



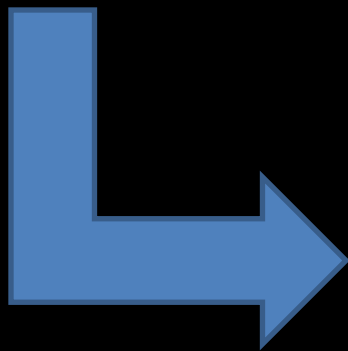
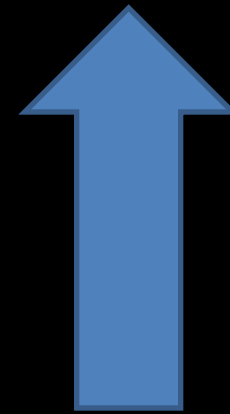
Inhibiting infections by *Xcm*

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Inhibiting infections by *Xcm*

Understand
biological & genetic
basis of *Xcm*
infections in cotton



Develop
biological means to
control or prevent
Xcm infections

Cotton

Soft Cool Stylish Versatile
Environmentally friendly Natural
Fashionable Comfortable Quality fabric
Youthful Traditional Breathes Sporty



Cotton Research

Long growth cycle
Difficult Complex
recalcitrant for transformation



Importance & complexity of the cotton genome



Gossypium spp.

- ❖ natural textile fiber & major oilseed crop
1st value-added crop in USA
- ❖ Unique model for cell wall biosynthesis & polyploidization
- ❖ Diversity of germplasm
45 diploid species (A or D genome)
5 tetraploid species (AD genome)
- ❖ Complexity of genome
G. hirsutum : ~2.5 Gb (95% cotton production)

Li et al., *Nat Biotechnol* 2015
Zhang et al., *Nat Biotechnol* 2015

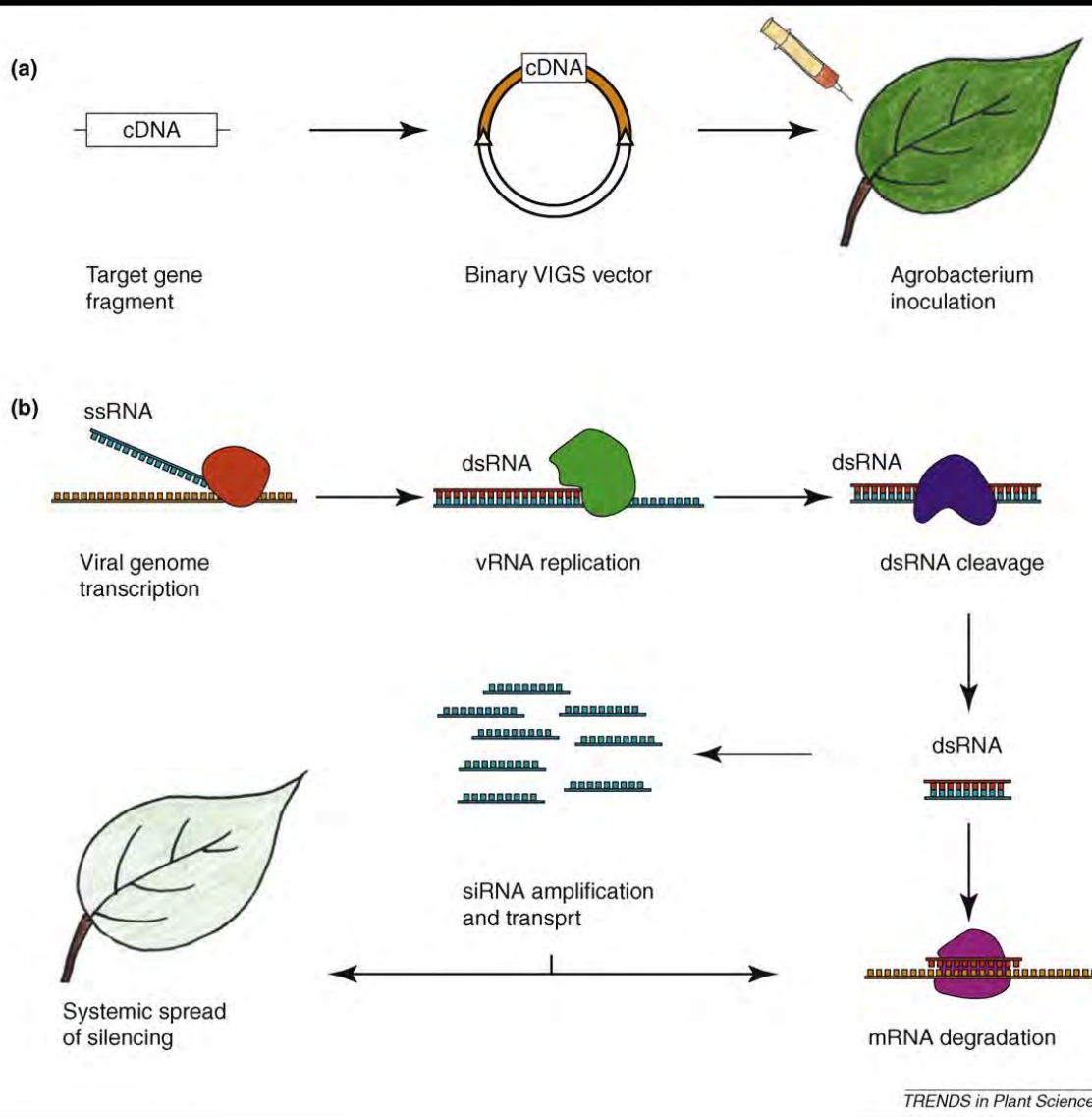
Li et al., *Nat Genet* 2014
Wang et al., *Nat Genet* 2012
Paterson et al., *Nature* 2012

How to study cotton gene functions?

Functional Genomics

- ❖ Explore cotton gene functions in cotton
NOT other plants.
- ❖ Transient loss-of-function assays (two weeks)
Agrobacterium-mediated VIGS
- ❖ Transient gain-of-function assays (two days)
Agrobacterium-mediated transient assay
Cotton protoplast transfection assay

Virus-induced gene silencing





Agrobacterium-mediated VIGS



10-day-old seedling



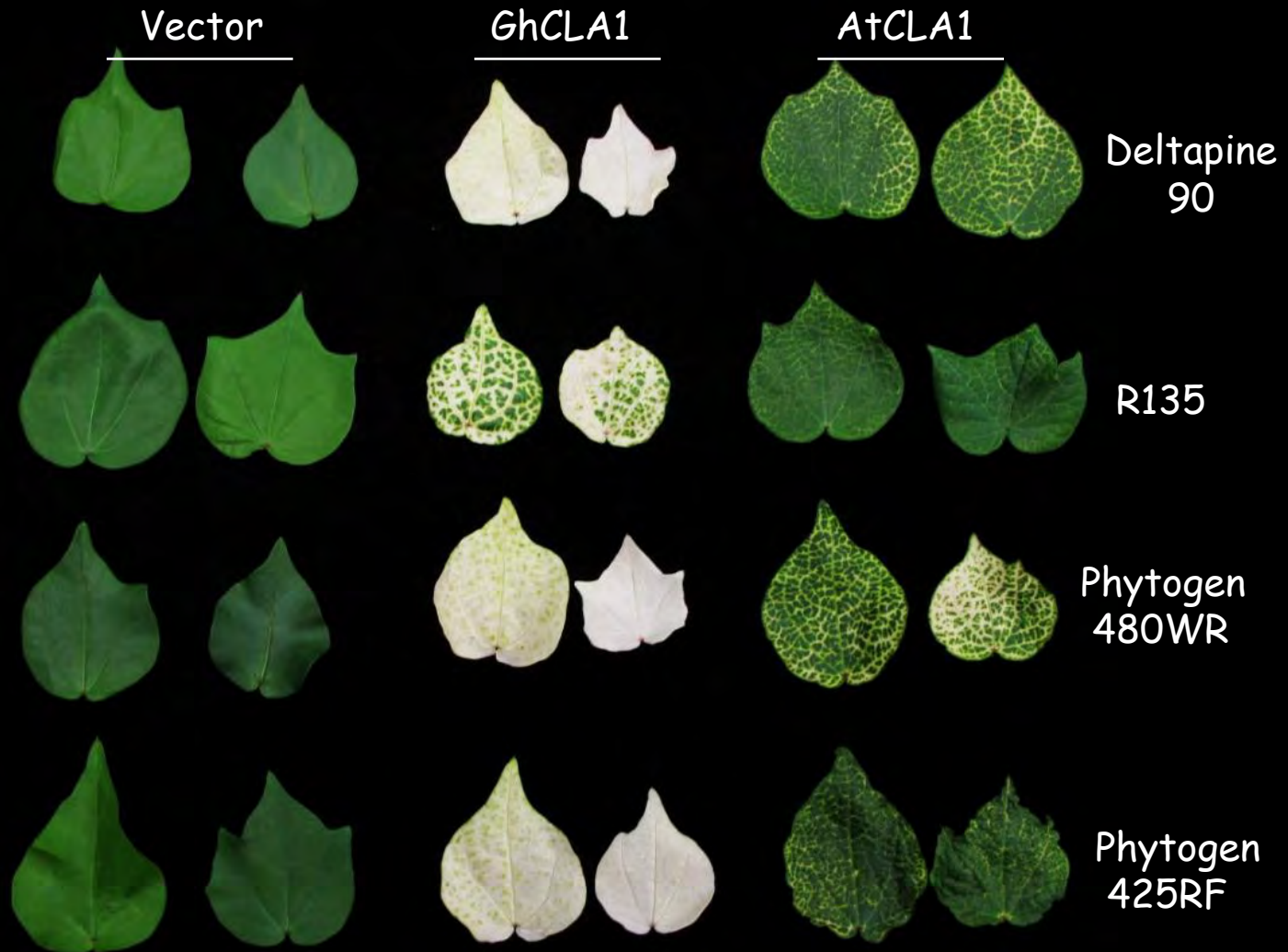
Agro-infiltration



Phenotypic analysis
2-week-post-infiltration

CLA1: Chloroplastos alterados 1 involved in chloroplast development

VIGS in diverse cotton genetic backgrounds



Cotton Functional Genomics

Transient loss-of-function assay



Mining essential cotton genes for the traits



Genetic engineering of the master regulator



Increase sustainable yield, resistance and quality

Cotton functional genomics via VIGS library

10-day-old seedlings

Inoculation with Agro-VIGS cDNA library

Target genes are silenced two weeks after inoculation

Screening for disease resistance or other phenotypes

Identifying interested candidates

Sequencing plasmid DNA from Agrobacteria

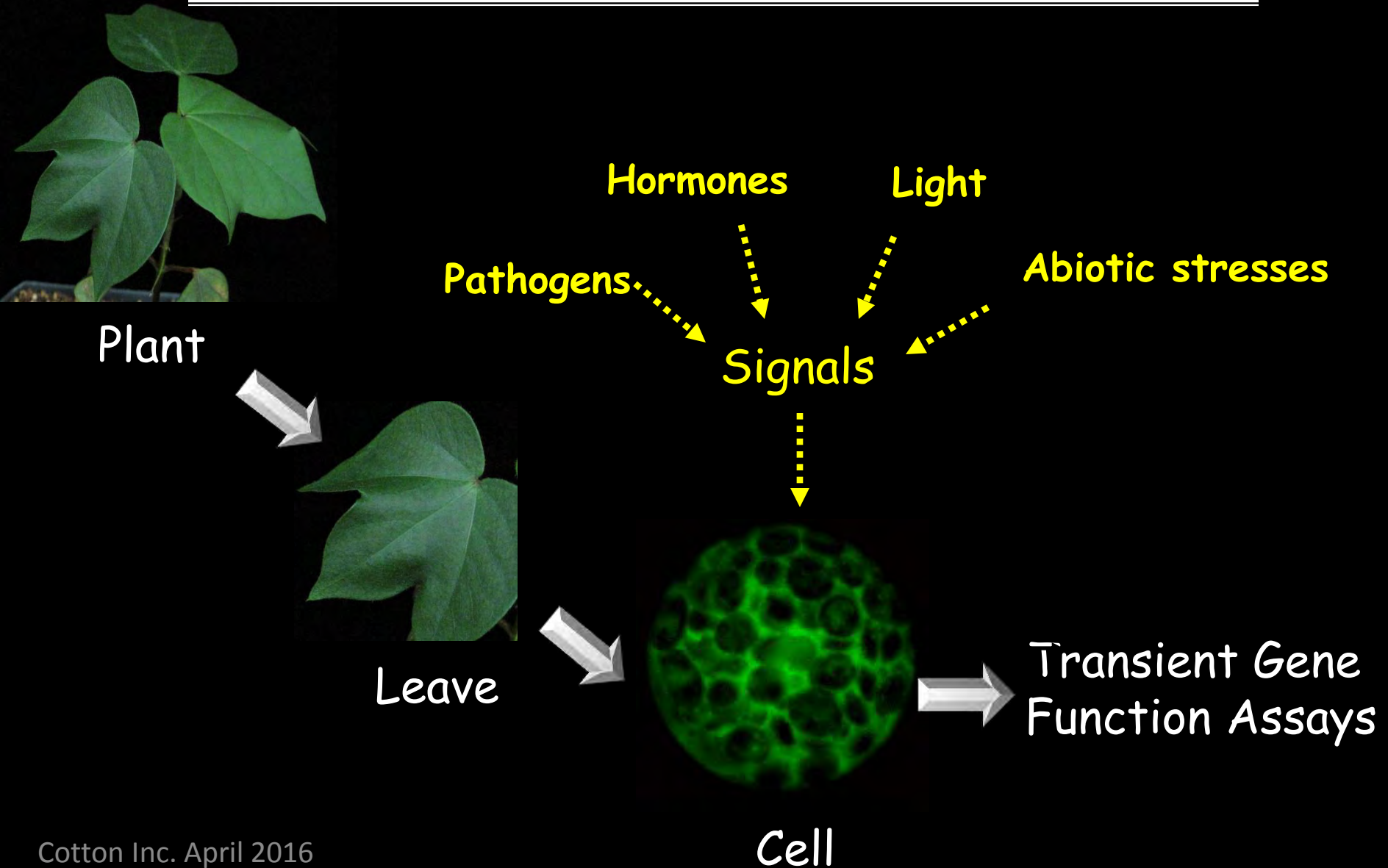
Targeted breeding program or transgenic approach



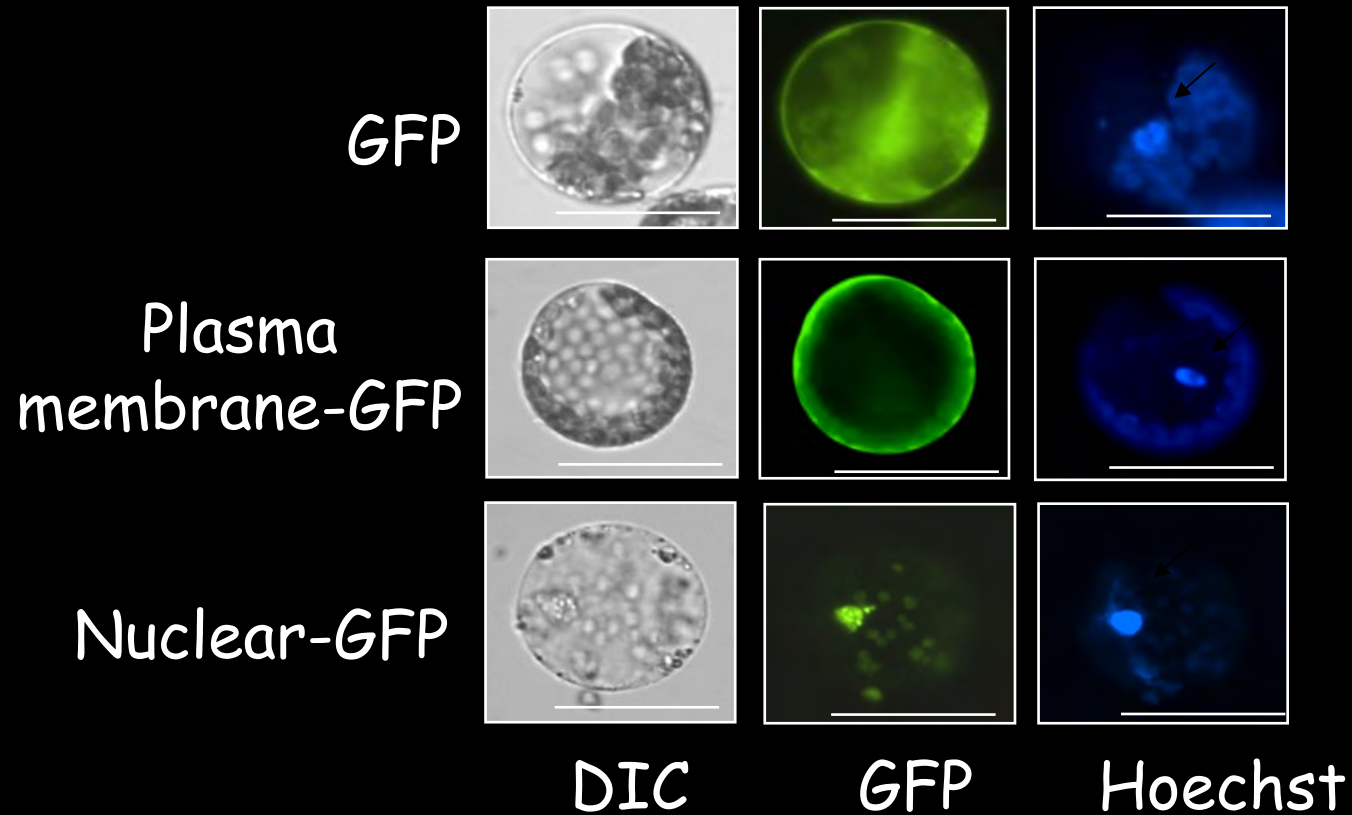
Cotton Inc. April 2016



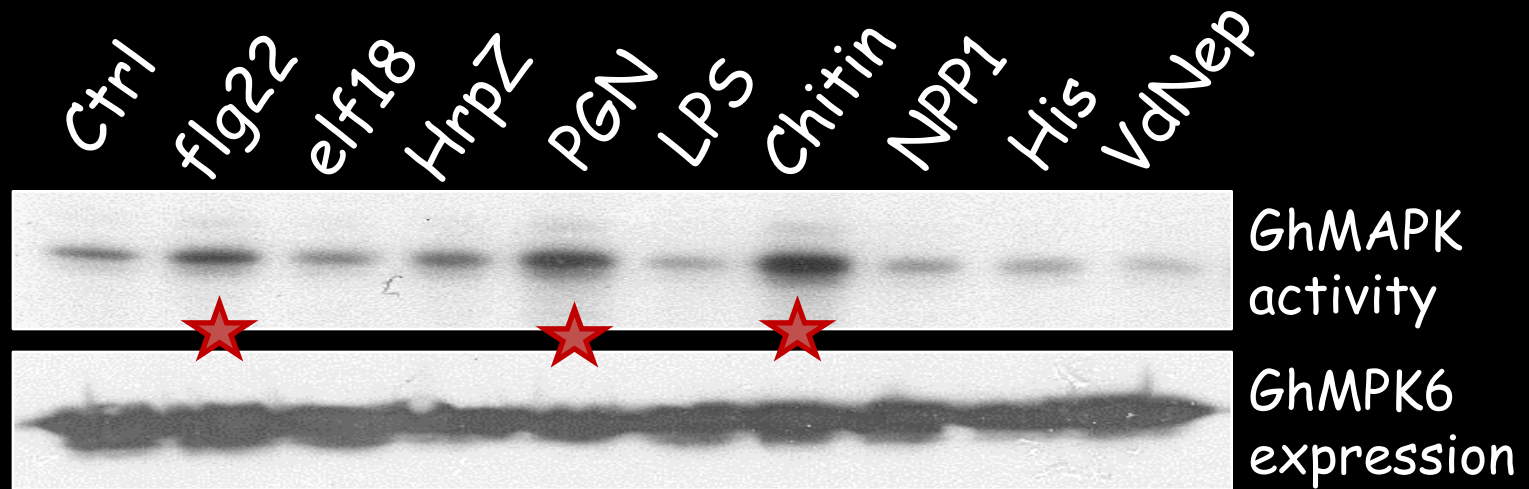
Transient gain-of-function assay in cotton




Subcellular localization in cotton protoplasts



Activation of convergent MAP kinase signaling by pathogen elicitors



Immuno-complex kinase assay to detect cotton MAPK6 activity



Verticillium wilt
Fusarium wilt
RLKs & RLPs



Bacterial blight
TALE targets

**Cotton comparative, functional
and biochemical genomics**



Drought tolerance
PARP & MAPKs

Root Rot



Cotton receptor-like protein GhVe1 and receptor-like kinase GhBAK1 mediate *Verticillium wilt* resistance.



Gao et al., *The Plant Journal*. 2011

Gao et al., *Journal of Integrative Biology*. 2013

RLK/RLP complex in cotton *Verticillium wilt* resistance

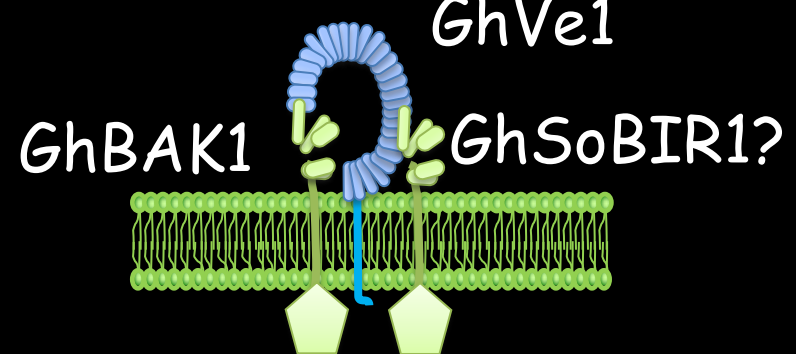
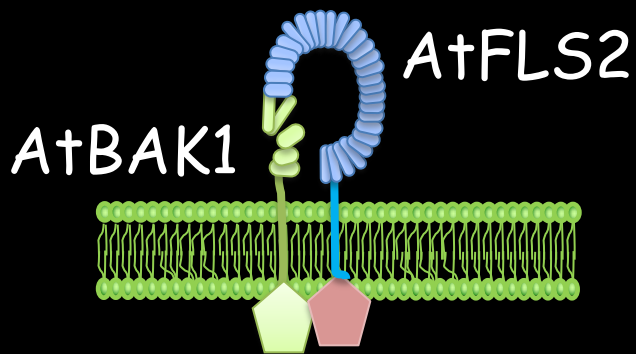
Arabidopsis-Pseudomonas

Cotton-Verticillium

Flagellin

Ave1 or ?

GhVe1



MAP kinase cascade

MAP kinase cascade?

flagellin-triggered immunity

Verticillium resistance

Cotton resistance to *Fusarium wilt*

The role of receptor kinases

VIGS-Control.

VIGS-Gene 1

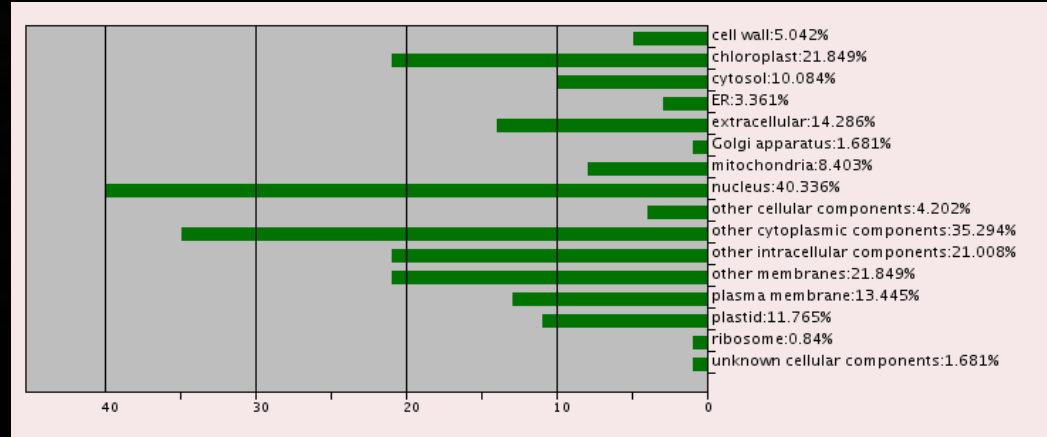
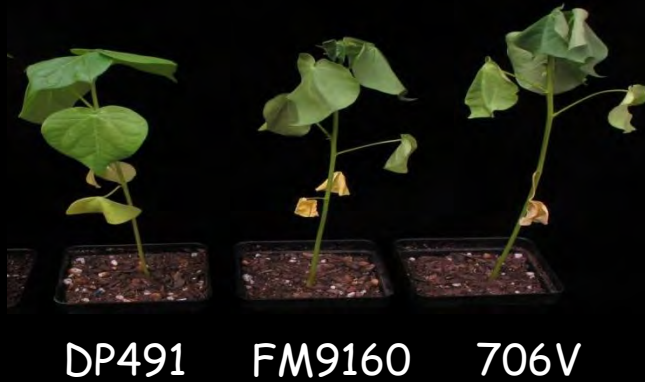
H₂O



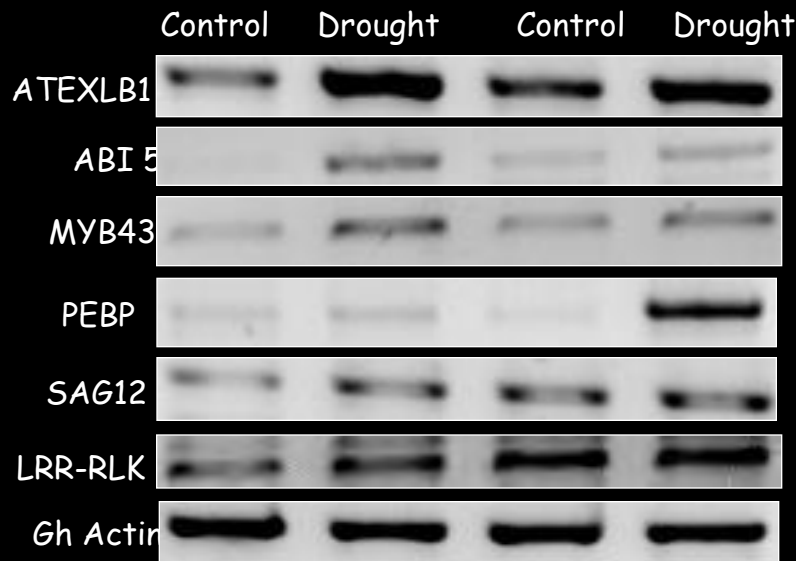
FOV10 RACE1



RNA-seq to mine novel genes in cotton drought stress



RNA-seq: upregulated genes upon 2-day and 4-day drought treatment



VIGS Ctrl WRKY Myb RLK



Determinatives of cotton drought stress



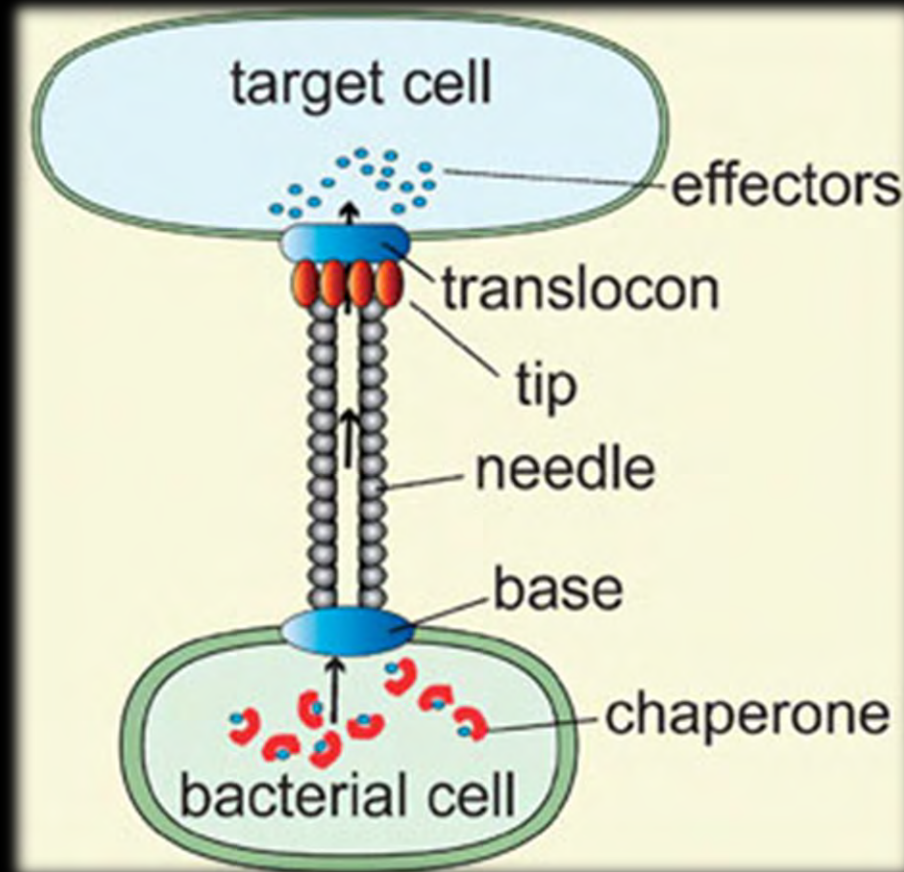
Two weeks after VIGS; Drought treatment: 12 days



Bacterial blight of cotton (BBC)

Pathogenicity of *Xcm*

The Type III Secretion System



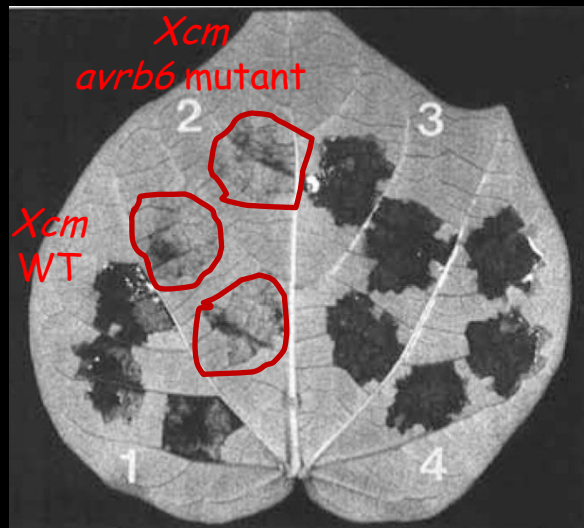
Host-Specific Symptoms and Increased Release of *Xanthomonas citri* and *X. campestris* pv. *malvacearum* from Leaves Are Determined by the 102-bp Tandem Repeats of *pthA* and *avrB6*, Respectively

Yinong Yang, Robert De Feyter, and Dean W. Gabriel

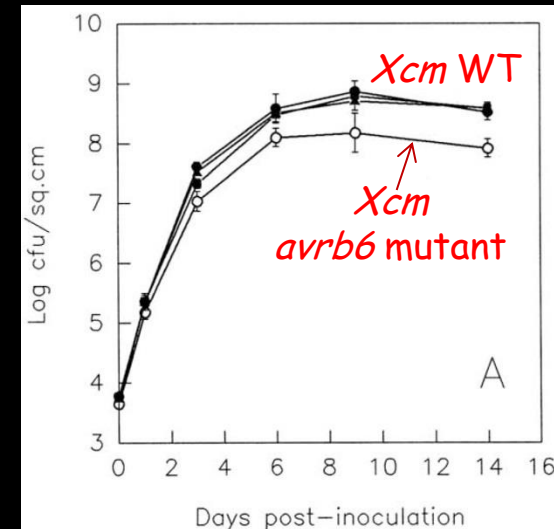
Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology Program and Plant Pathology Department, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611 U.S.A.

Six avirulence genes (*avrB4*, *avrB6*, *avrB7*, *avrBIn*, *avrB101*, and *avrB102*) found in *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *malvacearum* strain XcmH1005 and a host-specific pathogenicity gene (*pthA*) found in *X. citri* belong to an *avr/pth* gene family and are characterized by tandemly arranged, 102-bp repeats in the central portions of the genes. Marker exchange mutagenesis and complementation experiments revealed that *avrB6* was required for XcmH1005 to cause severe water-soaking and subsequent necrosis in susceptible Acala-44 cotton lines. An average of 240 times more bacteria were released onto the cotton leaf surface from water-soaked spots caused by XcmH1005 than from those caused by an isogenic *avrB6*⁻ strain, strongly indicating a role for *avrB6* in pathogen dispersal. However, *avrB6* did not affect *in planta* bacterial growth rate or yield. By constructing chimeric genes among *pthA*, *avrB4*, *avrB6*, *avrB7*, *avrBIn*, *avrB101*, and *avrB102*, the 102-bp tandem repeats of the genes were found to determine the gene-for-genes specificity of the avirulence reactions on cotton. In addition, the repeat regions of *avrB6* and *pthA* determined their specificity in enhancing water-soaking of cotton and causing cankers on citrus, respectively. When the native promoters of each gene were replaced by the *Escherichia coli lacZ* promoter, the hypersensitive response elicited in resistant host lines was stronger in all cases tested, while the pathogenic specificities of *avrB6* for cotton and *pthA* for citrus were unaltered. These results indicate that some members of this *avr/pth* gene family may help condition host range by increasing the release of *Xanthomonas* cells from the mesophyll to the leaf surface, leading to increased dispersal on specific hosts.

18 January 1994.

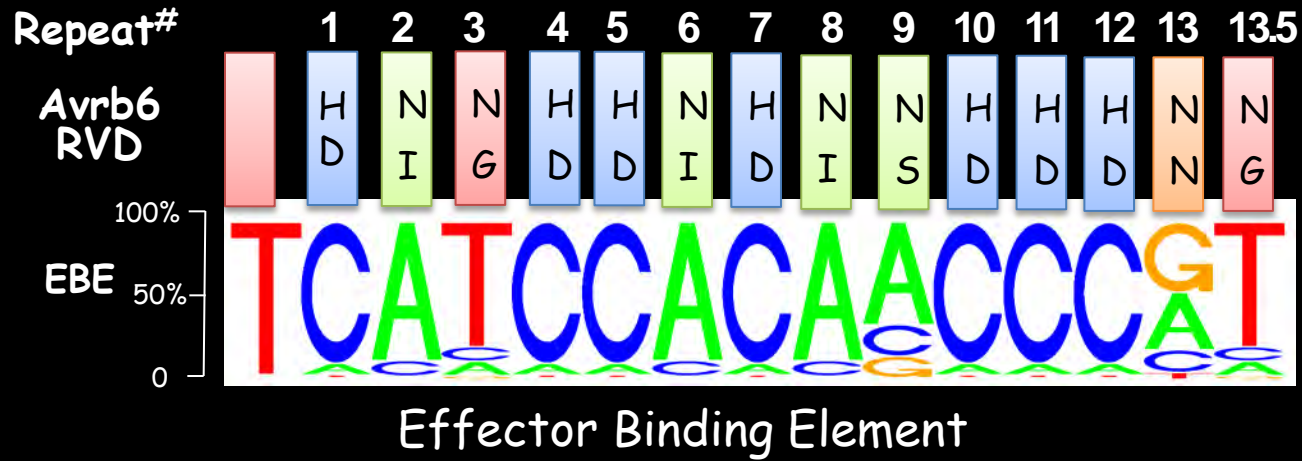


Water-soaking symptom



Bacterial release from mesophyll to leaf surface

TAL effector-host gene recognition



- One of the major virulence factors from *XcmH1005* (Race 4).
- Induces strong water-soaking on specific lines of cotton
- ~10 TALEs cloned from *Xcm*, but **no any R or S genes have been found from cotton.**



Determinatives of TAL effectors in cotton bacterial blight



Transcriptome profiling of *avrb6* and *pthN*

Computational calling of EBEs

Homologs of known TAL effector targets

Validate induction by RT-PCR

Examine EBEs in the promoter

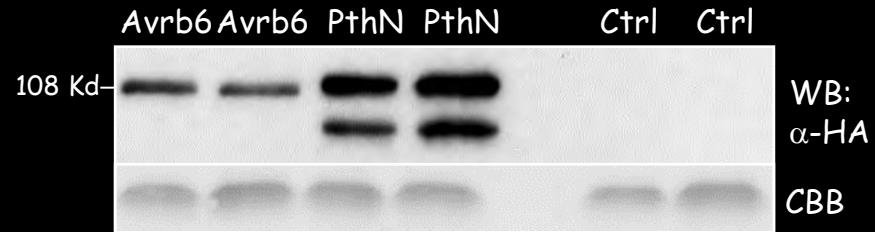
Transactivation assay

dTALEs

VIGS assay and Disease/HR assay

Molecular and biochemical characterization of targets

Identification of *R* and *S* genes of *avrb6* and *pthN*



In collaboration with Dr. Adam Bogdanove

Cotton Inc. April 2016

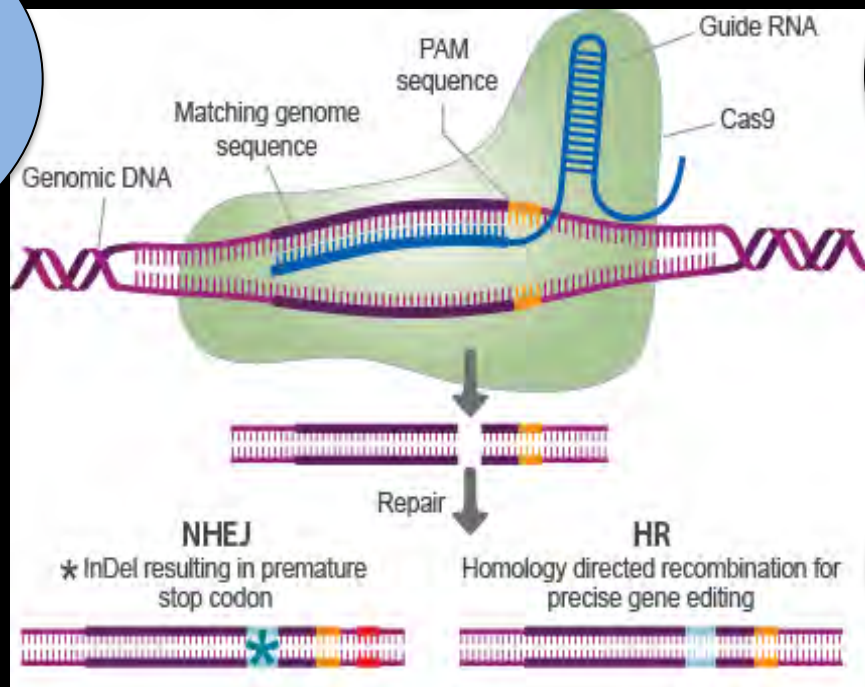
Biological inhibiting infection by *Xcm*

Biological inhibiting *Xcm* infection specifically blocking the effector binding site without interfering its endogenous functions

CRISPR-Cas9 System

Revolutionary genome editing tool

Mutate TALE recognition site in cotton



Used in rice to create resistant rice to BBR

Create Cotton that has broad spectrum resistance to BBC



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