

Genome-wide identification of 2-oxoglutarate and Fe (II)-dependent dioxygenase family genes and their expression profiling under drought and salt stress in potato (#84244)

1

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Genome-wide identification of 2-oxoglutarate and Fe (II)-dependent dioxygenase family genes and their expression profiling under drought and salt stress in potato

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2-Oxoglutarate-dependent dioxygenases (2OGDs) comprises of 2-Oxoglutarate and Fe(II)-dependent dioxygenases (2ODD) enzyme family. 2OGDs are involved in the biosynthesis of various compounds like gibberellin, ethylene etc, and in various catabolism pathways such as auxin catabolism, salicylic acid catabolism. Despite their important roles 2ODDs have not been studied in potato, which is the third most important crop globally. In this study, comprehensive genome wide analysis was done to identify all 2ODDs in potato and the putative genes were analysed for the presence of signature 2OG-Fell_Oxy (PF03171) domain and the conserved DIOX_N (PF14226) domain. A total of 205 *St2ODDs* were identified and classified into eight groups based on their function. The physiochemical properties, gene structures and motifs were analysed and gene duplication events were also searched for *St2ODDs*. The active amino acid residues responsible for binding with 2-oxoglutarate and Fe (II) were conserved throughout the *St2ODDs*. The three dimensional (3D) structures of the representative members of Flavanol synthase (FNS), 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid oxidases (ACOs) and Gibberellin oxidases (GAOXs) were made and docked with their representative substrates and the potential interactions are visualised. The *St2ODDs* were also analysed for their expression patterns in abiotic stresses like heat, salt, and drought. We found altered expression levels of *St2ODDs* under abiotic stress conditions which was further confirmed for drought and salt stress using qRT-PCR. The expression levels of *St2ODD115*, *St2ODD34*, and *St2ODD99* were found to be upregulated in drought stress with 2.2, 1.8, and 2.6 fold change respectively. While after rewatering the expression levels were normal. In salt stress, the expression levels of *St2ODD151*, *St2ODD76*, *St2ODD91*, and *St2ODD34* were found to be upregulated after 24 hour (h), 48 hour (h), 72 hour (h), and 96 hour (h). Altogether, the elevated expression levels suggests the importance of *St2ODDs* under abiotic stresses i.e. drought and salt. Overall our study provided a knowledgebase for 2ODDs gene family in potato which can be used further to study the important roles of 2ODDs in potato plant.

1 **Genome-wide identification of 2-oxoglutarate and Fe (II)-dependent**
2 **dioxygenase family genes and their expression profiling under drought and salt**
3 **stress in potato**

4

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14

15 **Abstract**

16

17 2-Oxoglutarate-dependent dioxygenases (2OGDs) comprises of 2-Oxoglutarate and Fe(II)-
18 dependent dioxygenases (2ODD) enzyme family. 2OGDs are involved in the biosynthesis of
19 various compounds like gibberellin, ethylene etc, and in various catabolism pathways such as
20 auxin catabolism, salicylic acid catabolism. Despite their important roles *2ODDs* have not been
21 studied in potato, which is the third most important crop globally. In this study, comprehensive
22 genome wide analysis was done to identify all *2ODDs* in potato and the putative genes were
23 analysed for the presence of signature 2OG-FeII_Oxy (PF03171) domain and the conserved
24 DIOX_N (PF14226) domain. A total of 205 *St2ODDs* were identified and classified into eight
25 groups based on their function. The physiochemical properties, gene structures and motifs were
26 analysed and gene duplication events were also searched for *St2ODDs*. The active amino acid
27 residues responsible for binding with 2-oxoglutarate and Fe (II) were conserved throughout the
28 *St2ODDs*. The three dimensional (3D) structures of the representative members of Flavanol
29 synthase (FNS), 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid oxidases (ACOs) and Gibberellin
30 oxidases (GAOXs) were made and docked with their representative substrates and the potential
31 interactions are visualised. The *St2ODDs* were also analysed for their expression patterns in abiotic
32 stresses like heat, salt, and drought. We found altered expression levels of *St2ODDs* under abiotic
33 stress conditions which was further confirmed for drought and salt stress using qRT-PCR. The
34 expression levels of *St2ODD115*, *St2ODD34*, and *St2ODD99* were found to be upregulated in
35 drought stress with 2.2, 1.8, and 2.6 fold change respectively. While after rewatering the
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37 *St2ODD91*, and *St2ODD34* were found to be upregulated after 24 hour (h), 48 hour (h), 72 hour
38 (h), and 96 hour (h). Altogether, the elevated expression levels suggests the importance of
39 *St2ODDs* under abiotic stresses i.e. drought and salt. Overall our study provided a knowledgebase
40 for *2ODDs* gene family in potato which can be used further to study the important roles of *2ODDs*
41 in potato plant.

42

43 **1.Introduction**

44

45 The 2-Oxoglutarate-dependent dioxygenases (2OGDs) are iron containing, non-heme enzymes,
46 that localize in cytosol and converts 2-Oxoglutarate to succinate and carbon dioxide. 2OGDs are
47 ubiquitously distributed in nature ranging from bacteria, fungi, plants, to vertebrates and parts in
48 various oxygenation and hydroxylation reactions ;(Carolis & Luca 1994; Cheng et al., 2014; Jiang
49 et al., 2021). 2OGDs superfamily comprise largest enzyme family in plant genome after
50 cytochrome P450 monooxygenases (CYPs). 2OGDs are very divergent in amino acid sequences
51 and are involved in various metabolic pathways as well. Proline hydroxylase was the first
52 identified 2OGD which requires ferrous ion as cofactor and α -ketoglutarate, ascorbate (Hutton &
53 Tappel, 1966; Ge et al., 2021). Earlier genome exploration of six model plant species classified
54 2OGDs in three broad classes: DOXA, DOXB, and DOXC based on their amino acid sequence
55 similarity (Kawai, Ono & Mizutani., 2014a; Wang et al., 2022). Among the three classes of 2OGDs
56 proteins, DOXA is composed of *Escherichia coli* AlkB plant homologs which undergoes oxidative
57 demethylation of alkylated nucleic acids and histones (Faines et al., 2002)(Trewick et al., 2002).
58 DOXB class undergoes hydroxylation of proline in cell wall protein synthesis (Keskiaho et al.;
59 Hieta & Myllyharju, 2002). DOXC class is the most important class of 2OGDs as it is involved in
60 plant metabolism and are involved in various pathways including steroidal glycoalkaloids (SGA),
61 and flavonoid biosynthesis (Hagel & Facchini, 2018) (Sonawane et al., 2022). In DOXC class, 2-
62 Oxoglutarate and Fe(II)-dependent dioxygenases (2ODD) gene family lies. 2ODDs have the
63 signature 2OG-FeII_Oxy (PF03171) domain and also have the conserved DIOX_N (PF14226)
64 domain (Kawai, Ono & Mizutani, 2014b). 2ODDs are involved in plant secondary metabolism.
65 They also serves important roles in various biosynthesis and catabolism pathways including,
66 Gibberellin biosynthesis, Ethylene biosynthesis, Auxin catabolism, Salicylic acid catabolism, and
67 SGA metabolism, (Farrow et al., 2014; Sonawane et al., 2022). The versatility of 2ODD enzymes

68 in various biosynthetic pathways for important metabolite synthesis and normal plant functioning
69 makes the study of 2ODD gene family important (Pan et al., 2017).

70 Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) is an important cash crop, and is the world's third most important
71 crop. It is globally consumed and is a rich source of carbohydrates and vitamins. It is also used to
72 make commercial food products as well (You et al., 2019; Alok et al., 2022; Zaki & Radwan,
73 2022). However, various anti-nutritional compounds are also associated with potato like α -
74 solanine and α -chaconine which belongs to *St2ODDs*. α -solanine and α -chaconine are plant
75 secondary metabolites and concentrations ranging 200-400 mg are toxic to humans (Machado,
76 Toledo & Garcia, 2007) (Liu et al., 2021). Prior studies have targeted these secondary metabolites
77 and reported to reduce the concentration of these antinutritional compounds through metabolic
78 profiling (Nakayasu et al., 2018). So it becomes important to study the 2ODD gene family.

79 Besides this potato yield is affected by various abiotic stresses like heat, drought and salt, and
80 therefore, it becomes important to identify stress responsive *St2ODDs* affecting the secondary
81 metabolites. Tuber yield is of much interest in order to develop new crop varieties resistant to
82 elevated abiotic stresses in nature .

83 In potato, the 2ODD gene family has not been characterised. In this study, *St2ODDs* belonging to
84 the DOXC class were studied and identified 205 2ODD genes. Further these identified genes were
85 systematically analysed for their gene structure, conserved motifs, physiological properties,
86 evolutionary relationship, chromosomal distribution, duplication events i.e. tandem duplication,
87 and segmental duplication. Active sites were also predicted for substrate binding and co-factor
88 (Fe-II) binding. 3D structures of Flavanol synthase (FNS), 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic
89 acid oxidases (ACOs) and Gibberellin oxidases (GAOXs) were predicted and docking interactions
90 were studied with specific substrates. In addition, the expression levels of *St2ODD* genes were
91 measured under abiotic stresses: salt, drought and heat, to explore their roles with respect to each
92 condition which was further validated for salt, and drought stress by qRT-PCR. Our results
93 identified *St2ODD* genes in potato showing changes in expression under drought, salt stress and
94 established knowledge domain and theoretical basis for further improvement of potato and potato
95 breeding.

96

97 **2.Materials and Methods**

98

99 2.1.Retrieval and identification of potential 2ODDs genes from potato

100 Firstly, the proteome of *S. tuberosum* was retrieved from Spud DB (<http://spuddb.uga.edu>) DM1-
101 3 v6.1 [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)(Pham et al., 2017). Reference sequence of 2ODDs of *S.*
102 *lycopersicum*, *S. chacoense*, *S. melongena*, *Manihot esculents*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Arabidopsis*
103 *thaliana*, *Nicotiana tabacum* were downloaded from National Centre for Biotechnology Institute
104 (NCBI) protein database. The reference genes were Blastp (e values of <0.001) searched against
105 potato proteome (Verma & Singh, 2021). Secondly, Hidden Markov Model (HMM) profiles of
106 *St2ODDs* were fetched from the pfam database and the retrieved sequences were searched (e value
107 cut-off 1e-05) against HMM profiles. The candidate sequences obtained from both the methods
108 were considered as putative 2ODDs genes and were further analysed for 2ODDs domains (2OG-
109 FeII_Oxy, pfam03171 and DIOX_ N, pfam14226) using various servers like SMART
110 (<http://smart.embl-heidelberg.de/>) (Letunic, Khedkar & Bork, 2021), and NCBI Conserved
111 Domain Search (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Structure/cdd/wrpsb.cgi>) (Marchler-Bauer et al.,
112 2015).

113

114 2.2.Gene structure, motif analysis and chromosomal mapping

115 The diversity of *St2ODDs* genes were further analysed by studying the gene structure and
116 conserved protein domains. To visualize the intron/exon structure, the online tool Gene Structure
117 Display Server (GSDS) 2.0 (<http://gsds.gao-lab.org/index.php>) (Hu et al., 2015) was used.
118 Conserved motifs were identified using MEME online website (<https://meme-suite.org/meme>)
119 with maximum number of motifs, 10; optimum width of each motif, between 50 and 100 residues;
120 other parameters were set to default values (Bailey et al., 2015). Chromosomal locations of 2ODDs
121 were collected from [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) Spud DB (<http://spuddb.uga.edu>) DM1-3 v6.1
122 (Pham et al., 2017), and were distributed across the 12 chromosomes of potato using TBtools
123 (<https://github.com/CJ-Chen/TBtools/releases>) (Chen et al., 2020). Nomenclature was given based
124 on the order of chromosomal location of the genes.

125

126 2.3.Phylogenetic analysis and gene duplication

127 Multiple protein sequence of 205 identified genes were aligned using ClustalW in Molecular
128 Evolutionary Genetics Analysis MEGA 7.0 (Kumar et al., 2016) (<https://www.megasoftware.net/>)
129 and the phylogenetic tree was constructed with neighbour-joining (NJ) method with 1000

130 bootstrap replicates and complete deletion. The phylogenetic tree constructed was further analysed
131 with ITOL tool (<https://itol.embl.de/upload.cgi>) (Letunic & Bork, 2007). Gene duplication events
132 were considered with 80% or more identity with e value $1e-10$. The synonymous substitution
133 (Ks) rates and nonsynonymous substitution (Ka) rates of duplicated *2ODD* genes were calculated
134 using Pal2nal <http://www.bork.embl.de/pal2nal> (Suyama, Torrents & Bork) and selection
135 pressure was evaluated by calculating Ka/Ks ratio (Shumayla et al., 2019).

136

137 **2.4. Protein Structure Analysis and 3D modelling**

138 The physio-chemical properties and subcellular localization of *2ODDs* proteins were calculated
139 using ProtParam ExPasy server (<https://web.expasy.org/protparam/>) (Walker et al., 2005) and
140 ProtComp version 9.0 server (<http://www.softberry.com>) (Emanuelsson et al., 2000). SWISS-
141 Model was used for 3D structure prediction of *St2ODDs* (Waterhouse et al., 2018) and visual
142 representation of 3D structures of *St2ODDs* were done using UCSF Chimera (Pettersen et al.,
143 2004). Ligand 3D models with PubChem CID 51 (2-Oxoglutaric acid), specific to FNS and GaOX
144 and PubChem CID 769 (Bicarbonate) specific to ACCs were retrieved from PubChem database in
145 SDF format (<https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) (Kim et al., 2016) and converted in PDB format
146 using PyMOL (Schrödinger, LLC).

147

148 **2.5. Protein-ligand docking evaluation**

149 The Molecular docking of *St2ODDs* and their various ligands were performed using AutoDock
150 4. The 3D conformation of various ligands were retrieved from PubChem in SDF format PubChem
151 CID 51 (2-Oxoglutaric acid) and PubChem CID 769 (Bicarbonate). PyMOL Version 2.0
152 (Schrödinger, LLC) was utilized for converting it in PDB format. The PDB files were then
153 converted to PDBQT format using AutoDock 4 (Morris et al., 2009). Various parameters were
154 assigned including addition of non-polar hydrogens and gasteiger charges. Grid boxes were
155 generated with different dimensions in X,Y, and Z directions which is shown in the supplemental
156 information (Table S2). The proteins and ligands were docked with energy range of 4 and
157 exhaustiveness set to 8 and the best conformation was selected having lowest free energy (Anand
158 et al., 2022). The protein-ligand hydrophobic and hydrogen bond interactions were represented
159 with BIOVIA Discovery Studio Visualizer ([PeerJ reviewing PDF | \(2023:04:84244:1:0:NEW 20 Jul 2023\)](https://www.3ds.com/products-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

160 services/biovia/products/molecular-modeling-simulation/biovia-discovery-studio/)Click or tap
161 here to enter text..

162

163 **2.6. Identification of abiotic stress responsive *2ODDs* genes**

164 Sequence Read Archive (SRA) data corresponding to project number SRP056128, SRP229183,
165 and SRP237987 for drought, heat and salt were downloaded from NCBI SRA. Differentially
166 expressed genes were identified using Trinity-V 2.03 package, Transcript abundance was
167 calculated in FPKM (Fragments per kilo-base of transcript per million mapped reads) and the heat
168 map of expressed *2ODD* genes under various stress conditions were visualized using
169 here to enter text. TBtools (<https://github.com/CJ-Chen/TBtools/releases>) (Chen et al., 2020).
170 Putative *2ODD* genes responsive to stress were validated using RT-qPCR (Verma et al., 2022).

171

172 **2.7. Plant materials and Treatments**

173 *Solanum tuberosum* cv Kufri jyoti plantlets were received from ICAR-Central Potato Research
174 Institute (CPRI, Shimla) and were maintained in growth chamber in soil under 16 hour (h) light/8
175 hour (h) dark photoperiod, 24^o C, under 60 % humidity. The maintained seedlings were watered
176 regularly. For drought stress, watering was with-held to mimic severe drought conditions for three
177 days followed by rewatering for three days. The leaves of drought treated plants, after rewatering
178 and control plants were harvested immediately in liquid nitrogen and then stored in -80° C. For
179 salt stress, 4 weeks old plants grown in soil were subjected to 500 mmol/L NaCl. The salt treated
180 plants were collected after 0 h, 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h time courses. Collected leaf samples were
181 stored immediately in liquid nitrogen followed by -80° C for further experimentation.

182

183 **2.8. RNA isolation, cDNA preparation and qPCR analysis**

184 Total RNA from the drought and salt stressed along with control leaf samples were extracted from
185 the samples (Ghawana et al., 2011). cDNA was synthesized using the Superscript III first strand
186 cDNA synthesis kit (Invitrogen USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Elongation
187 factor 1 alfa (*ef1α*) was the reference gene for expression normalization. The expression levels of
188 *St2ODD* genes in potatoes subjected to drought and salt stress were measured using qRT-PCR.
189 Primers were designed using Primer 3 software (<http://primer3.ut.ee>) (Untergasser et al., 2012)

190 and the primer sequences are shown in the supplemental information (Table S3). The correlative
191 expression data were calculated using Livak's method (Livak & Schmittgen, 2001). Three
192 technical replicates of each biological replicates were performed in the qRT-PCR experiment.

193

194 **3.Results**

195

196 **3.1.Identification of 2ODDs in potato**

197 The 2ODDs belongs to the 2OGDs gene superfamily and are involved in various plant metabolic
198 pathways which are explored in previous studies (You et al., 2019; Farrow et al., 2014; Hagen &
199 Facchini, 2018). Here, to identify the 2ODDs in potato whole proteome was BLASTP searched
200 against the reference 2ODDs of related plants and all the putative genes were retrieved and
201 examined for the presence of domains associated with 2ODDs i.e. 2OG-FeII_Oxy (PF03171) and
202 DIOX_N (PF14226) using various bioinformatics tools like SMART, and NCBI Conserved
203 Domain Search. Eventually, a total of 205 *St2ODDs* were confirmed having the 2ODD domains:
204 2OG-FeII_Oxy (PF03171) signature domain and DIOX_N (PF14226) domain. The
205 physiochemical properties of these identified *St2ODDs* were studied and the coding sequence
206 (CDS) lengths, genomic sequence lengths, molecular weights (MWs), isoelectric points (PIs), and
207 grand average of hydropathicity index (GRAVY) of these genes are shown in Table S1. The MWs
208 of *St2ODDs* ranged from 22.3 kDa to 108.5 kDa. *St2ODD30* had the smallest amino acid sequence
209 of 198 aa and *St2ODD54* had the largest amino acid sequence of 910 aa. The exonic numbers
210 ranged between 2 to 14 exons and the predicted PIs values ranged from 4.68 to 8.94, suggesting
211 that *St2ODDs* consists of both basic and acidic proteins. The Subcellular localization analysis
212 suggested that *St2ODDs* in potato were expressed either in the cytoplasm or secreted
213 extracellularly. *St2ODDs* consists of many plant secondary metabolites which are localized in
214 cytosol (Xu et al., 2008). This study predicted the same and gave insight to the basic aspects of
215 *St2ODDs*.

216

217 **3.2.Chromosomal distribution and gene duplication of St2ODD genes**

218 The chromosomal location of 205 *St2ODDs* were identified using database and a chromosomal
219 distribution map of *St2ODDs* were constructed (Fig. 1). The chromosomal distribution showed

220 that *St2ODDs* are widely distributed across the 12 chromosomes of potato. Chromosome 2 and 9
221 has the maximum of *St2ODD* genes (35/205) each. Chromosome 5 has the minimum number of
222 *St2ODDs* (3/205). Our results suggests that most of the *St2ODDs* were distributed across the
223 proximal ends of the chromosomes. For the expansion and generation of gene families, gene
224 duplication plays a vital role which needed to be studied for *St2ODDs* in *S. tuberosum*. Thus, we
225 analysed gene duplication events for *2ODDs* in *S. tuberosum* (Hofberger et al., 2015). Gene
226 duplication events occurs due to uneven crossing over, chromosome duplication. The genes with
227 80% or more identity located on the same chromosome, were considered as duplication events.
228 Tandem duplication is defined earlier as the duplication event within 5 Mb region of a chromosome
229 while other duplication events are characterized as segmental duplication (Agarwal et al., 2016).
230 Gene duplication events were analysed for *St2ODDs* genes and the identified events were
231 confirmed for tandem duplication and segmental duplication for their genome wide expansion. On
232 the basis of chromosomal location, gene clusters were observed on chromosome 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, and
233 11 (Fig. 1). A total of 139 duplicated genes were found on *S. tuberosum* genome which showed
234 sixty seven percent of *St2ODDs* were originated by duplication events i.e. tandem and segmental
235 (Fig. 1). Further, fifty-six percent of duplication events were tandem duplications and forty-four
236 percent of duplication events were segmental duplications. This suggests that most of the
237 expansion of *St2ODDs* in *S. tuberosum* is due to tandem duplication. The Synonymous (Ks) and
238 Non-synonymous (Ka) values were calculated and their ratios (Ka/Ks) depicted the nature of
239 selection. The Ka/Ks ratio > 1 depicts positive selection, Ka/Ks = 1 depicts neutral selection, and
240 Ka/Ks < 1 depicts purifying selection or negative selection. For *St2ODDs* the Ka/Ks ratios were
241 calculated and then evaluated whether the selection pressure was the driving force for evolution or
242 not (Liu et al., 2014). In this study, 134/139 of duplicated *St2ODDs* experienced negative or
243 purifying selection (Table 1) among them thirty three pairs of duplication events of *St2ODDs* had
244 Ka/Ks less than 0.3 suggesting their lower functional divergence during evolution However 5 pairs
245 of duplicated *St2ODDs* experienced positive selection..

246

247 **3.3. Phylogenetic analysis of 2ODDs in potato**

248 To understand the phylogenetic relationship between all the identified *St2ODDs*, phylogenetic tree
249 was constructed. Based on the phylogenetic tree *St2ODDs* could be divided into eight groups (1-
250 8) on their functional aspects (Fig. 2) which were based on gene ontology studies and homology

251 with characterized *A. thaliana* proteins. Amongst them the largest group was containing 2-
252 Oxoglutarate dioxygenases (2OGs). While 38 genes were having gibberellin oxidases (GAOXs)
253 function. Flavanone Synthase (FNS) function was observed in 22 genes and 10 genes have 1-
254 aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic acid oxidases (ACOs) function. Other functional groups were
255 observed including downy mildew resistance 6 (DMR6), senescence related genes (SRGs),
256 Dioxygenase for auxin oxidation, and jasmonate induced oxygenase genes.

257

258 **3.4. Gene structure and motif analysis of *St2ODDs***

259 *St2ODDs* have diversified gene structure as exonic number of the identified *St2ODDs* varied from
260 2 to 14 in number (Fig. 3A). *St2ODD54* contained maximum number of exons (14), according to
261 Fig. 3. Next the protein sequence of all *St2ODDs* were examined for the presence of different
262 motifs using Multiple Expectation Maximization for Motif Elicitation (MEME). We identified ten
263 different conserved motifs named motif 1 to motif 10 (Fig. 4) dispersed throughout the protein
264 sequences. Four motifs (motif 1, 2, 3, and 4) were distributed throughout on *St2ODDs* and motif
265 5-10 were present specifically in different clusters. Similar clusters showed similar distribution of
266 motifs based on their functions. The conserved motifs and their sequences are shown in the
267 supplemental information (Table S4).

268 Further the identified motifs were analysed and motif 6 contained active site amino acid residues
269 Asparagine (N), Tyrosine (Y), Histidine (H) and Aspartic acid (D). Motif 1 contained active site
270 amino acid residues Histidine (H), Arginine (R) and Serine (S) which are conserved throughout
271 the eight groups showing the importance of motif 6 and motif 1 in *St2ODDs* enzyme family for
272 functioning. The amino acids N, Y, R, and S are responsible for interacting with 2 OG and the
273 amino acids H, H and D are responsible for interacting with Fe (II), which is a cofactor (Takehara
274 et al., 2020). The conserved active amino acid residues suggests their potential role in interactions
275 with their substrate and the functioning of these identified *St2ODDs*.

276

277 **3.5. Protein-Ligand interactions of *St2ODDs***

278 The 3D structures of representative members of FNS, GaOx, and ACOs each group based on their
279 function were modelled using SWISS-MODEL on the basis of homology. All the selected groups
280 have vital roles in flavonoid biosynthesis, gibberellin biosynthesis and ethylene biosynthesis which

281 needed to be studied for further understanding the substrate binding and functioning of these
282 proteins and are shown in Fig. 5. The active amino acid residues for 2OG binding and iron co-
283 factor binding with FNS were previously described (Sun et al., 2015). Similarly, the active amino
284 acid residues responsible for 2OG and iron co-factor binding with GaOx were previously described
285 (Takehara et al., 2020). For ACOs the active residues were previously described and used as
286 reference for finding the active amino acid residues in *St2ODDs*. (Zhang et al., 2004)The multiple
287 sequence alignment of the 3 groups having FNS, GaOx, and ACO function were made and
288 visualized in which the active amino acids N, Y, R, and S responsible for interacting with 2 OG
289 were conserved for binding with FNS and GaOx. For ACO the binding site for bicarbonate were
290 also conserved i.e. R and R. However the co-factor binding i.e. Fe-II, the amino acids (H, H, and
291 D) were conserved in the 3 groups and showed in Fig. 6. These conserved residues suggests the
292 functional importance of these residues for the possible interactions with substrates and co-factors.
293 In this study few *St2ODDs*, have altered active amino acid residues inferring their possible
294 functional divergence. For further validating the the involvement of these active amino acid
295 residues, docking was performed. Hydrogen and hydrophobic interactions were studied between
296 *St2ODD29*, *St2ODD124* of GaOXs and 2-Oxoglutaric acid (CID 51). *St2ODD85*, *St2ODD87* of
297 FNS and 2-Oxoglutaric acid (CID 51). *St2ODD118*, *St2ODD120* of ACOs and Bicarbonate (CID
298 769) (Fig.7A-B). The docking results of *St2ODD29* and 2-Oxoglutaric acid showed hydrogen
299 bond interaction with R292 and hydrophobic interactions with S294, Q234, E94. The docking
300 results of *St2ODD124* and 2-Oxoglutaric acid showed hydrogen bond interactions with R263,
301 S265 and hydrophobic interactions with L205, S207. Interactions of *St2ODD118* and bicarbonate
302 showed hydrogen bonds with R244, Q239 and hydrophobic interactions with A238, Y162.
303 Interactions of *St2ODD120* and bicarbonate showed hydrogen bonds with R235 and hydrophobic
304 interactions with R175, H234, H177 (Fig.7C-D). The docking results of *St2ODD85* and 2-
305 Oxoglutaric acid showed hydrogen bond interaction with S317 and hydrophobic interactions with
306 R315, Y232. The docking results of *St2ODD87* and 2-Oxoglutaric acid showed hydrogen bond
307 interactions with S317, L264, I316 and hydrophobic interactions with R315 (Fig. 7E-F). These
308 results validated the role of the conserved amino acids in stabilizing and interacting with the
309 substrates responsible for leading to the plant pathways.

310

311 **3.6.Expression pattern of *St2ODDs* under drought, salt, and heat stresses**

312 Abiotic stresses plays a crucial role in the growth and yield of the potato and to explore the
313 potential roles of *St2ODDs* against these abiotic stresses, expression levels of *St2ODDs* under
314 drought, salt, and heat treatments were measured using available RNA-seq data. On the basis of
315 log₂ fragments per kilobase of transcript per million fragments (FPKM) values, expression
316 patterns were identified (Fig. 8). Under salt stress, 71 genes were differentially expressed, 39%
317 (15/38) of gibberellin oxidases (GAOXs) which part in GA biosynthesis and catabolism pathway
318 are expressed in salt stress (Hu et al 2021) and 30 % (3/10) of 1-aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic
319 acid oxidases (ACOs) which part in ethylene biosynthesis are expressed in salt stress (Chang et
320 al., 2019) (Fig7). Under heat stress, seven genes were upregulated among them *St2ODD113*
321 belongs to GAOXs and fifteen genes were downregulated *St2ODD125* and *St2ODD119* encodes
322 GAOXs and ACOs respectively (Fig. 7). Under drought stress, twenty nine genes were
323 differentially expressed *St2ODD130*, *St2ODD54*, and *St2ODD25* were upregulated. Thirteen
324 genes were downregulated under drought stress. *St2ODD73*, *St2ODD10*, *St2ODD34*, *St2ODD99*,
325 *St2ODD127*, *St2ODD17*, *St2ODD125*, and *St2ODD30* belongs to the GaOx group. *St2ODD115*
326 and *St2ODD56* belongs to the ACOs group. *St2ODD195*, *St2ODD189*, and *St2ODD193* belongs
327 to the FNS group. The expression patterns of *St2ODDs* gene family suggested their role in various
328 stress conditions and some of them are downregulating or upregulating in all three stresses or in
329 groups suggesting their role in accordance to abiotic stress.

330

331 **3.7.Effect of *St2ODDs* expression under drought and salt stress**

332 To evaluate the role of *St2ODDs* under drought stress and salt stress the gene expression levels of
333 nine *St2ODDs* were done. The gene expression levels of *St2ODD54*, *St2ODD25*, *St2ODD130*,
334 *St2ODD22*, and *St2ODD112* were measured under drought treatment after 3 days and in
335 rewatering after 3 days by qRT-PCR. For salt treatment, the gene expression levels of *St2ODD138*,
336 *St2ODD76*, *St2ODD91*, and *St2ODD34* were measured after 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h. The genes
337 were selected based on the FPKM values, the higher value change genes were selected and
338 validated via qRT-PCR.

339 The expression levels of *St2ODDs* under drought stress were analysed in which *St2ODD130*,
340 *St2ODD54* and *St2ODD25* showed increased relative expression under drought stress with 2.26
341 Fold change (FC), 1.71 Fold change (FC) and 2.5 Fold change (FC) respectively (Fig. 9A).
342 However, the relative expression of *St2ODD22*, and *St2ODD112* downregulated in drought

343 condition with 0.47 FC, and 0.45 FC respectively but showed significant change in FC after
344 rewatering.

345 Under salt stress, the expression levels of the *St2ODDs* were measured in one month old seedlings
346 at different time points, i.e. 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h. Four genes showed increased expression
347 levels i.e. *St2ODD138*, *St2ODD76*, *St2ODD91* and *St2ODD34* throughout the salt stress which is
348 in accordance with the expression patterns of the available RNASeq data (Fig. 9B). *St2ODD138*
349 was upregulated with FC of 1.77 after 24 h, 3.04 FC after 48 h, 4.1 FC after 72 h, and 5.71 FC
350 after 96 h. *St2ODD76* was upregulated with FC of 1.42 after 24 h, 3.44 FC after 48 h, 5.58 FC
351 after 72 h, and 8.66 FC after 96 h. *St2ODD91* was upregulated consistently throughout with FC of
352 3.61 after 24 h, 5.18 FC after 48 h, 7.6 FC after 72 h, and 16.7 FC after 96 h (Fig. 8B) *St2ODD34*
353 was upregulated with FC of 1.35 after 24 h, 1.99 FC after 48 h, 3.3 FC after 72 h, and 3.71 FC
354 after 96 h.

355 The elevated relative expression levels suggests the potential involvement of *St2ODDs* with
356 respect to the abiotic stresses which poses huge agricultural loss globally to the potato.

357

358

359 **4.Discussion**

360

361 Potato is the third most important crop consumed globally and is of great significance to humans.
362 Its growth, tuber size and tuber number is affected by various environmental stresses (Schafleitner
363 et al., 2007; Eiasu, Soundy & Hammes, 2007). Various abiotic factors affecting potato yield are
364 salinity, drought, and heat (Deblonde & Ledent, 2001; Levy & Veilleux, 2007). The *2ODDs*
365 belongs to the *2OGDs* superfamily which is the second largest family in plants. They plays a
366 crucial role in an array of biological processes involved in plant metabolism including in
367 gibberellin biosynthesis, ethylene biosynthesis, auxin catabolism, etc and are involved in
368 secondary metabolism and are of great research interest (Farrow et al., 2014). However, *2ODDs*
369 are also elevated under various abiotic stresses including cold, salt, drought stress (Mahajan,
370 Sudesh & Yadav, 2014; Meng et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2020a). Genome wide analysis is an
371 important approach for identifying the biological roles of *St2ODDs* gene family in potato. The
372 *2ODDs* have been characterized previously in *S. lycopersicum* and *C. sativa*, interestingly, the
373 *St2ODDs* have not been characterised in *S. tuberosum* (Potato) (Wei et al.; Zhu et al., 2022).

374

375 The approach for identifying *St2ODDs* using BlastP search the known proteins of related families
376 against potato proteome. HMM profiles of *St2ODDs* from Pfam database were searched against
377 HMM profiles were followed as reported earlier (Shumayla et al., 2019; Verma & Singh, 2021).
378 Our study promotes the evolutionary, functional, structural aspects, interaction aspects of
379 *St2ODDs* family genes with different substrates in potato. Here we identified a total of 205 *2ODDs*
380 in potato which is comparable to the 131 *Sl2ODDs* identified by Wei et al., 2021 in tomato having
381 various functions like ACOs, GAOxs, and F3H etc. The identified *St2ODDs* were thoroughly
382 distributed across the 12 chromosomes of potato and the gene duplication events i.e tandem and
383 segmental duplication revealed that majority of duplication events (56%) are due to tandem
384 duplications. Moreover, sixty seven percent of *St2ODDs* family expansion is due to the
385 duplication events. The non-synonymous (Ka) and synonymous (Ks) values and their ratios were
386 calculated for determining the nature of selection for the expansion of *St2ODDs* in potato. The
387 results infer that most of the *St2ODDs* were expanded as a result of negative selection or purifying
388 selection and have lower functional divergence.

389

390 The identified *St2ODDs* were analysed for evolutionary relationship and based on their functions
391 classified in eight groups having ACOs, involving in ethylene biosynthesis (Chang et al., 2019),
392 GAOxs, involving in gibberellin biosynthesis (Huang et al., 2015), FNS, involving in flavonoid
393 biosynthesis pathway (Tohge, Perez De Souza & Fernie, 2017) and the classification is consistent
394 with the previous studies (Wei et al., 2021). All the identified *St2ODDs* have conserved 2OG-
395 FeII_Oxy (PF03171) signature domain and also have the conserved DIOX_N (PF14226) domain
396 which is a characteristic of the *2ODD* superfamily (Kawai, Ono & Mizutani, 2014b). Motif
397 analysis showed that similar clusters have similar motif structure and Motif 1, 2, 3, and 6 were
398 present throughout the *St2ODDs* inferring to have important roles in the activity of *St2ODDs*.
399 Motif 6 contained active site amino acid residues Y, H & D and motif 1 contained active site amino
400 acid residues H, R and S inferring their roles in binding with specific substrate and cofactor i.e.
401 Fe(II). Few motifs were specific to certain genes like motif 8 and 10 was specific to *St2ODD203*,
402 *St2ODD187*, *St2ODD93* etc. The roles of these specific motifs further needs to be studied for their
403 precise relationship and they may have functional specificity in different class.

404

405 The protein sequences of the identified *St2ODDs* were aligned and the active amino sites were
406 predicted, the alignment showed that *St2ODDs* possessed (HxD_x_nH and Yx_nR_xS) motifs specific
407 to Fe(II) and 2ODD binding (Takehara et al., 2020). Similarly, sequence alignment of FLS1
408 (flavonol synthase), belonging to the 2ODD superfamily in various plants including *T. aestivum*,
409 *A. thaliana*, *Dendrobium officinale* etc. showed similar active amino acid residues (Yu et al.,
410 2021). The active amino acid residues were also conserved in ANS (anthocyanidin synthase)
411 belonging to the 2ODD (Xu et al., 2008) and inferring their functional importance for the
412 functioning of these enzymes. However, few *St2ODDs* didn't have the conserved active amino
413 acid residues suggesting plausible alterations in their functionality during evolution. The protein
414 3D structures of the *St2ODDs* representative members of GaOx, FNS, and ACC were made and
415 visualised for active residues Y, R, and S and RxR(Fig5) responsible for the binding with 2OG
416 and bicarbonate respectively. All the represented members had the residues in close vicinity in the
417 protein 3D structures as shown in earlier studies (Takehara et al., 2020.) which confirms the
418 presence of binding sites for the substrate. After docking with specific substrates, results showed
419 potential hydrogen and hydrophobic interactions between *St2ODD29*, *St2ODD124* of GaOXs and
420 2-Oxoglutaric acid (CID 51). *St2ODD85*, *St2ODD87* of FNS and 2-Oxoglutaric acid (CID 51).
421 *St2ODD118*, *St2ODD120* of ACOs and Bicarbonate (CID 769). Various hydrophobic interactions
422 were involved which may facilitates the stabilisation of the complex. Our results suggests the
423 presence of conserved residues in *St2ODDs* and their potential interactions with their respective
424 substrates. The physiochemical properties of these identified *St2ODDs* were analysed and various
425 properties like amino acid residues, molecular weight and exonic number i.e. 2 to 14 in number
426 were in compliance with the previous studies (Wei et al., 2021) which infers the similarity in
427 physiochemical properties of the 2ODDs across plants.

428

429 Abiotic stresses plays an important role in the growth, and, yield of the plant. Potato is influenced
430 by various abiotic stresses including heat, salt, and drought stress. Heat stress depends upon the
431 degree and duration of heat which triggers the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and
432 oxidative stress which alters the metabolism, growth and productivity of plants (Hasanuzzaman et
433 al., 2013). Salt stress is responsible for hindering plant growth, photosynthesis, and germination
434 as well (Wang et al., 2021). Drought stress also hinders plant growth and affects photosynthesis
435 due to the stomatal closure. Plant growth hormones like auxins, gibberellins etc. also modulates

436 response towards drought (Aroca, 2013) and 2ODDs are responsible for the biosynthesis of these
437 hormones ultimately affecting plant response to these stresses.

438

439 In this study, the expression patterns of *St2ODDs* were observed under heat, salt, and drought
440 stress. The results showed an upregulated response of 34 genes when administered with salt stress.

441 Out of 71 differentially expressed genes, 15 genes belongs to the GAOXs and 3 genes belongs to
442 the ACOs, which are involved in the biosynthesis of gibberellins and ethylene subsequently.

443 Various 2ODDs have been expressed in plant systems to check their role with administered abiotic
444 stresses. Overexpressed F3H from *Camellia sinensis* in tobacco showed increased salt tolerance
445 (Mahajan, Sudesh & Yadav, 2014) similarly FNS1 (*T. aestivum*), belonging to the 2ODD
446 superfamily was overexpressed in *A. thaliana* and showed an increased root length under salt
447 stress.

448

449 Under heat stress, seven genes were upregulated after 6 hours but downregulated after 3 days while
450 two genes were upregulated throughout under heat stress. Fifteen genes were downregulated under
451 heat stress. Previous studies have reported the role of 2ODDs under heat stress protection.

452 Overexpression F3HL protein of *S. lycopersicum* in tobacco reported increased expression levels
453 of *S/F3HL* under chilling stress and faster seed germination, growth levels when compared to
454 control (Meng et al., 2015). Likewise, the identified genes associated with heat stress may be
455 associated with heat stress protection and can be studied.

456

457 Under drought stress, twenty nine genes were differentially expressed *St2ODD130*, *St2ODD54*,
458 and *St2ODD25* were upregulated. Thirteen genes were downregulated under drought stress.

459 Overexpression studies in *Arabidopsis* showed FNS1 of *P. nutans* and LDOX2 of *Reaumuria*
460 *trigyna* conferred increased resistant to drought by improving antioxidant capacity and increased
461 tolerance to drought, UV-B subsequently in *Arabidopsis* (Wang et al., 2020b), (Li et al., 2021).

462 The expression patterns may suggest the role of *St2ODDs* with the elevated abiotic stresses.

463

464 The expression levels of *St2ODDs* were checked using qRT-PCR under drought stress after 3 days
465 and in rewatering after 3 days in which *St2ODD130*, *St2ODD54*, and *St2ODD25* showed increased
466 relative expression under drought stress and normal expression after rewatering. The expression

467 levels of *St2ODDs* were also checked using qRT-PCR under salt stress after 24h, 48h, 72h, and
468 96h. Four *St2ODDs* showed increased expression levels which is in compliance with the
469 expression patterns of RNAseq data . All these results infer the potential roles of the identified
470 *St2ODDs* in potato under different abiotic stresses which further needs to be studied using
471 overexpression systems and could be used for genome editing studies for improving desired traits
472 like tolerance to abiotic stresses in potato. Overall our study forms a knowledgebase and provides
473 functional insights in the *2ODD* gene family in potato which can be further explored to identify
474 new aspects of *2ODDs*. The roles of the identified *St2ODDs* could further be validated by *in-vitro*
475 studies. Overexpression and gene knock-down studies using designer nucleases like CRISPR/Cas
476 could be used to validate the potential roles of *St2ODDs* in different abiotic stresses (Alok et al.,
477 2021).

478

479 **Conclusion**

480

481 In conclusion, our results gave insight in the *St2ODDs* which was not studied earlier. Various
482 aspects of *St2ODDs* including chromosomal locations, gene structures, motif analysis, gene
483 duplications, and evolutionary relationships were studied which were in accordance with previous
484 studies. The structural aspects of *St2ODDs* were explored and confirmed for the presence of
485 conserved active sites and their potential interactions with their substrates. The docking and
486 structural domains of identified *St2ODDs* may contribute in future studies. Some candidate genes
487 having roles in various abiotic stresses like heat, salt, and drought have been identified in
488 accordance to the expression pattern which was further validated for drought stress and salt stress
489 by qRT-PCR. *St2ODD130*, *St2ODD25* and *St2ODD54* was found to be upregulated under drought
490 stress and *St2ODD76*, *St2ODD91*, *St2ODD138* and *St2ODD34* showed significant FC under salt
491 stress. The identified genes having roles in association with abiotic stresses i.e. drought stress and
492 salt stress can be further explored. Overexpression studies, CRISPR/Cas could further validate the
493 role of *St2ODDs*.

494

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502

503 **Credit authorship contribution statement**

504 KS; conceived the idea, designed the experiments, analysed the results and finalized the
505 manuscript. HC and A; collected and analysed the data, compiled the results. HC; performed
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512 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

513 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

514

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516

517

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742 **Figures Legends:**

743

744 **Figure 1:** Schematic representation of the chromosomal distribution of *St2ODD* genes across the
745 twelve chromosomes of potato and the black lines represent the duplicated gene pairs.

746

747 **Figure 2:** Phylogenetic analysis of *St2ODDs* in potato. The *St2ODD* amino acid sequences were
748 aligned using ClustalW, the phylogenetic tree was constructed using neighbour-joining (NJ)
749 method with 1000 bootstrap and complete deletion in MEGA 7.

750

751 **Figure 3:** Gene Structures of *St2ODDs*. Gene structure of *St2ODDs* representing exons, introns,
752 and upstream/downstream are represented by blue, black lines, and orange respectively.

753

754 **Figure 4:** Motif composition *in St2ODDs*. *St2ODDs* conserved motifs were represented in
755 different colored boxes: motif 1 (red), motif 2 (cyan), motif 3 (light green), motif 4 (purple), motif
756 5 (mustard), motif 6 (dark green), motif 7 navy), motif 8 (pink), motif 9 (orange), and motif 10
757 (yellow).

758

759 **Figure 5:** A schematic representation of the 3D structure of representative members of **A-B** GaOx
760 (*St2ODD29* and *St2ODD124*). 2-OG binding sites Y, R, and S are represented in red color, while

761 Fe(II) binding sites H, D, and H are represented in blue color. **C-D** ACC (*St2ODD118* and
762 *St2ODD120*). Bicarbonate binding sites R, and R are represented in pink color, while Fe(II)
763 binding sites H, D, and H are represented in blue color. **E-F** FNS (*St2ODD85* and *St2ODD87*). 2-
764 OG binding sites N, Y, R, and S are represented in red color, while Fe(II) binding sites H, H, and
765 D are represented in blue color.

766

767 **Figure 6:** Multiple alignment of **A)** GaOx function containing *St2ODDs*. Active amino acids
768 Tyrosine (Y), Arginine (R), and Serine (S) responsible for interacting with 2 OG are represented
769 with blue triangles. The active residues Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible
770 for interacting with Fe (II) are represented with red triangles. **B)** FNS function containing
771 *St2ODDs*. Active amino acids Asparagine (N), Tyrosine (Y), Arginine (R), and Serine (S)
772 responsible for interacting with 2 OG are represented with blue triangles. The active residues
773 Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible for interacting with Fe (II) are
774 represented with red triangles. **C)** ACC function containing *St2ODDs*. V Active amino acids
775 Arginine (R), and Arginine (R) responsible for interacting with bicarbonate are represented with
776 yellow triangles. The active residues Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible
777 for interacting with Fe (II) are represented with red triangles.

778

779 **Figure 7:** Hydrogen and hydrophobic interaction profile of **A-B)** *St2ODD29* and *St2ODD124* with
780 2-oxoglutaric acid (2OG) respectively. **C-D)** *St2ODD118* and *St2ODD120* with bicarbonate
781 respectively. **E-F)** *St2ODD85* and *St2ODD87* with 2OG. The analysis was done using Discovery
782 studio and represented the residues involved in interaction.

783

784 **Figure 8:** Differential expression profiling of *St2ODDs* under abiotic stressors **A** Drought stress,
785 **B** Salt stress and **C** Heat stress.

786

787 **Figure 9:** Real-time quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)
788 analyses of *St2ODDs* in plants **A.** under drought stress for the drought (DRT), rewatering (RWT)
789 conditions and are shown on the x-axis and the fold change on the y-axis. **B.** Under salt stress at
790 different time points 24h, 48h, 72h, 96h and are shown on the x-axis and the fold change on the y-
791 axis. The data were analysed by three biological repeats, and represented with mean \pm SD where
792 ***means $p < 0.001$. Raw Data for qRT-PCR for drought and salt stress are given in supplementary
793 table S5 respectively.

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795

796 **Tables Legends:**

797

798 **Table 1:** Duplicated *St2ODD* gene pairs with nonsynonymous substitution (K_a) rates and
799 synonymous substitution (K_s), K_a/K_s , selection type, and duplication type (TD: Tandem
800 duplication and SD: Segmental duplication).

801

802 **Supplementary Tables**

803

804 **Table S1:** Predicted sequence features of *St2ODDs*.

805 **Table S2:** Grid box dimension co-ordinates (X, Y, and Z) and binding affinity in Kcal/mol of the
806 ten groups (1-10).

807 **Table S3:** Primers used for qRT-PCR.

808 **Table S4:** Sequences of conserved motifs (1-10) in *St2ODDs*.

809 **Table S5:** Raw Data for qRT-PCR result for drought stress and salt stress.

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Figure 1

Figure 1

Schematic representation of the chromosomal distribution of *St2ODD* genes across the twelve chromosomes of potato and the black lines represent the duplicated gene pairs.

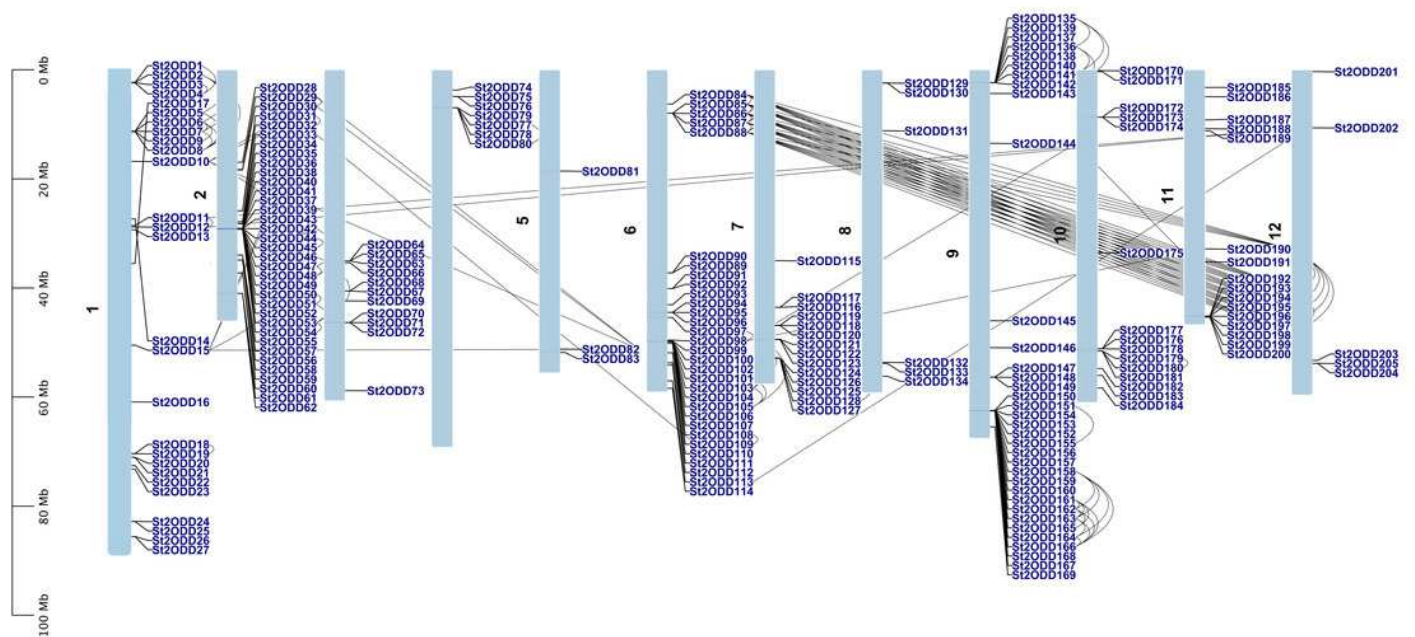


Figure 2

Figure 2

Phylogenetic analysis of *St2ODDs* in potato. The *St2ODD* amino acid sequences were aligned using ClustalW, the phylogenetic tree was constructed using neighbour-joining (NJ) method with 1000 bootstrap and complete deletion in MEGA 7.

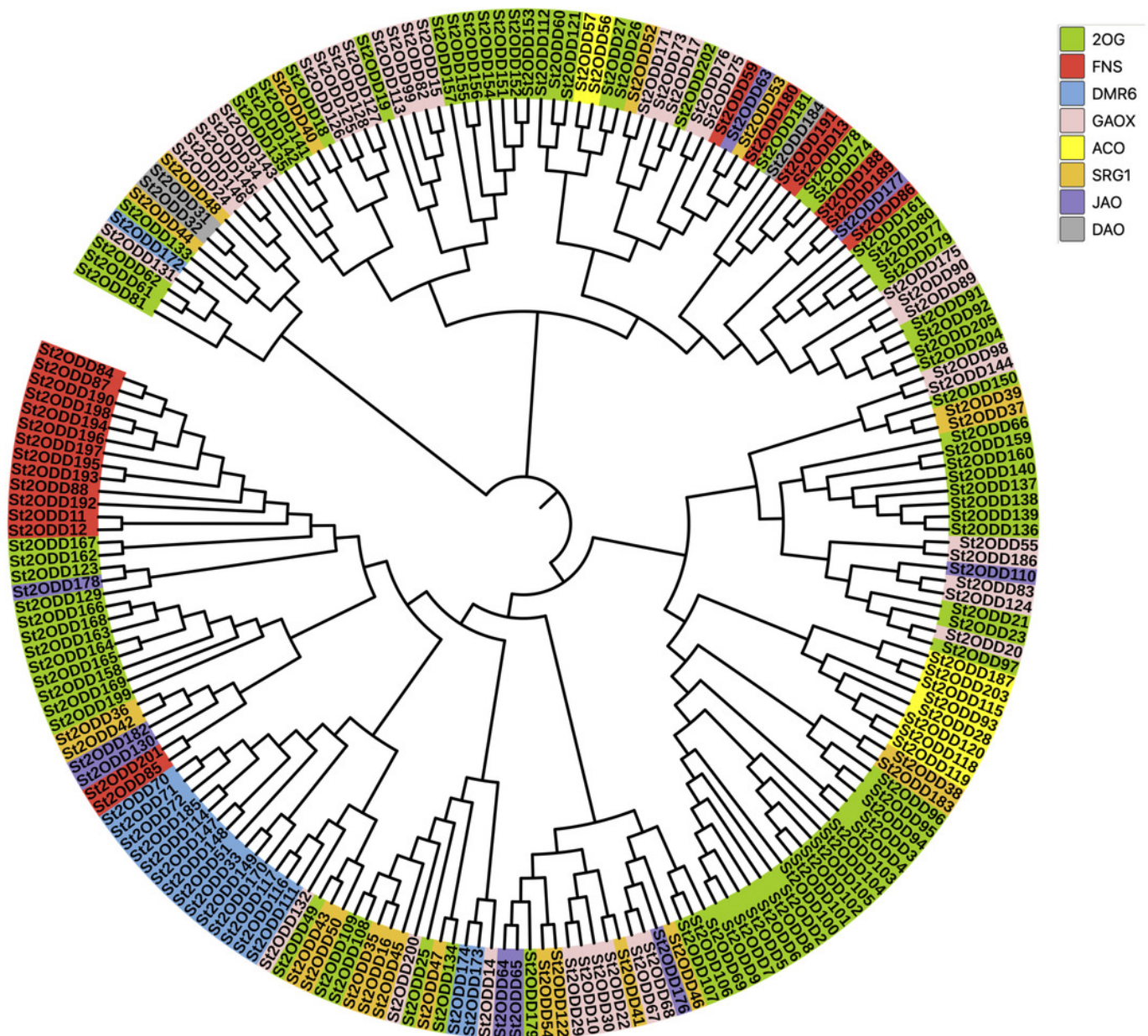


Figure 3

Figure 3

Gene Structures of *St2ODDs*. Gene structure of *St2ODDs* representing exons, introns, and upstream/downstream are represented by blue, black lines, and orange respectively.

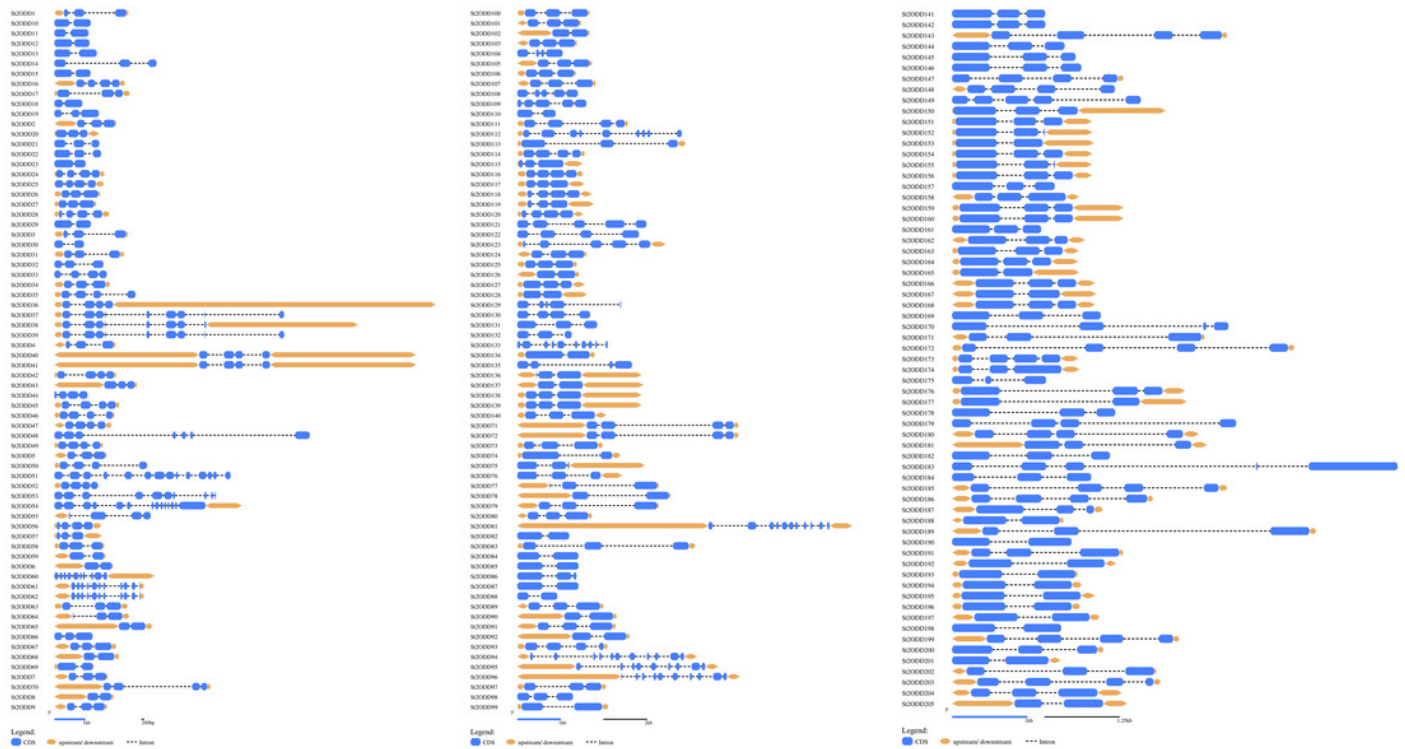


Figure 4

Figure 4

Motif composition in *St2ODDs*. *St2ODDs* conserved motifs were represented in different colored boxes: motif 1 (red), motif 2 (cyan), motif 3 (light green), motif 4 (purple), motif 5 (mustard), motif 6 (dark green), motif 7 navy), motif 8 (pink), motif 9 (orange), and motif 10 (yellow).

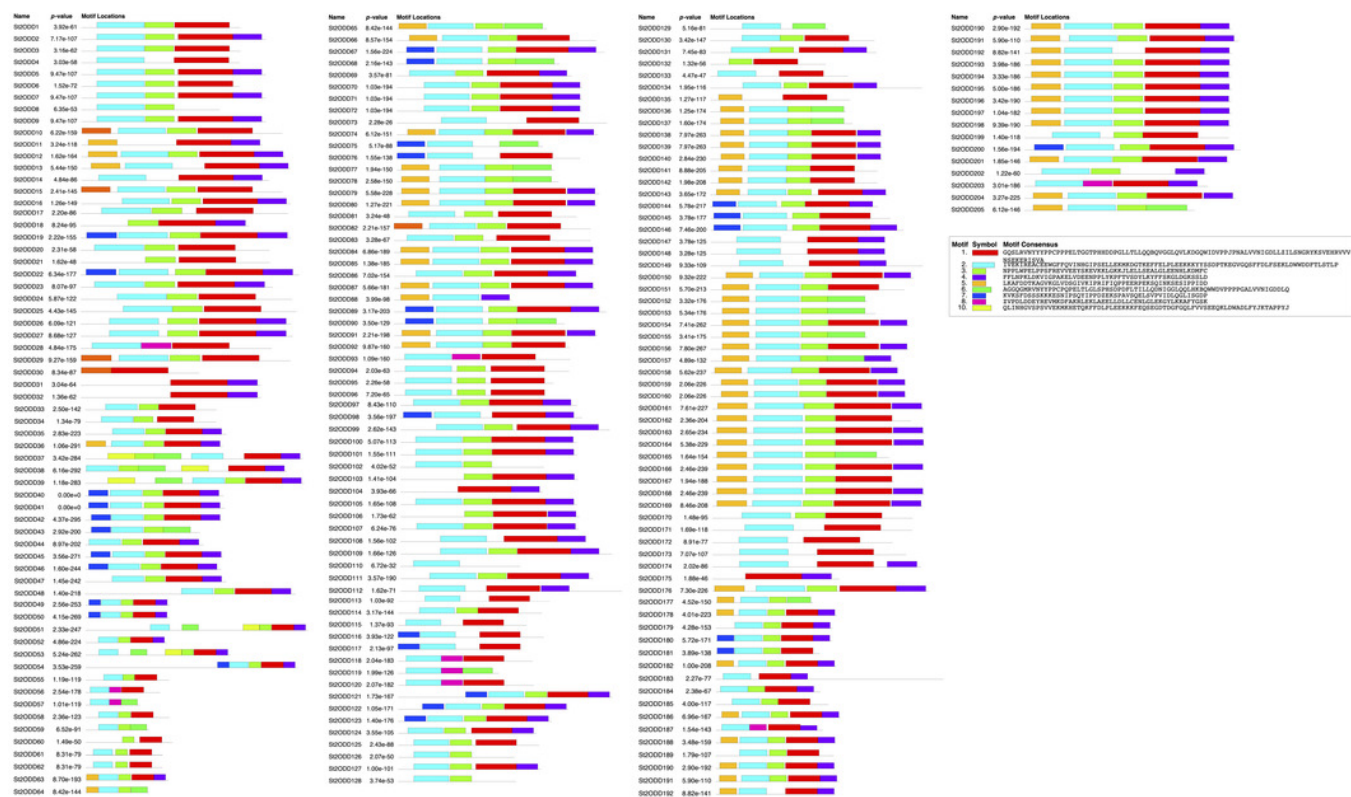


Figure 6

Figure 6

Multiple alignment of **A)** GaOx function containing *St2ODDs*. Active amino acids Tyrosine (Y), Arginine (R), and Serine (S) responsible for interacting with 2 OG are represented with blue triangles. The active residues Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible for interacting with Fe (II) are represented with red triangles. **B)** FNS function containing *St2ODDs*. Active amino acids Asparagine (N), Tyrosine (Y), Arginine (R), and Serine (S) responsible for interacting with 2 OG are represented with blue triangles. The active residues Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible for interacting with Fe (II) are represented with red triangles. **C)** ACC function containing *St2ODDs*. V Active amino acids Arginine (R), and Arginine (R) responsible for interacting with bicarbonate are represented with yellow triangles. The active residues Histidine (H), Histidine (H) and Aspartate (D) responsible for interacting with Fe (II) are represented with red triangles.

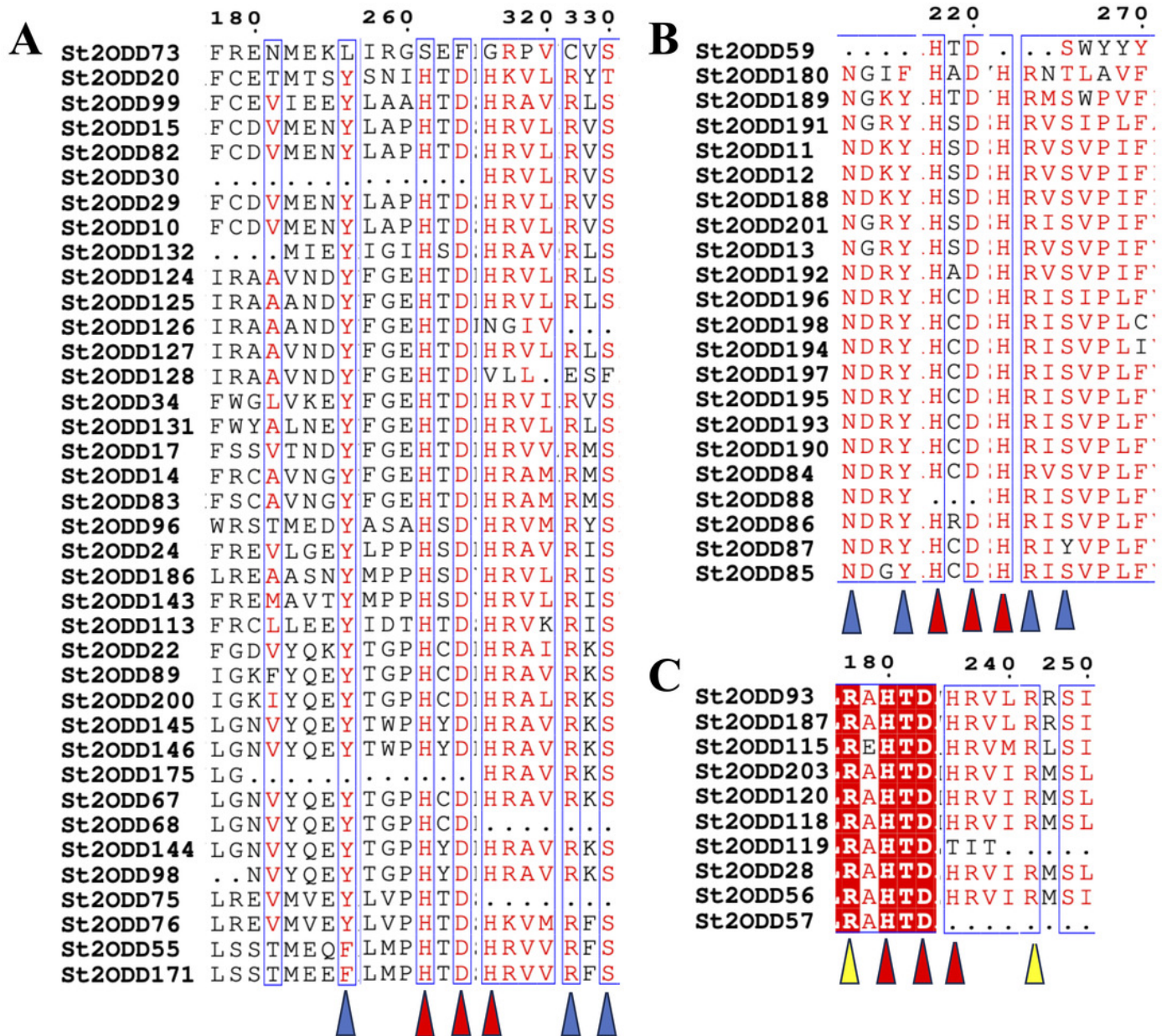


Figure 7

Figure 7

Hydrogen and hydrophobic interaction profile of **A-B)** *St2ODD29* and *St2ODD124* with 2-oxoglutaric acid (2OG) respectively. **C-D)** *St2ODD118* and *St2ODD120* with bicarbonate respectively. **E-F)** *St2ODD85* and *St2ODD87* with 2OG. The analysis was done using Discovery studio and represented the residues involved in interaction.

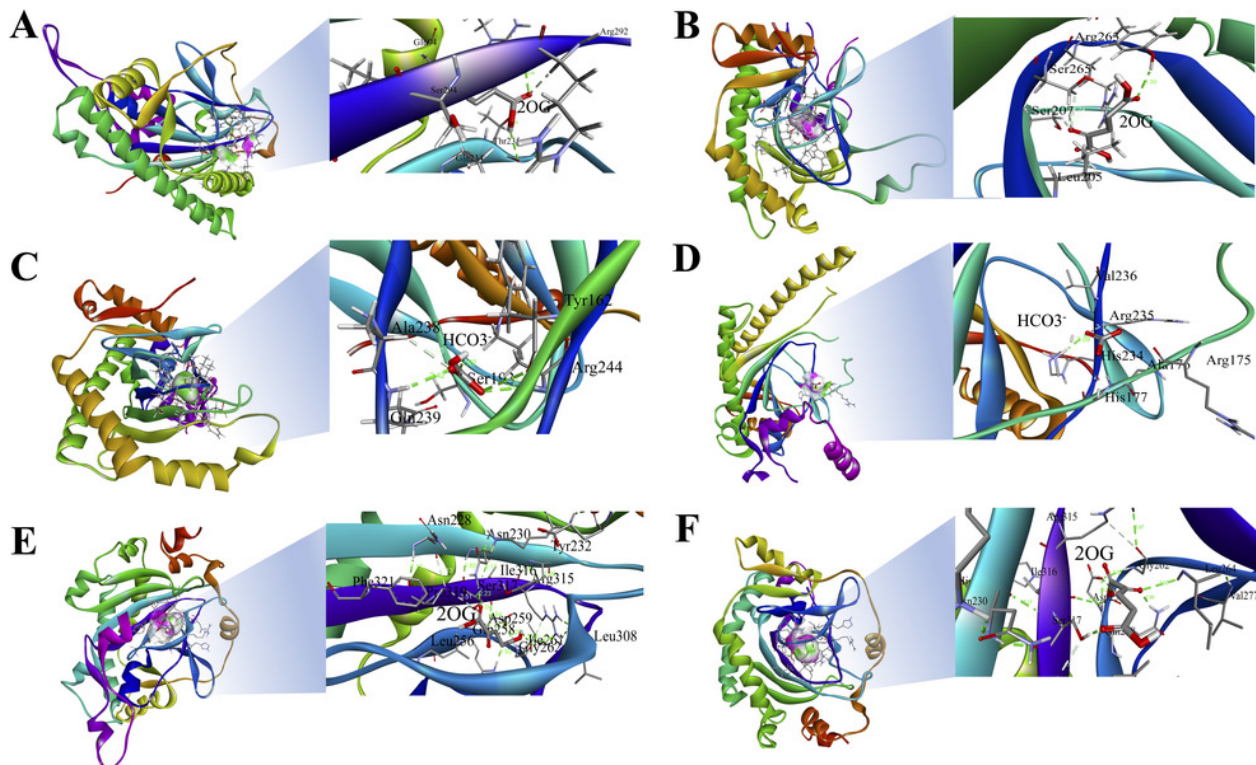


Figure 8

Figure 8

Differential expression profiling of *St2ODDs* under abiotic stressors **A** Drought stress, **B** Salt stress and **C** Heat stress.

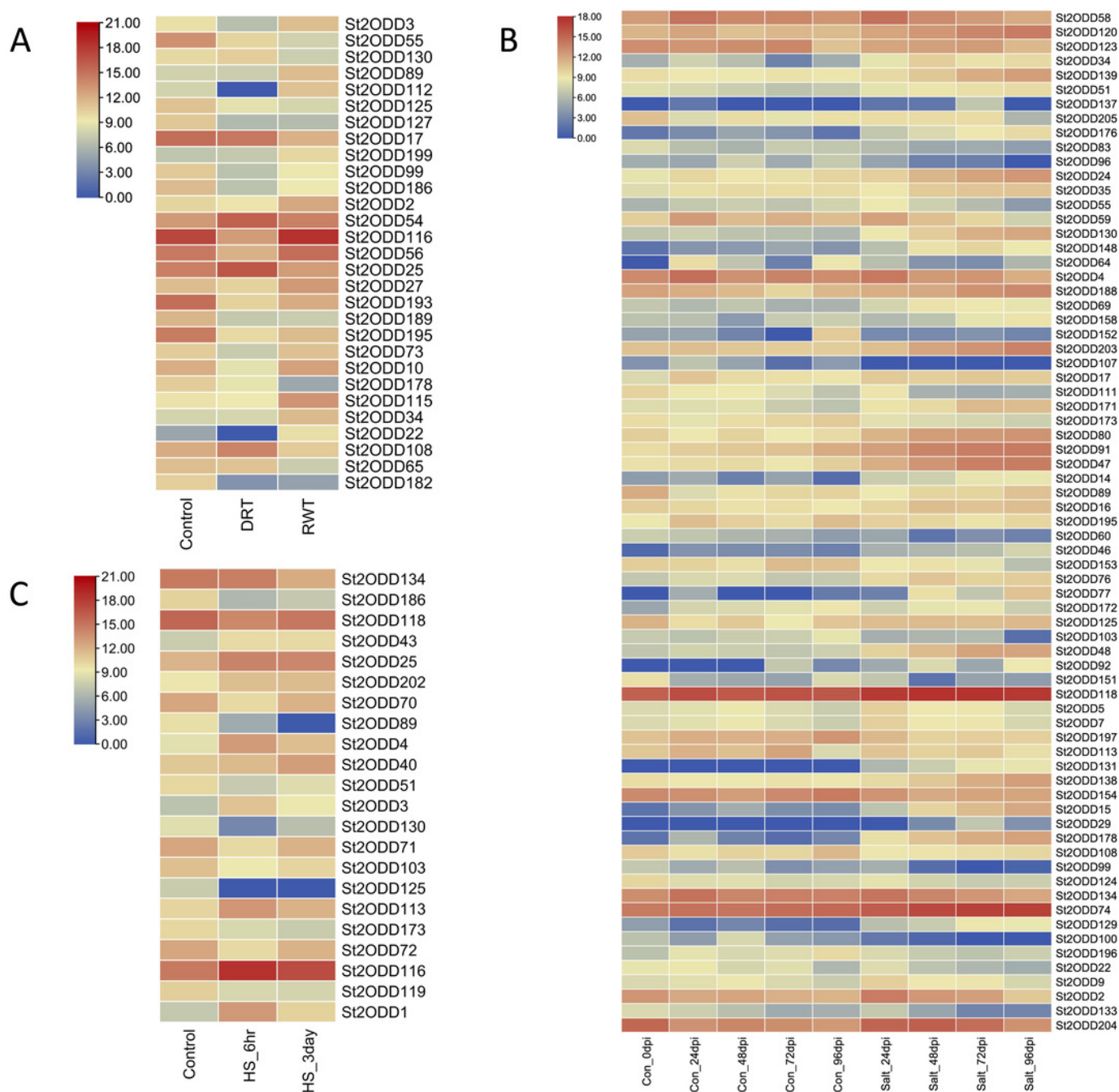


Figure 9

Figure 9

Real-time quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) analyses of *St2ODDs* in plants **A.** under drought stress for the drought (DRT), rewatering (RWT) conditions and are shown on the x-axis and the fold change on the y-axis. **B.** Under salt stress at different time points 24h, 48h, 72h, 96h and are shown on the x-axis and the fold change on the y-axis. The data were analysed by three biological repeats, and represented with mean \pm SD where ***means $p < 0.001$. Raw Data for qRT-PCR for drought and salt stress are given in supplementary table S5 respectively.

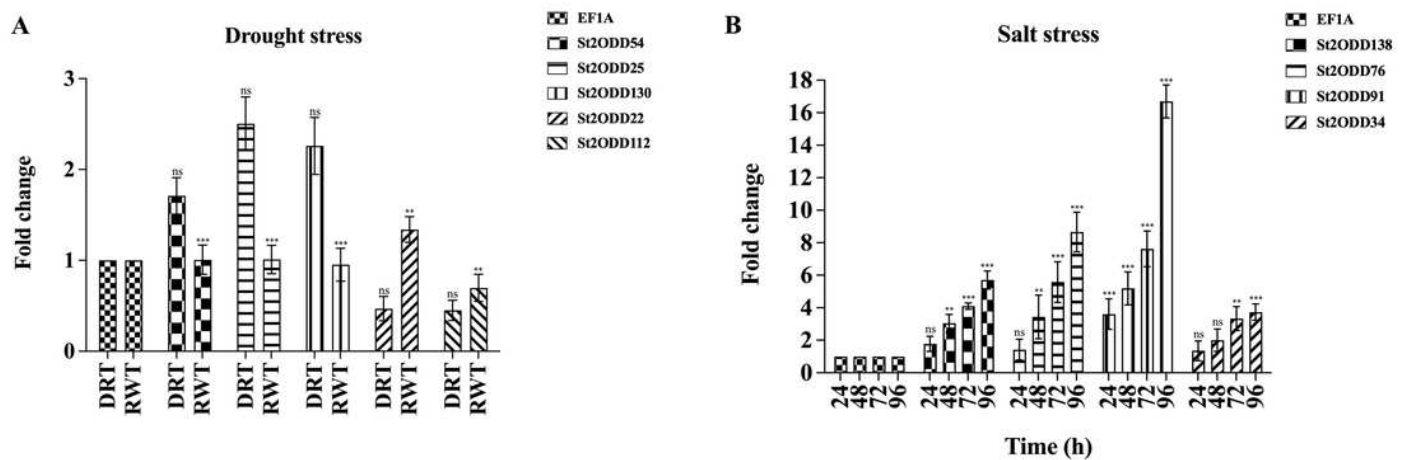


Table 1 (on next page)

Table 1

: Duplicated *St2ODD* gene pairs with nonsynonymous substitution (Ka) rates and synonymous substitution (Ks), Ka/Ks, selection type, and duplication type.

1

Dup Gene 1	Dup Gene 2	Ka	Ks	Ka/Ks	Selection	Duplication type
St2ODD144	St2ODD4	0.06569628	0.04190762	1.56764532	Positive	TD
St2ODD11	St2ODD7	0.00663721	0.01490115	0.44541598	Negative	SD
St2ODD2	St2ODD6	0.09652673	0.1050776	0.9186233	Negative	SD
St2ODD2	St2ODD5	0.00663721	0.01490115	0.44541598	Negative	SD
St2ODD2	St2ODD8	0.0186345	0.02378455	0.78347065	Negative	SD
St2ODD3	St2ODD4	0.06572274	0.04184643	1.57056977	Positive	TD
St2ODD5	St2ODD8	0.00970602	0.01008984	0.9619597	Negative	TD
St2ODD6	St2ODD7	0.08704825	0.08833728	0.98540787	Negative	TD
St2ODD6	St2ODD8	0.00439755	0.01007854	0.43632812	Negative	TD
St2ODD6	St2ODD9	0.08704825	0.08833728	0.98540787	Negative	TD
St2ODD7	St2ODD8	0.00970602	0.01008984	0.9619597	Negative	TD
St2ODD10	St2ODD15	0.05577109	0.19061954	0.29257806	Negative	SD
St2ODD10	St2ODD29	0.0237322	0.08128247	0.29197198	Negative	SD
St2ODD10	St2ODD30	0.04992497	0.1109401	0.45001735	Negative	SD
St2ODD10	St2ODD82	0.0528703	0.18635514	0.28370723	Negative	SD
St2ODD11	St2ODD12	0.06128759	0.15116171	0.40544385	Negative	TD
St2ODD11	St2ODD188	0.07898557	0.23428441	0.33713543	Negative	SD
St2ODD12	St2ODD188	0.036845	0.1478565	0.24919433	Negative	SD
St2ODD15	St2ODD29	0.06293806	0.20941455	0.30054294	Negative	SD
St2ODD15	St2ODD30	0.10259873	0.20577881	0.49858742	Negative	SD
St2ODD15	St2ODD82	0.06273337	0.21128955	0.29690712	Negative	SD
St2ODD18	St2ODD19	0.10511845	0.30308326	0.34683028	Negative	TD
St2ODD29	St2ODD30	0.03556222	0.06253621	0.56866604	Negative	TD
St2ODD29	St2ODD82	0.04824609	0.19460705	0.24791543	Negative	SD
St2ODD30	St2ODD82	0.09859509	0.21095941	0.46736519	Negative	SD

St2ODD31	St2ODD32	0.02620672	0.05593442	0.46852574	Negative	TD
St2ODD33	St2ODD114	0.06716191	0.13402513	0.50111431	Negative	SD
St2ODD42	St2ODD45	0.06402212	0.19993341	0.32021722	Negative	TD
St2ODD44	St2ODD47	0.07057711	0.29750572	0.23722942	Negative	TD
St2ODD44	St2ODD48	0.09400143	0.19247944	0.48837128	Negative	TD
St2ODD46	St2ODD53	0.16970163	0.40972685	0.41418235	Negative	TD
St2ODD47	St2ODD48	0.14488402	0.38971926	0.37176511	Negative	TD
St2ODD50	St2ODD51	0.12069077	0.34853361	0.34628157	Negative	TD
St2ODD51	St2ODD53	0.17161054	0.46632126	0.36800925	Negative	TD
St2ODD53	St2ODD54	0.35046972	0.81523819	0.42989856	Negative	TD
St2ODD77	St2ODD80	0.08738575	0.2360608	0.37018323	Negative	TD
St2ODD84	St2ODD85	0.04315687	0.186145	0.23184547	Negative	TD
St2ODD84	St2ODD86	0.04954394	0.20793712	0.23826406	Negative	TD
St2ODD84	St2ODD87	0.04834956	0.19757062	0.2447204	Negative	TD
St2ODD84	St2ODD190	0.04339296	0.12568765	0.34524439	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD193	0.05668885	0.14432865	0.39277613	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD194	0.07353332	0.256353	0.28684399	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD195	0.0561702	0.15104611	0.37187453	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD196	0.06644118	0.26447813	0.25121618	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD197	0.07020124	0.25027297	0.28049867	Negative	SD
St2ODD84	St2ODD198	0.06255558	0.270784	0.23101655	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD87	0.01434164	0.01789127	0.8015998	Negative	TD
St2ODD85	St2ODD86	0.0223309	0.01945004	1.14811592	Positive	TD
St2ODD85	St2ODD190	0.05515156	0.15103153	0.36516583	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD88	0.02882001	0.04695144	0.61382592	Negative	TD
St2ODD85	St2ODD195	0.07291675	0.19592791	0.3721611	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD193	0.06928318	0.19005848	0.3645361	Negative	SD

St2ODD85	St2ODD198	0.0776672	0.26823273	0.28955153	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD194	0.08839285	0.27488677	0.32156095	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD196	0.08118562	0.27035025	0.30029793	Negative	SD
St2ODD85	St2ODD197	0.09097925	0.26529128	0.34294097	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD87	0.02496672	0.01955304	1.27687138	Positive	TD
St2ODD86	St2ODD88	0.04117256	0.04574588	0.90002773	Negative	TD
St2ODD86	St2ODD190	0.06137565	0.16833057	0.36461381	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD193	0.07485809	0.17729158	0.42223152	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD194	0.09216987	0.265857	0.34668965	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD195	0.07931784	0.21289575	0.37256657	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD196	0.0857194	0.27485218	0.31187456	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD197	0.09645194	0.3121203	0.30902169	Negative	SD
St2ODD86	St2ODD198	0.0833017	0.26559101	0.31364654	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD88	0.0361952	0.04295253	0.84267917	Negative	TD
St2ODD87	St2ODD190	0.06040845	0.16179674	0.37336008	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD193	0.07461881	0.2016231	0.37009057	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD194	0.09053363	0.27815609	0.32547781	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD195	0.07806541	0.20848701	0.37443779	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD196	0.08464087	0.27357136	0.30939228	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD197	0.09643984	0.27850651	0.34627499	Negative	SD
St2ODD87	St2ODD198	0.08239731	0.27192378	0.3030162	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD190	0.06748491	0.15156264	0.44526081	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD193	0.0784197	0.20164162	0.38890631	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD194	0.10073583	0.23401431	0.43046866	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD195	0.08762846	0.18971131	0.46190424	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD196	0.09043122	0.25011537	0.36155802	Negative	SD
St2ODD88	St2ODD197	0.11408173	0.24645762	0.4628858	Negative	SD

St2ODD88	St2ODD198	0.09807243	0.22515042	0.43558626	Negative	SD
St2ODD97	St2ODD101	0.15082731	0.28041998	0.5378622	Negative	TD
St2ODD97	St2ODD103	0.1491623	0.29948343	0.49806528	Negative	TD
St2ODD97	St2ODD105	0.14054039	0.27248961	0.51576422	Negative	TD
St2ODD98	St2ODD144	0.02450309	0.07493749	0.32698035	Negative	SD
St2ODD98	St2ODD175	0.19572533	0.36390979	0.53784025	Negative	SD
St2ODD101	St2ODD103	0.150478	0.30131704	0.4994009	Negative	TD
St2ODD101	St2ODD105	0.04306739	0.0408264	1.05489048	Positive	TD
St2ODD103	St2ODD105	0.15353419	0.31519188	0.48711341	Negative	TD
St2ODD108	St2ODD109	0.06700429	0.10432615	0.64225783	Negative	TD
St2ODD113	St2ODD189	0.66649649	1.77888311	0.37467133	Negative	SD
St2ODD118	St2ODD120	0.0261915	0.2951278	0.08874629	Negative	TD
St2ODD124	St2ODD126	0.10690827	0.4964094	0.2153631	Negative	TD
St2ODD126	St2ODD128	0.05344949	0.20377605	0.26229523	Negative	TD
St2ODD129	St2ODD130	0.05101614	0.11788919	0.4327466	Negative	TD
St2ODD135	St2ODD136	0.21553725	0.34973463	0.61628799	Negative	TD
St2ODD135	St2ODD141	0.10181782	0.19313922	0.52717322	Negative	TD
St2ODD135	St2ODD142	0.09506626	0.18714606	0.50797894	Negative	TD
St2ODD136	St2ODD141	0.11602076	0.28011867	0.4141843	Negative	TD
St2ODD136	St2ODD142	0.1067933	0.28093034	0.38014157	Negative	TD
St2ODD141	St2ODD142	0.01818822	0.02946714	0.61723748	Negative	TD
St2ODD144	St2ODD175	0.07633702	0.1946334	0.39220926	Negative	SD
St2ODD145	St2ODD146	0.00756468	0.03783308	0.19994879	Negative	TD
St2ODD151	St2ODD155	0.08795754	0.26721516	0.32916373	Negative	TD
St2ODD158	St2ODD162	0.14084357	0.25515971	0.55198202	Negative	TD
St2ODD158	St2ODD163	0.10637851	0.19789956	0.53753791	Negative	TD
St2ODD158	St2ODD164	0.12623217	0.15711323	0.80344711	Negative	TD

St2ODD158	St2ODD166	0.09902427	0.20454306	0.4841243	Negative	TD
St2ODD161	St2ODD162	0.1484228	0.35333191	0.42006623	Negative	TD
St2ODD161	St2ODD163	0.09515891	0.29623739	0.32122519	Negative	TD
St2ODD161	St2ODD165	0.15729244	0.33400836	0.47092367	Negative	TD
St2ODD161	St2ODD166	0.08157109	0.3142541	0.25957048	Negative	TD
St2ODD162	St2ODD163	0.09001811	0.17228699	0.52248933	Negative	TD
St2ODD162	St2ODD166	0.08374729	0.15777214	0.53081162	Negative	TD
St2ODD162	St2ODD165	0.10199099	0.18093047	0.56370268	Negative	TD
St2ODD163	St2ODD166	0.04675867	0.12542874	0.37279076	Negative	TD
St2ODD163	St2ODD164	0.0975672	0.18354877	0.53156007	Negative	TD
St2ODD164	St2ODD166	0.09209668	0.20413856	0.4511479	Negative	TD
St2ODD179	St2ODD180	0.0794928	0.16823277	0.47251674	Negative	TD
St2ODD190	St2ODD193	0.04521834	0.15013735	0.30117979	Negative	SD
St2ODD190	St2ODD194	0.06695894	0.24483643	0.27348438	Negative	SD
St2ODD190	St2ODD195	0.04405385	0.16497941	0.26702635	Negative	SD
St2ODD190	St2ODD196	0.05864168	0.22252378	0.26352996	Negative	SD
St2ODD190	St2ODD197	0.06108833	0.24501942	0.24932036	Negative	SD
St2ODD190	St2ODD198	0.05607785	0.22850289	0.24541419	Negative	SD
St2ODD193	St2ODD194	0.06368396	0.20051302	0.31760512	Negative	TD
St2ODD193	St2ODD195	0.02291405	0.09777482	0.23435536	Negative	TD
St2ODD193	St2ODD196	0.05668303	0.22011799	0.25751201	Negative	TD
St2ODD193	St2ODD197	0.06233667	0.23956419	0.26020865	Negative	TD
St2ODD193	St2ODD198	0.05412739	0.19669002	0.27519131	Negative	TD
St2ODD194	St2ODD195	0.06576495	0.24323853	0.27037227	Negative	TD
St2ODD194	St2ODD196	0.03951081	0.08266321	0.47797329	Negative	TD
St2ODD194	St2ODD197	0.07011406	0.18379532	0.38147899	Negative	TD
St2ODD194	St2ODD198	0.02650612	0.03671861	0.72187153	Negative	TD

St2ODD195	St2ODD196	0.05616442	0.23301649	0.24103195	Negative	TD
St2ODD195	St2ODD197	0.05797008	0.24041471	0.24112535	Negative	TD
St2ODD195	St2ODD198	0.05105475	0.23904667	0.21357651	Negative	TD
St2ODD196	St2ODD197	0.05664229	0.20893578	0.27109905	Negative	TD
St2ODD196	St2ODD198	0.02408395	0.0849296	0.28357542	Negative	TD
St2ODD197	St2ODD198	0.05920475	0.18579026	0.31866447	Negative	TD

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