

Comprehensive identification and expression analysis of CAMTA gene family in *Phyllostachys edulis* under abiotic stress (#79685)

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Comprehensive identification and expression analysis of CAMTA gene family in *Phyllostachys edulis* under abiotic stress

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Background. The CAMTA family are major transcription factor regulated by calmodulin (CaM) that play an essential role in plant growth, development and response to biotic and abiotic stresses. The CAMTA gene family has been identified in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, rice and other model plants, and its gene function in moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys edulis*) has not been identified.

Results. In this study, a total of 11 CAMTA genes were identified in the moso bamboo genome. Conserved domain and multiplex sequence alignment analysis showed that the structure between these genes was highly similar, with all members having CG-1 domains and some members having TIG and IQ domains. Phylogenetic relationship analysis showed that the CAMTA gene was divided into 5 subfamilies, and gene fragment replication promoted the evolution of this gene family. Promoter analysis revealed a large number of cis-acting elements associated with drought stress in PHCAMTA, suggesting that this family is involved in drought stress. Abiotic stress on moso bamboo was also found to be involved in drought stress response, which was similar to the results of promoter analysis. Gene expression pattern according to transcriptome data revealed participation of the PHCAMTA genes in tissue development.

Conclusions. Our results present new findings for the moso bamboo CAMTA family and provide partial experimental evidence for further validation of the function of PHCAMTAs.

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17

18 **Abstract**

19 **Background.** The CAMTA family are major transcription factor regulated by calmodulin (CaM)
20 that play an essential role in plant growth, development and response to biotic and abiotic
21 stresses. The CAMTA gene family has been identified in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, rice and other
22 model plants, and its gene function in moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys edulis*) has not been
23 identified.

24 **Results.** In this study, a total of 11 CAMTA genes were identified in the moso bamboo genome.
25 Conserved domain and multiplex sequence alignment analysis showed that the structure between
26 these genes was highly similar, with all members having CG-1 domains and some members
27 having TIG and IQ domains. Phylogenetic relationship analysis showed that the CAMTA gene
28 was divided into 5 subfamilies, and gene fragment replication promoted the evolution of this
29 gene family. Promoter analysis revealed a large number of cis-acting elements associated with
30 drought stress in PHCAMTA, suggesting that this family is involved in drought stress. Abiotic
31 stress on moso bamboo was also found to be involved in drought stress response, which was
32 similar to the results of promoter analysis. Gene expression pattern according to transcriptome
33 data revealed participation of the PHCAMTA genes in tissue development.

34 **Conclusions.** Our results present new findings for the moso bamboo CAMTA family and
35 provide partial experimental evidence for further validation of the function of PHCAMTAs.

36

37 **Introduction**

38 Calcium (Ca^{2+}) ions are involved in many cellular signaling pathways as prevalent secondary
39 messengers in eukaryotes (Wu et al. 2016). Ca^{2+} -mediated signaling plays a key role in the
40 transmission of signals generated by different stimuli, thus mediating various stress responses in
41 plants (Evans et al. 2001; White & Broadley 2003). CaM is a ubiquitous eukaryotic Ca^{2+} sensor
42 that binds Ca^{2+} into a flexible Ca^{2+} /CaM structural protein, which, together with the ability of
43 Ca^{2+} to interact with a number of proteins, allows CaM to regulate protein targets in many
44 different signaling pathways (Bouché et al. 2005; DeFalco et al. 2016; Poovaiah et al. 2013;
45 Yamniuk & Vogel 2004). Ca^{2+} and CaM complexes deliver various endogenous and exogenous
46 signals through multiple interactions with transcription factors (TFs) in response to plant
47 responses (Kim et al. 2009). **CAMTA, a major** transcription factor regulated by calmodulin
48 (CaM), was first identified in tobacco in 2009 (Kim et al. 2009). The CAMTA protein structural
49 domain contains the following functional domains: (1) N-terminal containing a CG-1 DNA
50 binding domain; (2) A TIG structural domain engaged in non-specific DNA binding; (3) Ankyrin
51 repeat sequences responsible for mediating interactions between different proteins; (4) a Ca^{2+} -
52 dependent CaM binding domain between the N-terminal and C-terminal; (5) IQ motifs
53 interacting with CaM (IQXXXRGXXXR) (Bähler & Rhoads 2002; Bouché et al. 2002; Du et al.
54 2009; Finkler et al. 2007; Yang & Poovaiah 2002). **CAMATA was discovered** when part of the
55 **cDNA clone (CG-1) was isolated from parsley and subsequently reported in various multicellular**
56 **organisms** (Iqbal et al. 2020).

57 It has been found that CAMTA transcription factors exhibit very important **and simple and**
58 **effective functions** in plant growth and development, biotic **and abiotic** stress (e. g. low
59 temperature stress) responses, **and that** CAMTAs of different species respond to various biotic
60 and abiotic stresses including low temperature, hormones, high salt and drought to varying
61 degrees (Chung et al. 2020; Noman et al. 2021; Shkolnik et al. 2019; Yue et al. 2015). The
62 important role of CAMTA3 gene for Brassica napus (cabbage, kale and kale type oilseed rape) in
63 cold and disease resistance was found (Luo et al. 2021). Two genes, ZmCAMTA4 and
64 **ZmCAMTA6**, were highly expressed in maize under abiotic stress treatment, and cis-element
65 analysis revealed the involvement of CAMTA genes in the association between environmental
66 stress and stress-related hormones (Liu et al. 2021). Ming wei (Wei et al. 2017) suggested that
67 **PtCAMTA** genes play an essential role in resistance to cold stress, and he showed that woody
68 plants and crops have different CAMTA gene expression patterns under abiotic stresses and
69 phytohormone treatments. The land cotton (**Gossypium hirsutum**) **GhCAMTA11** gene is
70 specifically expressed in roots and under heat stress, and GhCAMTA7 and GhCAMTA14 are
71 also expressed under drought stress, indicating that the land cotton CAMTA gene family is
72 involved in the growth and development process and stress reaction of land cotton (Zhang et al.
73 2022). It was found that the biochemical response of HbCAMTA3 in response to low
74 temperature stress in rubber trees is similar to that of AtCAMTA3 in Arabidopsis, and that the
75 AtCAMTA3 gene is also involved in salt stress reaction implying that HbCAMTA3 in rubber
76 trees is functionally diverse (Lin et al. 2021). Interestingly, it was found that TaCAMTA mainly
77 responds to drought stress in wheat in reaction to various abiotic stresses in the nursery stage,

78 and TaCAMTA1b-B. 1 plays an essential role in the response to drought stress caused by water
79 deficit in the nursery stage (Wang et al. 2022).

80 *Phyllostachys edulis* is a genus of *Phyllostachys Sieb* in the family Gramineae, which is widely
81 distributed in China and is an important bamboo resource with the characteristics of strong
82 adaptability, rapid growth, easy reproduction and good timber (Lin et al. 2002; Xu et al. 2022;
83 Yang & Li 2017).

84 We comprehensively analyzed the phylogenetic relationships between moso bamboo and model
85 plants in the CAMTA gene family to elucidate their evolutionary relationships. Using available
86 RNA-seq data and qRT-PCR results, we analyzed the expression profile of **PHCAMTA family**
87 genes during plant growth and development, as well as the expression of this gene family during
88 stressful abiotic stresses. In this study, we identified the CAMTA gene family in **P. edulis** in
89 order to provide relevant data support in future **plant breeding** studies and to open new avenues
90 for further elucidation of its role in *P. edulis* signal transduction.

91

92 **Materials & Methods**

93 **Identification of CAMTA Genes in *P. edulis***

94 All files associated with the whole genome sequence data of *Phyllostachys edulis* were
95 downloaded from the database website (<http://gigadb.org/dataset/100498>). A numerical tabular
96 Hidden Markov Model (Profile HMM) was constructed using HMMER3
97 (<https://myhits.sib.swiss/cgi-bin>) to match the *Phyllostachys edulis* protein database (significant
98 E value set to no more than 1×10^{-20}) (Finn et al. 2011). The CAMTA domain (PF03859)
99 obtained from the Pfam database was screened and integrated (Finn et al. 2016), and the
100 candidate gene family members were obtained from the initial screening. The CAMTA structural
101 domains of the candidate family members were analyzed using SMART (Letunic et al. 2012),
102 along with the Plant TFDB and NCBI BLAST for further comprehensive analysis and
103 identification to obtain candidate CAMTA transcription factor families (Jin et al. 2017).

104 **Physicochemical properties and signal peptide analysis of *P. edulis* CAMTA**

105 The Sequence Toolkits module of TBtools software (v1.098765) was used to derive the coding
106 sequence (CDS), protein fasta sequence, and gene structure and location information of CAMTA
107 family members from the corresponding genome-wide database (Chen et al. 2020) using The
108 online tools Prot Param and TargetP 2.0 Server
109 (<https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/service.php?TargetP-2.0>) were used to analyze their
110 physicochemical Properties, signal peptides were analyzed.

111 **Interspecific evolutionary analysis of gene families**

112 The whole genome information of rice, Arabidopsis, Zea, and Brachypodium distachyon. was
113 downloaded from the rice genome database, the Arabidopsis
114 database(<http://www.arabidopsis.org>), Zea database(<http://www.arabidopsis.org>), and
115 Brachypodium distachyon. database(<http://plants.ensembl.org/>), respectively, and based on the
116 obtained CAMTA Protein sequences of the 4 plants, the software ClustalX2.1 was used to
117 contrast the CAMTA Protein sequences of *M. spp.* The sequence alignment results were used to

118 construct phylogenetic trees by the software MEGA7 using the neighbor-joining (NJ) method,
119 and the bootstrap evaluation (Bootstrap) was repeated 1000 times.

120 **Gene structure, conserved structural domains and motif analysis**

121 Based on the gene location information of *P.edulis* genome annotation file (GFF), the gene
122 intron and exon sequences were analyzed and the gene structure of PHCAMTA family was
123 visualized; the NCBI online software CDD was used to forecast the conserved structural
124 domains of CAMTA family members, and their amino acid conserved sequences were predicted
125 using the online software MEME (Bailey et al. 2009).

126 **Cis-acting elements in the PHCAMTA gene promoter regions**

127 Extract the first 1500 bp sequence of the promoter of PHCAMTA family gene, predict it online
128 using Plant Care, and submit the results to TBtools (v1.098765) Visualization.

129 **ChroMosome distribution and interspecies covariance analysis**

130 The BLAST module of TBtools (v1.098765) software was used to execution sequence
131 comparison of all proteins in the genome of bamboo, and two-way alignment of Moso bamboo
132 with rice and Moso bamboo with Arabidopsis, based on genome-wide GFF files, using MC
133 ScanX, Circos (0.69-9) and Multipe Synteny Plot. CAMTA family chroMosome distribution and
134 interspecies covariance were visualized using MC ScanX, Circos (0.69-9) and Multipe Synteny
135 Plot.

136 **Tissue-Specific Expression Levels of PHCAMTA Genes**

137 In order to analyze the specific expression of CAMTA gene in *P. chinensis chinensis*, we
138 downloaded RNA-seq data from the NCBI gene expression profiles database (Accession:
139 ERR105067-ERR105076). Transcriptome data, quantified as transcripts per million reads
140 (TPM), and log₂-transformed (Cushion et al. 2018).

141 **Plant Material, RNA extraction and qRT-PCR analysis**

142 Normal-grown 3-month-old live Moso bamboo seedlings were used as the control group with the
143 following abiotic stress treatments: 4 °C and 500 ml 30% PEG6000; sampled at 0, 3, 6, 12 and
144 24 h for the above treatments, and at 0, 3, 6 and 12 h for 42 °C-treated live Moso bamboo
145 seedlings, and the second youngest leaf from top to bottom was snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen
146 and saved in a -80 °C freezer.

147 Extraction of total RNA using an RNA extraction kit (Kangwei Century Biotechnology Co.,
148 Ltd.). cDNA was synthesized using Ta Ka Ra's Sricipt™ RT kit and used for subsequent qRT-
149 PCR assays. For the 11 identified PHCAMTA genes, qRT-PCR primers were designed online
150 using Primer Premier 3, with Moso bamboo NTB (nucleotide tract-binding protein) as the
151 internal reference gene (Fan et al. 2013). SYBR qPCR Master Mix (Code. Q311-02, Nanjing,
152 China) was used to perform qRT-PCR in Multiplate™ 96-well PCR plates (Bio-Rad, California,
153 USA). Each sample was tested using three technical replicates to ensure the accuracy of results.
154 The reaction conditions refer to the method of Ma R (Ma et al. 2021).

155

156 **Results**

157 **Identification and characterization of PHCAMTA genes in *P.edulis***

158 Eleven candidate family members were searched by the plant CAMTA Pfam (PF04770) model,
159 and a significant E value of no more than 1×10^{-20} was set for preliminary screening. 11
160 CAMTA family members were obtained by combining gene structure, chromosomal
161 localization, conserved structural domains and other characteristics, and removing gene duplicate
162 transcripts and non-full-length amino acid sequences. As shown in Table 1, the CAMTA family
163 genes were renamed PHCAMTA01 to PHCAMTA11 based on the chromosomal positioning
164 information of the genes. bioinformatics analysis of the protein sequences of the 11 family
165 members showed that the largest protein molecular weight of the CAMTA family members was
166 114.92 kD, and the smallest protein molecular weight was 90.10 kD. The amino acid sequence
167 lengths ranged from 816 to 1031aa. The isoelectric points lie between 5.18 and 8.2. Two of the
168 family proteins are basic (theoretical isoelectric point >7) and nine are acidic (theoretical
169 isoelectric point <7). The aliphatic amino acid index revealed that the thermal stability of the
170 proteins of this family was between 74.03 and 80.82, suggesting that the proteins of this family
171 have small differences in thermal stability. Signal peptide analysis showed that none of the 23
172 members had signal peptides, indicating that the protein sequences of the CAMTA genes of
173 *P. edulis* do not have transmembrane structures.

174 **Phylogenetic analysis**

175 In reference to (Dezhou Wang) (Wang et al. 2022), the amino acid sequences of Mao bamboo
176 CAMTA, Rice CAMTA, Arabidopsis CAMTA, Zea CAMTA and *B. distachyon* CAMTA were
177 subjected to phylogenetic analysis. The analysis revealed that the amino acid sequences of
178 PHCAMTA could be classified into five subclades (I ~ V) (Fig 1), among which the protein
179 sequences of Arabidopsis CAMTA genes were classified into one subclade, and the amino acid
180 sequences of rice, Zea, *P. edulis* and PHCAMTA genes were grouped into one subclade. It is
181 more closely related to rice and Zea, and more distantly related to Arabidopsis.

182 **Gene structure, conserved domains, motifs and sequence analysis**

183 Analysis of the gene structure of PHCAMTA family showed that the number of introns (intron)
184 of each PHCAMTA gene ranged from 10 to 14. The 11 sequences were divided into four
185 categories, because the affinities of *P. edulis* in other species make the results differ from the
186 classification in the evolutionary tree. Gene PHCAMTA09 in subfamily III contains the longest
187 intron region, while gene PHCAMTA04 in subfamily II and gene PHCAMTA11 in subfamily III
188 have the shortest introns.

189 PHCAMTA gene family was further analyzed for conserved structural domains based on the
190 NCBI online software CDD, as shown in Fig 2C. As shown, all CAMTA family members
191 contained CG-1 structural domains located at the N terminus, PHCAMTA10, PHCAMTA05,
192 PHCAMTA03 in the first subclade and PHCAMTA11, PHCAMTA06 in the third subclade had
193 TIG structural domains in addition to the typical CG-1 structural domains, while PHCAMTA08
194 in the first subgroup and PHCAMTA09 in the third subgroup do not have TIG structural
195 domains, and both the second and fourth subgroups contain both CG-1 and TIG structural
196 domains. All of the first subgroup contained ANKYR structural domains, PHCAMTA07 in the
197 second subgroup and PHCAMTA09 and PHCAMTA06 in the third subgroup contained ANKYR

198 structural domains, and the rest of PHCAMTA01 and PHCAMTA04 in the second subgroup,
199 PHCAMTA11 in the third subgroup and the fourth subgroup did not contain ANKYR structural
200 domains. All of the second subclade contained IQ structural domains, PHCAMTA08,
201 PHCAMTA10, PHCAMTA03 in the first subclade, PHCAMTA11, PHCAMTA09 in the third
202 subclade and the fourth subclade contained IQ structural domains, and the remaining
203 PHCAMTA05 in the first subclade and PHCAMTA06 in the third subclade did not have IQ
204 structural domains. PHCAMTA08, PHCAMTA10, PHCAMTA03 in the first subfamily and
205 PHCAMTA07 in the second subfamily have all CAMTA structural domains.

206 The members of the Mauve CAMTA gene family contain motifs numbering 6 and 8, which are
207 highly conserved, of which motif1, motif6 and motif7 constitute the CG-1 structural domain.
208 Except for PHCAMTA05, which lacks motif7 and motif3 in the first family, the genes in the
209 other families have all motifs.

210 **ChroMosomal location and gene duplication of PHCAMTA genes**

211 The chroMosome distribution of the PHCAMTA gene family showed that 11 CAMTA genes
212 were distributed on nine chroMosomes with different chroMosome gene division densities, and
213 only genes PHCAMTA08 and PHCAMTA10 underwent gene doubling (tandem duplication),
214 while the rest of the genes did not show gene duplication. The results indicated that only
215 individual genes caused amplification of CAMTA transcription factor members on different
216 chroMosomes through gene duplication.

217 As shown in Fig 4, no CAMTA homologous protein genes of Moso bamboo occur in pepper
218 chroMosomes, only three Moso bamboo CAMTA homologous protein genes occur in
219 Arabidopsis chroMosomes, while 14 Moso bamboo CAMTA genes can be found on six Zea
220 chroMosomes with corresponding paralogous homologs, and 17 Moso bamboo CAMTA genes
221 can be found on five rice chroMosomes with corresponding paralogous the same genes were
222 found on five rice chroMosomes. Therefore, the covariance between Moso and rice and Zea was
223 more significant than that between Moso and pepper and Arabidopsis. In addition, most of the
224 genes in the rice and Zea CAMTA families have more than two paralogous homologs in Moso
225 bamboo, inferring that there may have been a massive gene doubling event in the Moso bamboo
226 CAMTA gene family in the evolution process.

227 **Cis-element analysis of PHCAMTAs**

228 The Moso bamboo CAMTA family members contain 11 genes extracted upstream to 1500 bp
229 nucleotide sequences, and promoter prediction revealed that in addition to the core promoter
230 elements, many other cis-acting elements were found (Fig 5), such as light-responsive elements,
231 hormone-response-related elements and stress-responsive elements related to plant growth and
232 development. The most abundant were hormone response-related elements, with all gene
233 promoters containing at least one light response element and most gene promoters containing at
234 least one phytohormone response element. The stress response elements include low temperature
235 stress response components, drought stress response components, anaerobic induction response
236 components and other abiotic stress response components. All PHCAMTAs contained the
237 drought stress response component MYC, and the drought stress response component MYB was

238 the most abundant response element, suggesting that PHCAMTA plays an essential role in
239 drought stress response. The results suggest that different components of the promoter region of
240 Moso bamboo CAMTA gene family may be important in regulating plant growth and
241 development and in resisting abiotic stresses.

242 **Tissue-Specific Expression Levels of PHCAMTA Genes**

243 To study the physiological role of CAMTAs, we analyzed the gene expression patterns of
244 CAMTAs. The expression levels of CAMTAs in four tissues (leaf, stem, whip and root) were
245 assessed by RNA-seq data. Gene expression profiles in different tissues indicated that CAMTA
246 has different functions in moso bamboo. The results showed that PHCAMTA07/11 expression
247 profile was higher than other genes. The expression of Moso bamboo CAMTA was higher in
248 leaves than in stems, whips and roots, except for PHCAMTA11. Moreover, PHCAMTA11 was
249 more highly expressed in each tissue, indicating that this gene plays an important role in the
250 overall development of Moso bamboo.

251 **Expression profiles of the PHCAMTA genes during abiotic stress**

252 To investigate the expression of PHCAMTA during abiotic stress, we analyzed the expression of
253 11 PHCAMTAs under three abiotic stresses using qRT-PCR: polyethylene glycol (PEG), heat,
254 and cold treatment. the expression patterns of PHCAMTAs responded differently to the three
255 abiotic stresses, and some PHCAMTAs were either significantly induced or repressed. The
256 expression pattern of most genes changed significantly during the early phase (0-6 h) of the
257 stress response.

258 As shown in the (Fig 7), the expression of the Mao bamboo CAMTA gene family under drought
259 stress. PHCAMTA gene expression showed weak changes when subjected to drought stress for 3
260 h, and the expression at 6 h of stress was significantly higher than that at other times of stress.
261 most of the genes, except PHCAMTA 06 and PHCAMTA 10, had a higher expression at 24 h of
262 drought stress than the expression of most of the genes was slightly higher at 24 h of drought
263 stress than at 12 h of drought stress.

264 In contrast, the overall expression of CAMTA in Moso bamboo was higher when subjected to
265 drought stress than when subjected to cold stress, and it is assumed that PHCMATA is mainly
266 involved in drought stress regulation.

267

268 **Discussion**

269 **Genome-wide identification and phylogenetic analysis of the CAMTA gene of Moso 270 bamboo**

271 CAMTAs are a specific class of plant transcription factors that play an essential role in the
272 regulation of plant growth and development and metabolism (Galon et al. 2008; Yang et al.
273 2012; Yang & Poovaiah 2002). The molecular functions of CAMTA have been verified not only
274 in Arabidopsis (Galon et al. 2010; Pandey et al. 2013) and rice as model plants, but also in cotton
275 (Pant et al. 2018), maize (Yue et al. 2015), tobacco (Kakar et al. 2018) and tomato (Yang et al.
276 2012), where the CAMTA gene family has been gradually identified. However, no studies on
277 CAMTAs have been conducted in the economically important bamboo species, moso bamboo.

278 Currently, the draft genome of Moso bamboo is largely complete, allowing for a full
279 identification of key gene families (Peng et al. 2013; Zhao et al. 2018). We classified the 11
280 PHCAMTA genes into five categories, ClassI, ClassII, ClassIII and ClassIV, based on
281 phylogenetic analysis. Among them, four members (36%) belonged to Class I, three members
282 (27%) to Class II, three members (27%) to Class III, and one member (9%) to Class IV (Fig 1).
283 Gene structure analysis reveals structural differences among members within the same
284 subfamily. Such as, PHCAMTA members in the same family I have intron numbers ranging
285 from 10-14. Therefore, we hypothesize that members of subfamily I may have undergone
286 pruning of gene fragments during their evolution (Li et al. 2016; Staiger & Brown 2013).
287 Nevertheless, the similar conserved sequences and gene structures among CAMTA family
288 members suggest that gene biological functions are generally the same within a family. All six
289 NTR1 homologs of Arabidopsis have a conserved structural feature with a DNA-binding region
290 (CGCG structural domain) at the N-terminal end and a CaM-binding structural domain at the C-
291 terminal end. The role of Ca²⁺/CaM may be expressed in controlling interactions with other
292 proteins or altering transcriptional activation of other proteins. In addition, conserved domain
293 comparison showed that all PHCAMTA genes have CG-1 structural domains, indicating that the
294 conserved motifs of the CAMTAs family are broadly conserved during evolution.
295 During signal transduction, multiple cis-acting elements on a gene promoter work together to
296 regulate multiple complex biological responses. *S.lycopersicum* SICAMTA gene contains salt
297 stress regulatory elements, including ABRE, G-box, MBS, and TGA (Wang et al. 2021), and
298 CAMTAs of different species have been reported to respond to a variety of biotic and abiotic
299 stresses, including low temperature, hormones, high salt, and drought. Two genes, ZmCAMTA4
300 and ZmCAMTA6, were highly expressed under stress treatment, and cis-element analysis
301 revealed the involvement of CAMTA genes in the association between environmental stress and
302 stress-related hormones, and the GhCAMTA gene family may also be involved in the
303 phytohormone signaling pathway (Liu et al. 2021; Pant et al. 2018). On the basis of PlantCARE
304 software, we found that elements involved in abscisic acid response, MeJA response, growth
305 hormone (IAA) and many other hormone regulation-related elements were present. Therefore,
306 we suggest that PHCAMTA genes may also be involved in the stress response of plants.
307 Interestingly, the promoter regions of most PHCAMTA genes have the largest number of MYB
308 elements involved in drought induction (Fig. 5). Previous studies on the response of this family
309 of genes to abiotic stresses are relatively scarce, but recent studies on wheat confirmed that the
310 expression of TaCAMTA1a-B and TaCAMTA1b-B. 1 was down- and up-regulated,
311 respectively, in response to drought stress to maintain normal physiological functions associated
312 with the plant, and wheat CAMTA family members also contain a large number of MYB
313 elements (Wang et al. 2022).

314 **Evolutionary Characterization of the PHCAMTA Family**

315 Gene duplication may produce new genes, which greatly helps in the evolution of gene function.
316 The three evolutionary patterns of gene replication are (Liu et al. 2019): segmental duplication,
317 tandem duplication and translocation events. Segmental and tandem replication are the most

318 common basis for gene family expansion in plants (Freeling 2009; Li & Barker 2020). Previous
319 studies on whole genome replication have shown that the genome size of Bamboo (2051.7 Mb)
320 and its close relative, *Z.mays* (2066.4 Mb), is similar, but the number of CAMTA families is
321 higher than that of the latter (Chen et al. 2020). Therefore, we performed a consistency analysis
322 within and among the Moso bamboo genomes. Within the Moso bamboo genome, there was one
323 pair of segmental duplication genes in the CAMTA gene. Therefore, the amplification of the
324 CAMTA gene family mainly comes from gene fragment replication. Simultaneous analysis of
325 the genome of Bamboo and four other sequenced plant genomes showed that the members of the
326 bamboo CAMTA family had significant consistency with the genomes of the monocot plant rice.

327 **The role of CAMTA genes in different tissues and organs**

328 Several studies have shown that CAMTAs can regulate plants during the developmental period
329 of lateral organs, such as important effects on plant organs formation (Rahman et al. 2016;
330 Shangguan et al. 2014; Wang et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2015), which is consistent with our
331 findings. Analysis of expression profiles in different bamboo tissues revealed that a large number
332 of PHCAMTAs showed the amount of expression varies in different tissues (Fig 6). For
333 example, PHCAMTA07 was highly expressed in root tissues, and it is speculated that
334 PHCAMTA07 gene function may be similar to that of NtabCAMTA03 in tobacco, which is
335 directly involved in stem tip meristem tissue production for differentiation into leaf primordia.
336 Interestingly, the expression of some PHCAMTAs in leaves is higher than in flowers, and it is
337 speculated that they are mainly involved in the plant growth process but not in the process of
338 plant flower bud differentiation.

339 **Expression of PHCAMTA Genes in Responses to Cold, Drought and Heat Treatments**

340 The PheE2F/DP promoter in response to drought stress contains many MYB and MYC2 binding
341 sites (Li et al. 2021). The involvement of PHCAMTA in drought stress regulation was also
342 confirmed in subsequent expression analyses, which revealed a large number of MYB and MYC
343 elements in PHCAMTA regulated by drought stress. We found that the expression levels of all
344 genes increased overall at the beginning of abiotic stress in Moso bamboo, and decreased to the
345 lowest expression level at 24h of stress. The expression level showed an increasing trend at 12h-
346 24h of drought stress, and it was speculated that Moso bamboo responded to drought stress after
347 12h of stress in order to enhance its stress resistance. Our study suggests that the PHCAMTA
348 gene family plays an essential role during drought stress response, but more studies are needed to
349 reveal the functional significance of the CAMTA gene family in moso bamboo.

350

351 **Conclusions**

352 Our results present new findings for the moso bamboo CAMTA family and provide partial
353 experimental evidence for further validation of the function of PHCAMTAs.

354

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357

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533

Table 1 (on next page)

Physicochemical properties of proteins encoded by CAMTA genes in *Phyllostachy edulis*

1 Table 1 Physicochemical properties of proteins encoded by CAMTA genes in *Phyllostachy*
2 *edulis*

ID	Gene name	Number of amino acids	Molecular weight (kDa)	Theoretical pI	Aliphatic index	Grand average of hydrophobicity (GRAVY)	signal peptide
PH02Gene18220.t1	<i>PHCAMTA01</i>	1024	113.88	5.74	77.09	-0.456	NO
PH02Gene42704.t1	<i>PHCAMTA02</i>	925	103.43	8.2	76.1	-0.477	N
PH02Gene37813.t1	<i>PHCAMTA03</i>	1027	114.18	5.51	74.14	-0.503	N
PH02Gene40726.t1	<i>PHCAMTA04</i>	1030	114.81	5.49	75.5	-0.507	N
PH02Gene36566.t1	<i>PHCAMTA05</i>	816	90.10	5.18	74.73	-0.45	N
PH02Gene07259.t1	<i>PHCAMTA06</i>	851	96.14	7.61	80.82	-0.47	N
PH02Gene08544.t1	<i>PHCAMTA07</i>	1028	114.92	5.69	77.72	-0.48	N
PH02Gene05448.t1	<i>PHCAMTA08</i>	1025	114.11	5.92	76.92	-0.50	N
PH02Gene05785.t1	<i>PHCAMTA09</i>	851	96.18	6.51	77.39	-0.55	N
PH02Gene15267.t1	<i>PHCAMTA10</i>	1026	114.85	5.78	75.30	-0.51	N
PH02Gene16049.t4	<i>PHCAMTA11</i>	1031	114.95	5.88	74.03	-0.567	N

3

Figure 1

Phylogenetic tree analysis of CAMTA sequences.

The full-length amino acid sequences of 50 CAMTA proteins were used to construct the phylogenetic tree using MEGA7.0 with the neighbor-joining (NJ) method. The size of graphics at the branch represents the confidence relative value obtained by 100 bootstrap tests. AtCAMTA represents CAMTA protein sequence of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, OsCAMTA represents CAMTA protein sequence of rice, ZmCAMTA represents CAMTA protein sequence of maize and BradiCAMTA represents CAMTA protein sequence of *Brachypodium distachyon*.

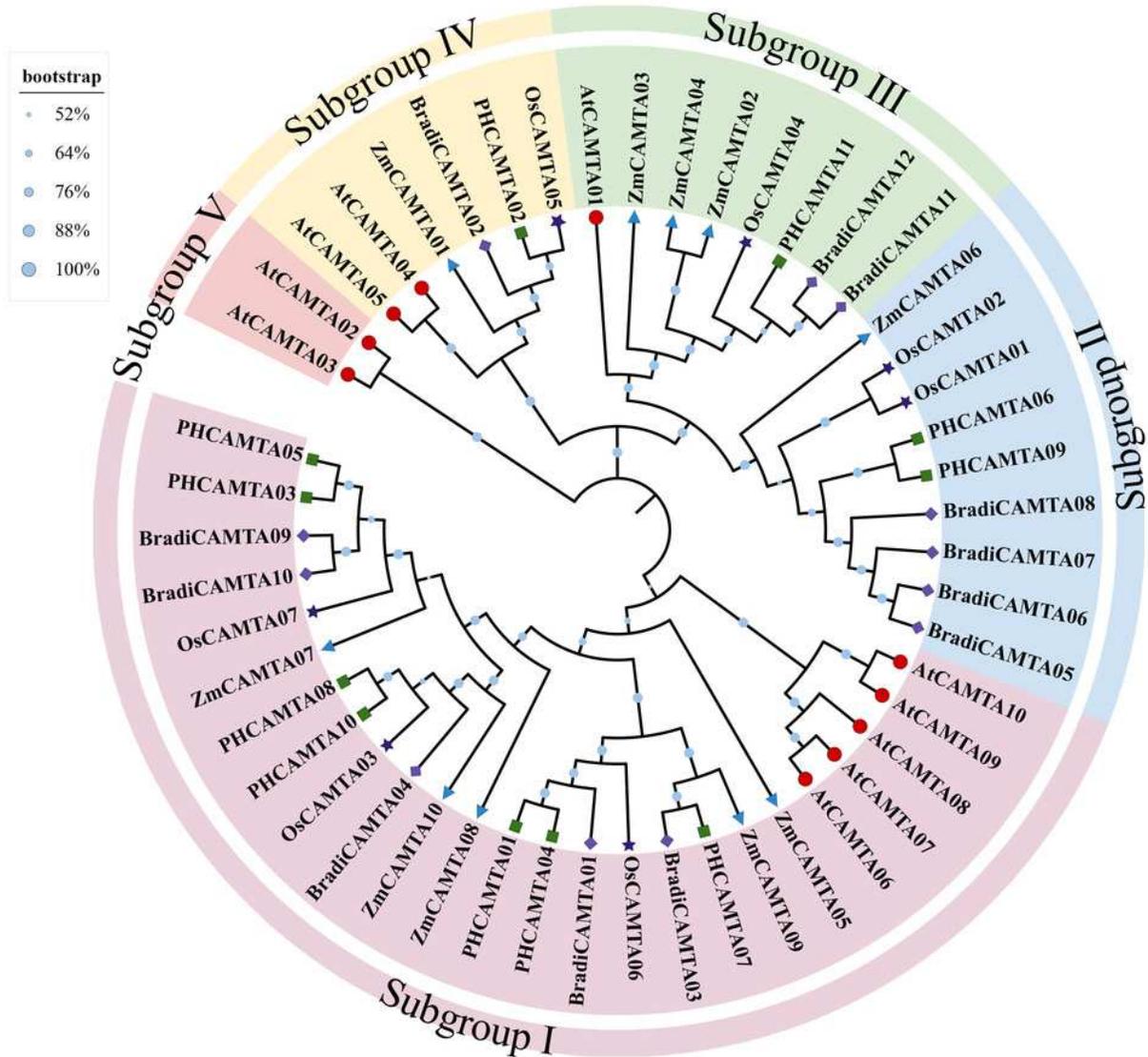


Figure 2

Gene structure, conserved motifs and conserved domains of PHCAMTA.

Phylogenetic trees were made with maximum likelihood by using the Neighbor joining model and MEGA 7.0 software. Different colors plates represent different groups. (A) Exon-intron distribution of PHCAMTA. (B) Conserved motifs in PHCAMTA. Motif 1 to motif 8 represented different motifs, and they were represented by different color boxes on the right. (C) Conserved domains in PHCAMTA. CG-1, CG-1 domains. TIG, IPT/TIG domain. ANKYR, ankyrin repeats. IQ, is a calmodulin-binding motif.

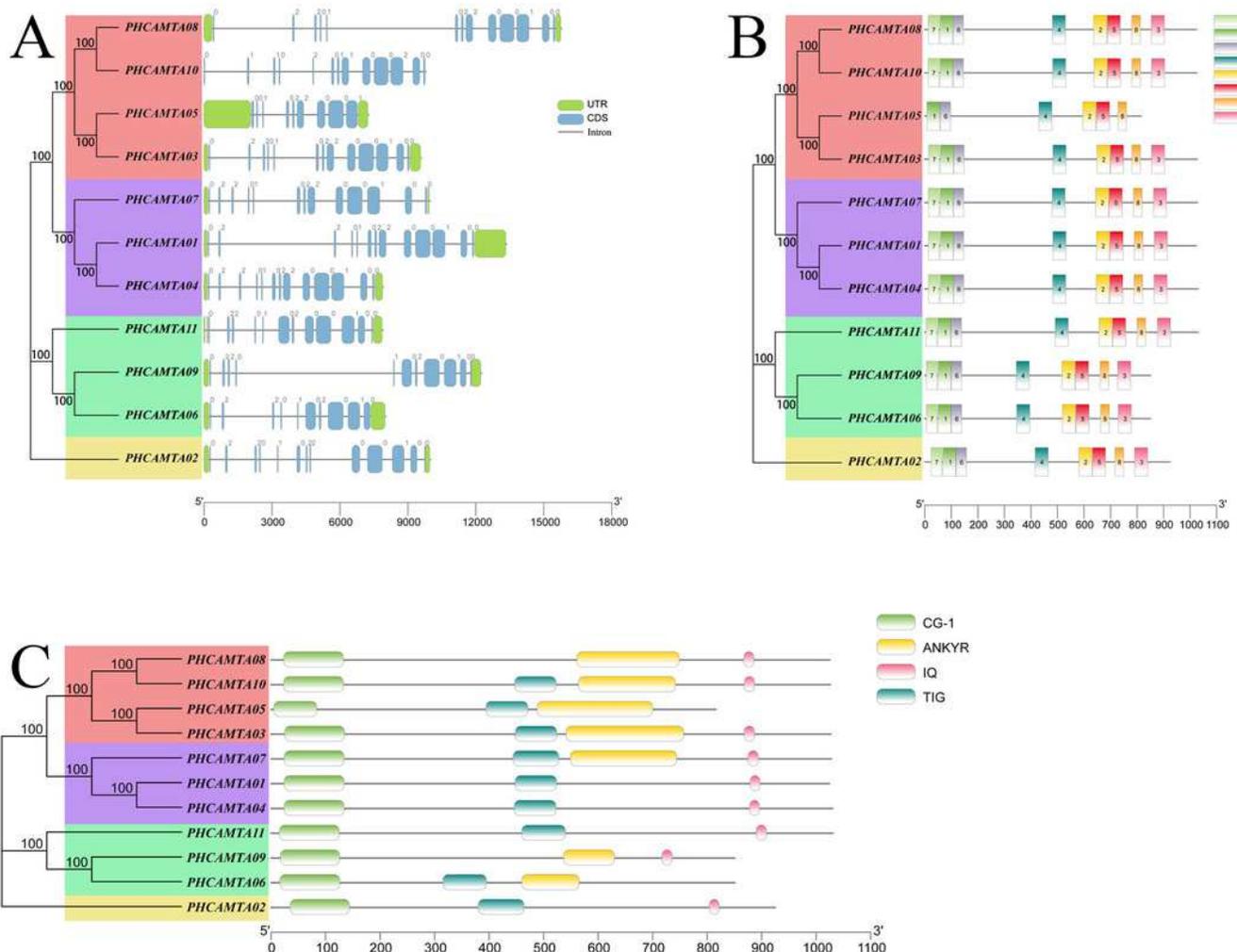


Figure 3

The distribution and duplication events of PHCAMTA on the chromosome.

The location of these genes on the chromosome was visualized using the visualization tools.

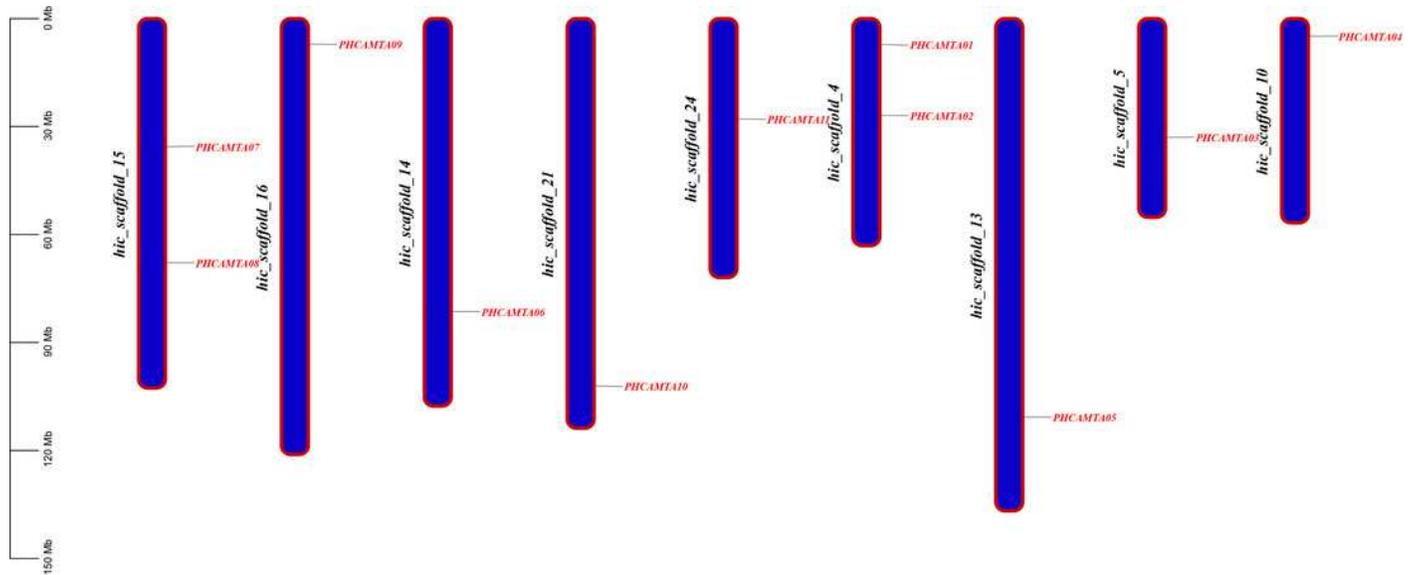


Figure 4

synteny relationships (A) Intraspecific colinearity analysis.

A total of 11 PHCAMTAs were mapped onto the chromosomes on the basis of their physical location. Chromosome numbers (scaffold1-scaffold24) are distributed in the outer circle, the red lines indicate duplicated PHCAMTA gene pairs. (B) Analysis of collinearity between different species. The gray lines indicate duplicated blocks, while the red lines indicate duplicated PHCAMTA gene pairs. Chromosome numbers are at the bottom of each chromosome.

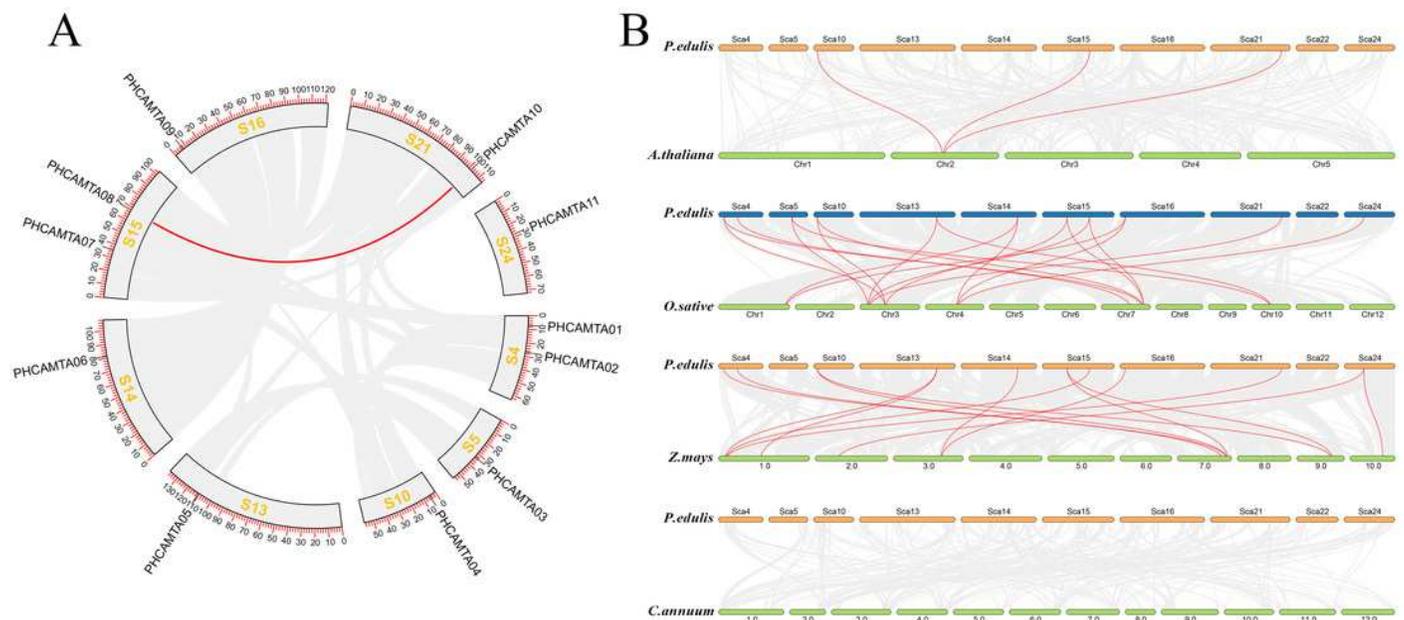


Figure 5

Cis-acting elements in PHCAMTA promoters.

The circle represented the number of specific cis-acting elements per gene. The chart and number on the right indicated the number of genes corresponding to the specific cis-acting element.

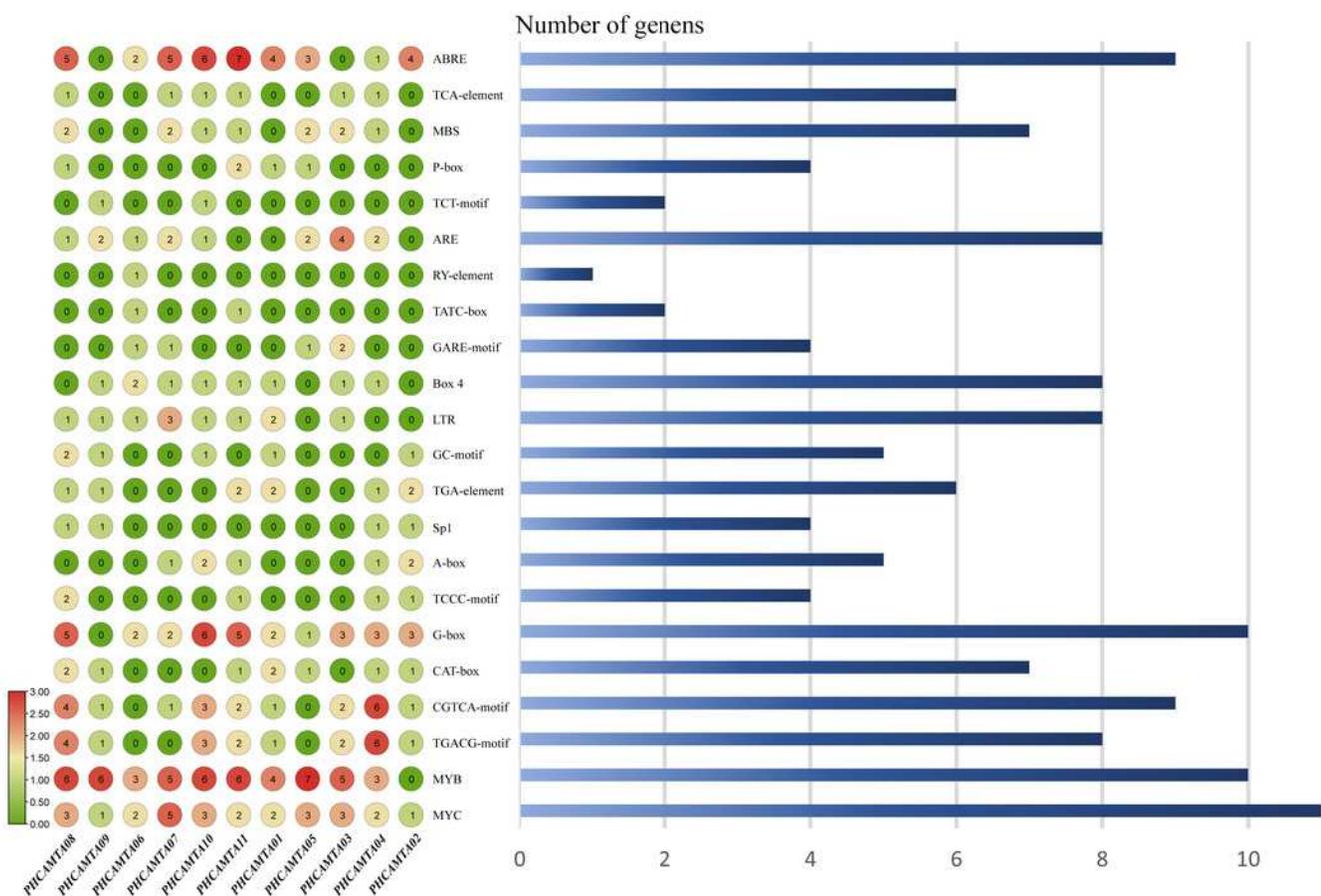


Figure 6

Expression profile cluster analysis of PHCAMTA genes with differential tissue expression.

Heatmap showing relative expression levels of PHCAMTAs in roots, leaves, panicles, and rhizomes. The values are expressed with \log_2 TPM.

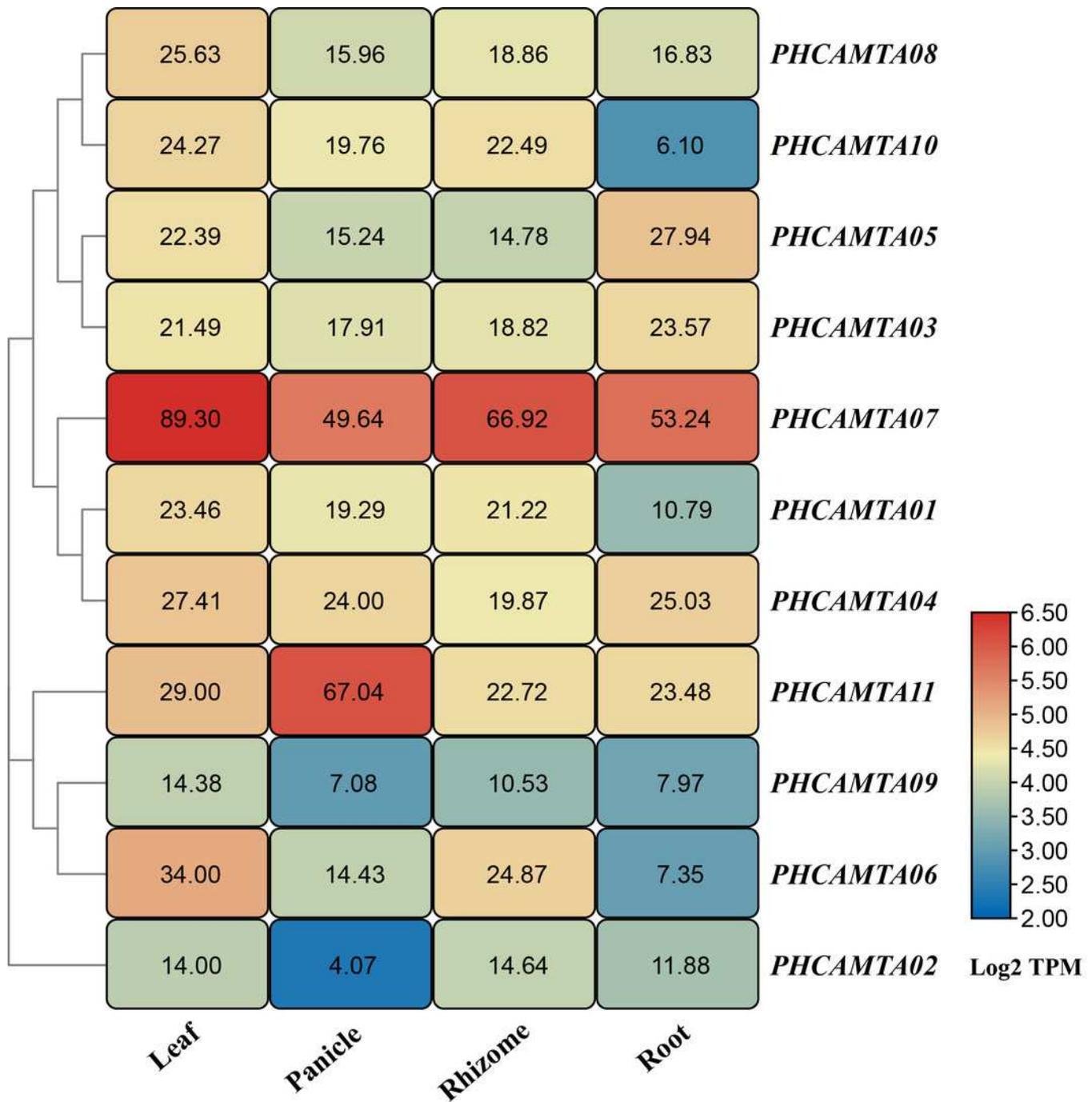


Figure 7

Results of RT-qPCR analysis showing the expression patterns of CAMTA genes in Moso bamboo subjected to abiotic stress at different time points.

A: Expression of 11 PHCAMTA genes under three abiotic stresses; A1: cold stress; A2: heat stress; A3: drought stress. B: Comparison of PHCAMTA gene expression under three abiotic stresses.

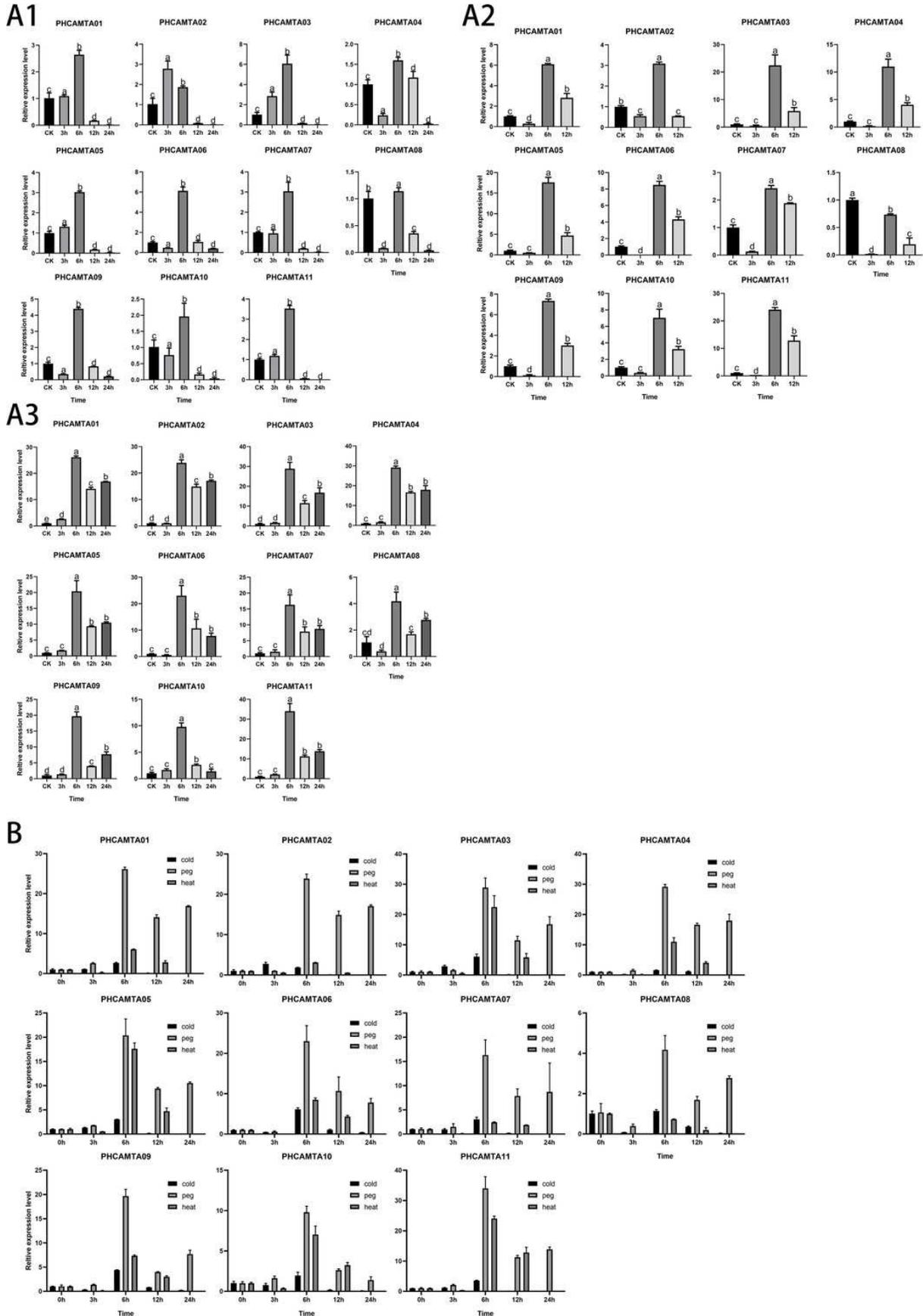


Figure 8

Results of RT-qPCR analysis showing the expression patterns of CAMTA genes in Moso bamboo subjected to abiotic stress at different time points.

C: Comparison among PHCAMTA genes in Moso bamboo when subjected to abiotic stress.

Bars with same letter means no significant difference based on LSD test ($p \leq 0.05$).

