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Characterization of a gene regulatory network underlying astringency loss in persimmon fruit

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Abstract

Main conclusion Transcriptome analysis of a persimmon population segregating for an astringency trait in fruit suggested central roles for a limited number of transcriptional regulators in the loss of proanthocyanidin accumulation.

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Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*; $2n = 6x = 90$) accumulates a large amount of proanthocyanidins (PAs) in its fruit, resulting in an astringent taste. Persimmon cultivars are classified into four types based on the nature of astringency loss and the amount of PAs at maturity. Pollination-constant and non-astringent (PCNA)-type cultivars stop accumulating PAs in the early stages of fruit development and their fruit can be consumed when still firm without the need for artificial deastringency treatments. While the PCNA trait has been shown to be conferred by a recessive allele at a single locus (*ASTRINGENCY*; *AST*), the exact genetic determinant remains unidentified. Here, we conducted transcriptome analyses to elucidate the regulatory mechanism underlying this trait using developing fruits of a F_1 population segregating for the PCNA trait. Comparisons of the transcriptomes of PCNA and non-PCNA individuals and hierarchical clustering revealed that genes related to the flavonoid pathway and to abiotic stress responses involving light stimulation were expressed coordinately with PA accumulation. Furthermore, coexpression network analyses suggested that three putative transcription factors were central to the PA regulatory network and that at least *DkMYB4* and/or *DkMYC1*, which have been reported to form a protein complex with each other for PA regulation, may have a central role in the differential expression of PA biosynthetic pathway genes between PCNA and non-PCNA.

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Keywords Abiotic stress / Coexpression network analysis / *Diospyros kaki* / Fruit transcriptome / Proanthocyanidins

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Abbreviations

CIPK CBL-interacting protein kinase
GO gene ontology
~~MBW MYB-bHLH-WD40~~
PA proanthocyanidin
PCNA pollination-constant and non-astringent
RPKM reads per kilobase of exon per million reads
TOM topological overlap measure

Introduction

Flavonoids are secondary metabolites that are extensively distributed throughout the plant kingdom and generally have protective roles against biotic and abiotic stresses. Proanthocyanidins (PAs), also known as condensed tannins, are one group of end-products derived from the flavonoid biosynthetic pathway. PAs are produced by polymerization of flavan-3-ols and are known to act as defense compounds against microbial pathogens, insect pests, and larger herbivores. PAs also act as free radical scavengers in plants to confer protective functions against biotic and abiotic stresses; these metabolites could, therefore, add human health benefits to fruit and vegetables (Dixon et al. 2005; Bagchi et al. 2014). PAs are also known to be important determinants of astringency and bitterness in fruit and vegetables (Dixon et al. 2005; Aron and Kennedy 2008).

Extensive studies have attempted to elucidate the PA biosynthetic pathway, particularly in model plants. From these studies, it has been determined that the biosynthetic pathway leading to the production of PA is shared with that for other flavonoids until just before the last step. Furthermore, genes encoding enzymes involved in the PA biosynthetic pathway and PA compartmentation into the vacuole, along with their transcriptional regulators such as the MYB-~~basic helix-loop-helix~~ (bHLH)-WD40-~~(MBW)~~ complex, have been identified and characterized (Lepiniec et al. 2006; Saito et al. 2013; Xu et al. 2015). However, less is known regarding the factors upstream of the ~~MBW~~ MYB-bHLH-WD40 complex or the gene regulatory mechanisms underlying the effects of environmental changes on the PA biosynthetic pathway (Li 2014). The latter is of particular

significance given that flavonoid accumulation is responsive to environmental conditions such as abiotic stress (Jaakola and Hohtola 2010; Fini et al. 2011; Xu et al. 2015).

75 Oriental persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* Thunb), which is an important fruit crop in East Asia, accumulates a large amount of PA in its fruit. PAs in persimmon fruit are highly polymerized and the accumulation continues until the middle of the fruit development, resulting in a strong astringent taste even at maturity (Akagi et al. 2011). Depending on their genotype, persimmon fruit are either astringent (inedible) or non-astringent (edible) at commercial harvest time when the fruit are still
80 firm. However, regardless of the genotype, persimmon fruit becomes edible when it is over-ripe and becomes jelly soft. The commercial significance of astringency has led to soluble PA content at commercial maturity being used for persimmon cultivar classification (Yonemori et al. 2000). Persimmon cultivars are usually classified into four groups depending on the astringency loss at commercial maturity and pollination (seed formation): pollination constant and non-astringent
85 (PCNA); pollination variant and non-astringent (PVNA); pollination variant and astringent (PVA); and pollination constant and astringent (PCA).

Among the four classes, PCNA-type cultivars stop accumulating PAs in the early stages of fruit development and the fruit becomes edible without any artificial de-astringency treatment (Yonemori and Matsushima 1985). There are two different types of PCNA traits that have different
90 genetic controls, Japanese-type PCNA (JPCNA; represent as PCNA below) and Chinese-type PCNA (CPCNA). Both types are targeted by breeders because the fruit can be consumed without labor intensive and costly artificial de-astringency treatments (Sato and Yamada 2016). The PCNA trait has been shown to be conferred by a recessive allele at a single locus referred to as *ASTRINGENCY* (*AST*) (Ikeda et al. 1985; Yamada and Sato 2002; Akagi et al. 2012b). The exact determinant for
95 JPCNA, however, remains to be identified.

Previous mRNA profiling experiments demonstrated that expression of the genes involved in the PA and shikimate pathways were substantially reduced in PCNA fruit (Ikegami et al. 2007; Akagi et al. 2009a). Furthermore, putative components of the MBW transcription complex, which is involved in the regulation of PA and shikimate pathway genes, such as the MYB transcription factor
100 *DkMYB4* and bHLH transcription factor *DkMYC1* were shown to be specifically down-regulated in PCNA fruit at the early fruit development stage (Akagi et al. 2009b; Akagi et al., 2010; Su et al. 2012; Naval et al. 2016). It has been also reported that ABA signaling may be involved in PA biosynthesis in persimmon fruit via *DkMYB4* activation (Akagi et al., 2012a). Although these reports collectively indicated important roles for *DkMYB4* and *DkMYC1* in the loss of PA accumulation
105 found in PCNA fruit (Akagi et al. 2009b; Su et al. 2012), further experimentation is required to confirm this hypothesis.

This study was aimed to characterize the gene regulatory network underlying PA accumulation and astringency loss in persimmon fruit via differential gene expression, clustering,

and coexpression network analyses using fruit transcriptomes obtained from individuals segregating
110 for the PCNA trait. We discuss the potential role of *DkMYB4* and *DkMYC1* in the differential PA
accumulation observed in PCNA and non-PCNA fruit.

115 **Materials and methods**

Plant materials

Twelve offspring (6 PCNAs and 6 non-PCNAs) of a cross ‘Taiten’ (non-PCNA) x
‘Kanshu’ (PCNA) and their parents, ‘Taiten’ and ‘Kanshu’, were used in this study. They were
grown in the orchard of the Grape and Persimmon Research Division, NARO Institute of Fruit Tree
120 and Tea Science, Japan. We determined the presence of the *AST* and *ast* alleles in each individual
using the AST-F/PCNA-F/5R3R genetic marker for the *AST* and *ast* alleles (Kanzaki et al. 2010)
(Supplementary Fig. S1). Three to six fruit were sampled from each individual on June 22, July 14,
and August 19, 2015. The sampled fruit were weighed and peeled before the fruit flesh was diced,
frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C until use. Frozen samples were used directly for RNA
125 extraction or lyophilized for PA extraction

PA content

Soluble PAs were extracted from 10 mg of lyophilized flesh in 2 ml of 80% methanol at
room temperature as previously described (Akagi et al. 2009b). The PA content of each sample was
130 determined using 4-dimethylaminocinnamaldehyde (Li et al. 1996) with three technical replications
and described as (+)-catechin equivalent.

Library construction and sequencing

Total RNA was extracted using the hot-borate method (Wan and Wilkins 1994) from the
135 samples obtained on June 22 and July 14 and quantified using a Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer (Invitrogen,
Carlsbad, CA, USA). An Illumina sequence library for each sample was constructed as described by
Akagi et al. (2014) from 10 µg of total RNA. All 28 libraries were multiplexed and sequenced using
Illumina HiSeq4000 (100-bp paired-end reads). All sequence data achieved in this study has been
deposited in the DDBJ database (ID DRA006042).

Sequence processing, assembly, and functional annotation

All sequences were pre-processed using a custom python script
(http://comailab.genomecenter.ucdavis.edu/index.php/Barcoded_data_preparation_tools). Sequences
with base quality Phred scores of lower than 20 were trimmed and reads shorter than 35-bp were
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145 discarded.

Pooled reads from the June 22 and July 14 samples of ‘Taiten’ were subjected to *de novo* assembly by CLC Genomics Workbench version 7.5.2 (CLC bio, Aarhus, Denmark) with the following parameters; 30-bp word size, automatic detection of bubble size, auto-detection of paired distance, discarding contigs shorter than 200-bp, scaffolding performed, and contigs updated by re-mapping.

The assembled contigs were annotated with Blast2GO version 4.0.2 using Blastx against the NCBI nr protein database with an E-value cutoff $< 1e-5$; up to 20 hits were retained. InterProScan with default parameters was also used for the annotation. The “Mapping and Annotation” function with default parameters was performed with the Blastx and InterProScan results to assign gene ontology (GO) terms, EC numbers, and possible descriptions to each contig.

Alignment and differential expression analyses

The reads from each library were aligned to the assembled contigs using bwa-mem program version 0.7.12 (Li and Durbin 2009) with default parameters. The number of mapped reads for each contig was counted from the sam files; when a read was mapped to multiple contigs, multiple counts were made for the read. The expression level of each contig was calculated as reads per kilobase of exon per million sequence reads (RPKM) value and contigs with < 1 of average RPKM for all libraries were discarded.

The DESeq2 package (Love et al. 2014) was used with the count data before RPKM normalization to determine differentially expressed genes between PCNA and non-PCNA samples. Data from each time point (June and July) were compared separately. A threshold value of false discovery rate (FDR) for differentially expressed genes was set to 0.1. The differentially expressed genes were hierarchically clustered by GENE-E software (<https://software.broadinstitute.org/GENE-E/index.html>) with the average-linkage method, using a matrix of mean RPKM at each time point (June and July) and genotype (PCNA and non-PCNA).

Coexpression network analysis

Genes with low RPKM or low coefficient of variation scores (mean RPKM < 1 or CV < 0.5 for all samples) were removed before network construction. The WGCNA package (Langfelder and Horvath 2008) was used to characterize the coexpression network based on RPKM value. Briefly, coexpression relationships between genes were defined as the adjacency calculated by raising Pearson’s correlation coefficient to soft threshold power $\beta = 7$. The soft threshold was determined as a value that R^2 of the scale-free topology criteria amounted to 0.85. Coexpression modules were determined by hierarchical clustering based on the dissimilarity of topological overlap measure (TOM) calculated from the adjacency matrix using TOM similarity function. Here, TOM

was defined as a coexpression relationship between two genes. The minimum module size was set as 50 and modules with less than 0.25 of the tree height were merged into their closest modules. Gene expression profiles for the modules were summarized as module eigengene by calculating the first principal component of the expression profile of genes assigned to the module. Correlations between module eigengene and PA traits were used for the quantification of relationships between the modules and PA accumulation.

The VisANT program (Hu et al. 2004) was used to visualize the network of a given module. A TOM cutoff for coexpression in the visualization was determined based on the strength of correlation of node degree distribution and set as 0.27 for the magenta module.

GO enrichment analysis

GO enrichment analysis was performed using the goseq package (Young et al. 2010) in R with default parameters. The annotations of genes fulfilling the RPKM cutoff were used as a reference for GO analysis. A threshold for the significance of enriched GO terms was set as FDR < 0.1 and the enriched GO terms with five or more differentially expressed genes were employed in this study.

Results

PA accumulation in a population segregating for the PCNA trait

Regardless of the astringency phenotype, all individuals in the segregating population, except for no. 118, showed almost the same level of PA concentration in fruit on June 22 (Fig. 1a); No. 118 showed less PA concentration than the others. On July 14 and on August 19, the PA content of all the progeny indicated genotype-dependent segregation. Non-PCNA individuals accumulated PA in fruit throughout the experimental period, while PA accumulation in the fruit of PCNA individuals slowed during the period of June to July and stopped completely in July to August. (Fig. 1b)

De novo transcriptome assembly and gene annotation

Assembly of pooled clean reads of 'Taiten' obtained from the June (14,283,428 reads) and July samples (35,057,646 reads) resulted in 103,306 contigs with an average length of 580 bp. All the contigs were annotated with various sequence databases using Blast2GO. The summary of the assembly and functional annotation is shown in Table 1. Among the 103,306 contigs, 38,745 contigs (37.5%) had at least one hit in the nr database and 32,591 (31.5%) contigs among them were assigned at least one GO term. However, 64,561 contigs (62.5 %) showed no blast hits, probably

because of the short length of the contig sequences obtained.

Differential expression analysis and clustering

220 A total of 1,818 unique differentially expressed genes (FDR < 0.1) were identified in comparisons between PCNA and non-PCNA individuals at two stages. When June and July samples were compared separately, 530 genes were differentially expressed in June samples (192 were up- and 338 were down-regulated in PCNA) and 1639 genes were differentially expressed in July samples (703 were up- and 936 were down-regulated in PCNA).

225 The 1,818 genes were hierarchically clustered into eight clusters based on the mean RPKM values for the two genotypes (PCNA vs non-PCNA) and stages (June vs July) (Fig. 2). Among the eight clusters generated, cluster 2 included genes with higher expression in non-PCNA individuals in June than July and generally lower expression in PCNA than non-PCNA individuals, especially in July; this is consistent with the PA accumulation pattern. Forty-one GO terms were significantly enriched in cluster 2 (Table 2). Genes related to flavonoid biosynthesis, transportation, and photosynthesis were significantly enriched in cluster 2. Significantly enriched GO terms were also found in cluster 4 and cluster 6. Eleven GO terms, such as “glutamate biosynthetic process” and “iron-sulfur cluster binding” were enriched in cluster 4 (Supplementary Table S1) while 15 GO terms including “production of siRNA involved in RNA inference” and “RISC complex” were enriched in cluster 6 (Supplementary Table S2). No significantly enriched GO terms were detected in the other clusters.

240 As ABA signaling has been suggested to be involved in PA biosynthesis in persimmon fruit via *DkMYB4* activation (Akagi et al., 2012a), we focused on ABA-related genes and factors potentially related to abiotic stress, such as ABA receptor genes, WRKY, zinc finger, and calcineurin B-like proteins (CBL)-interacting protein kinase (CIPK)-like genes in cluster 2 (Supplementary Fig. S2). These genes were significantly down-regulated in PCNA fruit in July.

Coexpression network analysis

245 The genes (25,543) that met our defined cutoff values (RPKM < 1 and CV < 0.5) were classified into 25 modules using the WGCNA package (Fig. 3a). Among these modules, the magenta module showed the strongest positive correlation with both PA accumulation rate and concentration (Fig. 3b). GO enrichment analysis for the magenta module indicated that GO terms related to the flavonoid pathway and photosynthesis were significantly enriched, consistent with the general characteristics of cluster 2 (Supplementary Table S3). GO analysis for the other modules significantly correlated ($P < 0.05$) with PA concentration. Modules with negative correlation showed enrichment of terms related to stress or defense response; the “chitin catabolic process” term was enriched in the darkred module, the “pectin esterase inhibitor activity” term was enriched in the

thistle1 module, and the “protein-disulfide reductase activity” term was enriched in the greenyellow module (Supplementary Table S4). There was no enriched GO term in the lightcyan module. When
255 examining the modules showing a positive correlation with PA concentration, the term photosynthesis was enriched in the grey60 module, the “microtubule binding” and “oxidation-reduction process” terms were enriched in the blue module, and the RNA interference-related terms were enriched in the cyan module (Supplementary Table S5).

We further focused on the magenta module because it contained the majority of the
260 enzymes associated with the PA pathway and showed a strong correlation with PA accumulation. Network visualization of the magenta module based on TOM values indicated that genes for several enzymes had a number of interactions with genes in this module, while transcription factors or CIPKs had fewer interactions with other genes (Fig. 4, Supplementary Table S6). With network centrality as determined by the sum of TOM values, four contigs annotated as transcription factors
265 were found in the top 100 list in the magenta module (Supplementary Table S7). As Contig20409 and Contig12413 were both identical to a part of the *DkMYC1* sequence (data not shown), the number of putative transcription factors with high centrality in this coexpression module appeared to be only three; *DkMYB4*, *DkMYC1*, and *LSD ONE LIKE 1 (LOL1)*.

270 Discussion

High levels of PA accumulation in fruit is a typical characteristic of persimmon, with the amount of soluble PAs at commercial maturity one of the most commercially important traits in this species. Studies on PA in persimmon fruit have, therefore, been conducted from various viewpoints.
275 Analysis of the PA biosynthetic pathway has shown that PA in persimmon fruit is thought to be synthesized through the shikimate pathway, the flavonoid pathway, and finally the PA-specific pathway in a same manner as other species (Akagi et al. 2011). Furthermore, PCNA-specific down-regulation has been reported for expression of the genes encoding enzymes in these pathways such as 3-dehydroquinate dehydratase/shikimate 5-dehydrogenase and
280 3-deoxy-D-arabino-heptulosonate 7-phosphate synthase in the shikimate pathway, flavonoid 3’5’-hydroxylase and phenylalanine ammonia lyase in the flavonoid pathway, and anthocyanidin reductase in the PA-specific pathway (Ikegami et al. 2007; Akagi et al. 2009a). mRNAseq and GO analyses in this study indicated that the expression of the genes encoding these enzymes was already altered in PCNA in late June when the first quarter of fruit development had been completed under
285 the local climate conditions. This suggests that *AST* has a function in the early stages of fruit development; this is fully consistent with previous studies (Ikegami et al. 2007; Akagi et al. 2009a).

This study showed that down-regulation of the shikimate pathway, upstream of the flavonoid pathway, could accompany the PCNA trait. In the shikimate pathway,

phosphoenolpyruvate and erythrose 4-phosphate are converted to chorismate, a precursor of the aromatic amino acids and many aromatic secondary metabolites (Herrmann and Weaver 1999) including precursors of PAs. Hierarchical clustering of genes differentially expressed between PCNA and non-PCNA individuals in this study showed that “3-deoxy-7-phosphoheptulonate synthase activity” and “shikimate 3-dehydrogenase (NADP+) activity”, both of which represent key enzymatic activities in the shikimate pathway, were significantly enriched in cluster 2, indicating that the expression of these genes was correlated with PA accumulation. Given that PAs account for approximately 1% of the flesh weight of non-PCNA fruit at maturity (Taira et al. 1998), coordinated changes in the expression of genes associated with the shikimate and flavonoid pathways in persimmon may be attributed to a substantial demand for carbon flow to these pathways in developing non-PCNA fruit.

GO analysis of the genes assigned to cluster 2 and the magenta module indicated that their global expression profiles were quite similar to those observed with overexpression of *VvMYBPA1* and *VvMYBPA2* in grapevine, except for differences in the GO photosynthesis/chloroplast term (Terrier et al. 2008). Association of the genes related to photosynthesis and PA accumulation is a unique finding in cluster 2 and the magenta module (Table 2, Supplementary Table S3). Interestingly, the associated genes seemed to be specific to light harvesting in photosystem I. This observation could be related to the light sensitivity of both flavonoid biosynthesis and photosynthesis genes, though further work is required to confirm this (Berry et al. 2013; Zoratti et al. 2014). Alternatively, it may be that the enrichment of photosynthesis genes was a pleiotropic effect of *AST* expression or a gene(s) closely linked to *AST*.

In *VvMYBPA*-overexpressing grapevine hairy roots, both enzymes in the flavonoid pathway and also CIPKs were activated (Terrier et al. 2008), consistent with our results. CBLs and their target CIPKs are known to act as Ca^{2+} sensor-kinase modules (Shi et al. 1999), and it has previously been proposed that Ca^{2+} and ABA signaling form tight signaling networks in the context of plant stress signaling (Weinl and Kudla 2009; Edel and Kudla 2016). There are two possible explanations for the *AST*-mediated role of CIPKs. One possibility is that the unknown master regulator has a function in abiotic stress-related signaling induction and affects the ABA- Ca^{2+} signaling complex, resulting in PA accumulation via ABA signal transduction. This possibility is supported by Akagi et al. (2012a) who showed that DkbZIP5 recognized an ABA-responsive element in the promoter region of *DkMyb4* and acted as its transcriptional regulator in an ABA-dependent manner. Another possibility is that CIPKs were secondarily induced by stress derived from the vast amounts of PAs in non-PCNA individuals. This possibility is also discussed for *VvMYBPAs*-overexpressing grapevine (Terrier et al. 2008). The fact that exogenous ABA treatment sometimes had no clear effects on PCNA fruit (Nishiyama et al. 2014), as opposed to the results observed by Akagi et al (2012a), may support this possibility. Interestingly, the contig

325 annotated as PYL, an ABA receptor, was strongly down-regulated in PCNA fruit (Supplementary
Fig. S2). Further analysis of this gene could give provide clues about the regulatory relationship
between ABA signaling and PA accumulation.

In the coexpression network analysis, several genes encoding enzymes in the PA pathway
such as *phenylalanine ammonia-lyase* and *cinnamate-4-hydroxylase*, had a great number of
330 relationships within the magenta module. This indicates that the expression of genes encoding
enzymes in the PA pathway was strongly associated with each other under the control of *AST*. As for
the transcriptional regulators, three putative transcription factor-encoding genes, *DkMYB4*, *DkMYC1*,
and *LOL1*-like, were identified as having high connectivity within the magenta module (Fig. 4,
Supplementary Table S7). This suggests that *AST*-mediated PA regulation is controlled by only a
335 few transcriptional regulators. Among these three factors, *DkMYB4* has been shown to have a PA
regulatory function in persimmon and kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*) callus (Akagi et al. 2009b).
Although the function of *DkMYC1* has yet to be fully elucidated, it has previously been shown that
DkMYC1 expression was associated with PA accumulation and that *DkMYC1* bound to *DkMYB4*
(Su et al. 2012; Naval et al. 2016). *LOL1* is a zinc finger protein that was proposed function as a
340 transcriptional regulator or scaffold for cell death execution genes in response to oxidative stress
(Epple et al. 2003). Although there is no report on the hierarchical relationship between the
expression of *LOL1* and PA accumulation, the high connectivity of the *LOL1*-like gene in the
magenta module suggests that there would be a substantial amount of abiotic stress in developing
non-PCNA fruit. If *LOL1*-like was found to be upregulated by the secondary consequences of PA
345 accumulation, only *DkMYB4* and/or *DkMYC1* would have central roles in the differential expression
of genes in the PA pathway between PCNA and non-PCNA fruit. As the numbers of connections
with *DkMYB4* and *DkMYC1* in the coexpression network were relatively few (Fig. 4) and the
functional annotation in this study remains incomplete, there is still a possibility that other regulators
are also involved in the differential expression of PA pathway genes between PCNA and non-PCNA
350 fruit.

In the modules negatively correlated with PA concentration, the enrichment of genes
possibly involved in defense response, such as chitinase activity (Collinge et al. 1993) and pectin
metabolism (Pelloux et al. 2007), were detected (Supplementary Table S4). This could be related to
an essential role of PAs as defense compounds. Interestingly, although PA accumulation in PCNA
355 was terminated in the early stages of fruit development, we could detect substantial amounts of PAs
in PCNA fruit during our experimental term (Fig. 1). Taken together, the induction of defense
responsive genes in PCNA fruit implies that developing persimmon fruit undergo substantial attacks
from biotic stressors and that the vast amount of PAs in non-PCNA fruit is necessary for protection
from these stresses.

360 In this study, we proposed that the differential gene expression caused by mutation of *AST*

was regulated by only a few transcriptional regulators in developing fruit, with *DkMYB4* and/or *DkMYC1* having a central role in the differential PA accumulation in PCNA vs non-PCNA fruit. Clustering and coexpression analyses suggested that most of the genes positively correlated with PA accumulation encode enzymes in the PA pathway, indicating that *AST* has limited pleiotropic effects.

365 However, several functional gene sets such as those related to ABA signaling, CIPKs, and photosystem I were identified in the same cluster/module that was related to PA accumulation. Since these genes could be potential targets of PA regulators and thus *AST*; however, none of these genes were located on the diploid *D. lotus* genomic region syntenic to *D. kaki* *AST* locus and thus they were unlikely to be *AST* (S. Nishiyama, N. Onoue, A. Kono, A. Sato, K. Ushijima, H. Yamane, R.

370 Tao and K. Yonemori in preparation). Further analysis of the genes and gene functions highlighted from the transcriptome analyses conducted in this study will lead to further understanding of the PA accumulation-related characteristics of persimmon fruit. Notably, defense systems appeared to be preferentially activated in PCNA fruit with less PAs than non-PCNA fruit. The PCNA trait is, therefore, a beneficial example to understand the role of PAs in plant-environment interactions and

375 stress physiology.

Author contribution statement SN, AS, KY, and RT conceived and designed this study. SN conducted the experiments. KY and RT supervised the experiments. NO, AK, and AS contributed to

380 the construction and management of the experimental persimmon trees. SN drafted the manuscript. All authors participated data interpretation and approved the manuscript.

Compliance with ethical standards

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510

Figure legends

Fig. 1 Proanthocyanidin (PA) content in a population segregating for the pollination-constant and non-astringent (PCNA) trait. Twelve offspring (6 PCNAs and 6 non-PCNAs) of a cross ‘Taiten’ (non-PCNA) x ‘Kanshu’ (PCNA) and their parents, ‘Taiten’ (Tt) and ‘Kanshu’ (Ks), were
515 investigated. Line colors indicate the *ASTRINGENCY* (*AST*) (Green) and *ast* (red) genotype of each individual. **a** Patterns of PA concentration in fruit. **b** PA accumulation per day. Error bar indicates standard deviation of three technical replicates.

Fig. 2 Hierarchical clustering of genes differentially expressed between PCNA and non-PCNA
520 individuals. **a** Heat map of clustered differentially expressed genes. The dendrogram was constructed using the average-linkage method from a data matrix of mean reads per kilobase of exon per million reads (RPKM) values of genotypes (PCNA:P/non-PCNA:NP) and stages (June/July). Genes were partitioned into clusters at the red line in the tree. **b** Expression patterns of genes assigned to each cluster. Z-scores were calculated from the data matrix of mean RPKM

525

Fig. 3 Module detection using the WGCNA package. **a** The number of genes in 25 coexpression
modules. **b** Heat map of the correlations between module eigengene of detected modules and PA
content. Values in the upper and lower side of each cell indicate *R* and *p* values, respectively

530 **Fig. 4** Coexpression network of genes assigned to the magenta module. A topological overlap
measure (TOM) threshold of coexpression was set at 0.27 according to the distribution of the
number of edges for each node. Genes with more than 50 edges, transcription factors, and
calcineurin B-like proteins (CBL)-interacting protein kinase (CIPKs) are shown with their
annotations and the number of edges. The color of each square indicates functional classification
535 (shown in Table S5); blue, CIPKs; red, transcription factors; yellow, enzymes/transporters in the
flavonoid pathway; green, other chloroplastic genes; orange, other oxidoreductases; light blue, other
transferases; and black, functionally unknown/others. The edges connected with transcription factors
are shown with red line

540 **Table 1** Summary of the assembly and functional annotation of ‘Taiten’ persimmon flesh

transcriptome.

Table 2 Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 2

545

Fig. S1 PCR amplification of *AST* marker in the siblings segregating for the non-astringent trait. A multiplexed primer set AST-F/PCNA-F/5R3R was used to genotype *AST* (Kanzaki et al, 2010). A black arrow indicates non-PCNA specific amplification.

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Fig. S2 Box plots indicating expression levels of putative regulatory genes assigned to cluster 2 for each time point and genotype. The ends of the whiskers indicate maximum and minimum values of RPKM. Top of the box, the band inside the box, and the bottom of the box indicate the first, second, and third quantiles, respectively. NP: non-PCNA. P: PCNA

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Table S1 GO analysis of the differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 4

Table S2 GO analysis of the differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 6

Table S3 GO analysis of genes assigned to the magenta module

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Table S4 GO analysis of genes assigned to modules negatively correlated with PA traits

Table S5 GO analysis if genes assigned to modules positively correlated with PA traits

565

Table S6 Functional classification and edge counts of genes for network visualization of the magenta module

Table S7 Top 100 genes for connectivity in the magenta module

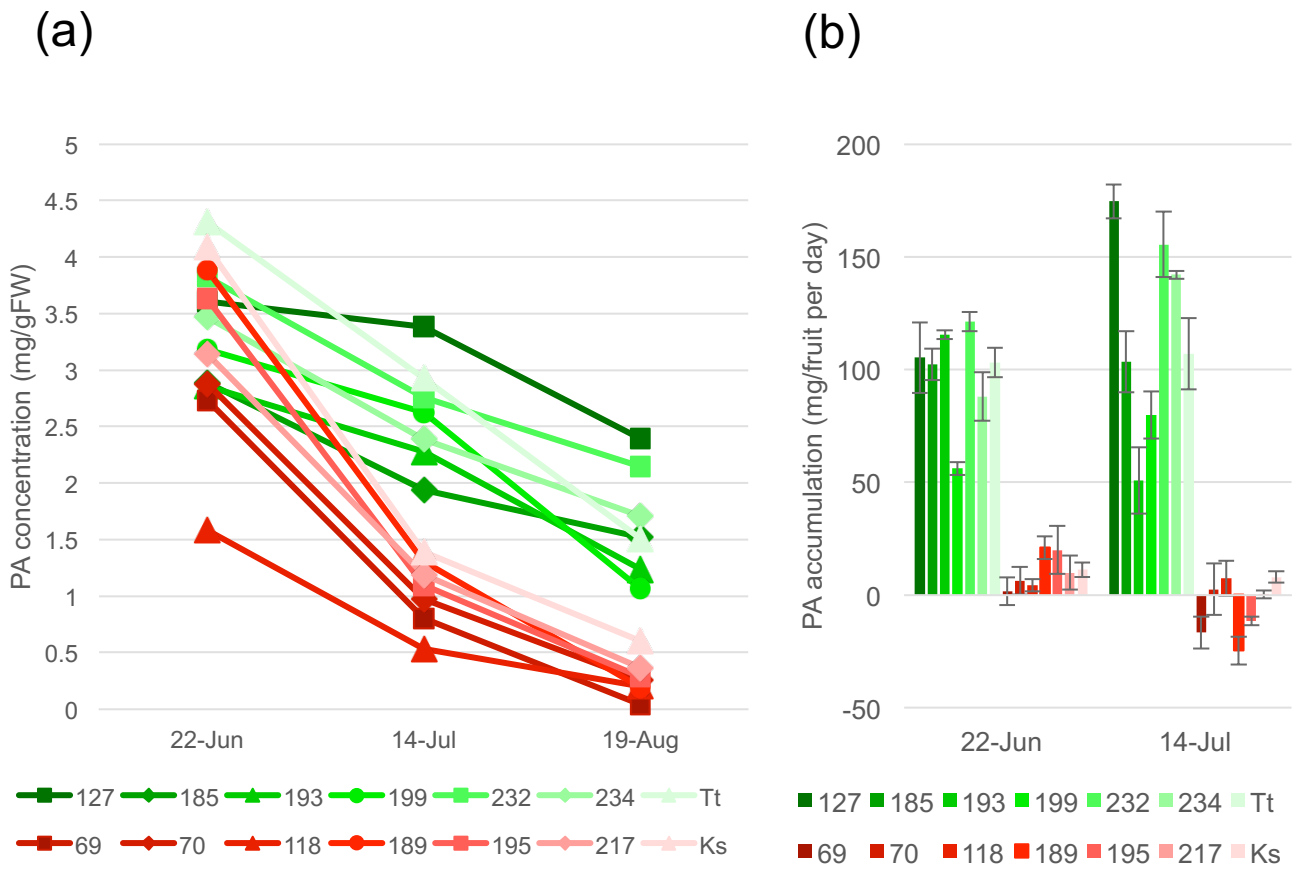


Fig. 1 Proanthocyanidin (PA) content in a population segregating for the pollination-constant and non-astringent (PCNA) trait. Twelve offspring (6 PCNAs and 6 non-PCNAs) of a cross 'Taiten' (non-PCNA) x 'Kanshu' (PCNA) and their parents, 'Taiten' (Tt) and 'Kanshu' (Ks), were investigated. Line colors indicate the *ASTRINGENCY* (*AST*) (Green) and *ast* (red) genotype of each individual. (a) Patterns of PA concentration in fruit. (b) PA accumulation per day. Error bar indicates standard deviation of three technical replicates.

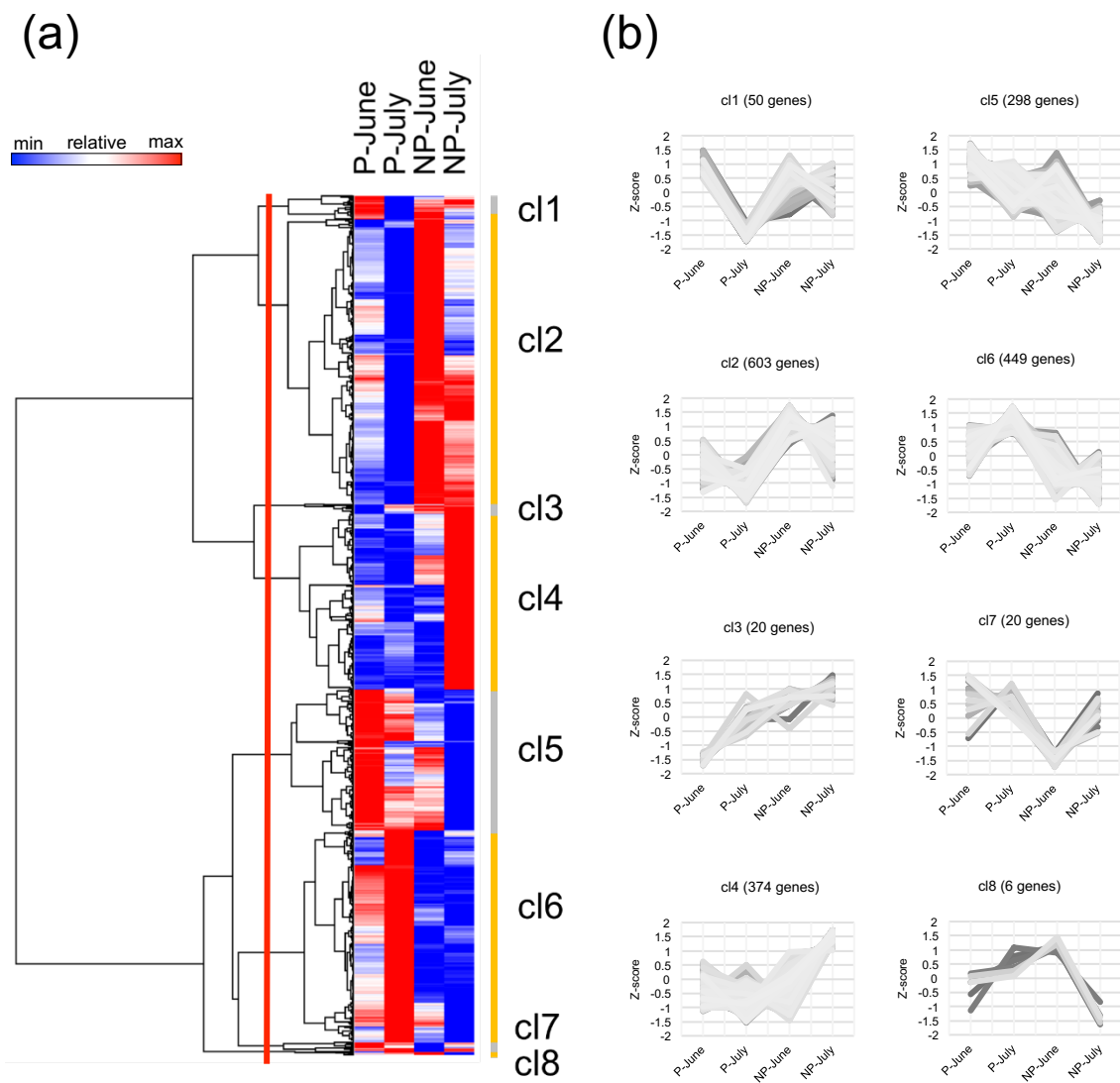


Fig. 2 Hierarchical clustering of genes differentially expressed between PCNA and non-PCNA individuals. (a) Heat map of clustered differentially expressed genes. The dendrogram was constructed using the average-linkage method from a data matrix of mean reads per kilobase of exon per million reads (RPKM) values of genotypes (PCNA:P/non-PCNA:NP) and stages (June/July). Genes were partitioned into clusters at the red line in the tree. (b) Expression patterns of genes assigned to each cluster. Z-scores were calculated from the data matrix of mean RPKM.

(a)

| module | numGenes ^a |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| bisque4 | 235 |
| black | 1071 |
| blue | 6943 |
| brown | 2375 |
| brown4 | 97 |
| cyan | 514 |
| darkgreen | 326 |
| darkgrey | 581 |
| darkolivegreen | 1185 |
| darkorange | 4174 |
| darkorange2 | 515 |
| darkred | 332 |
| greenyellow | 673 |
| grey | 85 |
| grey60 | 973 |
| lightcyan | 712 |
| magenta | 842 |
| midnightblue | 760 |
| plum1 | 146 |
| plum2 | 91 |
| purple | 709 |
| red | 1303 |
| sienna3 | 200 |
| tan | 628 |
| thistle1 | 73 |

^a Number of genes assigned to the module.

(b)

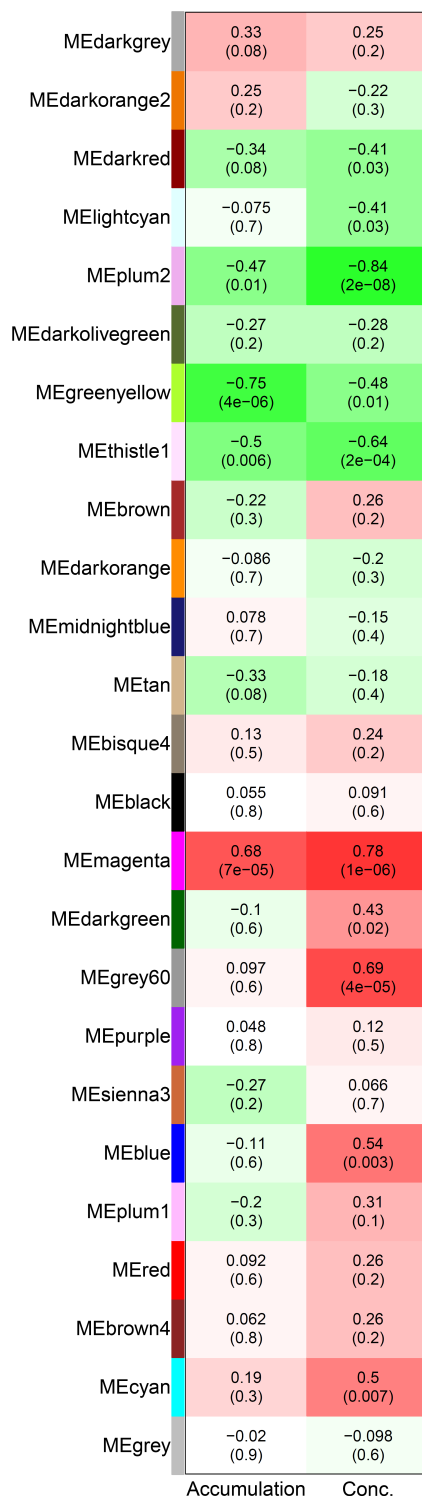


Fig. 3 Module detection using the WGCNA package. (a) The number of genes in 25 coexpression modules. (b) Heat map of the correlations between module eigengene of detected modules and PA content. Values in the upper and lower side of each cell indicate R and p values, respectively.

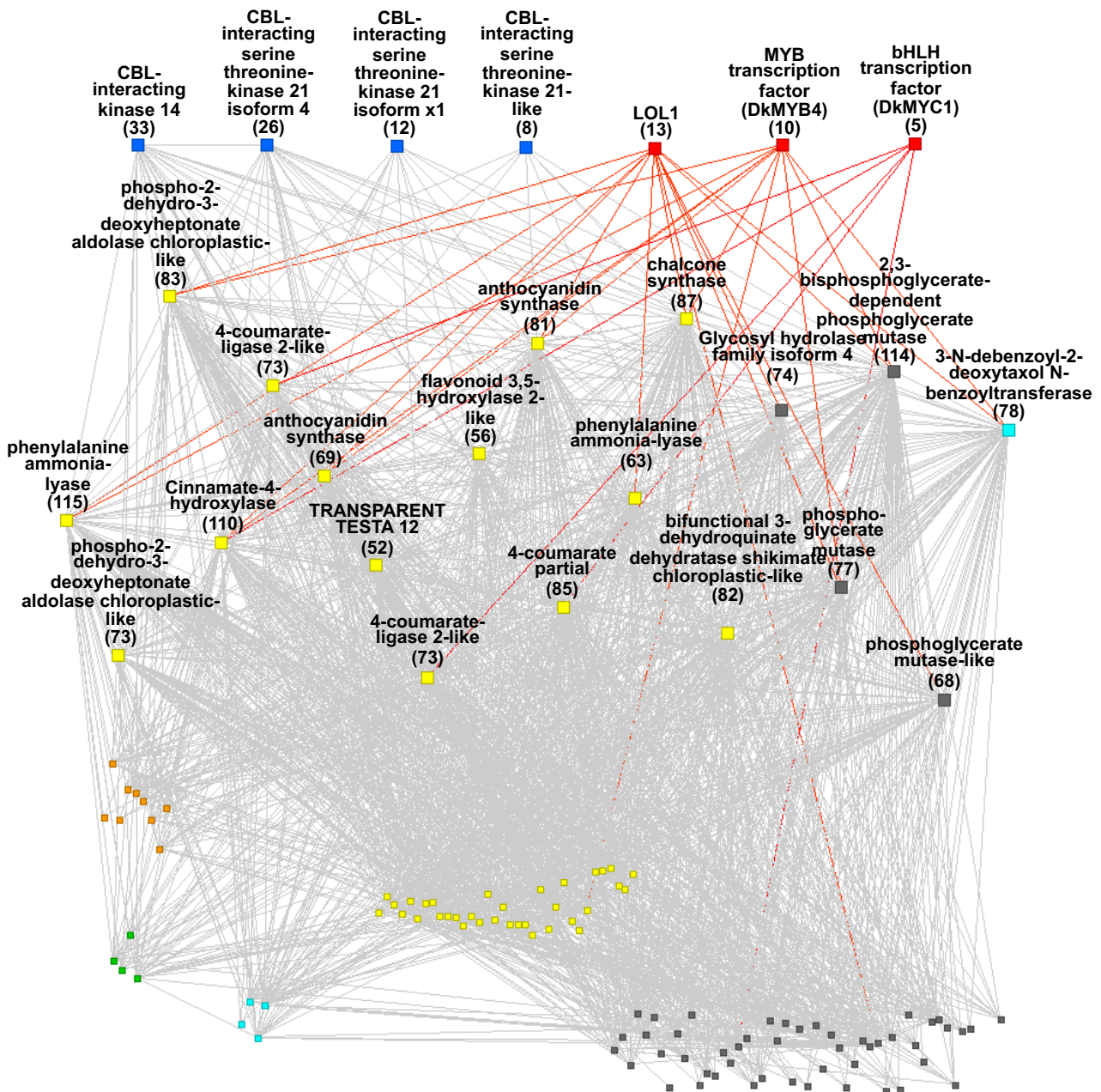


Fig. 4 Coexpression network of genes assigned to the magenta module. A topological overlap measure (TOM) threshold of coexpression was set at 0.27 according to the distribution of the number of edges for each node. Genes with more than 50 edges, transcription factors, and calcineurin B-like proteins (CBL)-interacting protein kinase (CIPKs) are shown with their annotations and the number of edges. The color of each square indicates functional classification (shown in Table S5); blue, CIPKs; red, transcription factors; yellow, enzymes/transporters in the flavonoid pathway; green, other chloroplast genes; orange, other oxidoreductases; light blue, other transferases; and black, functionally unknown/others. The edges connected with transcription factors are shown with red line.

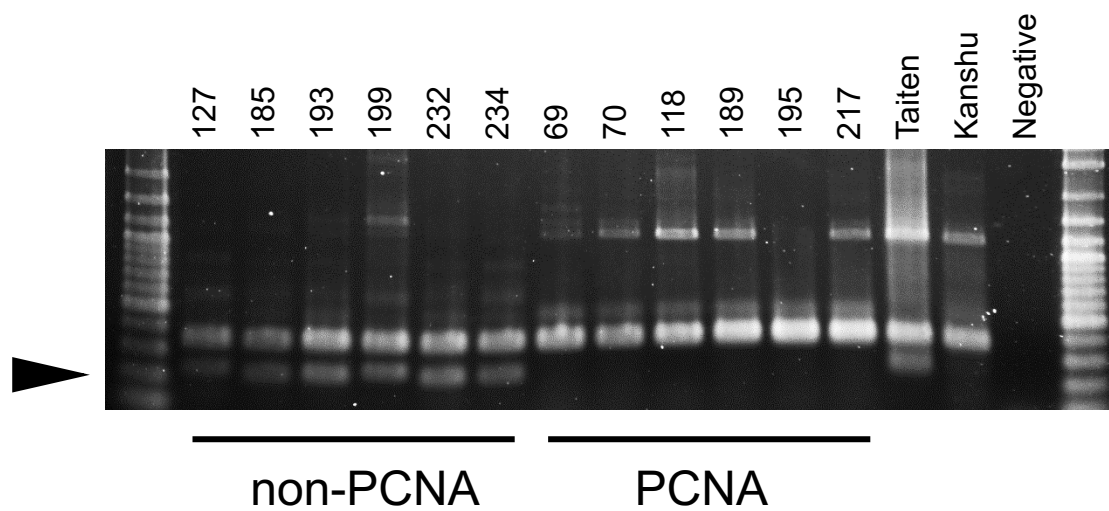
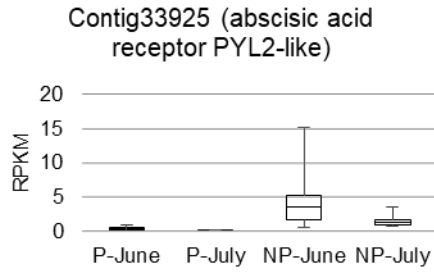
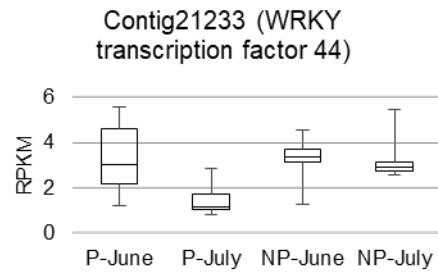


Fig. S1 PCR amplification of *AST* marker in the siblings segregating for the non-astringent trait. A multiplexed primer set AST-F/PCNA-F/5R3R was used to genotype *AST* (Kanzaki et al, 2010). A black arrow indicates non-PCNA specific amplification.

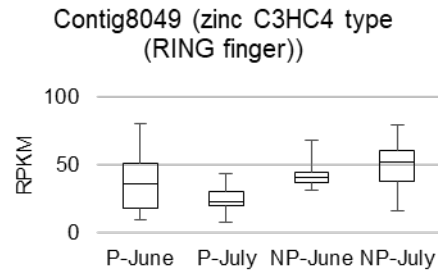
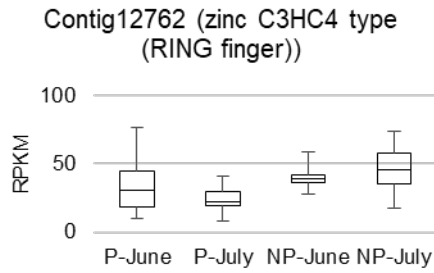
(a) ABA receptor



(b) WRKY transcription factor



(c) zinc finger



(d) CBL-interacting protein kinase

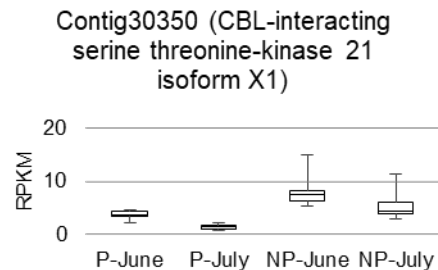
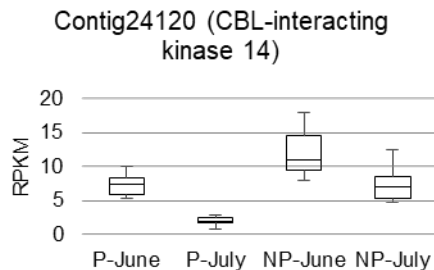
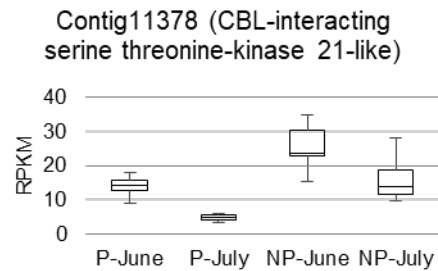
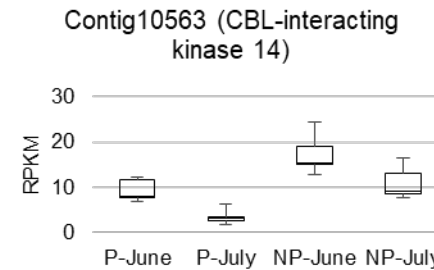
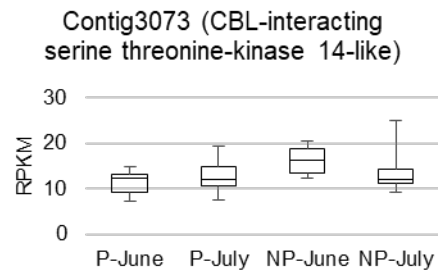
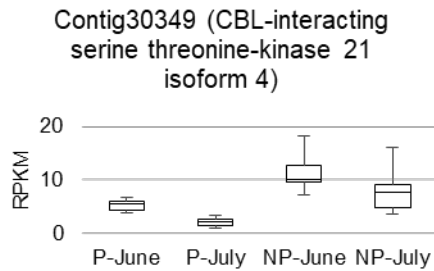


Fig. S2 Box plots indicating expression levels of putative regulatory genes assigned to cluster 2 for each time point and genotype. The ends of the whiskers indicate maximum and minimum values of RPKM. Top of the box, the band inside the box, and the bottom of the box indicate the first, second, and third quartiles, respectively. NP: non-PCNA. P: PCNA.

Table 1 Summary of the assembly and functional annotation of 'Taiten' persimmon flesh transcriptome.

| <u>assembly</u> | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| maximum | 16620 |
| minimum | 67 |
| average | 580 |
| N25 | 380 |
| N50 | 726 |
| N75 | 1526 |
| count | 103306 |
| <u>annotation</u> | |
| with GO term | 32591 |
| blast hits without GO term | 6154 |
| without blast hits | 64561 |

Table 2 Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 2

| | category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR | |
|----------------------------|------------|---|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| flavonoids pathway | GO:0009800 | cinnamic acid biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| | GO:0045548 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase activity | MF | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | |
| | GO:0009073 | aromatic amino acid family biosynthetic process | BP | 17 | 29 | 5.6.E-26 | 9.7.E-23 | |
| | GO:0003849 | 3-deoxy-7-phosphoheptulonate synthase activity | MF | 9 | 12 | 3.7.E-16 | 2.1.E-13 | |
| | GO:0006559 | L-phenylalanine catabolic process | BP | 8 | 9 | 7.8.E-15 | 4.0.E-12 | |
| | GO:0009423 | chorismate biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 10 | 8.9.E-15 | 4.2.E-12 | |
| | GO:0009718 | anthocyanin-containing compound biosynthetic process | BP | 7 | 11 | 1.4.E-11 | 5.0.E-09 | |
| | GO:0004764 | shikimate 3-dehydrogenase (NADP+) activity | MF | 6 | 14 | 4.3.E-09 | 1.2.E-06 | |
| | GO:0003855 | 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase activity | MF | 6 | 14 | 4.3.E-09 | 1.2.E-06 | |
| | GO:0019632 | shikimate metabolic process | BP | 6 | 14 | 6.3.E-09 | 1.5.E-06 | |
| | GO:0045552 | dihydrokaempferol 4-reductase activity | MF | 5 | 14 | 3.1.E-07 | 5.8.E-05 | |
| | GO:0009813 | flavonoid biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 95 | 2.8.E-05 | 3.4.E-03 | |
| | GO:0044550 | secondary metabolite biosynthetic process | BP | 6 | 63 | 1.5.E-04 | 1.5.E-02 | |
| | GO:0080043 | quercetin 3-O-glucosyltransferase activity | MF | 6 | 80 | 5.3.E-04 | 4.1.E-02 | |
| | GO:0016747 | transferase activity, transferring acyl groups other than amino-acyl groups | MF | 6 | 39 | 9.2.E-06 | 1.3.E-03 | |
| | transport | GO:0015238 | drug transmembrane transporter activity | MF | 6 | 41 | 1.1.E-05 | 1.5.E-03 |
| | | GO:0015297 | antiporter activity | MF | 6 | 59 | 7.9.E-05 | 8.5.E-03 |
| GO:0006855 | | drug transmembrane transport | BP | 6 | 70 | 2.6.E-04 | 2.4.E-02 | |
| GO:0016168 | | chlorophyll binding | MF | 16 | 28 | 4.1.E-24 | 5.3.E-21 | |
| photosynthesis/chloroplast | GO:0018298 | protein-chromophore linkage | BP | 15 | 31 | 7.2.E-21 | 7.4.E-18 | |
| | GO:0009522 | photosystem I | CC | 14 | 29 | 8.3.E-20 | 7.2.E-17 | |
| | GO:0009768 | photosynthesis, light harvesting in photosystem I | BP | 11 | 15 | 9.0.E-19 | 6.7.E-16 | |
| | GO:0031409 | pigment binding | MF | 10 | 14 | 5.0.E-17 | 3.2.E-14 | |
| | GO:0010287 | plastoglobule | CC | 12 | 47 | 7.2.E-13 | 2.9.E-10 | |
| | GO:0009535 | chloroplast thylakoid membrane | CC | 18 | 187 | 3.1.E-11 | 1.1.E-08 | |
| | GO:0009416 | response to light stimulus | BP | 10 | 42 | 5.7.E-11 | 1.8.E-08 | |
| | GO:0009941 | chloroplast envelope | CC | 13 | 322 | 3.2.E-04 | 2.9.E-02 | |
| | GO:0015979 | photosynthesis | BP | 6 | 90 | 7.6.E-04 | 5.8.E-02 | |
| | others | GO:0055114 | oxidation-reduction process | BP | 58 | 1640 | 3.2.E-13 | 1.4.E-10 |
| GO:0016829 | | lyase activity | MF | 11 | 81 | 3.1.E-09 | 9.3.E-07 | |
| GO:0050662 | | coenzyme binding | MF | 10 | 73 | 2.2.E-08 | 5.2.E-06 | |
| GO:0008422 | | beta-glucosidase activity | MF | 6 | 31 | 2.3.E-06 | 3.6.E-04 | |
| GO:0006096 | | glycolytic process | BP | 7 | 58 | 1.5.E-05 | 1.9.E-03 | |
| GO:0006633 | | fatty acid biosynthetic process | BP | 7 | 65 | 1.8.E-05 | 2.3.E-03 | |
| GO:0046872 | | metal ion binding | MF | 30 | 1165 | 1.1.E-04 | 1.2.E-02 | |
| GO:0016788 | | hydrolase activity, acting on ester bonds | MF | 6 | 66 | 1.7.E-04 | 1.7.E-02 | |
| GO:0020037 | | heme binding | MF | 10 | 211 | 3.4.E-04 | 3.0.E-02 | |
| GO:0042802 | | identical protein binding | MF | 6 | 74 | 3.4.E-04 | 3.0.E-02 | |
| GO:0051287 | | NAD binding | MF | 7 | 105 | 4.0.E-04 | 3.5.E-02 | |
| GO:0050661 | | NADP binding | MF | 6 | 82 | 4.4.E-04 | 3.7.E-02 | |
| GO:0005506 | | iron ion binding | MF | 10 | 219 | 4.7.E-04 | 3.8.E-02 | |

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process, MF:Molecular Function, CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S1 GO analysis of the differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 4

| category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| GO:0006537 | glutamate biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0016040 | glutamate synthase (NADH) activity | MF | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0051536 | iron-sulfur cluster binding | MF | 8 | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0010181 | FMN binding | MF | 8 | 65 | 1.2.E-10 | 1.6.E-07 |
| GO:0048589 | developmental growth | BP | 5 | 8 | 9.3.E-10 | 9.6.E-07 |
| GO:0019676 | ammonia assimilation cycle | BP | 5 | 13 | 2.9.E-09 | 2.5.E-06 |
| GO:0055114 | oxidation-reduction process | BP | 25 | 1640 | 4.4.E-09 | 3.3.E-06 |
| GO:0050660 | flavin adenine dinucleotide binding | MF | 8 | 101 | 6.5.E-09 | 4.2.E-06 |
| GO:0005506 | iron ion binding | MF | 10 | 219 | 1.2.E-08 | 6.9.E-06 |
| GO:0009735 | response to cytokinin | BP | 6 | 76 | 4.6.E-07 | 2.4.E-04 |
| GO:0009507 | chloroplast | CC | 13 | 802 | 7.6.E-05 | 2.8.E-02 |

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process, MF:Molecular Function, CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S2 GO analysis of the differentially expressed genes assigned to cluster 6

| category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR |
|------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| GO:0030422 | production of siRNA involved in RNA interference | BP | 11 | 36 | 4.4.E-14 | 2.3.E-10 |
| GO:0016442 | RISC complex | CC | 9 | 24 | 2.8.E-13 | 7.2.E-10 |
| GO:0004525 | ribonuclease III activity | MF | 10 | 35 | 5.1.E-13 | 8.8.E-10 |
| GO:0047134 | protein-disulfide reductase activity | MF | 6 | 9 | 3.7.E-11 | 4.8.E-08 |
| GO:0001172 | transcription, RNA-templated | BP | 6 | 13 | 2.9.E-09 | 2.5.E-06 |
| GO:0003968 | RNA-directed RNA polymerase activity | MF | 6 | 13 | 2.9.E-09 | 2.5.E-06 |
| GO:0090502 | RNA phosphodiester bond hydrolysis, endonucleolytic | BP | 10 | 92 | 1.9.E-08 | 1.4.E-05 |
| GO:0003993 | acid phosphatase activity | MF | 7 | 44 | 2.5.E-07 | 1.6.E-04 |
| GO:0005623 | cell | CC | 7 | 46 | 3.9.E-07 | 2.2.E-04 |
| GO:0019538 | protein metabolic process | BP | 6 | 42 | 1.4.E-06 | 7.5.E-04 |
| GO:0045454 | cell redox homeostasis | BP | 9 | 114 | 2.4.E-06 | 1.1.E-03 |
| GO:0031624 | ubiquitin conjugating enzyme binding | MF | 5 | 26 | 5.4.E-06 | 2.2.E-03 |
| GO:0032436 | positive regulation of proteasomal ubiquitin-dependent protein catabolic process | BP | 5 | 25 | 5.6.E-06 | 2.2.E-03 |
| GO:0000151 | ubiquitin ligase complex | CC | 5 | 39 | 4.2.E-05 | 1.4.E-02 |
| GO:0055085 | transmembrane transport | BP | 13 | 369 | 1.5.E-04 | 4.1.E-02 |

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process. MF:Molecular Function. CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S3 GO analysis of genes assigned to the magenta module

| category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR |
|------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| GO:0009800 | cinnamic acid biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 8 | | 0 |
| GO:0045548 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase activity | MF | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0016168 | chlorophyll binding | MF | 14 | 28 | 3.2.E-20 | 5.5.E-17 |
| GO:0009522 | photosystem I | CC | 13 | 29 | 5.1.E-18 | 6.4.E-15 |
| GO:0018298 | protein-chromophore linkage | BP | 13 | 31 | 6.2.E-18 | 6.4.E-15 |
| GO:0009768 | photosynthesis, light harvesting in photosystem I | BP | 10 | 15 | 2.3.E-16 | 2.0.E-13 |
| GO:0006559 | L-phenylalanine catabolic process | BP | 8 | 9 | 2.0.E-15 | 1.4.E-12 |
| GO:0003849 | 3-deoxy-7-phosphoheptulonate synthase activity | MF | 9 | 12 | 2.2.E-15 | 1.4.E-12 |
| GO:0031409 | pigment binding | MF | 9 | 14 | 1.3.E-14 | 7.4.E-12 |
| GO:0003855 | 3-dehydroquinate dehydratase activity | MF | 9 | 14 | 1.6.E-14 | 7.5.E-12 |
| GO:0004764 | shikimate 3-dehydrogenase (NADP+) activity | MF | 9 | 14 | 1.6.E-14 | 7.5.E-12 |
| GO:0009073 | aromatic amino acid family biosynthetic process | BP | 11 | 29 | 3.1.E-14 | 1.3.E-11 |
| GO:0009718 | anthocyanin-containing compound biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 11 | 7.2.E-14 | 2.9.E-11 |
| GO:0055114 | oxidation-reduction process | BP | 56 | 1640 | 9.7.E-13 | 3.6.E-10 |
| GO:0010287 | plastoglobule | CC | 11 | 47 | 6.7.E-12 | 2.3.E-09 |
| GO:0019632 | shikimate metabolic process | BP | 7 | 14 | 1.5.E-10 | 5.0.E-08 |
| GO:0016747 | transferase activity, transferring acyl groups other than amino-acyl groups | MF | 9 | 39 | 7.4.E-10 | 2.3.E-07 |
| GO:0009416 | response to light stimulus | BP | 9 | 42 | 2.0.E-09 | 5.8.E-07 |
| GO:0045552 | dihydrokaempferol 4-reductase activity | MF | 6 | 14 | 1.3.E-08 | 3.4.E-06 |
| GO:0050662 | coenzyme binding | MF | 10 | 73 | 2.0.E-08 | 4.9.E-06 |
| GO:0009535 | chloroplast thylakoid membrane | CC | 14 | 187 | 6.6.E-08 | 1.5.E-05 |
| GO:0006633 | fatty acid biosynthetic process | BP | 9 | 65 | 7.3.E-08 | 1.6.E-05 |
| GO:0016829 | lyase activity | MF | 8 | 81 | 8.3.E-06 | 1.4.E-03 |
| GO:0015238 | drug transmembrane transporter activity | MF | 6 | 41 | 9.8.E-06 | 1.6.E-03 |
| GO:0009813 | flavonoid biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 95 | 2.1.E-05 | 3.4.E-03 |
| GO:0020037 | heme binding | MF | 11 | 211 | 5.8.E-05 | 8.6.E-03 |
| GO:0050661 | NADP binding | MF | 7 | 82 | 7.2.E-05 | 1.0.E-02 |
| GO:0015297 | antiporter activity | MF | 6 | 59 | 8.9.E-05 | 1.2.E-02 |
| GO:0046872 | metal ion binding | MF | 30 | 1165 | 9.2.E-05 | 1.2.E-02 |
| GO:0006855 | drug transmembrane transport | BP | 6 | 70 | 1.8.E-04 | 2.2.E-02 |
| GO:0003993 | acid phosphatase activity | MF | 5 | 44 | 1.9.E-04 | 2.4.E-02 |
| GO:0080043 | quercetin 3-O-glucosyltransferase activity | MF | 6 | 80 | 4.5.E-04 | 4.9.E-02 |
| GO:0009941 | chloroplast envelope | CC | 12 | 322 | 5.1.E-04 | 5.1.E-02 |
| GO:0006096 | glycolytic process | BP | 5 | 58 | 5.1.E-04 | 5.1.E-02 |
| GO:0044550 | secondary metabolite biosynthetic process | BP | 5 | 63 | 1.0.E-03 | 9.6.E-02 |

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process, MF:Molecular Function, CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S4 GO analysis of genes assigned to modules negatively correlated with PA traits

| category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| module:plum2 | | | | | | |
| GO:0004674 | protein serine/threonine kinase activity | MF | 7 | 632 | 7.4.E-05 | 6.3.E-02 |
| module:greenyellow | | | | | | |
| GO:0030422 | production of siRNA involved in RNA interference | BP | 11 | 36 | 3.7.E-15 | 1.9.E-11 |
| GO:0016442 | RISC complex | CC | 9 | 24 | 5.2.E-13 | 1.4.E-09 |
| GO:0004525 | ribonuclease III activity | MF | 9 | 35 | 1.8.E-11 | 3.1.E-08 |
| GO:0047134 | protein-disulfide reductase activity | MF | 6 | 9 | 5.3.E-11 | 6.8.E-08 |
| GO:0001172 | transcription, RNA-templated | BP | 5 | 13 | 1.6.E-08 | 1.4.E-05 |
| GO:0003968 | RNA-directed RNA polymerase activity | MF | 5 | 13 | 1.6.E-08 | 1.4.E-05 |
| GO:0005623 | cell | CC | 7 | 46 | 9.2.E-08 | 6.8.E-05 |
| GO:0090502 | RNA phosphodiester bond hydrolysis, endonuclease | BP | 9 | 92 | 1.1.E-07 | 7.1.E-05 |
| GO:0045454 | cell redox homeostasis | BP | 9 | 114 | 4.8.E-07 | 2.8.E-04 |
| GO:0005737 | cytoplasm | CC | 23 | 1126 | 3.2.E-05 | 1.5.E-02 |
| GO:0052696 | flavonoid glucuronidation | BP | 6 | 88 | 8.3.E-05 | 2.5.E-02 |
| GO:0009813 | flavonoid biosynthetic process | BP | 6 | 95 | 1.3.E-04 | 3.5.E-02 |
| GO:0080044 | quercetin 7-O-glucosyltransferase activity | MF | 5 | 79 | 4.9.E-04 | 9.8.E-02 |
| module:darkred | | | | | | |
| GO:0004568 | chitinase activity | MF | 7 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0006032 | chitin catabolic process | BP | 7 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0008061 | chitin binding | MF | 7 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| GO:0000272 | polysaccharide catabolic process | BP | 6 | 19 | 5.3.E-10 | 6.9.E-07 |
| module:thistle1 | | | | | | |
| GO:0046910 | pectinesterase inhibitor activity | MF | 5 | 19 | 2.1.E-11 | 1.1.E-07 |
| GO:0030599 | pectinesterase activity | MF | 5 | 33 | 4.5.E-10 | 1.2.E-06 |
| GO:0043086 | negative regulation of catalytic activity | BP | 5 | 55 | 6.5.E-09 | 1.1.E-05 |
| GO:0005618 | cell wall | CC | 5 | 201 | 4.3.E-06 | 3.2.E-03 |

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process. MF:Molecular Function. CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S5 GO analysis of genes assigned to modules positively correlated with PA traits

| category | term | ontology ^a | numDEInCat ^b | numInCat ^c | pvalue | FDR |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| module:grey60 | | | | | | |
| GO:0000786 | nucleosome | CC | 14 | 44 | 7.4.E-16 | 3.8.E-12 |
| GO:0046982 | protein heterodimerization activity | MF | 13 | 76 | 1.9.E-11 | 4.8.E-08 |
| GO:0015979 | photosynthesis | BP | 12 | 90 | 1.4.E-09 | 2.3.E-06 |
| GO:0009535 | chloroplast thylakoid membrane | CC | 14 | 187 | 2.2.E-08 | 2.8.E-05 |
| GO:0009522 | photosystem I | CC | 5 | 29 | 2.2.E-05 | 1.4.E-02 |
| GO:0006334 | nucleosome assembly | BP | 5 | 32 | 5.7.E-05 | 2.7.E-02 |
| GO:0009416 | response to light stimulus | BP | 5 | 42 | 1.7.E-04 | 4.6.E-02 |
| GO:0016760 | cellulose synthase (UDP-forming) activity | MF | 5 | 48 | 2.7.E-04 | 6.9.E-02 |
| module:blue | | | | | | |
| GO:0008017 | microtubule binding | MF | 46 | 125 | 8.7.E-24 | 4.5.E-20 |
| GO:0003777 | microtubule motor activity | MF | 39 | 89 | 6.5.E-23 | 1.7.E-19 |
| GO:0007018 | microtubule-based movement | BP | 42 | 109 | 1.7.E-22 | 3.0.E-19 |
| GO:0055114 | oxidation-reduction process | BP | 202 | 1640 | 2.1.E-17 | 2.7.E-14 |
| GO:0005874 | microtubule | CC | 41 | 141 | 3.1.E-17 | 2.8.E-14 |
| GO:0005871 | kinesin complex | CC | 30 | 76 | 3.2.E-17 | 2.8.E-14 |
| GO:0006468 | protein phosphorylation | BP | 109 | 879 | 1.4.E-11 | 1.0.E-08 |
| GO:0005524 | ATP binding | MF | 250 | 2702 | 1.2.E-10 | 8.0.E-08 |
| GO:0032440 | 2-alkenal reductase [NAD(P)] activity | MF | 36 | 183 | 1.4.E-10 | 8.2.E-08 |
| GO:0016722 | oxidoreductase activity, oxidizing metal ions | MF | 15 | 33 | 2.0.E-10 | 1.0.E-07 |
| GO:0005618 | cell wall | CC | 39 | 201 | 6.3.E-10 | 3.0.E-07 |
| GO:0004672 | protein kinase activity | MF | 61 | 437 | 3.5.E-09 | 1.5.E-06 |
| GO:0016887 | ATPase activity | MF | 34 | 169 | 1.8.E-08 | 7.1.E-06 |
| GO:0016021 | integral component of membrane | CC | 488 | 5890 | 2.5.E-08 | 9.4.E-06 |
| GO:0030570 | pectate lyase activity | MF | 9 | 16 | 3.3.E-07 | 1.1.E-04 |
| GO:0051753 | mannan synthase activity | MF | 7 | 9 | 7.0.E-07 | 2.3.E-04 |
| GO:0009505 | plant-type cell wall | CC | 27 | 146 | 1.3.E-06 | 4.0.E-04 |
| GO:0004553 | hydrolase activity, hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds | MF | 27 | 146 | 1.9.E-06 | 5.5.E-04 |
| GO:0006855 | drug transmembrane transport | BP | 17 | 70 | 2.1.E-06 | 5.6.E-04 |
| GO:0045490 | pectin catabolic process | BP | 13 | 43 | 3.6.E-06 | 9.4.E-04 |
| GO:0031408 | oxylipin biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 18 | 7.7.E-06 | 1.9.E-03 |
| GO:0000796 | condensin complex | CC | 5 | 6 | 1.4.E-05 | 3.2.E-03 |
| GO:0030247 | polysaccharide binding | MF | 17 | 75 | 1.5.E-05 | 3.4.E-03 |
| GO:0016702 | oxidoreductase activity, acting on single donors with inc | MF | 8 | 21 | 1.6.E-05 | 3.4.E-03 |
| GO:0007076 | mitotic chromosome condensation | BP | 6 | 9 | 1.6.E-05 | 3.4.E-03 |
| GO:0042546 | cell wall biogenesis | BP | 10 | 28 | 2.5.E-05 | 5.0.E-03 |
| GO:0016788 | hydrolase activity, acting on ester bonds | MF | 15 | 66 | 3.5.E-05 | 6.6.E-03 |
| GO:0008152 | metabolic process | BP | 190 | 2195 | 3.6.E-05 | 6.7.E-03 |
| GO:0006270 | DNA replication initiation | BP | 6 | 11 | 3.9.E-05 | 6.9.E-03 |
| GO:0048046 | apoplast | CC | 24 | 140 | 4.3.E-05 | 7.1.E-03 |
| GO:0000910 | cytokinesis | BP | 5 | 8 | 4.4.E-05 | 7.1.E-03 |
| GO:0008447 | L-ascorbate oxidase activity | MF | 5 | 10 | 4.4.E-05 | 7.1.E-03 |
| GO:0071555 | cell wall organization | BP | 21 | 121 | 4.9.E-05 | 7.6.E-03 |
| GO:0009809 | lignin biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 22 | 5.4.E-05 | 7.8.E-03 |
| GO:0005975 | carbohydrate metabolic process | BP | 42 | 331 | 5.4.E-05 | 7.8.E-03 |
| GO:0045550 | geranylgeranyl reductase activity | MF | 5 | 7 | 6.5.E-05 | 9.1.E-03 |
| GO:0005576 | extracellular region | CC | 26 | 160 | 8.1.E-05 | 1.1.E-02 |
| GO:0006542 | glutamine biosynthetic process | BP | 5 | 8 | 8.2.E-05 | 1.1.E-02 |
| GO:0046658 | anchored component of plasma membrane | CC | 17 | 90 | 9.6.E-05 | 1.2.E-02 |
| GO:0010311 | lateral root formation | BP | 6 | 16 | 1.0.E-04 | 1.3.E-02 |
| GO:0004560 | alpha-L-fucosidase activity | MF | 5 | 8 | 1.4.E-04 | 1.7.E-02 |
| GO:0009524 | phragmoplast | CC | 9 | 38 | 1.5.E-04 | 1.7.E-02 |
| GO:0051276 | chromosome organization | BP | 7 | 19 | 1.6.E-04 | 1.8.E-02 |
| GO:0004356 | glutamate-ammonia ligase activity | MF | 5 | 9 | 2.2.E-04 | 2.4.E-02 |
| GO:0016762 | xyloglucan:xyloglucosyl transferase activity | MF | 8 | 24 | 2.3.E-04 | 2.5.E-02 |
| GO:0015995 | chlorophyll biosynthetic process | BP | 8 | 27 | 2.4.E-04 | 2.6.E-02 |
| GO:0016491 | oxidoreductase activity | MF | 44 | 364 | 2.5.E-04 | 2.6.E-02 |
| GO:0000226 | microtubule cytoskeleton organization | BP | 5 | 13 | 2.6.E-04 | 2.7.E-02 |
| GO:0010411 | xyloglucan metabolic process | BP | 8 | 25 | 2.7.E-04 | 2.7.E-02 |
| GO:0016628 | oxidoreductase activity, acting on the CH-CH group of d | MF | 5 | 9 | 3.2.E-04 | 3.2.E-02 |
| GO:0016760 | cellulose synthase (UDP-forming) activity | MF | 11 | 48 | 3.4.E-04 | 3.3.E-02 |
| GO:0015238 | drug transmembrane transporter activity | MF | 10 | 41 | 3.6.E-04 | 3.3.E-02 |
| GO:0045735 | nutrient reservoir activity | MF | 6 | 15 | 6.1.E-04 | 5.2.E-02 |
| GO:0046274 | lignin catabolic process | BP | 6 | 16 | 6.8.E-04 | 5.4.E-02 |
| GO:0052716 | hydroquinone:oxygen oxidoreductase activity | MF | 6 | 16 | 6.8.E-04 | 5.4.E-02 |
| GO:0020037 | heme binding | MF | 27 | 211 | 1.2.E-03 | 9.0.E-02 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|----|----|-----|----------|----------|
| GO:0009506 | plasmodesma | CC | 41 | 386 | 1.3.E-03 | 9.6.E-02 |
| module:cyan | | | | | | |
| GO:0030422 | production of siRNA involved in RNA interference | BP | 11 | 36 | 4.4.E-14 | 2.3.E-10 |
| GO:0016442 | RISC complex | CC | 9 | 24 | 2.8.E-13 | 7.2.E-10 |
| GO:0004525 | ribonuclease III activity | MF | 10 | 35 | 5.1.E-13 | 8.8.E-10 |
| GO:0047134 | protein-disulfide reductase activity | MF | 6 | 9 | 3.7.E-11 | 4.8.E-08 |
| GO:0001172 | transcription, RNA-templated | BP | 6 | 13 | 2.9.E-09 | 2.5.E-06 |
| GO:0003968 | RNA-directed RNA polymerase activity | MF | 6 | 13 | 2.9.E-09 | 2.5.E-06 |
| GO:0090502 | RNA phosphodiester bond hydrolysis, endonucleolytic | BP | 10 | 92 | 1.9.E-08 | 1.4.E-05 |
| GO:0003993 | acid phosphatase activity | MF | 7 | 44 | 2.5.E-07 | 1.6.E-04 |
| GO:0005623 | cell | CC | 7 | 46 | 3.9.E-07 | 2.2.E-04 |
| GO:0019538 | protein metabolic process | BP | 6 | 42 | 1.4.E-06 | 7.5.E-04 |
| GO:0045454 | cell redox homeostasis | BP | 9 | 114 | 2.4.E-06 | 1.1.E-03 |
| GO:0031624 | ubiquitin conjugating enzyme binding | MF | 5 | 26 | 5.4.E-06 | 2.2.E-03 |
| GO:0032436 | positive regulation of proteasomal ubiquitin-dependent p | BP | 5 | 25 | 5.6.E-06 | 2.2.E-03 |
| GO:0000151 | ubiquitin ligase complex | CC | 5 | 39 | 4.2.E-05 | 1.4.E-02 |
| GO:0055085 | transmembrane transport | BP | 13 | 369 | 1.5.E-04 | 4.1.E-02 |

GO analysis for magenta module was shown in Table S3.

^a category of the ontology. BP:Biological Process. MF:Molecular Function. CC:Cellular Component

^b The number of differentially expressed genes with given GO term.

^c Total number of genes with given GO term in the reference.

Table S6 Functional classification and edge counts of genes for network visualization of the magenta module

| node | Annotation | classification ^a | numEdge ^b |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Contig11 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase | F | 115 |
| Contig4700 | 2,3-bisphosphoglycerate-dependent phosphoglycerate mutase | U | 114 |
| Contig2390 | Cinnamate-4-hydroxylase [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | F | 110 |
| Contig16053 | chalcone synthase | F | 87 |
| Contig8677 | 4-coumarate partial [<i>Populus nigra</i>] | F | 85 |
| Contig482 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 83 |
| Contig4670 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like | F | 82 |
| Contig492 | anthocyanidin synthase | F | 81 |
| Contig5640 | 3-N-debenzoyl-2-deoxytaxol N-benzoyltransferase | T | 78 |
| Contig34711 | phosphoglycerate mutase | U | 77 |
| Contig11748 | Glycosyl hydrolase family isoform 4 [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | U | 74 |
| Contig16195 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 73 |
| Contig5021 | 4-coumarate-ligase 2-like | F | 73 |
| Contig628 | 4-coumarate-ligase 2-like | F | 73 |
| Contig512 | anthocyanidin synthase | F | 69 |
| Contig9187 | phosphoglycerate mutase-like [<i>Malus domestica</i>] | U | 68 |
| Contig9491 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase | F | 63 |
| Contig966 | flavonoid 3,5-hydroxylase 2-like | F | 56 |
| Contig11937 | TRANSPARENT TESTA 12 | F | 52 |
| Contig24127 | probable acyl-activating enzyme peroxisomal | U | 47 |
| Contig11936 | TRANSPARENT TESTA 12 | F | 46 |
| Contig2389 | cinnamate 4-partial [<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>] | F | 46 |
| Contig2957 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 39 |
| Contig4343 | DETOXIFICATION 33 | U | 39 |
| Contig5729 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase | F | 39 |
| Contig3 | serine carboxypeptidase-like 18 isoform X1 | T | 36 |
| Contig4319 | limonoid UDP-glucosyltransferase | F | 34 |
| Contig10563 | CBL-interacting kinase 14 [<i>Vitis vinifera</i>] | CK | 33 |
| Contig5765 | trans-cinnamate 4-monooxygenase | F | 33 |
| Contig16617 | ---NA--- | U | 32 |
| Contig43179 | ---NA--- | U | 31 |
| Contig10633 | 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate dehydrogenase 2 [<i>Camellia sinensis</i>] | F | 29 |
| Contig10634 | 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate dehydrogenase 2 [<i>Camellia sinensis</i>] | F | 29 |
| Contig16293 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC102616627 isoform X1 | CP | 29 |
| Contig4832 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 29 |
| Contig46247 | Alpha beta-Hydrolases superfamily isoform 2 [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | U | 28 |
| Contig5761 | chalcone synthase | F | 28 |
| Contig10671 | TRANSPARENT TESTA 12-like | F | 27 |
| Contig29114 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC105646674 [<i>Jatropha curcas</i>] | U | 27 |
| Contig15066 | ---NA--- | U | 26 |
| Contig16840 | ---NA--- | U | 26 |
| Contig30349 | CBL-interacting serine threonine-kinase 21 isoform 4 [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | CK | 26 |
| Contig3538 | serine carboxypeptidase-like 18 | T | 26 |
| Contig54344 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC104448399 [<i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>] | U | 24 |
| Contig7111 | 4-coumarate-ligase 2-like | F | 24 |
| Contig14472 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase | F | 23 |
| Contig15352 | MATE efflux family [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | F | 23 |
| Contig17020 | ---NA--- | U | 23 |
| Contig9715 | NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase | OR | 23 |
| Contig35613 | ---NA--- | U | 22 |
| Contig56713 | Riboflavin synthase alpha isoform 1 [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | OR | 22 |
| Contig23632 | secoisolariciresinol dehydrogenase-like | OR | 21 |
| Contig32030 | ---NA--- | U | 21 |
| Contig55679 | serine carboxypeptidase-like 18 | T | 21 |
| Contig4831 | 3-deoxy-d-arabino-heptulosonate 7-phosphate synthase isoform 3 [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | F | 20 |
| Contig16955 | hypothetical protein EUGRSUZ_B02529 | CP | 19 |
| Contig16616 | ---NA--- | U | 18 |
| Contig16841 | ---NA--- | U | 18 |
| Contig301 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like isoform X1 | F | 18 |
| Contig60933 | ---NA--- | U | 18 |
| Contig64054 | ---NA--- | U | 18 |
| Contig17191 | ---NA--- | U | 17 |
| Contig63662 | cytochrome P450 93A3-like | F | 17 |
| Contig10040 | 1-Cys peroxiredoxin | F | 16 |
| Contig15277 | beta-D-glucan exohydrolase [<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>] | U | 16 |
| Contig5381 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like | F | 16 |
| Contig4830 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 15 |
| Contig5760 | chalcone synthase | F | 14 |
| Contig26072 | sulfite oxidase isoform X1 [<i>Ricinus communis</i>] | OR | 13 |
| Contig52008 | LOL1 [<i>Vitis vinifera</i>] | TF | 13 |
| Contig5671 | phospho-2-dehydro-3-deoxyheptonate aldolase chloroplastic-like | F | 13 |
| Contig765 | chalcone synthase | F | 13 |

| | | | |
|-------------|---|----|----|
| Contig7962 | beta-glucosidase 3B-like | U | 13 |
| Contig10070 | ---NA--- | U | 12 |
| Contig14773 | 4-coumarate-ligase 2-like | F | 12 |
| Contig15435 | anthocyanidin 3-O-glucosyltransferase 2-like | F | 12 |
| Contig18636 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC105961982 [<i>Erythranthe guttata</i>] | U | 12 |
| Contig30350 | CBL-interacting serine threonine-kinase 21 isoform X1 | CK | 12 |
| Contig313 | dihydrofolate reductase-like | OR | 12 |
| Contig54 | enolase chloroplastic | CP | 12 |
| Contig44976 | ---NA--- | U | 11 |
| Contig4669 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like | F | 11 |
| Contig11166 | MYB transcription factor | TF | 10 |
| Contig21600 | ---NA--- | U | 10 |
| Contig26724 | MATE efflux family chloroplastic | F | 10 |
| Contig92435 | ---NA--- | U | 10 |
| Contig18274 | 1-Cys peroxiredoxin | OR | 9 |
| Contig11289 | ---NA--- | U | 8 |
| Contig11378 | CBL-interacting serine threonine-kinase 21-like | CK | 8 |
| Contig30387 | sulfite oxidase isoform X2 | OR | 8 |
| Contig40760 | phenylalanine ammonia-lyase | F | 8 |
| Contig40982 | ---NA--- | U | 8 |
| Contig54652 | ---NA--- | U | 8 |
| Contig64871 | binding partner of ACD11 1-like isoform X1 | U | 8 |
| Contig1851 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like isoform X2 | F | 7 |
| Contig1852 | bifunctional 3-dehydroquininate dehydratase shikimate chloroplastic-like isoform X2 | F | 7 |
| Contig21975 | kaempferol 3-O-beta-D-galactosyltransferase-like | F | 7 |
| Contig3236 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC104219419 [<i>Nicotiana sylvestris</i>] | U | 7 |
| Contig47825 | ---NA--- | U | 7 |
| Contig24911 | ---NA--- | U | 6 |
| Contig34524 | ---NA--- | U | 6 |
| Contig10860 | ---NA--- | U | 5 |
| Contig20409 | bHLH transcription factor | TF | 5 |
| Contig29758 | ---NA--- | U | 5 |
| Contig6422 | Arabinanase levansucrase [<i>Theobroma cacao</i>] | U | 5 |
| Contig67422 | sulfite oxidase-like | OR | 5 |
| Contig11787 | 3-ketoacyl-synthase 10 | T | 4 |
| Contig13545 | ankyrin repeat-containing At5g02620-like isoform X2 [<i>Citrus sinensis</i>] | U | 4 |
| Contig28376 | Glycosyl hydrolase family 35 protein isoform 1 | U | 4 |
| Contig41477 | ---NA--- | U | 4 |
| Contig57439 | ---NA--- | U | 4 |
| Contig6939 | 3-hydroxyisobutyryl-hydrolase 5 | U | 4 |
| Contig7110 | 4-coumarate: partial [<i>Glycine max</i>] | F | 4 |
| Contig338 | NADP-dependent glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase | OR | 3 |
| Contig36482 | ---NA--- | U | 3 |
| Contig37228 | ---NA--- | U | 3 |
| Contig5302 | cinnamate 4-partial [<i>Pinus massoniana</i>] | F | 3 |
| Contig7441 | chlorophyll a-b binding of LHCII type 1-like | CP | 3 |
| Contig78880 | ---NA--- | U | 3 |
| Contig8185 | ---NA--- | U | 3 |
| Contig30639 | dihydroflavonol 4-reductase | F | 1 |
| Contig33506 | PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC104216650 | U | 1 |

Edges in the co-expression network of magenta module were filtered out by topological overlap threshold (> 0.27).

^a Gene functional classification. CK:CBL-interacting protein kinase. F: Enzymes/transporters involved in flavonoid pathway. TF: Transcription factor. CP: Other chloroplastic genes. T: Other transferases. OR: Other oxidoreductases. U: Unknown/Others.

^b The number of edges retained after the topological overlap cutoff.

