

Oxidative Stress Components Explored in Anoxic and Hypoxic Global Gene Expression Data

Olga B. Blokhina, Petri Törönen, and Kurt V. Fagerstedt

Abstract Global gene expression data were analyzed to search for the genes related to oxidative stress response, to examine the differences between hypoxia and anoxia, and to reveal new components of oxygen deprivation response escaped from the previous analyses. Gene Set Z-score (GSZ) was used to report gene ontology (GO) classes that showed significant regulation and also partial up- and downregulation in Arabidopsis anoxic and hypoxic microarray data sets. Under both anoxia and hypoxia significant upregulation was reported for anaerobic respiration, response to low oxygen levels, and response to hypoxia. Comparable high GSZ scores were shown for several oxidative stress-related GO classes and for functional groups of biological processes known to involve oxygen radical formation such as: cellular respiration, wounding, and response to high light and UV-B. Availability of oxygen in hypoxic experimental sets was marked by upregulation of several oxygenases, including ACC-oxidase responsible for ethylene synthesis. Consistent strong induction of several Fe-dependent ketoglutarate oxygenases (FeKGO) in the majority of hypoxic conditions analyzed suggests an important and yet unidentified function for these enzymes. Based on metabolic and gene expression studies we suggest that FeKGO may function in a bypass route for part of the TCA cycle (citrate-isocitrate) inhibited under hypoxia. This would incorporate 2-ketoglutarate supplied by activated GABA shunt and form succinate, a TCA cycle and mitochondrial electron transport chain substrate. FeKGO turnover is sustained by the putative route coupled to ascorbate–monodehydroascorbate cycling and hemoglobin-dependent NO elimination. The analysis strongly supports earlier findings that formation of activated oxygen and oxidative stress is an integral part of the response to oxygen deprivation. Several novel functional gene groups

O.B. Blokhina (✉) • K.V. Fagerstedt

Department of Biosciences, Division of Plant Biology, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

e-mail: olga.blokhina@helsinki.fi

P. Törönen

Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland

were highlighted by the analysis: upregulation of cysteamine dioxygenase activity and FeKGO and downregulation of circadian rhythm-related genes.

1 Introduction

During the past 2 decades reactive oxygen species (ROS) have developed in our minds from damaging stress molecules to stress-signaling agents important for the development of stress responses in practically all stresses that plants have to endure (Bailey-Serres and Chang 2005; Van Breusegem et al. 2008; Jaspers and Kangasjärvi 2010; Petrov and Van Breusegem 2012). The presence of ROS under oxygen deprivation stress is somewhat a paradox and indeed some oxygen is needed for ROS production under oxygen deprivation stress, and hence it is preferable to talk about severe hypoxia in most cases, and of a reoxygenation period when atmospheric oxygen conditions are again introduced (Branco-Price et al. 2008). The biochemistry behind ROS production and antioxidative defense as well as the damage produced under oxygen deprivation is well documented (Yan et al. 1996; Biemelt et al. 1998, 2000; Blokhina et al. 2000, 2001, 2003; Fukao and Bailey-Serres 2004; Santosa et al. 2007). The evidence for the regulatory role of ROS under oxygen deprivation in the control of gene expression (Pucciariello et al. 2012), the negative feedback regulation of H₂O₂ levels by Rop–RopGAP4 interaction (Baxter-Burrell et al. 2002), and the activation of MAPK kinases in response to mitochondrial ROS resulting in better survival under hypoxia (Chang et al. 2012), all point to a complex relationship between hypoxic metabolic rearrangements, ROS levels, and their cellular localization and affect the physiological outcome of oxidative stress. Naturally, the most important processes from the plant's point of view are the adaptations preserving the adenylate energy charge (Greenway and Gibbs 2003; Bailey-Serres and Voesenek 2008; Lee et al. 2011). During the past few years multiple routes have been elucidated for the production and consumption of ATP such as the pyrophosphate-dependent glycolysis (Huang et al. 2008), nitrate-dependent ATP synthesis under oxygen deprivation (Stoimenova et al. 2007), and ATP hydrolysis in animal mitochondria under anaerobic conditions (St-Pierre et al. 2000). On the other hand, bulky plant organs seem to avoid total anoxia in the tissues by metabolic control of respiration (Borisjuk et al. 2007; Zabalza et al. 2009).

It has been reassuring to note, as we show in this chapter, that bioinformatics analysis of oxygen deprivation arrays picked up multiple classes related to oxidative stress and ROS. We have also noticed that many different stresses such as high light and wounding are leading to the upregulation of oxidative stress-related genes also shared by oxygen deprivation array data.

In addition to ROS, during the recent years a vast amount of data has accumulated in favor of reactive nitrogen species (RNS) in plant tissues and their regulative role in adjusting metabolic events (Qiao and Fan 2008; Igamberdiev et al. 2010; Gupta et al. 2011a, b; Hebelstrup et al. 2012). Plant non-symbiotic hemoglobins are

emerging as major players in the regulation of NO levels under oxygen deprivation and therefore controlling the multiple functions exerted by NO, one of the most important being interaction with hormone signaling (Hebelstrup et al. 2007, 2012; Igamberdiev et al. 2010; Hill 2012). In addition, the inhibitory effect of NO on heme- and Fe-S cluster-containing enzymes such as aconitase, cytochrome *c* oxidase, and catalases directly affects cell energy status and defense against ROS (Navarre et al. 2000; Ederli et al. 2006; Blokhina and Fagerstedt 2010b). Furthermore, the accumulation of citrate due to NO-induced aconitase inhibition has been shown to result in activation of the alternative oxidase (Gupta et al. 2012), which controls superoxide formation and NO degradation in the mitochondrial electron transport chain under over-reduced conditions such as under the lack of oxygen (Gupta et al. 2009; Wulff et al. 2009; Blokhina and Fagerstedt 2010b).

When the response to oxidative stress associated with oxygen deprivation is studied on the whole genome level, the complexity of the outcome reflects several strategies used by the organism to overcome the stress without disturbing ROS signaling. We can presume that the same would be applicable also to NO signaling under hypoxic conditions. In plant cells and tissues the most straightforward approach would be a balanced increase in the expression of ROS producers and scavengers. At the onset of the oxidative stress, i.e., when ROS production goes out of control, the upregulation of defense and repair systems and coordinated expression of the corresponding signaling pathways would be beneficial (Luhua et al. 2008; Licausi et al. 2010). And, finally, metabolic alterations caused by oxygen deprivation can indirectly control internal oxygen concentration, preventing the onset of complete anoxia and, therefore control ROS and NO formation (Gupta et al. 2009; Zabalza et al. 2009; Blokhina and Fagerstedt 2010a).

Using novel bioinformatics approaches we have aimed to explore oxidative stress components on global gene expression level in oxygen deprivation arrays by comparing publicly available and in-house array data. We wished to dissect anoxic and hypoxic responses and to elucidate any new components shared by oxidative stress and oxygen deprivation stress responses.

2 Setup for Analyses of Multiple Data Sets on Global Gene Expression Under Oxygen Deprivation: Affymetrix and Agilent Platforms

Recently cross-species analyses of global gene expression and metabolic alterations under oxygen deprivation have been published (Narsai et al. 2011) along with the analysis on ROS-driven transcription under oxygen deprivation (Pucciariello et al. 2012). The latter work is based on the cross-comparison of global gene expression data under oxygen deprivation and ROS stresses (Pucciariello et al. 2012). In the present study we have undertaken a different approach: We used the enrichment analysis to monitor gene ontology (GO) classes that showed

significant regulation in anoxic and hypoxic microarray data sets (Table 1). We used two types of gene expression datasets in our analysis: Affymetrix and Agilent platform-based arrays. One of them was our in-house data generated with Agilent microarrays (Blokhina et al. unpublished) and the other was a collection of published gene expression datasets generated with Affymetrix microarrays. Due to the differences in the Affymetrix and Agilent layouts and to experimental conditions (darkness/dim light in Affymetrix and light in Agilent experiments), the data were analyzed separately. Agilent chips were used with three dyes (HyPer5, Cy3, Alexa488) and quantitated using Gene Pix Pro 6.1. After this the data was read into R, where we used background correction (Ritchie et al. 2007) and ComBat normalization (Johnson et al. 2007) to correct the various noise signals. Finally the data was processed using LIMMA package (Smyth 2005) from Bioconductor (Gentleman et al. 2004). From significantly up- and downregulated GO classes in Affymetrix and Agilent-based arrays returned by the analysis, only classes related to oxidative stress and related metabolic pathways were chosen and further discussed. The experiments where the analysis of global gene expression was performed under anoxia or under hypoxia were compared to assess the differences between the two treatments in terms of ROS production/defense. The GO annotations were downloaded from TAIR (<http://www.arabidopsis.org>) linked to a single locus name. We used an in-house developed enrichment method, Gene Set Z-score (GSZ) (Törönen et al. 2009), for the analysis. The GSZ analysis looks for the GO classes that show strong upregulation or downregulation. The strength of this method is that it can also monitor classes that show partial up- and partial downregulation and detect biological processes which were missed by other analyses (Törönen et al. 2009). GSZ has similarities to other published methods Gene Set Analysis (Efron and Tibshirani 2007) and Allez (Newton et al. 2007), and therefore we tested the enrichment also in a similar manner to these methods. Evaluation of results was done using 120 permutations of GO classes. Permutations were used to generate empirical p -values and also to scale the scores using the estimates for mean and standard deviation obtained from the permutations.

3 GO Classes Upregulated Under Anoxia and Hypoxia

3.1 Anoxia

As expected, in anoxic data represented by five Affymetrix experiments, the analysis returned a set of GO classes directly related to oxygen deprivation (Table 2). In five out of five arrays analyzed the following GO classes BP: 000906: anaerobic respiration; BP: 0036293: response to decreased oxygen levels; BP: 0070482: response to oxygen levels; and BP: 0001666: response to hypoxia, were significantly upregulated. Several ROS-related GO classes with similarly high scores were reported in at least two out of five conditions analyzed: BP: 0006979: response to oxidative stress (632 gene products); BP: 0000302: response to ROS

Table 1 Microarray experiments used for the analyses

Treatment	<i>Arabidopsis</i> ecotype	Experimental conditions	Reference	Abbreviation used
Anoxia 6 h	Col-0 seedlings, 4 d	Petri dishes, MS liquid medium, dark	Banti et al. (2010)	BA ax 6h
Anoxia 12 h	Landsberg <i>erecta</i> , 7 d	Vertical plates, MS solid medium, dim light. Total RNA ^a	Branco-Price et al. (2005)	BP ax 12h t
Submergence, anoxia 7 h	Col-0, shoot, ten-leaf rosette stage	Pot, soil, dark	Lee et al. (2011)	Lee Sub 7h
Submergence, anoxia 24 h	Col-0, shoot, ten-leaf rosette stage	Pot, soil, dark	Lee et al. (2011)	Lee Sub 24h
Anoxia 6 h	Col glabra, seedlings	Petri dishes, MS liquid medium, dark	Loreti et al. (2005)	LO ax 6h
Hypoxia 4 h	Col-0 seedlings, 7 d	Petri dishes, MS liquid medium, 1 % O ₂ , dark	Licausi et al. (2010)	LI Hy 4h
Hypoxia 0.5 h, 2 h, 48 h	Col2 roots, 10 d	Vertical plates, MS solid medium, 1 %, 4 % and 8 % O ₂ , dark	van Dongen et al. (2009)	vD 1% 0.5h, vD 1% 2h, vD 1% 48h, vD 4% 0.5h, vD 4% 2h, vD 4% 48h, vD 8% 0.5h, vD 8% 2h, vD 8% 48h
Hypoxia 9 h	Col-0 seedlings, 35S: <i>His₆FLAG-RPL18B</i> , 7 d	Vertical plates, MS solid medium, dim light. Total RNA ^a	Branco-Price et al. (2008)	BP Hy 9h
Hypoxia 2 h, 24 h	Landsberg <i>erecta</i> , shoots, 16 d	Vertical plates, MS solid medium, light. Agilent	Blokhina et al. (unpublished)	BL Hy 2h/0h, BL Hy 24h/0h, BL Hy 2h/c2h, BL 24h/c24h

Data concerning treatments of wild-type plants only were extracted

^aFrom these experiments only variants where total RNA was used for hybridisations were analyzed

Table 2 GO classes upregulated under anoxic conditions in Affymetrix arrays

GO class	BA ax 6h	BP ax 12h t	LEE Sub 24h	LEE Sub 7h	LO ax 6h
BP: 0009408 : response to heat	22,92	3,44	0,39	0,43	10,61
BP: 0042542 : response to hydrogen peroxide	17,21	1,66	0,50	0,71	7,19
BP: 0000302 : response to reactive oxygen species	16,37	1,25	-0,06	0,02	6,41
BP: 0009644 : response to high light intensity	16,29	1,44	-0,10	0,20	7,52
BP: 0009061 : anaerobic respiration	15,88	4,52	5,93	9,21	11,85
BP: 0009642 : response to light intensity	14,18	1,59	0,60	1,28	5,92
BP: 0009266 : response to temperature stimulus	14,11	2,75	-1,51	-1,49	6,90
BP: 0006950 : response to stress	12,01	1,25	7,10	5,41	5,98
BP: 0006979 : response to oxidative stress	11,39	2,96	2,54	1,32	3,56
BP: 0010200 : response to chitin	10,92	2,49	6,08	6,13	1,21
MF: 0001071 : nucleic acid binding transcription factor activity	10,60	3,28	2,86	2,88	4,30
MF: 0003700 : sequence-specific DNA binding transcription factor activity	10,60	3,28	2,86	2,88	4,30
BP: 0009628 : response to abiotic stimulus	9,16	3,28	-0,50	-0,07	6,08
BP: 0045333 : cellular respiration	8,95	1,59	2,34	4,30	7,20
BP: 0010286 : heat acclimation	8,86	1,56	0,65	-0,63	2,93
BP: 0015980 : energy derivation by oxidation of organic compounds	8,61	1,79	2,00	4,00	6,98
MF: 0009916 : alternative oxidase activity	8,28	1,28	-0,36	2,50	1,50
BP: 0042221 : response to chemical stimulus	8,23	1,75	2,87	7,04	2,21
BP: 2001141 : regulation of RNA biosynthetic process	7,90	1,91	1,66	1,51	3,34
BP: 0009743 : response to carbohydrate stimulus	7,88	2,15	3,83	5,07	0,15
BP: 0006355 : regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent	7,87	2,00	1,76	1,56	3,39
BP: 0051252 : regulation of RNA metabolic process	7,81	1,89	1,62	1,52	3,31
BP: 0010556 : regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process	7,43	1,59	1,43	1,50	3,15
BP: 2000112 : regulation of cellular macromolecule biosynthetic process	7,43	1,59	1,43	1,50	3,15
BP: 0019219 : regulation of nucleobase-containing compound metabolic process	7,12	1,54	1,11	1,24	2,92
BP: 0009889 : regulation of biosynthetic process	7,03	1,37	1,14	1,23	2,88
BP: 0036293 : response to decreased oxygen levels	6,96	4,65	9,05	10,89	12,59
BP: 0070482 : response to oxygen levels	6,96	4,65	9,05	10,89	12,59
BP: 0051171 : regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process	6,93	1,38	1,02	1,13	2,88
BP: 0010035 : response to inorganic substance	6,11	-2,79	-0,69	0,51	3,68
BP: 0001666 : response to hypoxia	5,76	4,50	9,11	10,70	11,02
BP: 0009415 : response to water stimulus	5,53	0,73	-0,94	-1,11	0,20
BP: 0009414 : response to water deprivation	5,49	0,89	-1,18	-1,10	0,16
BP: 0010224 : response to UV-B	5,42	0,64	0,84	-0,27	5,21
BP: 0009416 : response to light stimulus	5,15	2,20	-2,29	-2,13	3,91
BP: 0006091 : generation of precursor metabolites and energy	5,11	-0,35	-0,88	0,70	3,85
BP: 0010033 : response to organic substance	5,08	2,48	2,07	5,45	-0,98
BP: 0009411 : response to UV	4,99	1,86	0,12	-0,97	4,93
BP: 0009611 : response to wounding	4,96	1,99	3,07	5,16	0,36
BP: 0036294 : cellular response to decreased oxygen levels	4,92	2,84	8,74	10,02	7,75
BP: 0071453 : cellular response to oxygen levels	4,92	2,84	8,74	10,02	7,75
BP: 0071456 : cellular response to hypoxia	4,92	2,84	8,74	10,02	7,75
BP: 0009314 : response to radiation	4,90	2,06	-2,32	-2,29	3,98
BP: 0006952 : defense response	4,89	-0,16	7,74	6,01	2,17
BP: 0000160 : two-component signal transduction system (phosphorelay)	4,88	1,85	1,37	4,78	1,33
MF: 0016682 : oxidoreductase activity, acting on diphenols and related substances as donors, oxygen as acceptor	4,75	1,47	-0,09	2,74	1,97
BP: 0070301 : cellular response to hydrogen peroxide	4,75	0,30	1,39	-0,15	1,56

The first 50 significantly ($p < 0.01$) upregulated GO classes with the highest score are highlighted. GO classes are arranged according to the score in the first column. Bold font: GO classes related to ROS and oxidative stress. GO class was discussed as regulated if significant changes were observed in at least two anoxic conditions. See Table 1 for the column names

(384 gene products); BP: 0042542: response to hydrogen peroxide (263 gene products); BP: 0006091: generation of precursor metabolites and energy (664 gene products); BP: 0045333: cellular respiration (130 gene products); BP: 0009644: response to high light intensity (221 gene products); BP: 0010224: response to UV-B (104 gene products); and BP: 0009611: response to wounding (336 gene products). The set of significantly upregulated anoxic GO classes revealed not only the induction of genes involved in response to anoxia, but also reflected activation of oxygen and concurrent defense responses, engaging mitochondrial metabolism and respiratory chain in the response to the lack of oxygen and/or ROS.

Cross talk between different stresses such as high light intensity, wounding, and responses to UV light reflected the universal signaling role for ROS under diverse stress situations (Mittler et al. 2004; Van Breusegem et al. 2008; Potters et al. 2009; Petrov and Van Breusegem 2012). Therefore, many of the reported functional gene groups share similar members, heat shock-related genes being one of the examples along with a large group of cytochromes P450. The components of heat shock response have been extensively studied under oxygen deprivation and many are known to be activated under both anoxia and oxidative stress (Li et al. 2005; Loreti et al. 2005; Banti et al. 2010; Inzé et al. 2012).

A large and diverse gene superfamily of cytochromes P450 is a third largest family in Arabidopsis (245 genes) after F-box proteins and receptor-like kinases (Nelson and Werck-Reichhart 2011). The P450 enzymes are heme-containing monooxygenases which produce superoxide anion during their catalytic action and are considered important for the activation of oxygen in signaling events (Lewis 2002). They fulfill multiple functions in plants: biosynthesis of secondary compounds such as flavonoids, isoflavonoids, phytoalexins, and carotenoids, which are known to protect against oxidative stress. The biosynthetic route for the plant hormones brassinosteroids and gibberellins also involve P450, as well as the synthesis of the signaling molecules salicylic and jasmonic acids (Dasgupta et al. 2011). The requirement for molecular oxygen and external electron donor (e.g., NADH) is not absolute for atypical CYP74 class of P450 enzymes, which may be of importance under oxygen deprivation. Members of CYP74 class are responsible for fatty acid hydroperoxide metabolism and participate in oxylipin biosynthesis (Hughes et al. 2009). However, close inspection of gene expression data revealed that two CYP74 genes that are present in oxygen deprivation arrays (hydroperoxidelyase AT4G15440 and allene oxide synthase AT5G42650) are not significantly regulated in most experiments and downregulated only in two conditions out of 23 analyzed. In the study on transcriptomic response of rice (*Oryza sativa*) coleoptiles to anoxia, similar down-regulation of P450 transcripts has been detected and discussed as an energy-saving strategy (Lasanthi-Kudahettige et al. 2007).

While assessing the results of the analysis one should also bear in mind that GO classes are hierarchically organized: e.g., the “response to oxidative stress” includes the response to ROS and the response to hydrogen peroxide. GO class “cellular respiration” contains the members coding for ATP synthesis, TCA cycle enzymes

and mitochondrial electron transport chain, and also anaerobic respiration class (GO: 0009061). This class is represented by nine uncharacterized gene products, which have been reported to be induced under anoxia (Gonzali et al. 2005; Mustroph et al. 2010) and almost half of them (AT3G10020, AT2G36220, AT1G05575, AT5G15120, AT5G10040) have been also implicated in response to oxidative stress and hydrogen peroxide (Baxter et al. 2007; Luhua et al. 2008; Inzé et al. 2012). In GO class “response to hydrogen peroxide” the most prominent and universal induction exhibited respiratory burst oxidase RbohD (At5g47910). Plant NADPH oxidases are key components of ROS-mediated signaling under diverse abiotic stresses, in plant–pathogen interactions, and during normal growth and development. It has been shown recently that nitrosylation of a critical cysteine residue negatively regulates RbohD, providing evidence for the cross talk between ROS and NO signaling via this negative feedback loop (Yun et al. 2011). However, other class representatives directly connected to ROS metabolism, such as ascorbate peroxidase 2 (AT3G09640) and monodehydroascorbate reductase (At3g09940), were shown to be moderately upregulated under hypoxic and anoxic conditions.

3.2 Hypoxia

Oxygenases under oxygen deprivation. The hypoxic set of the arrays presented by both Affymetrix and Agilent platforms (analyzed separately) shared with anoxic arrays several significantly upregulated oxygen deprivation-related classes and oxidative stress-related classes: BP: 0015980: energy derivation by oxidation of organic compound, BP: 0045333: cellular respiration, BP: 0009611: response to wounding, BP: 0010224: response to UV-B, BP: 0042542: response to hydrogen peroxide, and BP: 0000302: response to ROS (Tables 3 and 4). The availability of oxygen in hypoxic experiments was signified by a set of GO classes different from anoxia showing the upregulation of oxygenases, the enzymes which incorporate oxygen into organic substrates: GO:0016702: oxidoreductase activity, acting on single donors with incorporation of molecular oxygen, incorporation of two oxygen atoms, GO: 0016701: oxidoreductase activity, acting on single donors with incorporation of molecular oxygen, MF: 0051213: dioxygenase activity, and MF: 0047800: cysteamine dioxygenase activity.

Many microarray studies reveal the intrinsic connection between oxygen deprivation stress and the increased expression of the genes coding for oxygenases, (e.g., Fe-dependent ketoglutarate oxygenases, ACC-oxidase, desaturases, alternative oxidase, etc.). Fe-dependent ketoglutarate oxygenases (FeKGO) showed consistent upregulation over many hypoxic sets analyzed. It is a large gene superfamily which requires Fe^{2+} as a cofactor, and some of the class enzymes utilize ascorbate as an electron donor. Oxidation of a substrate is coupled to decarboxylation of 2-ketoglutarate to yield succinate and CO_2 (Loenarz and Schofield 2008). In mammalian tissues these enzymes are involved in histone and DNA demethylation

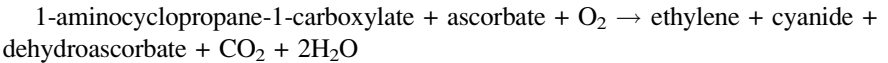
Table 3 GO classes upregulated under hypoxic conditions in Affymetrix arrays

GO class	LI Hy 4h	vd 1% 0.5h	vd 1% 2h	vd1% 48h	vd 4% 0.5h	vd 4% 2h	vd 4% 48h	vd 8% 0.5h	vd 8% 2h	vd 8% 48h	BP Hy 9h
BP: 0009061 : anaerobic respiration	15.96	30.15	31.40	23.09	26.40	42.90	22.38	29.38	29.18	9.24	27.76
BP: 0036293 : response to decreased oxygen levels	14.82	9.27	19.33	11.39	8.17	14.51	9.84	8.69	10.75	5.30	11.61
BP: 0070482 : response to oxygen levels	14.82	9.27	19.33	11.39	8.17	14.51	9.84	8.69	10.75	5.30	11.61
BP: 0036294 : cellular response to decreased oxygen levels	13.75	2.25	13.80	2.52	1.06	4.47	1.13	0.74	2.20	-0.94	5.21
BP: 0071453 : cellular response to oxygen levels	13.75	2.25	13.80	2.52	1.06	4.47	1.13	0.74	2.20	-0.94	5.21
BP: 0071456 : cellular response to hypoxia	13.75	2.25	13.80	2.52	1.06	4.47	1.13	0.74	2.20	-0.94	5.21
BP: 0001666 : response to hypoxia	12.86	7.97	16.90	9.92	6.93	12.78	8.53	8.10	9.78	5.27	10.34
MF: 0043168 : anion binding	8.16	8.22	7.30	8.39	8.25	8.22	10.46	15.73	9.83	5.33	10.90
BP: 0010200 : response to chitin	8.16	4.56	4.44	0.41	-0.39	0.74	-3.38	-1.50	1.59	-2.19	12.70
MF: 0016702 : oxidoreductase activity, acting on single donors with incorporation of molecular oxygen, incorporation of two atoms of oxygen	6.15	5.74	8.20	7.39	6.90	8.58	9.40	6.55	9.24	7.57	5.51
BP: 0009743 : response to carbohydrate stimulus	5.43	3.71	4.61	0.31	0.52	0.92	-2.52	-0.68	1.83	-2.60	9.94
MF: 0051213 : dioxygenase activity	5.28	3.18	5.85	3.87	4.53	5.33	4.06	4.72	6.04	3.57	3.53
BP: 0045333 : cellular respiration	5.18	14.74	12.36	10.69	13.48	15.14	9.98	17.67	18.59	6.21	13.72
MF: 0016701 : oxidoreductase activity, acting on single donors with incorporation of molecular oxygen	5.17	4.44	6.24	5.64	5.17	5.63	7.36	5.26	5.87	6.85	5.51
MF: 0047800 : cysteamine dioxygenase activity	5.16	14.39	12.98	12.77	15.51	21.90	16.23	19.73	22.15	10.14	8.84
MF: 0001071 : nucleic acid binding transcription factor activity	5.12	2.57	2.09	-6.21	-1.74	1.13	-6.92	0.63	0.95	-5.67	3.06
MF: 0003700 : sequence-specific DNA binding transcription factor activity	5.12	2.57	2.09	-6.21	-1.74	1.13	-6.92	0.63	0.95	-5.67	3.06
BP: 0015980 : energy derivation by oxidation of organic compounds	5.08	15.55	11.84	10.41	13.91	15.12	9.78	18.51	18.22	6.21	13.53
BP: 0080167 : response to karrikin	4.88	7.33	3.45	4.10	6.12	3.36	5.20	4.74	6.48	3.00	6.34
MF: 0003950 : NAD+ ADP-ribosyltransferase activity	4.53	11.33	8.17	2.75	10.13	8.43	3.74	7.45	4.91	1.40	5.86
BP: 0009408 : response to heat	4.35	-0.18	-0.46	7.89	0.80	0.50	0.31	1.00	0.08	0.65	18.86
MF: 0016157 : sucrose synthase activity	4.28	7.33	10.18	11.49	10.03	17.56	10.28	13.23	12.65	8.01	3.81
BP: 0006950 : response to stress	4.26	1.80	5.79	4.53	3.64	4.24	1.85	2.96	4.38	-1.21	17.40
BP: 0006355 : regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent	4.26	3.13	1.58	-5.62	-1.23	1.86	-7.53	2.49	0.67	-5.07	2.66
BP: 2001141 : regulation of RNA biosynthetic process	4.21	3.20	1.54	-5.62	-1.18	1.86	-7.42	2.48	0.77	-5.04	2.57
BP: 0051252 : regulation of RNA metabolic process	4.18	3.21	1.55	-5.50	-1.09	1.84	-7.38	2.46	0.74	-5.03	2.62
BP: 0009611 : response to wounding	4.15	3.91	3.72	2.94	4.03	4.92	0.59	3.72	5.43	0.00	5.70
BP: 0010193 : response to ozone	4.01	-0.23	0.25	3.40	-0.48	-0.76	-2.40	-0.09	-1.28	-2.00	0.96
MF: 0000287 : magnesium ion binding	3.84	2.46	1.93	2.26	2.10	4.31	2.27	3.31	3.08	1.59	2.42
BP: 0009628 : response to abiotic stimulus	3.75	2.69	5.94	5.85	3.95	2.78	2.93	4.55	2.47	-0.76	11.88
BP: 0019219 : regulation of nucleobase-containing compound metabolic process	3.68	2.91	1.37	-5.46	-1.37	1.76	-7.22	2.49	0.61	-4.96	2.35

The first 50 significantly ($p < 0.01$) upregulated GO classes with the highest score are highlighted. GO classes are arranged according to the score in the first column. Bold font: GO classes related to ROS and oxidative stress. GO class was discussed as regulated when significant score was observed in at least three hypoxic conditions. See Table 1 for the column names

and in other similar hydroxylation and desaturation reactions (Loenarz and Schofield 2008). FeKGO named Prolyl-4-hydroxylases have been implicated in oxygen sensing in humans via hydroxylation of critical prolyl residues in the hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) transcription factor (Berra et al. 2006). Intriguingly, in plants over-expression of the prolyl-hydroxylase AtP4H1 (AT2G43080) resulted in “hypoxia-in-normoxia” phenotype and concomitant upregulation of growth-, development-, and hypoxia-related genes (Asif et al. 2009). However, in the hypoxic and anoxic arrays analyzed here, the expression pattern for AtP4H1 was insignificant.

In the context of oxygen deprivation stress, one of the most important members of the FeKGO family is ACC-oxidase (1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylate oxidase, AT2G19590, AT1G03400, AT1G62380, AT2G25450, AT5G43440, AT5G43450), an oxygenase which is involved in the synthesis of ethylene. ACC-oxidase is one of the examples of ascorbate-dependent reaction of FeKGO:



Hence, ascorbate availability and turnover under hypoxic conditions accompanied by oxidative stress can affect not only H₂O₂ detoxification via the ascorbate–glutathione cycle, but also control ethylene biosynthesis. Ethylene is an important

Table 4 GO classes upregulated under hypoxic conditions in Agilent arrays

GO class	BL Hy 2h/0h	BL Hy 24h/0h	BL Hy 2h/c2h	BL Hy 24h/c24h
BP: 0009061 : anaerobic respiration	19,84	18,24	21,37	18,65
BP: 0009266 : response to temperature stimulus	7,81	18,19	13,02	19,92
BP: 0009408 : response to heat	4,40	16,96	14,35	24,10
MF: 0030976 : thiamine pyrophosphate binding	20,48	16,14	18,43	15,97
MF: 0043168 : anion binding	20,69	15,14	18,75	15,06
MF: 0004737 : pyruvate decarboxylase activity	20,72	14,60	20,09	14,62
BP: 0009628 : response to abiotic stimulus	12,28	14,03	18,48	15,17
BP: 0015980 : energy derivation by oxidation of organic compounds	11,02	13,84	10,73	14,29
BP: 0045333 : cellular respiration	8,91	12,21	11,37	14,09
BP: 0009642 : response to light intensity	2,97	10,03	9,22	13,98
BP: 0009644 : response to high light intensity	1,27	9,95	8,90	14,09
CC: 0043229 : intracellular organelle	10,34	9,88	10,78	10,67
CC: 0043226 : organelle	10,25	9,86	10,74	10,63
BP: 0006091 : generation of precursor metabolites and energy	10,05	9,54	9,85	9,37
BP: 0036293 : response to decreased oxygen levels	10,13	9,48	7,76	7,45
BP: 0070482 : response to oxygen levels	10,13	9,48	7,76	7,45
MF: 0047800 : cysteamine dioxygenase activity	13,21	9,31	8,62	7,54
CC: 0043227 : membrane-bounded organelle	11,33	9,14	10,82	8,86
BP: 0042221 : response to chemical stimulus	10,23	9,04	12,70	9,97
BP: 0005983 : starch catabolic process	8,45	8,90	-1,18	2,15
BP: 0044247 : cellular polysaccharide catabolic process	8,45	8,90	-1,18	2,15
BP: 0009251 : glucan catabolic process	8,45	8,90	-1,18	2,15
BP: 0042542 : response to hydrogen peroxide	2,32	8,89	7,47	11,81
BP: 0009409 : response to cold	4,58	8,78	3,93	6,19
CC: 0044429 : mitochondrial part	1,87	8,30	3,10	8,65
BP: 0001666 : response to hypoxia	9,36	8,29	6,96	6,21
CC: 0070013 : intracellular organelle lumen	1,50	8,28	7,46	13,67
CC: 0043233 : organelle lumen	1,50	8,28	7,46	13,67
BP: 0000302 : response to reactive oxygen species	2,37	8,28	6,74	11,21
CC: 0005739 : mitochondrion	3,23	8,21	4,83	7,34
MF: 0005515 : protein binding	6,31	8,09	5,62	7,59
CC: 0005761 : mitochondrial ribosome	0,79	7,82	0,25	8,67
BP: 0010286 : heat acclimation	2,38	7,81	0,81	7,41
BP: 0009631 : cold acclimation	2,88	7,75	-1,38	3,56
CC: 0005634 : nucleus	1,24	7,69	4,45	11,34
CC: 0044428 : nuclear part	1,66	7,64	7,14	13,48
BP: 0044275 : cellular carbohydrate catabolic process	7,36	7,51	-0,66	1,50
BP: 0009416 : response to light stimulus	5,51	7,49	12,69	9,15
CC: 0044446 : intracellular organelle part	5,90	7,32	9,09	9,54
BP: 0010224 : response to UV-B	5,71	7,32	13,69	12,47
CC: 0044422 : organelle part	5,86	7,28	9,02	9,46
BP: 0010035 : response to inorganic substance	6,88	7,25	12,64	10,46
BP: 0009314 : response to radiation	5,21	7,23	12,08	8,80
CC: 0030964 : NADH dehydrogenase complex	1,93	7,19	-0,26	6,40
CC: 0045271 : respiratory chain complex I	1,93	7,19	-0,26	6,40
BP: 0006397 : mRNA processing	3,59	7,11	2,58	7,36

The first 50 significantly ($p < 0.01$) upregulated GO classes with the highest score are highlighted. GO classes are arranged according to the score in the first column. Bold font: GO classes related to ROS and oxidative stress. GO class was discussed as regulated when significant score was observed in at least two hypoxic conditions. See Table 1 for the column names

signaling molecule under the lack of oxygen-coordinating morphological adaptations (stem elongation, aerenchyma, and adventitious root formation) and metabolic rearrangements (Fukao and Bailey-Serres 2008; Sairam et al. 2008; Licausi 2011). It has been shown that manipulation of hypoxia-induced Hb1 expression enhanced ethylene levels and ACC-oxidase activity in Hb-downregulated maize lines, possibly via modulation of NO levels by Hb1 (Manac'h-Little et al. 2005). NO can also control ethylene biosynthesis via S-nitrosylation of methionine adenosyl transferase leading to reversible inhibition of the ethylene precursor S-adenosyl methionine synthesis (Lindermayr et al. 2006). Ascorbate and NO levels are not the only cross points between ethylene and oxidative metabolism. An investigation into tocopherol biosynthesis, the main lipid-soluble antioxidant, in *Arabidopsis* mutants defective in ethylene perception and signaling, showed 30 % reduction in tocopherol levels under stress and suggested a regulatory role for ethylene in tocopherol biosynthesis (Cela et al. 2009).

Other examples of Fe2KG oxygenases, equally important under hypoxia as judged by their expression pattern, may be several other members of the oxygenase family: AT4G33910, AT1G20270, and AT3G28480. All of them showed quite strong upregulation in the majority of the conditions analyzed. The specific role for these oxygenases under oxygen deprivation is not clear. Taking into account the transcriptional and metabolic changes occurring under hypoxia, a metabolic association between the TCA cycle, Hbs, and NO under hypoxia can be suggested (Fig. 1). This is supported by strong and ubiquitous upregulation of non-symbiotic Hbs, activation of GABA shunt, moderate induction of ascorbate peroxidase (AT3G09640) and monodehydroascorbate reductase (AT3G09940), the physiological evidence on MDHAR- and ascorbate-sustained NO scavenging by hemoglobin (Igamberdiev et al. 2006), the rearrangements in the TCA cycle and succinate accumulation observed under oxygen deprivation (Rocha et al. 2010), and the dependence of FeKGO on ascorbate in the conversion of 2-ketoglutarate to succinate in Fe2KGO catalyzed reaction (Loenarz and Schofield 2008).

Induction of non-symbiotic class1 hemoglobin under hypoxic conditions is well documented (Dordas et al. 2003; van Dongen et al. 2009; Dordas 2009; Lee et al. 2011), but this upregulation is not specific to the lack of oxygen. Expression patterns of both Hb1 and Hb2 vary in different tissues as well as in response to different types of stress. *Hb1* genes have been reported to be upregulated by abiotic stresses (Trevaskis et al. 1997; Shimoda et al. 2005; Zhao et al. 2008, 2009), treatments with nitrogen compounds including NO, plant hormones, sucrose, and H₂O₂ (Trevaskis et al. 1997; Wang et al. 2000; Sakamoto et al. 2004; Shimoda et al. 2005; Qu et al. 2006). The main physiological function of non-symbiotic hemoglobins under oxygen deprivation relies on NO-binding properties of oxyhemoglobin. The functioning of Hb-NO cycle under hypoxia which controls elevated NO levels and utilizes NADH accumulating under hypoxia has been suggested (Igamberdiev et al. 2005, 2010) and further linked to hypoxically functioning mitochondria (Igamberdiev and Hill 2009). Due to the interference with NO signaling, changes and/or manipulation of Hb expression affects many transcriptional and metabolic events which are under NO control (Lee et al. 2011; Hill

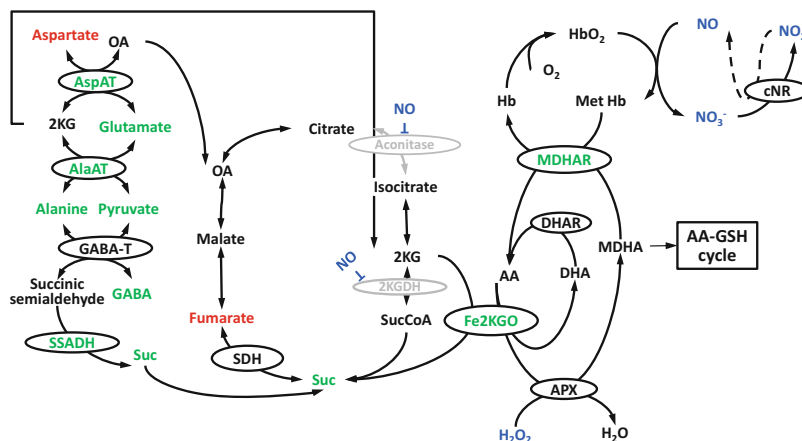


Fig. 1 Hypoxia-induced TCA cycle modification in Arabidopsis shoots: the involvement of Fe^{2+} -dependent ketoglutarate oxidase, GABA shunt, non-symbiotic hemoglobins and NO. NO accumulating under hypoxia is controlled by hypoxically induced non-symbiotic Hbs in an NADH-coupled reaction. To complete the cycle MetHb has to be regenerated by a MetHb reductase. MDHAR supports Hb turnover under hypoxia acting as MetHb reductase (Igamberdiev et al. 2006). In turn, the product of MDHAR reaction, ascorbate, can be oxidized either via the ascorbate–glutathione cycle (operational in the cytosol and mitochondria), or by a novel route suggested by metabolomics and microarray studies under oxygen deprivation. Fe-dependent 2-ketoglutarate oxygenase utilizes 2KG and ascorbate in the presence of oxygen to form a TCA cycle and ETC metabolite, succinate. 2KG needed for the reaction is supplied through the reactions of GABA shunt, which spans the cytosol and mitochondria. These supplementary enzymatic reactions are engaged to feed succinate and oxaloacetate into the TCA cycle bypassing inactivated TCA cycle components, and thus enhance/modify TCA cycle. TCA cycle enzymes are omitted for clarity. AA ascorbic acid, *AspAT* aspartate aminotransferase, *AlaAT* alanine aminotransferase, *DHA* dehydroascorbic acid, *GABA-T* GABA transaminase, *OA* oxaloacetate, *Fe2KGO* Fe^{2+} -dependent 2-ketoglutarate oxygenase, *2KGDH* 2-ketoglutarate dehydrogenase, *MetHb* methemoglobin, *MDHAR* monodehydroascorbate reductase. *Green font*—metabolites accumulated and enzymes induced, *red font*—metabolites depleted in Arabidopsis shoots under hypoxia, *gray font*—enzymes inhibited by NO

2012). Hb-sustained NO elimination may have physiological significance also under non-hypoxic conditions via controlling the NO influx into signaling and metabolic events. Such control will affect major stress-related parameters: e.g., the redox state of the cell (NAD(P)H/NAD(P)^+ , ascorbate/dehydroascorbate, and GSH/GSSG ratios); rate of mitochondrial respiration via direct COX inhibition, and interference with Fe–S TCA cycle enzymes, and may constitute the physiological mechanism for Hb-associated improvement of cellular energy status. Under oxygen deprivation stress Hbs improve the energy status of the cell when MetHb regeneration to Hb is coupled to a cascade of metabolic reactions which result in modification/enhancement of the TCA cycle and incorporates hypoxic metabolites in this adaptive response involving GABA shunt (Fig. 1).

Activation of GABA shunt enzymes and their regulation by hypoxic metabolites is a well-characterized phenomenon during periods with lack of oxygen (Branco-Price et al. 2008; Rocha et al. 2010). In the current study, strong significant upregulation of SSADH (AT1G79440) in hypoxic but not in anoxic arrays was detected. Further evidence for the importance of GABA metabolism controlling oxidative species came from the study of *Arabidopsis* T-DNA knockout mutants of succinic semialdehyde dehydrogenase (SSADH), the mitochondrial enzyme which converts succinic semialdehyde to succinate in the GABA shunt (Bouché et al. 2003). *Arabidopsis ssdh* mutants exhibited a dwarf phenotype, were sensitive to environmental stresses (light, UV-B, heat), and showed enhanced H₂O₂ accumulation (Bouché et al. 2003). The physiological mechanism for GABA shunt-dependent alleviation of oxidative stress can rely on the support of the TCA cycle via succinate and/or NADH and, therefore, decreasing the likelihood of mitochondrial ROS formation (Fait et al. 2005, 2008).

3.3 BP: 0045333: cellular respiration. Relationship between the TCA cycle, mitochondrial electron transport chain, and oxidative stress under hypoxia

The plasticity of the TCA cycle and adjacent metabolic reactions, i.e., the rearrangement of the cycle to a non-cyclic mode in response to stresses including hypoxia, has been recently suggested (Branco-Price et al. 2008; Rocha et al. 2010; Sweetlove et al. 2010). In the latter work hypoxia-induced metabolic changes and inhibition of critical TCA cycle enzymes resulted in adaptive modifications which led to incorporation of hypoxic metabolites into the TCA cycle and production of extra ATP (Rocha et al. 2010). In the study on the rearrangement of mitochondrial protein complexes under oxidative stress, several key metabolites of central carbon metabolism have been reported to associate or dissociate from the protein complexes (Obata et al. 2011). Some of the affected enzymes have been reported also to respond to oxygen deprivation: monodehydroascorbate reductase and alanine aminotransferase (Baxter et al. 2007). Hence, under stress conditions mitochondria as complex dynamic systems respond to the changing environment by metabolic and structural rearrangements. The investigation of expression pattern of TCA cycle and related enzymes in microarray studies revealed either downregulation of the cycle enzymes, or non-significant changes, with significant inhibition of citrate synthase (At2g44350) and isocitrate dehydrogenase (At5g03290). Hence, most of the regulation might occur on post-transcriptional level. Indeed, translational repression of mRNA encoding TCA cycle enzymes has been shown under hypoxia (Branco-Price et al. 2008). Prominent upregulation of the other cellular respiration GO class members, NADH dehydrogenases, was revealed by GSZ analysis and examination of their expression pattern in microarrays. The induction of NADH dehydrogenases occurred irrespective of oxygen levels in the experiment. Induced

NADH dehydrogenases were coded both by nuclear (At2g07711) and mitochondrial genome (Atmg00650, Atmg00060), although the expression of mitochondrial genes cannot be reliably determined with whole genome arrays. Interestingly, the upregulation of At2g07711 and Atmg00060 was strictly attributed to oxygen deprivation, whereas at the onset of reoxygenation these NADH dehydrogenases were downregulated (Branco-Price et al. 2008). The mitochondrial electron transport chain is also an important source of ROS during strongly reduced conditions, such as during oxygen deprivation (Rhoads et al. 2006; Navrot et al. 2007; Hoffman et al. 2007; Blokhina and Fagerstedt 2010b). Several mechanisms can lead to the formation of ROS under unfavorable conditions and, in turn, mitochondrial ROS control NO levels via peroxynitrite (Planchet et al. 2005; Borisjuk et al. 2007; Benamar et al. 2008; Gupta et al. 2011a). The expression of genes and subsequent metabolic changes which affect electron transport, reducing equivalents and substrate supply in mitochondria, will control the rate of ROS/NO formation due to the electron leakage from the electron transport chain, and ultimately the ATP synthesis.

3.4 Cysteamine dioxygenase activity

One of the oxygenase classes picked up by analysis in both Affymetrix and Agilent arrays was MF: 0047800: cysteamine dioxygenase activity. The class members catalyze the reaction $\text{cysteamine} + \text{O}_2 = \text{H}^+ + \text{hypotaaurine}$ and are represented by five uncharacterised genes of *Arabidopsis*: AT1G18490, AT2G42670, AT3G58670, AT5G15120, and AT5G39890. The latter two have been associated with the hypoxic response (Mustroph et al. 2010; Branco-Price et al. 2005), regulation of hydrogen peroxide metabolism, salicylic acid signaling, and xylem development. The molecular functions of these proteins in plants are currently unknown. Interestingly, the upregulation of the genes belonging to the GO class “cysteamine dioxygenase activity” was specific for oxygen deprivation. Upon reoxygenation (Branco-Price et al. 2008) this GO class was downregulated and showed the lowest significant score in the analysis (data not shown). In animal tissues hypotaaurine is a precursor in taurine biosynthesis (2-aminoethansulfonic acid). Taurine, a sulfur containing amino acid, accumulates to a high level in animal tissues and executes a number of important functions: it can act as antioxidant, as an intracellular osmoregulator, as a neurotransmitter, and can stabilize the membranes and regulate Ca^{2+} entry into the cell (Brosnan and Brosnan 2006). Taurine and hypotaaurine metabolism is also closely associated with the enzymatic pathways involving pyruvate and alanine, ketoglutarate and glutamate. However, in plants where taurine content is extremely low, in the range of nmol/gFW (the highest content was found in *Opuntia*, lentil, and red algae) (Kataoka and Ohnishi 1986; Huxtable 1992), it is difficult to predict the physiological role for this metabolite and to ascribe a specific function under oxygen deprivation.

4 Downregulated GO classes under anoxia and hypoxia

The analysis of downregulated GO classes revealed a number of biological processes already known to be inhibited under the lack of oxygen, such as cell wall- and photosynthesis-related classes. None of the GO classes related to formation, processing, and detoxification of ROS were reported as downregulated. In five out of five anoxic conditions in the Affymetrix set the strongest downregulation was detected in the endomembrane system (CC: 0012505), followed by the response to auxin stimulus (BP: 0009733) and the response to hormone stimulus (BP: 0009725). The physiological role for auxin biochemistry depression and particularly auxin binding under anoxia is not completely understood, but the addition of exogenous sucrose has been shown to alleviate anoxia-imposed inhibition on the auxin-related genes (Loreti et al. 2005). It has also been shown that multiple components of auxin-signaling pathway are inhibited by apoplastic ROS (exemplified by O_3 treatment) (Blomster et al. 2011) and that hypoxic stress is accompanied by intensive ROS formation in the apoplastic space (Blokhina et al. 2001). Biological processes downregulated in the hypoxic set (11 conditions in Affymetrix and 4 in Agilent sets) were much more diverse and shared some similarities with anoxic response (CC: 0012505: endomembrane system, BP: 0009733: response to auxin stimulus, BP: 0042430: indole-containing compound metabolic process). The latter class includes genes responsible for, e.g., defense against bacteria and fungi (camalexin biosynthesis), and are represented by a diverse cytochrome P450 group, MYB transcription factors that regulate, e.g., metabolism of aromatic amino acids, and mitogen-activated protein kinases MAPK shown to regulate ethylene signaling pathway downstream the ethylene receptor (Yoo and Sheen 2008). Cytochromes P450 are oxygenases which require molecular oxygen for their functioning and are known to have complicated expression pattern during oxygen deprivation (Lasanthi-Kudahettige et al. 2007). The Affymetrix set of hypoxic experiments also included a number of downregulated GO classes related to biotic stress response and hypoxic metabolism-associated GO classes (also reported as significantly up- or downregulated by GSZ analysis, e.g., BP: 0036294: cellular response to decreased oxygen levels, BP: 0071453: cellular response to oxygen levels, BP: 0071456: cellular response to hypoxia). This fact reflects both the power of statistical approaches to discriminate between induced and repressed genes in the same functional group, and the complexity of response to the lack of oxygen. In the Agilent data set, where hypoxia was performed under light conditions, strong inhibition of photosynthesis was confirmed: the first 20 most downregulated GO classes were related to chloroplast and thylakoid functioning, followed by nucleosome and DNA assembly and organization. Interestingly, there were only eight significantly downregulated GO classes common for Affymetrix and Agilent hypoxic sets: BP: 0009725: response to hormone stimulus; BP: 0009737: response to abscisic acid stimulus; BP: 0009719: response to endogenous stimulus; BP: 0010033: response to organic substance; BP: 0042221:

response to chemical stimulus; BP: 0009628: response to abiotic stimulus; BP: 0007623: circadian rhythm; and BP: 0048511: rhythmic process.

5 Concluding Remarks

In this chapter we have successfully implemented new bioinformatics approaches (Törönen et al. 2009) for the analysis of large sets of global expression data to reveal oxidative stress components in *Arabidopsis* under anoxia and hypoxia on the whole genome level. Response to oxygen deprivation stress-associated ROS and NO formation in terms of gene expression is not straightforward and incorporates the upregulation of some ROS-producing components and antioxidative defense components and relies largely on metabolic rearrangements caused by the lack of oxygen. Judging by the analysis of significantly regulated GO classes, these metabolic alterations include modification of the TCA cycle, incorporation of hypoxic metabolites in efficient energy production, and regulation of mitochondrial electron transport chain as a potent ROS and NO producer.

Interestingly, the analysis returned several significantly regulated GO classes some of which, to our knowledge, have not been discussed previously in connection with oxygen deprivation, for example the downregulated BP: 0007623: circadian rhythm and strongly upregulated MF: 0047800: cysteamine dioxygenase activity. Interestingly, the circadian rhythm classes were reported to be affected in the hypoxic arrays performed under different conditions: most Affymetrix experiments were performed in the dark, whereas Agilent under light conditions. Therefore, it is tempting to speculate that regulation of circadian genes can be part of oxygen deprivation response. The enrichment of a hypoxic set with FeKGO oxygenases suggests a specific role for these enzymes and distinguishes hypoxic and anoxic responses. According to our hypothesis the important role for FeKGO oxygenases lies in the incorporation of hypoxic metabolites into energy production via connection with NO detoxification, MetHb turnover, and ascorbate metabolism. Therefore, this upregulated enzymatic system feeds TCA cycle intermediates succinate and oxaloacetate into the cycle bypassing inactivated TCA cycle components, and thus improves energy production under these harsh conditions.

Future research is needed in the dissection of redundant metabolic adjustments which involve the TCA cycle, GABA shunt, glycolysis, FeKGO oxygenases, and ROS/NO chemistry. These responses seem to vary between plant species and depend on the degree of oxygen deprivation. The plasticity of the TCA cycle can be one of the adaptation mechanisms.

None of the GO classes related to formation, processing, and detoxification of ROS were reported as downregulated, emphasizing the fact that oxidative stress is an integral part of oxygen deprivation response. Accumulation of ROS, especially in the apoplasmic space, may underlie the downregulation of auxin signaling under the lack of oxygen and provide further evidence for the signaling roles of ROS. In this chapter we have shown that ROS play an essential role in the formation of

hypoxic and anoxic response incorporating gene regulation and oxidative stress as integral parts of this response.

Acknowledgments We wish to thank Julia Bailey-Serres, Joost van Dongen, Pierdomenico Perata, and Chiara Pucciariello for supplying the microarray datasets for our analysis. This work was supported by the Academy of Finland grant no. 123826.

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Oxygen Sensing and Adaptive Responses to Hypoxia

van Dongen, J.; Licausi, F. (Eds.)

2014, XI, 426 p. 49 illus., 33 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-7091-1253-3