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Distinct gene expression and secondary metabolite profiles for suboptimal mycorrhizal colonization in wild-type and the jasmonic acid deficient *spr2* tomato mutant

Kena Casarrubias-Castillo ¹, Josaphat M Montero-Vargas ², Nicole Dabdoub-González ³, Robert Winkler ², Norma A Martinez-Gallardo ², Hamlet Aviles-Arnaut ^{Corresp., 3}, John P Délano-Frier ^{Corresp. 2}

¹ Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias, Universidad de Guadalajara, Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

² Biotechnology and Biochemistry, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN Unidad Irapuato, Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

³ Instituto de Biotecnología de la Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Nicolas de los Garza, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Corresponding Authors: Hamlet Aviles-Arnaut, John P Délano-Frier

Email address: hamlet.avilesarn@uanl.edu.mx, john.delano@cinvestav.mx

A previous study with *spr2* mutant tomato plants which are negatively affected in the synthesis of jasmonic acid (JA), suggested that JA regulates the arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) colonization via the control of carbon (C) partitioning. Although this and other studies have suggested the important positive role played by JA in the regulation of AMF root colonization in tomato plants, it is currently unclear how different host plant genetic backgrounds affect gene expression and secondary metabolites variation during JA-dependent mycorrhization. In this study, wild type and *spr2* mutant tomato plants having “low”, “medium” and “high” mycorrhizal colonization with *Rhizophagus irregularis*, were analyzed independently using transcriptomic and untargeted metabolomic approaches. The results obtained revealed that the degree of mycorrhizal colonization efficiency could be associated with contrasting expression levels of certain key genes controlling gibberellin signaling, ethylene biosynthesis and signaling, and synthesis of apocarotenoids, phenylpropanoids and tomatine, in roots. Only a few wound responsive genes, including JA signaling and biosynthesis genes, such as *Prosystemin* and *JAZ2* were found to influence AMF colonization. Conversely, a systemic and JA-dependent induction/ repression of genes different from those altered in roots was detected in leaves of mycorrhizal plants. The most significant changes in metabolite abundance were detected in roots with reduced AMF colonization. Included among the latter were metabolites known to be associated with important aspects of AMF symbiosis, such as signaling, nutrient exchange and modulation of pathogen defense response. Alpha-tomatine levels appeared to be an important factor, whose abundance negatively correlated with AMF colonization levels in tomato, suggesting a regulatory role for JA in the synthesis of this metabolite during the AMF symbiosis.

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2 **colonization in wild-type and the jasmonic acid deficient *spr2* tomato mutant**

3

4 Kena Casarrubias-Castillo³, Josaphat M. Montero-Vargas¹, Nicole Dabdoub-González², Robert
5 Winkler¹, Norma Martínez-Gallardo¹, Hamlet Avilés-Arnaut^{2*}, John P. Délano-Frier^{1*}

6

7 ¹Unidad de Biotecnología e Ingeniería Genética de Plantas, (Cinvestav- Unidad Irapuato) Km 9.6
8 del Libramiento Norte Carretera Irapuato-León. Apartado Postal 629, C.P. 36500, Irapuato, Gto.,
9 México

10 ²Instituto de Biotecnología de la Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma de
11 Nuevo León, Ave. Pedro de Alba s/n cruz con Ave. Manuel L. Barragán s/n, Ciudad Universitaria,
12 C.P. 66455, Nicolás de los Garza, N.L., México

13 ³Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias, Universidad de Guadalajara,
14 Camino Ramón Padilla Sánchez No. 2100, Nextipac, Zapopan, Jalisco, México

15

16

17

18 Corresponding authors:

19 John P. Délano-Frier

20 Telephone: (52) 462 6239636, 462 6239600

21 e-mail: jdelano@ira.cinvestav.mx

22

23 Hamlet Avilés-Arnaut

24 Telephone: (52) 81 8332-0458

25 e-mail: hamlet.avilesarn@uanl.edu.mx

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33 **ABSTRACT**

34

35 A previous study with *spr2* mutant tomato plants which are negatively affected in the synthesis
36 of jasmonic acid (JA), suggested that JA regulates the arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)
37 colonization via the control of carbon (C) partitioning. Although this and other studies have
38 suggested the important positive role played by JA in the regulation of AMF root colonization in
39 tomato plants, it is currently unclear how different host plant genetic backgrounds affect gene
40 expression and secondary metabolites variation during JA-dependent mycorrhization. In this
41 study, wild type and *spr2* mutant tomato plants having “low”, “medium” and “high” mycorrhizal
42 colonization with *Rhizophagus irregularis*, were analyzed independently using transcriptomic
43 and untargeted metabolomic approaches. The results obtained revealed that the degree of
44 mycorrhizal colonization efficiency could be associated with contrasting expression levels of
45 certain key genes controlling gibberellin signaling, ethylene biosynthesis and signaling, and
46 synthesis of apocarotenoids, phenylpropanoids and tomatine, in roots. Only a few wound
47 responsive genes, including JA signaling and biosynthesis genes, such as *Prosystemin* and *JAZ2*
48 were found to influence AMF colonization. Conversely, a systemic and JA-dependent induction/
49 repression of genes different from those altered in roots was detected in leaves of mycorrhizal
50 plants. The most significant changes in metabolite abundance were detected in roots with
51 reduced AMF colonization. Included among the latter were metabolites known to be associated
52 with important aspects of AMF symbiosis, such as signaling, nutrient exchange and modulation
53 of pathogen defense response. Alpha-tomatine levels appeared to be an important factor, whose
54 abundance negatively correlated with AMF colonization levels in tomato, suggesting a
55 regulatory role for JA in the synthesis of this metabolite during the AMF symbiosis.

56

57 **Keywords:** arbuscular mycorrhizal colonization, jasmonic acid, ethylene, gibberellins, tomatine

58

59 **Abbreviations:** AMF, arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi; JA, jasmonic acid; MeJA, methyl
60 jasmonate; *spr2*, *suppressor of prosystemin-mediated response2*.

61 INTRODUCTION

62

63 The roots of the majority of higher plants, and many other host plants including pteridophytes, a
64 number of mosses, lycopods, and psilotales are associated symbiotically with biotrophic and
65 aseptate filamentous fungi of the Glomeromycota phylum, the so-called arbuscular mycorrhizal
66 fungi (AMF) (Redecker and Raab, 2006; Schüssler et al., 2001). An important feature of the AM
67 symbiosis is the nutrient exchange between both partners, which occurs within individual
68 cortical cells, where AMF form highly branched hyphae, called arbuscules, surrounded by a
69 plant derived membrane, known as the periarbuscular membrane. This structure has a unique
70 transport protein distribution designed to deliver mineral nutrients to the cortical cell in exchange
71 for the 4-to-20% of the photosynthates allocated to the roots that are transferred to the fungal
72 symbiont (Gutjahr and Parniske, 2013). The mineral exchange principally involves phosphorus
73 (P), although zinc and copper are also thought to be mobilized. AMF substantially enhance P
74 availability to plants considering that this element is mostly found as orthophosphate ions in the
75 soil, which become very poorly mobile in the presence of Ca^{2+} , Fe^{3+} and Al^{3+} (Wang et al.,
76 2017). AMF are also believed to represent a significant route of nitrogen (N) uptake by the plants
77 (Délano-Frier and Tejeda-Sartorius, 2008). P uptake relies on phosphate transporters belonging
78 to the phosphate transporter 1 (Pht1) family (Rausch et al., 2001).

79 In addition to improving plant nutrition and water uptake, root colonization by AMF confers
80 fitness benefits to the host plants. Among these are enhanced root growth and significant changes
81 in root architecture that increase their surface area in the soil and enhance water and nutrient
82 acquisition by the plants. Other benefits include increased reproductive success and/ or tolerance
83 to (a)biotic stresses. Several of the above effects are finely regulated by phytohormones, via a
84 limitedly understood and highly context dependent interaction (Ruiz-Lozano et al., 2012; Gutjahr
85 2014; Selosse et al., 2014; Pozo et al., 2015). AMF colonization has been found to profoundly
86 alter gene expression in roots of several plants species (Guimil et al., 2005; Fiorilli et al., 2009;
87 Guether et al., 2009; Hoge Kamp and Kuester, 2013; Groten et al., 2015), whereas a number of
88 large-scale gene expression studies have explored the systemic effects that AMF root
89 colonization has in plant aerial tissues (Guimil et al., 2005; Cervantes-Gamez et al. 2016;
90 Adolfsson et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2018). Changes in root and leaf metabolite levels in response
91 to AMF colonization, have been also reported, particularly affecting amino acid (aa),

92 carbohydrate and organic acid contents (Fester et al. 2011; Schweiger et al. 2014; Rivero et al.,
93 2015; Schweiger and Müller, 2015; Wang et al., 2018).

94
95 Jasmonic acid (JA), its methyl ester (MeJA) and its aa conjugates such as JA-isoleucine, form
96 part of a family of bioactive molecules collectively referred as jasmonates. They are involved in
97 multiple plant developmental and growth processes, activation of secondary metabolism and
98 defense responses against insects and pathogens in various plant species (Wasternack and Hause,
99 2011; Erb et al., 2012; Ahmad et al., 2016; Larrieu and Vernou, 2016). JA is biosynthesized
100 through the octadecanoid pathway, being the final product of a series of reactions initiated by the
101 peroxidation of linolenic acid, an 18: 3 unsaturated fatty acid (Schaller et al., 2005). Recent
102 models indicate that JA is the long-distance systemic wound signal in tomato. Wound-induced
103 systemic signaling appears to be facilitated by a positive amplification loop in which systemin, a
104 wound related bioactive peptide signal, is considered to play a crucial role (Schillmiller and
105 Howe 2005; Sun et al., 2011). Most experimental evidence gathered so far strongly suggests that
106 JA might also play an important regulatory role in the mycorrhizal symbiosis (Gutjahr, 2014;
107 Pozo et al., 2015). Several mechanisms have been proposed to explain the mechanism(s) by
108 means of which JA might exert a positive effect on the AMF symbiosis. Included are the
109 regulation of flavonoid biosynthesis and defense gene expression, cytoskeleton rearrangements,
110 sink strength reinforcement, lipid metabolism modifications and the regulation of C partitioning
111 in the plant (Isayenkov et al., 2005; Stumpe et al., 2005; Tejeda-Sartorius et al., 2008). However,
112 the role of JA in the mycorrhizal colonization process remains contentious due to the
113 contradictory findings of several studies in which the application of JA (or derivatives such as
114 MeJA) on mycorrhizal colonization, reported both positive and inhibitory effects, depending on
115 various experimental factors (Gutjahr and Paszkowski, 2009). Additionally, it has been
116 suggested that JA signaling might differentially affect AMF colonization and development by
117 performing different roles in early and late stages of colonization (Foo et al., 2013).

118
119 Additional findings, derived from the use of the JA-biosynthesis impaired *spr2* tomato mutant as
120 experimental model (Howe and Ryan, 1999) are reported in this work. They represent a further
121 contribution to better understand JA's role in the AMF symbiosis in tomato. For this purpose,
122 wild-type and *spr2* plants with different degrees of mycorrhizal colonization were analyzed to
123 measure changes in gene expression and metabolic profiles. The results obtained suggest that

124 JA's effect on AMF colonization is dependent on several and diverse key factors. The proposed
125 elements of this cross-talk gravitating around JA are examined and further discussed.

126

127 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

128

129 **Plant Growth and AMF Inoculation**

130

131 Seeds of wild-type (WT) tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L. cv. Castlemart) and *spr2* mutant
132 plants were surface-sterilized by soaking in a 70% ethanol solution for 60 s, with a 20%
133 household bleach solution (5% w/ v sodium hypochlorite) for 5 min, and then rinsed three times
134 with sterile water. All seeds were germinated in a sterile soil mixture constituted by equal parts
135 of sand and loam which was autoclaved six times. One-week-old seedlings were removed and
136 transplanted to 300-ml pots (one plant per pot, ten plants per genotype) containing the same
137 sterilized soil mixture. At the time of transplanting, five plants per genotype were inoculated
138 with 3 g of a soil-based (1: 1 sand-loam) inoculum of *Rhizophagus irregularis* (*Biofertilizante*,
139 INIFAP, México) containing ca. 100 spores per g. Control plants (five per genotype) were
140 supplied with 3 g of sterilized soil mixture only. The inoculated and control plants were watered
141 3 times per week and fertilized once a week with a Long Asthon solution in which the P content
142 was reduced to 7 μM , until harvest. They were kept in a growth room with a 16 h/ 8 h light/ dark
143 photoperiod at 27°C (light) and 23°C (dark) with an illumination of approximately 250 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$
144 s^{-1} . At 50 days post-inoculation (dpi), the root system was split lengthways. One half was
145 stained to evaluate mycorrhizal colonization, whereas the remaining root and leaf tissues were
146 frozen, ground in liquid nitrogen, stored at -80°C until required for analysis. Five independent
147 experiments were performed employing the above procedure, but only three of them were used
148 for further analysis. They were classified as experiments yielding "low", "medium" and "high"
149 AMF colonization levels. Those described in this work were performed at the following dates:
150 October 2015, November 2015 and April 2016.

151

152 **Estimation of AMF Root Colonization**

153

154 To determine total colonization, root fragments of control and mycorrhized plants (120 per
155 genotype) were stained with trypan blue (Phillips and Hayman, 1970) and observed with a light
156 microscope and the intensity of root colonization by AMF was determined (Trouvelot et al.,
157 1986) using MYCOCALC software ([www2.dijon.inra.fr/mychintec/Mycocalc-prg/](http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/mychintec/Mycocalc-prg/download.html)
158 [download.html](http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/mychintec/Mycocalc-prg/download.html)). Three colonization parameters were analyzed: frequency of mycorrhization
159 (F%), representing the percentage of root segments showing internal colonization; intensity of
160 mycorrhization (M%), the average percentage of colonization of root segments, and arbuscule
161 abundance (A%), the percentage of arbuscules in the whole root system.

162

163 **Sample Preparation for Metabolomic Analyses**

164 Frozen tomato roots of control and mycorrhizal plants, respectively, were lyophilized and finely
165 ground in a Mixer Mill MM 400 (Retsch GmbH, Haan, Germany) for 12 s at 30 Hz.

166 Subsequently, 25 mg of plant powder was extracted with 1 mL of an aqueous methanol-formic
167 acid solution (75% v/v and 0.15% v/v, respectively). The mixture was sonicated for 15 min in a
168 water bath at maximum frequency and centrifuged at $10,000 \times g$ for 10 min at 4°C. The
169 supernatants were filtered through a 0.22 μm syringe filter prior to analysis by mass
170 spectrometry (see below). All samples were freshly prepared in triplicate.

171

172 **Metabolic Fingerprinting of Tomato Root and Leaf Extracts by Mass Spectrometry**

173 For non-targeted metabolite profiling, tomato root methanolic extracts were analyzed by direct
174 liquid introduction electrospray ionization / mass spectrometry (DLI-ESI-MS) as described
175 before (Montero-Vargas et al., 2013). Measurements were performed using a single quadrupole
176 mass detector (SQD2, Waters, Milford, USA) in positive mode at a flow rate of $10 \mu\text{L} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}$.

177 Mass spectra were acquired in continuous mode in a range of 50-1300 m/z during 1 min with a
178 scan time of 10 s. The instrument settings were: capillary voltage 3.0 kV, cone voltage 35 V and
179 extractor voltage 4 V. The source temperature and desolvation temperature were set to 80 and
180 150°C, respectively. The desolvation gas flow was set to 250 L h^{-1} and a cone gas flow was set to
181 50 L h^{-1} . Additionally, samples were analyzed to detect specific ions corresponding to α -
182 tomatine, its biosynthetic precursors and catabolic products.

183

184 **Raw Data Processing and Data Analysis**

185 Raw mass spectrometry data were converted to .mzML format with msconvert (Chambers et al.,
186 2012). The mass spectrum data were processed in R (<http://www.rproject.org>) using the package
187 MALDIquant version 1.15 (Gibb and Strimmer, 2012) programmed to execute the following tasks:
188 .mzML data import, summary of all scans of each spectrum, smoothing by a Savitzky-Golay
189 filter, peak alignment and peak selection detection. Raw data are available from Zenodo
190 (<https://zenodo.org/>), DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.2550944. Finally, a comparison matrix (m/z values
191 for columns and file names for rows) with the intensity of peaks were exported in *csv* format for
192 statistical analysis, applying binning with a bin width of 1 m/z and intensity-based
193 normalization. A total of 673 out of more than 1,000 ion signals were used after initial data
194 cleaning steps.

195 Unsupervised techniques were employed to explore the effect of mycorrhizal on the metabolic
196 fingerprints of the genotypes employed. These consisted of a hierarchical clustering (HCA) and a
197 principal component Analysis (PCA), both implemented in ClustVis (Metsalu and Vilo, 2015).
198 For multiple comparison of the means a Tukey's Honest Significant Difference (HSD) was
199 applied with a confidence interval of 95 %. When the normality of the data was not achieved, the
200 Kruskal-Wallis test was applied, considering p values below 0.05 as significant.

201 For putative metabolite identification, a homebuilt metabolite database for tomato was created
202 based on previous reports (Moco et al., 2006; Itkin et al., 2011; Caprioli et al., 2015) and the
203 SolCyc database (<http://solcyc.solgenomics.net/>). Subsequently, automatic matching of the m/z
204 list was performed employing the software SpiderMass (Winkler, 2015).

205 **Extraction of Total RNA, cDNA Preparation and qPCR Analysis**

206 Total RNA was extracted from 100-500 mg of frozen root and leaf tissues with the Trizol reagent
207 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions, with
208 modifications. These consisted of the addition of a salt solution (sodium citrate 0.8 M + 1.2 M
209 NaCl) during precipitation in a 1: 1 v/v ratio with isopropanol and further purification with LiCl
210 (8 M) for 1 h at 4°C. All RNA samples were analyzed by formaldehyde agarose gel
211 electrophoresis and visual inspection of the ribosomal RNA bands upon ethidium bromide
212 staining. Total RNA samples (4 μ g) were reverse-transcribed to generate the first-strand cDNA
213 using an oligo dT20 primer and 200 units of SuperScript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen).
214 The cDNA employed for the qRT-PCR assays was initially prepared from 4 μ g total RNA. It

215 was then diluted 5-fold in sterile deionized-distilled (dd) water prior to qRT-PCR.
216 Amplifications were performed using SYBR Green detection chemistry and run in triplicate in
217 96-well reaction plates with the CFX96 Touch Real-Time PCR Detection System (Bio-Rad,
218 Hercules, CA, USA). Reactions were prepared in a total volume of 20 μ l containing: 2 μ l of
219 template, 2 μ l of each amplification primer (2 μ M), 8 μ l of iQ SYBR Green supermix (Bio-Rad)
220 and 6 μ l of sterile dd water. Quantitative real-time PCR was performed in triplicate for each
221 sample using the primers listed in the Table S1. Primers were designed for each gene, based on
222 cDNA sequences derived from the tomato genome (Sol Genomics Network; Mueller et al.,
223 2005). Primer design was performed using DNA calculator software (Sigma-Aldrich; St. Louis,
224 MO, USA). The following protocol was followed for all qRT-PCR runs: 15 min at 95°C to
225 activate the JumpStart Taq Polymerase (Sigma-Aldrich), followed by 40 cycles of denaturation
226 at 95°C for 15 s and annealing at 60°C for 1 min. Slow amplifications requiring an excess of 32
227 cycles were not considered for analysis. The specificity of the amplicons was verified by melting
228 curve analysis after 40 cycles. Baseline and threshold cycles (Ct) were automatically determined
229 using CFX Manager Software version 2.1. PCR efficiencies for all genes tested were greater than
230 95%. Relative expression was calculated using the comparative cycle threshold method (Livak
231 and Schmittgen, 2001). Transcript abundance data were normalized against the average
232 transcript abundance of two reference genes: *TIP41* and *SAND* (Expósito-Rodríguez et al.,
233 2008). The fold change in expression of the target genes was calculated as described previously
234 (Palmeros-Suárez et al., 2015). The values represent the mean \pm SE of transcript abundance
235 detected in three biological replicates per experiment, each of which involved triplicate technical
236 repeats. The experiments analyzed were those having “low”, “medium” and “high” AMF
237 colonization experiments. Similar to the metabolomic analysis, qPCR raw data are available
238 from Zenodo (<https://zenodo.org/>), DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.2554756.

239

240 **Statistical Analysis of Mycorrhizal Colonization Experiments**

241

242 Data were analyzed by one-way ANOVA to determine whether or not the means of the different
243 treatments tested were equal. A multiple comparison procedure with the Tukey’s test was
244 performed to find significant differences between means. All tests were conducted using the

245 Minitab 15 statistical software package (Minitab Inc., USA). Differences at $p < 0.05$ were
246 considered as statistically significant.

247

248 **RESULTS**

249

250 **Variable degree of mycorrhizal colonization**

251 Three independent experiments showing “low”, “medium” and “high” colonization parameters
252 were analyzed and compared. AMF colonization parameters in these three experiments are
253 shown in Fig. 1. The M%, F% and A% parameters were consistently lower in mycorrhizal *spr2*
254 roots, although they gradually ceased to be statistically significant from those in WT plants as the
255 AMF colonization efficiency decreased.

256

257 **Gene expression profiles**

258 AMF colonization induced changes in the expression levels of a select set of the key genes
259 analyzed in roots of WT and *spr2* mycorrhizal plants (Table 1). In leaves, transcriptional changes
260 were more prominent (Table 2). The results obtained from roots include the expression data from
261 samples taken from each individual experiment (“low”, “medium” and “high” mycorrhization),
262 whereas leaf gene expression data shown, included data obtained from the pooled leaves of
263 “medium” and “high” mycorrhizal WT and *spr2* plants.

264

265 **Gene expression profiles in roots**

266 *Mycorrhizal colonization marker genes*

267 AMF colonization levels coincided with expression levels of the plant *LePT4* gene, a reliable
268 indicator of mycorrhizal-colonization in roots (Javot et al., 2007; Wang et al., 2017). Conversely,
269 both AMF *18S Ri* and *EF1-alpha* fungal gene markers tended to be higher in mycorrhizal roots
270 of *spr2* plants with “low” and “medium” colonization levels.

271

272 *Phytohormone-related genes*

273 In roots, brassinosteroid (BR) gene expression appeared to be inversely proportional to AMF
274 colonization. Thus, the highest expression values of BR-related genes were mostly detected in
275 mycorrhizal WT and *spr2* roots having “low” colonization levels. Additionally, the *DWARF4*
276 (*DWF4*) gene, coding for an enzyme involved in the catalysis of late hydroxylation steps in BR

277 synthesis (Bancos et al., 2002), was down-regulated in WT roots having “high” mycorrhizal
278 colonization. A notable exception was the *DET2* gene, which was induced in WT roots showing
279 “high” mycorrhizal colonization. *DET2* codes for a steroid 5 α -reductase that is predominantly
280 active in the early steps of the BR biosynthetic pathway.

281
282 The expression patterns of the gibberellin (GA)-related genes *GA3ox* and *GAI*, coding for a 2-
283 oxoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase responsible for the downstream synthesis of bioactive GAs,
284 and for a DELLA member of transcriptional regulators that negatively regulate GA responses,
285 respectively, was also tested (Sun, 2008; Hedden and Thomas, 2012). Only the *GAI* gene
286 expression patterns showed an inverse correlation with AMF colonization levels in WT roots,
287 being repressed or induced in response to “high” or “low” mycorrhizal colonization,
288 respectively. Moreover, *GAI* remained, for the most part, up-regulated in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots.
289 The expression of the ABA marker genes was similar in all experiments and genotypes
290 examined, including *NCED1*, coding for one of the two tomato NCED enzymes that catalyze a
291 key rate-limiting step of ABA biosynthesis (Martín-Rodríguez et al., 2016).

292

293 *Apocarotenoid biosynthesis-related genes*

294 Generally, higher AMF colonization in WT roots correlated with increased *CCD7* expression
295 levels. This gene codes for one of the two dioxygenases required for strigolactone biosynthesis,
296 an essential component of the initial plant-AMF communication (López-Ráez et al., 2015). The
297 expression of the *CCD1b* gene was, in contrast, inversely related to mycorrhizal colonization in
298 WT roots, being induced in response to “low” mycorrhizal colonization but repressed under
299 “high” AMF colonization conditions. This pattern was partially reproduced in *spr2* roots, where
300 this gene was induced only when mycorrhizal colonization was “low”. This gene codes for a
301 carotenoid dioxygenase enzyme involved not only in the biosynthesis of C₁₃/ C₁₄
302 apocarotenoids, but also in the generation of apocarotenoid cleavage products, such as β -ionone,
303 C₁₃ α -ionol and C₁₄ mycorradicin at late stages of the symbiosis (López-Ráez et al., 2015). The
304 expression levels of the *CGTI*, involved in the synthesis of apocarotenoid glycosyl esters in
305 fruits of other plants (Nagatoshi et al., 2012) and also in the final glucosylation steps of crocin, a
306 compound structurally similar to the core structure of the yellow pigment in mycorrhizal maize

307 roots (Fester et al., 2002), was only induced in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots with “low” to “medium”
308 colonization levels.

309

310 *9-LOX and 13-LOX pathway genes*

311 The expression patterns of the *AOS1*, *LOXD* and *Jasmonate ZIM domain 2 (JAZ2)* genes
312 coincided to some extent with the contrasting AMF colonization levels observed in WT and *spr2*
313 roots. The pattern of *AOS1* expression, neutral in all *spr2* roots and repressed in WT roots with
314 “low” mycorrhizal colonization, partly coincided with reduced colonization levels. AMF
315 colonization appeared to positively affect *LOXD* and *JAZ2* expression in WT roots only.
316 However, mycorrhizal abundance appeared not to be a factor affecting *LOXD* expression, since
317 the effect was observed in roots having “high” and “low” AMF colonization levels. In contrast,
318 the expression of *JAZ2* appeared to be positively correlated with AMF colonization levels,
319 considering its induced expression in roots having “medium” and “high” mycorrhization. The
320 *JMT* gene, coding for an esterase catalyzing the release of active JA from MeJA, followed a
321 similar expression pattern, characterized by its consistent induction in mycorrhizal WT roots,
322 irrespective of colonization level. However, contrary to the above two genes, *JMT* was also
323 highly expressed in *spr2* roots with “medium” colonization levels. Contrariwise, the observed
324 induction of emblematic 9-LOX pathway genes appeared to be independent of the plant
325 genotype, WT or *spr2*, and of the level of AMF colonization achieved.

326 *Wound-response (WR) genes*

327 Within the WR genes, the *Prosystemin (PS)* gene was steadily induced in mycorrhizal WT roots,
328 although expression levels were highest in roots with “low” mycorrhizal colonization levels,
329 whereas its expression remained neutral or repressed in *spr2* mycorrhizal roots. Conversely, the
330 expression of the *NADPH oxidase (RBOHI)*, an early WR gene proposed to be responsible for
331 the generation of reactive oxygen species (Ryan, 2000), was inversely related to mycorrhizal
332 abundance, apparently in a JA-independent way, given its repression in WT and *spr2* roots with
333 “high” colonization levels. The effect of root AMF colonization on the expression of *LHA1*, one
334 of the eight members that conform the plasma membrane H⁺-ATPase gene family in tomato
335 (Schaller and Oecking, 1999; Ryan, 2000; Liu et al., 2016), also seemed to be JA independent
336 due to its induced expression in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots only. The expression of *PI II*, a late WR
337 marker gene, was difficult to associate with a role in the AMF colonization process. The

338 observed repression of this gene in all *spr2* mycorrhizal roots analyzed, coincided with the
339 confirmed JA-dependent regulation of this and other WR *PI* gene families. However, the *PI II*
340 gene induction in WT mycorrhizal roots was erratic, showing opposite expression patterns in WT
341 roots with “high” and “low” AMF mycorrhization levels. The role in tomato AMF colonization
342 played by *AROGP3*, the JA-regulated tomato polygalacturonase non-catalytic subunit gene
343 (Bergey et al., 1999) was also unclear, although a possible need for its down-regulation in
344 mycorrhizal roots was supported by the repressed expression of this gene in WT roots with
345 “high” and “low” AMF colonization levels. The observed lack of changes in the expression of
346 polyphenol oxidase (*PPO*) cysteine proteinase 2 (*Cyp2*) and serine carboxypeptidase (*SCP*) WR
347 genes, suggested that these genes were likely unaffected by AMF colonization.

348

349 *Ethylene (ET) biosynthesis- and signaling-related genes*

350 The expression of the *ACS6* and *ACO4* ET biosynthetic genes was inversely correlated with
351 mycorrhizal colonization. They also showed a possible negative cross-talk with JA. The latter,
352 considering their induction in WT roots with “low” mycorrhization colonization levels, which
353 became widespread in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots. A similar behavior was shown by the *EIN 2* and
354 *EIN 3* ET signaling genes. In contrast, the induction of *CTR4* in WT roots with “medium” and
355 “high” AMF colonization levels suggested its role in promoting AMF colonization. Similar
356 expression magnitudes of the *ERF1b* transcription factor (TF) gene in WT and *spr2* mycorrhizal
357 roots advocated a JA-independent role for this TF during the mycorrhization colonization
358 process.

359

360 *Secondary metabolite biosynthesis genes*

361 The analysis of key phenylpropanoid genes indicated that the expression of *PAL3* and *PAL4* was
362 inversely correlated with AMF abundance in WT roots. This multi-gene family of genes,
363 constituted by five members in tomato (Chang et al., 2008), codes for enzymes catalyzing the
364 rate-limiting step of the phenylpropanoid biosynthetic pathway leading to trans-cinnamic acid,
365 the precursor of diverse phenolic substances, including flavonoids. The expression pattern of
366 *flavonol synthase (FLS)* in roots was relatively constant, suggesting it had no influence on the
367 differential mycorrhizal colonization efficiencies observed between experiments and genotypes.
368 This, despite the fact that *FLS* codes for a key enzyme for the synthesis of biologically active
369 flavonols that presumably play a regulatory role in the mycorrhizal symbiosis (Steinkellner et al.

370 2007; Mandal et al. 2010,). Similar arguments could be used to explain the minimal changes in
371 the gene expression pattern of *1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate 2 (DXS-2)*. This gene codes for
372 the critical regulatory enzyme of the plastidial methyl-erythritol-4-phosphate (or MEP)
373 isoprenoid biosynthetic pathway leading to the generation, among many others, of C13-C14
374 apocarotenoid precursors. The small changes in the expression of *3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl*
375 *CoA reductase (HMGR1)*, coding for the rate-limiting enzyme of the cytosolic isoprenoid
376 biosynthetic pathway, also argued against a prominent role for this gene in the AMF colonization
377 development in tomato. The expression pattern of the *benzyl alcohol acetyltransferase (BEAT)*
378 gene, coding for an enzyme known to participate in synthesis of scent volatiles via benzenoid
379 metabolic pathways (Bera et al., 2017), was inconsistent, showing augmented expression levels
380 in WT roots -with “high” AMF colonization levels and also in *spr2* roots with “medium” and
381 “low” mycorrhizal levels. Contrariwise, *farnesyl-diphosphate synthase 1 (FPS1)*, coding for a
382 branch point enzyme of the isoprenoid pathway leading to both sesquiterpenes and sterols, and
383 also considered to be a distal regulatory point of HMGR (Szkopińska, 2000), was repressed in
384 WT roots having “high” mycorrhizal colonization levels. The expression of *cycloartenol*
385 *synthase (CAS1)* and *glycoalkaloid metabolism 1 (GAME1)* genes involved in the general
386 pathway of steroid biosynthesis leading to the α -tomatine glycoalkaloid (Itkin et al., 2011; Moses
387 et al., 2014, Jin et al., 2017) negatively correlated with mycorrhizal colonization, being induced
388 in WT roots with “medium” and “low” mycorrhizal levels, and in most *spr2* roots examined.

389

390 **Gene expression profile in leaves**

391

392 The analysis of pooled leaves from “medium” and “high” mycorrhizal WT and *spr2* plants
393 showed that AMF colonization induced a well-defined and largely JA-dependent systemic effect
394 in leaves that was generally stronger than “local” expression in roots (Table 2). In WT plants, the
395 high expression levels of the *FLS* and *CCD7* genes was noteworthy. Other genes, such as
396 *GAME4*, *6*, and *17*, involved in the tomatine biosynthetic pathway, as well as direct- and
397 indirect-defense-related genes, such as *PPO*, *LOXD* and *JMT*, were induced in leaves of WT
398 mycorrhizal plants. Conversely, foliar expression of *LePT4*, *GA3ox*, *AOS3*, *JMT*, *CCD7*,
399 *GAME1*, *PPO* and *AroGP* was repressed mycorrhizal *spr2* plants. The above contrasted with the
400 predominantly repressed expression of ET biosynthetic genes as well as the *ERF1b* TF and
401 *BEAT* genes, in leaves of WT and *spr2* mycorrhizal plants. The induced expression of the *PI II* in

402 leaves of *spr2* mycorrhizal plants was contradictory to previously published data (Li et al.,
403 2003). In contrast, the detection of similar expression levels of the BR-, ET-, ABA-, 9-LOX- and
404 WR-related genes, in addition to *DET2*, *Cyp81*, *EIN 2*, *NCED1*, *HPL*, *DXS-2*, and *SCP* in leaves
405 of WT and *spr2* plants, suggested that their systemic induction was JA-independent.

406

407 **Metabolic fingerprinting of tomato roots**

408 Direct liquid introduction electrospray mass spectrometric (DLI-ESI-MS) fingerprints were
409 generated to examine the effect of mycorrhizal colonization on the global metabolic profile in
410 roots of WT and *spr2* mutant plants. Data from control and mycorrhizal WT and *spr2* roots
411 tended to separate into different regions of the plots in principal component analyses. Thus, AMF
412 colonization influenced the metabolic profile of the roots characteristically for each genotype
413 (Fig 2 and Fig. S1). Principal components (PCs) 1-3 of individual experiments explained the
414 total variance to a similar degree (i.e., in plants with “low” [58.5%], “medium” [61.6%], and
415 “high” [58.5%] mycorrhization levels).

416 Plants having “medium” colonization levels were those in which the effect of the mycorrhizal
417 colonization on the plant metabolism of both genotypes was better observed, as indicated by the
418 lack of overlapping on the 2D projection (Fig. 2). The results were robust enough to allow the
419 prediction that any new observation from the same group would fall inside the ellipse with a 0.95
420 probability. Similar results were observed when data from roots having “medium” mycorrhizal
421 colonization were plotted in a metabolic heat-map for the 100 most intense ions (Fig. 3). A clear
422 discrimination between genotype and treatment was revealed by the formation of separate
423 clusters after HCA. PCA and heat-map visualization of the metabolic data matrix derived from
424 plants having “low” and “high” AMF colonization levels (Figs. S1 and S2) displayed less
425 defined metabolic fingerprints for the separation between treatments and genotypes. This data set
426 indicate that the main source of variance was the plant genotype. In plants with “low”
427 mycorrhizal colonization levels, PC1 and PC2 clearly separated the control from mycorrhizal
428 conditions, whereas in plants with “high” levels of AMF colonization this was observed only for
429 components PC2 and PC3. These results suggested that differential changes in metabolism were
430 induced in control and mycorrhizal WT and *spr2* root samples. Therefore, mass fingerprints were
431 determined for each individual experiment. The results are illustrated in Table 3, where the 50
432 metabolite ions having the highest significantly altered abundance resulting from AMF

433 colonization in WT and/ or *spr2* roots are represented. The variability observed was in
434 accordance with the inconsistent AMF colonization levels observed between experiments.
435 Putative metabolites whose significant increase coincided with higher AMF colonization levels
436 in roots were few. These were previously recognized to be associated with the mycorrhizal
437 colonization process, such as hydroxypyruvate; L-valine/ L-aspartate-semialdehyde, cysteine,
438 myricetin and O-feruloylquininate. Putative metabolites whose scarcity inversely correlated with
439 “high” root mycorrhizal colonization included metabolites whose *m/z* values corresponded to
440 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), mostly aldehydes and alcohols, in addition to proline,
441 succinic acid, nicotinic acid, N-acetylputrescine, salicylic acid (SA), *p*-normetanephine, 5-
442 hydroxyisourate, pyridoxal-5'-phosphate, phosphatated sugars, canthaxanthin, and 1-18:1-2-
443 18:3-phosphatidylcholine.

444 In opposition, putative metabolites whose increased abundance was associated with decreased
445 mycorrhization levels comprised methylglyoxal, histidine (His) and L-homocysteine, thiamin
446 and 5-amino-6-(5'-phosphoribosylamino)-uracil, together with the secondary metabolites
447 solavetivone, cyanidine, myricetin 3-O-(4'-O-acetyl-2"-O-galloyl)-alpha-L-rhamno pyranoside,
448 tomatine and acetoxytomatine, as well as 1-18:1-2-18:3-phosphatidylcholine. In contrast, a
449 significantly reduced accumulation of the VOCs 3-methyl-2-butenal, phenylacetaldehyde and
450 10-hydroxygeraniol in addition to histidinol, uracil, phosphorylethanolamine, orotate, 4-ureido-
451 5-imidazole carboxylate, spermine, 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate, MeJA, sinapate, 1-
452 sinapoyl-D-glucose, 2-cis,4-trans-xanthoxin/ xanthoxin, D-sorbitol-6-phosphate and 2',3'-cyclic
453 nucleotides was detected in plants showing “low” to “medium” mycorrhization.

454
455 The targeted assay focusing on the analysis of the precursors of the tomatine biosynthetic
456 pathway (Table 4) was coherent with the mycorrhizal colonization parameters (Fig. 1), and
457 transcriptomic (Table 1) and untargeted metabolomics data (Table 3). Thus, α -tomatine, its
458 biosynthetic precursors and catabolic products were more abundant in roots of WT plants having
459 “medium” and “low” mycorrhizal colonization levels and were practically absent in “high”
460 mycorrhizal WT roots. These metabolites tended to be significantly reduced in mycorrhizal *spr2*
461 roots, as well, thereby suggesting a regulatory role for JA in the synthesis of these metabolites
462 during the AMF symbiosis. Another interesting set of data showed that the extent of GA anabolic
463 and catabolic processes, leading to active or inactive GA chemical derivatives, was more intense

464 in WT roots having “high” mycorrhizal levels (Table 5). These findings were in agreement with
465 transcriptional data shown in Table 1.

466

467 **DISCUSSION**

468

469 **JA-biosynthesis-impaired *spr2* mutants are compromised in mycorrhizal colonization**

470 Tomato *spr2* mutant plants consistently showed reduced AMF colonization, which was in
471 agreement with prior reports (Tejeda-Sartorius et al., 2008; Song et al., 2015). Three independent
472 experiments, representing “high”, “medium” and “low” colonization levels were selected for
473 further study, including a transcriptomic analysis of several genes (in roots and leaves), many of
474 which have been shown to be presumably involved in the mycorrhizal colonization process. The
475 selected genes are engaged in phytohormone biosynthesis and signaling, the 9- and 13-LOX
476 pathways, and pivotal secondary metabolite pathways. Targeted and untargeted metabolomic
477 analyses by mass spectrometry were also performed to evaluate the global variability in
478 metabolism at a late AMF-colonization stage. A particular interest was given to the
479 quantification of the α -tomatin steroidal glycoalkaloid biosynthetic pathway, considering that its
480 prominent role in defense against fungal pathogens could be a factor responsible for the variable
481 AMF colonization efficiencies observed (Moses et al., 2014; Piasecka et al., 2015).

482

483 **The source(s) of variation between experiments remained undefined**

484 Variable AMF colonization is frequently attributed to the known capacity of plants to alter the
485 rate of mycorrhizal colonization in response to various factors (Graham and Eissenstat, 1994).
486 However, it was difficult to identify those responsible for the variation observed in this study.
487 Frequently cited determinants such as N/ P resource stoichiometry, the presence/ absence of
488 other soil nutrients, soil water availability and fluctuating temperature and/ or light levels
489 affecting photosynthesis rates were unlikely to have been influential factors considering that all
490 experiments were conducted in controlled ambient growth chambers. The presence/ absence of
491 non-mycorrhizal microbes, including fungal endophytes or other biotic factors known to modify
492 AMF colonization levels were not examined and remain an unlikely source of variability. The
493 task of finding the latter remains difficult, considering that previous meta-analyses were unable

494 to identify precisely the source of variability in plant AMF colonization (Hoeksema et al., 2010;
495 Johnson, 2010; Carbonnel and Gutjahr, 2014; Turrini et al., 2016).

496

497 **Root transcriptional data revealed genes possibly responsible for variation in AMF**
498 **colonization levels between experiments and between WT and *spr2* genotypes**

499 AMF colonization level parameters shown in Fig. 1 closely correlated with the expression
500 patterns of the *LePT4* gene (Table 1), coding for a key phosphate transporter that is considered a
501 reliable marker of a functional AMF mycorrhizal symbiosis (Xu et al., 2007). The high *LePT4*
502 expression observed in WT roots with “high” AMF colonization was also found to correlate with
503 their higher A% value (Fig. 1C), similarly to the tight correlation observed between *LePT4*
504 expression levels and arbuscule abundance in Solanaceous plants and rice (Gutjahr et al., 2008;
505 Wang et al., 2017). The high expression levels of the two AMF marker genes detected in JA
506 deficient *spr2* mutants, although somehow unexpected, could, nevertheless, be interpreted as an
507 aberrant proliferation of mycorrhizal fungi on the surface of the *spr2* roots due to their inability
508 to penetrate the inner cortex for proper arbuscule formation (Hogekamp and Küster, 2013). This
509 is supported by the presumed JA-dependent inhibition of fungal spread on the root surface and
510 consequent promotion of arbuscule formation and function during the symbiotic stage of the
511 AMF colonization process (Pozo et al., 2015).

512

513 The consistently lower AMF colonization levels observed in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots, supported
514 the predominantly positive regulatory role assigned to JA in the mycorrhizal colonization
515 process. According to the transcriptional data presented in Table 1, JA might act in coordination
516 with GA to positively affect AMF colonization, via the repression of *GAI*. This result, although
517 being in accordance with data presented in Table 5, disagreed with reported evidence indicating
518 that DELLA repressors of GA signaling are required for an adequate AMF symbiosis (Yu et al.,
519 2014; Carbonnel and Gutjahr, 2014). However, more recent studies evoke a more dynamic role
520 for these phytohormones, in which GA levels in mycorrhizal roots fluctuate during the
521 colonization process to maintain a suitable GA balance, necessary both for DELLA stability and
522 proper AMF colonization. This concept was also in accordance with data in Table 5. Moreover,
523 GAs are more likely to influence the latter stages of mycorrhizal colonization, when the plants
524 under study were sampled, and when dynamic arbuscule formation is in process (Foo et al, 2013;

525 Martín-Rodríguez et al., 2015, 2016). This scenario agreed with the positive effect that GA
526 signaling had on AMF colonization in *Lotus japonicus* (Takeda et al., 2015). BR gene expression
527 patterns, were in general, opposite to AMF colonization abundance, and appeared not to be
528 influenced by JA. This fits the contradictory and limited knowledge regarding BRs role in
529 mycorrhizal symbiosis (Foo et al., 2013; Bitterlich et al., 2014). ABA-related gene expression
530 patterns argued against their influence on mycorrhizal colonization, and also suggested an
531 independence from JA regulation. Such outcome was inconsistent with previous information
532 showing that ABA positively influenced mycorrhizal development (Herrera-Medina et al., 2007;
533 Martín-Rodríguez et al., 2016), while the ET gene expression pattern concurred with ample
534 experimental evidence indicating that ET inhibits AMF colonization (Foo et al., 2013, 2016;
535 Pozo et al., 2015; Gomez Monteiro Fracetto et al., 2017). ET's negative influence on AMF
536 colonization in tomato appeared to be repressed by JA, given that a majority of the ET genes
537 examined were induced in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots. The above coincided with the shifting
538 interaction known to exist between JA and ET for the coordination of plant defense, growth and
539 development (Wasternack and Hause, 2013) and, indirectly, with their regulation of Nod factor
540 signaling and nodulation in legumes (Hause and Schaarschmidt, 2009). The latter is believed to
541 be coordinated by antagonistic or synergistic downstream associations of master symbiotic
542 regulators such as JASMONATE ZIM DOMAIN (JAZ) and ETHYLENE INSENSITIVE 3
543 (EIN3) proteins, among others (Pozo et al., 2015). Interestingly, *EIN3* gene induction was
544 consistently detected in WT roots having "low" AMF colonization levels and in all *spr2*
545 mycorrhizal roots, whereas the opposite was true for the antagonistic *JAZ2* gene.

546

547 Only a few *13-LOX* oxylipin pathway and WR genes had an obvious correlation with
548 mycorrhizal colonization patterns in WT and *spr2* roots. These included *PS*, consistently induced
549 in the former but mostly repressed in the latter, *AROGP3*, whose expression was strongly
550 repressed in mycorrhizal WT roots only, and *LHA1*, induced only in mycorrhizal *spr2* roots.
551 Induced *PS* induction was in accordance with reports showing that mycorrhizal roots of *PS*
552 overexpressing plants yielded significantly higher A% levels than WT roots (Tejeda-Sartorius et
553 al., 2008) and that exogenous systemin promoted AMF symbiosis in the pre-symbiotic and early
554 phases of the plant-AMF interaction (de la Noval-Pons, 2017a, 2017b). The repression of the
555 *AROGP* was incompatible with arguments proposing that a partial degradation of complex

556 carbohydrates in the extracellular matrix is needed to allow fungal spread and the formation of
557 the periarbuscular matrix (Liu et al., 2003). Likewise, the exclusive induction of the *LHA1* gene
558 in *spr2* roots with reduced mycorrhizal colonization was contrary to data demonstrating that
559 LHA1 was AMF-responsive in tomato, presumably to activate secondary transport systems at the
560 symbiotic interfaces (Rosewarne et al. 2007; Liu et al., 2016). Additionally, the widespread
561 induction of the 9-LOX pathway genes examined, irrespective of plant genotypes and
562 mycorrhizal colonization levels, was discrepant with the presumed regulatory role assigned to
563 the 9-LOX oxylipin pathway during the mycorrhization symbiosis (Morcillo et al., 2016).

564
565 The pattern of carotenoid cleavage dioxygenase gene expression was unexpected. Given the late
566 sampling stage of the plants, a more pertinent scenario would have involved a shift from an early
567 expression of *CCD7* genes required for strigolactone synthesis towards the induction of genes
568 favoring the production of C13/ C14apocarotenoids (e.g., *CCD1a*, *CCD1b* and *CGT1*), to
569 presumably avoid excessive AMF colonization (López-Raez et al., 2015). Further, the repression
570 of *CCD1b* in WT roots with “high” mycorrhizal colonization levels contrasted with its induction
571 in WT and *spr2* roots with “low” mycorrhization. These controversial results reinforce the
572 consensus that further research is required to define how apocarotenoid flux is regulated in
573 plants.

574
575 The neutral expression of *PAL5* in all root samples examined, together with the irregular
576 expression pattern of *PAL3* in mycorrhizal WT roots having highly contrasting colonization
577 levels, was contrary to consensual findings indicating its positive role in AMF colonization
578 (Morandi, 1996). This role is believed to be conferred by their diversion of the C flow toward the
579 synthesis of phenylpropanoids and flavonoids that stimulate AMF root colonization (Mandal et
580 al., 2010; Steinkellner et al., 2007). Curiously, the expression of *FLS* required for flavonol
581 synthesis was only repressed in WT roots having “high” mycorrhizal colonization, contrary to
582 the *BEAT* gene, whose expression was highest in these roots. The irregular *FLS* expression
583 pattern in mycorrhizal roots of both genotypes was rather puzzling and implied that, contrary to
584 previous reports (Scervino et al., 2005), *FLS*-dependent flavonol accumulation was not essential
585 for AMF colonization in tomato under the experimental conditions employed in this study.
586 Additionally, the presumably positive role played by the *BEAT* gene in the mycorrhizal process,
587 perhaps via the synthesis of methyl salicylate (Bera et al., 2017; see below) remains to be more

588 accurately determined. The expression patterns of key genes involved in the MEP and MVA
589 isoprenoid biosynthetic pathways also suggested that they played no critical role in the
590 mycorrhizal symbiosis in tomato, contrary to copious evidence showing the opposite (Walter et
591 al., 2010; Floss et al. 2008a; Liu et al. 2003; Kuhn et al. 2010; however, see metabolic data
592 discussion, below).

593 The analysis of the *CAS1* gene was included considering that tomatine biosynthesis is derived
594 from the general steroid biosynthetic pathway. CAS1 catalyzes the cyclization of 2, 3-
595 oxidosqualene, a precursor of cycloartenol, a key metabolic intermediary in sterol biosynthesis
596 that is essential for plant cell viability. *CAS1-like* genes have also been found to be JA-inducible
597 in a number of plants (Jin et al., 2017). Included as well was the analysis of the *GAME1* gene,
598 coding for a galactosyltransferase involved in the synthesis of α -tomatine (Itkin et al., 2011). The
599 expression of these genes was inversely correlated with AMF colonization, being predominantly
600 induced in roots showing “low” AMF colonization levels (Table 1). These results coincided with
601 the repressed expression of *FPS1*, required for the synthesis of farnesyl diphosphate, an early
602 biosynthetic precursor of sterols and triterpenoids (Abe et al., 1993), in WT roots with “high”
603 AMF colonization levels. The above results were also in agreement with the higher accumulation
604 of tomatine and tomatine biosynthetic precursors and catabolic products levels observed in roots
605 having “medium” and “low” AMF colonization levels (Table 4). The combined data suggests
606 that decreased anti-fungal α -tomatine and related compounds in WT roots with “high” AMF
607 colonization levels may have contributed to a more efficient AMF colonization. Such argument
608 concurs with the concept associating suppression of the defense responses against AMF with its
609 successful establishment in the roots (García-Garrido and Ocampo, 2002; Montero-Vargas et al,
610 2018).

611
612 **Leaf transcriptional data were indicative of AMF colonization having a systemic effect on**
613 **above-ground plant tissues**

614 Results shown in Table 2 indicate that AMF colonization in roots led to a widespread systemic
615 induction of signaling- and defense-related genes in leaves and that this response was, to some
616 extent, JA-dependent. This consideration is based on the strong expression levels of the *LOXD*
617 and *JMT* genes in leaves of WT plants and on the observation that the majority of the genes
618 examined were repressed in leaves of mycorrhizal *spr2* plants. On the other hand, the induction
619 of BR-related genes, in addition to the general repression of ET biosynthetic and signaling genes,

620 was JA independent. Also relevant was the induction of several tomatine biosynthetic genes in
621 leaves of mycorrhizal WT plants, which was opposite to the tendency observed in roots. In
622 addition, a strong systemic induction of *CCD7* and *FLS* was detected. The only discordant
623 finding was the up-regulation of *PI II* gene expression, a typical marker of the JA-regulated
624 tomato wound response (Ryan, 2000) in leaves of mycorrhizal *spr2* plants. The systemic effect
625 induced in leaves in response to AMF colonization in tomato roots agreed with the extensive
626 gene expression changes reported in aerial plants parts of mycorrhizal tomato and other plant
627 species (Liu et al. 2007; Fiorilli et al. 2009; Pieterse et al. 2014; Cervantes-Gómez et al., 2016).
628 The high *CCD7* expression levels in WT mycorrhizal leaves could also represent part of a
629 recently described positive cross-talk between ABA, JA and strigolactones in mycorrhizal
630 tomato (Lanfranco et al., 2018). Moreover, the transient increase in JA levels in leaves of
631 mycorrhizal *M. truncatula* plants was recently shown to activate flavonoid and terpenoid
632 biosynthesis genes, presumably to improve the root's ability to scavenge available iron
633 (Adolfsson et al., 2017).

634

635 **Differential metabolite accumulation in roots could have been a manifestation of the**
636 **variability in AMF colonization levels observed between experiments**

637 A supervised principal component analysis of signals derived from untargeted metabolomic
638 analysis of the root extracts emphasized the variability observed between experiments (Figs. 2
639 and 3; Figs. S1 and S2). A selection of putative metabolites (Table 3), identified on the basis of
640 their *m/z* ratio, were found to differentially accumulate in mycorrhizal roots. These metabolites
641 are of interest as they may have influenced the mycorrhizal colonization process in either
642 positive or negative ways, thereby partly explaining the variability reported in this study. The
643 latter proposal somehow agreed with previous studies showing that the metabolomes of
644 mycorrhizal and non-mycorrhizal tomato roots are significantly different (Rivero et al., 2015).
645 The detection of three metabolite ions presumably associated with aa composition or synthesis (i.
646 e., hydroxypyruvate [serine biosynthetic precursor; Igamberdiev and Kleczkowski, 2018]; and L-
647 valine or L-aspartate-semialdehyde (Lys, Thr, Met, Ile biosynthetic precursor [Jander and Joshi,
648 2009]) was positively correlated with higher AMF colonization levels. This corresponded with
649 the increased abundance of these amino acids (aas) detected in mycorrhizal tomato and sorghum
650 roots (Schliemann et al., 2008; Rivero et al., 2015; Whiteside et al., 2012). Ser abundance was

651 important considering its multiple roles in biosynthesis of several biomolecules required for cell
652 proliferation, including other aas, nitrogenous bases, phospholipids, and sphingolipids (Ros et
653 al., 2014). The presence of myricetin was expected, considering that this and other flavonoids,
654 such as quercetin and kaempferol, have a strong stimulatory activity on AMF (Akiyama and
655 Hayashi, 2006). The abundance of O-feruloylquinic acid (Clifford et al., 2017) matched the increase
656 in lignans observed in response to another beneficial root-fungus interaction (Baldi et al., 2010)
657 and to the increased lignification of mycorrhizal roots cell walls (Ziedan et al., 2011). This
658 modification is predicted to regulate AMF penetration and colonization during the establishment
659 of the mycorrhizal symbiosis (Jung et al., 2012).

660
661 Compared to ectomycorrhizal fungi, where involvement of volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
662 in the establishment of the symbiosis is ample, the information regarding their effect on AMF
663 colonization is scarce. In this study, the observed relationship between VOCs levels detected and
664 AMF root colonization was not clear. Low levels of VOCs were generally observed, although
665 some, such as aldehyde and alcohol volatiles coincided with “high” AMF colonization, whereas
666 others, such as 3-methyl-2-butenal, phenylacetaldehyde and 10-hydroxygeraniol were detected in
667 roots with “low” AMF colonization levels. An exception was the higher concentration of
668 methylglyoxal detected in roots having “low” mycorrhization levels. The above results lent
669 support to the suggestion that the AMF symbiosis can alter root’s VOCs emission profile,
670 including terpenoids, as recently reported for sorghum and several other plants (Sun and Tang,
671 2013; Welling et al., 2016). The role of this and many other plant derived VOC signals in the
672 soil, especially in associations between roots and microbial colonizers remains to be determined.
673 VOCs have been proposed to permit a better adaptation of the plants to their respective soil
674 environments, including hormonal regulation of plant growth and allopathic protection from
675 herbivores and pathogens (Sun and Tang et al., 2013; Welling et al., 2016), although the above
676 results suggest other possibilities. Reduced 10-hydroxygeraniol may indicate an inhibited
677 plastidial MEP metabolic pathway and, perhaps, a scarcity of bioactive apocarotenoid precursors.
678 The co-expression of MEP pathway and *geraniol 10-hydroxylase* genes observed in
679 *Catharanthus roseus* was in conformity with this suggestion (Burlat et al., 2004). The
680 significantly lowered levels of 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate, a key substrate of the MEP
681 pathway was also in support of this scenario (Floss et al., 2008a). Another proposal is that the

682 inverse relationship between higher methylglyoxal contents and “low” AMF colonization was
683 representative of an imbalanced C budget caused by an inefficient utilization of assimilated CO₂
684 by roots with suboptimal colonization levels (Salomón et al., 2017).

685 Decreased PRO in WT roots with “high” mycorrhization could be rationalized by PRO’s
686 multifunctional roles, not only in protection against abiotic stresses, but also indirectly in plant
687 pathogen defense, via pyrroline-5-carboxylate, its catabolic intermediate (Qamar et al., 2015).

688 The accumulation of aas and related metabolites, different from those described above, coincided
689 with reduced AMF colonization efficiency. This was the case of His and L-homocysteine, a
690 methionine biosynthetic precursor, and cysteine. The depletion of histidinol, a His biosynthetic
691 precursor was in agreement with higher His levels. These results were inconsistent with an
692 increased uptake of these and other aas in mycorrhizal sorghum seedlings (Whiteside et al.,
693 2012). In contrast, succinic acid deficiency in WT roots with “high” mycorrhizal colonization
694 levels might have been an indirect indicator of mycorrhizal proliferation given its abundance in
695 secreted tomato C-rich exudates, secreted by the plant roots for AMF consumption (Kravchenko
696 et al., 2003). Such premise is congruent with AMF symbiosis causing a decrease in both formic
697 and succinic acid concentration in maize leaves (Sheng et al., 2011).

698 Reduced nicotinic acid content, together with other N-rich compounds such as guanine, 5-
699 hydroxyisourate (an allantoin precursor of the purine catabolic pathway regulated by N
700 availability) and pyridoxal-5'-phosphate, in roots with “high” AMF colonization, was contrary to
701 the AMF-dependent buffering of the N-rich metabolite depletion usually observed in tomato
702 plants grown under N-limiting conditions (Sánchez-Bel et al., 2018). The observed abundance of
703 other N-rich compounds such as cytidine, thiamin and 5-amino-6-(5'-phosphoribosylamino)-
704 uracil, a riboflavin synthesis precursor, in roots with “medium” and “low” colonization levels
705 was also in conflict with these reports. However, they agreed with the depletion of similar
706 compounds in these roots, such as orotate (possibly of fungal origin), 4-ureido-5-imidazole
707 carboxylate, an intermediate of the pathway converting 5-hydroxyisourate into *S*-allantoin,
708 dithiobiotin and uracil. It might be pertinent to suggest that reduced content of biosynthetic
709 precursors of allantoin, which plays an essential role in N assimilation, metabolism, transport,
710 and storage in plants, and also promotes root growth in tomato (Salvioli et al, 2012), might have
711 been an important factor that negatively impacted AMF colonization in tomato.

712 The negative correlation observed between N-acetylputrescine and AMF colonization abundance
713 in WT roots with “high” mycorrhizal colonization levels was unexpected, considering that
714 polyamines (PAs) are considered to have a positive effect on mycorrhizal colonization (Wu et
715 al., 2010). PAs presumably enhance mycorrhization by increasing carbohydrate resource
716 allocation to the roots and rates of glucose release from sucrose (Jiménez-Bremont et al., 2014).
717 However, decreased spermine levels did coincide with lower AMF colonization parameters
718 observed in this study. Decreased abundance of SA and normetanephrine were also in agreement
719 with “high” AMF mycorrhization in WT roots. SA is known to negatively affect root
720 colonization by AMF due its central regulatory role in plant pathogen defense responses (Blilou
721 et al., 1999; Herrera-Medina et al., 2003), whereas catecholamines contribute to plant defense
722 responses against pathogen infection (Kulma and Szopa, 2007). Reduced abundance of sinapate,
723 1-sinapoyl-D-glucose, xanthoxin, MeJA, D-sorbitol-6-phosphate and 2', 3'-cyclic nucleotides
724 also coincided with low mycorrhizal colonization. Reduced sinapate and xanthoxin may have
725 reflected lowered ABA levels given sinapic acid's negative effect on ABA content in
726 *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Bi et al., 2017), and xanthoxin's role in ABA biosynthesis (Taylor et al.,
727 2005). Low ABA levels could have negatively affected AMF colonization in tomato via their
728 proposed role in the regulation of strigolactone biosynthesis (López-Ráez et al., 2010). Low
729 sinapate-1-glucose levels may have adversely affected AMF colonization by decreasing tomato's
730 ability to adapt to the stressful conditions that are inherent to the establishment of this symbiosis
731 (Fang et al., 2012). Among its many proposed regulatory mechanisms, reduced MeJA may have
732 negatively affected AMF colonization by reducing its positive influence on N partitioning towards
733 the roots and lateral root proliferation, as demonstrated in *M. sativa* (Meuriot et al., 2004). The
734 reduction of sorbitol-6-P content may have diminished AMF colonization by reducing C
735 availability for the fungal symbiont, considering that polyols constitute important photosynthetic
736 products in some plant species and can be efficiently synthesized and utilized as carbon sources
737 by tomato (Schauer et al. 2005; Ohta et al., 2005). Lowered cyclic nucleotide contents might
738 have adversely affected the function of cyclic nucleotide-gated channels that regulate nuclear
739 Ca^{2+} oscillations that mediate responses to nitrogen-fixing rhizobial bacteria and AMF in *M.*
740 *truncatula* (Charpentier et al., 2016). Other secondary metabolites whose abundance negatively
741 correlated with AMF colonization were solavetivone; the cyanidine anthocyanin, 3-O-(4"-O-
742 acetyl-2"-O-galloyl)-alpha-L-rhamno pyranoside, tomatine and acetoxytomatine. Solavetivone

743 and other sesquiterpene phytoalexins are known to have antifungal effects in solanaceous plants,
744 including tomato (Yao et al., 2003). High cyanidin levels coincided with the detection of
745 anthocyanin accumulation in mutant *A. thaliana* plants adversely affected in phosphate
746 transporter activity (Bucher, 2004). Acylated flavonol glycosides similar to μ myricetin 3-O-(4'-
747 O-acetyl-2''-O-galloyl)- α -L-rhamnopyranoside are known to have antifungal properties
748 (Mahmoud et al., 2001), similar to tomatine and tomatidine, its aglycone derivative, which are
749 steroidal alkaloids found in tomato plants and green fruits (Pusztahelyi et al., 2015). The
750 coincidence in transcriptomic data (Tables 1 and 2) with targeted and untargeted metabolomic
751 data (Table 3 and Table 4) associated with tomatine accumulation strongly suggest that this
752 potent antifungal compound could be an important regulator of AMF symbiosis in WT tomato.
753 The scarcity of the C40 canthaxanthin carotenoid in WT roots with “high” AMF colonization
754 levels might have reflected a chemical shift toward the biosynthesis of AMF-colonization
755 enhancing C₁₃ and C₁₄ bioactive apocarotenoid compounds (Floss et al., 2008b, 2009). Lower
756 phosphate sugar levels could have indicated an active C flux from the plant roots to the AMF
757 symbiont (Bago et al., 2000; Tian et al., 2018), whereas contrasting ratios of 1-18:1-2-18:3-
758 phosphatidylcholine (PC) in roots with “high” AMF colonization/ low PC and “low” AMF
759 colonization/ high PC might have evinced the utilization of phospholipids for the synthesis of
760 lyso-phosphatidylcholine, recently identified as a lipophilic signal able to induce phosphate
761 transporter genes in mycorrhizal potato roots and in tomato cell suspension cultures (Drissner et
762 al., 2007). In this respect, low P-ethanolamine in tomato roots with “low” AMF colonization
763 levels may have led to low phosphocholine synthesis in the root and, therefore, to deficient levels
764 of this lipophilic signal (Martin and Tolbert, 1983).

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768 CONCLUSIONS

769 Mycorrhizal colonization was not reproducible in this study for reasons that have yet to be
770 determined. Despite the variability, JA-deficient plants had consistently lower mycorrhizal
771 colonization parameters. Root transcriptomic and metabolomic data indicated that AMF
772 colonization levels could be associated to the expression patterns of certain genes and
773 metabolites. “Low” mycorrhization coincided strongly with the induction of ET-synthesis and

774 ET-signaling-related genes. Root mycorrhization systemically induced the expression of several
775 genes in leaves, which proceeded in a partially JA-dependent manner. Prominent among the
776 latter were the *FLS*, *CCD7*, a handful of wound response- and of tomatine-biosynthetic genes.
777 PCA of metabolic fingerprints indicated that AMF mycorrhization modified metabolism in a
778 genotype-dependent way. Most presumptive metabolites having significantly different
779 abundance in mycorrhizal roots were predominantly associated with suboptimal AMF
780 colonization levels. Many, including tomatine, may have inhibited mycorrhization due to their
781 proven anti-microbial properties.

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Figure 1(on next page)

Degree of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) colonization, at 50 dpi, in roots of wild type (WT) and *spr2* tomato plants inoculated with *Rhizophagus irregularis*

The mean \pm SE) of **(A)** colonization frequency (F%), **(B)** intensity of mycorrhizal colonization (**M%**) and **(C)** arbuscule abundance (A%) in the root system of wild type (WT) and the JA-deficient *spr2* mutant in three independent experiments having “low”, “medium” and “high” AMF colonization levels are shown. Different letters over the bars represent statistical difference at $P < 0.05$.

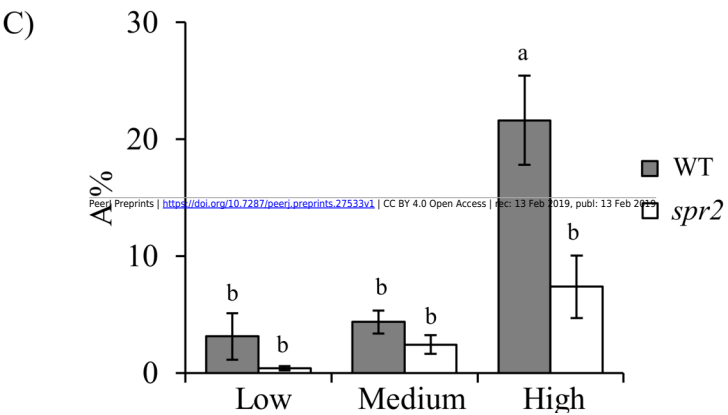
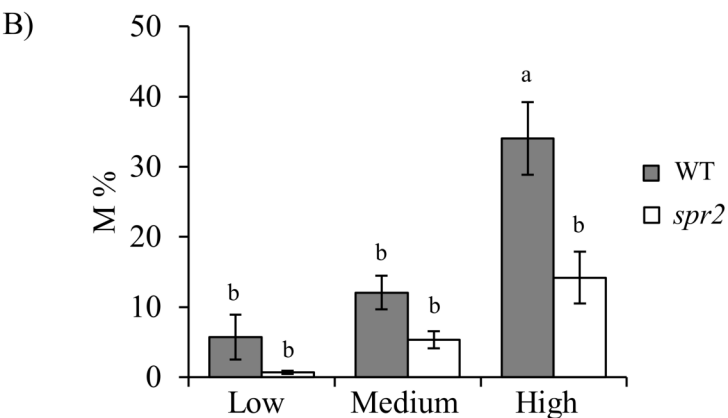
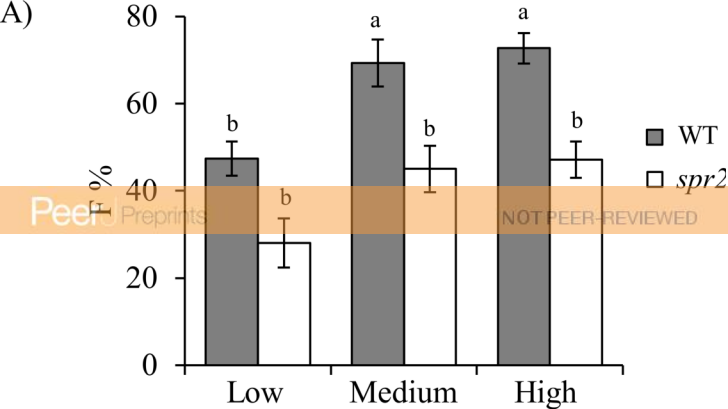
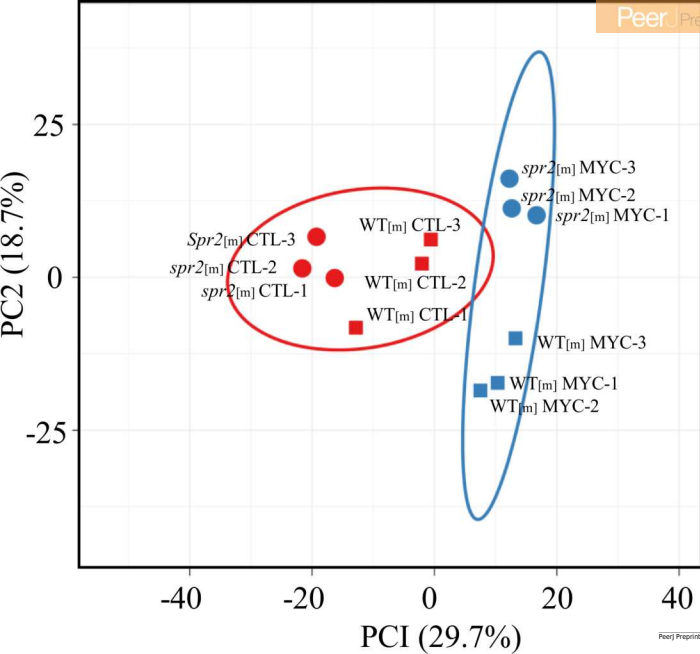


Figure 2(on next page)

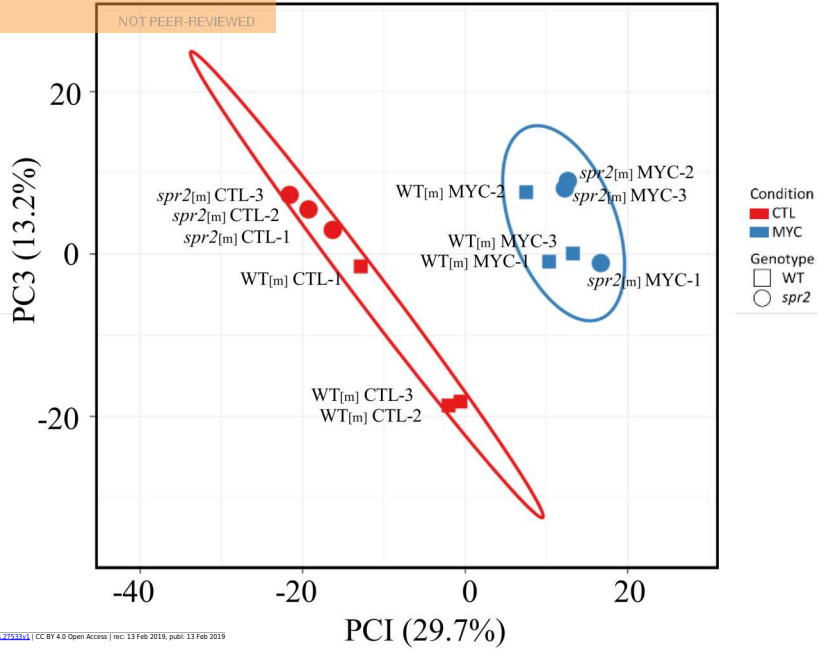
Untargeted principal components analysis on metabolic fingerprinting of tomato roots under control (CTR) and mycorrhizal (MYC) conditions for the experiment yielding “medium” AMF colonization levels.

The intensity of 673 metabolites sampled from roots of wild type (WT) and mutant (*spr2*) tomato plants was used to construct a matrix to evaluate the global variance at the metabolic level in WT and mutant *spr2* genotypes in response to AMF colonization. The three principal components explain 61.6 % of the total variance. They indicate that the factor that most influenced variability was the plant genotype. Prediction ellipses are such that they predict with 95% probability that any new observation from the same group will fall inside the ellipse. n = 12 data points.



Condition
 ■ CTL
 ■ MYC

Genotype
 □ WT
 ○ *spr2*



Condition
 ■ CTL
 ■ MYC

Genotype
 □ WT
 ○ *spr2*

Figure 3(on next page)

Metabolic heat-map generated with the 100 most intense ions detected in tomato roots under control (CTR) and mycorrhizal (MYC) conditions for the experiment yielding “medium” AMF colonization levels.

Ions in aqueous methanol extracts sampled from roots of wild type (WT) and mutant (*spr2*) tomato plants under CTR and MYC conditions were detected by DLI-ESI-MS as described in Materials and Methods. The hierarchical clustering resulted in a correct assignment of plants into well-defined MYC and CTL clusters. From the different signals, the m/z values were extracted for putative assignation.

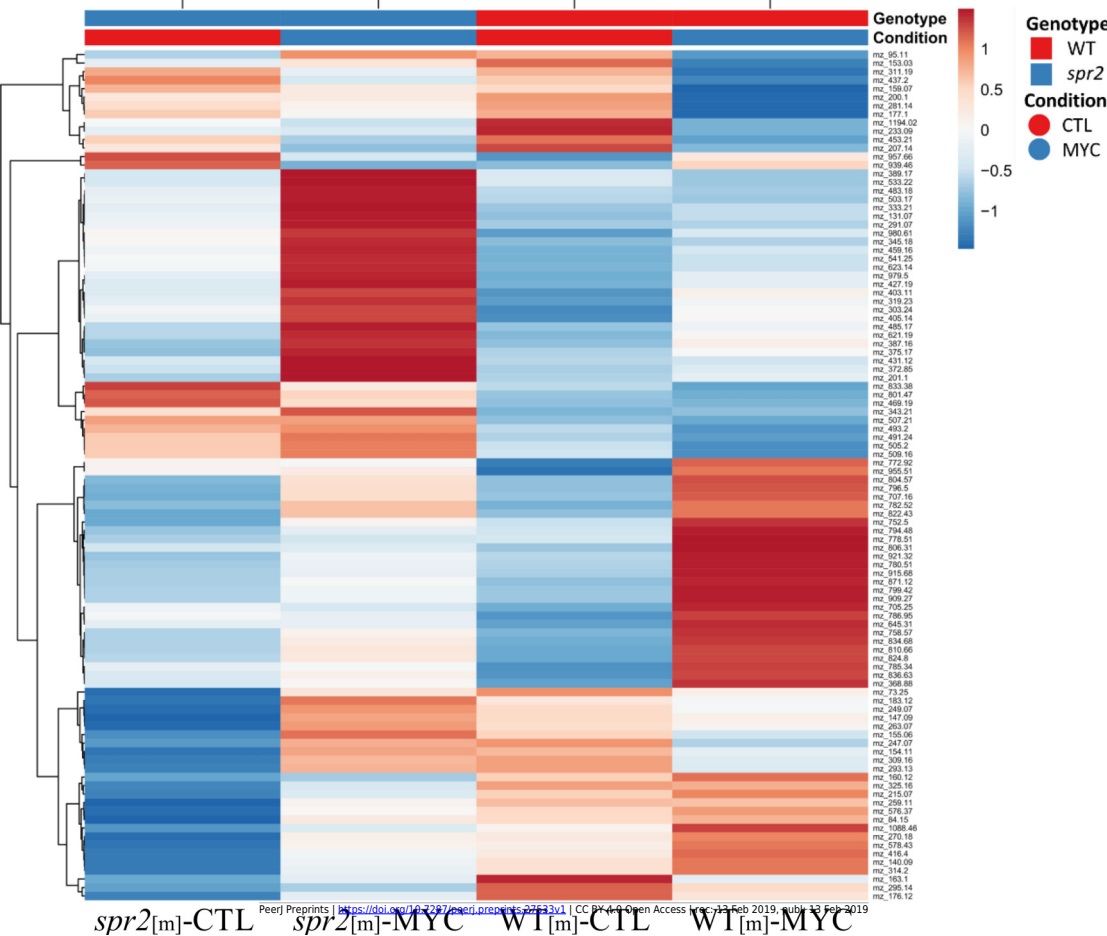


Table 1 (on next page)

Gene expression levels in roots of mycorrhizal wild-type (WT) and jasmonic acid-deficient *spr2* mutant tomato plants.

These were determined 50 days after colonization of the roots with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Shown are the results derived from three independent experiments yielding “low”, “medium” and “high” mycorrhizal colonization levels.

Genotype	WT			<i>spr2</i>		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Gene			Colonization level			
			High	Low	Medium	High
			Mycorrhizal markers			
<i>LePT4</i>	1252 ± 26	203 ± 36	2573 ± 407	78 ± 3.1	51 ± 4.0	188 ± 19
<i>18s Gi</i>	1938 ± 360	18808 ± 1221	14 ± 1.5	5749 ± 519	2346 ± 785	1677 ± 213
<i>EF1-α Gi</i>	118 ± 6.8	196 ± 37	23 ± 3.6	6662 ± 260	66 ± 26	51 ± 7.0
			Brassinosteroids			
<i>DET 2</i>	0.7 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.0	1.9 ± 0.2	2.4 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1
<i>DWF4</i>	1.6 ± 0.2	1.3 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.0	1.3 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.3
<i>DWARF</i>	3.1 ± 0.6	1.1 ± 0.2	0.8 ± 0.2	2.9 ± 0.4	1.7 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1
<i>Cyp81</i>	1.3 ± 0.1	2.7 ± 0.2	0.8 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.1
<i>CPD</i>	3.0 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.2
			Gibberellins			
<i>CPS</i>	3.8 ± 1.2	11.7 ± 1.2	8.4 ± 0.8	2.2 ± 0.3	23.3 ± 3.1	1.5 ± 0.3
<i>KS</i>	1.3 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.2	1.4 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.3
<i>GA3ox</i>	64.9 ± 7.5	32.0 ± 7.1	30.2 ± 3.2	2.3 ± 0.1	21.2 ± 1.9	35.1 ± 3.9
<i>GAI</i>	2.3 ± 0.3	0.6 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.0	1.9 ± 0.3	0.3 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.2
			Abscisic acid			
<i>TAS14</i>	3.0 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.2	1.5 ± 0.2	1.8 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.2
<i>NCED1</i>	0.6 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.1	3.2 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.2
			Apocarotenoids			
<i>CCD7</i>	11.0 ± 1.2	13.1 ± 0.5	5.7 ± 1.0	0.9 ± 0.1	5.1 ± 0.8	2.1 ± 0.3
<i>CCD1a</i>	1.4 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.2	2.1 ± 0.4	1.1 ± 0.2
<i>CCD1b</i>	1.7 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.2	1.4 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2
<i>CGT1</i>	1.2 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.2	2.2 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.1
			13-LOX			
<i>LOXD</i>	0.2 ± 0.0	3.3 ± 0.2	0.5 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.0	1.7 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.0
<i>AOS 1</i>	0.5 ± 0.0	4.2 ± 0.6	0.9 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.1
<i>JAZ 2</i>	0.3 ± 0.0	3.1 ± 0.6	1.7 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.0
<i>JMT</i>	3.4 ± 0.3	3.0 ± 0.5	3.1 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.1	9.8 ± 1.7	0.8 ± 0.1
			9-LOX			
<i>HPL</i>	1.7 ± 0.1	2.6 ± 0.4	2.9 ± 0.4	2.2 ± 0.3	3.0 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.2
<i>LoxA</i>	2.3 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.3	2.1 ± 0.1	2.7 ± 0.6	2.2 ± 0.5	1.5 ± 0.0
<i>DES</i>	10.8 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 0.1	3.1 ± 0.3	3.4 ± 0.5	1.8 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.2

<i>AOS 3</i>	1.6 ± 0.2	1.6 ± 0.4	6.5 ± 0.6	3.3 ± 0.7	1.2 ± 0.3	5.4 ± 0.5
Wound response						
<i>PS</i>	5.7 ± 0.7	2.1 ± 0.4	2.9 ± 0.3	1.4 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.0
<i>RBOH1</i>	0.8 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1
<i>LHA1</i>	1.4 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.2	2.6 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.1
<i>PLA2</i>	1.0 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.2	1.7 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.3
<i>PIN II</i>	9.0 ± 0.5	0.7 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.0	0.5 ± 0.1	0.3 ± 0.0	0.4 ± 0.0
<i>AroGP3</i>	0.2 ± 0.0	0.7 ± 0.1	0.2 ± 0.0	1.1 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.2
<i>PPO</i>	4.2 ± 0.5	0.9 ± 0.0	2.0 ± 0.3	3.6 ± 0.5	0.8 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.3
<i>CYP 2</i>	1.7 ± 0.2	0.7 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.1	2.7 ± 0.6
<i>SCP</i>	1.2 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.0	1.3 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1	1.8 ± 0.2
Ethylene Biosynthesis						
<i>ACS2</i>	2.9 ± 0.3	0.8 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.0	0.4 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.0
<i>ACS6</i>	4.1 ± 0.9	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.0	5.0 ± 0.6	0.8 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.2
<i>ACO4</i>	5.6 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.1	1.6 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.2
Ethylene Signaling						
<i>CTR4</i>	1.4 ± 0.2	1.6 ± 0.2	1.5 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	0.9 ± 0.1
<i>EIN 2</i>	5.0 ± 0.8	0.6 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.0	3.1 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.1	3.3 ± 0.2
<i>EIN 3</i>	2.7 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.1	2.0 ± 0.1	1.9 ± 0.1	3.9 ± 0.6
<i>ERF 1b</i>	3.7 ± 0.8	36.9 ± 2.9	12.1 ± 0.3	15.4 ± 2.3	23.3 ± 12.5	11.3 ± 0.9
Phenyl propanoid/ phenolic compounds biosynthesis						
<i>PAL3</i>	2.5 ± 0.2	0.8 ± 0.0	0.5 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.1
<i>PAL 4</i>	2.8 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.0	0.9 ± 0.1
<i>PAL 5</i>	1.3 ± 0.0	0.8 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.0
<i>FLS</i>	6.3 ± 0.3	0.4 ± 0.0	2.5 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.1	2.3 ± 0.2
Isoprenoid biosynthesis/ volatiles						
<i>DXS-2</i>	2.0 ± 0.1	15.3 ± 4.4	5.7 ± 0.6	2.6 ± 0.2	22.0 ± 3.1	1.4 ± 0.1
<i>FPS1</i>	0.6 ± 0.1	1.1 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.0	1.4 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.1
<i>HMGR 1</i>	1.0 ± 0.1	2.2 ± 0.3	0.7 ± 0.0	1.3 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.0	1.0 ± 0.2
<i>BEAT</i>	1.2 ± 0.1	1.2 ± 0.1	10.0 ± 0.5	2.3 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.4	1.2 ± 0.1
Glycoalkaloid biosynthesis						
<i>GAME 1</i>	1.4 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.4	0.8 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.1	4.4 ± 0.5	1.4 ± 0.2
<i>CAS 1</i>	0.6 ± 0.1	1.7 ± 0.3	1.1 ± 0.1	1.0 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.4

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Table 2 (on next page)

Gene expression levels in leaves of mycorrhizal wild-type (WT) and jasmonic acid-deficient *spr2* mutant tomato plants.

These were determined 50 days after colonization of the roots with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Shown are the results derived from combined leaves sampled from from mycorrhizal plants having “medium” and “high” colonization levels.

Gene	WT	<i>spr2</i>
Mycorrhizal marker		
<i>LePT4</i>	1.0 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.0
Brassinosteroid		
<i>DET2</i>	3.3 ± 0.7	3.0 ± 0.4
<i>Cyp81</i>	2.1 ± 0.6	5.4 ± 0.4
Gibberellins		
<i>GA3ox</i>	1.3 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.1
13-LOX		
<i>LOXD</i>	2.2 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1
<i>JMT</i>	2.3 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.2
9-LOX		
<i>HPL</i>	3.9 ± 0.3	2.2 ± 0.2
<i>AOS 3</i>	1.1 ± 0.5	0.5 ± 0.2
Abscisic acid		
<i>NCED1</i>	2.0 ± 0.1	3.5 ± 0.2
Apocarotenoids		
<i>CCD7</i>	17.9 ± 1.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Glycoalkaloids		
<i>GAME 1</i>	1.2 ± 0.2	0.4 ± 0.1
<i>GAME 6</i>	2.4 ± 0.3	1.0 ± 0.2
<i>GAME 4</i>	1.9 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.1
<i>GAME 11</i>	0.8 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.2
<i>GAME 17</i>	2.0 ± 0.2	1.4 ± 0.1
Signaling		
<i>PS</i>	1.0 ± 0.3	0.9 ± 0.2
Isoprenoid		
<i>DXS-2</i>	0.8 ± 0.1	2.9 ± 0.3
Ethylene biosynthesis		
<i>ACS2</i>	0.1 ± 0.0	0.7 ± 0.1
<i>ACO4</i>	0.5 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1
Ethylene regulator		
<i>EIN 2</i>	3.7 ± 0.6	1.8 ± 0.1
<i>ERF 1b</i>	0.1 ± 0.0	0.3 ± 0.0
Others		
<i>PAL 5</i>	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2
<i>AroGP3</i>	0.6 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.0
<i>PPO</i>	2.4 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.0
<i>PIN II</i>	5.4 ± 0.6	2.5 ± 0.3
<i>SCP</i>	1.4 ± 0.1	1.5 ± 0.2
<i>FLS</i>	102.1 ± 13.1	2.1 ± 0.1
<i>FPSI</i>	0.8 ± 0.1	0.6 ± 0.1
<i>BEAT</i>	0.5 ± 0.0	0.1 ± 0.0

Table 3 (on next page)

Identification of putative metabolites with significant changes in abundance in roots having contrasting AMF colonization efficiencies.

The accumulation pattern of these metabolites, with respect to untreated controls, was detected in mycorrhizal roots of wild-type (WT) and jasmonic-deficient *spr2* mutant tomato plants. Shown are the results of three independent experiments yielding “low”, “medium” and “high” colonization levels.

<i>m/z</i>	Low		Medium		High		Effect on AMF	Putative metabolite ^{1,2}
	WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>		
50.21							[+]	ND
57.08								ND
61.1								ND
66.13							[-]	ND
72.11							[-]	Methylglyoxal
72.26								ND
73.26								Aminopropanal; glyoxylic acid
82.05							[-]	ND
84.15							[-]	3-methyl-2-butenal
85.15								ND
86.15							[+]	ND
87.12								Pyruvate
97.13								ND
101.12							[+]	3-methyl-4-trans-hydroxy-2-butenal 4-methylpentanal Cis-3-hexenol Hexanal
104.21							[+]	Hydroxypyruvate
113.13							[-]	Uracil
115.06							[+]	Proline
118.12							[+]	L-valine L-aspartate-semialdehyde
119.13							[+]	Succinic acid
121.12							[-]	Phenylacetaldehyde Cysteine
123.05							[+]	Nicotinic acid
127.06								Thymine
129.00								ND
130.06								Itaconate
131.07							[+]	N-acetylputrescine
136.10							[-]	L-homocysteine
138.09							[+]	Salicylic acid
142.13							[-]	Histidinol Phosphorylethanolamine
151.07							[+]	Guanine
154.11							[-]	Histidine
156.12							[-]	Orotate
165.06							[-]	Ribonic acid
170.03								Dhap
171.13							[-]	10-hydroxygeraniol 4-ureido-5-imidazole carboxylate
173.12								ND
174.14								Aconitic acid
175.13								ND
179.01								Glucose aND isomers 3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)pyruvate
184.92							[+]	5-hydroxyisourate Normetanephrine
189.1								Cis-homoaconitate

							N6-acetyl-L-lysine
192.9							Citric acid
201.1						[-]	Spermine
211.11							ND
213.13							2-oxo-3-hydroxy-4-phosphobutanoate
215.07						[-]	1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate
219.07						[-]	Solavetivone
225.21						[-]	(-)-Jasmonic acid methyl ester (2s)-flavanone Sinapate
229.18							5-phosphoribosylamine
231.04							ND
233.09							ND
241.1						[+]	Cystine
244.19						[-]	Cytidine Uridine
247.07						[+]	Marmesin Pyridoxal-5'-phosphate
249.07							Gamma-L-glutamyl-L-cysteine
251.14						[-]	2-cis,4-trans-xanthoxin Xanthoxin
261.05						[+]	D-fructose-6-phosphate D-galactose 6-phosphate D-mannose-6-phosphate D-myo-inositol (4)-monophosphate
263.07						[-]	D-sorbitol-6-phosphate
265.08							2,3-bisphospho-D-glycerate
266.17						[-]	Thiamin
267.29							Inosine
273.11							Phloretin Erythroidine
274.62							6-phosphogluconate
277.1						[-]	ND
283.08							Xanthosine
288.22						[-]	Cyanidin
291.07							ND
305.16						[-]	2',3'-cyclic CMP 2',3'-cyclic UMP
316.36							ND
317.19						[+]	Myricetin
319.23						[-]	ND
320.26							ND
330.24							3',5'-cyclic IMP
343.21							Sucrose and isomers
345.18							Ga24
353.12							Prostaglandin D2
354.15						[-]	5-amino-6-(5'-phosphoribosylamino)-uracil (Riboflavin precursor)
360.33							ND
362.13							ND
363.12						[+]	ND
367.22							ND
368.88						[+]	O-feruloylquininate
371.21							ND

376.73							[+]	ND
381.12								Trans,trans-farnesyl diphosphate
387.16							[-]	1-sinapoyl-D-glucose
389.17							[-]	ND
393.17								Ergosta-5,7,22,24(28)-tetraen-3-b-ol
399.19								ND
405.14								ND
416.4								Tomatidine
429.18							[+]	Idp
447.15								ND
453.21							[-]	ND
455.17								ND
457.17								ND
465.19								ND
493.2							[+]	ND
497.23							[-]	ND
499.15							[+]	ND
521.26							[+]	ND
544.93								Phytoene
557.99							[-]	ND
565.91							[+]	Canthaxanthin
583.3								ND
595.9							[-]	ND
657.19							[-]	Myricetin 3-O-(4"-O-acetyl-2"-O-galloyl)- alpha-L-rhamnopyranoside
659.2							[-]	ND
669.19							[-]	ND
691.18								ND
697.36								ND
701.28							[-]	ND
705.25							[-]	ND
707.16							[-]	ND
711.26								ND
713.23								ND
714.95								ND
718.99								ND
734.85								ND
739.35								ND
740.38								ND
754.97								ND
756.51								ND
782.52							[-]	1-18:1-2-18:3-phosphatidylcholine
796.5							[-]	ND
801.41								ND
802.55								ND
804.57							[+]	ND
808.69								ND
813.28								ND
815.44							[+]	ND
818.07							[+]	ND
820.49							[+]	ND
822.43							[-]	ND
830.57								ND
863.16							[-]	ND

929.50								[-]	ND
941.37									ND
953.43									ND
955.51									ND
979.50									ND
1029.38									Didehydrotomatine
1034.50								[-]	(3b,5a,22b,25S)-spirosolan-3-yl O-b-D-glucopyranosyl-(1->2)-O-[b-D-xylopyranosyl-(1->3)]-O-b-D-glucopyranosyl-(1->4)-b-D-Galactopyranoside (Tomatine)
1048.46									ND
1057.47									UGA
1092.50								[-]	Acetoxytomatine
1105.96									ND
1194.02									ND

- 1 ¹Increasingly darker shades of green indicate that these metabolites were significantly increased with respect to
2 controls at $p = 0.05$, $p = 0.01$ and $p = 0.001$, respectively.
3 ²Increasingly darker shades of red indicate that these metabolites were significantly reduced at $p = 0.05$, $p = 0.01$ and
4 $p = 0.001$, respectively.
5 ND = Not determined.
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Table 4(on next page)

α -Tomatine biosynthesis/ catabolism is significantly reduced in mycorrhizal WT roots having “high” AMF colonization efficiency.

Accumulation pattern of α -tomatine, its biosynthetic precursors and catabolic products, with respect to untreated controls, was detected in mycorrhizal roots of WT and *spr2* mutant tomato plants. Shown are the results of three independent experiments yielding “low”, “medium” and “high” colonization levels.

Metabolite ^{1, 2}	<i>m/z</i> +/- 0.3 mass	Low		Medium		High	
		WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>
Tomatidenol	414.28				Light Green		
Tomatidine	416.40					Light Green	
Tomatidenol + galactose	576.37		Light Green		Dark Green		
Tomatine + galactose	578.43	Red			Light Green		Dark Green
Hydroxydehydrotomatidine trihexoside	916.56	Light Green					
Tomatidine dihexoside dipentoside	1004.39						
Tomatidine dihexosi depentose deoxyhexose	1018.35						
Didehydrotomatine	1030.51						
Dehydrotomatine	1032.48			Dark Green	Dark Green		
Tomatine	1034.50	Dark Green		Dark Green	Dark Green		
UGA ³	1044.66						
UGA	1046.57						
Hydroxydehydrotomatine	1048.46			Dark Green			
Hydroxytomatine	1050.48			Dark Green	Dark Green		
UGA	1056.47			Dark Green			
Tomatidine tetrahexoside	1064.58			Dark Green	Light Green		
Dihydroxytomatine	1066.47						
UGA	1068.48						
Acetoxydehydrotomatine + H-H ₂ O	1070.43						
Dehydrolycoperoside + H-2H ₂ O-Hex	1072.45	Light Green		Dark Green	Dark Green		
Acetoxydehydrotomatine	1090.50			Light Green			
Acetoxytomatine	1092.50	Light Green		Dark Green		Light Orange	
acetoxyhydrotomatine	1108.77						
UGA	1110.41						

1 ¹Increasingly darker shades of green indicate that these metabolites were significantly increased with respect to controls at $p = 0.05$, $p = 0.01$ and $p = 0.001$, respectively.

3 ²Increasingly darker shades of red indicate that these metabolites were significantly reduced at $p = 0.05$ and $p = 0.01$, respectively.

5 ³UGA = Unknown glycoalkaloid.

Table 5 (on next page)

Gibberellin (GA) biosynthesis/ catabolism is favored in wild-type (WT) roots having “high” AMF colonization levels.

Root of jasmonic-deficient *spr2* mutant plants tended to have the opposite effect. The colors indicate significant accumulation (green)/ depletion (red) of active GA, active GA precursors and catabolic products, with respect to untreated controls. Shown are the results of three independent experiments yielding “low”, “medium” and “high” colonization levels.

	<i>m/z</i>	Low		Medium		High	
		WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>	WT	<i>spr2</i>
GA9 (GA4 precursor [p])- GA12 aldehyde	317.19+/-0.2						
GA51-catabolite (c)	329.16+/-0.2						
GA15	331.17+/-0.2						
GA12	333.21+/-0.2						
GA29-c, GA34-c	345.18+/-0.2						
GA24 [GA4p], GA44 [GA1p], GA37,GA110-c	347.17+/-0.2						
GA14 [GA4p], GA15 [GA4p], GA53 [GA1p], GA34-c,GA29-c	349.17+/-0.2						
GA25-c	360.33+/-0.2						
GA38 [GA1p]	362.13+/-0.2						
GA8-c, GA19 [GA1p], GA36 [GA4p], GA97-c	363.20+/-0.2						
GA28 [GA53-c], GA43 [GA12-c]	395.12+/-0.2						
GA46 [GA12-c]	493.20+/-0.2						

1 ¹Increasingly darker shades of green indicate that these metabolites were significantly increased with respect to
2 controls at $p = 0.05$, $p = 0.01$ and $p = 0.001$, respectively.

3 ²Increasingly darker shades of red indicate that these metabolites were significantly reduced at $p = 0.05$, $p = 0.01$ and
4 $p = 0.001$, respectively.

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