

Genome-wide identification of long non-coding (lncRNA) in *Nilaparvata lugens*'s adaptability to resistant rice

Wenjun Zha¹, Sanhe Li¹, Huashan Xu¹, Junxiao Chen¹, Kai Liu¹, Peide Li¹, Kai Liu¹, Guocai Yang¹, Zhijun Chen¹, Shaojie Shi¹, Lei Zhou^{Corresp., 1}, Aiqing You^{Corresp. 1, 2}

¹ Hubei Key Laboratory of Food Crop Germplasm and Genetic Improvement, Food Crops Institute, Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Wuhan, China

² Hubei Hongshan Laboratory, Wuhan, Hubei, China

Corresponding Authors: Lei Zhou, Aiqing You

Email address: yutian_zhou83@163.com, aq_you@163.com

Background. The brown planthopper (BPH), *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stål), is a very destructive pest that poses a major threat to rice plants worldwide. BPH and rice have developed complex feeding and defense strategies in the long-term co-evolution.

Methods. To explore the molecular mechanism of BPH's adaptation to resistant rice varieties, the lncRNA expression profiles of two virulent BPH populations were analyzed. The RNA-seq method was used to obtain the lncRNA expression data in TN1 and YHY15.

Results. In total, 3112 highly reliable lncRNAs in TN1 and YHY15 were identified. Compared to the expression profiles between TN1 and YHY15, 157 differentially expressed lncRNAs, and 675 differentially expressed mRNAs were identified. Further analysis of the possible regulation relationships between differentially expressed lncRNAs and differentially expressed mRNAs, identified 3-pair antisense targets, nine-pair cis-regulation targets, and 3972-pair co-expressed targets. Function enriched found arginine and proline metabolism, glutathione metabolism, and carbon metabolism categories may significantly affect the adaptability in BPH when it is exposed to susceptible and resistant rice varieties. Altogether, this study proves that lncRNA may be involved in BPH's adaptability to resistant rice. These results are helpful in the development of new control strategies for host defense against BPH and breeding rice for high yield.

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6

7 ¹ Hubei Key Laboratory of Food Crop Germplasm and Genetic Improvement, Food Crops
8 Institute, Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Wuhan, Hubei, China

9 ² Hubei Hongshan Laboratory, Wuhan, Hubei, China

10

11 Corresponding Author:

12 Lei Zhou¹ and Aiqing You^{1,2}

13 No.3 Nanhu Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei, 430064, China

14 Email address: Lei Zhou, yutian_zhou83@163.com

15 Aiqing You, aq_you@163.com

16

17 **Abstract**

18 **Background.** The brown planthopper (BPH), *Nilaparvata lugens* (Stål), is a very destructive
19 pest that poses a major threat to rice plants worldwide. BPH and rice have developed complex
20 feeding and defense strategies in the long-term co-evolution.

21 **Methods.** To explore the molecular mechanism of BPH's adaptation to resistant rice varieties,
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23 method was used to obtain the lncRNA expression data in TN1 and YHY15.

24 **Results.** In total, 3112 highly reliable lncRNAs in TN1 and YHY15 were identified. Compared
25 to the expression profiles between TN1 and YHY15, 157 differentially expressed lncRNAs, and
26 675 differentially expressed mRNAs were identified. Further analysis of the possible regulation
27 relationships between differentially expressed lncRNAs and differentially expressed mRNAs,
28 identified 3-pair antisense targets, nine-pair cis-regulation targets, and 3972-pair co-expressed
29 targets. Function enriched found arginine and proline metabolism, glutathione metabolism, and
30 carbon metabolism categories may significantly affect the adaptability in BPH when it is
31 exposed to susceptible and resistant rice varieties. Altogether, this study proves that lncRNA may
32 be involved in BPH's adaptability to resistant rice. These results are helpful in the development
33 of new control strategies for host defense against BPH and breeding rice for high yield.

34

35 Introduction

36 Long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) are a class of non-protein-encoding RNAs longer than 200
37 bp and have little or no evidence for coding capability (Wang et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014).
38 lncRNAs can be further classified into long intergenic non-coding RNAs (lincRNAs), natural
39 antisense transcripts, and intronic RNAs (incRNAs) (Dogini et al. 2014; Heo et al. 2013; Zhang
40 & Chen 2013). Functional analyses of lncRNAs have indicated that they are potent cis- and
41 trans-regulators of gene transcription. Presently, lncRNAs have been identified in insects,
42 including *Drosophila melanogaster* (Quinn et al. 2016), *Anopheles gambiae* (Jenkins et al.
43 _ 2015), *Tribolium castaneum* (Yang et al. 2021), *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Wan et al. 2013),
44 *Nilaparvata lugens* (Xiao et al. 2015) and so on. Previous studies results show many lncRNAs
45 were related to immunity and metabolism (Valanne et al. 2019), mediate resistance(Feng et al.
46 2020), and so on. However, lncRNAs are less conserved even among evolutionarily related
47 species; therefore, insects may also exhibit poor conservation features.

48 The brown planthopper, *Nilaparvata lugens* Stål (abbreviated as BPH hereafter), is a phloem-
49 feeding insect of cultivated rice *Oryza sativa* and many wild *Oryza* species (Xue et al. 2014).
50 BPH damages rice growth and spreads plant viruses, including rice-ragged stunt viruses and rice
51 grassy stunt, which leads to a large decline in rice yields (Cabauatan et al. 2009). BPH completes
52 its life cycle in 23–32 d, so it often complete 3–12 generations per year in the tropics and less
53 than four generations in temperate areas (Zheng et al. 2021). Rice is a staple food for the Chinese
54 population and has been cultivated in the lower Yangtze Valley in China for about 10,000 years,
55 and the BPH may have shifted from *Leersia* to *Oryza* about 0.25 million years ago. Through co-
56 evolution, BPH has strongly adapted to host rice (Sezer & Butlin 1998; Zheng et al. 2021).

57 In long-term co-evolutionary, rice has developed complicated defense systems against BPH.
58 During this process, some BPH populations have emerged to overcome the resistance of these
59 rice varieties' resistance by carrying a major resistance gene (Cheng et al. 2013). Although
60 insecticides have been widely used to control damage from BPH and other pests, overuse of
61 them has led to resistant BPH resurgence and has caused environmental problems that threaten
62 human health (Senthil-Nathan et al. 2009). The first resistant rice variety against BPH was
63 discovered as early as 1969, over 40 BPH resistance genes have been reported now (Akanksha et
64 al. 2019; Li et al. 2019). The first two resistant genes were designated *Bph1* and *Bph2*; since
65 then, the subsequent resistance genes have been named *Bph3-40*. In 40, 20 genes (*Bph1-9*,

66 *Bph17*, *Bph19*, *Bph25-26*, *Bph28*, *Bph30-33*, and *Bph37-38*) have been identified in indica
67 varieties (Balachiranjeevi et al. 2019; Jie et al. 2018; Jing et al. 2017; Prahalada et al. 2017;
68 Wang et al. 2018; Yang et al. 2019), whereas the other 20 genes (*Bph10-16*, *Bph18*, *Bph20-24*,
69 *Bph27*, *bph29*, *Bph34-36*, and *bph39-40*) are from wild species of rice (Akanksha et al. 2019;
70 Jing et al. 2017; Kumar et al. 2018; Li et al. 2019; Zhang et al. 2020). However, it was found that
71 while resistance genes resist BPH, they also accelerate changes in the physiology and behavior
72 of BPH, such as prolonging the developmental period and decreasing reproductive yield (Du et
73 al. 2009; Nguyen et al. 2019; Senthil-Nathan et al. 2009). BPHs that feed on resistant rice for a
74 long time may slowly evolve into a new and virulent BPH population to overcome rice resistance
75 (Peng et al. 2017).

76 To clarify the molecular mechanism of co-evolution between BPH and resistant rice, in our
77 previous report, proteomics and miRNA sequencing were performed using a susceptible rice
78 variety (TN1) as a control and a moderately resistant rice variety (YHY15) carrying the
79 resistance gene *BPH15* (Zha & You 2020; Zha et al. 2016). However, the molecular mechanism
80 and regulatory network are still unclear. Many studies have proof lncRNAs involved in key
81 biological processes, including cell differentiation (Ganegoda et al. 2015), transcription
82 regulation (Kurokawa 2011), dosage compensation (Quinn et al. 2016), and so on.

83 The BPH varieties TN1 and BHY15 were further used for lncRNA expression profile analysis
84 in this study. The new lncRNAs from RNA-seq datasets were identified and the lncRNAs
85 expression level in the two BPH varieties were compared. The differential expression lncRNAs
86 were further used for screening the differentially expressed target genes. These results will
87 provide a basis for us to further understand the co-evolutionary molecular mechanism of rice
88 planthopper and provide a reference for high yield and pest control of rice.

89

90 **Materials & Methods**

91 **Plants and insects**

92 For this study, two virulent *N. lugens* populations were fed with TN1 and BHY15 plants in a
93 climate chamber under a 16-h light/8-h dark cycle at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ and 70% relative humidity.

94 Twenty insects of the two virulent *N. lugens* populations (Hereinafter referred to as TN1 and

95 YHY15) were obtained, respectively. Whole insects of the two samples were immediately frozen
96 in liquid nitrogen and stored at -70°C until RNA isolation.

97 **Construction of lncRNA sequencing library and RNA sequencing**

98 Total RNA was isolated from each brown planthopper sample using Trizol Reagent kit
99 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The total RNA
100 quantity was accessed using NanoDrop™ 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
101 USA), and the integrity of the RNA was measured using the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent
102 Technologies, USA). Only A260/A280 ratio lies between 1.8 and 2.0, and RNA integrity number
103 > 7.0 can be used further. Ribosomal RNA was removed using the Ribo-Zero Gold Kit
104 (Epicentre). The enriched mRNAs and ncRNAs were fragmented into short fragments using a
105 fragmentation buffer and reverse transcribed into cDNA with random primers. After second-
106 strand cDNA was synthesized, the cDNA fragments were purified and ligated to Illumina
107 sequencing adapters. Then, UNG (Uracil-N-Glycosylase) was used to digest the second-strand
108 cDNA. The digested products were size selected using agarose gel electrophoresis, PCR
109 amplified. The libraries with three biological replicates each were sequenced on the Illumina
110 HiSeq 4000 platform.

111 **lncRNA prediction and new transcription analysis**

112 The raw data were processed using filtering adaptors, containing more than 50% of low quality
113 (Q-value ≤ 20) bases, and trimming the reads whose number of N bases accounted for more than
114 10% of the total by fastp (version 0.18.0) (Chen et al. 2018). The reference *N. lugens* genome
115 and the annotation files were downloaded from the National Center for Biotechnology
116 Information database with the accession NO. GCF_014356525.1 or InsectBase ([http://insect-
117 genome.com/planthoppers/](http://insect-genome.com/planthoppers/)) (Ma et al. 2021). The rRNA mapped reads were removed after short
118 reads mapping to the ribosome RNA (rRNA) database by Bowtie2 (version 2.2.8) (Langmead &
119 Salzberg 2012). The remaining reads were further mapped to the reference genome using
120 HISAT2 (version 2.1.0) with “-rna-strandness RF” and other parameters set as a default (Kim et
121 al. 2015). The transcript reconstruction was performed using software Stringtie (version 1.3.4)
122 and HISAT2 (Kim et al. 2015; Pertea et al. 2016). Two softwares, CNCI (version 2) and CPC
123 (version 0.9-r2) (<http://cpc.cbi.pku.edu.cn/>) were used to assess the protein-coding potential of

124 novel transcripts by default parameters (Kong et al. 2007; Sun et al. 2013). The intersection of
125 both non-protein-coding possible results were chosen as long non-coding RNAs.

126 **Differential expression genes screening and function enrichment analysis**

127 Software StringTie quantified transcript abundances in a reference-based approach. A FPKM
128 (fragment per kilobase of transcript per million mapped reads) for each transcription region was
129 calculated to quantify its expression abundance and variations, using RSEM software (Li &
130 Dewey 2011). RNAs and lncRNAs differential expression analysis were performed using
131 DESeq2 software between two groups (Anders & Huber 2010; Love et al. 2014). The
132 genes/transcripts with the parameter of FDR below 0.05 and absolute fold change ≥ 1.5 were
133 considered differentially expressed genes/transcripts. The statistical power of this experimental
134 design, calculated in PROPER is 0.72 (Wu et al. 2015). Differentially expressed coding RNAs
135 were then subjected to enrichment analysis of GO functions and KEGG pathways (Boyle et al.
136 2004; Kanehisa et al. 2008). A Protein-Protein interaction network was identified using String
137 v10 and visualized using Cytoscape software (v3.7.1) (Shannon et al. 2003; Szklarczyk et al.
138 2015).

139 **lncRNA-mRNA association analysis**

140 The interaction between antisense lncRNA and mRNA was predicted by the software RNAplex
141 (version 0.2) (<http://www.tbi.univie.ac.at/RNA/RNAplex.1.html>) (Tafer & Hofacker 2008).
142 lncRNAs in less than 10-kb up/downstream of a gene were identified to cis-regulators, and the
143 lncRNA co-expressed with protein-coding genes were considered to have trans-regulation
144 function. The target genes were further used for GO and KEGG enrichment analysis.

145 **Data validation by qRT-PCR**

146 Total RNA was extracted using RNAzol® RT RNA Isolation Reagent (GeneCopoeia, USA.) Total
147 RNA from each sample was reverse transcribed in a 25- μ L reaction using Surescript™ First-
148 Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (GeneCopoeia, USA). The sequences of the primers used are
149 indicated in Supplemental Table S1. The *NIRPS11* gene of BPH was used as an internal control
150 gene. qRT-PCR was performed using a BlazeTaq™ SYBR® Green qPCR mix2.0 protocol
151 (GeneCopoeia, USA). The 20- μ L reaction volume consisted of forward and reversed primers (1-

152 μL), BlazeTaq™ SYBR® Green qPCR mix (10- μL), ddH₂O (6- μL), cDNA (2- μL). The selected
153 genes were verified using an ABI 7900HT Fast Real-Time PCR System with a cycling
154 temperature of 60°C and a single peak on the melting curve to ensure a single product. Each
155 sample's relative transcript levels were obtained using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}}$ method (Rao et al. 2013). At
156 least three replicates were tested per sample. The obtained data were subjected to unpaired a two-
157 tailed Student's *t*-tests using GraphPad Prism software (version 8). Different stars were used to
158 denote the significant variations at the $P < 0.05$ level. All the numerical data in figures are
159 presented as means \pm standard deviation (SD) of three independent replications.

160

161 **Results**

162 **High-throughput sequencing of BPH lncRNAs**

163 To investigate the dynamic variation of lncRNAs in BPH when fed with TN1(susceptible rice
164 variety) and YHY15 (moderately resistant rice variety), the whole-transcriptome strand-specific
165 RNA sequencing for two BPHs was conducted using three biological replicates. In total, after
166 removing low-quality reads, more than 506 million clean reads (above 99.85% raw reads) were
167 generated with Q30 value in all libraries exceeding 92.95% though high-throughput sequencing
168 (Table 1). After removing the reads mapped to rRNA, the mapping rate of clean reads against the
169 *N. lugens* reference genome ranged from 42.87%–80.30%. About 60% of the reads were mapped
170 to the exon region, and about 20% were mapped to the intron and intergenic regions, respectively
171 (Table S2).

172 **Identification of lncRNAs in BPH**

173 In this study, after the known coding mRNAs (transcripts and their splices) were filtered out
174 from the mapped reads, largely expressed transcripts with length ≥ 200 bp and exon number $>$
175 $= 2$ were selected. The results indicated that 10937 potential lncRNA transcripts were identified.
176 Then, these sequences were further processed using algorithms CPC2 and CNCI to assure the
177 nonexistence of protein-coding domains. At last, 3112 highly reliable lncRNAs were identified
178 (Fig S1).

179 According to the position of the new lncRNAs relative to protein-coding genes on the genome,
180 new lncRNAs can be divided into five categories. In our results, the lncRNA included 638 sense

181 lncRNAs, 470 antisense lncRNA, 77 intronic lncRNAs, 228 bidirectional lncRNAs, 3594
182 intergenic lncRNAs, and 560 others (Fig 1). Additionally, in terms of FPKM, the transcriptional
183 abundance of lncRNAs was significantly lower than that of mRNAs, but there was no significant
184 difference between TN1 and YHY15 (Fig S2).

185 **Analysis of differentially expressed lncRNAs in BPH**

186 To analyze the difference in expression of lncRNA between TN1 and YHY15, the normalized
187 expression of lncRNAs in two BPH were compared. In this study, the false discovery rate (FDR)
188 below 0.05 and absolute fold change ≥ 1.5 were used to identify expression lncRNAs and mRNA
189 (Fig 2A, B) differentially. identified 157 differentially expressed lncRNAs (including 84
190 upregulation and 73 downregulation), and 675 differentially expressed mRNAs (including 281
191 upregulation and 394 downregulation) were identified (Fig 2C), respectively.

192 **Function of differentially expressed lncRNAs**

193 To explore the potential ncRNAs functions, lncRNA and mRNA association analysis was
194 performed in three ways: base complementary pairing of lncRNA and Mrna (antisense),
195 lncRNA's location in 10kb upstream and downstream of its adjacent protein-coding genes (cis-
196 regulation), and lncRNA's correlation with co-expressed protein-coding genes identified
197 predictable targets (co-expression). As the results showed, three antisense targets (Table S3), 9-
198 pair cis-regulation targets (include 8-lncRNAs and 8-mRNAs) (Table S4), and 3972 pair co-
199 expressed targets (include 156 lncRNAs and 643-mRNAs) were identified (Table S5).

200 For the three antisense targets, the expression profile of the lncRNAs and corresponding target
201 genes indicated a similar trend. The expression levels of lncRNA MSTRG.12888.1 and it
202 predicted that target ncbi_111044590 was higher in TN1 than in YHY15, MSTRG.26118.1, and
203 MSTRG.26199.1 with their target genes ncbi_111053346 and ncbi_120355505 showed lower
204 expression level in TN1 than in YHY15 (Fig 3A).

205 For the 9-pair cis-regulation lncRNAs and targets, except lncRNA XR_005571984.1 and target
206 gene ncbi_111050469 exhibited opposite expression trend (lncRNA XR_005571984.1 were
207 higher expressed in TN1 than in YHY15, but mRNA ncbi_111050469 were lower expressed in
208 TN1 than in YHY15), the other lncRNAs and their targets exhibited similar expression trend
209 (expression trend were simultaneous upregulation or downregulation) (Fig 3B).

210 The function annotation was further performed for the 3972 pair co-expressed targets, including
211 inc 156 lncRNAs and 643 mRNAs (Fig 3C, Table S6). First, Gene Ontology (GO) analysis was
212 conducted to categorize these protein-coding genes. There were 23 classes of biological
213 processes and these protein-coding genes were mainly enriched in “single-organism process,”
214 “cellular process,” and “metabolic process,” Moreover, some essential stress resistance genes
215 were identified as lncRNAs targets, including “response to stimulus,” “immune system process,”
216 and so on (Fig 4). Including defensin-like (ncbi_111045303), glutaredoxin-3 (ncbi_111048799),
217 peroxiredoxin (ncbi_111050813), and so on (Table S7). These findings proposed that these
218 differentially expressed lncRNAs might be involved in different biological processes, including
219 stress resistance by regulating the expression of related protein-coding genes—significantly
220 enriched cellular components, including cell, cell part, organelle, and membrane. The differential
221 expression targets were mainly enriched in catalytic activity and binding in molecular function
222 categories.

223 Moreover, based on the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) analysis, these co-
224 expression target genes were mainly enriched in metabolism, environmental information
225 processing, organismal systems, cellular processes related pathways (Fig 5, Table S8). Among
226 these pathways, a part of categories enriched many genes, including metabolic pathways, signal
227 transduction, transport and catabolism, and endocrine system. In metabolic-related pathways,
228 arginine and proline metabolism, glutathione metabolism, and carbon metabolism categories
229 were enriched ten genes (Table S8). These findings suggested that lncRNAs have a significant
230 effect on the adaptability of BPH when exposed to susceptible and resistant rice varieties.

231 **Validation of differentially expressed lncRNAs and mRNA in BPH**

232 qRT-PCR was used to confirm the expression profiles of the RNA-seq data in two BPH. The
233 results indicated that among 10 selected different expression mRNAs and lncRNAs, about 80%
234 of mRNA expression trends were consistent with RNA-seq data, except ncbi_111060469 and
235 ncbi_111061470 (Fig 6AB). The qRT-PCR results of lncRNA indicated that, except
236 MSTRG.26199.1, MSTRG.26220.1, and XR_005573932.1, expression trends of the other seven
237 lncRNAs were consistent with RNA-seq and qRT-PCR, the gene number ratios attained 70%
238 (Fig 7AB).

239

240 Discussion

241 The brown planthopper is a destructive pest that poses a significant threat worldwide rice plants.
242 To explore the molecular mechanism of BPHs adaptation to resistant rice variety. In our previous
243 study, proteomic profiles and miRNA expression profiles of BPH were analyzed(Zha & You
244 2020; Zha et al. 2016). In these studies, there has been evidence that miRNA may be involved in
245 the co-evolution process of rice planthopper resistance, and proteome analysis also found many
246 differentially expressed proteins. LncRNA is widely involved in plants and animals'
247 development and life cycle regulation. In this study, the role of lncRNA in the co-evolution of
248 rice planthopper and rice resistance will be further explored. As indicated in the results, 3112
249 lncRNAs, which were slightly higher than the number obtained by Xiao *et al.* in the fat body,
250 salivary gland, and antenna tissues of rice BPH (Xiao et al. 2015) was identified. In the initial
251 stage, 10937 potential lncRNA transcripts were identified, but the amount is much greater than
252 that in most of the insect (Jenkins et al. 2015; Valanne et al. 2019). The CPC2 and CNCI were
253 further used to assure the nonexistence of protein-coding domains. And then, 3112 lncRNA were
254 identified for further analysis.

255 It has been reported that the function of lncRNA is primarily to regulate the expression of
256 coding genes. Therefore, the focus is on the analysis of differentially expressed lncRNA and
257 differentially expressed mRNA in the two ecotypes of TN1 and YHY15, and association analysis
258 was conducted in three possible regulatory relationships. To antisense targets, 3-pair was
259 identified, ncbi_111044590 is a homology of *dihydrouridine synthase 4 like (Dus4l)* gene, which
260 silently suppresses cell proliferation and promotes apoptosis in humans (Li et al. 2020). In BPH,
261 ncbi_111044590 is downregulated in YHY15, it may be that YHY15 consumed resistant rice,
262 and its cell growth was inhibited. To the 9-pair cis-regulation targets, the target ncbi_111053362
263 is a homology of the *F-box DNA helicase 1-like (Fbh1)* gene. According to the report, FBH1
264 promotes DNA double-strand breakage and apoptosis in response to DNA replication stress and
265 is important to restore normal mitotic progression (Fugger et al. 2013; Jeong et al. 2013; Laulier
266 et al. 2010). Ncbi_111058532 is a serine/threonine protein kinase. The mitogen-activated protein
267 kinase (MAPK) family comprises serine/threonine kinases that mediate intracellular signaling.
268 MAPK is reported in whitefly and diamondback moths to enhance insect resistance to pesticides
269 and *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxin action, respectively (Guo et al. 2020; Yang et al. 2020).

270 To co-expression targets, the results of the enrichment analysis of the KEGG, in Lysosome,
271 Glycolysis/Gluconeogenesis have enriched nine genes, which is similar to the results of our
272 previous miRNA and proteomic studies (Zha & You 2020; Zha et al. 2016). Additionally,
273 Glutathione metabolism, MAPK signaling pathway, and arginine and proline metabolism are
274 also enriched in 9–10 genes, respectively. These three metabolic pathways are closely related to
275 the resistance of insects (Cen et al. 2020; Kostal et al. 2016; Raza et al. 2020). Among these
276 enriched genes, ncbi_120356101 is annotated as a *P450* homologous gene. Presently, there have
277 been reports that the *P450* gene of rice BPH can promote adaptation to rice resistance (Peng et al.
278 2017), Additionally, The MAPK pathway activates transcription factors *cAMP-response*
279 *element-binding protein* leads to *P450*-mediate imidacloprid resistance in whitefly (Yang et al.
280 2020). The targets gene *P450* was also screened out in our previous studies. It further increases
281 the correlation between these target genes and BPH adaptation to rice resistance.

282

283 Conclusions

284 In summary, we identified 3112 lncRNAs in susceptible (TN1) and resistant rice planthopper
285 varieties (YHY15). After differentially expressed analysis between the two varieties, 157
286 differentially expressed lncRNAs and 675 differentially expressed mRNAs were screened out.
287 The differentially expressed lncRNAs and their antisense, cis-regulation, and co-expressed
288 targets were further analyzed, and multiple lncRNAs and according to targets were found to be
289 closely related to the adaptability of BPH to rice resistance. Altogether, these results provide
290 insights into the molecular mechanisms of BPH adaptability to resistant rice, which is essential
291 for breeding rice and high yield.

292

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296

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465

Figure 1

The LncRNA type statistics.

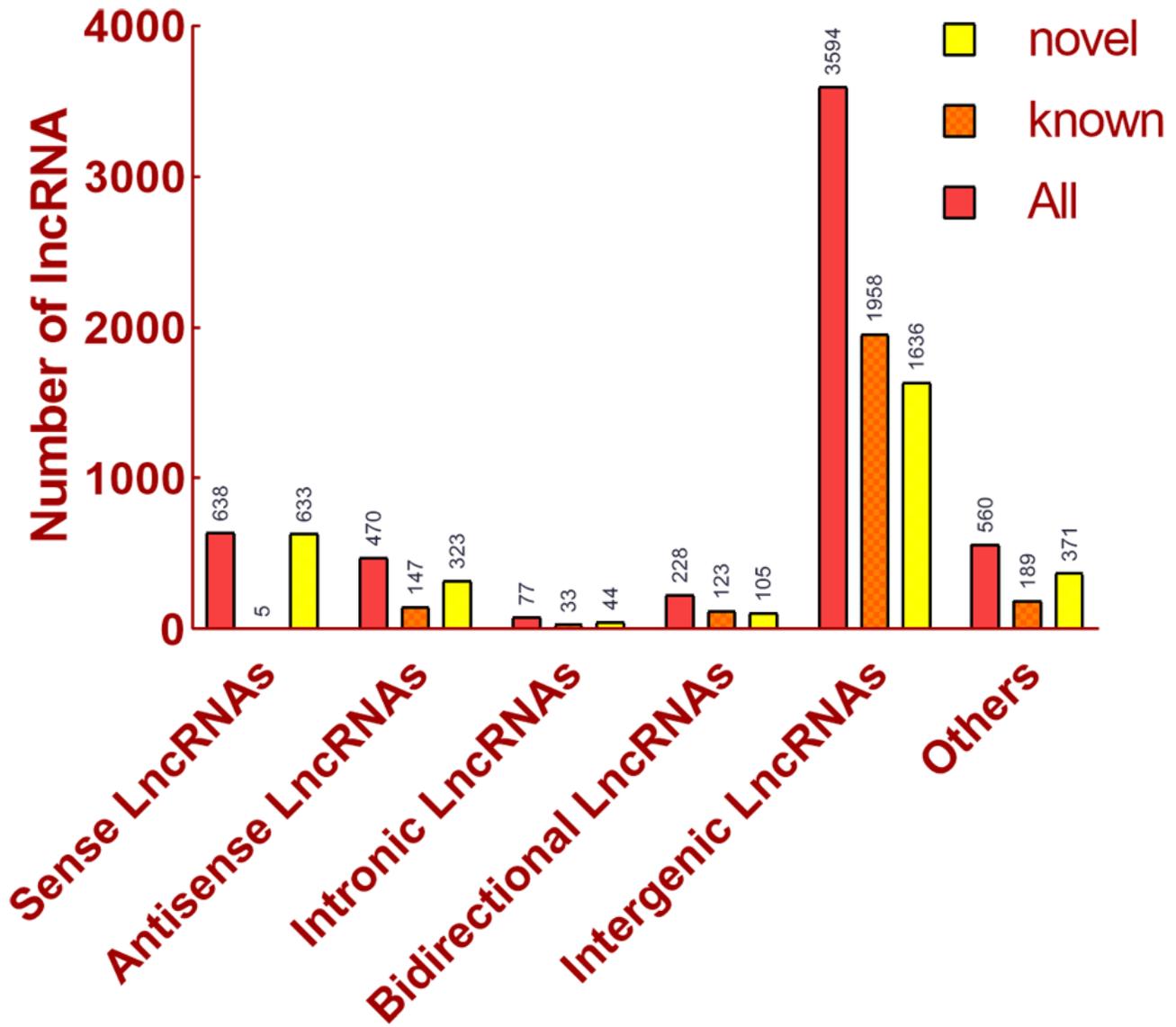


Figure 2

Differentially expressed lncRNAs and mRNA in two BPH.

(A) the volcano plot of lncRNA. (B) the volcano plot of mRNA. (C) the number of differentially expressed lncRNAs and mRNA.

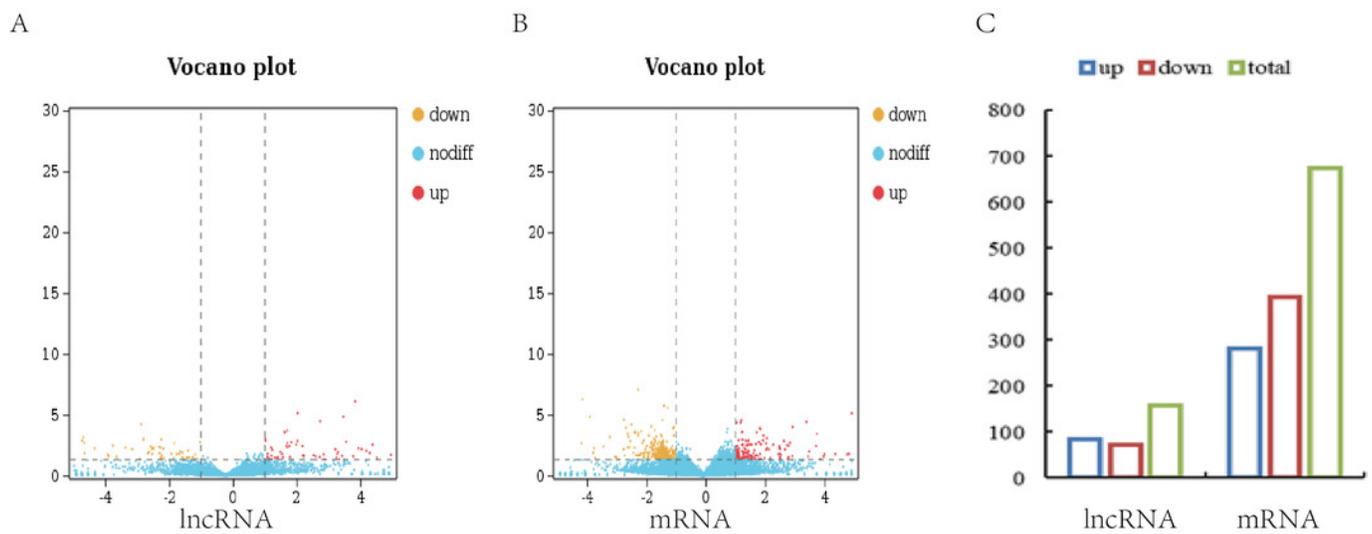


Figure 3

The expression profile and regulatory networks of lncRNA and corresponding target genes.

(A) antisense. (B) cis-regulation. (C) co-expression target regulatory networks, circle mean lncRNAs, square indicated mRNAs, red line means positive regulation, and blue line means negative regulation.

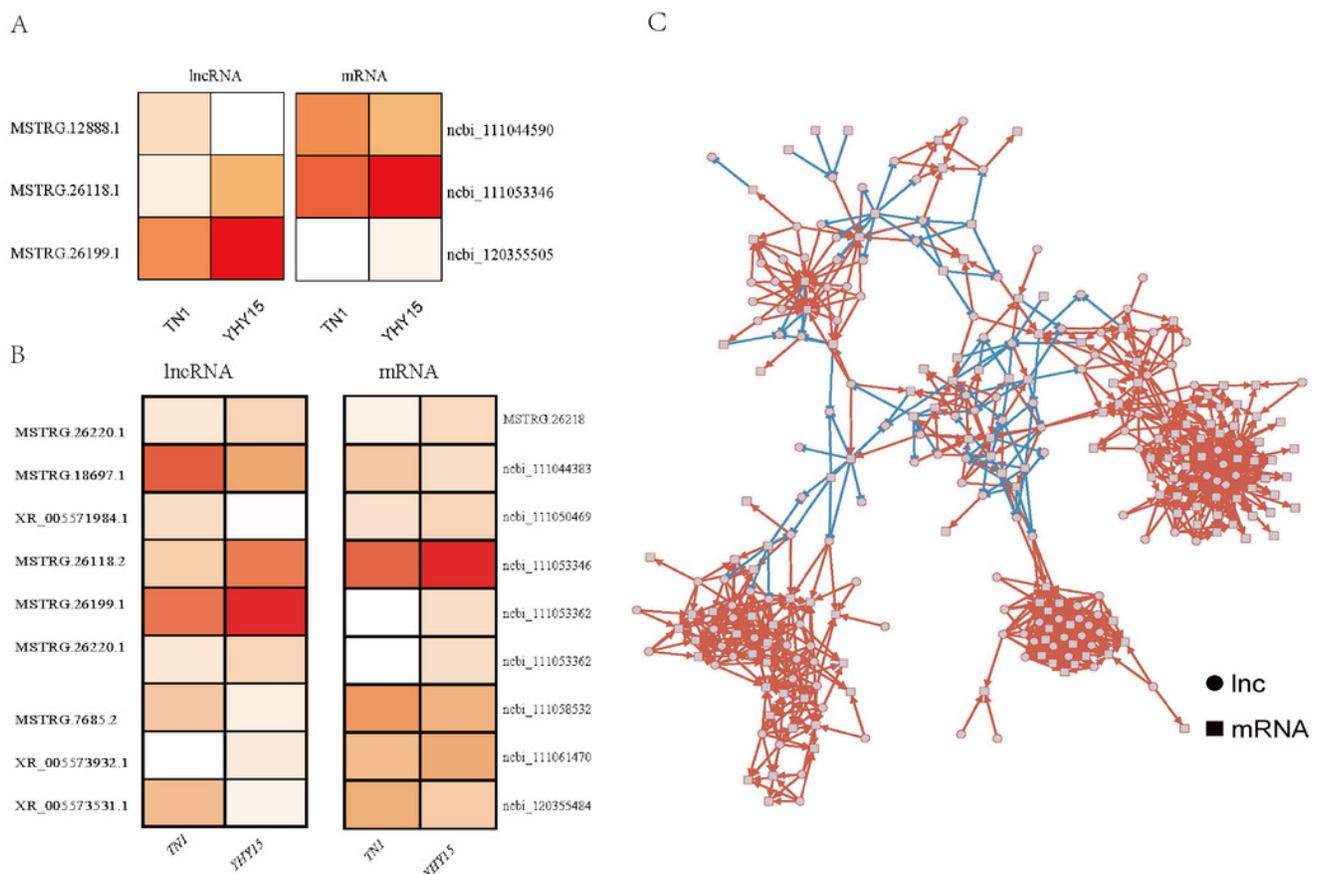


Figure 4

Gene Ontology analysis of co-expressed protein-coding genes with the differentially expressed lncRNAs.

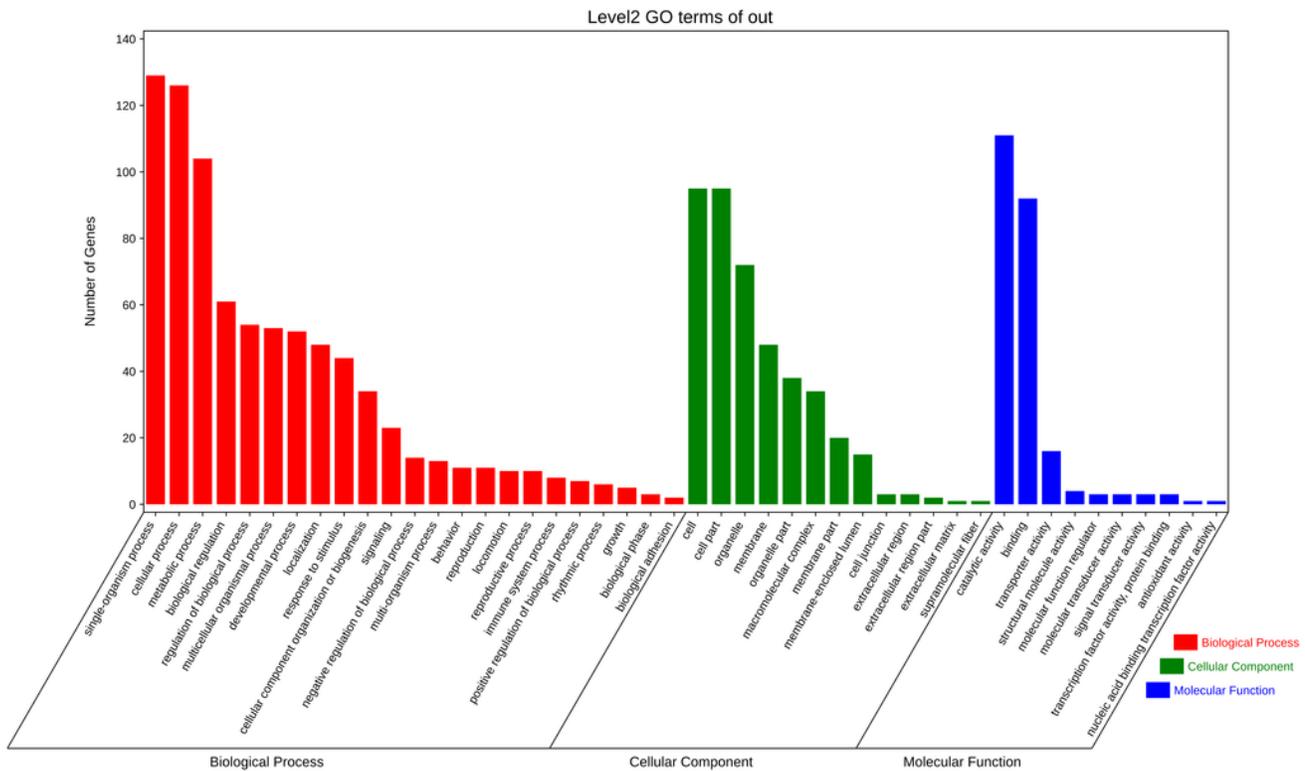


Figure 5

KEGG analysis of co-expressed protein-coding genes with the differentially expressed lncRNAs.

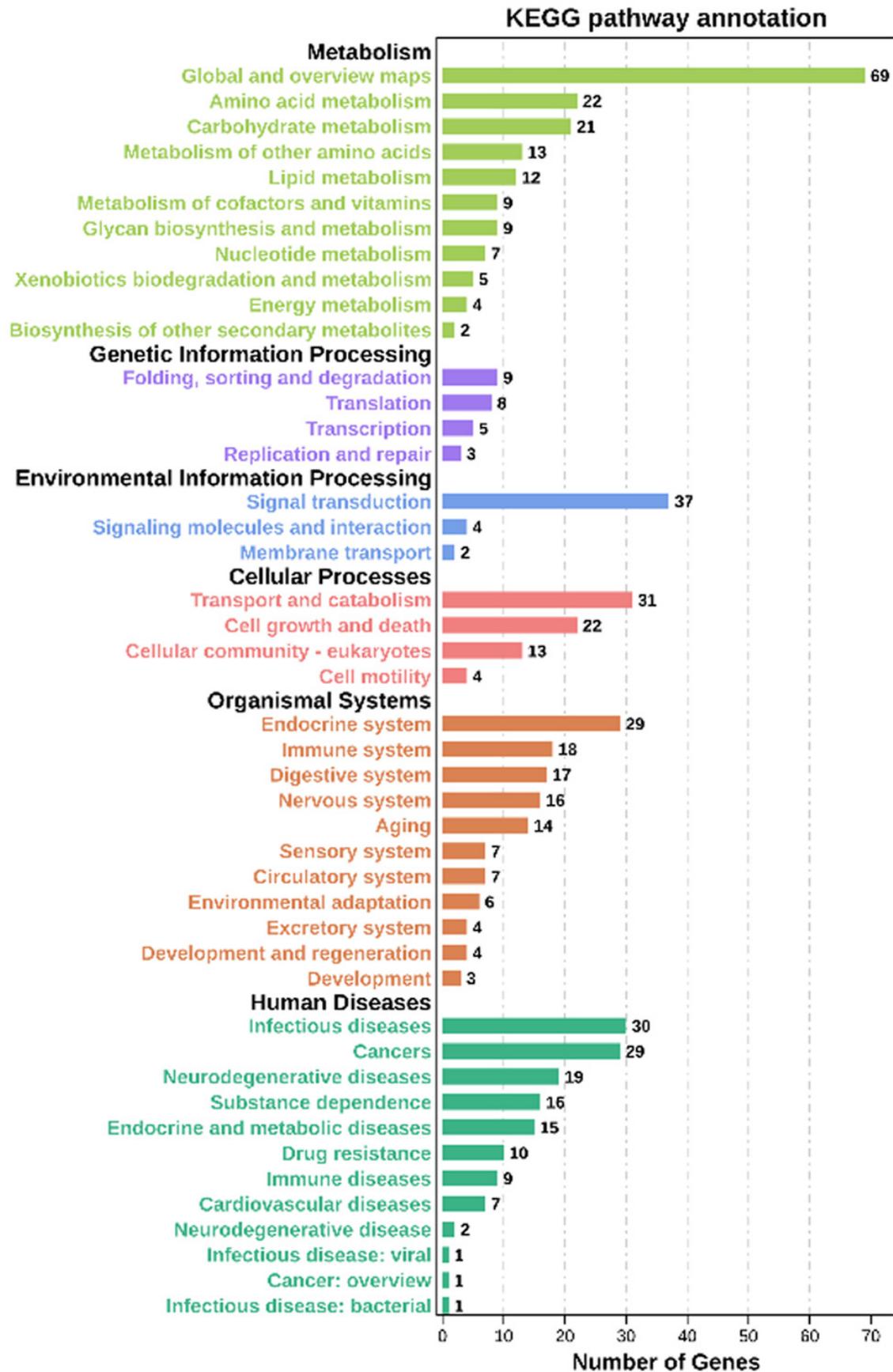


Figure 6

Expression pattern of the selected target genes in BPH.

(A) Gene expression data for RNA-seq. Values are means \pm SD of three technical replicates.

(B) The qRT-PCR analysis of gene expression data. Error bars represent SEM for three independent experiments. Student's *t*-test: *, $P < 0.05$, **, $P < 0.01$, ***, $P < 0.001$.

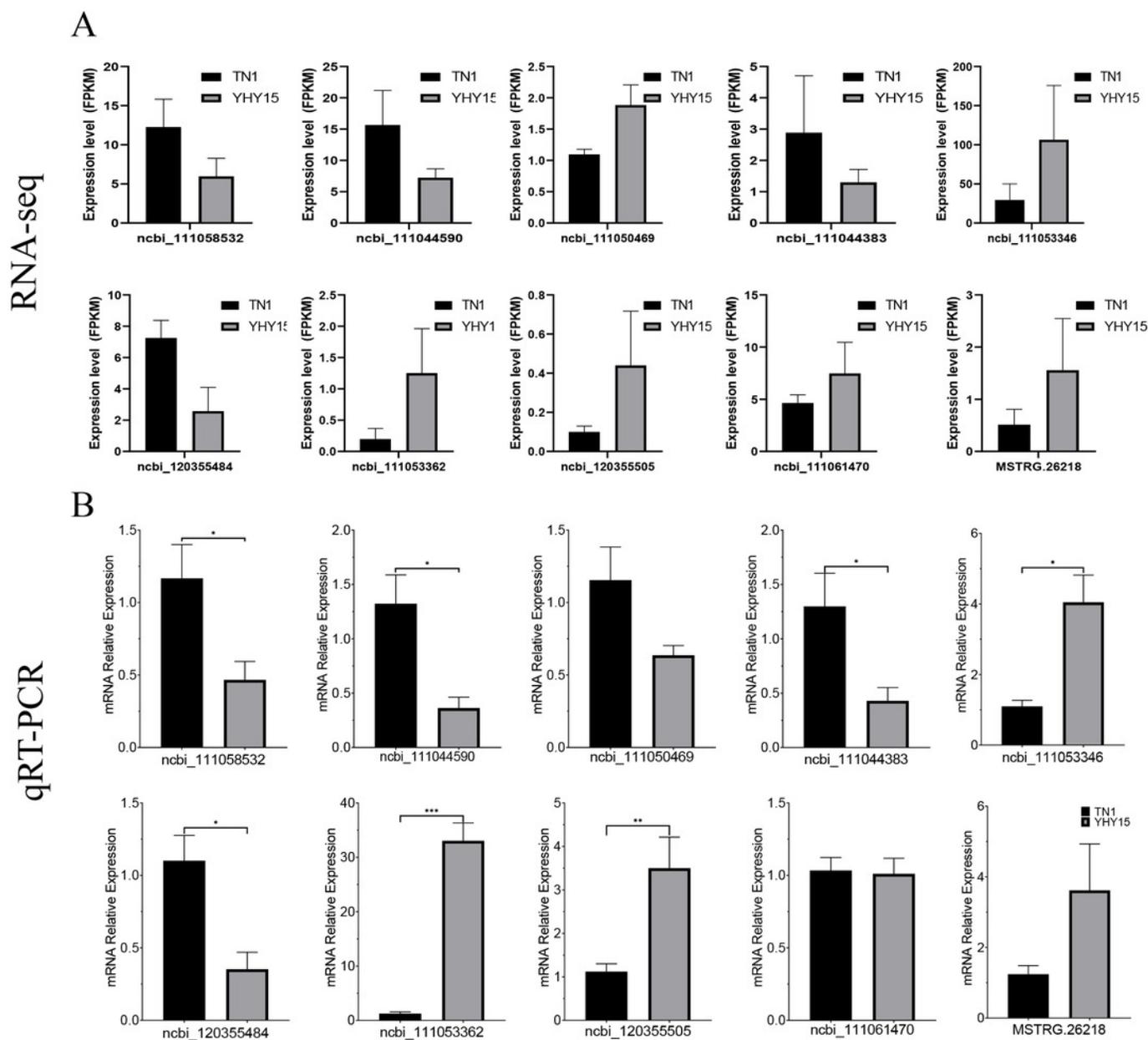


Figure 7

Expression pattern of the selected lncRNAs in BPH.

(A) lncRNAs expression data for RNA-seq. Values are means \pm SD of three technical replicates. (B) The qRT-PCR analysis of lncRNAs expression data. Error bars represent SEM for three independent experiments. Student's *t*-test: *, $P < 0.05$, **, $P < 0.01$, ***, $P < 0.001$.

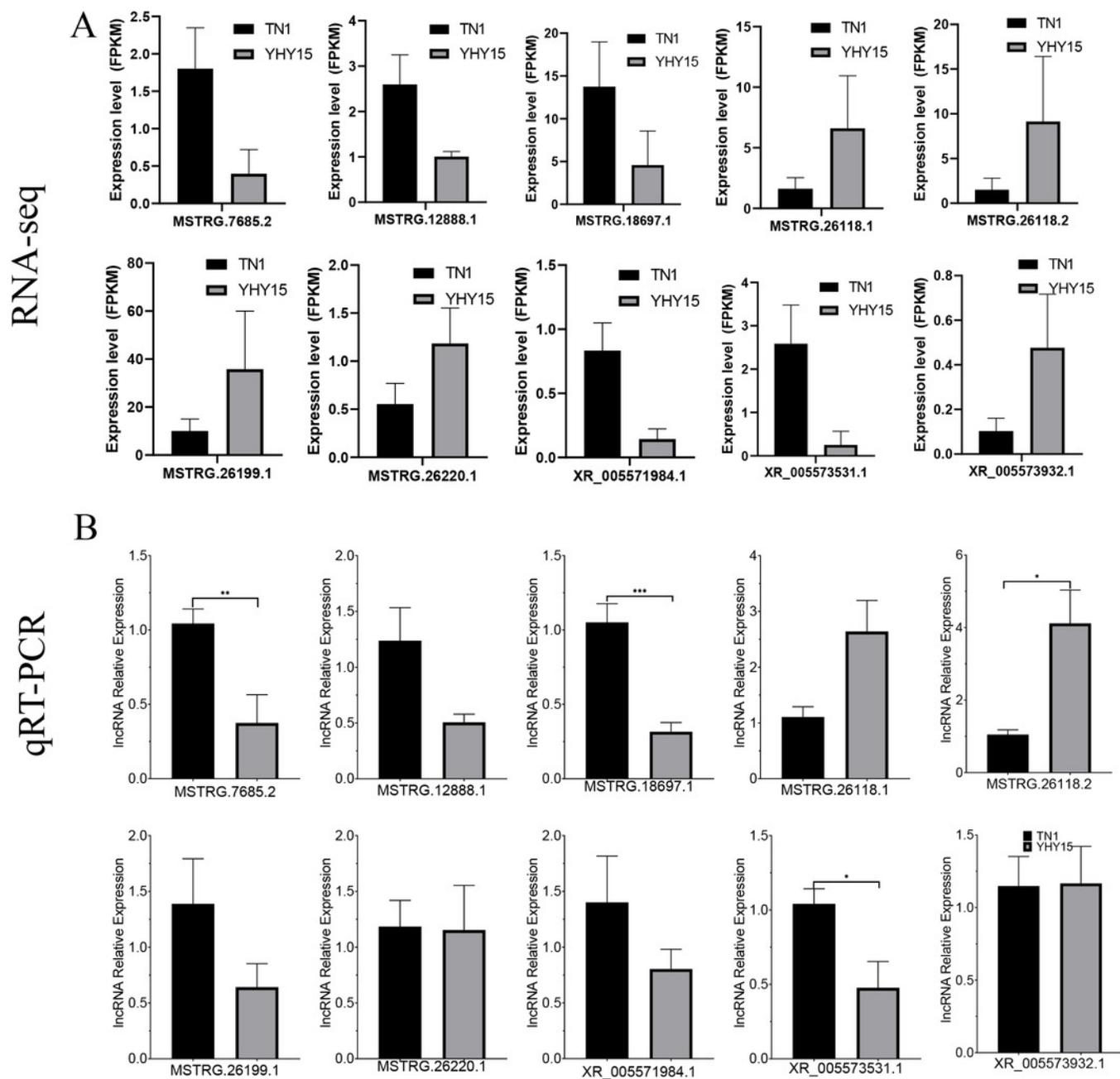


Table 1 (on next page)

Data statistics

	Sa mpl e	clean _rea ds	Mapped to rRNA(%)	Unmappe d_Reads(%)	Unmap ped(%)	Unique_ Mapped(%)	Multiple_ Mapped(%)	Total_ Mapped (%)
	rRNA			RNA				
TN 1-1	9441 6426	21089196 (22.34%)	73327230 (77.66%)	1462200 0 (19.94%)	52349637 (71.39%)	6355593 (8.67%)	5870523 0 (80.06%)	
TN 1-2	8113 9172	13502638 (16.64%)	67636534 (83.36%)	1958659 8 (28.96%)	42284619 (62.52%)	5765317 (8.52%)	4804993 6 (71.04%)	
TN 1-3	8088 3132	4825924 (5.97%)	76057208 (94.03%)	2137317 2 (28.10%)	48362573 (63.59%)	6321463 (8.31%)	5468403 6 (71.90%)	
YH Y15 -1	7361 8386	3705790 (5.03%)	69912596 (94.97%)	1377306 5 (19.70%)	49954636 (71.45%)	6184895 (8.85%)	5613953 1 (80.30%)	
YH Y15 -2	8632 8074	4098928 (4.75%)	82229146 (95.25%)	4697846 7 (57.13%)	30536210 (37.14%)	4714469 (5.73%)	3525067 9 (42.87%)	
YH Y15 -3	8967 6312	10973130 (12.24%)	78703182 (87.76%)	2112530 0 (26.84%)	50326027 (63.94%)	7251855 (9.21%)	5757788 2 (73.16%)	

1