7	5.2	19.9	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		4.3	26.8	23	30.5	1.9	5.7	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		2.8	41.8	35.5	48.1	3.2	9.3	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		2.9	59.1	50.3	68.1	4.5	13.2	<0.001	
Col_0			0.5	5.9	2.7	9.3	1.6	-	-
<i>CYP81A12</i>			1.2	141.7	96.5	186.5	22.7	23.6	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	2,4-D	1.6	103.3	73.7	132.8	14.9	17.2	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		2.9	25.3	20.15	30.4	2.6	4.2	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		0.8	50.1	29.6	70.5	10.3	8.3	<0.001	
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		3.8	130.1	108.1	151.9	11.1	21.6	<0.001	

b: slope; d: upper limit was fixed to 100; GR50: herbicide dose that causes a 50% reduction in shoot fresh weight variable; CI: confidence interval of parameter GR50 ($\alpha = 0.05$); RI: resistance index = GR50 ratio between lines with Col_0 (control). PENO – penoxsulam, CHLO – chlorsulfuron, MESO – mesotrione.

Table 4-6. Parameters of the logistic equation and resistance index (RI) for leaf number of Arabidopsis seedlings (% of untreated control) of wild-type, *atr1-a*, *atr1-b*, *atr2-a*, *atr2-b*, and Arabidopsis transgenic *CYP81A12*, *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b* growing in ½ MS medium supplemented with different doses of herbicides.

Lines	b	ED50			SE	RI	p-value
		dose (nM)	Lower CI (95%)	Upper CI (95%)			
Col_0	35.7	9.5	9.1	9.8	0.17	-	-
<i>atr1-a</i>	32.9	3.4	-16.3	23.0	10.0	0.3	0.5
<i>atr1-b</i>	31.5	9.0	8.2	9.9	0.4	0.9	0.4
<i>atr2-a</i>	27.7	9.1	8.3	9.8	0.4	0.9	0.4
<i>atr2-b</i>	26.6	6.7	-12.9	26.4	9.9	0.8	0.8
----- BSM -----							
<i>CYP81A12</i>	18.3	1055.5	1034.3	1071.8	9.5	111.0	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	3.6	1368.4	1321.6	1360.9	9.9	141.4	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>	24.9	185.2	192.4	231.7	10.0	22.3	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>	2.0	1547.8	1528.2	1567.5	9.9	163.2	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>	5.6	942.6	923.1	962.2	9.9	99.4	<0.001
----- CHL -----							
Col_0	3.6	3.7	0.73	6.73	1.5	-	-
<i>atr1-a</i>	1.3	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.2	0.3	<0.01
<i>atr1-b</i>	1.7	2.4	1.4	3.3	0.5	0.6	0.03
<i>atr2-a</i>	7.3	3.6	-1.1	8.4	2.4	0.9	0.19
<i>atr2-b</i>	2.1	1.9	1.4	2.3	0.2	0.5	<0.01
----- CHL -----							
<i>CYP81A12</i>	1.2	132.2	81.9	182.6	25.08	35.7	0.02
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	2.7	121.6	93.9	149.2	13.8	32.8	<0.01
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>	2.3	37.2	27.74	46.66	4.7	10.0	<0.01
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>	5.4	129.9	8.5	251.4	60.5	35.1	0.1
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>	0.7	76.1	17.5	134.6	29.1	20.5	0.07
----- PEN -----							
Col_0	3.6	13.8	11.8	15.7	0.95	-	-
<i>atr1-a</i>	1.4	3.8	2.6	4.9	0.5	0.3	<0.001
<i>atr1-b</i>	0.9	3.3	0.5	6.1	1.4	0.2	0.02
<i>atr2-a</i>	1.0	2.7	1.1	4.37	0.8	0.2	<0.001
<i>atr2-b</i>	3.1	7.0	5.9	8.1	0.5	0.5	<0.001
----- PEN -----							
<i>CYP81A12</i>	8.8	29.6	13.4	45.8	8.0	2.1	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>	10.3	26.9	10.3	43.5	8.21	1.9	<0.01
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>	11.6	11.9	-8.8	32.8	10.4	0.9	0.25
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>	10.1	27.8	9.8	45.8	8.9	2.0	<0.01
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>	8.5	23.7	13.2	34.3	5.2	1.7	<0.001
----- PRO -----							
Col_0	2.4	3.5	2.8	4.0	0.3	0.9	-
<i>atr1-a</i>	2.1	3.4	1.8	5.1	0.8	0.9	0.9
<i>atr1-b</i>	3.1	3.2	2.5	3.9	0.3	0.9	0.7
<i>atr2-a</i>	8.1	3.8	0.2	7.4	1.8	1.1	0.9
<i>atr2-b</i>	2.4	2.4	1.6	3.2	0.4	0.8	0.2

<i>CYP81A12</i>		2.4	15.5	12.1	19.0	1.7	4.2	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>		1.9	13.0	10.9	15.1	1.0	3.7	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		2.1	4.3	3.7	4.9	0.3	1.2	0.2
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		2.4	15.7	10.3	21.1	2.6	4.3	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		1.8	11.1	7.6	14.5	1.7	3.2	<0.001
Col_0		4.5	159.2	131.8	186.7	13.9	-	-
<i>atr1-a</i>		5.4	129.3	106.8	151.8	11.9	0.8	0.3
<i>atr1-b</i>		6.5	160.4	114.8	206.1	23.2	1	0.9
<i>atr2-a</i>		6.3	124.3	84.97	163.6	20.1	0.8	0.1
<i>atr2-b</i>		3.8	117.7	100.4	135.1	8.3	0.7	0.03
<i>CYP81A12</i>	MES	7.9	740.7	604.7	876.78	69.19	4.6	<0.0001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>		2.9	480.2	415.1	545.2	33.1	3	<0.0001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		5.1	142.8	112.9	172.72	15.2	0.9	0.4
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		6.1	564	492.2	634	36.1	3.5	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		2.9	585.2	495.7	675.1	45.6	3.6	<0.0001
Col_0		5.4	0.1	0.09	0.11	0.004	-	-
<i>atr1-a</i>		3.9	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.001	0.1	<0.001
<i>atr1-b</i>		3.1	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.007	0.3	<0.001
<i>atr2-a</i>		2.3	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.005	0.3	<0.001
<i>atr2-b</i>		2.2	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.002	0.2	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12</i>	BEN	5	11.24	9.57	12.9	0.82	107.3	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-a</i>		3.7	12.84	10.7	14.9	1	132.3	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr1-b</i>		5.22	0.08	-0.07	0.2	0.07	0.9	0.8
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-a</i>		8.43	11.7	3	20.5	4.35	111.6	<0.001
<i>CYP81A12 atr2-b</i>		3.4	12.2	10.2	14.3	1.01	114.6	<0.001

b: slope; d: upper limit was fixed to 100; GR50: herbicide dose that causes a 50% reduction in shoot fresh weight variable; CI: confidence interval of parameter GR50 ($\alpha = 0.05$); RI: resistance index = GR50 ratio between lines with Col_0 (control).

FIGURES

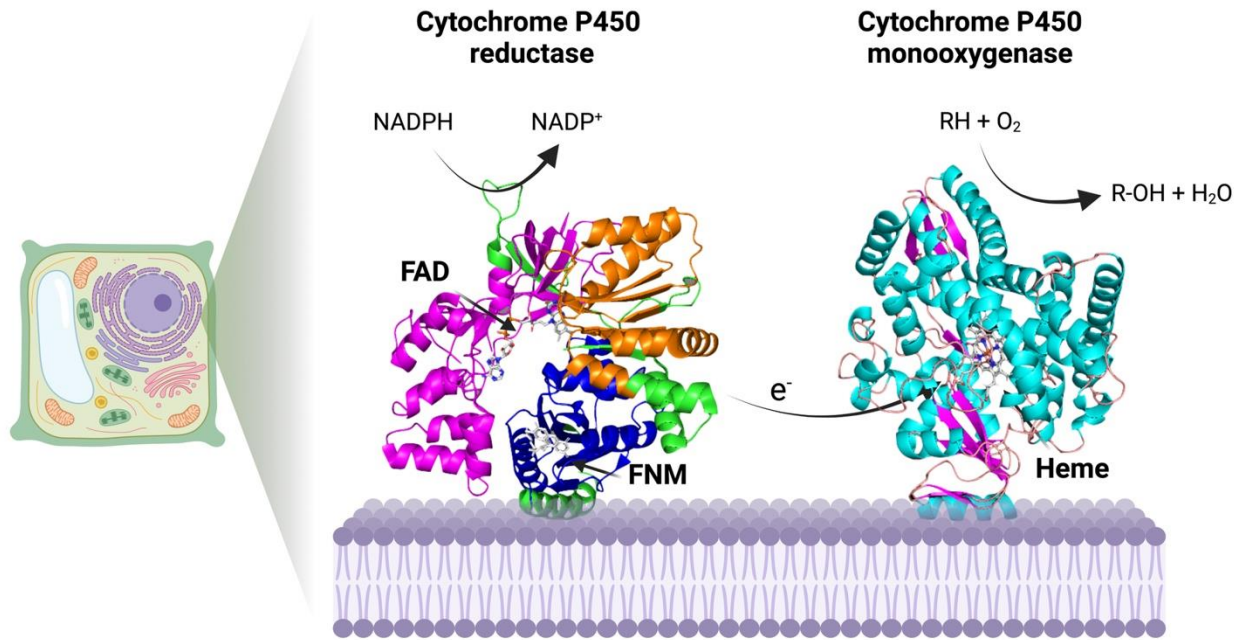


Figure 4-1. Process of electron transfer from NADPH-cytochrome P450 reductase to the catalytic site of cytochrome P450 monooxygenase. Two electrons are sequentially transferred from NADPH to the heme group of P450 through the cofactors FAD and FMN, each transferred in single-electron steps. Cytochrome P450, once activated by the electron transfer, catalyzes the oxidative breakdown of a substrate by inserting one oxygen atom into the chemical compound. Created with Biorender.com.

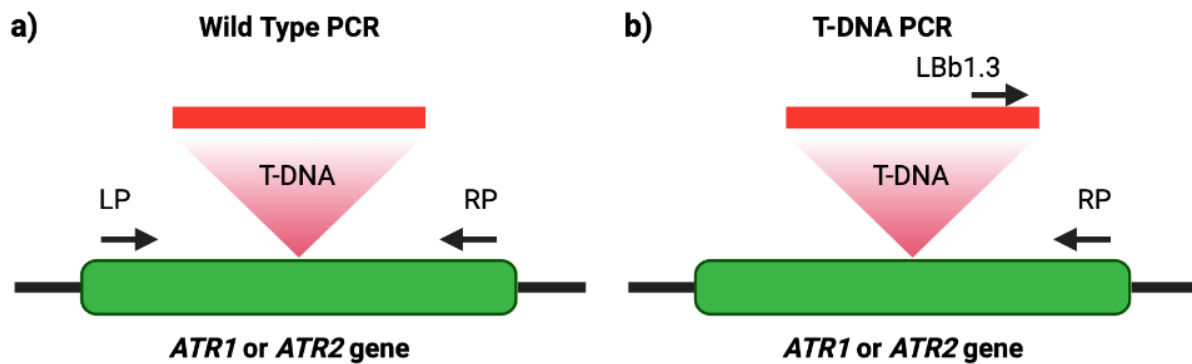


Figure 4-2. Two-step PCR for genotyping mutant lines. The “wild-type PCR” reaction will amplify a region that is present in wild type and heterozygous lines but will not amplify in homozygous lines. The “T-DNA PCR” will amplify only if T-DNA insertion is present. LP – left primer, RP – right primer, Lb1.3 – left border primer for T-DNA insertion.

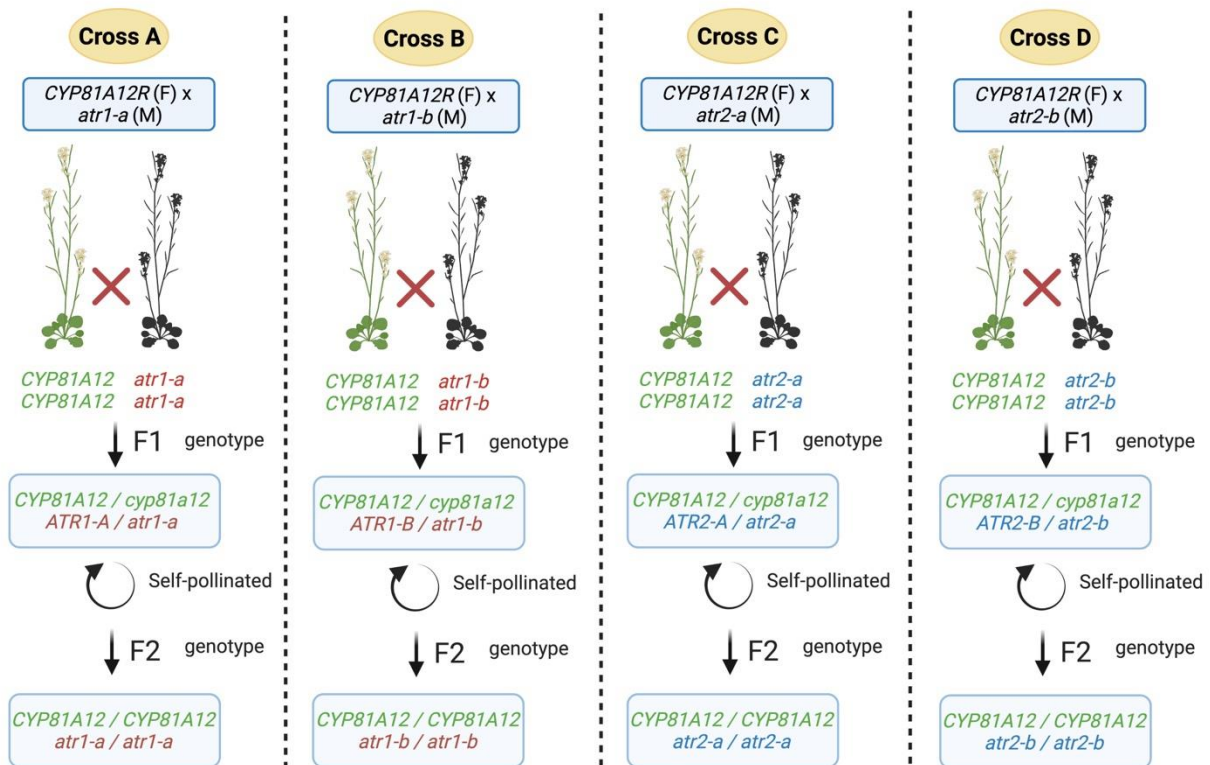


Figure 4-3. Schemes representing the Arabidopsis crosses to generate transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* with loss of function in *atr1* or *atr2*. F1 plants were genotyped for T-DNA insertion and *CYP81A12* presence. F2 plants were genotyped for homozygous T-DNA insertion and two copies of *CYP81A12* using ddPCR. M - male, F - female. Created with BioRender.com.

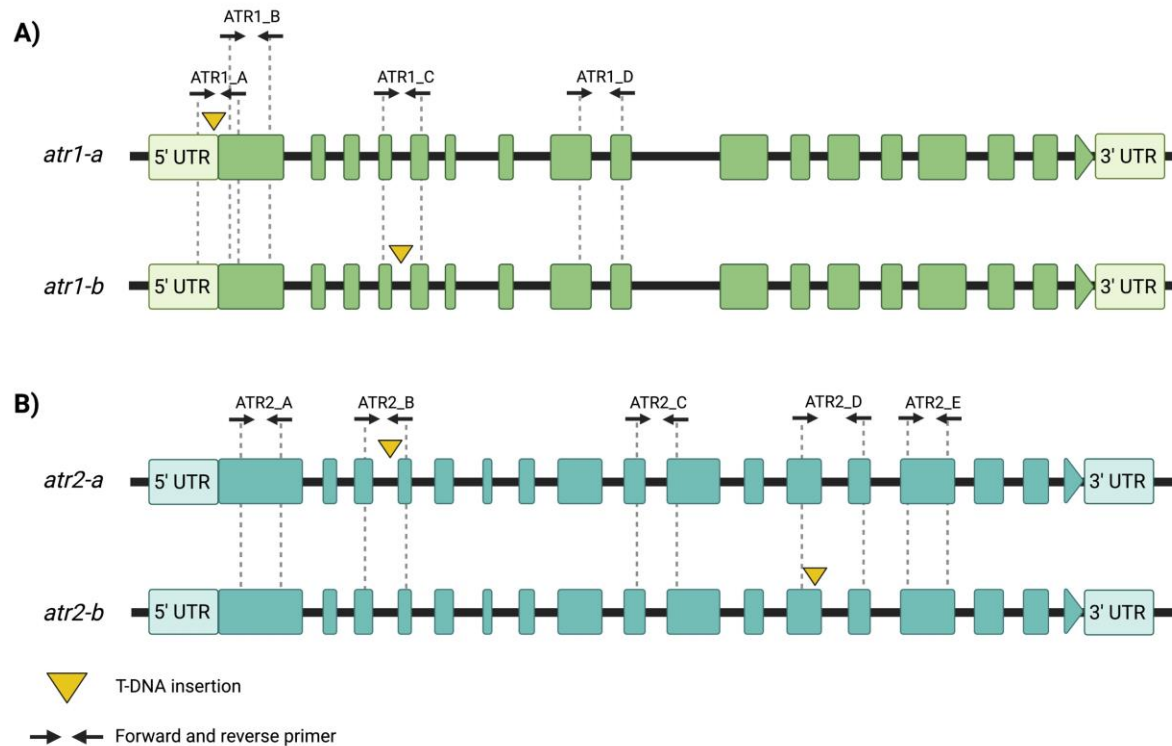


Figure 4-4. T-DNA location in *ATR1* (A) and *ATR2* (B) genes in SALK lines and primers localization for real time qPCR gene expression analysis. Yellow triangle locates the T-DNA insertion in the genes, *atr1-a* and *atr2-b* have T-DNA insertion in the 5'UTR and 4th intron, respectively, and *atr2-a* and *atr2-b* have T-DNA insertion in the 3rd and 12th exon, respectively. Boxes indicate exons or untranslated regions (UTR), black line indicates introns.

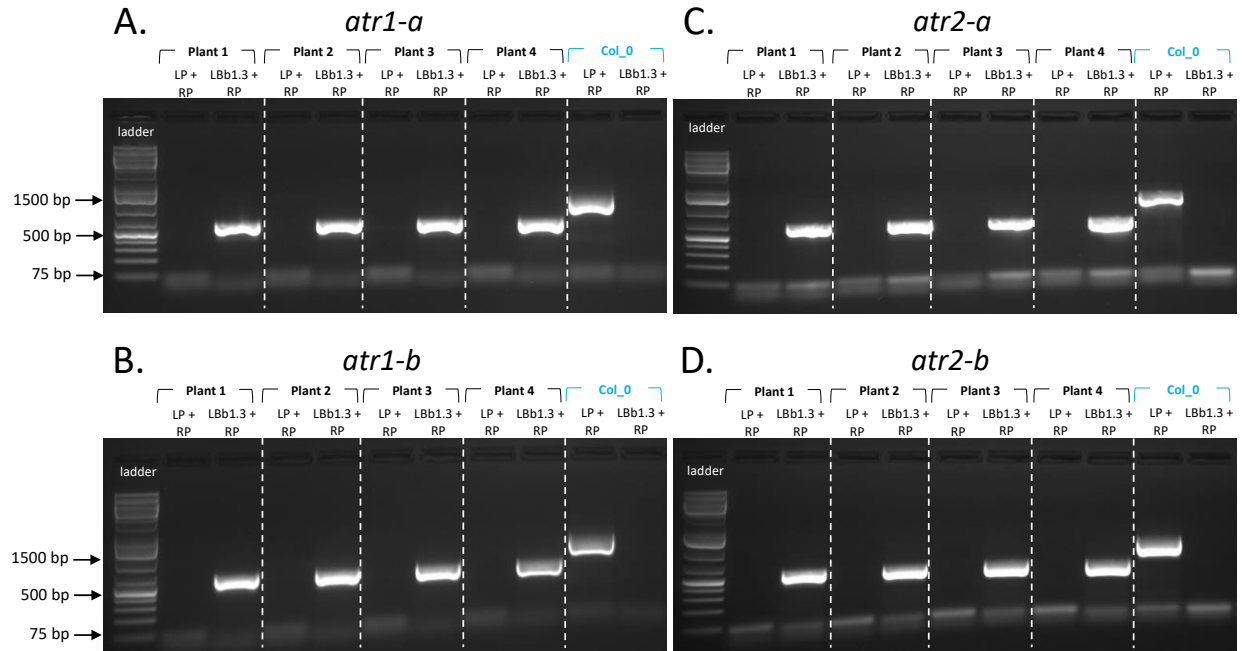


Figure 4-5. T-DNA insertion genotyping for *ATR1* and *ATR2* gene in different *Arabidopsis* mutant lines. Figures include four plants of each line and one wildtype columbia_0 (Col_0) as a control. Each plant was submitted for two PCR, first reaction was “wildtype PCR” using primer set LP + RP, and second reaction “T-DNA PCR” reaction using primers set LBb1.3 + RP.

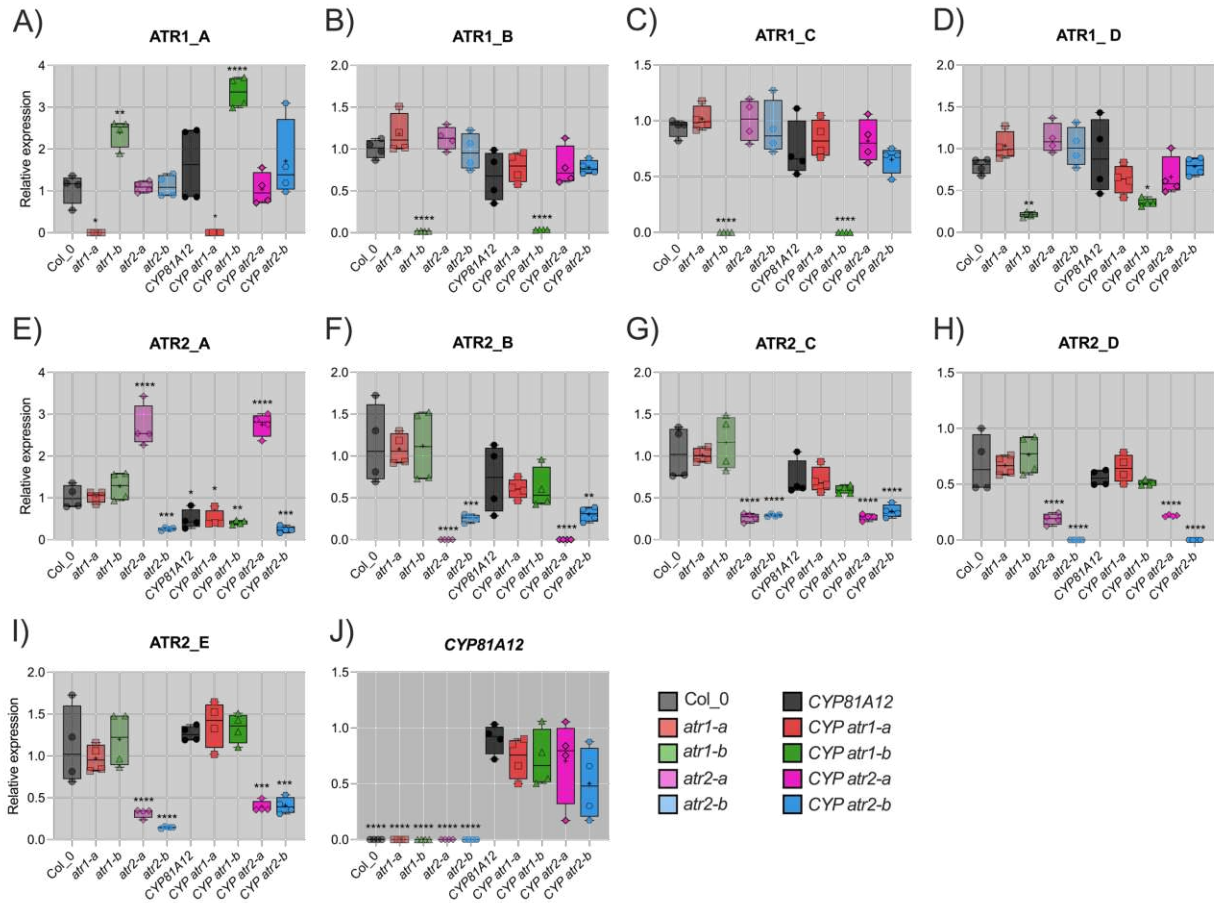


Figure 4-6. Relative gene expression of *ATR1* and *ATR2* gene in different mutant and transgenic Arabidopsis lines. A-D) *ATR1* gene expression was analyzed in four different locations using primer set ATR1_A, ATR1_B, ATR1_C and ATR1_D. E-I) *ATR2* gene expression was analyzed in five different locations using primer set ATR2_A, ATR2_B, ATR2_C, ATR2_D and ATR2_E. J) Expression of *CYP81A12* with only one primer set. The primers set localization is illustrated in Figure 4-4. *ATR1* and *ATR2* gene expression was calculated using Col_0 as control. *CYP81A12* gene expression was calculated using transgenic Arabidopsis CYP81A12 as control. *Significant by Dunnett's Test.

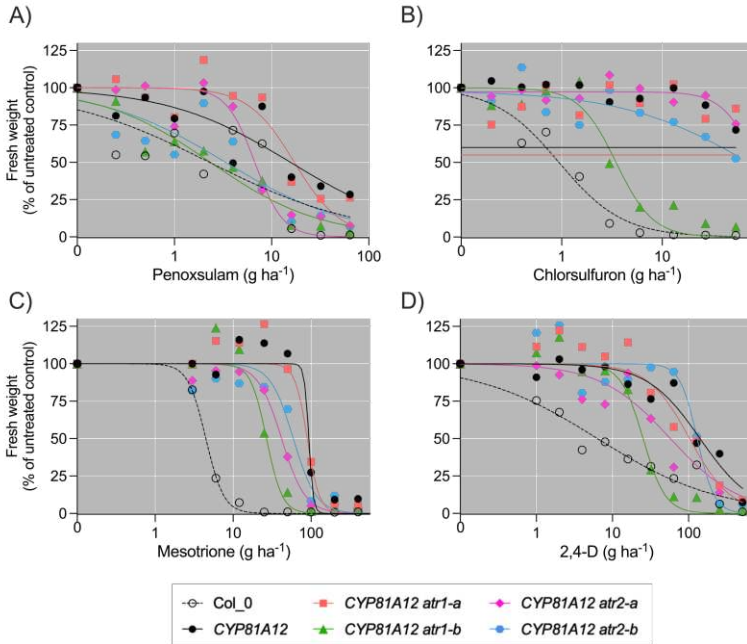


Figure 4-7. Dose-response of Arabidopsis wild-type (Col_0), transgenic (*CYP81A12*) and transgenic mutant lines *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b*. Response of Arabidopsis lines to increasing doses of A) penoxsulam, B) chlorsulfuron, C) mesotrione and D) 2,4-D.

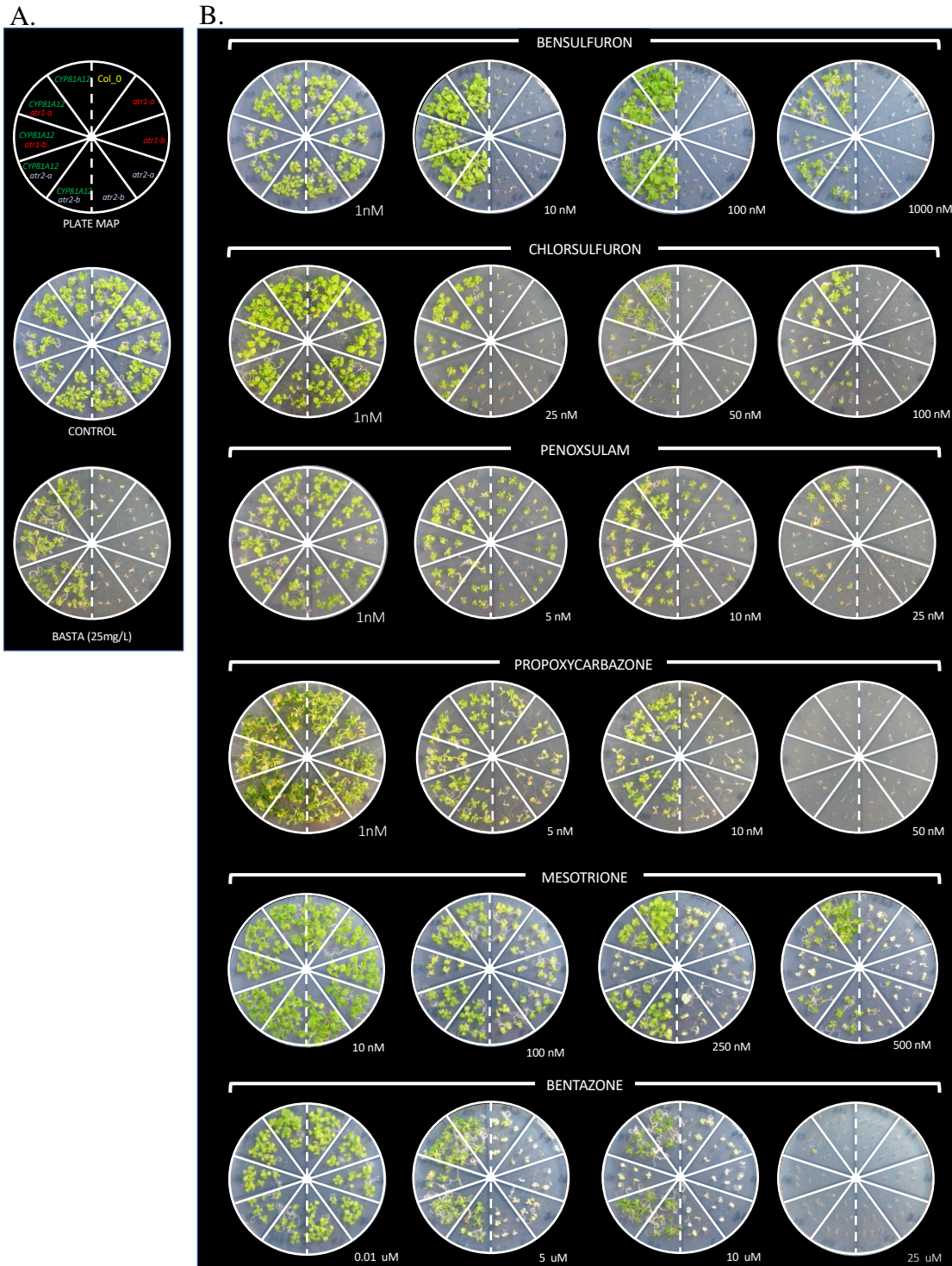


Figure 4-8. Sensitivity of wild type (Col_0), mutant *atr1-a*, *atr1-b*, *atr2-a*, *atr2-b*, transgenic Arabidopsis *CYP81A12* and transgenic mutant Arabidopsis *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b*. Pictures at 14 d-old seedlings growing in $\frac{1}{2}$ MS media containing different herbicide concentrations. A) Plate map, $\frac{1}{2}$ MS control untreated and basta (25mg L⁻¹); B) $\frac{1}{2}$ MS plates with different doses of bensulfuron-methyl, chlorsulfuron, penoxsulam, propoxycarbazone, mesotrione, and bentazon.

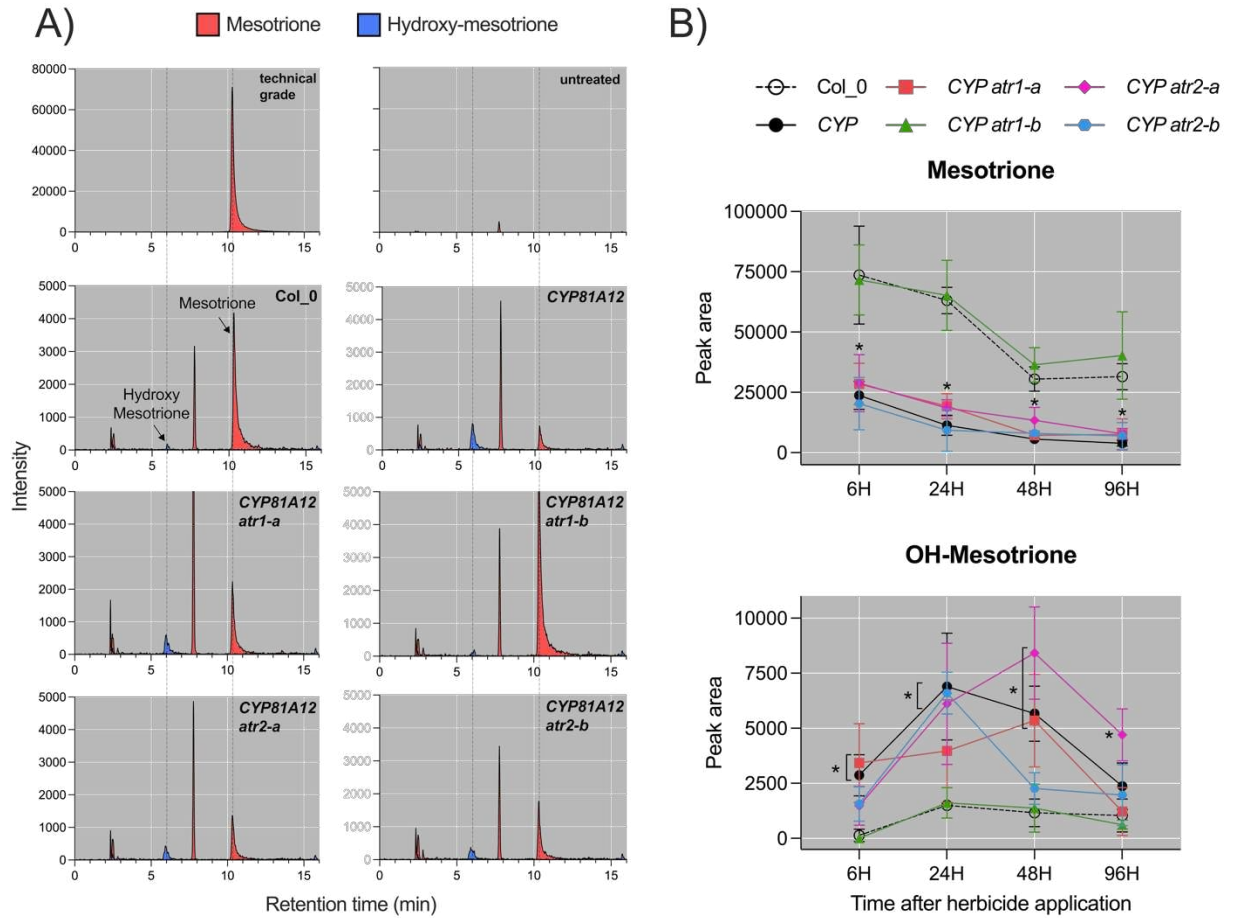


Figure 4-9. LC-MS/MS analysis of mesotrione metabolites found in different *Arabidopsis* lines. *Arabidopsis* lines analyzed were wild-type (Col_0), transgenic *CYP81A12* and transgenic mutants *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b*. A) MS chromatogram 24 h after herbicide application. The retention time for parental mesotrione and hydroxy-mesotrione is 10.3- and 5.9-min, respectively. Peak at retention time 7.7 min is present in all samples, even in untreated plants. B) Peak area of mesotrione and hydroxy-mesotrione at 6, 24, 48 and 96 h after mesotrione application on different *Arabidopsis* lines. * p -value < 0.05 by Dunnett's Test.

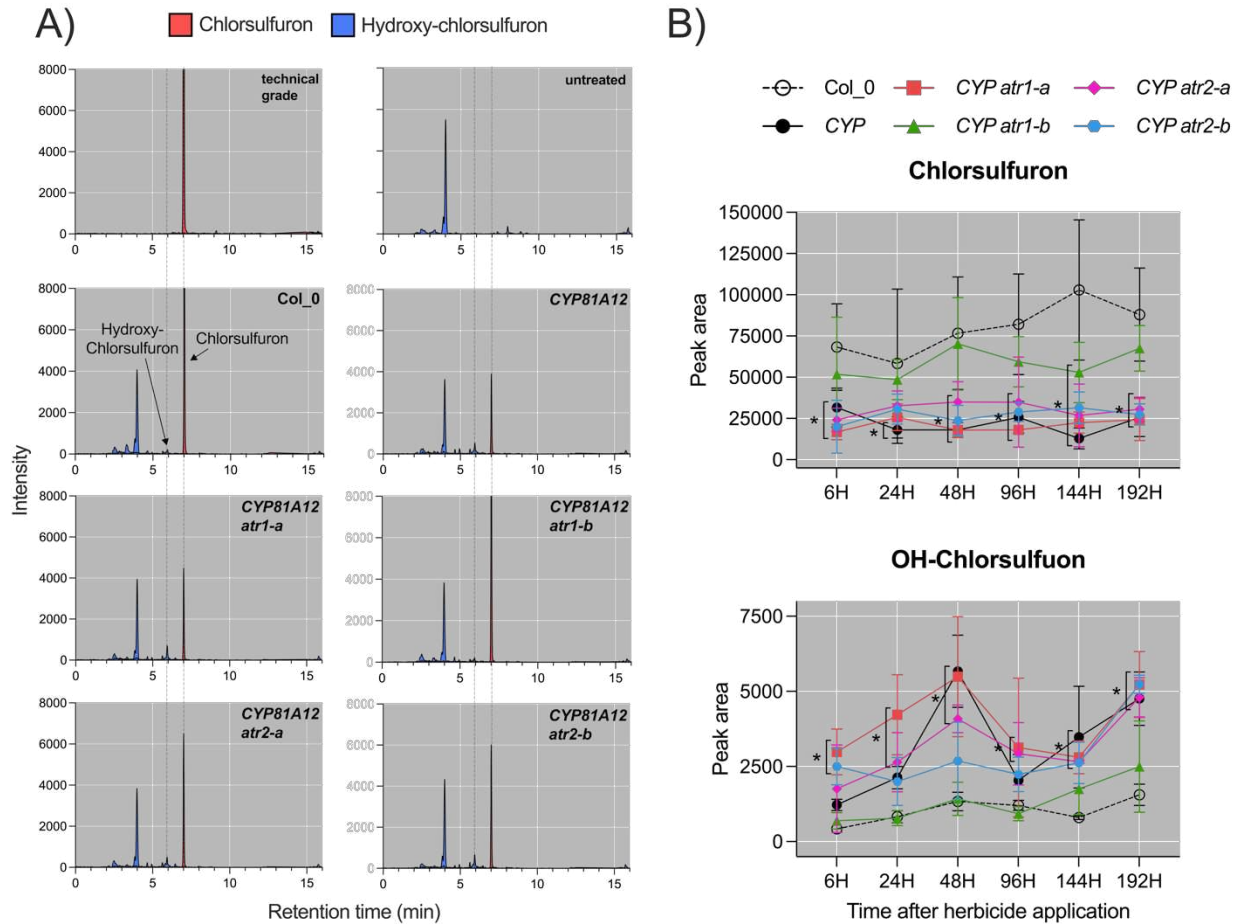


Figure 4-10. LC-MS/MS analysis of chlorsulfuron metabolites found in different Arabidopsis lines. Arabidopsis lines analyzed were wild-type (Col_0), transgenic *CYP81A12* and transgenic mutants *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, *CYP81A12 atr2-b*. A) MS chromatogram 192 h after herbicide application. The retention time for parental chlorsulfuron and hydroxy-chlorsulfuron 7.01 and 5.9 min, respectively. Peak at retention time 4.01 min is present in all samples, even in untreated plants. B) Peak area of chlorsulfuron and hydroxy-chlorsulfuron at different time points after chlorsulfuron application. * *p*-value < 0.05 by Dunnett's Test.

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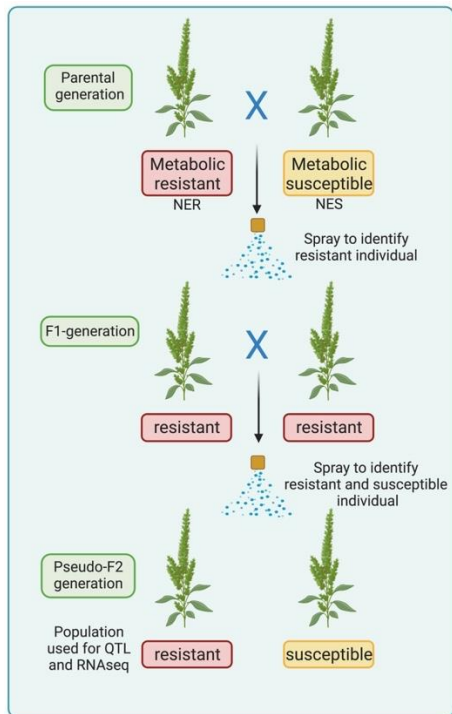
5. APPENDIX A

Supporting Information for CHAPTER II - CYTOCHROME *CYP72A219* IS INVOLVED IN METABOLIC RESISTANCE TO TEMBOTRIONE IN PALMER AMARANTH

Material and Methods

Plant material for QTL mapping and RNAseq experiment

For the crosses, Palmer amaranth seed was sown on 0.7% agar medium (Sigma-Aldrich), placed in a refrigerator at 4 °C for seven d and then germinated on a germination bench at room temperature with 16/8h day/night cycle. Germinated seedlings were transplanted into commercial potting soil (Professional Growing Mix, Sun Gro Horticulture) in 5x5 cm inserts and maintained in the greenhouse at 24±2°C temperatures and 15/9 h day/night photoperiods supplemented with metal-halide lamps (400 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹). Plants were watered daily. A pseudo-F2 generation was generated by first spraying parental NER individuals at 7-10 cm height with a field rate of 91 a.i. ha⁻¹ tembotrione (Laudis, Bayer CropScience) and 1% v/v methylated seed oil (MSO). Herbicide applications were made using an overhead track sprayer (DeVries Manufacturing) equipped with a flat-fan nozzle tip (TeeJet 8002EVS, Spraying System) calibrated to deliver 187 L ha⁻¹ of spray solution at 172 kPa. Surviving NER were transplanted into 22.5 cm diameter pots and individually crossed with another NES individual using pollination bags. Five crosses with NERmale × NESfemale and five crosses with NERfemale × NESmale were performed and grown to seed. The resulting F1 generations were grown out and sprayed again under the same conditions described above. Two F1 individuals from each parental cross that survived the application were crossed with each other. Seeds from the resulting Pseudo-F2 generation were subsequently used for the QTL mapping or RNA-Seq experiment. Schemes of the crosses are available in Supporting Information Figure 3-1.



Supporting Information Figure 3-1. Scheme of crosses performed to generate Pseudo-F2 generation from Palmer amaranth population HPPD-resistant (NER) x susceptible (NES).

RNA-Sequencing

For the RNA-Seq experiment, plants were grown from the Pseudo-F2 generations generated from two parental NERmale x NESfemale crosses (cross A and B, respectively). Seeds were sown on 0.7% agar medium (Sigma-Aldrich), placed in a refrigerator at 4 °C for seven d and then germinated on a germination bench at room temperature with 16/8h of day/night cycle. About 150 seedlings from each Pseudo-F2 cross were transplanted into 4x4 cm inserts each and maintained in a growth chamber at 25/22°C day/night temperatures, 70% relative humidity, and 16h photoperiod with 700 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ provided by incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. At 4-5 cm height and 4-5 leaf stage, the first fully expanded leaf from the apical meristem of each plant was cut and immediately frozen at -80°C for timepoint 0. The plants were then sprayed at 77 g a.i. ha^{-1} (85% of the field rate) with 1% v/v MSO as described above to ensure resistant plants would be able to survive despite removing leaves for testing. Six HAT the second expanded leaf

and twelve HAT the third expanded leaf were cut and immediately frozen at -80 °C, respectively. Visual damage and survival data were recorded after treatment for 21 d to phenotype resistant and susceptible individuals. From each pseudo-F2 cross only the six visually most resistant and the six visually most susceptible individuals were used for RNA-Sequencing.

Total RNA was extracted from frozen ground tissue using the Direct-zol™ RNA MiniPrep Plus (Zymo Research) which includes DNase treatment. Yield and purity were measured with a NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific) and RNA integrity (RIN) was measured on an Agilent 2200 Bio TapeStation system (Agilent Technologies) using Agilent High Sensitivity RNA ScreenTape. RNASeq library preparation was performed with the TruSeq stranded mRNA library prep kit (Illumina) preparing for 150 nucleotide paired-end sequencing. The 108 libraries were run on an Illumina HiSeq 4000 platform on a total of 16 lanes (2 flow cells) with seven libraries per lane, yielding 5.2 billion paired-end reads. Individual library yields were 48.2 million on average and ranged from 35.0 to 71.5 million paired-end reads. On average over 93% of sequenced nucleotides met a quality score of 30 (Q30 Phred score).

Quantitative reverse transcription-PCR (RT-qPCR) validation

Supporting Information Table 3-1. Gene stability assessed by NormFinder algorithm.

Gene name	Stability value	
18S	0.110	
ACT	0.193	
TUB	0.231	
Intergroup variation	NES	NER
Group identifier		
18S	0.068	-0.068
ACT	-0.149	0.149
TUB	0.080	-0.080
Intragroup variation	NES	NER
Group identifier		
18S	0.515	0.128
ACT	1.048	0.746
TUB	1.147	1.427
Best gene	18S	
Stability value	0.110	
Best combination of two genes	18S and ACT	
Stability value for best combination of two genes	0.112	

NES – Nebraska susceptible, NER – Nebraska HPPD-resistant.

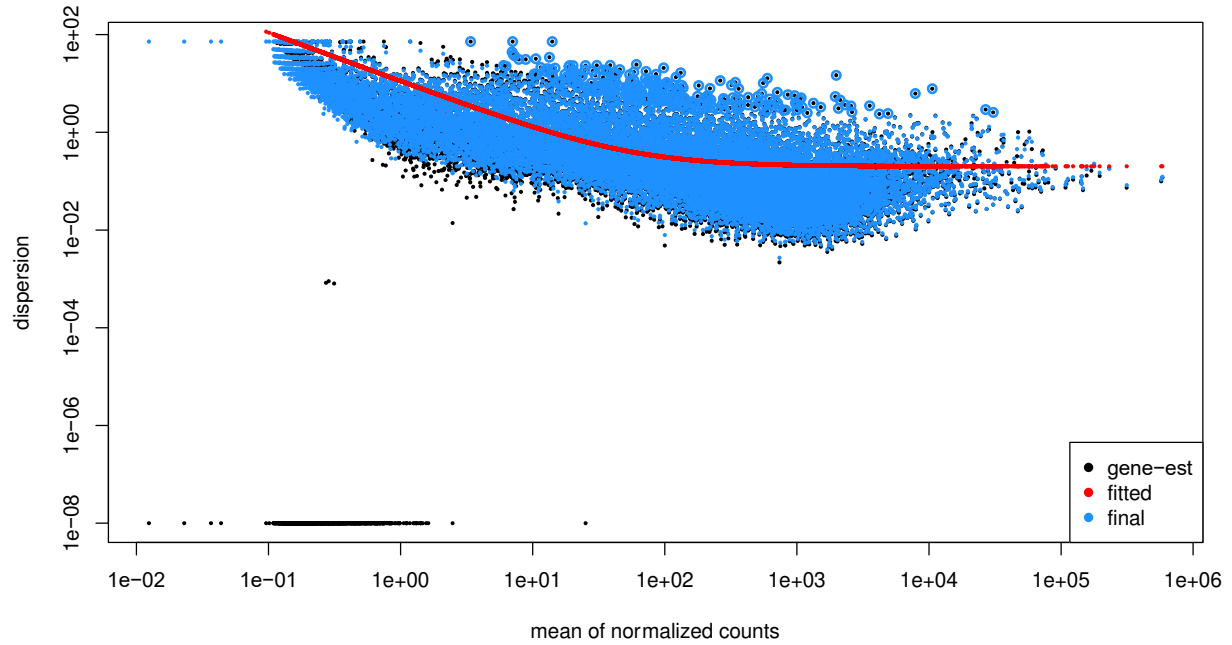
Supporting Information Table 3-2. Primer sequences used for different experiments and their characteristic.

Experiment	gene	sequence 5' to 3'	size (bp)
Gene validation	qPCR_actin_F	ggctgatgca gaggagattc	149
	qPCR_actin_R	gtccataccaacatgacacc	
	18S rRNA_F	caaccataaacgatgccgacc	113
	18S rRNA_R	cagccttgccaccatactcc	
	TUB_F	cattatactgaaggctgaac	211
	TUB_R	ctttcgga gatgggaaaca	
	ALSF2 ¹	getgetgaaggctacgt	118
	ALSR2 ¹	gcg ggactga gcaagaatg	
	CYP72A219_4284_F	gccaaaaaggttgaaaaatgc	130
	CYP72A219_4284_R	taggtggcattgggttta	
	CYP72A219_4285_F	aaagcatcaaaattggcaac	213
	CYP72A219_4285_R	actacgacacctgctggaa g	
	CYP72A219_4286_F	tcgaaagccaaaattgaacc	158
	CYP72A219_4286_R	ccttaacactggtgccgaat	
	CYP72A219_7285_F	gccggtgtcaagttaaat	232
	CYP72A219_7285_R	atgaaaagtcggcaaatc	
CYP81E8_1F	gacaatgatcgaccaaacac	131	
CYP81E8_1R	cagggaacaatgtggctctt		
Promoter amplification	CYP81E8_F	ggcaaaaaggatgaaatcatcg	2131
	CYP81E8_R	catgcgga gga aactaccac	
	CYP72A219_Pro_F	gggtcactgtcttttgatttaggg	1951
	CYP72A219_Pro_R	tgttcatccaagctctttca	
	Promoter_Sen_R	gacattcaggatcccttatatattttgtttattgag	-
	Promoter_Sen_250_F_4	gacattcactgcaggcaattatcaacatcattttctt	250
	Promoter_Sen_750_F_4	gacattcactgcagggtttttctcaataagattacatt	750
	Promoter_Sen_1500_F_4	gacattcactgcaggatttaaagcctaattacattg	1500
	Promoter_Res_R	gacattcaggatcccttatatattttatttattgaga	-
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	Promoter_Res_1500_F_4	gacattcactgcaggcataatattcttcaattatcaaa	1500
	Promoter_chunk_R	gacattcaggatcccaaaattgcttggccactcttta	500
	Promoter_chunk_F4	gacattcactgcagggttttgca gatggaaaa gca g	
GUS expression	<i>NbGAPDH</i> _F ²	agctcaagggaattctc gatg	125
	<i>NbGAPDH</i> _R ²	aaccttaacctatgcatctccc	
	<i>Nb18S</i> _F ²	gcaagaccgaaactcaagg	107
	<i>Nb18S</i> _R ²	tgttcataatgcaaggctgg	
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	qPCR_GUS_R	gagcgtcgca gacattaca	

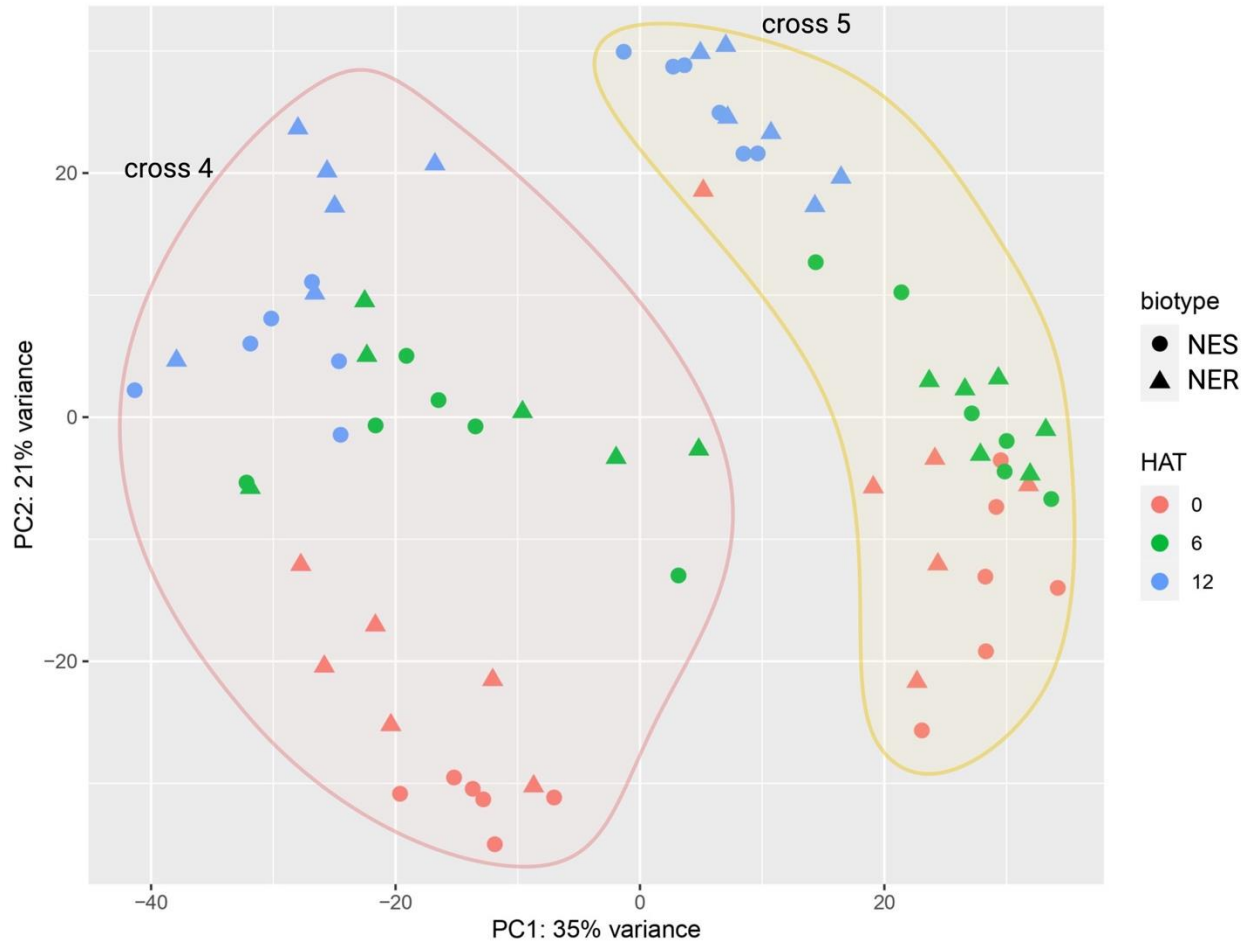
GACATTCA, leader sequence. CCTGCAGG, SbfI restriction site. GGATCC, BamHI restriction site

Results

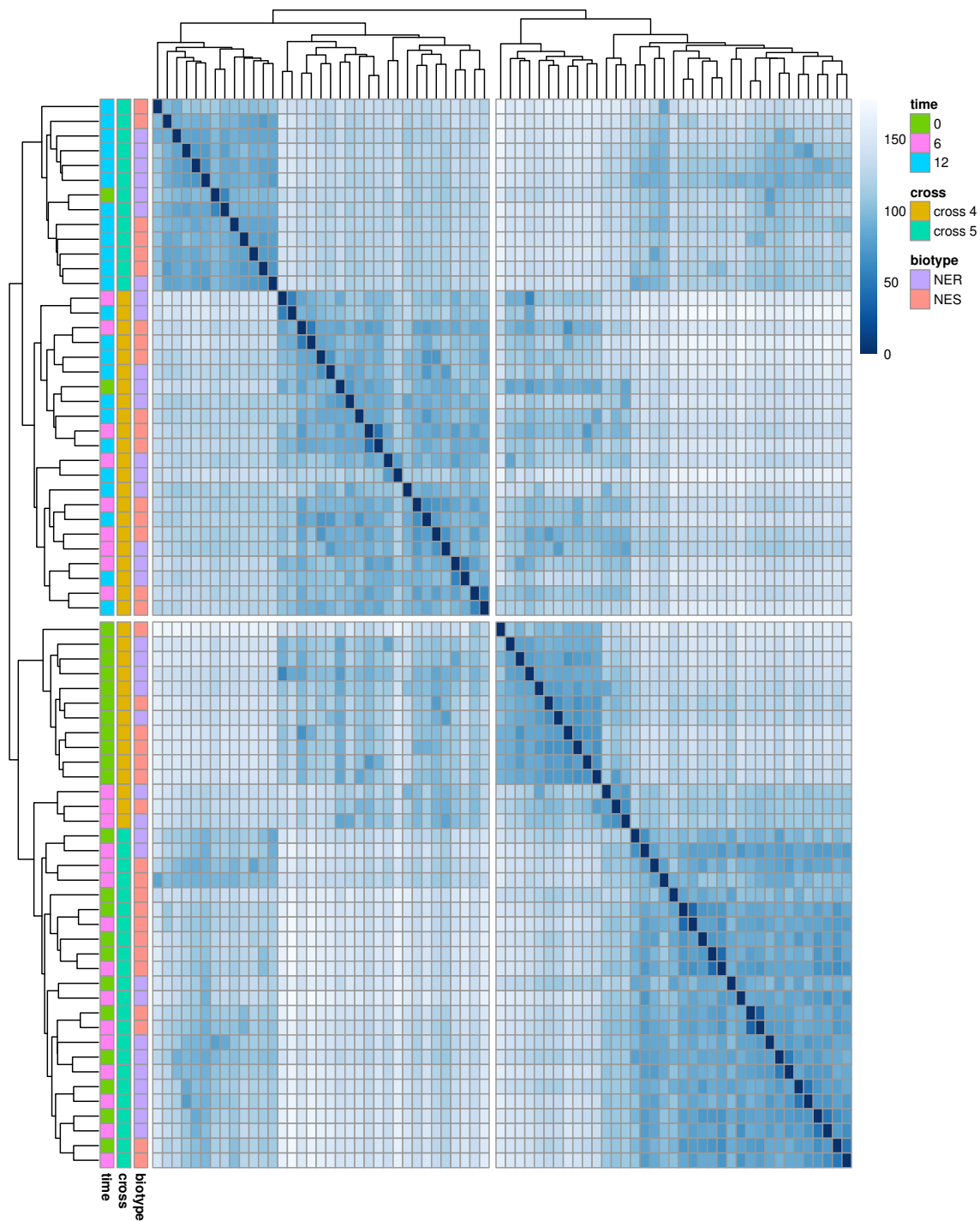
RNA-se analysis



Supporting Information Figure 3-2. Gene-wise dispersion estimates. The dots indicate every gene expression and its estimates toward the fitted curve. Genes with extremely high dispersion are not shrunk toward the curve.



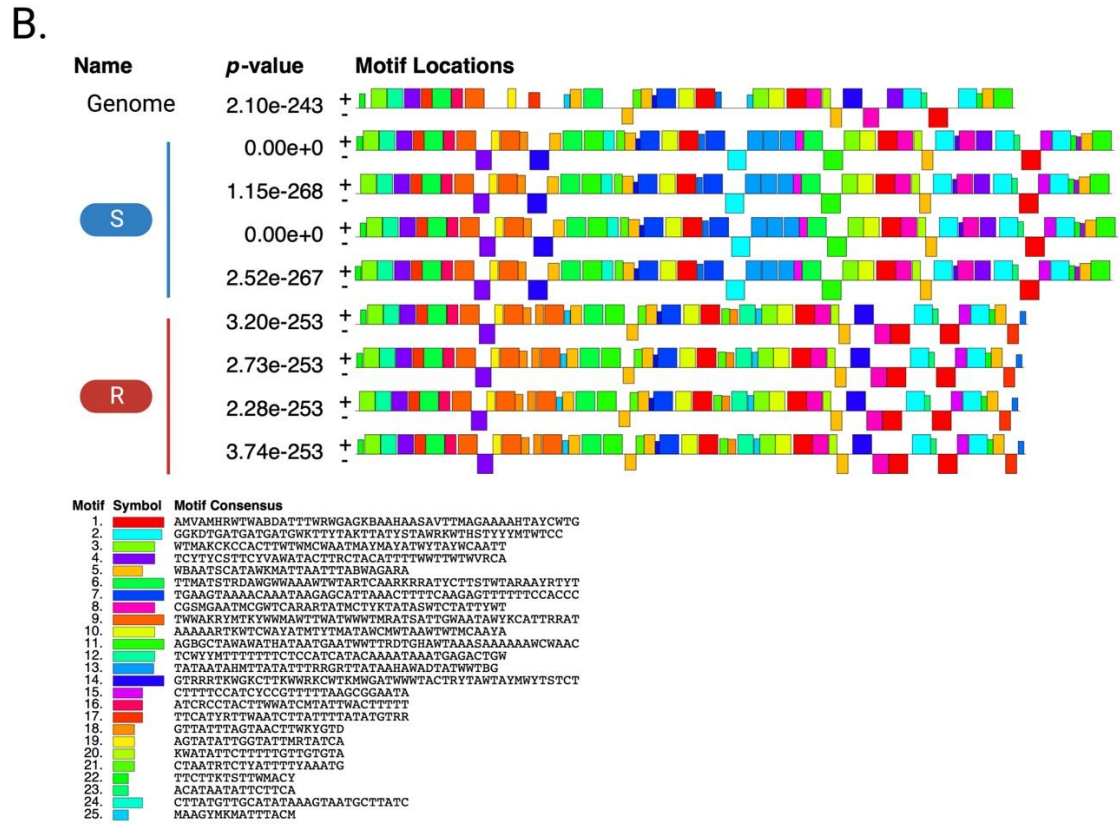
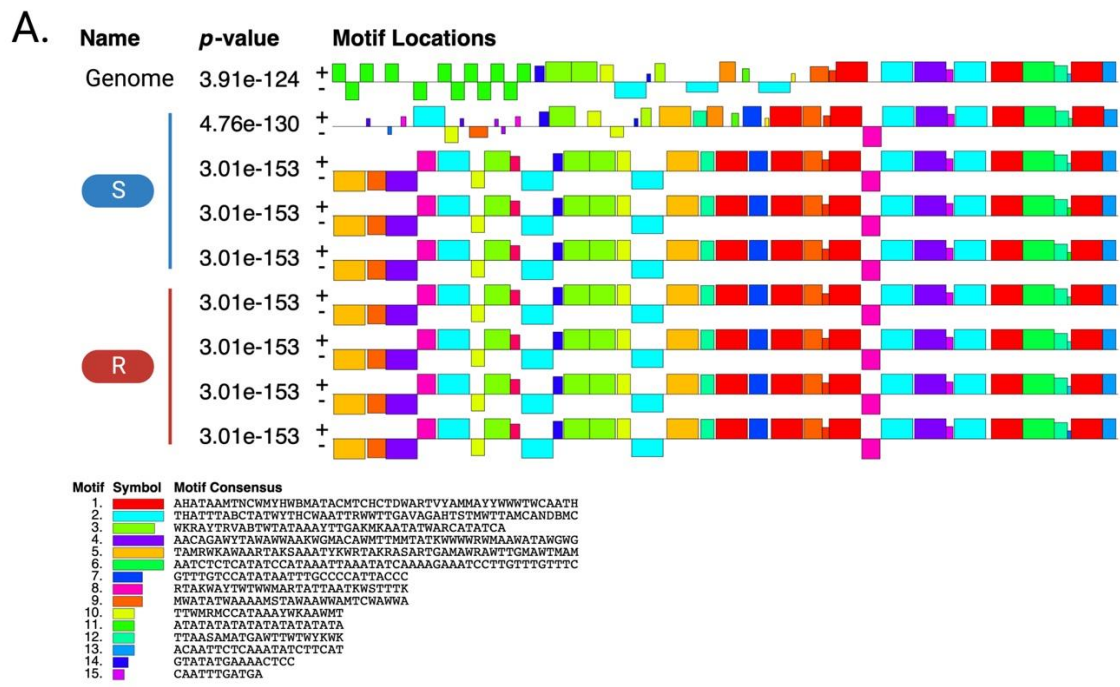
Supporting Information Figure 3-3. Scatterplot of principal components 1 and 2 (35% and 21 % variance explained, respectively) for two different crosses (A and B) between Sensitive (NES) and HPPD-Resistant (NER) *Amaranthus palmeri* population in response to tembotrione before, 6 and 12 HAT.



Supporting Information Figure 3-4. Distance hierarchical clustering heatmap of 72 transcriptomes of Palmer amaranth generated by two crosses (4 and 5) between sensitive (NES) and HPPD-resistant (NER) in response to tembotrione application before, 6 and 12 HAT.

Supporting Information Table 3-3. Constitutively differentially expressed genes between tembotrione resistant and susceptible *Amaranthus palmeri*. Adjusted *P*-value <0.01.

gene ID	log2FC	lfcSE	Gene	Molecular function
MAKER_16168	3.57	0.43	Glutathione S-transferase U19 (GSTU9)	glutathione transferase activity
MAKER_12558	5.83	0.92	Disease resistance protein At4g27190-like (LOC104598357)	ADP binding
MAKER_29886	4.20	0.57	NADPH--cytochrome P450 reductase (CYP72A219-like)	monooxygenase activity
MAKER_05008	3.37	0.43	Scopoletin glucosyltransferase (TOGT1)	scopoletin glucosyltransferase activity
MAKER_08144	3.19	0.40	glycosyltransferase	-
MAKER_06269	22.60	3.43	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_25717	3.56	0.52	NADPH--cytochrome P450 reductase (CYP72A219-like)	monooxygenase activity
MAKER_08142	3.71	0.56	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_21351	2.47	0.33	Crocetin glucosyltransferase (GLT2)	glucosyltransferase activity
MAKER_20679	1.90	0.25	Detoxification 27 (DTX27)	transmembrane transporter activity
MAKER_03299	4.50	0.85	MADS-box transcription factor 23-like	DNA-binding transcription factor activity
MAKER_31185	21.49	4.09	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_16324	2.94	0.48	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_04610	2.20	0.33	Enhanced pseudomonas susceptibility 1 (EPS1)	acyltransferase activity
MAKER_28341	3.02	0.51	Vacuolar-processing enzyme beta-isozyme (bVPE)	cysteine-type endopeptidase activity
MAKER_20648	2.50	0.40	Betanidin 6-O-glucosyltransferase	glucosyltransferase activity
MAKER_10107	2.64	0.44	Cytochrome P450 81E8 (CYP81E8)	monooxygenase activity
MAKER_07960	2.38	0.39	Glycosyltransferase GTB type superfamily protein	transferase activity
MAKER_08145	2.69	0.45	UDP-glycosyltransferase 71B2-like	UDP-glycosyltransferase activity
MAKER_04612	2.03	0.31	acetyl-transferase-like	transferase activity
MAKER_32649	4.15	0.89	MADS-box transcription factor 27 (MADS27)	DNA-binding transcription factor activity
MAKER_20644	2.93	0.54	UDP-glycosyltransferase 71A15	transferase activity
MAKER_21756	3.01	0.57	glutathione S-transferase (GST)	transferase activity
MAKER_04611	2.00	0.34	BAHD acyltransferase DCR-like protein	transferase activity
MAKER_15874	3.54	0.80	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_06150	2.06	0.36	Glutathione S-transferase U19 (GSTU9)	glutathione transferase activity
MAKER_25718	2.43	0.47	NADPH--cytochrome P450 reductase (CYP72A219-like)	monooxygenase activity
MAKER_24005	2.16	0.42	NADPH:quinone oxidoreductase	NADPH dehydrogenase activity
MAKER_16167	2.16	0.44	Glutathione S-transferase (GST)	glutathione transferase activity
MAKER_34451	3.15	0.95	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_17494	3.20	1.05	Protein of unknown function	-
MAKER_12474	3.27	1.90	RING-H2 finger protein ATL3	metal ion binding



Supporting Information Figure 3-6. Motifs analysis using MEME-suite tool³ for *CYP81E8* and *CYP72A219_4284* promoter between S and R samples. Different color indicates different motif.

Involvement of *CYP72A219_4284* in different HPPD-resistant Palmer amaranth

populations

Supporting Information Table 3-4. Logistic equation parameters and the resistance index (RI) of survival (% of untreated control) for different populations of Palmer amaranth subjected to different doses of tembotrione.

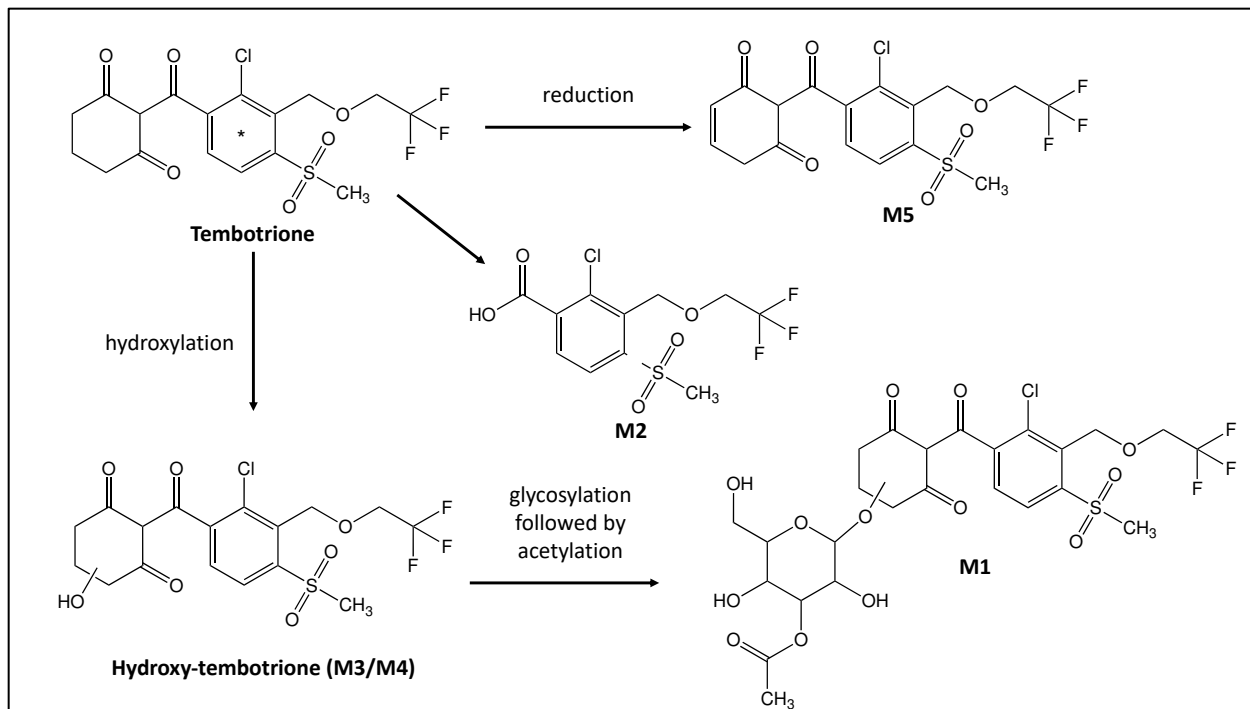
populations	b	d	LD ₅₀			SE	RI	p-value
			dose (g ha ⁻¹)	lower CI (95%)	upper CI (95%)			
Sensitive	12.6	100.0	22.8	21.8	23.8	0.5	-	
NER	1.9	98.8	99.9	74.5	125.5	12.9	4.3	<0.001
WR2013-034	2.9	98.5	89.4	73.1	105.8	8.3	3.9	<0.001
W2019-044	2.5	99.5	77.3	61.6	93.0	8.0	3.4	<0.001
W2019-137	11.6	100.0	181.9	172.8	191.1	4.6	7.9	<0.001
W2019-140	3.8	100.3	129.4	108.2	150.6	10.8	5.7	<0.001
W2019-141	4.1	98.9	55.4	46.8	64.5	4.4	2.4	<0.001
W2019-144	5.2	100.0	69.6	57.8	81.3	5.9	3.0	<0.001
W2019-198	6.2	97.3	105.2	87.2	123.24	9.1	4.6	<0.001
W2019-199	2.1	99.5	132.1	100.4	163.2	15.8	5.8	<0.001
W2019-200	1.5	99.0	178.3	127.6	229.6	25.9	7.8	<0.001
W2019-273	2.8	100.6	63.8	51.9	75.9	6.1	2.8	<0.001
W2019-274	2.8	99.5	70.3	57.1	83.6	6.7	3.1	<0.001

b: slope; d: upper limit; LD₅₀: herbicide dose that causes a 50% reduction in survival, CI: confidence interval of the parameter LD₅₀ ($\alpha = 0.05$); and RI: resistance index = LD₅₀ ratio between respective population and sensitive.

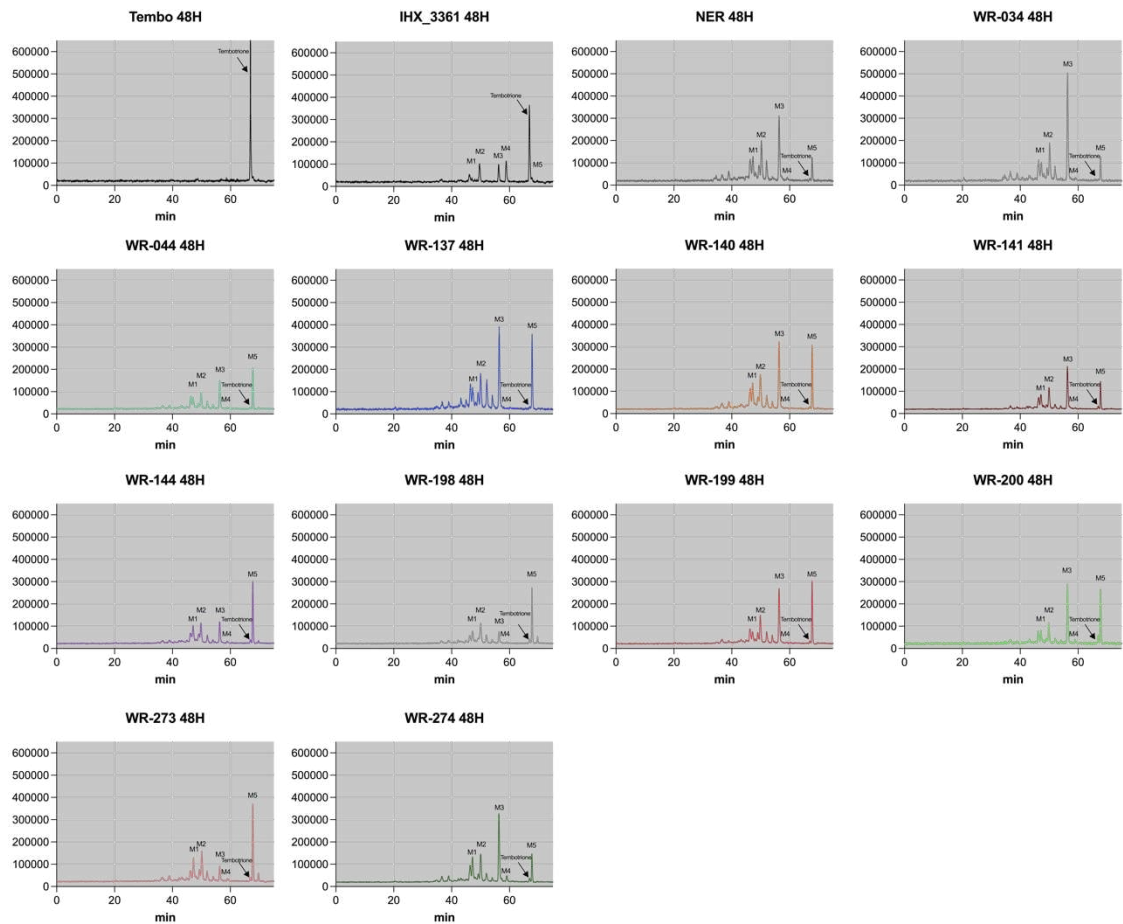
Supporting Information Table 3-5. Logistic equation parameters and the resistance index (RI) of shoot fresh weight (of untreated control) for different populations of Palmer amaranth subjected to different doses of tembotrione.

Populations	b	d	GR50			SE	RI	p-value
			dose (g ha ⁻¹)	lower CI (95%)	upper CI (95%)			
Sensitive	1.5	100	7.3	4.3	10.4	1.5	-	-
NER	2.1	100	50.6	32.2	69.0	9.3	6.9	<0.01
WR2013-034	5.7	100	40.1	29.2	51.1	5.5	5.5	<0.01
W2019-044	17.9	100	39.9	0.65	79.1	19.9	5.4	0.1
W2019-137	1.5	100	50.2	29.6	70.6	10.4	6.8	<0.01
W2019-140	2.4	100	43.2	29.6	70.6	6.9	5.9	<0.01
W2019-141	2.5	100	27.5	18.9	36.1	4.4	3.7	<0.01
W2019-144	4.1	100	20.3	15.6	25.0	2.4	2.8	<0.01
W2019-198	2.6	100	24.9	17.4	32.4	3.8	3.4	<0.01
W2019-199	2.1	100	19.8	9.5	30.0	5.2	2.7	0.06
W2019-200	4.5	100	31.9	23.9	39.8	4.0	4.3	<0.01
W2019-273	5.1	100	24.1	17.8	30.2	3.1	3.3	<0.01
W2019-274	3.3	100	29.2	20.6	37.8	4.4	3.9	<0.01

b: slope; d: upper limit; GR₅₀: herbicide dose that causes a 50% reduction in shoot fresh weight, CI: confidence interval of the parameter GR₅₀ ($\alpha = 0.05$); and RI: resistance index = GR₅₀ ratio between respective population and sensitive.

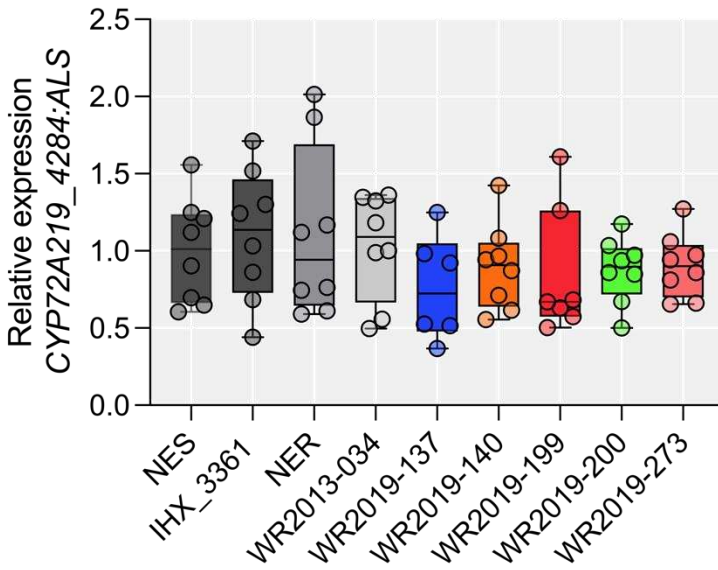


Supplemental Information Figure 3-7. Chemical structures of tembotrione and the main metabolites. Detoxification pathways proposed by Küpper et al. (2018). The asterisk in the tembotrione molecule marks the location of the ¹⁴C-label.



Supporting Information Figure 3-8. Representative reverse-phase HPLC chromatogram for Palmer populations 48 HAT with ^{14}C -Tembotrione. Retention times of 47.3, 50.1, 56.3, 59.0, 66.9 and 67.7 min correspond to M1, M2, M3, M4, tembotrione and M5, respectively. IHX_3361 is herbicide sensitive control, NER and WR2013-034 are HPPD resistant control.

Gene copy number



Supporting Information Figure 3-9. *CYP72A219_4284* copy number relative to *ALS* in different populations of *Amaranthus palmeri*. NES and IHX_3361 are herbicide sensitive control, NER and WR2013-034 are HPPD resistant control. Circle indicates biological replicate.

Degree of dominance and QTL identification

Supporting Information Table 3-6. Quantitative trait loci found in Pseudo-F2 *Amaranthus palmeri* in cross B and combined cross A + B for the trait of HPPD resistance. Position are based on available genome of Palmer amaranth⁴.

QTL	LOD score	Position	Interval		Chromosome	Annotated genes	PVE
Cross B							
Scaffold_10	11.6	11877263	11865155	11890395	4	77	23 %
	8.4	10336852	10224431	10336879			
	7.9	10337656	10336879	10482794			
Scaffold_81	10.1	19632215	18232833	20375576	2	78	20 %
	8.6	18232833	18186955	18238951			
Scaffold_6	9.5	16851238	15842545	16851238	8	7	19 %
	8.7	15843735	15752153	15907859			
Scaffold_14	8.0	7800824	2267056	7800824	15	50	16 %
	7.9	4777664	4754252	4917017			
	7.9	2267056	2226097	2271946			
combined cross A + B							
Scaffold_10	12.25	11877263	10877263	12877263	4	105	15 %
	7.84	11332443					
Scaffold_6	7.81	5462074	4962074	5962074	8	32	10 %
	7.60	16851238	15150809	17351238			
	7.00	15650809					
	6.68	15617367					
Scaffold_14	7.87	7800824	7300824	8300824	15	25	10 %

PVE – phenotype variation explained.

Cytochrome P450 sequences and alignments

CYP72A219_4284

NES and NER CYP72A219_4284 alleles from sanger sequencing

Reference genome use for the alignment:

palmeri(v1.1, unmasked), Name: mRNA4451, Type: CDS, Feature Location: (Chr: Scaffold_10, join(13520341..13520623,13521428..13521645,13522474..13522718,13523654..13524035,13525026..13525451)) Genomic Location: 13520341-13525451

>NES_CYP71A219_5284 allele1

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CLUSTAL alignment

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NES	allele2	MEETSILSISISLVCVVLSVSVSWGILNWVWFKPKRLEKCLRNQGFNGNSYRLLYGDTNER	60
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NES	allele2	AWMTMESRLNPMNLSNHF LPHSLAFFHHIITKYGRRCFIWN GPIPLVNIIEPNLIREIF	120
NER	allele1	AWMTMESRLNPMNLSNHF LPHSLAFFHHIITKYGRRCFIWN GPIPLVNIIEPNLIREIF	120
NER	allele2	AWMTMESRLNPMNLSNHF LPHSLAFFHHIITKYGRRCFIWN GPIPLVNIIEPNLIREIF	120
CYP72A219_4284	genom	MKINDFQKAKSNPI IKKVA PGLLFLEGHAWAQRKLLTPAFHIDKLFMVPTIWESSNEM	180
NES	allele1	MKINDFQKAKSNPI IKKVA PGLLFLEGHAWAQRKLLTPAFHIDKLFMVPTIWESSNEM	180
NES	allele2	MKINDFQKAKSNPI IKKVA PGLLFLEGHAWAQRKLLTPAFHIDKLFMVPTIWESSNEM	180
NER	allele1	MKINDFQKAKSNPI IKKVA PGLLFLEGHAWAQRKLLTPAFHIDKLFMVPTIWESSNEM	180
NER	allele2	MKINDFQKAKSNPI IKKVA PGLLFLEGHAWAQRKLLTPAFHIDKLFMVPTIWESSNEM	180
CYP72A219_4284	genom	IKWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYEEGKTFDILLTEQIKIVVPVF	240
NES	allele1	IKWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYEEGKTFDILLTEQIKIVVPVF	240
NES	allele2	IKWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYEEGKTFDILLTEQIKIVVPVF	240
NER	allele1	IKWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYEEGKTFDILLTEQIKIVVPVF	240
NER	allele2	IKWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYEEGKTFDILLTEQIKIVVPVF	240
CYP72A219_4284	genom	NSVYIPGWRFLPTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIIDKRKNTINREERAKDDLSTLIQDNF	300
NES	allele1	NSVYIPGWRFLPTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIIDKRKNTINREERAKDDLSTLIQDNF	300
NES	allele2	NSVYIPGWRFLPTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIIDKRKNTINREERAKDDLSTLIQDNF	300
NER	allele1	NSVYIPGWRFLPTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIIDKRKNTINREERAKDDLSTLIQDNF	300
NER	allele2	NSVYIPGWRFLPTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIIDKRKNTINREERAKDDLSTLIQDNF	300
CYP72A219_4284	genom	GHANKKQDINKLNIIEEVNECKLFYLAGQDTS SLLLWTLIMLGKHQIWQQRAREEIIINT	360
NES	allele1	GHANKKQDINKLNIIEEVNECKLFYLAGQDTS SLLLWTLIMLGKHQIWQQRAREEIIINT	360
NES	allele2	GHANKKQDINKLNIIEEVNECKLFYLAGQDTS SLLLWTLIMLGKHQIWQQRAREEIIINT	360
NER	allele1	GHANKKQDINKLNIIEEVNECKLFYLAGQDTS SLLLWTLIMLGKHQIWQQRAREEIIINT	360
NER	allele2	GHANKKQDINKLNIIEEVNECKLFYLAGQDTS SLLLWTLIMLGKHQIWQQRAREEIIINT	360
CYP72A219_4284	genom	FGDAKPQFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVLRLYPVLLELNREVTQDIKIGDVILPAGVLLNIPIL	420
NES	allele1	FGDAKPQFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVLRLYPVLLELNREVTQDIKIGDVILPAGVLLNIPIL	420
NES	allele2	FGDAKPQFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVLRLYPVLLELNREVTQDIKIGDVILPAGVLLNIPIL	420
NER	allele1	FGDAKPQFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVLRLYPVLLELNREVTQDIKIGDVILPAGVLLNIPIL	420
NER	allele2	FGDAKPQFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVLRLYPVLLELNREVTQDIKIGDVILPAGVLLNIPIL	420

CYP72A219_4284	genom	LLQQDEK IWGKDAKEFN PERFS EGI SKASKGNMS FFAFGWGPRI CLGSNFAMIEAKLTLV	480
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NES	allele2	LLQQDEK IWGKDAKEFN PERFS EGI SKASKGNMS FFAFGWGPRI CLGSNFAMIEAKLTLV	480
NER	allele1	LLQQDEK IWGKDAKEFN PERFS EGI SKASKGNMS FFAFGWGPRI CLGSNFAMIEAKLTLV	480
NER	allele2	LLQQDEK IWGKDAKEFN PERFS EGI SKASKGNMS FFAFGWGPRI CLGSNFAMIEAKLTLV	480
CYP72A219_4284	genom	FI LQRFV FELSPSYRHA PLNVGTLRPQFGAPI IFRRR	517
NES	allele1	FI LQRFV FELSPSYRHA PLNVGTLRPQFGAPI IFRRR	517
NES	allele2	FI LQRFV FELSPSYRHA PLNVGTLRPQFGAPI IFRRR	517
NER	allele1	FI LQRFV FELSPSYRHA PLNVGTLRPQFGAPI IFRRR	517
NER	allele2	FI LQRFV FELSPSYRHA PLNVGTLRPQFGAPI IFRRR	517

CYP72A219_4285

NES and NER CYP72A219_4285 alleles from sanger sequencing

Reference genome use for the alignment:

palmeri(v1.1, unmasked), Name: mRNA4452, Type: CDS, Feature
 Location: (Chr: Scaffold_10,
 join(13525670..13525754,13526753..13526795,13528419..13528549,13530
 643..13530713,13530833..13530895,13531617..13531861,13533902..13534
 295,13535370..13535807)) Genomic Location: 13525670-13535807.

>CYP72A219_4285 NES allele1

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>CYP72A219_4285 NES allele2

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>CYP72A219_4285 NER allele1

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>CYP72A219_4285 NER allele2

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CLUSTAL alignment

CYP72A219_4285 genom	-----MCFLAQWFSWE GGDLP SMT DDVSDDI SFHSE IHA FSAK ILYNT LLHG	47
NES allele1	MEEK SILSI GISLF CVI LF SVSWK IINWVWLK PK ---- KFE KL LKNQG FDGNS YR LLHG	55
NES allele 2	MEEK SILSI GISLF CVI LF SVSWK IINWVWLK PK ---- KFE KL LKNQG FDGNS YR LLHG	55
NER allele 1	MEEK SILSI GISLF CVI LF SVSWK IINWVWLK PK ---- KFE KL LKNQG FDGNS YR LLHG	55
NER allele 2	MEEK SILSI GISLF CVI LF SVSWK IINWVWLK PK ---- KFE KL LKNQG FDGNS YR LLHG	55
CYP72A219_4285 genom	DTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLPHTLAFFHHTISKFGRKCI IWN GPVP FAS IAEPDL	107
NES allele1	DTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLPHTLAFFHHTISKFGRKCM IWN GPVP FAS IAEPDL	115
NES allele 2	DTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLPHTLAFFHHTISKFGRKCM IWN GPVP FAS IAEPDL	115
NER allele 1	DTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLPHTLAFFHHTISKFGRKCM IWN GPVP FAS IAEPDL	115
NER allele 2	DTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLPHTLAFFHHTISKFGRKCM IWN GPVP FAS IAEPDL	115
CYP72A219_4285 genom	VR-----EGNAWTHRRKLLTPAFHFDKLFKFMVPALWE	139
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NES allele 2	VR EVFMK INQFQNP KLN PT ANKVI SGL ITLEGNWTHRRKLLTPAFHFDKLFKFMVPALWE	175
NER allele 1	VR EVFMK INQFQNP KLN PI ANKVI SGL ITLEGNWTHRRKLLTPAFHFDKLFKFMVPALWE	175
NER allele 2	VR EVFMK INQFQNP KLN PT ANKVI SGL ITLEGNWTHRRKLLTPAFHFDKLFKFMVPALWE	175
CYP72A219_4285 genom	STKEMIEEWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYQEGKTFDLITEQIKI	199
NES allele1	SSKEMIK EWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYQEGKTFDLITEQIKI	235
NES allele 2	SSKEMIK EWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSY EEGKTFDLITEQIKI	235
NER allele 1	SSKEMIK EWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSYQEGKTFDLITEQIKI	235
NER allele 2	SSKEMIK EWEELASKTGSCEIEVWSSLQKLSADMISRAAFSGSY EEGKTFDLITEQIKI	235
CYP72A219_4285 genom	AI PMFNVS VY IPGSRFLP TKNRRI TQI DREIKNLMG I I DKRKAIK TQEKTKDDL LNTL	259
NES allele1	AI PMFNVS VY IPGSRFLP TKNRRI TQI DREIKNLMG I I DKRKAIK TQEKTKDDL LNTL	295
NES allele 2	AI PMFNVS VY IPGSRFLP TKNRRI TQI DREIKNLMG I I DKRKAIK TQEKTKDDL LNTL	295
NER allele 1	AI PMFNVS VY IPGSRFLP TKNRRI TQI DREIKNLMG I I DKRKAIK TQEKTKDDL LNTL	295
NER allele 2	AI PMFNVS VY IPGSRFLP TKNRRI TQI DREIKNLMG I I DKRKAIK TQEKTKDDL LNTL	295

CYP72A219_4285 genom	LESSYEQEENGHGNKKNNDI NLN IEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTL IMLAKHQNWQQ	319
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NES allele 2	LESSYEQEENGHGNKKNNDI NLN IEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTL IMLAKHQNWQQ	355
NER allele 1	LESSYEQEENGHGNKKNNDI NLN IEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTL IMLAKHQNWQQ	355
NER allele 2	LESSYEQEENGHGNKKNNDI NLN IEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTL IMLAKHQNWQQ	355
CYP72A219_4285 genom	LARQEIFNAFGDKI PQF HDLNHLK IVNMI LQEVLRRLY PPVTE TNREV IQDI KLGNMILPA	379
NES allele1	LARQEIFNAFGDKI PQF HDLNHLK IVNMI LQEVLRRLY PPVTE TNREV IQDI KLGNMILPA	415
NES allele 2	LARQEIFNAFGDKI PQF HDLNHLK IVNMI LQEVLRRLY PPVTE TNREV IQDI KLGNMILPA	415
NER allele 1	LARQEIFNAFGDKI PQF HDLNHLK IVNMI LQEVLRRLY PPVTE TNREV IQDI KLGNMILPA	415
NER allele 2	LARQEIFNAFGDKI PQF HDLNHLK IVNMI LQEVLRRLY PPVTE TNREV IQDI KLGNMILPA	415
CYP72A219_4285 genom	GVVVNIP ILLMHHDEKI WGNDAKE FNP ER FSEGI SKA SKGNMSL FAF GWGPRIC IGSNFA	439
NES allele1	GVVVNIP ILLMHHDEKI WGNDAKE FNP ER FSEGI SKA SKGNMSL FAF GWGPRIC IGSNFA	475
NES allele 2	GVVVNIP ILLMHHDEKI WGNDAKE FNP ER FSEGI SKA SKGNMSL FAF GWGPRIC IGSNFA	475
NER allele 1	GVVVNIP ILLMHHDEKI WGNDAKE FNP ER FSEGI SKA SKGNMSL FAF GWGPRIC IGSNFA	475
NER allele 2	GVVVNIP ILLMHHDEKI WGNDAKE FNP ER FSEGI SKA SKGNMSL FAF GWGPRIC IGSNFA	475
CYP72A219_4285 genom	MI EAKLT LVCILQR FV FEL SPS YLHAP SA IGS LR PQF GAPI I FR PRI LGS	489
NES allele1	MI EAKLT LVCILQR FV FEL SPS YLHAP SA IGS LR PQF GAPI I FR PRI LGS	525
NES allele 2	MI EAKLT LVCILQR FV FEL SPS YLHAP SA IGS LR PQF GAPI I FR PRI LGS	525
NER allele 1	MI EAKLT LVCILQR FV FEL SPS YLHAP SA IGS LR PQF GAPI I FR PRI LGS	525
NER allele 2	MI EAKLT LVCILQR FV FEL SPS YLHAP SA IGS LR PQF GAPI I FR PRI LGS	525

CYP72A219_7285

NES and NER CYP72A219_7285 alleles from sanger sequencing

Reference genome use for the alignment:

>Amaranthus palmeri(v1.1, NCBI WindowMasker (Hard)), Name: mRNA7568, Type: CDS, Feature Location: (Chr: Scaffold_12, join(10909788..10909884,10914812..10915029,10916014..10916258,10917355..10917751,10918716..10919153)) Genomic Location: 10909788-10919153

>CYP72A219_7285 NER allele 1

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>CYP72A219_7285 NER allele 2

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> CYP72A219_7285 NES allele 1

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> CYP72A219_7285 NES allele 2

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CLUSTAL alignment

CYP72A219_7285 genome MVKETTSKPMDFSN DY IPRVF PFHHQ I IKNY GEK SFVWDGP IPS IMITNPE I I R I I LMK 60
NES allele1 MVKETTSKPMDFSN DY IPRVF PFHHQ I IKNY GEK SFVWDGP IPS IMITNPE I I R I I LMK 60
NES allele2 MVKETTSKPMDFSN DY IPRVF PFHHQ I IKNY GEK SFVWDGP IPS IMITNPE I I R I I LMK 60
NER allele1 MVKETTSKPMDFSN DY IPRVF PFHHQ I IKNY GEK SFVWDGP IPS IMITNPE I I R I I LMK 60
NER allele2 MVKETTSKPMDFSN DY IPRVF PFHHQ I IKNY GEK SFVWDGP IPS IMITNPE I I R I I LMK 60

CYP72A219_7285 genome IYDFKKI VPTPLMKRLTNGLVRLEGTKWAKERKLLNPAFHMEK LKHMIPAFHASCHEMI K 120
NES allele1 IYDFKKI VPTPLMKRLTNGLVRLEGTKWAKERKLLNPAFHMEK LKHMIPAFHASCHEMI K 120
NES allele2 IYDFKKI VPTPLMKRLTNGLVRLEGTKWAKERKLLNPAFHMEK LKHMIPAFHASCHEMI K 120
NER allele1 IYDFKKI VPTPLMKRLTNGLVRLEGTKWAKERKLLNPAFHMEK LKHMIPAFHASCHEMI K 120
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CYP72A219_7285 genome EW EKI I S K T G S G E V E M W S Y L H N M S A D A I S R A A F G S S F Q E G Q R V F E L L R E H T S I T V Q A L Q S 180
NES allele1 EW EKI I S K T G S G E V E M W S Y L H N M S A D A I S R A A F G S S F Q E G Q R V F E L L R E H T S I T V Q A L Q S 180
NES allele2 EW EKI I S K T G S G E V E M W S Y L H N M S A D A I S R A A F G S S F Q E G Q R V F E L L R E H T S I T V Q A L Q S 180
NER allele1 EW EKI I S K T G S G E V E M W S Y L H N M S A D A I S R A A F G S S F Q E G Q R V F E L L R E H T S I T V Q A L Q S 180
NER allele2 EW EKI I S K T G S G E V E M W S Y L H N M S A D A I S R A A F G S S F Q E G Q R V F E L L R E H T S I T V Q A L Q S 180

CYP72A219_7285 genome VY I P G S R F L P T K T N R R E A K I I K E M E S L L K A M I Q R R Q N A I K G E N G N K D D L L D L L L T S S I E 240
NES allele1 VY I P G S R F L P T K T N R R E A K I I K E M E S L L K A M I Q R R Q N A I K G E N G N K D D L L D L L L T S S I E 240
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NER allele1 VY I P G S R F L P T K T N R R E A K I I K E M E S L L K A M I Q R R Q N A I K G E N G N K D D L L D L L L T S S I E 240
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NER allele2	DNHVKDGNKEYVKLGKMEI IEECKMFYIAGQETTSSLLTWTLLILLSKHQNWQHAREE I	300
CYP72A219_7285 genome	LA TFGDT IPNDE GLNQLKKV SMILQEVLR LYP PVVTL GRKVS HDI KVGDMDL PAGVQVK I	360
NES allele1	LA TFGDT IPNDE GLNQLKKV SMILQEVLR LYP PVVTL GRKVS HDI KVGDMDL PAGVQVK I	360
NES allele2	LA TFGDT IPNDE GLNQLKKV SMILQEVLR LYP PVVTL GRKVS HDI KVGDMDL PAGVQVK I	360
NER allele1	LA TFGDT IPNDE GLNQLKKV SMILQEVLR LYP PVVTL GRKVS HDI KVGDMDL PAGVQVK I	360
NER allele2	LA TFGD S IPNDE GLNQLKKV SMILQEVLR LYP PVVTL GRKVS HDI KVGDMDL PAGVQVK I	360
CYP72A219_7285 genome	PTIFI HHSEK LWGKDAKEFN PNRFS QGFLKATGGNMCFFA FGWGPRI CI GSNFALLEAKM	420
NES allele1	PTIFI HHSEK LWGKDAKEFN PNRFS QGFLKATGGNMCFFA FGWGPRI CI GSNFALLEAKM	420
NES allele2	PTIFI HHSEK LWGKDAKEFN PNRFS QGFLKATGGNMCFFA FGWGPRI CI GSNFALLEAKM	420
NER allele1	PTIFI HHSEK LWGKDAKEFN PNRFS QGFLKATGGNMCFFA FGWGPRI CI GSNFALLEAKM	420
NER allele2	PTIFI HHSEK LWGKDAKEFN PNRFS QG L LKATGGNMCFFA FGWGPRI CI GSNFALLEAKM	420
CYP72A219_7285 genome	ALALI LPHFS FELSP SYAHA PTIGQGLRPF GAKLI LHR INRI	464
NES allele1	ALALI LPHFS FELSP SYAHA PTIGQGLRPF GAKLI LHR INRI	464
NES allele2	ALALI LPHFS FELSP SYAHA PTIGQGLRPF GAKLI LHR INRI	464
NER allele1	ALALI LPHFS FELSP SYAHA PTIGQGLRPF GAKLI LHR INRI	464
NER allele2	ALALI LPHFS FELSP SYAHA PTIGQGLRPF GAKLI LHR INRI	464

CYP81E8

NES and NER CYP81E8 alleles from sanger sequencing

Reference genome use for the alignment:

palmeri(v1.1, unmasked), Name: mRNA14137, Type: CDS, Feature

Location: (Chr: Scaffold_2,

complement(join(10072920..10073540,10074091..10074957))) Genomic

Location: 10072920-10074957.

>NES_CYP81E_allele1

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>NES_CYP81E_allele2

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>NER_CYP81E_allele1

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>NER_CYP81E_allele 2

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CLUSTAL alignment

CYP81E8 genome	MEI LFT FLSI FAT FFF FLYKI IQSLKPNKKHPPSPSPSPSPSPSYPLLGLHLLKPPFHRT	60
NES allele1	MEI LFT FLSI FAT FFF FLYKI IHS LK TNNKKHPPSPSPSPSPSYPLLGLHLLKPPFHRT	57
NES allele2	MEI LFT FLSI FAT FFF FLYKI IQSLK TNNKKHPPSPSPSPSPSYPLLGLHLLKPPFHRT	54
NER allele1	MEI LFT FLSI FAT FFF FLYKI IHS LK TNNKKHPPSPSPSPSPSYPLLGLHLLKPPFHRT	57
NER allele2	MEI LFT FLSI FAT FFF FLYKI IQSLK TNNKKHPPSPSPSPSPSYPLLGLHLLKPPFHRT	54
CYP81E8 genome	LQSLAQRYGP IFTLKLGLQRAVVVS SAWAAEECFGQNDVV FANRPKFI IGQHLGYNHSIL	120
NES allele1	LQSLAQRYGP IFTLKLGLQRAVVVS SAWAAEECFGQNDVV FANRPKFI IGQHLGYNHSIL	117
NES allele2	LQSLAQRYGP IFTLKLGLQRAVVVS SAWAAEECFGQNDVV FANRPKFI IGQHLGYNHSIL	114
NER allele1	LQSLAQRYGP IFTLKLGLQRAVVVS SAWAAEECFGQNDVV FANRPKFI IGQHLGYNHSIL	117
NER allele2	LQSLAQRYGP IFTLKLGLQRAVVVS SAWAAEECFGQNDVV FANRPKFI IGQHLGYNHSIL	114
CYP81E8 genome	IWS PYGDYWRNLRVTTI TMLSMRR INEAGPTRKLEIRNMIIMN LLESGSGTQKVNMEVL	180
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NES allele2	IWS PYGDYWRNLRVTTI TMLSMRR INEAGPTRKLEIRNMIIMN LLESGSGTQKVNMEVL	174
NER allele1	IWS PYGDYWRNLRVTTI TMLSMRR INEAGPTRKLEIRNMIIMN LLESGSGTQKVNMEVL	177
NER allele2	IWS PYGDYWRNLRVTTI TMLSMRR INEAGPTRKLEIRNMIIMN LLESGSGTQKVNMEVL	174
CYP81E8 genome	SKLARNFVMR IVNGK SWEKMI IKPPENLMT ICDFLPFLRWVDFKG IEKDMKEKQVERDEF	240
NES allele1	SKLARNFVMR IVNGK SWEKMI IKPPENLMT ICDFLPFLRWVDFKG IEKDMKEKQVERDEF	237
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NER allele1	SKLARNFVMR IVNGK SWEKMI IKPPENLMT ICDFLPFLRWVDFKG IEKDMKEKQVERDEF	237
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CYP81E8 genome	LQSLVDEFRE SKKKGEDLGMNNT LI EQLLDLQQAEPDQYS DET IKGII LVMLLAGSE TTA	300
NES allele1	LQSLVDEFRE SKKKGEDLGMNNT LI EQLLDLQQAEPDQYS DET IKGII LVMLLAGSE TTA	297
NES allele2	LQSLVDEFRE SKKKGEDLGMNNT LI EQLLDLQQAEPDQYS DET IKGII LVMLLAGSE TTA	294
NER allele1	LQSLVDEFRE SKKKGEDLGMNNT LI EQLLDLQQAEPDQYS DET IKGII LVMLLAGSE TTA	297
NER allele2	LQSLVDEFRE SKKKGEDLGMNNT LI EQLLDLQQAEPDQYS DET IKGII LVMLLAGSE TTA	294

CYP81E8 genome	RTLEWALSNIINHPEILAKARTEIDLHVGKERLVDDSDLPKLT YTRCI VYETLRLFPAAP	360
NES allele1	RTLEWALSNIINHPEILAKARTEIDLHVGKERLVDDSDLPKLT YTRCI VYETLRLFPAAP	357
NES allele2	RTLEWALSNIINHPEILVAKARTEIDLHVGKERLVDDSDLPKLT YTRCI VYETLRLFPAAP	354
NER allele1	RTLEWALSNIINHPEILAKARTEIDLHVGKERLVDDSDLPKLT YTRCI VYETLRLFPAAP	357
NER allele2	RTLEWALSNIINHPEILVAKARTEIDLHVGKERLVDDSDLPKLT YTRCI VYETLRLFPAAP	354
CYP81E8 genome	LLVPHFSSQDCTIGGYHVPKGTMLFVNAWA IHRDPTLWDEPTVFKPERFEKEKEGFKFMP	420
NES allele1	LLVPHFSSQDCTIGGYHVPKGTMLFVNAWA IHRDPTLWDEPTL FKPERFEKEKEGFKFMP	417
NES allele2	LLVPHFSSQDCTIGGYHVPKGTMLFVNAWA IHRDPTLWDEPTVFKPERFEKEKEGFKFMP	414
NER allele1	LLVPHFSSQDCTIGGYHVPKGTMLFVNAWA IHRDPTLWDEPTL FKPERFEKEKEGFKFMP	417
NER allele2	LLVPHFSSQDCTIGGYHVPKGTMLFVNAWA IHRDPTLWDEPTVFKPERFEKEKEGFKFMP	414
CYP81E8 genome	FGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATL IQCFDWEAAESGS IDLTEKRGAGAI IVPKEKPLEA	480
NES allele1	FGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATL IQCFDWEAAESGS IDLTEKRGV GAI IVPKEKPLEA	477
NES allele2	FGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATL IQCFDWEAAESGS IDLTEKRGV GAI IVPKEKPLEA	474
NER allele1	FGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATL IQCFDWEAAESGS IDLTEKRGV GAI IVPKEKPLEA	477
NER allele2	FGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATL IQCFDWEAAESGS IDLTEKRGV GAI IVPKEKPLEA	474
CYP81E8 genome	ICRPRPSMEDFLAKI	495
NES allele1	ICRPRPSMEDFLAKI	492
NES allele2	ICRPRPSMEDFLAKI	489
NER allele1	ICRPRPSMEDFLAKI	492
NER allele2	ICRPRPSMEDFLAKI	489

Clustal alignment of cytochrome P450 involved in herbicide metabolism. Ap – *Amaranthus palmeri*, Atu – *Amaranthus tuberculatus*, At – *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Cd – *Cynodon dactylon*, Ec – *Echinochloa crus-galli*, Ep – *Echinochloa phyllogon*, Gm – *Glycine max*, Ht – *Helianthus tuberorus*, Lr – *Lolium rigidum*, Nt – *Nicotiana tabacum*, Os – *Oryza sativa*, Zm – *Zea mays*.

Consensus	MXXXXXXXXXXXPEXEMXXXXXXXX-XXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-XXXXXX	53
ApCYP81E8.1	-----MEILFT-----F---LSIFATFFFLYKIIHS-----LKTN	27
ApCYP81E8.2	-----MEILFT-----F---LSIFATFFFLYKIIQS-----LKTN	27
AtuCYP81E8	-----MEILYT-----Y---LAIFSTIFFLYKIIHS-----LKPN	27
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	-----MTPPFYF-LLF---A-F---ILFLSINFLIQT-----	23
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	-----MDNAYIIAIL---S-V---AFLFLLHYLLGRGNG-----	28
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	-----MKFL-LVV---A-S---LFLFVFLIILSATKR-----	23
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	-----MDKAYI-AVI---S-I---AFLFLLNYLLGRGGGGR---RNG---	31
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	-----MDKAYV-AVL---T-F---AFLAVLHYLVRRRVGGN---ANGKGR	34
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	-----MDKAYV-AVL---T-F---ALLAVLHYLVV---RVGGN---ANGKGR	33
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	-----MDKAYI-AVI---S-I---AFLFLLNYLLGRGGGGR---RNG---	31
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	-----MDKAYVAIVL---S-I---LFLFSIQRFLGHRRRRSRNVNMGKKN	38
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	-----MDKAYV-ALL---S-F---ASLFLHYLVSRRTGT---KGSKA-	33
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	-----MDKAYI-AIL---S-C---AFLFVHYVLGKVS HGR---RGKK--	32
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	-----MDKAYI-AAL---S-A---AALFLLHYLLGRRAGGE---GKAKAK	34
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	-----	
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	-----	
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	-----MEEKSILSI--GISLFCVILFVSVWKIINWVWLKPKKFEKLL-KNQGF	45
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	-----MEEKSILSI--GISLFCVILFVSVWKIINWVWLKPKKFEKLL-KNQGF	45
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	-----MEETSILSI--GISLVCVILVSVWGIINWVWFVKPKRLEKCL-RNQGF	45
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	-----MEETSILSI--GISLVCVILVSVWVIINWVWFVKPKRLEKCL-RNQGF	45
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	-MVFRGWLWAPASAPVLVVF--G-LFLGLALVWQAGRLLHRLWWRPRRLEKAL-RARGL	55
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	-----MDLLLIEKTL---V-A---LFAAIIIGAILSKL-----	26
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	-----MD-----FLII--VSTLLSYILIWVVG-----	21
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	-----MDIISGQALLLFCFI---LSCFLIFTTTRSGRI-----	31
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	-----MDIISGQALFLLFCFI---SSCFLISTTARSRRS-----	31
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	-----MDIIFEQALFPLFCFV---LFFFIFFTTTRPRS-----	31
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	MALLSSVLKQLPHELSSTHYL-T-----VFCIFLILLQLI-----	35
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----MKFL-LVV---A-S---LFLFVFLIILSATKR-----	23
Consensus	XXXXXXXXLXX-----XPXXXXPJGXXXXXXXX-XXHXXXXXXXXLXX---XXG----	92

ApCYP81E8.1	NKKHPPSP-----SPPSYLLGLHLHLKP-PFHRTLQSLAQ---RYG----	66
ApCYP81E8.2	NKKHPPS-----PPSYLLGLHLHLKP-PFHRTLQSLAQ---RYG----	63
AtuCYP81E8	NKKLPP-----SPPSYLLGLHLHLKP-PFHRTLQSLAQ---RYG----	63
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	--RRFKNLPP-----GPFSPFIIGNLHQLKQ-PLHRTFHLSQ---KYG----	61
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	--GAARLPP-----GPAVPIILGHLHLVKK-PMHATMSRLAE---RYG----	65
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	KSKAKKLP-----GPRKLPVIGNLLQIGK-LPHRSLOKLSN---EYG----	62
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	Q-GARQLPP-----SPPAVPFLGHLHLVKT-PFHAALVRLAA---RHG----	69
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	KAPPFRLPP-----SPPAVPFLGHLHLVRA-PFHAALARLAA---RHG----	73
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	KAP-SRLPP-----SPPAVPFLGHLHLVKA-PFHAALARLAA---RHG----	71
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	K-GARQLPP-----SPPAVPFLGHLHLVKT-PFHAALVRLAA---RHG----	69
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	SVTHNRLPP-----GPRVAVPVLGHLHLK-K-PIHAALARLAS---QH-----	77
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	---KGALPP-----SPPSVVFLGHLHLVKT-PFHAALARLAD---CH-----	69
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	--GAVQLPP-----SPPAIPFIGNLHLVKEK-PIHATMCRLLA---RLG----	69
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	G-SRRRLPP-----SPPAIPFIGNLHLVKA-PFHGALARLAA---RHG----	72
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	-----MVKETTSKPMDFHSNDYIP-----RVFPFHQI IKNYG----	33
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	-----MVKETTSKPMDFHSNDYIP-----RVFPFHQI IKNYG----	33
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	DGNSYRLLHGDTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLP-----HTLAFHHHTISKFG----	95
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	DGNSYRLLHGDTKDKAKMTMEVTSKMPNLSNDFLP-----HTLAFHHHTISKFG----	95
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	NGNSYRLLYGDPTNERARMTMESRNLNMPNLSNHFLP-----HSLAFYHHIITKYG----	95
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	NGNSYRLLYGDPTNERARMTMESRNLNMPNLSNHFLP-----HSLAFYHHIITKYG----	95
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	RGSSYRFLTGDLAEESRRRKEAWARPLPLRCHDIAP-----RIKPFLLHDTLGEHGKQR-	108
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	RGKKFKLPP-----GPIPVPIFGNWLQVGDLLNHRNLTDLAK---RFG----	66
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	VGKPKNLPP-----GPTRLPIIGNLHLGA-LPHQSLAKLAK---IH-----	60
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	SRGATALPP-----GPRRLPIIGNIHLVKG-HPHRSFAELSK---TYG----	70
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	SGRAATLPP-----GPRRLPIIGNIHLVKG-HPHRSFAELSK---TYG----	70
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	SRKVVPSPP-----GPRRLPIIGNIHLVGR-NPHHSFADLSK---TYG----	70
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	RRNKYNLPP-----SPPKIPIIGNLHQLGT-LPHRSFHALSH---KYG----	74
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	KSKAKKLP-----GPRKLPVIGNLLQIGK-LPHRSLOKLSN---EYG----	62
Consensus	-----XXXXJXXGXXXXVXXSXXXAXEXXXXXXXXXXXRXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX-	143
ApCYP81E8.1	-----PIFTLKLGLQRAVVVSSAWAAEECFQNDVVVFANRPKFIIGQHLGYNHSIL-	117
ApCYP81E8.2	-----PIFTLKLGLQRAVVVSSAWAAEECFQNDVVVFANRPKFIIGQHLGYNHSIL-	114
AtuCYP81E8	-----PIFSLQLGLQRALVSSAWAAEECFQNDVVVFANRPKFIIVGQHLGYNHSIL-	114
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	-----PIFSLWFGSRVAVVSSPLAVQECFTKNDIVLANRPHFLTGKYIGYNTTV-	112
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	-----PVFSLRLGSRRAVVVSSPGCARECFTEHDVTFANRPRFESQLLVSFNGAAL-	116
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	-----DFIFLQLGVSPTVVVFSAGIAREIFRTQDLVFSGRPALYAGKRFSYNCNV-	113
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	-----PVFSLRMGSRRAVVVSSPECARECFTEHDVVFANRPLFPMSRLLAFDGAML-	120
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	-----PVFTMRMGSRRAVVVSSPEYARECFTEHDVAFANRPLFPPTQELVFSFGASL-	124
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	-----PVFTMRMGSRRAVVVSSPECARECFTEHDVVFANRPLFPPTQELVFSFGASL-	122
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	-----LVFSLRMGSRRAVVVSSPECARECFTEHDVVFANRPLFPMSRLLAFDGAML-	120
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	-----PLFSLRLGSRRAVVVSSAEALARECFTEHDVTFATRPRFASLDLVFSFGTTL-	128
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	-----PVFSLRMGARPAVVVSSPEHAKECFTEHDVAFANRPRFPSQLLASFNGAAL-	120
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	-----PVFSLRLGSRRAVVVSSSECARECFTEHDVTFANRPFPSQLLASFNGAL-	120
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	-----PVFSMRLGTTRRAVVVSSPDCARECFTEHDVNFANRPLFPMSRLLAFDGAML-	123
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	-----EKSFVWDGPIPSIMITNPEI IREILMK-IYDFKKIVPTPLMKRLTNGLVRL-	83
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	-----EKSFVWDGPIPSIMITNPEEIRI ILMK-IYDFKKIVPTPLMKRLTNGLVRL-	83
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	-----RKCMIWNGVPPFASIAEPDLVREVFMK-INQFQKPKLNPIANKVISGLITL-	145
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	-----RKCMIWNGVPPFASIAEPDLVREVFMK-INQFQKPKLNPIANKVISGLITL-	145
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	-----RRCFIWNQPIPLVNIIEEPNLVREIFMK-INDFQKAKSNPI IKKVAPELLFL-	145
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	-----RRCFIWNQPIPLVNIIEEPYLIREIFMK-INDFQKAKSNPI IKKVAPELLFL-	145
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	-----QPCITWFGPTPEVNIITDPELAKVVLNFKGHLERLVRFEKVSLLSQGLTYH-	159
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	-----EILLRMRGQRNLVVVSSPELAKEVLHTQGVFEGSRTRNVVFDIFTGKGQDM-	117
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	-----PIMSLQLGQITPLVNISSATAAEEVLKQDLAFSTRNVDPVAVRAYNHERHSI-	111
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	-----PVMSLKLGSLNTVVIASPEAREVLRTHDQILSARSPTNAVRSINHQDASL-	121
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	-----PIMSLKFGCLNSVVTISPEAAREVLRTHDQILSGRKSNDSIRCFGHEEVSV-	121
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	-----PIMSLKFGSLNTVVIASPEAAREVLRTHDQILSRSPTNSIRSNHDKVSV-	121
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	-----PLMMLQLGQIPTLVVSSADVAREI IKTHDVVFNNRQPTAAKIFGYGCKVD-	125
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----DFIFLQLGVSPTVVVFSAGIAREIFRTQDLVFSGRPALYAGKRFSYNCNV-	113
Consensus	XXXXXXXXXXWRXXXVX	203
ApCYP81E8.1	IWSPY-GDYWRNLRRVTTITMLSMRRINEAGPTRKLEIRNMIRNLE---SG-SGTQKVN	172
ApCYP81E8.2	IWSPY-GDYWRNLRRVTTITMLSMRRINEAGPTRKLEIRNMIMNLE---SG-SGTQKVN	169
AtuCYP81E8	IWSPY-GDYWRNLRRVTTITMLSMRRINEAGPTRKLEIRNMIMGLLETSGKG-SGTQKVN	172
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	AVSPY-GDHWRLRRIMALEVLSTHRINSFLENRRDEIMRLVQKLA---RDSRNGFTKVE	168
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	ATASY-GAHRNLRRIIVAVQLLSAHRVGLMSGLIAGEVRAMVRRMRAAAAAPGAAIQ	175
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	SFAPY-GNYWREARKILVLELLSSTRKVSFEARDEEVSSLVQI I---CS---SLSSPVN	166
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	FVSSY-GPHWRNLRRVAAVQLLSAHRVACMTPAIAAEVRAMVRRMDHAAAAAPGGAARVQ	179
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	SMASY-GPYWRNLRRVAAVQLLSAHRVACMTPIIAAEVRAMVRRMDRAAAAAGGAARVQ	183
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	SMASY-GPYWRNLRRVAAVQLLSAHRVACMTPIIAAEVRAMVRRMDRAAAAAGGAARVQ	181
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	FVSSY-GPHWRNLRRVAAVQLLSAHRVACMTPAIAAEVRAMVRRMDHAAAAAPGGAARVQ	179
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	PTSRY-GPYWRNLRRVATVHLLSAHRVGCMLPVVSSSEVRAMARRVYRAAAAAPRGAARVE	187
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	GSASY-GPYWRNLRRVATVHLLSAHRVACMTGTIAAEVRAMVRRMRAAAQVAGSAAARIE	179
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	VTSSY-GPHWRNLRRVATVQLLSAHRVACMTGIAAEVRAMARRLFAAEASPDGAARVQ	179
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	SVSSY-GPYWRNLRRVAAVQLLSAHRVGCMPAIEAQVRAMVRRMDRAAAAAGGGGARVQ	182
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	-----EGTKWAKERKLLNPA-FHMEKLMHMI PAFHASCCKEMIKWEKII S--KTGSGEVE	135
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	-----EGTKWAKERKLLNPA-FHMEKLMHMI PAFHASCCKEMIKWEKII S--KTGSGEVE	135

ApCYP72A219_4285.2 -----EGNAWTHRRKLLTPA-FHFDKLFKFMVPALWESSKEMIKWEELAS--KTGSCEIE 197
ApCYP72A219_4285.1 -----EGNAWTHRRKLLTPA-FHFDKLFKFMVPALWESSKEMIKWEELAS--KTGSCEIE 197
ApCYP72A219_4284.2 -----EGHAWAQRRLKLLTPA-FHIDKLFKFMVPTIWESSEMIKWEELVS--KTGSCEIE 197
ApCYP72A219_4284.1 -----EGHAWAQRRLKLLTPA-FHIDKLFKFMVPTIWESSEMIKWEELAS--KTGSCEIE 197
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1) -----EGEKVWKHRRININPA-FQLEKLLKMLPAFSAACCEELISRWIGSIG--CDGSYEMD 211
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1) VFTVY-GEHWRKMRRIIMTVPFETNKVQYRYGWEAEAAAAVDDVKKNPA---AATEGIV 173
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1) SFLHV-CTEWRTLRRIVSSNIFSNSSLEAKQHLRSKKVEELIAYCRKAA---LSNENVH 166
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3) VWLPSSSARWRLRLRSLVTLQSLSPQRIEATKALRMNKVKELVFSI SESS----DRESVD 177
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2) IWLPSSSARWRLRKL SVTLMFSPQRTEATKALRMKKVQELV SFMNESS----ERKEAVD 177
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4) VWLPSSSARWRLRLRKL SATQLFSPQRIEATKTLRENKVKELV SFMSESS----EREAVD 177
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1) AFVYY-REWRQKIKTKCKVELMSLKKVRLFHSIRQEVVTELVEAIGEACG---SERPCVN 181
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1) SFAPY-GNYWREARKILVLELLSTKRVQSFEAIRDEEVSSLVQII---CS---SLSSPVN 166

Consensus XXXLXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXFXXXX--XXXXXXXXXXXXX 261
ApCYP81E8.1 MNEVLSKSLARNFVMRIVNGK-----SWEKM----IKPPENLMTICD 210
ApCYP81E8.2 MNEVLSKSLARNFVMRIVNGK-----SWEKM----IKPPENLMTICD 207
AtuCYP81E8 MNDVLSKSLARNFVMRIVNGK-----SWEKM----IKPPENLMTICD 210
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1) LKSRFSEMTFNTIMRMVSGKRYGEDVM----- 228
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAH**TKATRPETDPD**TMSVEAQEFKQVV--DEIIPHIGANLWD 233
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1) ISTLALSANNVCRVAFGKGSDEGG-----NDYGERKFHEIL--FETQELLGEFNVAD 218
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAR**TKTFRTEANAD**TYMSPEAHQFKQIV--DQIIPYLG TANRWD 237
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAR**TKTSRTEANAD**TMSPEAHQFKQII--DDVVPYLG TANLWD 241
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAQ**TKTSRTEANAD**TMSPEAHQFKQII--DDVVPYLG TANLWD 239
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAR**TKTFRTEANAD**TMSPEAHQFKQIV--DQIIPYLG TANRWD 237
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAR**TKTSRAEAD**DRMSPEAQEFKEAL--DEFIPLIGANVWD 245
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAR**TKTSRAEAD**DDTMSPEAREFKQIV--DELLPHLG TANLWD 237
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAQ**TKATRS**EADADTMSVEAQEFKEV--DKLI PHLGANMWD 237
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1) LKRRLFELVSLVLMETIAH**TKTSRAEAD**SDMSTEAHEFKQIV--DELVPYIG TANRWD 240
ApCYP72A219_7285.2 MWSYLHNMSADAISR AAFGSSSQEQG-----RVFELLR---EHTSITVQALQSV 181
ApCYP72A219_7285.1 MWSYLHNMSADAISR AAFGSSSQEQG-----RVFELLR---EHTSITVQALQSV 181
ApCYP72A219_4285.2 VWSSLQKLSADMI SRAAFGSSSYEEGK-----TIFDLIT---EQIKI AIPMFNSV 243
ApCYP72A219_4285.1 VWSSLQKLSADMI SRAAFGSSSYQEGK-----TIFDLIT---EQIKI AIPMFNSV 243
ApCYP72A219_4284.2 VWSSLQKLSADMI SRAAFGSSSYQEGK-----TIFDLIT---EQIKI VVPVFNVS 243
ApCYP72A219_4284.1 VWSSLQKLSADMI SRAAFGSSSYEEGK-----TIFDLIT---EQIKI VVPVFNVS 243
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1) CWPELKSLTGDVISRTAFGSSYLEGR-----RVFELQA---EQFERAMCKMQKI 257
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1) IRRRLQLMMYNMFRIMFDRRFESEDDPLF-----LKLKALNGERSRLAQSF EYNYGD 226
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1) IGRAAFRTSLNLSNTIFSKDLTDPY-----EDS-GKEFREVI--TNIMVDSAKTNLVD 217
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3) ISRVAFITTLNII SNILFSDVLDGYSN-----AKASINGVQDTV--ISVMDAAGTPDAAN 229
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2) ISRASYYTVLNI I SNILFSDVLDGYSN-----SKKS-NEFQDTV--IGAMEAAGKPDAAAN 228
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4) ISRATFITALNI I SNILFSDVLDGNYD-----SNKS-GVFQDTV--IGVMEAVGNPDAAAN 228
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1) LTEMMAASNDIVSR CVLGRKGDAC-----GGSGSSSFAALG--RKIMRLLS AFSVGD 233
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1) ISTLALSANNVCRVAFGKGSDEGG-----NDYGERKFHEIL--FETQELLGEFNVAD 218

Consensus XXPXXXXX--XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXIXXXXXXXXXXXXXX--XXXXXXXXXJX 317
ApCYP81E8.1 FLPLRWRV--DFK--GIEKDMKEKQVERDEFLQSLVDFRESKKGED---LGMNNTLIE 263
ApCYP81E8.2 FLPLRWRV--DFK--GIEKDMKEKQVERDEFLQSLVDFRESKKGED---LGINNTLIE 260
AtuCYP81E8 FLPLRWRV--DFK--GIEKDMKEKQIERDEFLQSLVDEIRESKKGED---LGMS-TLIE 262
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1) ----- 288
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1) YLPALRWF--DVF--GVRKILAAVSRDDAFLRRLIDAERRRLDDGDE--G--EKKSMIA 285
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1) YFPGMAWI--NKI--NGLDERLEKNFRELDFKFDYKIEDHLSNSS---WMKQRDDEDVID 271
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1) YLPVLRWL--DVF--GVRNKILDVAVSRDDAFLRRLIDAERRRLDDGSE--SESEKSMIA 291
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1) YLPVLRWL--DVF--IGVRNKILVDAVARRDVFLRRLIDAVRRRVDGGGD--G--EKKSMIA 294
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1) YLPVLRWL--DVF--GVRNKILVDAVTRRNVFLRRLIDAERRRVDAGVD--G--EKKSMIA 291
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1) YLPVLRWL--DVF--GVRNKILDVAVSRDDAFLRRLIDAERRRLDDGSE--SESEKSMIA 291
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1) FLPLLRWL--DVF--GVRKILAAVSRDDAFLRRLIDAERRRLDDNSCNDGSDKKS MIA 301
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1) YMPVLRWF--DVF--GVRKILVAVSRDDAFLRHLVDAERTRLDDGND--A-GEKKS IIA 290
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1) YLPVLRWF--DVF--GVRNKILHAVSRDDAFLRRLIDAERRRLADGGS---DGDKKS MIA 290
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1) YLPVLRWF--DVF--GVRNKILDVAVSRDDAFLRRLIDGERRRLDAGDE--S--ESKSMIA 292
ApCYP72A219_7285.2 YIPGSRFL-----PTKTNRREAKI IKEMESLLKAMIQRRQNAIKNGEN---GNKDLLD 232
ApCYP72A219_7285.1 YIPGSRFL-----PTKTNRREAKI IKEMESLLKAMIQRRQNAIKNGEN---GNKDLLD 232
ApCYP72A219_4285.2 YIPGSRFL-----PTKRNRRITQIDREIKNLLMGIIDKRKKAIKTQEK-----TKD DLLN 293
ApCYP72A219_4285.1 YIPGSRFL-----PTKRNRRITQIDREIKNLLMGIIDKRKKAIKTQEK-----TKD DLLN 293
ApCYP72A219_4284.2 YIPGWRFL-----PTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIDKRKNTINREER-----AKD DLLS 293
ApCYP72A219_4284.1 YIPGWRFL-----PTKTNRRISEIDREIRIRLKGIDKRKNTINREER-----AKD DLLS 293
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1) SIPGYMSL-----PIENNRKMHQINKEIESILRGIIGKKMQAMKEGES-----TKD DLLG 307
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1) FIPILRPF--LRNYLKLCKEVK--DKRIQLFKDYFVDERKKIGSTK KM--DNNQLKCAID 280
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1) VFPVLKKI--DPQ--GIKRGMARHFSKVLGIFDQLIEERMRTG-----RFEQGDVLD 265
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3) YFPFLRFL--DLQ--GNVKTFFKVCTERLVRVFRGFIDAKIAEKSSQN--NPKDVSKNDFVD 284
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2) YFPFMGFL--DLQ--GNRKAMRGLTERLFRVFRGFMDAKIAEKSLGN--YSKDVSNRDFLD 283
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4) FFPFLGFL--DLQ--GNRKTLLKACSERLKFVFRGFIDAKIAEKSLRDTNSKDVRRERDFVD 284
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1) FFPFLGWV--DYL--TGLIPEMKTTFLAVDAFLDEVIAEHSSN-----KKNDDFLG 281
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1) YFPGMAWI--NKI--NGLDERLEKNFRELDFKFDYKIE----- 275

Consensus XLLXXXXXXXX--X----X-XXXXXXXXXXIXXXXXXXXXXAGXXTTXXXXWXXXXLXHXH 370
ApCYP81E8.1 QLLDLQQAEP-----D--QYSDETIKGIILVMLLAGSETTARTLEWALS NLINHP E 312
ApCYP81E8.2 QLLDLQQAEP-----D--QYSDETIKGIILVMLLAGSETTARTLEWALS NLINHP E 309

AtuCYP81E8	QLLDLQEAEP-----D--QYTDETIKGIILVMLLAGSETTARTLEWALSNLINHP	311
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	-----	348
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	VLLTLQKTEP-----E--VYTDNMITALTANLFGAGTETTSTTSEWAMSLLLLNHPD	334
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	VLLRIQKDPN-----QEIPLKDDHIKGLLADIFIAGTDTSTTIEWAMSELIKNPR	322
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	VLLTLQKSEP-----E--VYTDTMIMALCTNLFAGTETTSTTTEWAMSLLLLNHPE	340
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	VLLSLQKSEP-----E--VYDTMIMSLCANLFGAGTETTSTTTEWAMALLLNHP	343
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	VLLSLQKSEP-----E--VYDTTMTMSLCANLFGAGTETTSTTTEWAMALLLNHP	340
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	VLLTLQKSEP-----E--VYTDTMIMALCTNLFAGTETTSTTTEWAMSLLLLNHPE	340
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	VLLNLQKTEP-----E--VYDATIMALCTSMFTGGAETTATTTEWAMSLLLLNHPD	350
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	MLLTLQKSEP-----D--VYSDTMIMALCGNLFAGTETTSTTTEWAMSLLLLNHPE	339
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	VLLTLQKTEP-----K--VYTDMTITALCANLFGAGTETTSTTTEWAMSLLLLNHPA	339
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	VLLTLQKSEP-----E--VYTDVTITALCANLFGAGTETTSTTTEWAMSLLLLNHRE	341
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	LLLTSSIEDNHVKDGNK-EYVVKLGKMEIEECKMFYIAGQETTSSLLTWTLLLSKHQN	291
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	LLLTSSIEDNHVKDGNK-EYVVKLGKMEIEECKMFYIAGQETTSSLLTWTLLLSKHQN	291
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	TLESSEYQEENGHGNNKNN-INLNIEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTLIMLAKHQ	352
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	TLESSEYQEENGHGNNKND-INLNIEEILGECKLFYLAGQDTTASLLVWTLIMLAKHQ	352
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	TLIQDNF-----GHANKQDINKLNIEEIVNECKLFYLAGQDTTSSLLWTLMLGKHQI	348
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	TLIQDNF-----GHANKQDINKLIEEIVNECKLFYLAGQDTTSSLLWTLMLGKHQI	348
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	ILLESNTKHMEEN----GQSSQGLTMKDIVEECKLFYFAGAETTSVLLTWAMLLSMHP	363
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	HILEAK--EK-----G--EINEDNVLYIVENINVAIETTWSIEWGIAELVNHPE	327
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	VCLKMMQDNP-----N--EFNHTNIKALFLDLFVAGTDTTSTITIEWAMTELLRKP	314
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	NLLDY-KGDE-----S--ELSIDIEHLLVSLTLLQII----MIYKIME-----	328
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	SLLILNEGDE-----A--ELDNNDIEHLLDMFTAGTDTSSSTLEWAMAELLRNPK	332
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	VLLDLTEGDE-----A--ELNTNDIVHLLDLDFGAGTDTTSSSTLEWAMAELLRNPE	333
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	ILLQLQECGR-----LDFQLDRDNLKAILVDMIIGGSDTTSTTLEWTFAEFLRNPN	332
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----	335
Consensus		
ApCYP81E8.1	XXXXAXXEIXXXGXGXXX-----XXXXXXXXLXXXXIXXEXLRLXPXXXXXXXXX	420
ApCYP81E8.2	ILAKARTEIDLHVGERL-----VDDSDLPKLTYTRCIVYETLRLFPAAPLLVPH	362
AtuCYP81E8	ILVKARTEIDLHVGERL-----VDDSDLPKLTYTRCIVYETLRLFPAAPLLVPH	359
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	ILAKARTEIDLHVGERL-----VDDSDLPKLTYTRCIVYETLRLFPAAPLLVPH	361
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	-----	408
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	TLKKAQAEIDASVGNL-----ITADDVTRLGYLQCVRETRLRYPAAPMLLPH	384
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	VLRKAQEEVREVAKGKQK-----VQESDLCKLEYLKLVIKETLRLHPPAPLLVPR	372
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	KLKKAQAEIDAAVGTSL-----VTADDVPRLAYLQSI IHETLRLYPAAPLLLPH	390
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	KLKKAQAEIDAAVGTSL-----ITPDDMPHLGYLHSI IHETLRLYPAAPLLLPH	393
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	KLKKAQAEIDAAVGTSL-----ITPDDMPHLGYLQSI IHETLRLYPAAPLLLPH	390
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	KLKKAQAEIDAAVGTSL-----VTADDVPHLAYLQSI IHETLRLYPAAPLLLPH	390
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	VLRKAQAEIDAVVGTSL-----VTAADVPHLGYLQCI ISETLRLYPVPTLVPH	400
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	KLKKAQAEIDAVVGTSL-----LTADDMPRLTYLRCI IDETMRLYPAAPLLLPH	389
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	ALKKAQAEIDAVVGTSL-----VSDVDPVSLAYLQCVISETLRLYPAAPLLLPH	389
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	ALKKAQAEIDAVVGTSL-----VTADDVPHLTYLQCVISETLRLHPPAPLLPH	391
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	WQHQAAREEILATFGDTSIP-----NDEGLNQLKVKVSMILQEVRLRYPVVT-LGR	339
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	WQHQAAREEILATFGDTSIP-----NDEGLNQLKVKVSMILQEVRLRYPVVT-LGR	339
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	WQQLARQEIFNAFGDKIP-----QFHELNLKIVNMILQEVRLRYPVTE-TNR	400
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	WQQLARQEIFNAFGDKTP-----QFHELNLKIVNMILQEVRLRYPVTE-TNR	400
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	WQQRAREEINTFGDAKP-----QFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVRLRYPVLE-LNR	396
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	WQQRAREEINAFGDAKP-----QFHELNSLKIVNMILQEVRLRYPVLE-LNR	396
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	WQDRAREEILGLFRKKNP-----DYEGLSRLKIVNMIYEVRLRYPVFFIE-IGR	411
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	IQAQLRHELDTKLGPVQV-----ITEPDVQNLPLYLQAVVKETLRLRMAIPLLVPH	377
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	IMSKAKEELEKVIKGS-----VKEDDVLRLPYLSCIVKEVRLRHPSPPLLP	364
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	-----	388
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	TMVKAQAEIDCVIGQNSV-----VQESDISGLPYLQAVVKETLRLHPPAPLLVPR	382
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	TMVKAQAEIDCVIGQNSV-----VEESDISALPYLQAVVKETLRLHPPAPLLVPR	383
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	TMKKAQEEVRRVVGINSKA-----VLDENCVNQMNYLQCVVKETLRLHPPPLLIAR	384
-----	-----	395
Consensus		
ApCYP81E8.1	XXXXDXXGXGXX-XXPXGXXXXXXXXXXIXDPXWXXXXXXXXFXPERFXXXX-----X	470
ApCYP81E8.2	FSSQDCTIGGY-HVPKGTMLFVNVAIHRDPTLWD-EPTLFKPERFEKE-----	409
AtuCYP81E8	FSSQDCTIGGY-HVPKGTMLFVNVAIHRDPTLWD-EPTVFKPERFEKE-----	406
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	FSSQDCTIGGY-HVPKGTMLFVNVAIHRDPTLWD-EPTVFKPERFEKE-----	408
OsCYP81A6 (DM143459.1)	-----	468
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	ESSADCKVGGY-NIPRGSMLLINAYAIHRDPAVWE-EPEKFMPEFEDGG-----	432
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	VTTASCKIMEY-EIPADTRVLINSTAIGTDPKYWE-NPLTFLPERFLDKE-----I	421
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	EAAADTRVGGY-DVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAWE-DPSAFRPERFEN-G-----K	438
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	LSSADCNVGGY-DVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAVWE-DPAFRPERFEDGK-----A	442
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	LSSADCNVGGY-DVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAVWE-DPAFRPERFEDGK-----A	439
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	LSSADCNVGGY-DVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAVWE-DPAFRPERFEN-G-----K	438
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	ESTADCVIGHHVHPAGTMLLVNVAIHRDPATWP-DPAFRPERFEDG-----	448
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	ESSTHCKVGGY-DVPAGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAVWD-GPTEFVPERFEDG-----	436
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	ESSADCKVGGY-NVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAWE-HPLEFRPDRFEDG-----	436
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	ESSADCTVGGY-DVPRGTMLLVNVAIHRDPAVWE-DPDRFVPERFEGAG-----G	440
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	KVSHDIKVGDM-DLPAGVQVKIPTIFIHSEKLGWKAKEFNPNRFSQGL-----L	389
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	KVSHDIKVGDM-DLPAGVQVKIPTIFIHSEKLGWKAKEFNPNRFSQGF-----L	389
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	EVIQDIKLGNM-ILPAGVVNIPILLMHHDEKIWGNDAKEFNPERFSEGI-----S	450
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	EVIQDIKLGNM-ILPAGVVNIPILLMHHDEKIWGNDAKEFNPERFSEGI-----S	450

ApCYP72A219_4284.2	EVTQDIKIGDV-ILPAGVLLNIPILLLQDDEKIWGKDAKEFNPERFSEGI-----S	446
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	EVTQDIKIGDV-ILPAGVLLNIPILLLQDDEKIWGKDAKEFNPERFSEGI-----S	446
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	KTYKEMEIGGV-TYPAGVSIKIPVLFIHHDPTWGSVDVHEFKPERFSEGI-----S	461
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	MNLHDAKLGGF-DIPAESKILVNAWLANNPQWK-KPEEFRPERFLEEAA-----KV	428
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	KVVTVQVELSGY-TIPAGTLVFNVAWAIGRDPTVWD-DSLEFKPQRFLESR-----L	413
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	-----S	448
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	KAESDVEVLGF-MVPKDTQVLVNVVAIGRDPSVWE-NPSQFEPERFMGKD-----I	431
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	KAESDVEVLGF-MVPKDTQVFNVAWAIGRDPNVWE-NSSRFKPERFLGKD-----I	432
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	ETSSSVKLRGY-DIPAKTMVFINAWAIQRDPPELWD-DPEEFIPERFETSQ-----V	433
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----S	455
Consensus	XXXXXXXXXXFXGXRXCXGXXXXXXXLXXJXXFXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	530
ApCYP81E8.1	-K--EGFKFMPFGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATLIQCFDWEAAESG-----SIDLTEK	461
ApCYP81E8.2	-K--EGFKFMPFGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATLIQCFDWEAAESG-----SIDLTEK	458
AtuCYP81E8	-K--EGFKFMPFGIGRRSCPGNNVALRNVSLTLATLIQCFDWEAAESG-----SIDLTEK	460
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	-----S	528
OsCYP81A6 (DMI43459.1)	-C--DGNLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWERVDGV-----EVDMTEG	484
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	DYRGNFELLFPFGAGRRGCPGINFISIPVELALANLLFHYNWSLPEG--MLPKDVMDEEA	479
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	AA--EGRLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWRVDGV-----EV--TEG	489
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	EG--GGRLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWDTVDGA-----KVDLTEG	495
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	E---GRLMPFGMGRRCPCGEALALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWDTVDGA-----KVDLTEG	490
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	AA--EGRLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWRVDGV-----EVDMTEG	491
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	KA--EGKFIITFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTIGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWDADGG-----KVDMTEG	501
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	KA--EGRLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTIGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWRVDGL-----EVDMTES	489
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	KA--EGLFMIIPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTIGMVLATLVQCFDWEVPDGV-----KVDMTEG	489
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	KA--EGRLLMPFGMGRRCPCGETLALRTVGLVLTGTLIQCDFDWDTVDGA-----QVDMKAS	493
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	KATGGNMCFFAFGWGPRICIGSNFALLEAKMALALILPHFSFELSPSYAHAPT-IGQG--	446
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	KATGGNMCFFAFGWGPRICIGSNFALLEAKMALALILPHFSFELSPSYAHAPT-IGQG--	446
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	KASKGNMSLFAFGWGPRICIGSNFAMIEAKLTLVCLQRVFEFELSPSYLHAPS--AIG--	506
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	KASKGNMSLFAFGWGPRICIGSNFAMIEAKLTLVCLQRVFEFELSPSYLHAPS--AIG--	506
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	KASKGNMSSFFAFGWGPRICIGSNFAMIEAKLTLVFLQRVFEFELSPSYRHAPL--NVG--	502
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	KASKGNMSSFFAFGWGPRICIGSNFAMIEAKLTLVFLQRVFEFELSPSYRHAPL--NVG--	502
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	KASKDPGAFLPFGWGPRICIGQNFALLEAKMALCLILQRLEFELAPSYTHAPH--TMV--	517
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	EANGNDFRYLPPFGVRRSCPGIILALPILGITIGRLVQNFELPPPGQ----SKIDTDEK	484
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	DVRGHDFDLIPFGAGRRICPGIPLATRMVPIMLGSLNNFDWKIDTKV--PYDVLDMTEK	471
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	-----S	508
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	DVKGRDYELTPFGGRRICPGLPLAVKTVSMLASLLYSFDWKLPNGV--VSEDLDMDET	489
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	DLRGRDYELTPFGAGRRICPGLPLAVKTVPLMLASLLYSFDWKLPNGV--GSEDLDMDET	490
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	DLNGQDFQLIPFGIGRRGCPAMSGLASTEYVLANLLYWFNWNMSSEGRILMHNIDMSET	493
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----S	515
Consensus	X---XJXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXVLLXXLXE--	560
ApCYP81E8.1	RGVGAIIVPKEKPLEAICRPRPSMEDFLAKI----	492
ApCYP81E8.2	RGVGAIIVPKEKPLEAICRPRPSMEDFLAKI----	489
AtuCYP81E8	RGAGAIIVPKEKPLEAICRPRPSMEDFLVVKL----	491
GmCYP81E22 (LC466654.1)	-----S	196
OsCYP81A6 (DMI43459.1)	G---GLTIPKVVPLEAMCRPRDAMGGVLRLELV---	513
NtCYP81B2 (BAH84782.1)	L---GITMHKKSPLCLVASHYNLL-----	500
EpCYP81A22 (AB872310.1)	G---GLTMPRAVPLEAMCRPRAAMRRVLQEL----	517
EpCYP81A21 (AB818463.1)	G---GLTIPMAVPLEAMCRPRAALHDVLQEL----	523
EpCYP81A12 (AB818460.1)	G---GLTIPMAVPLEAMCRPRAALHDVLQEL----	518
EcCYP81A68 (OK483200.1)	G---GLTMPRAVPLEAMCRPRAAMRRVLQEL----	519
Cd CYP-N-Z2 (184659.1)	V---GITLPRAVPLEAMCRPRQTMVDVLKGLLE--	531
CdCYP N-Z1 (KT184658.1)	G---GLTIPRAVPLEAMCRPRATMREVLQEL----	517
LrCYP81A10v7 (MK629521.1)	G---GFTIPKAVPLEAVCRPRAVMRDVLQNL----	517
ZmCYP81A9 (EU955910.1)	G---GLTMPRAVPLEAMCRPRTAMRGVLKRL----	521
ApCYP72A219_7285.2	----TL--RPQFGAKLILHRINRI-----	464
ApCYP72A219_7285.1	----TL--RPQFGAKLILHRINRI-----	464
ApCYP72A219_4285.2	----SL--RPQFGAPIIFRPRILGS-----	525
ApCYP72A219_4285.1	----SL--RPQFGAPIIFRPRILGS-----	525
ApCYP72A219_4284.2	----TL--RPQFGAPIIFRRR-----	517
ApCYP72A219_4284.1	----TL--RPQFGAPIIFRRR-----	517
OsCYP72A31 (AB907219.1)	----TL--HPMHGAQIKVRAI-----	532
HtCYP73A1 (CAA78982.1)	GGQFSLHILKHSITIVAKPRSF-----	505
HtCYP76B1 (O23976.1)	N---GTTISKAKPLCVVPIPLN-----	490
AtCYP76C1 (NM_180109.3)	-----S	322
AtCYP76C4 (NM_130117.2)	F---GITLHRTNTLYAIPVKKQTIN-----	511
AtCYP76C2 (NM_130119.4)	F---GLTLHKTNPLHAVPVKKRGRN-----	512
GmCYP71A10 (AF022157.1)	N---GLTVSKKVLHLEPEPYKT-----	513
NtCYP71A11 (ADD91442.1)	-----S	252

Note: Bold sequence is found in cytochrome P450 *CYP81A* family in grasses and not in dicot. This sequence was inserted in the *CYP81E8v.18aa* to test its function in heterologous expression of this gene in yeast.

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6. APPENDIX B

Supporting Information for CHAPTER III - UNRAVELING THE ROLE OF P450

REDUCTASE IN HERBICIDE METABOLIC RESISTANCE MECHANISM

Supporting Information Table 4-1. Genotype analysis of F2 segregating populations derived from crosses between *atr1* and *atr2* Arabidopsis mutants.

Crosses	F1 plant	ATR1 ATR2	HZ	HM-WT	HZ	HZ	HM-M	HM-WT	HM-WT	HM-M	HM-M	Total
			HZ	HZ	HM-WT	HM-M	HZ	HM-WT	HM-M	HM-WT	HM-M	
<i>atr1-a</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	7	2	2	3	0	0	9	14	0	37
	plant I	(%)	18.9	5.4	5.4	8.1	0.0	0.0	24.3	37.8	0.0	100
<i>atr1-a</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	16	1	2	4	1	0	8	3	0	35
	plant II	(%)	45.7	2.9	5.7	11.4	2.9	0.0	22.9	8.6	0.0	100
<i>atr1-a</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	27	1	2	3	0	0	12	11	0	56
	plant III	(%)	48.2	1.8	3.6	5.4	0.0	0.0	21.4	19.6	0.0	100
<i>atr1-a</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	16	0	0	3	1	0	7	9	0	36
	plant IV	(%)	44.4	0.0	0.0	8.3	2.8	0.0	19.4	25.0	0.0	100
<i>atr1-b</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	20	1	2	1	1	0	16	6	0	47
	plant I	(%)	42.6	2.1	4.3	2.1	2.1	0.0	34.0	12.8	0.0	100
<i>atr1-b</i> × <i>atr2-a</i>	F1	Plants	42	2	2	5	2	0	19	14	0	86
	plant II	(%)	48.8	2.3	2.3	5.8	2.3	0.0	22.1	16.3	0.0	100
<i>atr1-b</i> × <i>atr2-b</i>	F1	Plants	64	1	3	1	1	0	27	22	0	119
	plant I	(%)	53.8	0.8	2.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	22.7	18.5	0.0	100
Total		Plants	192	8	13	20	6	0	98	79	0	416
		(%)	46.2	1.9	3.1	4.8	1.4	0.0	23.6	19.0	0.0	100
Expected		(%)	25	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	6.25	6.25	6.25	6.25	100
χ^2 test		$\chi^2 = 560.75$			df = 8				p-value = <0.0001			

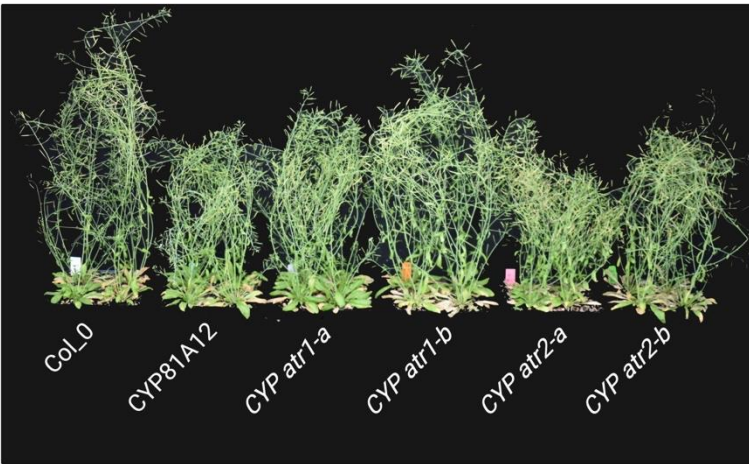
HM-WT, homozygous wildtype, HM-MT, homozygous mutant, HZ – heterozygous. *ATR1* – Arabidopsis P450 reductase 1, *ATR2* - Arabidopsis P450 reductase 2.

Supporting Information Table 4-2. Weed species and their information about NADPH-cytochrome P450 composition.

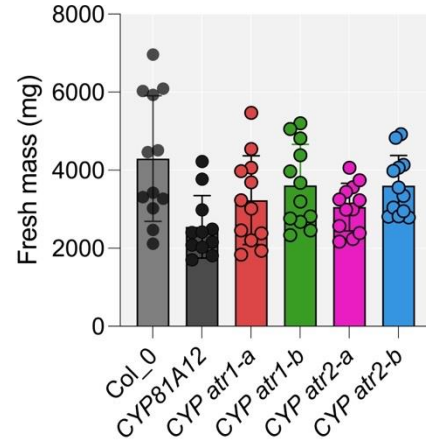
species	common name	ploidy	#chr	#CPR	# copies	CPR class	source
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	blackgrass	diploid	14	3	1	II	IWCG ¹
<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	Palmer amaranth	diploid	32	2	1	II	CoGe ²
<i>Amaranthus tuberculatus</i>	waterhemp	diploid	32	2	1	I and II	CoGe
<i>Bassia scoparia</i>	kochia	diploid	9	2	1	I and II	IWCG
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	downy brome	diploid	7	2	1	II	IWCG
<i>Chenopodium formosanum</i>	Djulis	hexaploid	27	2	3	I and II	IWCG
<i>Coryza canadensis</i>	horseweed	diploid	18	3	1	II	IWCG
<i>Echinochloa colona</i>	jungle rice	hexaploid	27	3	3	II	IWCG
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i>	barnyardgrass	hexaploid	27	3	2 and 3	II	IWCG
<i>Echinochloa oryzicola</i>	late watergrass	tetraploid	18	3	3	II	IWCG
<i>Eleusine indica</i>	goosegrass	diploid	9	3	1	II	IWCG
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	common morning-glory	diploid	15	2	1 and 2	I and II	IWCG
<i>Poa annua</i>	annual bluegrass	tetraploid	28	3	2	II	IWCG

#chr – species chromosome number, #CPR – number of NADPH cytochrome P450 reductase, ¹IWCG – International Weed Genomic Consortium, ²CoGe - platform for performing Comparative Genomics research.

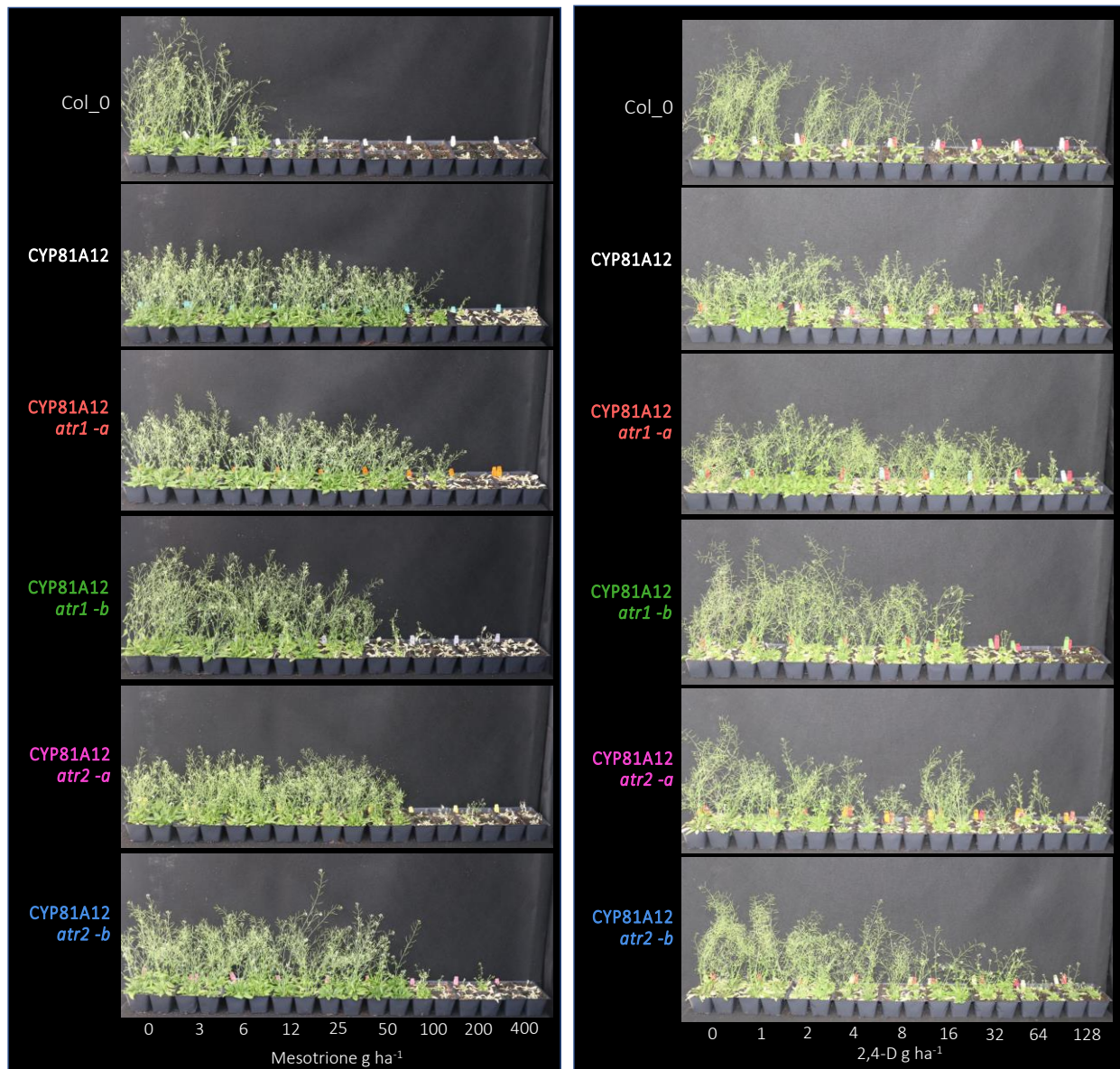
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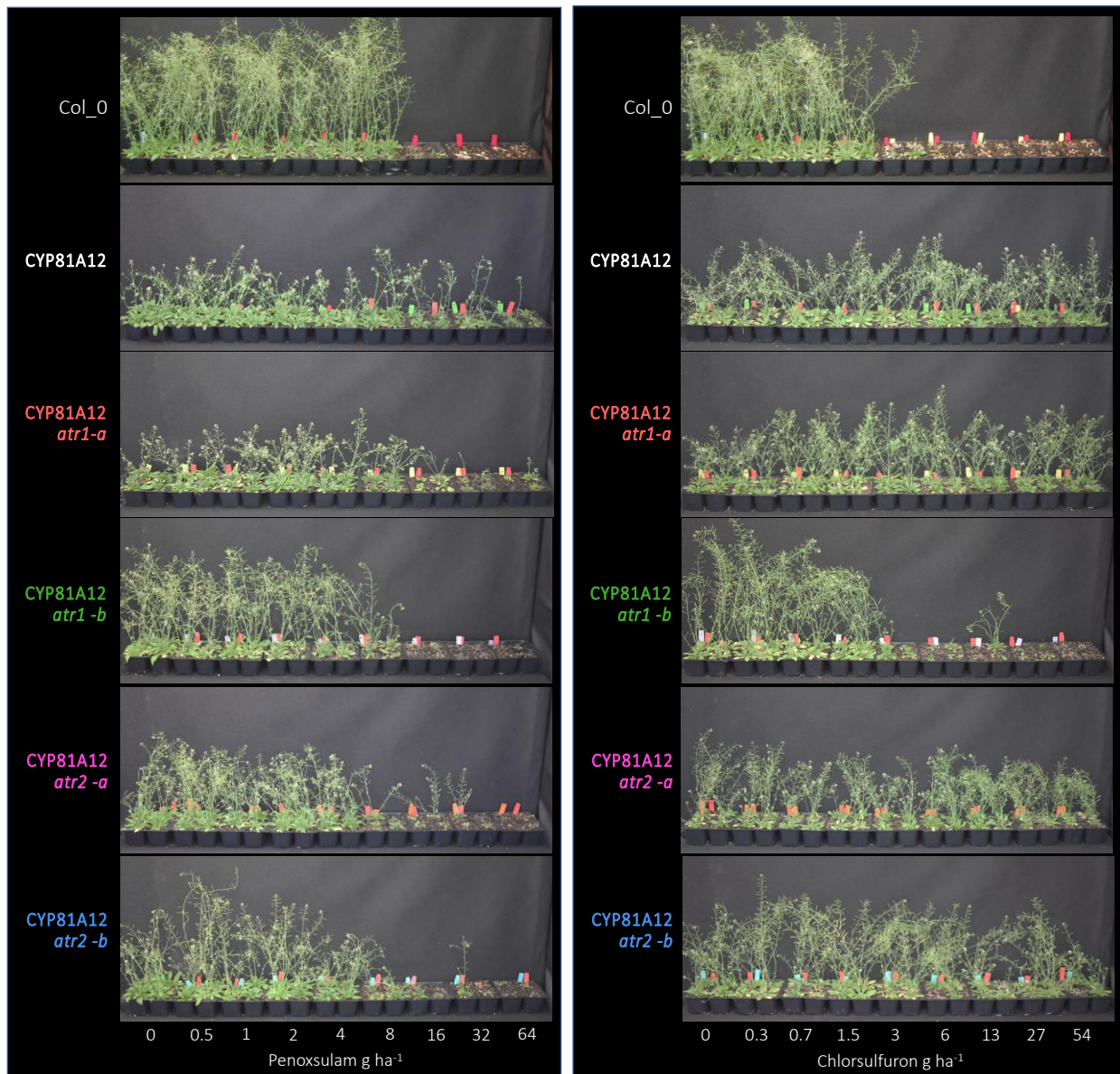
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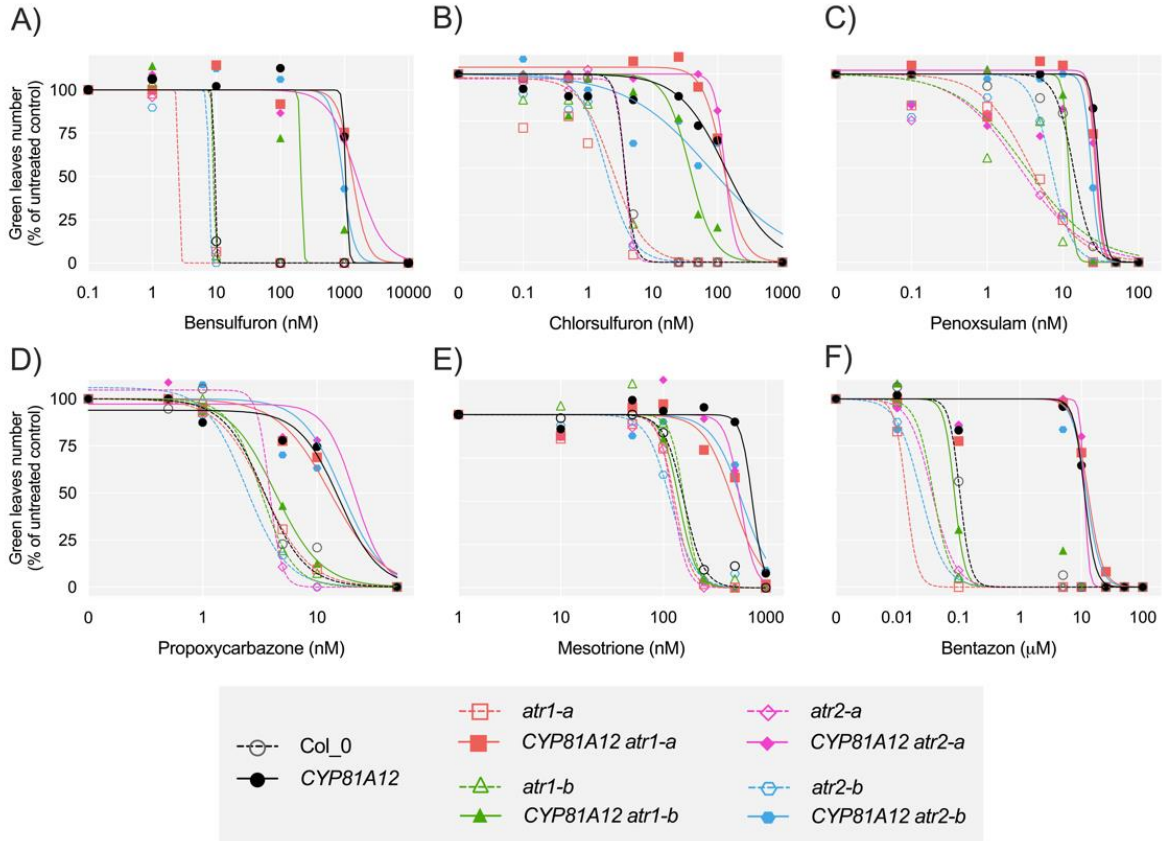
Supporting Information Figure 4-1. Phenotype analysis of transgenic mutant lines. A) Picture at 28 days after transplanting of four replicates for each line. B) Fresh mass of twelve plants of each line at 28 days after transplanting.



Supporting Information Figure 4-2. Pictures of different lines of Arabidopsis submitted to different doses of mesotrione and 2,4-D. Pictures of four replicates at 28 d after herbicide application. Col_0, wild-type; *CYP81A12*, transgenic line expression *CYP81A12*; *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR1* 5'UTR; *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR1* 4th intron; *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR2* 3th intron; *CYP81A12 atr2-b*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR2* 12th exon.



Supporting Information Figure 4-3. Pictures of different lines of Arabidopsis submitted to different doses of penoxsulam and chlorsulfuron. Pictures of four replicates at 28 d after herbicide application. Col_0, wild-type; *CYP81A12*, transgenic line expression *CYP81A12*; *CYP81A12 atr1-a*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR1* 5'UTR; *CYP81A12 atr1-b*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR1* 4th intron; *CYP81A12 atr2-a*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR2* 3th intron; *CYP81A12 atr2-b*, transgenic Arabidopsis expressing *CYP81A12* carrying T-DNA insertion on *ATR2* 12th exon.



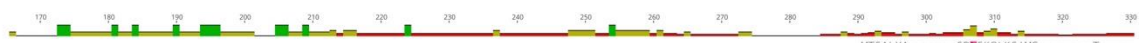
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- 3. Ip_CPRa.1
- 4. Wh_CPRa
- 5. Bt_CPRa
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- 7. Cf_CPRa.3
- 8. Cf_CPRa.2
- 9. Gm_CPR1
- 10. Gm_CPR1
- 11. Ml_CPR1
- 12. Am_CPRc
- 13. Pa_CPRc.2
- 14. Pa_CPRc.1
- 15. Os_CPR2a
- 16. El_CPRc
- 17. Ec_CPRc.2
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- 19. Ec_CPRc.2
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- 25. El_CPRa
- 26. Zm_CPR2a
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- 39. Pa_CPRa.1
- 40. Bt_CPRb
- 41. Am_CPRb
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- 46. Ec_CPRb.3
- 47. Ec_CPRb.2
- 48. Ec_CPRb.2
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- 59. Wh_CPRb
- 60. Bt_CPRb
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- 63. Cf_CPRb.1
- 64. At_ATR2
- 65. Gm_CPR2
- 66. Gm_CPR2
- 67. Ml_CPR2



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- 4. Wh_CPRa
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- 6. Cf_CPRa.1
- 7. Cf_CPRa.3
- 8. Cf_CPRa.2
- 9. Gm_CPR1
- 10. Gm_CPR1
- 11. Ml_CPR1
- 12. Am_CPRc
- 13. Pa_CPRc.2
- 14. Pa_CPRc.1
- 15. Os_CPR2a
- 16. El_CPRc
- 17. Ec_CPRc.2
- 18. Ec_CPRc.2
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- 20. Ec_CPRc.1
- 21. Ec_CPRc.3
- 22. Ec_CPRc.1
- 23. Ec_CPRc.3
- 24. Ec_CPRc.1
- 25. El_CPRa
- 26. Zm_CPR2a
- 27. Zm_CPR2b
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- 36. Bt_CPRa
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- 39. Pa_CPRa.1
- 40. Bt_CPRb
- 41. Am_CPRb
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- 43. Pa_CPRb.2
- 44. Os_CPR2b
- 45. El_CPRb
- 46. Ec_CPRb.3
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- 59. Wh_CPRb
- 60. Bt_CPRb
- 61. Cf_CPRb.3
- 62. Cf_CPRb.2
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- 64. At_ATR2
- 65. Gm_CPR2
- 66. Gm_CPR2
- 67. Ml_CPR2



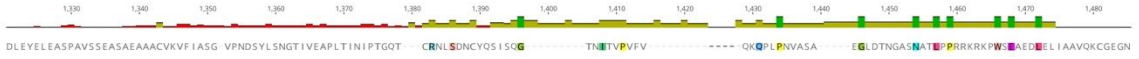
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- 4. Wt_CPRa
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- 9. Gm_CPR1
- 10. Gm_CPR1
- 11. Ml_CPR1
- 12. Am_CPRc
- 13. Pa_CPRc.2
- 14. Pa_CPRc.1
- 15. Os_CPR2a
- 16. El_CPRc
- 17. Eco_CPRc.2
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- 38. Pa_CPRa.2
- 39. Pa_CPRa.1
- 40. Bl_CPRb
- 41. Am_CPRb
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- 43. Pa_CPRb.2
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- 65. Gm_CPR2
- 66. Gm_CPR2
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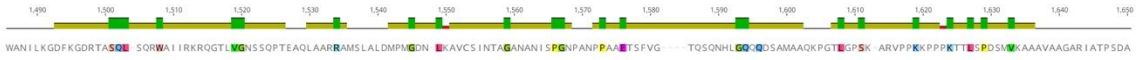
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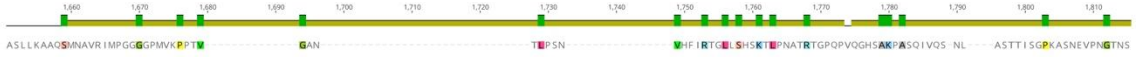
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- 58. Ap_CPRa.2
- 59. Wt_CPRb
- 60. **Bs_CPRb**
- 61. Cf_CPRb.3
- 62. Cf_CPRb.2
- 63. Cf_CPRb.1
- 64. AL_ATR2
- 65. Gm_CPR2
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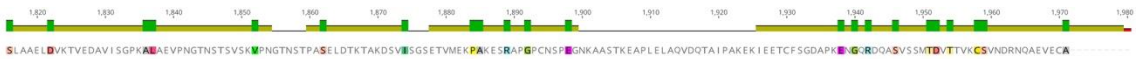
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- 7. Cf_CPRa.3
- 8. Cf_CPRa.2
- 9. Gp_CPR1
- 10. Gm_CPR1
- 11. Ml_CPR1
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- 15. Oo_CPRa.2
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- 36. Bl_CPRa
- 37. Am_CPRa
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- 39. Pa_CPRa.1
- 40. Bl_CPRb
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- 42. Pa_CPRb.1
- 43. Pa_CPRb.2
- 44. Oo_CPR2b
- 45. El_CPRb
- 46. Eco_CPRb.3
- 47. Eco_CPRb.2
- 48. Eco_CPRb.2
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- 50. Eco_CPRb.1
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- 52. Eco_CPRb.1
- 53. Cc_CPRa.2
- 54. Cc_CPRa.2
- 55. Cc_CPRa.1
- 56. Ip_CPRb
- 57. Ap_CPRa.1
- 58. Ap_CPRa.2
- 59. Wm_CPRb
- 60. Bs_CPRb
- 61. Cf_CPRb.3
- 62. Cf_CPRb.2
- 63. Cf_CPRb.1
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- 67. Ml_CPR2



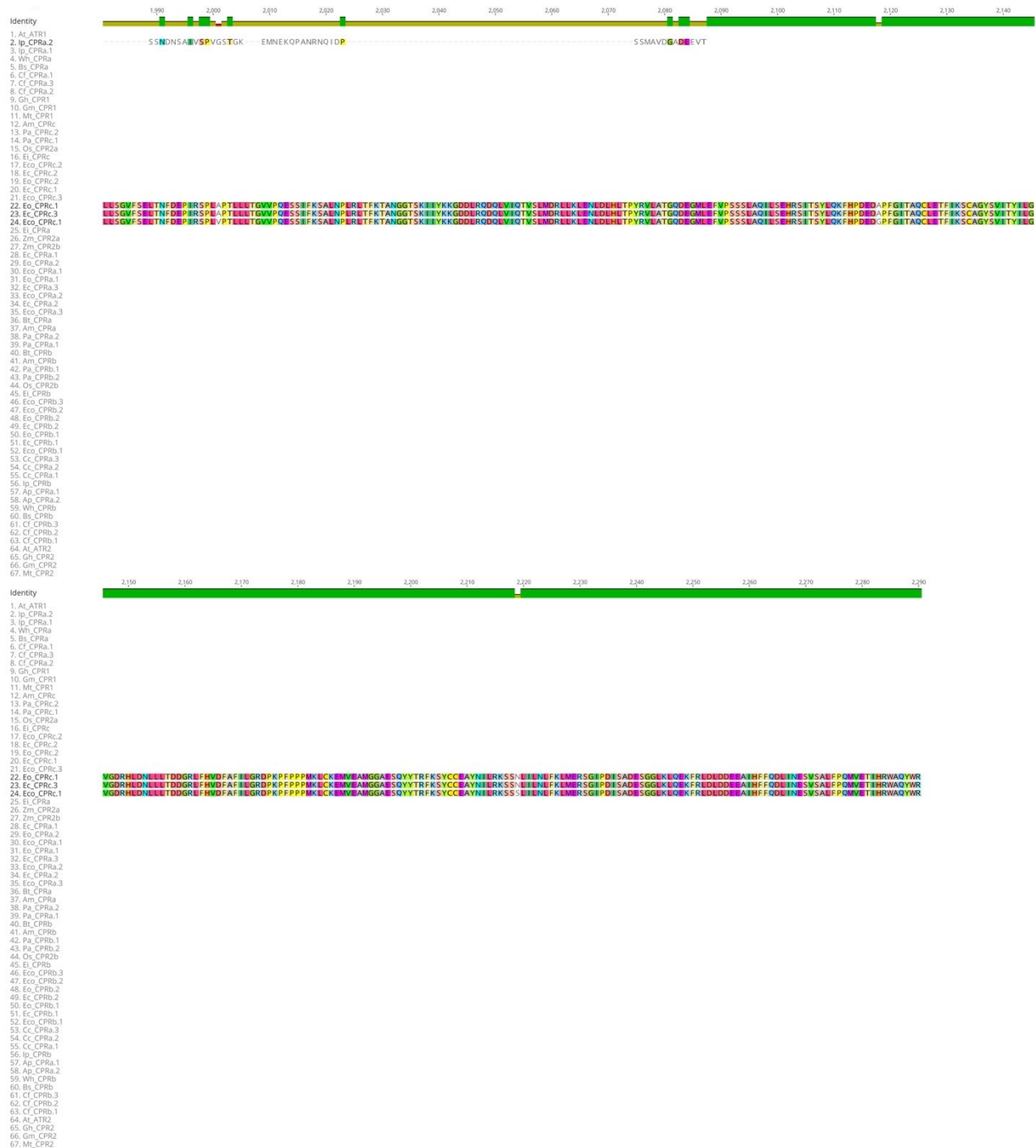
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Identity

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- 3. Ip_CPRa.1
- 4. Wp_CPRa
- 5. Bs_CPRa
- 6. Cf_CPRa.1
- 7. Cf_CPRa.3
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- 9. Gp_CPR1
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- 13. Pa_CPRc.2
- 14. Pa_CPRc.1
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- 16. El_CPRc
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- 47. Eco_CPRb.2
- 48. Eco_CPRb.2
- 49. Ec_CPRb.2
- 50. Eco_CPRb.1
- 51. Ec_CPRb.1
- 52. Eco_CPRb.1
- 53. Cc_CPRa.3
- 54. Cc_CPRa.2
- 55. Cc_CPRa.1
- 56. Ip_CPRb
- 57. Ap_CPRa.1
- 58. Ap_CPRa.2
- 59. Wm_CPRb
- 60. Bs_CPRb
- 61. Cf_CPRb.3
- 62. Cf_CPRb.2
- 63. Cf_CPRb.1
- 64. AL_ATR2
- 65. Gp_CPR2
- 66. Gm_CPR2
- 67. Ml_CPR2



SVLEIRADDEIQCYEIQWQAEIRERSDKSRALAEFWNR-----AISNIEIASFERWYH---LVLEHSPAYARRYGTVDMLN-----SMKKLVGRIDGDDGFRWQSETRQTRDTATQECISIMKDWRNRGSAQKKEIKERD
 SVLEIRADDEIQCYEIQWQAEIRERSDKSRALAEFWNR-----AISNIEIASFERWYH---LVLEHSPAYARRYGTVDMLN-----SMKKLVGRIDGDDGFRWQSETRQTRDTATQECISIMKDWRNRGSAQKKEIKERD
 SVLEIRADDEIQCYEIQWQAEIRERSDKSRALAEFWNR-----AISNIEIASFERWYH---LVLEHSPAYARRYGTVDMLN-----SMKKLVGRIDGDDGFRWQSETRQTRDTATQECISIMKDWRNRGSAQKKEIKERD



Supporting Information Figure 4-5. Multiple protein alignment of 67 CPR protein sequences from 13 different weed species and others six plant species with colors indicating conserved residue between sequences. Transmembrane (347-366), FMN binding (418-665), FAD binding (727-950) and NADP binding (999-1109) are indicated. Different CPR within species were named as “a”, “b” or “c” and the copies were numbered as “.1”, “.2” or “.3” for one, two or three copies, respectively. Am - *Alopecurus myosuroides* (blackgrass), At - *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Arabidopsis), Ap – *Amaranthus palmeri* (Palmer amaranth), Wh – *Amaranthus tuberculatus* (waterhemp), Bs - *Bassia scoparia* (Kochia), Bt - *Bromus tectorum* (downy brome), Cc - *Conyza canadensis* (horseweed), Cf - *Chenopodium formosanum* (rainbow rice), Ec - *Echinochloa crus-*

galli (barnyardgrass), *Eo* - *E. oryzicola* (late watergrass), *Eco* - *E. colona* (jungle rice), *Ei* - *Eleusine indica* (goosegrass), *Gh* - *Gossypium hirsutum* (cotton), *Gm* - *Glycine max* (soybean), *Ip* - *Ipomoea purpurea* (common morning glory), *Mt* - *Medicago truncatula* (Barrel medic), *Os* - *Oryza sativa* (rice), *Pa* - *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass).