

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR MOLEKULARE PFLANZENPHYSIOLOGIE

AG MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF PLANT ADAPTATION – DR. ROOSA LAITINEN

**Understanding the impact of heterozygosity on metabolism, growth
and hybrid necrosis within a local *Arabidopsis thaliana* collection
site**

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis has been carried out by myself and does not incorporate any material previously submitted for another degree at any university. To the best of my knowledge, it does not concern any material previously written by another person, except where reference is made in the text.

Selbständigkeitserklärung

Hiermit erkläre ich, dass ich die vorliegende Arbeit selbständig und unter Verwendung keiner anderen als den von mir angegebenen Quellen und Hilfsmitteln verfasst habe. Ferner erkläre ich, dass ich bisher weder an der Universität Potsdam noch anderweitig versucht habe eine Dissertation einzureichen oder mich einer Doktorprüfung zu unterziehen.

Potsdam, 10th of April 2018

Andrés Rodríguez

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Abstract

Plants are unable to move away from unwanted environments and therefore have to locally adapt to changing conditions. *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*), a model organism in plant biology, has been able to rapidly colonize a wide spectrum of environments with different biotic and abiotic challenges. In recent years, natural variation in *Arabidopsis* has shown to be an excellent resource to study genes underlying adaptive traits and hybridization's impact on natural diversity. Studies on *Arabidopsis* hybrids have provided information on the genetic basis of hybrid incompatibilities and heterosis, as well as inheritance patterns in hybrids. However, previous studies have focused mainly on global accessions and yet much remains to be known about variation happening within a local growth habitat. In my PhD, I investigated the impact of heterozygosity at a local collection site of *Arabidopsis* and its role in local adaptation. I focused on two different projects, both including hybrids among *Arabidopsis* individuals collected around Tübingen in Southern Germany. The first project sought to understand the impact of hybridization on metabolism and growth within a local *Arabidopsis* collection site. For this, the inheritance patterns in primary and secondary metabolism, together with rosette size of full diallel crosses among seven parents originating from Southern Germany were analyzed. In comparison to primary metabolites, compounds from secondary metabolism were more variable and showed pronounced non-additive inheritance patterns. In addition, defense metabolites, mainly glucosinolates, displayed the highest degree of variation from the midparent values and were positively correlated with a proxy for plant size.

In the second project, the role of ACCELERATED CELL DEATH 6 (*ACD6*) in the defense response pathway of *Arabidopsis* necrotic hybrids was further characterized. Allelic interactions of *ACD6* have been previously linked to hybrid necrosis, both among global and local *Arabidopsis* accessions. Hence, I characterized the early metabolic and ionic changes induced by *ACD6*, together with marker gene expression assays of physiological responses linked to its activation. An upregulation of simple sugars and metabolites linked to non-enzymatic antioxidants and the TCA cycle were detected, together with putrescine and acids linked to abiotic stress responses. Senescence was found to be induced earlier in necrotic hybrids and cytoplasmic calcium signaling was unaffected in response to temperature. In parallel, GFP-tagged constructs of *ACD6* were developed.

This work therefore gave novel insights on the role of heterozygosity in natural variation and adaptation and expanded our current knowledge on the physiological and molecular responses associated with ACD6 activation.

Keywords: *Arabidopsis thaliana*, diallel crosses, non-additive inheritance, hybrid necrosis, ACD6, metabolism, variation, adaptation

Zusammenfassung

Pflanzen sind sessile Organismen, die nicht in der Lage sind sich unerwünschten Lebensräumen zu entziehen, sodass sie sich an verschiedene Umweltbedingungen anpassen müssen. *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Arabidopsis) als Modellorganismus der Pflanzenbiologie war in der Lage eine Vielzahl von Lebensräumen zu kolonisieren und dabei verschiedenen biotischen und abiotischen Problemen zu trotzen. Natürliche Variation in Arabidopsis hat sich in den letzten Jahren als Mittel bewährt, um Gene zu analysieren, welche für adaptive Eigenschaften und natürliche Vielfalt verantwortlich sind. Studien über Arabidopsis-Hybride haben Erkenntnisse über die genetische Basis von Hybridinkompatibilitäten, Heterosis und Vererbungsmustern von Hybriden geliefert. Jedoch haben diese sich bisher lediglich mit globalen Ökotypen befasst, sodass noch viele Informationen über Variation in einem lokalen Wachstumsgebiet fehlen.

In meiner Doktorarbeit habe ich den Einfluss von Heterozygotie in einer lokalen Arabidopsis-Population und deren Rolle bei der Adaption untersucht. Dabei habe ich mich auf zwei Themen fokussiert. Beide Themen beinhalteten Arabidopsis-Hybride zwischen Individuen, welche in der Region um Tübingen in Deutschland gesammelt wurden. Das erste Projekt zielte darauf ab, den Einfluss der Hybridisierung auf den Metabolismus und das Wachstum der Pflanzen in einer lokalen Arabidopsis-Population zu verstehen. Dafür wurden das Vererbungsmuster von Primär- und Sekundärmetaboliten, sowie die Rosettengröße von diallelen Kreuzungen zwischen sieben Elternpflanzen analysiert. Im Vergleich zum Primärstoffwechsel variierten Sekundärmetabolite stärker und zeigten nicht-additive Vererbungsmuster. Zusätzlich zeigten Abwehrstoffe – hauptsächlich Glukosinolate – die höchste Abweichung vom Mittelwert beider Eltern und waren in positiver Korrelation mit der Größe der Pflanzen.

In dem zweiten Projekt wurde die Rolle von ACCELERATED CELL DEATH 6 (ACD6) im Abwehrsignalweg von nekrotischen Arabidopsis-Hybriden detaillierter charakterisiert. Da die genetische Interaktion zwischen *ACD6*-Allelen von globalen und lokalen Arabidopsis-Ökotypen bereits mit Hybridnekrose verknüpft wurde, habe ich frühe Metaboliten-, Ionen- und Expressionsänderungen von Markergenen charakterisiert, welche durch die Aktivierung von ACD6 induziert wurden. Eine Erhöhung von einfachen Zuckern und Metaboliten nicht-enzymatischer

Antioxidantien und dem TCA-Zyklus wurde detektiert, sowie von Putrescin und anderen Säuren abiotischer Stressantworten. Es wurde nachgewiesen, dass Seneszenz früher in nekrotischen Hybriden induziert und zytoplasmatisches Calcium-Signaling nicht durch Temperatur beeinflusst wurde. Zusätzlich wurden GFP-markierte Konstrukte von ACD6 generiert.

Zusammenfassend kann gesagt werden, dass diese Arbeit weitere Erkenntnisse über die Rolle von Heterozygotie in natürlicher Variation und Adaptation liefert und sie unser Wissen über die physiologischen und molekularen Veränderungen, verursacht durch die ACD6-Aktivierung, erweitert.

Stichworte: *Arabidopsis thaliana*, diallele Kreuzungen, nicht-additive Vererbung, Hybridnekrose, ACD6, Metabolismus, Variation, Adaptation

Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| ul | Microliter |
| °C | Degree Celsius |
| ABA | Abscisic acid |
| ACD6 | Accelerated cell death 6 |
| Alt | Altenriet (localization of Tübingen population; name of Arabidopsis wild accession) |
| amiRNA | Artificial microRNA |
| ANK | Ankyrin |
| Bod | Bodelshausen (localization of Tübingen population; name of Arabidopsis wild accession) |
| bp | Base pairs |
| cm | Centimeter |
| Col-0 | <i>Columbia-0</i> ; Arabidopsis ecotype |
| Ca | Calcium |
| C_T | Threshold cycle |
| CV | Coefficient of variation |
| DNA | Deoxyribonucleic acid |
| EDTA | Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid |
| <i>et al.</i> | <i>et alia</i> (and others) |
| FDR | False discovery rate |
| FW | Fresh weight |
| GC | Gas chromatography |
| GC-MS | Gas chromatography with mass spectrometry |
| GC-TOF-MS | Gas chromatography coupled with time-of-flight mass spectrometry |
| GFP | Green-fluorescent protein |
| CFP | Cyan-fluorescent protein |
| GLS | Glucosinolate |
| h | Hour |
| HR | Hypersensitive response |
| IAA | Indole-3-acetic acid |
| JA | Jasmonic acid |
| Kb | Kilobase pairs |
| LB | Lysogeny broth medium |
| LC-MS | Liquid chromatography with mass spectrometry |
| LIR | Leaf initiation rate |
| M | Molar |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| m/z | Mass to charge ratio |
| mM | Milimolar |
| Mbp | Megabase pairs |
| mg | Milligram |
| min | Minute |
| ml | Mililiter |
| mm | Milimeter |
| MPD | Midparental deviation |
| MPV | Midparent value |
| ms | Millisecond |
| MS/MS | Tandem mass spectrometry |
| NAD | Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide |
| NF-YA | HAP2 subunit of the CCAAT-binding Heme Activator Protein (HAP) transcription factor complex |
| ng | Nanogram |
| PAL1 | Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase I |
| PC | Principal component |
| PCA | Principal component analysis |
| PCD | Programmed cell death |
| PCR | Polymerase chain reaction |
| pH | Decimal logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion activity |
| qRT-PCR | Quantitative real-time reverse transcription PCR |
| rcf | Relative centrifugal force |
| RLK | Receptor-like kinase |
| RNA | Ribonucleic acid |
| ROS | Reactive oxygen species |
| RT | Room temperature |
| SA | Salicylic acid |
| TAIR | Arabidopsis Information Resource |
| TM | Transmembrane |
| Tris | Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane |
| UPLC-MS | Ultra performance liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry |
| WT | Wild type |
| YEB | Yeast extract broth medium |

1. Introduction

1.1 Natural variation in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

As sessile organisms, plants are exposed to different stresses in their local habitats. Natural environments therefore contain spatial and temporal heterogeneity, key factors influencing differential selection and the emergence of local adaptation. Although the importance of local adaptation in plant survival and diversification is widely recognized, its genetic basis is still not well understood (Fournier-Level et al., 2011). In order to improve data acquisition and interpretation efficiency, biologists have relied on the use of model organisms. In plant biology, *Arabidopsis thaliana* (*Arabidopsis*) has been the most studied organism, with more resources being allocated to its research than to well-known staple crops. With its ease of maintenance, short generation time, small space requirements and simple chromosomal structure, the number of biologists working with *Arabidopsis* has increased from around 25 researchers since the 1970s to more than 16,000 worldwide by the end of 2004 (Leonelli, 2007). Friedrich Laibach was the first scientist to be intrigued by the extraordinary amount of natural variation observed within individuals from this species; an observation that fuelled his systematic collection and classification of wild-type mutants since 1937 (Laibach, 1943). Parallel to *Arabidopsis*'s ample genetic diversity is its wide geographical distribution, with native global accessions growing throughout the northern hemisphere in Europe, North America, central Asia and Africa (Koornneef, Alonso-Blanco, & Vreugdenhil, 2004). The number of climatically different areas *Arabidopsis* has been able to colonize, from North Scandinavia to the mountains of Tanzania and Kenya, exceeds those encountered by almost any other well-investigated species of *Brassicaceae*, making it a suitable model to analyse variation in adaptive traits (Hoffmann, 2002; Koornneef et al., 2004). In fact, it has been shown that large-effect sequence polymorphisms affect approximately 9.4% of *Arabidopsis* protein-coding genes, with most changes accumulating in regions coding for genes interacting with environmental stresses (Clark et al., 2007). Additionally, the 1001 genomes consortium was able to identify extreme pair-wise divergences among global *Arabidopsis* accessions not correlated with geographic distance (The 1001 Genomes

Consortium et al., 2016), giving further insights into the global pattern of polymorphisms found within *Arabidopsis*.

The geographical diversity of *Arabidopsis* has led to regional differentiation and the appearance of different “ecotypes”. Ecotypes are populations of the same species adapted to their local environmental conditions, although nowadays this term has been replaced with “accession” to refer to plants collected at a specific location (Koornneef et al., 2004). Joe Hereford found that local populations of plants and animals usually show a 45% advantage over non-local individuals (Hereford, 2009). Yet, even though local adaptation is necessary for species to thrive amid rapid environmental changes and across different geographical regions, we still don’t understand its molecular basis (Fournier-Level et al., 2011). Studies on natural variation among global accessions have already helped us understand genetic mechanisms underlying differential fitness traits in hybrids (Weigel, 2012). Due to the wide geographical distribution of *Arabidopsis* individuals, phenotypic variation of physiological and morphological traits is abundant within global accessions of *Arabidopsis* (Koornneef et al., 2004). However, less is known about natural variation occurring within accessions from a same collection site. Even though *Arabidopsis* is mainly a self-fertilizing plant with an average outcrossing rate of 2% to 4% for urban or rural stands respectively, outcrossing rates can reach up to 20% depending on geographical location (Abbott & Gomes, 1989; Bomblies et al., 2010; Platt et al., 2010). Therefore, there can be considerable variation among local groups and haplotypes attributed to outcrossing (Platt et al., 2010). In fact, cases of heritable genetic variation leading to local adaptation have already been described. Of particular interest, it was recently shown that *Arabidopsis* accessions with different life-cycle strategies differed in their responses to different stresses; while winter annuals showed more resistance against drought, aphids and thrips, summer annuals fared better against *P. rapae* and *P. xylostella* caterpillars (Davila Olivas et al., 2017). Together, these findings suggest that heterozygosity can add to the genetic variation already present in a local habitat. Therefore, studies of local natural variation will not only help characterize the observed differences among local groups of accessions, but also enable us to uncover the mechanisms generating and maintaining this variability (Hedrick, 2006; Koornneef et al., 2004).

1.2 Metabolism and growth

The ability of a plant to survive and grow in different environmental conditions is linked to its metabolic capacity, which influences the energy resources available for reproduction and defense. In this sense, growth can be regarded as a direct measure of metabolic performance and an indirect measure of fitness linked to adaptation (Meyer et al., 2007). The impact of metabolism on plant growth is well-documented, with primary metabolism and carbon assimilation acting as direct regulators and secondary metabolism and defense compounds acting as indirect regulators (Box et al., 2015; Caldana et al., 2013; Meyer et al., 2007; Sulpice et al., 2009; Züst et al., 2011). In *Arabidopsis*, significant correlations between biomass and specific metabolite compositions have already been revealed, clarifying the direct link that exists between metabolism and growth (Meyer et al., 2007; Sulpice et al., 2009). In this regard, it is interesting to note that plant biomass could be predicted based on specific metabolite combinations. It has already been demonstrated that predictability of hybrid yield can be almost doubled with metabolomic data when compared to predictions relying solely on genomic information (Xu, Xu, Gong, & Zhang, 2016).

The predictive power of metabolites in plant biomass has been evidenced not only across recombinant inbred lines (RILs), but also across large sets of genotypically diverse *Arabidopsis* accessions (Sulpice et al., 2009). This should come as no surprise, given the fact that central metabolites comprise the major building blocks for growth and their depletion is an indicator of plant development under favourable conditions (Caldana et al., 2013; Meyer et al., 2007; Sulpice et al., 2009). Going beyond direct relationships between specific groups of metabolites and growth, a study conducted by (Lisec et al., 2011) revealed a negative association between overall metabolic variation and fresh weight heterosis in corn hybrids, thus highlighting a possible link between specific metabolite levels and growth optimization. More in detail, the authors hypothesized that the reduced metabolic variation associated to heterosis could be explained by the existence of optimal fluxes related to faster growth. This further enhances the notion that biomass can be explained by metabolic composition.

Understanding what the sources of variation for different metabolic profiles are, will allow us to comprehend the processes that drive plant adaptation. Taking advantage of high-throughput metabolomics gives the opportunity to understand plants as full

biological systems rather than relying on isolated pieces of information. Consequently, plant metabolomes open the possibility to grasp the complex relationships shaping plant growth; knowledge that could consequently help plant breeding strategies increase crop yields in more efficient ways.

1.3 The impact of hybridization on metabolism

The ubiquitous cause of adaptation across all organisms has been usually linked to random mutations within the genome after replication inaccuracies during mitotic cell divisions. Nevertheless, increased heterozygosity brought by hybridization has shown to be a driving force behind genetic diversity, with self-incompatible populations of *Arabidopsis lyrata* displaying higher levels of heterozygosity and diversity than selfed-seed populations (Mable & Adam, 2007). Furthermore, the contribution of hybridization to secondary metabolite variation and herbivore resistance serves as direct evidence for the existing relationship between hybridization, nonadditive metabolic inheritance and local adaptation (Cheng, Vrieling, & Klinkhamer, 2011).

Metabolic variability is affected, among other things, by parental ancestry. During hybridization, genetic traits in the offspring can be inherited in additive or non-additive ways. Traits inherited in an additive way will produce phenotypes resembling the mean effect of both parental alleles in the progeny. Therefore, the progeny phenotypes will not differ from the average phenotype observed in the parents (midparent phenotype). On the other hand, traits deviating from the midparental phenotype will be inherited in a non-additive way and can be transgressive, or beyond the range of both parents (Ng, Lu, & Chen, 2012; Seymour, Chae, & Grimm, 2016). These midparental deviations can be either beneficial or disadvantageous for the offspring. Decreased fitness in progeny compared to both parents is termed hybrid incompatibility and increased fitness is known as heterosis or hybrid vigour (Charlesworth & Willis, 2009; Schwartz & Laughner, 1969). The main mechanisms related with non-additive inheritance described so far are dominance, over-dominance and epistasis (C. Davenport, 1908; Hull, 1945). The dominance theory states that a phenotypic effect from a deleterious parental allele can be complemented in a hybrid with a dominant allele from the second parent (C. B. Davenport, 1908). In over-dominance, the effect of heterozygosity results in hybrid traits being higher than those observed in either parent. Additionally, hybrids can also

show novel phenotypes due to epistasis, where a gene from one locus influences genes at different loci (Sharp & Agrawal, 2016). Hybridization will therefore affect the inheritance patterns of genetic traits in hybrids, which in turn will influence the molecular and physiological responses of a plant.

The first project of my PhD work aimed to further investigate the causes and molecular mechanisms underlying non-additive inheritance and has the potential to improve hybrid breeding strategies. At the same time, the strength of studying natural variation in *Arabidopsis* resides in the very large and well-integrated resources of genomic data and molecular tools, which enable more accurate analyses and result comparisons when formulating new hypotheses (Trontin, Tisné, Bach, & Loudet, 2011).

1.4 Hybrid necrosis in *A. thaliana*

As mentioned in the previous chapter, non-additive inheritance can result in phenotypes that are beneficial or disadvantageous in comparison to the parents. Besides studying non-additive inheritance patterns in the first part of my thesis, the second part focused on investigating a special case of disadvantageous outcome in hybrids, namely hybrid necrosis. When independently diverging genomes meet in hybrids, epistatic interactions between newly introduced alleles might generate detrimental consequences. The developed incompatibilities have been previously described by Bateson, Dobzhansky, and Muller (Coyne & Orr, 2004; Dobzhansky, 1937; Muller, 1942), where complementary changes hypothetically occurring in two different populations can trigger the appearance of reproductive barriers among individuals. Hybrid incompatibilities can be seen as the unwanted by-product of diversification through natural selection. It can be found across most plant species, including important crop species like rice (Chen et al., 2014), and can act as a gene-flow barrier among them; more specifically, a postzygotic barrier (Bomblies & Weigel, 2007). Post zygotic barriers come in many forms, from poor hybrid performance or failure to attract pollinators, to intrinsic genic or chromosomal incompatibilities. In this way, hybrid incompatibilities can also shape speciation and local adaptation by promoting reproductive isolation between diverging populations (Fishman & Sweigart, 2018). These types of deleterious epistatic events have been mostly studied between different populations (Maheshwari & Barbash, 2011; Presgraves, 2010; Rieseberg &

Blackman, 2010), although recent research shows that these events can also occur within a single intermingling population (Corbett-Detig, Zhou, Clark, Hartl, & Ayroles, 2013; Hou, Friedrich, de Montigny, & Schacherer, 2014; Seidel, Rockman, & Kruglyak, 2008). When parents from two different populations encounter each other, genes that have evolved independently with divergent functionality, with no deleterious consequences in their respective population, meet and interact in unexpected ways (Bomblies et al., 2007; Bomblies & Weigel, 2007; Chae, Tran, & Weigel, 2016; Coyne & Orr, 2004; Fishman & Sweigart, 2018). For these deleterious interactions to occur within individuals of the same species, a strong selective pressure usually acts on specific loci, triggering a higher degree of polymorphisms that end up in unexpected incompatibilities (Chae et al., 2014). Therefore, increased allelic heterogeneity increases the likelihood of incompatible interactions (Crespi & Nosil, 2013; Cutter, 2012; Lachance & True, 2010). In this sense, high levels of sequence divergence are fuelled by adaptation. For this reason, fast-evolving defense genes have been linked both with adaptation and hybrid incompatibilities in natural accessions of *Arabidopsis* (Alcazar et al., 2009; Alcázar et al., 2014; Bomblies et al., 2007; Chae et al., 2014; Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014).

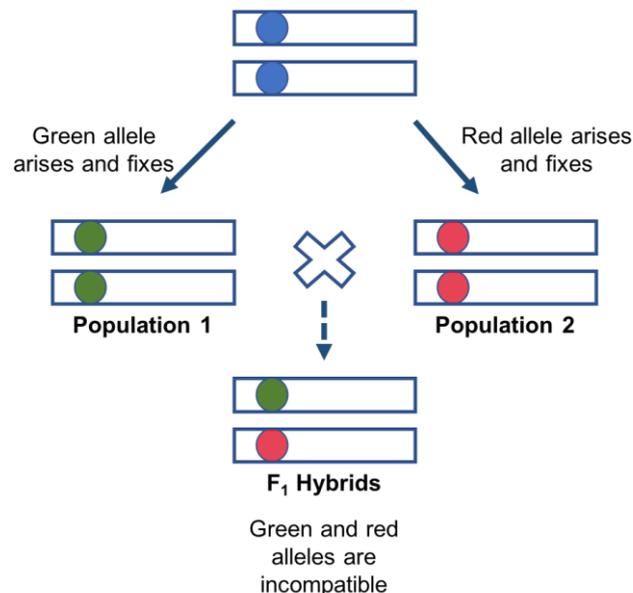


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the Bateson-Dobzhansky-Muller (BDM) model of hybrid incompatibility. Blue circles represent the ancestral alleles, while green and red circles represent the incompatible alleles that are acquired and fixed independently in each population.

Hybrid necrosis was first described in *Arabidopsis* more than ten years ago (Bomblies et al., 2007). It is a common type of post-zygotic genetic incompatibility in plants characterized by stunted growth, necrotic lesions, cell death, ROS accumulation, *PATHOGENESIS-RELATED (PR1)* expression and salicylic acid (SA) build-up, resembling a response elicited by pathogen attack (Alcazar et al., 2009; Alcázar et al., 2014; Bomblies et al., 2007; Bomblies & Weigel, 2007; Chae et al., 2014; Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014). In the first report with more than 850 unique crosses, approximately 2% of F₁ hybrids showed different degrees of necrosis (Bomblies et al., 2007). This was later confirmed by a diallel crossing scheme among 80 accessions with 6409 crosses (Chae et al., 2014). In addition to global accessions, hybrid necrosis may also occur between local accessions of *Arabidopsis* (Świadek et al., 2017). Most cases of hybrid necrosis described so far are linked with highly polymorphic loci; mostly immune receptor genes with nucleotide binding domains and leucine-rich repeat structures, also termed NLRs (Bakker, Toomajian, Kreitman, & Bergelson, 2006; Bomblies & Weigel, 2007; Chae et al., 2014; Clark et al., 2007; Noel, 1999; Todesco et al., 2014). NLRs are well-characterized proteins involved in the recognition of specific pathogen effectors and the consequent activation of plant defense responses (Alcazar et al., 2009; Bakker et al., 2006; Chae et al., 2014; Thomas Eulgem, 2005; Lodha & Basak, 2012; Maiti, Basak, & Pal, 2014). Additionally to NLRs, receptor-like kinases have also been involved in the elicitation of autoimmune responses (Alcázar et al., 2014). Nevertheless, Alcázar and collaborators were unable to identify incompatible interactions within a local population of *Arabidopsis*.

An interesting aspect of hybrid necrosis is its temperature-dependency (Alcazar et al., 2009; Alcázar & Parker, 2011; Alcázar et al., 2014; Bomblies et al., 2007; Bomblies & Weigel, 2007; Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2010, 2014). It has already been shown that temperature modulates defense signaling in *Arabidopsis* (Alcázar & Parker, 2011; Y. Wang, Bao, Zhu, & Hua, 2009; Zhu, Qian, & Hua, 2010). Although there is no known universal regulator for this temperature-dependent defense suppression, key regulatory elements have already been identified (Gangappa, Berriri, & Kumar, 2017). Interestingly, the positive roles of incompatible alleles in bestowing pathogen resistance has also been evidenced, offering possible explanations as to their accumulation within populations. Alcázar and collaborators were able to see an increased resistance to *Hyaloperonospora parasitica* both at

14°C, when the necrotic phenotypes were visible, and at 20°C where growth defects had been suppressed (Alcazar et al., 2009). Yet, although activation of defense responses might be beneficial against pathogen attack, autoimmune responses will undoubtedly have an impact in biomass and yield (Bombliet et al., 2007; C. Chen et al., 2014; Rate, Cuenca, Bowman, Guttman, & Greenberg, 1999; Todesco et al., 2010, 2014). Therefore, the intertwined relationship between defense and hybrid necrosis is a challenge for the optimal balance between growth and resistance; one that even crop breeders have had to encounter. In fact, there is a well-known correspondence between disease resistance selection and cases of hybrid necrosis. Most notably, wheat breeders searching for resistance to rust fungus ended up encountering an increased incidence of hybrid necrosis due to the raised frequency of the necrotic allele *Ne₂* (Morrison, 1957; Pukhalskiy, Martynov, & Dobrotvorskaya, 2000).

1.5 The role of ACD6 in hybrid necrosis

Though most genes involved in incompatible interactions, including NLRs, are well-studied resistance genes, many other proteins induced during different defense responses in diverging plant species remain uncharacterized or have yet unknown targets (Maiti et al., 2014). The molecular architecture of necrotic hybrids allows not only to study genes involved in incompatible interactions, but also the identification of novel proteins required for the activation of plant defense responses. In addition to NLRs, the *ACCELERATED CELL DEATH 6 (ACD6)* gene has been found as a common cause of hybrid necrosis in Arabidopsis (Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014). ACD6 was first identified in the gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1* (Rate et al., 1999). In this case, a single amino acid substitution at the transmembrane (TM) domain was able to induce stunted growth, activation of defense-related genes, accumulation of salicylic acid (SA) and cell death (Rate et al., 1999). A similar phenotype was later identified in the natural accession Est-1, where ACD6 was shown to have two amino acid substitutions at the TM domain (Todesco et al., 2010). It was only recently that ACD6 was linked with hybrid necrosis among global accessions of Arabidopsis (Todesco et al., 2014), although these accessions would never have the opportunity to meet in real life. Nevertheless, with the identification of ACD6-conferred hybrid necrosis among local Arabidopsis accessions (Świadek et al., 2017), the possibilities for allelic variation at this locus to impact adaptation has

become more plausible. *ACD6* activation elicits stunted growth, necrotic lesions and cell death linked to elevated reactive oxygen species (ROS), rise in PATHOGENESIS-RELATED PROTEIN 1 (*PR1*) transcripts and SA accumulation in *F₁* hybrids (Lu, Liu, & Greenberg, 2005; Lu, Rate, Song, & Greenberg, 2003; Lu et al., 2009; Rate et al., 1999; Todesco et al., 2014). It has also been shown that *ACD6* is both necessary and sufficient to generate hybrid necrosis, both among global and local accessions (Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014).

Unlike most of the genes involved in hybrid necrosis, *ACD6* is not characterized and its function remains unknown. In all cases of hybrid necrosis, the phenotype is temperature-dependent, appearing below 17°C and diminishing at temperatures above 21°C. This, however, does not hold true in the gain-of-function mutants, where *ACD6* is constitutively active due to amino acid substitutions in its transmembrane domain (Lu et al., 2005, 2009; Rate et al., 1999; Todesco et al., 2010). Current evidence supports that *ACD6* is involved in a positive feedback loop with SA and that the conferred phenotype is SA-dependent and unrelated to *ACD6* expression levels (Lu et al., 2003, 2009; Rate et al., 1999; Todesco et al., 2010, 2014). It has also been reported that SA triggers the migration of *ACD6* to the cellular membrane through the formation of protein complexes (Zhang, Shrestha, Tateda, & Greenberg, 2014). Therefore, the function of *ACD6* seems to be tied to its membrane localization and SA. Interestingly, accumulation of SA on its own does not trigger a defense response in plants, suggesting that SA works as a coactivator and needs other signals to induce these responses (Lu et al., 2003; Rate et al., 1999). In line with this, increased apoplastic bacterial growth has been evidenced in *Arabidopsis* plants grown in the dark when inoculated with avirulent strains of *Pseudomonas syringae* (Genoud, Buchala, Chua, & Métraux, 2002). A very similar study concluded that expression of *PR1* and SA accumulation required light (Zeier, Pink, Mueller, & Berger, 2004). Though not all defense pathways were light-dependent, including jasmonic acid (JA) signaling, expression of *ACD6* has been shown to be induced by SA in the presence of light (Lu et al., 2003). However, since hybrid necrosis is a product of incompatible allelic interactions, an increased expression of *ACD6* will not trigger the phenotype (Todesco et al., 2010). In this regard, the *ACD6* mutations responsible for the necrotic phenotypes seem to generate post-translational modifications (Zhang et al., 2014). What exactly are these modifications affecting in terms of the function of *ACD6* is not yet well understood. Therefore, more work needs to be done to further

comprehend its role in the plant's defense pathways, and important insights could be gained by understanding how it is able to generate hybrid necrosis in F₁ hybrids. Because this phenotype is detected in a temperature-dependent manner, it offers an opportunity to identify early molecular changes associated with its induction. Characterizing different physiological and molecular phenotypes of necrotic hybrids could therefore enable us to decipher new aspects of plant immunity.

1.6 Defense and senescence

Senescence is an organized loss of cellular functions that occurs at the final stage of leaf development. During this time, the plant recovers and reutilizes important nutrients that would otherwise be lost (Guiboileau, Sormani, Meyer, & Masclaux-Daubresse, 2010). Though developmental senescence is important to maximize viability in the next generation, premature senescence can actually hinder yield and crop quality (Breeze et al., 2011). Therefore, the timing of senescence is not only important for the plant, but also for the offspring. Interestingly, overlapping patterns in gene expression between defense responses and leaf senescence have already been observed (Quirino, Normanly, & Amasino, 1999; Zentgraf, Hinderhofer, & Zentgraf, 2001). A high-resolution temporal transcriptome profiling during Arabidopsis leaf senescence uncovered the upregulation of a diverse family of transcription factors with well-known roles in defense and stress-related responses (Breeze et al., 2011). Among them, members of the bZIP family, NF-YA subunits from the CCAAT box binding family, members from the NAC family, and WRKY family members involved in the regulation of SA- and JA-dependent defense signaling pathways (Thomas Eulgem & Somssich, 2007; Ülker & Somssich, 2004) were recognized. Therefore, pathogen attack and senescence both trigger concomitant molecular pathways.

In order to stop pathogen dispersal, plants usually rely on the production of ROS based on recognition of conserved pathogen molecular patterns (PAMPs) or pathogen effector proteins (Chakravarthy, Velásquez, Ekengren, Collmer, & Martin, 2010; Göhre & Robatzek, 2008; Pombo et al., 2014). For the latter, effector triggered immunity (ETI) is a host-acquired resistance against specialized plant pathogens. It is activated after the recognition of bacterial/fungal effector proteins and induces the production of ROS through SA. This, in turn, generates cell death to control the

dispersal of pathogens at an infected site; a defense mechanism known as the hypersensitive response (HR) (Büttner & Bonas, 2010; Koebnik, Krüger, Thieme, Urban, & Bonas, 2006; Li et al., 2013; K. A. I. Wengelnik & Bonas, 1996; K. Wengelnik, Van den Ackerveken, & Bonas, 1996). In this regard, cell death is a common process of both biotic defense and senescence. SA is also known to induce certain senescence-associated genes, though it is not necessary for leaf senescence to occur (Quirino et al., 1999). Nevertheless, Vogelmann and collaborators showed that SA was indeed necessary and sufficient to trigger early leaf senescence in *senescence-associated ubiquitin ligase1 (saul1)* Arabidopsis mutants grown in low light conditions (Vogelmann et al., 2012). During this light-dependent early-senescence phenotype, WRKY transcription factors were also significantly increased 24 hours after the transfer to low light. WRKY transcription factors have already been implicated in the regulation of plant defense responses and target conserved W box elements; *cis*-acting regulators that have been found in a large number of plant defense gene promoters (Fukuda & Shinshi, 1994; P. J. Rushton et al., 1996; Paul J. Rushton & Somssich, 1998). Expression of *WRKY* genes is also known to be triggered by the recognition of viral, fungal and bacterial elicitors (Eulgem, Rushton, Robatzek, & Somssich, 2000; Fukuda, 1997; Rushton et al., 1996; Z. Wang, Yang, Fan, & Chen, 1998), as well as in response to wounding (Hara, Yagi, Kusano, & Sano, 2000). Besides the dual role of SA and WRKY transcription factors, activation of defense-related genes during senescence, including the SAR markers *PR1* and *PR5*, has also been reported in numerous studies (Morris et al., 2000; Quirino et al., 1999; Silke Robatzek & Somssich, 2001). This body of evidence serves to highlight the notion of a strong overlap between senescence and defense regulatory mechanisms (Quirino et al., 1999). Therefore, activation of defense pathways seems to play a dual-role in the activation of the leaf senescence response.

1.7 Significance and aims of the work

This work seeks to understand the role heterozygosity plays on plant adaptation through its impact on metabolism and growth. Our study is focused on a local collection site of Arabidopsis because we believe the impact of hybridization to be stronger among natural accessions that have no geographical boundaries between them.

We were also intrigued in studying these accessions further because specific parental combinations yielded hybrid necrosis in the F₁ offspring. The cause of this hybrid incompatibility was connected to allelic interactions at the *ACD6* locus (Świadek et al., 2017). Although certain alleles of *ACD6* were found to be sufficient and necessary to trigger the hybrid necrotic phenotype, its function in plant stress signaling remains unknown. These observations led us to further characterize the role of *ACD6* in the context of hybrid necrosis; information that we believe will complement the existing knowledge about plant immune responses and its connection with other physiological and metabolic processes.

To understand the impact of hybridization on metabolism and growth, we generated a full diallel cross among seven genetically different parents collected in 2007 from a collection site in Tübingen, Germany (Bomblies et al., 2010; Świadek et al., 2017) and monitored the reciprocal hybrids and the seven parents for changes in primary and secondary metabolism. Additionally, we measured growth of all individuals across five different timepoints. The seven individuals used for this study also contained at least three different alleles of *ACD6*, known to influence growth through activated immune responses (Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014). A previous analysis of hybrid performance in heterotic maize hybrids among selected inbred lines showed that the increased fitness in hybrids was associated with a reduced metabolic variation (Lisec et al., 2011). In contrast, we hypothesized that an increased variation due to heterozygosity within a single natural growth habitat, with no prior artificial selection of the parents, could be a beneficial strategy for highly homozygous plants to cope with sudden changes in their surroundings.

To understand the molecular functions of *ACD6*, we focused on characterizing the early metabolic and ionic changes induced by *ACD6* activation in a temperature-dependent manner. Additionally, different GFP-tagged constructs of the protein were developed to identify novel interacting partners through immunoprecipitation assays. The expression pattern of senescence and flowering markers was also monitored across time, both in necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents, to identify differences in these two physiological responses. Finally, due to the reported plasma membrane localization of *ACD6* (Lu et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2014), we hypothesized it could be a regulatory component situated very high in the signaling hierarchy, and thought it could be mediating this regulation via calcium ions (Ca²⁺).

Therefore, cytosolic calcium changes in response to cold were measured in necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents using yellow cameleon sensors.

Consequently, the aims of the first project were:

- Understand the impact of heterozygosity on metabolism and growth
- Investigate the amount of metabolic and phenotypic variability between hybrids and parents coming from a local collection site
- Identify inheritance patterns in primary and secondary metabolism, together with growth taken as rosette radius

The aims of the second project were:

- Characterize the physiological and molecular responses associated to ACD6 activation within necrotic hybrids arising from individuals within the same local collection site.
- Understand the relationship between defense and senescence in necrotic hybrids.
- Identify the very early metabolic changes associated to *ACD6*-conferred hybrid necrosis.
- Compare intracellular calcium signaling in response to temperature between parents and necrotic hybrids.
- Develop N and C-terminal GFP-tagged ACD6 constructs for future pull-down assays.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Impact of heterozygosity in a single growth habitat

2.1.1 Plant material, growth conditions and phenotyping

The Altenriet (Alt) accessions 1 to 7 collected around Tübingen in 2007 (Bomblies et al., 2010) were used to determine the impact of hybridization on metabolism and growth. Two plants were used in the full diallel crosses to control the biological variation of individual plants. The same parent was used for all crosses within a replicate and the parent seeds were produced by manual fertilization to avoid random heterotic effects. Plants were grown in randomized individual pots using long day conditions (16 h light/ 8 h dark) in growth chambers with 21°C during the day and 17°C during the night. Each tray (containing 30 pots) was moved and turned every second day to decrease any chamber-dependent effects. Rosette radiuses (from the middle of the rosette to the end of the leaf tip) were measured from 10-leaf stage plants using imageJ (version 1.48). Whole rosettes were harvested for metabolic profiling at the 10-leaf stage in the middle of the day (between 12:00-14:00) to avoid any circadian effects. Analyses were conducted with at least four, and up to eight, biological replicates (the average number of biological replicates used was 7). Additionally, pictures of the same plant material were taken at five different developmental timepoints: 2-leaf, 4-leaf, 6-leaf, 8-leaf, and 10-leaf stage.

2.1.2 Metabolic profiling

Six rosettes of 10-12 leaf stage *Arabidopsis* plants were harvested and frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen. 50 mg of ground plant material was extracted using 300ul of cold methanol including Ribitol as internal standard, followed by 200ul chloroform and 400ul Bidest double-distilled water. After centrifugation, a 160ul aliquot from the upper polar phase was lyophilized and stored in -80°C until metabolite analysis. The derivatized extracts were analyzed by GC-MS as described previously (Dethloff et al., 2014). Briefly, 70µL of MSTFA and 10µL Pyridine including retention time index standards followed by 40µL methoxymation reagent in pyridine (20mg/mL) were added as described in (Allwood et al., 2009). Splitless injection for chromatographical analysis was performed as described in (Allwood et al., 2009).

Datamining was performed using TagFinder (Allwood et al., 2009; Luedemann, Strassburg, Erban, & Kopka, 2008) after baseline correction using ChromaTof-Software (Leco) as described (Allwood et al., 2009). Annotation was manual supervised in comparison to the GMD mass-spectral-library. Data was normalized to the internal standard Ribitol and fresh-weight prior to statistical analysis. Extraction and analysis by gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) were performed using the same equipment set up and protocol as described in (Lisec, Schauer, Kopka, Willmitzer, & Fernie, 2006). GC-MS spectra were manually evaluated using the ChromaTOF® 4.5 (Leco) and TagFinder 4.2 softwares (Luedemann et al., 2008; Schauer et al., 2005).

Secondary metabolite analysis was performed as previously described by (Tohge & Fernie, 2010) using a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC; Surveyor; Thermo Finnigan, USA) coupled to a Finnigan LTQ-XP system (Thermo Finnigan, USA). Metabolites were evaluated on the basis of the peak area of parental ion peaks processed using Xcalibur 2.1 software (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). The obtained relative peak areas were normalized by comparison to an internal standard (isovitexin; CAS29702-25-8) and the fresh weight of the sample used for extraction.

2.1.3 Statistical analyses

Metabolite data was first normalized for differences in fresh weight and machine performance using an internal standard. All metabolite intensities were normalized by log₁₀ transformation and each metabolite value was then scaled by its standard deviation to detect outliers. Values with more than five standard deviations away from the mean were replaced with non-analyzed (NA) values and metabolites with more than 20% NA values were eliminated from posterior analyses. The remaining NA values were imputed using the missForest package available in the R software for statistical computing (R). Bonferroni correction was used in R for every multivariate analysis done, and a significance level of 0.05 was used unless otherwise stated.

Correlation analysis

Pearson correlations using matrices with the mean values over the biological replicates were done in the R Statistical Computing Platform. The Pearson

correlation between metabolism and final rosette size contained the average metabolic intensities of both primary and secondary metabolism together with the rosette radius measurements of the final timepoint. The second correlation matrix contained the growth rates and rosette radius measurements for each of the five timepoints analyzed. Percent growth rate was calculated between every two consecutive timepoints as $(x-y)/y$, where x represents the latest and y the previous rosette radius.

Principal component analysis

Principal component analyses (PCA) were done using the function PCA from the “FactoMineR” package available for R. Average metabolite intensities per accession were used. To identify differences in the metabolomes of parents and hybrids after the temperature switch, independent PCAs were done for parents and hybrids. Metabolites with significant contributions ($p < 0.05$) to both dimensions were then compared between the two groups.

Coefficients of variation

The coefficient of variation was calculated by dividing the standard deviation of each metabolite over its mean, either across all hybrids (CVh) or all parents (CVp). Hence, the \log_2 CV-ratio was calculated as $\log_2(\text{CVh} / \text{CVp})$. The mean \log_2 CV-ratio for primary metabolites, secondary metabolites and size (based on rosette radius) was calculated independently and compared against a random mean CV-ratio. The random mean CV-ratio was generated by assigning new parent and hybrid groups after resampling all observations. This process was repeated 10000 times and a mean CV-ratio was calculated each time to produce a random distribution of mean CV-ratios (for primary metabolites, secondary metabolites and size independently). A shift in the observed mean CV-ratio with respect to the random mean CV-ratio was then assessed.

Analysis of inheritance patterns

To identify the different inheritance patterns across hybrids, the deviations from the midparent values (MPVs) were calculated for each hybrid per

metabolite. The deviation of each hybrid per metabolite was the result of subtracting the observed value from the predicted midparent value. To identify the classes of metabolites that were deviating most from the average midparent value, the relative percentage of deviation from the midparent value (rMPD) was calculated for each metabolite within each hybrid using the formula $rMPD = 100d/a$, where d is the difference between the hybrid and parental mean and a is the parental mean. Primary and secondary metabolites were coded from 1-100 and divided into biochemical/functional classes. Metabolites were reordered according to their mean rMPD values across all hybrids using ggplot2. To identify metabolites with non-additive modes of inheritance, empirical p-values were calculated by contrasting the observed deviation per metabolite against a random distribution generated for each individual metabolite by resampling.

2.2 The role of ACD6 in hybrid necrosis

2.2.1 Growth conditions and phenotyping

The individuals Alt-5 and Bodenhausen (Bod) 6, together with their reciprocal hybrids (Alt-5xBod-6 and Bod-6xAlt-5), were grown in individual pots at constant 21°C. Whole rosettes of six biological replicates were sampled at three different timepoints once plants reached the 10-12 leaf stage. In total, 72 plants were used and sampling was always done at midday to avoid circadian rhythm differences. During sampling, plants were switched to constant 17°C and left there either for 15 minutes or 220 minutes before being frozen in liquid nitrogen. A control group, without the switch to 17°C, was also sampled.

2.2.2 Metabolic profiling

Six rosettes of 10-12 leaf stage Arabidopsis plants were harvested and frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen. 50 mg of ground plant material was extracted using 300ul of cold methanol including 13C6-Sorbitol as internal standard, followed by 200ul chloroform and 400ul Bidest double-distilled water. After centrifugation, a 160ul aliquot from the upper polar phase was lyophilized and stored in -80°C until metabolite analysis. The derivatized extracts were analyzed by GC-MS as described

previously (Dethloff et al., 2014). Briefly, 70 μ L of BSTFA and 10 μ L Pyridine including retention time index standards followed by 40 μ L methoxymation reagent in pyridine (20mg/mL) were added as described in (Allwood et al., 2009). Splitless injection for chromatographical analysis was performed as described in (Allwood et al., 2009). Datamining was performed using TagFinder (Allwood et al., 2009; Luedemann et al., 2008) after baseline correction using ChromaTof-Software (Leco) as described (Allwood et al., 2009). Annotation was manual supervised in comparison to the GMD mass-spectral-library. Data was normalized to the internal standard 13C6-Sorbitol and fresh-weight prior to statistical analysis.

2.2.3 Statistical analyses

Multiple Multivariate Analyses of Variance (MANOVAs) were done in order to determine metabolites affected by temperature in hybrids with significantly different levels from each parent. In the first MANOVA analysis, metabolites were divided into three groups corresponding to both reciprocal hybrids (hybrids), Alt-5 (parent 1), and Bod-6 (parent 2). Consequently, three independent MANOVAs were performed to detect metabolites that were varying significantly between timepoints ($p < 0.05$), with p-values adjusted according to the false discovery rate (FDR). Significant metabolites unique for hybrids were kept and compared against the results of a second analysis. In the second analysis, the metabolic data was divided into two groups, comprising either hybrids and parent1 or hybrids and parent 2. After correcting for the FDR, a list of significantly changing metabolites between hybrids and both parents was obtained and contrasted against the results of the first analysis. This gave us a list of metabolites exclusively affected by temperature in hybrids with different intensities from both parents.

2.2.4 Intracellular calcium signaling

Cytosolic calcium signaling was monitored using yellow cameleon sensors. The parent lines Alt-5 and Bod-6, together with their F₁ hybrid Alt-5xBod-6, were agro-transformed with the construct NES-YC3.6 described in (Krebs et al., 2012). Transformed seedlings were screened via fluorescence microscopy for the emission spectra of yellow fluorescent tags. Six confirmed seedlings from each transformed line were transferred to pots and leaves from the adult plants were sampled when they reached the 8-leaf stage. A small cutting from the youngest leaf was pasted on a

well slide with medical adhesive and leaves were allowed to acclimate with 100ul of room-temperature water for 20 minutes. Afterwards, plants were imaged in a spectral laser scanning confocal motorized microscope (Leica TCS SP5) using the Leica Software "LAS AF". The imaging parameters were as follows: image dimension (512 x 512), pinhole (3.69 airy units), and line average (2). ECFP was excited using the 458 nm laser line of the Argon laser. The fluorescence intensity values for ECFP (465-500 nm) and cpVenus (520-570 nm) were detected simultaneously in selected regions of interest. Image acquisition was taken every 2.57 seconds and 100ul of cold water was added to the well slide after 60 seconds of data acquisition. Data acquisition was carried out for 416.34 seconds and the generated image data was analysed using Fiji ImageJ 1.51h to retrieve the FRET/CFP ratios for each of the 162 timepoints per biological replicate. Differences between the FRET/CFP ranges between the hybrid and each parent were contrasted against a random distribution generated by permutation resampling with 10000 iterations. Confidence intervals were determined with an alpha of 0.05 and all analyses were done in the R statistical environment (version 3.3.1).

2.2.5 Quantitative real-time PCR

For all experiments, RNA was isolated using TRIzol Reagent from Invitrogen (MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Isolated RNA was treated with DNase using the TURBO DNA-free Kit from Ambion (MA, USA) and the resulting RNA was reverse transcribed using oligo-dT primers from Qiagen (Düsseldorf, Germany). Synthesis of cDNA was carried out using the Maxima Reverse Transcriptase enzyme from Thermo Fisher Scientific (MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The resulting cDNAs were checked on gel prior to the quantitative reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR) runs. For the qRT-PCR, Maxima SYBR Green with low ROX from Thermo Fisher Scientific (MA, USA) was used in the StepOnePlus System from Applied Biosystems (MA, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. The threshold cycles (Ct) were quantified by the comparative Ct method and transcript abundances were estimated relative to the reference genes *UBQ5* and *18S rRNA*. Dot plot graphs using the standard error per sample were generated and the statistical significance was estimated by a Wilcoxon test on the open software R. Primers used for the different marker and housekeeping genes are summarized in Table S1.

To further understand the molecular variation present in the local Tübingen population, we evaluated the transcript levels of different marker defense genes for all seven Altenriet parental lines (Alt1 to Alt7). For this purpose, we took leaf tissue samples from each accession grown at 17°C and a Col-0 wild type line grown under the same conditions. RNA was extracted from leaves three and four when plants reached a 12-leaf stage and the transcript levels of the marker defense genes *enhanced disease susceptibility 1 (EDS1)*, *phytoalexin deficient 4 (PAD4)*, *pathogenesis-related protein 1 (PR1)*, *nonexpresser of pr genes (NPR1)*, *pathogenesis-related protein 5 (PR5)* and *accelerated cell death 6 (ACD6)* were evaluated by qRT-PCR. The housekeeping genes *ubiquitin 10 and 5 (UBQ10, UBQ5)*, *elongation factor 1 (ef1)*, *tubulin (TUB)*, and *acetylated tubulin (AC-TUB)* were tested for each time-point between all accessions. The housekeeping genes that showed less variation were used for the corresponding timepoints and three biological replicates were used per sample.

To characterize how the physiological processes of senescence and flowering were affected by hybrid necrosis, a time-course experiment between the hybrid Alt-5xBod-6 and its corresponding parental lines was conducted. Leaf tissue samples from leaves 3 and 4 were harvested for RNA isolation throughout six timepoints corresponding to the following developmental stages: 4-leaf stage, 8-leaf stage, 16-leaf stage, 24-leaf stage, flowering stage, and the stage “after flowering”. Plants were grown at constant 17°C to induce hybrid necrosis in hybrid plants (parental lines did not show signs of necrotic lesions throughout the experiment) and five biological replicates were used. The number of days to germination, bolting, and first open flower was recorded and the leaf initiation rate (LIR) was calculated as the rosette-leaf number at bolting stage divided by the number of days to bolt (bolting was defined as a flowering stem of 1cm). The molecular markers used for senescence and flowering time are shown in Table S1.

To better understand how nitrogen metabolism was affected by the activation of ACD6 in hybrids, RNA from the same plants used to identify early metabolic changes induced by ACD6 was extracted. Additionally, as a positive control, RNA from the gain-of-function mutant line *acd6-1* was also harvested. In addition to the molecular markers for nitrogen metabolism, the thermosensory immunity and growth regulator

PIF4 was also tested in parents, the hybrid Alt-5xBod-6, and the gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1*.

2.2.6 Interaction studies using GFP-tagged ACD6 constructs

To identify candidate interacting partners of ACD6, different GFP-tagged versions of the protein were developed. Briefly, the coding sequence of *ACD6* from the Alt-5 accession line was amplified and cloned by double-restriction enzyme ligation into the entry Gateway® vector pJL-Blue using the FastDigest® enzymes NotI and XhoI from Thermo Fisher Scientific (MA, USA). Two versions of the gene, one with and one without its stop codon were cloned and transferred respectively by LR reactions to the destination vectors pUBN-GFP and pUBC-GFP described in (Grefen et al., 2010). All selected constructs were verified by gel electrophoresis and sequencing to confirm the presence of the desired gene. Afterwards, the final vector was isolated from the *E. coli* strain DH5α and transformed into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain GV3101. Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of the Arabidopsis accession Bod-6 was done using the floral dip method (Bent & Clough, 1998) and T1 seeds containing the GFP constructs were BASTA® selected. Seedlings were then screened for GFP signal using the confocal motorized microscope Leica TCS SP5 with the Leica software “LAS AF”.

2.2.7 Protein extraction, pull-down and Western blot

Isolation of a plasma membrane-containing microsomal fraction was done from mechanically disrupted leaf tissue as described in (Santoni, 2007). Col-0 was used as a negative control and the plasma membrane protein *LOW TEMPERATURE INDUCED 6B (LTI6B)* tagged to GFP was used as a positive control. The resulting microsomal fractions were enriched for GFP-bound proteins using the Spin column protocol for GFP-Trap®_A from Chromotek. The enriched protein extract was separated on gel by SDS-PAGE and blotted to Whatman® chromatography paper (3mm). The western blot was run for 1 hour at a constant current (mA) equivalent to the volume of the gel. Tween tris-buffered saline solution (T-TBS) was used for the washing steps and 5% milk for blocking non-specific binding of the antibodies to the membrane. Blotting of the primary antibody (anti-GFP) was done overnight and the gel was washed afterwards three times with T-TBS before being incubated for 2 hours with the secondary antibody (anti-rat). Clarity® Western ECL Blotting from Bio-

Rad was used as the chemiluminescent detection agent and the membrane was revealed on Super RX-N medical x-ray film from Fujifilm (Tokyo, Japan).

2.2.8 Yeast two-hybrid assay

To find out candidate interacting partners of ACD6, the coding sequence of *ACD6* from the gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1* and the Alt-5 accession was cloned into the pGBKT7-BD vector from Clontech's Matchmaker® Gold Yeast Two-Hybrid System (Takara Holdings, Kyoto, Japan). Competent yeast cells were prepared and the pGBKT7-BD::ACD6 constructs were transformed to Y2HGold yeast cells using the Frozen-EZ Yeast Transformation II® protocol from Zymo Research (CA, USA). In parallel, the empty vector pGADT7-AD was transformed to the competent Y187 yeast strain using the same protocol from Zymo Research (CA, USA). Transformed yeast strains were confirmed by auxotroph growth on the proper synthetic defined (SD) dropout minimal media. To check if ACD6 was able to confer bait auto-activation, the transformed Y2HGold strain was grown on -Trp SD media supplemented with X- α -Gal (SDO/X). Additionally, the transformed Y2HGold strain carrying the pGBKT7-BD::ACD6 vector was mated with the Y187 strain carrying the empty pGADT7-AD vector. Mating was done overnight by mixing both transformed strains in 2X YPDA liquid media after each one reached an OD₆₀₀ of 0.8. Afterwards, colonies were screened on microscope for the detection of zygotes. When zygotes were detected (approx. 24 hours), the culture was plated on SD/-Leu/-Trp plates for the selection of diploids and SD/-Leu/-Trp/X- α -Gal/Aureobasidin A to determine bait auto-activation.

3. Results

3.1 Impact of heterozygosity in a single growth habitat

The first part of my thesis looked at the impact heterozygosity brought to metabolism and growth within *Arabidopsis* individuals collected from the same growth habitat in the year 2007. We hypothesised that hybridization could act as a source of metabolic diversity within a highly-selfing local group of *Arabidopsis* individuals, providing thus more options for adaptation to sudden changes in the environment. In order to test our hypothesis, we monitored primary and secondary metabolism, together with growth (defined as rosette radius), in a full diallel cross experiment. The following chapters highlight the main results and conclusions.

3.1.1 Hybridization increases the overall metabolic and phenotypic variation in a local collection site of *Arabidopsis*

To determine the impact hybridization had on metabolism and growth, two replicates of a full diallel cross with seven parental lines collected in 2007 from one location in Altenriet, Tübingen (Southern Germany) were used. From the 42 hybrids, four could not be assessed due to technical difficulties. Genotyping through RAD sequencing (Świadek et al., 2017) revealed more than 95.61% of homozygosity, based on the 1985 informative markers from the parents. Pairwise comparison of the SNPs showed that similarity among the parents varied from 60.3 % to 97.5 %, with an average similarity of 69 % (Table S2). Both the parents and hybrids were phenotyped for their metabolism and rosette radiuses. Rosettes of at least four plants were harvested at the 10-leaf stage for each parent and hybrid to avoid changes due to different developmental stages. Sixty-six analytes from primary metabolism and thirty-four from secondary metabolism (Table S3) were identified and quantified using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) (Lisec et al., 2006; Tohge & Fernie, 2010). To quantify growth, each plant rosette radius was measured from photos taken at a 10-leaf stage.

To assess the impact of hybridization on the overall metabolic variation, the coefficient of variation (CV) for each metabolite was calculated across all hybrids and parents, and the mean CV-ratio between hybrids and parents was determined. This process was done separately for primary and secondary metabolism, and growth based on rosette radius. A positive non-significant shift from the empirical mean of a permutation test revealed that hybridization increased overall metabolic and rosette size variation (Fig. 2). Regarding metabolism, the effect was slightly more pronounced on secondary metabolism than primary metabolism (Fig. 2A-B). Interestingly, the increased metabolic diversity was accompanied by an even larger variation in rosette size (Fig. 2C); a variation that was augmented in the fourth measured timepoint, when plants were at the 8-leaf stage (Fig. 2D).

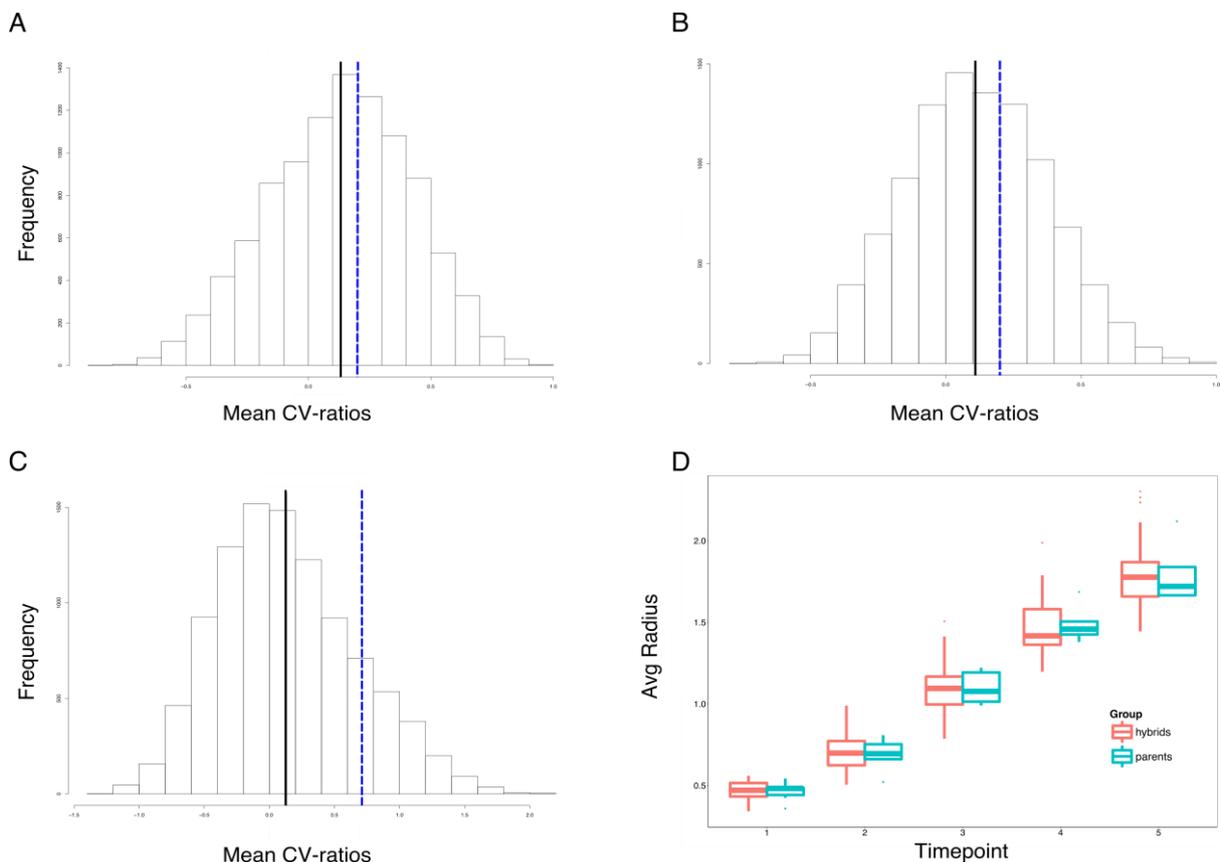


Figure 2. Hybridization increases the overall metabolic and phenotypic variation. The coefficient of variation (CV) ratio between hybrids and parents for primary metabolites (A), secondary metabolites (B), and growth based on rosette radius (C). The black line indicates the random mean and the blue line the observed CV ratio. The greater variation in hybrids, in terms of rosette radius, can be observed in (D).

3.1.2 Hybridization increases non-additive inheritance patterns in secondary metabolism

To gain further insights into the different inheritance patterns induced by hybridization, the relative midparental deviation (MPD) of each metabolite was calculated. The probability of each MPD to occur by chance was determined by contrasting against a random distribution generated by permutations with 5000 iterations. An alpha of 0.01 was used and metabolites with significant MPDs were classified as having non-additive inheritance. Overall, the distribution of deviations showed that secondary metabolites exhibited the highest degree of non-additive inheritance, with 20.6% of its metabolites showing a significant overall non-additive inheritance across all hybrids ($\alpha = 0.05$) (Fig. 3A). In contrast, none of the primary metabolites exhibited a mean significant deviation from the midparent value (MPV) across all hybrids. When looking at the number of individual cases (individual metabolites per cross), secondary metabolism showed 39% cases of non-additive inheritance, while primary metabolism displayed 28% (Table S4). The secondary metabolites that showed the highest degree of variation from the midparent values were compounds involved in plant stress responses, mainly glucosinolates, phenylpropanoids, flavonoids, plus several unknown analytes (Fig. 3A). While glucosinolates showed both significantly positive and negative median deviations from the MPV, the detected phenylpropanoids exhibited only a significant negative median deviation. For the compound classes in primary metabolism, the median deviations from the MPV were negative and considerably smaller than those for the majority of secondary metabolites (Fig. 3A). We also found that the variation in the MPD was larger for compounds comprising secondary metabolism (Fig. 3, Table S4). This indicated that some of the analysed hybrids showed particularly different levels of secondary metabolites in comparison to the average of the parents, suggesting that non-additive inheritance is a strong contributor in the shaping of secondary metabolism.

When looking at the total number of significant non-additive cases, certain crosses were more likely to exhibit non-additive inheritance in metabolism. Among these, six showed non-additive inheritance in more than 50% of their primary metabolites (i.e. cross 43) and fourteen crosses showed non-additive inheritance in at least 50% of their secondary metabolism (i.e. cross 17) (Fig. 3B-C). Since only two of these crosses were reciprocal (Alt6xAlt1 and Alt6xAlt2), the direction of the cross was

important in determining the extent of non-additive inheritance (Fig. 3C). In addition, crosses with Alt2 and Alt6 parents were involved in more than 40 % of the non-additive inheritance patterns for secondary metabolites (Fig. 3C, Table S4), while seven secondary metabolites (i.e. coniferin, *trans*-sinapoyl malate, phenylpropanoid sinapoyl malate, a structurally undefined aliphatic glucosinolate, benzenoid and flavonoid, and an unknown compound) showed significant non-additive inheritance across all hybrid crosses ($\alpha = 0.05$) (Table S4).

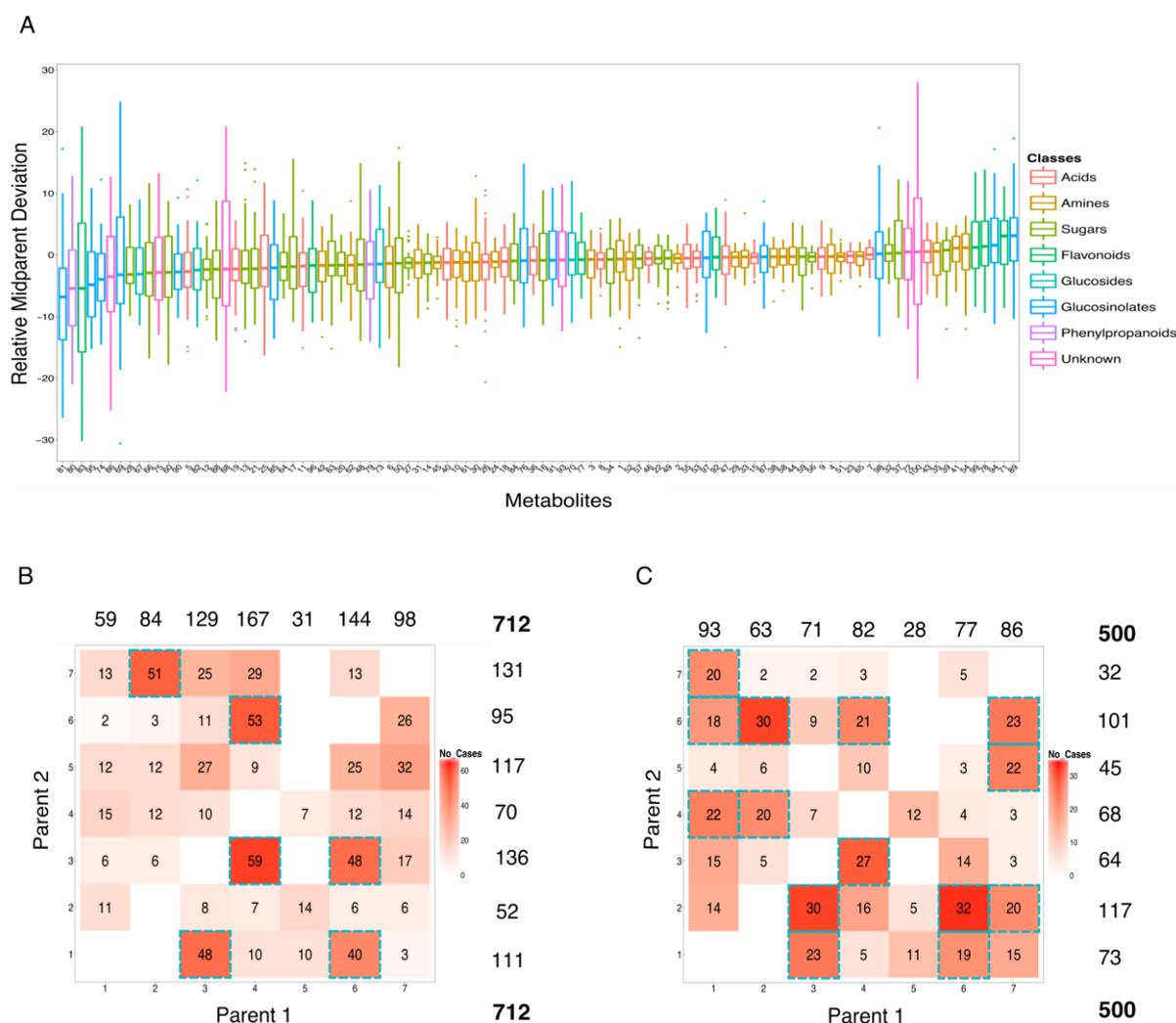


Figure 3. Secondary metabolism showed more non-additive inheritance than primary metabolism. To understand the impact hybridization brings to the natural variation of a local collection site, a metabolic profiling of a full diallel cross was analyzed. (A) Relative deviations of all measured metabolites from the midparent value. Indices correspond to primary (1-66) and secondary (67-100) metabolites ordered according to their median deviations from the midparent value. Number of (B) primary and (C) secondary metabolites inherited in a non-additive way across different hybrids. Crosses with more than 50% non-additive inheritance are marked by blue squares. Non-additive inheritance was based on significant deviations from the parental mean ($\alpha = 0.01$).

Altogether, we could not identify a particular pattern for the sign of deviations from MPV for the examined compound classes. Nevertheless, the levels of compounds from secondary metabolism showed predominantly non-additive inheritance patterns in comparison to primary metabolites. Moreover, some crosses were more likely to show non-additive inheritance than others; findings that were in line with the higher variance observed in secondary metabolism when compared to primary metabolism.

3.1.3 Primary metabolism shows high resiliency during hybridization events

Parallel to the deviations from the midparent values, a principal component analysis (PCA) was done for each metabolic phenotype to further investigate the parental effects on hybrid metabolism. The first two PCs captured a smaller percentage of the total variance of primary metabolism (PC1, 48.8% and PC2, 8.9%) when compared to secondary metabolism (PC1, 59% and PC2, 13.8%). Nevertheless, the variance explained by each of the two principal components was significant in both cases, evidenced by a larger percentage of accumulated variance when compared against the broken-stick variances. PCAs did not reveal any clear separation between parents and their respective hybrids (Fig. 4). Nevertheless, based on their secondary metabolism, all parents were located in the lower half of the second PC and more than half of the hybrids were not grouped with the parents (Fig. 4B). Primary metabolism didn't show the same behaviour (Fig. 4A), with both parents and hybrids being more equally distributed throughout space. Reciprocal hybrids were usually plotted close to one another, though in secondary metabolism the difference between certain reciprocal hybrids was pronounced. Among them, reciprocal hybrids between Alt2 and Alt4 parents showed the largest distance with respect to the second PC. Additionally, the hybrid Alt2xAlt4 was separated from the rest of the hybrids by PC2 and its secondary metabolism also showed the lowest correlation values when compared to other hybrids. In this sense, parents with the most dissimilar secondary metabolism (Alt2 and Alt4) also gave rise to the most dissimilar hybrid in secondary metabolism (Alt2xAlt4), although this behaviour was not seen in its reciprocal counterpart (Alt4xAlt2). This could be explained by a strong parental effect from having Alt2 as a mother and Alt4 as a father. Furthermore, Alt2 and Alt4 were also involved in several crosses whose reciprocal hybrids yielded dissimilar metabolic phenotypes. Interestingly, the most divergent hybrid in primary metabolism was Alt4xAlt3 rather than the hybrid from the most divergent parents, suggesting a

considerable contribution from non-additivity (Fig. 4A). Further evidence would be needed to better understand the cause of this underlying parental effect.

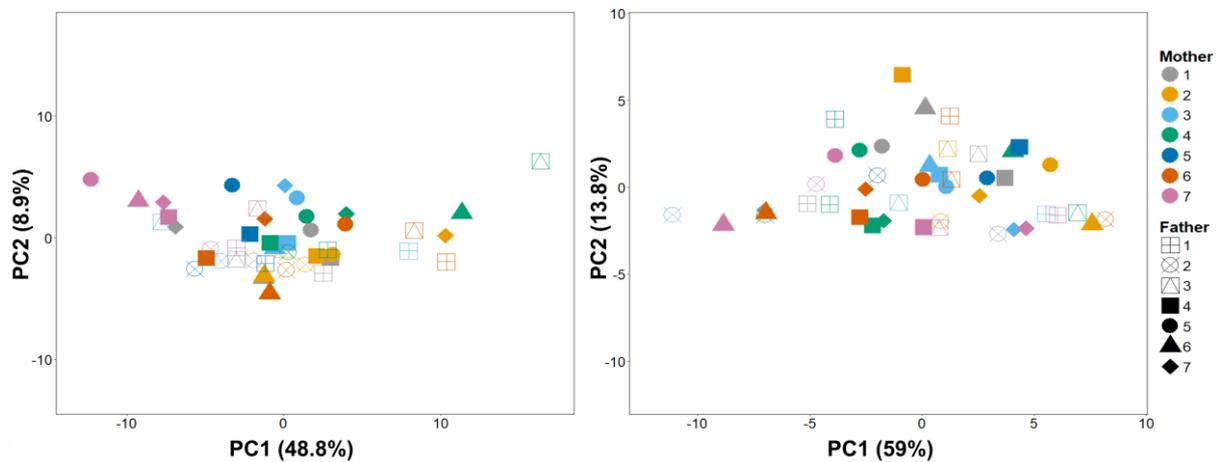


Figure 4. Principal component analysis (PCA) of the parents and hybrids. PCA was conducted based on primary metabolic profiles (A) and secondary metabolic profiles (B). Hybrids are coded based on the genotype of the parents. Colors indicate the mother while shapes indicate the father plant, indicated in the legend of panel (B).

3.1.4 Final rosette size is determined by the initial growth rate and correlates to specific metabolites

Studies on plant metabolism and growth-related traits have revealed a tight link between primary metabolism and biomass (Stitt, 2013; Sulpice et al., 2009). To find out if changes in metabolism are reflected to changes in growth-related traits, the measured rosette radius of 10-leaf stage hybrids and parents was measured and correlated against the metabolism (primary and secondary) across all individuals. The rosette size had both positive and negative non-additive inheritance in comparison to the midparent value (Fig. 5A). From the 12 hybrids with a significant deviation from the MPV, seven had larger and five smaller rosette radiuses than the midparent value indicating that parents contribute to both hybrid vigour (or heterosis) and hybrid incompatibility (Fig. 5B). From all hybrids, Alt6xAlt4 showed the highest positive deviation from the MPV and its reciprocal counterpart followed a similar behaviour with a significant positive deviation as well. Alt3xAlt1 and its reciprocal hybrid had two of the highest significant negative deviations in rosette radius (Fig. 5A-B), though many of the reciprocal hybrids did not show similar inheritance patterns. The latter indicating, again, underlying parental effects. For example, the

reciprocal hybrids of Alt3xAlt2 and Alt1xAlt-5, among the three with the largest positive deviation from the MPV, did not show significant deviations from the MPV.

When looking at the relationship between metabolism and growth by correlation analysis, twenty-four metabolites were found to be significantly correlated with the final size of hybrids using an alpha of 0.05 (Table 1). Out of these, most corresponded to positive correlations involving secondary metabolites, mainly glucosinolates, while only two primary metabolites were positively correlated with growth: 1,6-anhydrobeta-D-glucose, a hydroxylated form of glucose which forms on the pyrolysis of cellulose and hence can be regarded as a proxy for cellulose content (Sasaki et al., 2008), and spermidine (Table 1).

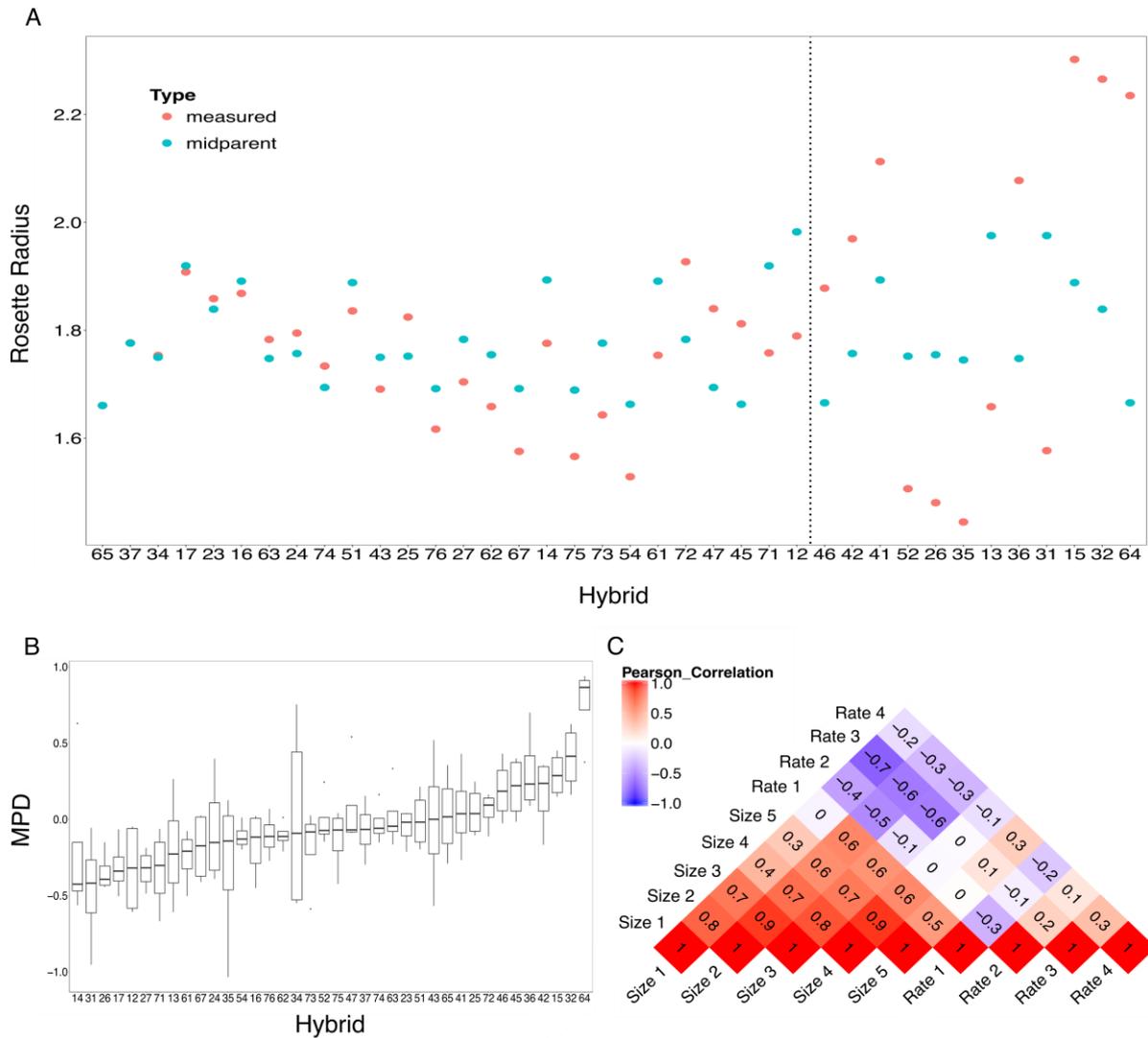


Figure 5. Non-additive inheritance patterns and correlation analysis of rosette size. Deviations of observed mean rosette radius from the midparent value in each hybrid are presented. (A) Hybrids with the highest deviations are not the right and the lowest on the left. The dashed line shows significant deviations from the midparent value ($\alpha = 0.05$). (B) Individuals are ordered from left to right according to the median of their midparent deviation (MPD), from negative dominant to positive dominant cases. (C) Correlation analyses between rosette radius and growth rates revealed a significant positive correlation between the first growth rate (before the appearance of the second pair of leaves) and rosette size ($\alpha = 0.01$).

Finally, to better understand the causes of an increased rosette size in hybrids, a correlation analysis between the growth rates and rosette sizes of hybrids was done. Only the initial growth rate, between the first and second time points analysed, showed a significant positive correlation with the rosette size of hybrids (Fig. 5C). Therefore, the final size of the hybrids seemed to be determined early after germination, before the appearance of the second pair of leaves; posterior growth rates didn't show any correlation with hybrid rosette size.

Table 1. Metabolites correlated with the final rosette size. Pearson correlation of all metabolites with the final rosette size (alpha = 0.05). Primary metabolites are highlighted in light blue and the mass and retention times of secondary metabolites are included, respectively, inside parenthesis.

| Metabolite | Correlation | P_Value |
|--|-------------|---------|
| No. 68 Unknown (463.3, 12.1) | 0,51 | 0 |
| No. 73 Disinapoyl glucoside-II (591.3, 19.15) | 0,47 | 0 |
| No. 79 Phenylprop, hydroxyferuloyl Glc (372.23, 10.4) | 0,45 | 0 |
| No. 84 3-Methylsulfinylpropyl gluc (358.36, 7.08) | 0,43 | 0 |
| No. 85 Glucosinolate (478.2, 12.8) | 0,46 | 0 |
| No. 76 7-Methylthioheptyl glucosinolate (462.3, 23.8) | 0,36 | 0,01 |
| No. 82 Sinapoyl glucoside (385.4, 13.4) | 0,37 | 0,01 |
| No. 94 Glucosinolate, neoglucobrassicin (477.3, 17.3) | 0,37 | 0,01 |
| No. 97 Glucosinolate (679.4, 17.0) | 0,4 | 0,01 |
| No. 22 Glucose 1-6-anhydro beta | 0,35 | 0,02 |
| No. 75 Unknown (585.1, 24.7) | 0,34 | 0,02 |
| No. 87 Glucosinolate, glucobrassicin (447.3, 15.3) | 0,34 | 0,02 |
| No. 91 Glucosinolate, 8-methylthiooctyl gluc (476.4, 27.7) | 0,35 | 0,02 |
| No. 93 Indole-3-carboxylate hex (323.30, 11.1) | 0,33 | 0,02 |
| No. 96 Possible flavonoid (565.19, 4.50) | 0,32 | 0,03 |
| No. 70 Disinapoyl glucoside-I (591.3, 18.2) | 0,31 | 0,04 |
| No. 71 Most likely anthocyanin (841.5, 29.3) | 0,3 | 0,04 |
| No. 92 Flavonoids, 3-Rha-7-Rha-Kae (577.6, 15.8) | 0,31 | 0,04 |
| No. 13 Fructose-6-phosphate | -0,29 | 0,05 |
| No. 44 Proline | -0,29 | 0,05 |
| No. 54 Spermidine | 0,3 | 0,05 |
| No. 77 Kaempferol 3-galactoside-7-rhamnoside (593.7, 14.9) | 0,3 | 0,05 |
| No. 98 Indolic glucosinolate (477.2, 20.1) | 0,29 | 0,05 |
| No. 100 Unknown (371.2, 11.6) | 0,29 | 0,05 |

3.2 The role of ACD6 in hybrid necrosis

In the second part of my thesis I investigated hybrid incompatibilities caused by allelic interactions at the *ACD6* locus among crosses from the Tübingen collection site in Germany first identified in (Świadek et al., 2017). To further understand the possible role of ACD6 within the plant defense response pathways, physiological responses linked to senescence and flowering were measured in both the necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents. Additionally, early metabolic and ionic changes induced by ACD6 activation were monitored in both groups, together with changes in cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} in response to cold. In parallel, different GFP-tagged constructs of ACD6 were developed with the objective of identifying candidate interacting partners through pull-down assays. The following chapters summarize the main findings of this research.

3.2.1 Necrotic hybrids senesce earlier than parents

Due to the reported link between defense and senescence regulation (Eulgem et al., 2000; Feys, 2005; Quirino et al., 1999; Robatzek & Somssich, 2002; Robatzek & Somssich, 2001), we wanted to investigate the possible role of ACD6-activated defense responses and physiological senescence on necrosis in hybrids. First, we wanted to find out if and at what stage of development where defense and senescence-associated molecular markers expressed. For this, the expression of molecular senescence markers, *SENESCENCE-ASSOCIATED GENE 12 (SAG12)* (Weaver, Gan, Quirino, & Amasino, 1998) and *WRKY53* (Miao, Laun, Zimmermann, & Zentgraf, 2004), were screened together with the defense marker *PATHOGENESIS-RELATED PROTEIN 1 (PR1)* in the Alt-5xBod-6 necrotic hybrid and its parents across different developmental stages.

Both molecular senescence markers were expressed earlier in hybrids than in the parents, with *SAG12* induced exclusively in hybrids at the 16-leaf stage and *WRKY53* showing higher levels of expression since the 8-leaf stage (Fig. 6). In comparison, parents only showed *SAG12* expression until the flowering stage and though expression levels of *WRKY53* were also detected in parents at the 8-leaf stage, they were significantly lower than those seen in hybrids (Fig. 6). Something interesting to note is that defense was activated before senescence in necrotic hybrids, as evidenced by a significant increase in *PR1* at the 4-leaf stage (Fig. 6A).

Even though senescence was induced earlier in necrotic hybrids than in both parents, premature flowering in hybrids was not observed. Intrigued by this, the expression of different flowering markers was assessed. Though most reported flowering markers didn't show any clear expression differences between the hybrid and both parents (Fig. S1), two *NF-YA* transcription factors involved in endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress and drought tolerance (Nelson et al., 2007; Wenkel et al., 2006) were found to be upregulated in necrotic hybrids. Interestingly, upregulation of these transcription factors has been linked to a delayed flowering response (Wenkel et al., 2006).

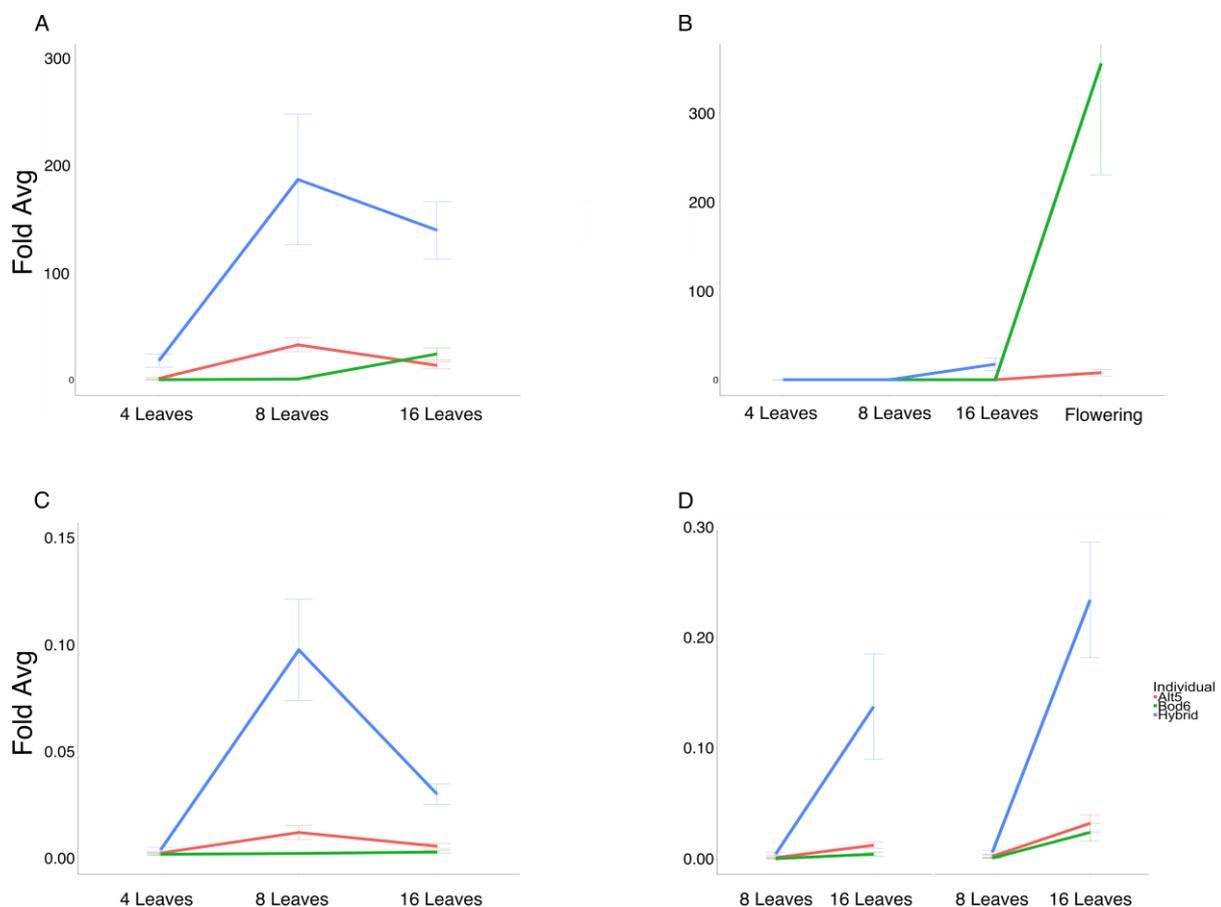


Figure 6. Senescence was induced earlier in necrotic hybrids than in parents. Analysis of the relationship between hybrid necrosis caused by *ACD6* and senescence, together with flowering time, using molecular markers. (A) The defense marker *PR1* was used as a positive control for the active defense response in necrotic hybrids. (B) The senescence marker *SAG12* was expressed exclusively in hybrids at the 16-leaf stage. Parents only accumulated this transcript during the flowering stage. (C) The early-leaf senescence marker *WRKY53* was significantly higher in hybrids since the 8-leaf stage. (D) Subunits of the NF-Y/HAP transcription factor complex involved in ER stress, flowering and drought tolerance were upregulated in hybrids with respect to parents at the 16-leaf stage. Other genes involved in flowering (*FLC*, *FT* and *CBF1*) didn't show clear differences between hybrids and parents (Fig. S1). $\alpha = 0.05$. Wilcoxon Test. Red line: Alt-5. Green line: Bod-6. Blue line: Hybrids.

3.2.2 Temperature induces abiotic stress compounds early during hybrid necrosis

To better understand the causes of hybrid necrosis triggered by a temperature-dependent activation of ACD6, the early metabolic changes induced by temperature were compared between hybrids and parents. For this, the Alt-5 and Bod-6 parent lines were grown with their reciprocal hybrids at constant 21°C and subjected to a temperature switch of constant 17°C after plants reached the 8-leaf stage. Six biological replicates were used per plant and three timepoints corresponding to 21°C (control), 15min. and 220min. after the switch were collected. A total of 72 samples were analysed by GC-MS and ion chromatography, yielding 165 metabolites and 9 ions (5 cations and 4 anions) respectively.

A PCA of the metabolic dataset revealed that the temperature shift generated different patterns of variation between hybrids and parents 220 minutes after the switch, with PC1 separating hybrids after the temperature switch from the rest of the individuals (Fig. 7A). When plotting the metabolic dataset of hybrids and parents separately, hybrids had 83 out of 128 metabolites showing a significant contribution to the observed change due to temperature explained by PC1. In contrast, parents showed much less variation due to the temperature shift, with only 17 metabolites showing a significant contribution to the observed variation. Among these, fourteen were shared with hybrids, leaving hybrids with 69 unique metabolites showing a unique pattern of variation induced by temperature (Fig. 7B).

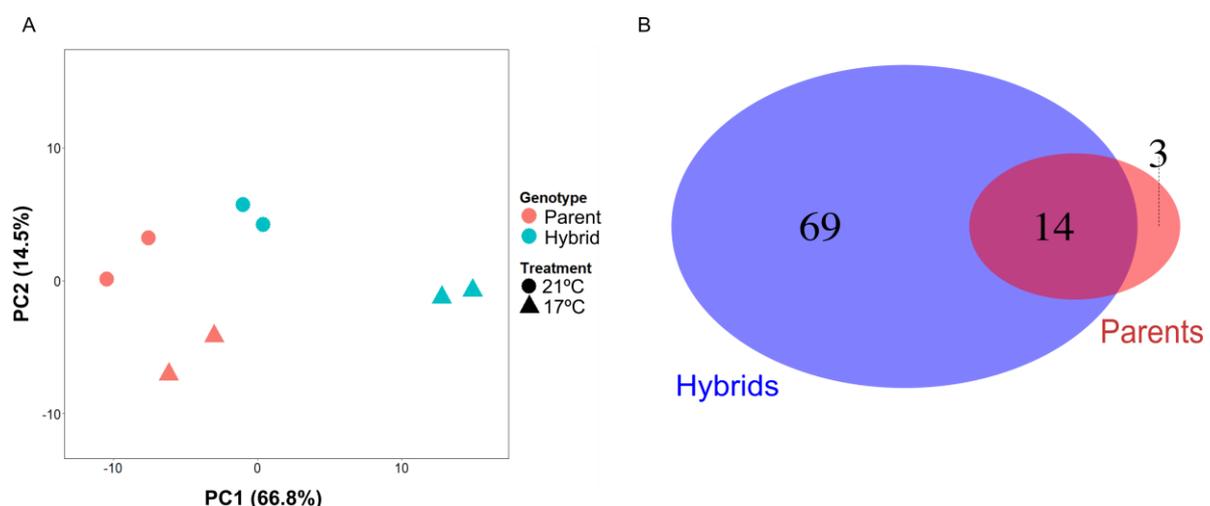


Figure 7. PCA of the metabolic changes induced by ACD6. (A) PCA of the different genotypes represented by their metabolism before and after the temperature switch. (B) Venn diagram showing the number of metabolites with a significant contribution to the two principal components, for hybrids and parents.

Although PCAs were a useful tool to compare datasets between parents and hybrids, it did not give information about metabolites whose levels were significantly different between time points and individuals. Therefore, multiple multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA) were performed in order to find metabolites that were both significantly regulated by temperature in hybrids and with a final level different from both parents (taking the level of each parent separately). No metabolites were detected to be changing significantly 15 minutes after the temperature switch, hence all the results discussed focus on the second timepoint (220 minutes after the temperature switch). These analyses revealed a total of 60 metabolites unique for hybrids, 45 of which were shared with metabolites contributing significantly to the variation induced by temperature in hybrids (from the previous PCA results) (Fig. 7B). Among the 60 metabolites, acids and sugars were among the most abundant, comprising more than 30% of the detected compounds. Acids included intermediates of the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle (Citrate, Succinate, Malate), together with compounds involved in biotic/abiotic stress tolerance (Shikimic Acid, Salicylic Acid) and glutathione metabolism (Ascorbate). Sugars included simple sugars (Glucose, Fructose) and compatible solutes (Glucose-6-phosphate, Trehalose) involved in osmoprotection (Fig. 8). Important to note is that 37% of the detected metabolites had no annotation and, therefore, their biological and molecular roles during the emergence of hybrid necrosis remain unknown for now. Overall, the biological processes that seem to be induced early by temperature in necrotic hybrids include the synthesis of ATP, compatible solutes and antioxidants, together with abiotic stress signaling molecules (Table 2).

When looking at the early ionic changes induced by temperature in hybrids, ammonium and sulfate were found to be significantly upregulated (Fig. 9A, C). However, their final levels in hybrids were not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent, casting doubt as to their biological impact on the emergence of the phenotype (Fig. 9B, Fig. S2). Growing hybrids in soil under different ammonium concentrations did not trigger the necrotic phenotype (Fig. S3).

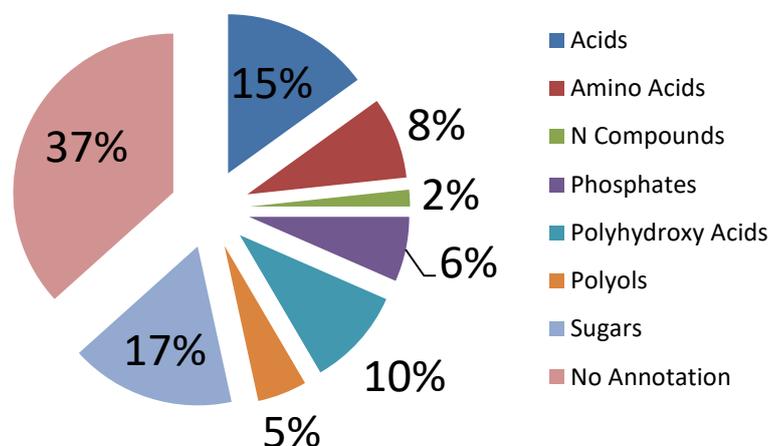


Figure 8. Metabolite classes induced early after the temperature switch in necrotic hybrids. Early metabolic changes induced by temperature in necrotic hybrids were analyzed to identify molecular causes of hybrid necrosis associated to ACD6 activation. Multiple MANOVAs revealed 60 metabolites significantly upregulated in necrotic hybrids 220 minutes after a switch from 21 to 17°C.

Table 2. Abiotic stress compounds induced early after the temperature switch in necrotic hybrids. The physiological responses that could be affected by specific groups of metabolites induced by temperature are presented. MANOVA analyses were run with an alpha of 0.05 and all p-values were corrected according to the false discovery rate (FDR). Six biological replicates were used.

| Upregulated Analytes | Involved In | Bibliography |
|--|--|---|
| Fructose-6-phosphate (1MEOX) (6TMS) MP, Glucose-6-phosphate (1MEOX) (6TMS) MP | Glycolysis; ATP Production | Miura et al. 2014, Sadava et al. 2017 |
| Citrate (4TMS), Succinate (2TMS), Malate (3TMS) | TCA Cycle; ATP Production | Sadava et al. 2017 |
| Putrescine (4TMS) | Positive Regulation TCA Cycle; Abiotic Stress | Gill & Tuteja 2010, Shu et al. 2011, Zhong et al. 2016 |
| Maltose (1MEOX) (8TMS) MP, Glucose (1MEOX) (5TMS) BP, Fructose (1MEOX) (5TMS) BP | Gluconeogenesis; ATP Production | Kerepesi & Galiba 2000, Sadava et al. 2017 |
| Shikimic Acid (4TMS), Salicylic Acid (2TMS) | Biotic and Abiotic Stress; Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR); Stomata Closure | Kang et al. 2013, Khan et al. 2010, Miura & Tada 2014, Nazar et al. 2011, Noreen & Ashraf 2010, Sawada et al. 2006, Shah 2003 |
| Pyroglutamate (2TMS), Glutamate (3TMS), Ascorbate (4TMS) | Glutathione Metabolism; Antioxidant Activity | Kang et al. 2013 |
| Trehalose, alpha, alpha'- (8TMS) | Osmoprotection | Nuccio et al. 2015, Pilon-Smits et al. 1998 |

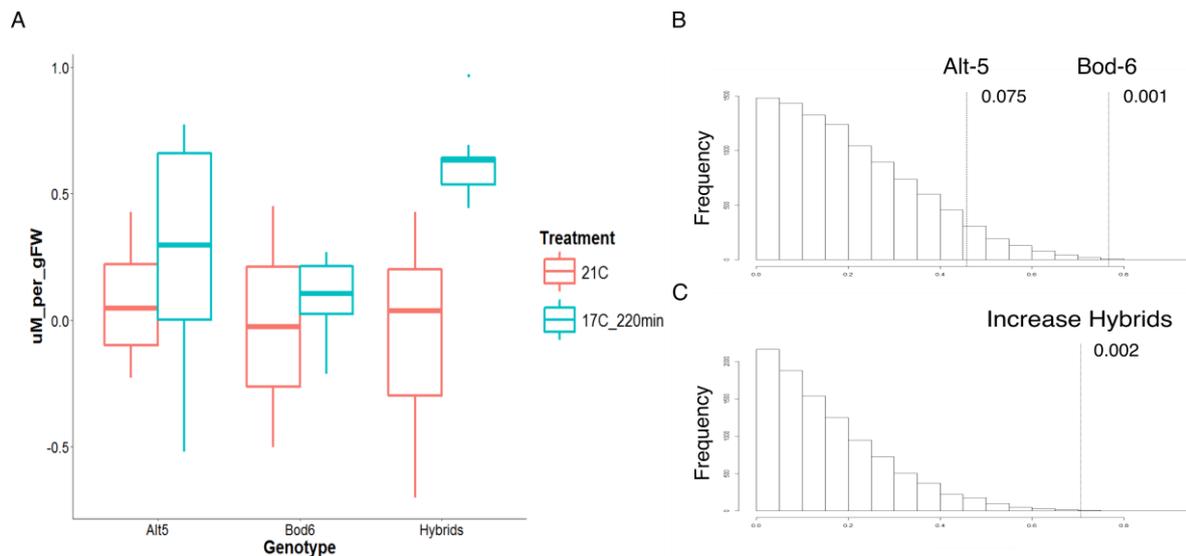


Figure 9. ACD6 activation increases intracellular ammonium in necrotic hybrids. (A) The concentration of ammonium in necrotic hybrids increased after the temperature switch. (B) A random permutation analysis revealed that the final intracellular ammonium level in hybrids was not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent. (C) Random permutations also corroborated that the increase in ammonium between the two timepoints was significant for hybrids.

3.2.3 Cytoplasmic calcium signaling and *PIF4* expression are not altered in necrotic hybrids in response to temperature fluctuations

Since calcium (Ca^{2+}) has been shown to be involved in the perception and response to different abiotic and biotic stimuli, including temperature changes (Nomura et al., 2012), we wanted to know if Ca^{2+} signaling could be altered in necrotic hybrids when compared to the parents. For this reason, we measured cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} using FRET-based yellowameleon sensors described in (Krebs et al., 2012). Unlike the previous ionic measurements, which gave us the total ionic content of a tissue in a specific timepoint, FRET-basedameleon sensors allowed us to monitor intracellular ionic changes within organelles across time. For this, cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} sensors were transformed into necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents, and the Ca^{2+} influxes in response to cold were assessed by confocal laser-scanning microscopy for each individual. The differences between the ranges of the FRET/CFP measurements was then calculated between the hybrid and each parent, and a random distribution of 10000 iterations was generated to establish the significance of the observed differences. Results revealed that the Ca^{2+} peak of hybrids was not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent ($\alpha = 0.05$), indicating that Ca^{2+} signaling in response to cold was not altered between parents and necrotic hybrids (Fig. 10).

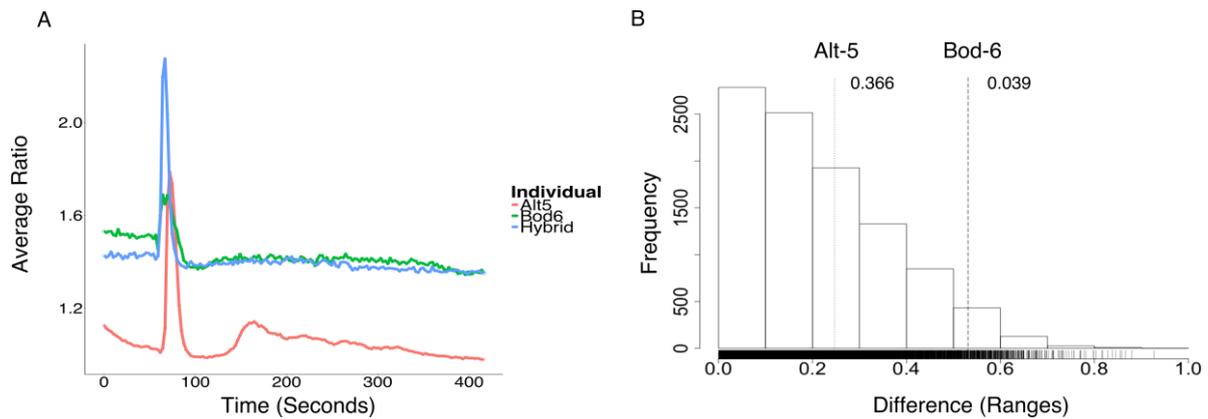


Figure 10. Intracellular calcium signaling in response to cold is not affected in necrotic hybrids. (A) The calcium spikes elicited by response to cold in Alt-5 (red), Bod-6 (green) and hybrids (blue). (B) Differences between the ranges for the FRET/CFP measurements were calculated between the hybrid and each parent and a random distribution with 10000 iterations was generated in order to establish the significance of the observed differences. The Ca peak of the hybrid was not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent. $\alpha = 0.05$.

In a further attempt to understand the molecular mechanisms being triggered by ACD6 in a temperature-dependent manner, the expression of *Phytochrome Interacting Factor 4* (*PIF4*) was compared between hybrids, their corresponding parents, and the gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1*. Parental lines were screened both at 21°C and 17°C to corroborate the existing knowledge that *PIF4* expression decreases in a temperature-dependent manner (Gangappa et al., 2017). *PIF4* is a thermosensory negative regulator of plant defense and its decreased expression at low temperature is associated with an activation of defense responses, reduced growth and increased resistance to *P. syringae* pv. *Tomato* (*Pto*) DC3000 (Gangappa et al., 2017). As expected, *PIF4* accumulated in a temperature-dependent manner in both parent lines (Fig. 11). However, hybrids grown at 17°C did not show any difference in *PIF4* expression when compared to parents grown at the same temperature (Fig. 11). Therefore, the activation of defense genes at lower temperatures in necrotic hybrids is not due to an altered expression of the thermosensory growth and immunity regulator *PIF4*.

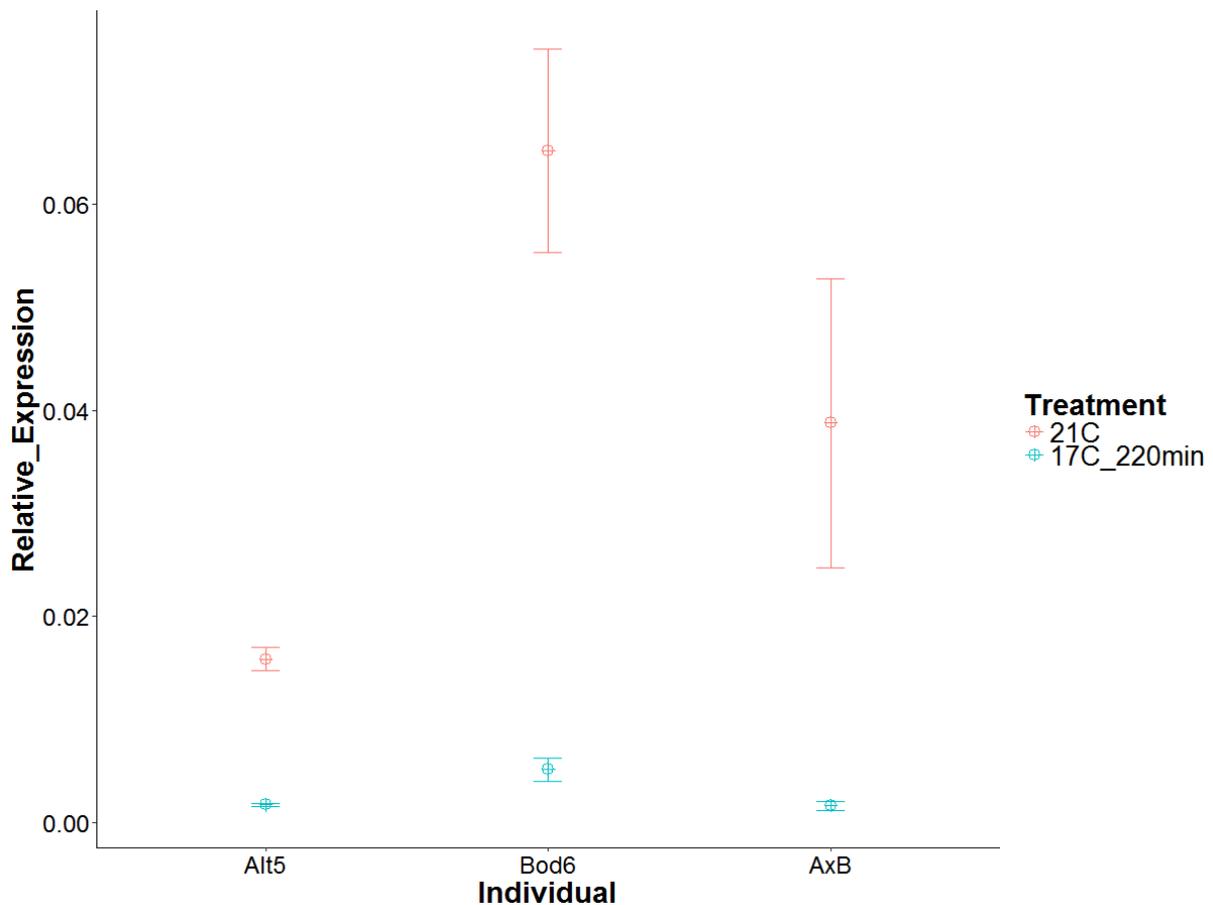


Figure 11. *PIF4* expression is not affected by *ACD6* activation. *PIF4* expression was downregulated by a lower temperature as reported previously. However, necrotic hybrids at 17°C did not show reduced levels of expression compared to the parent plants Alt-5 and Bod-6.

3.2.4 GFP-tagged *ACD6* constructs localize to the nucleus and cytoplasm

Although certain interacting partners have already been described for *ACD6* in the gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1* (Zhang et al., 2014, 2017), its role in plant cell immunity remains elusive. Therefore, with the aims of characterizing novel interacting partners of *ACD6*, two approaches were taken. In the first approach, N- and C-terminal GFP tags were added to the coding sequence of *ACD6* from the Alt-5 accession using the vectors described in (Grefen et al., 2010). These vectors were agro-transformed into the Bod-6 genetic background and seedlings were screened for fluorescent signals using confocal laser scanning microscopy. Unfortunately, very few T1 plants expressing a strong GFP signal were found (Fig. 12A).

Due to the low number of seedlings with strong GFP signal, a larger group of transgenic lines with a lower GFP signal was used for protein extraction to determine if it was already possible to pull-down the GFP-tagged ACD6. Unfortunately, after enriching GFP-bound proteins from the membrane fraction of a protein extract with the Nano-Trap®_A beads from Chromotek (Munich, Germany), blotting of the final protein extract with anti-GFP only revealed a signal in our positive control (data not shown). The second generation of the T1 lines with strong GFP signal did not produce a high proportion of seedlings with GFP expression (Fig. 12B), indicating that the transgenic T1 lines were heterozygous. Hence, screening a T3 generation from the confirmed T2 seedlings was necessary to harvest sufficient material for the pull-down of GFP-bound ACD6 proteins.

When confirming the positive transgenic lines harbouring the ACD6 constructs via confocal laser-scanning microscopy (CLSM), it was difficult to discern whether the GFP-tagged ACD6 was localizing at the plasma membrane (Fig. 12). For this reason, a cell plasmolysis experiment and staining of the plasma membrane with the endocytic marker FM4-64 was carried out (Fig. 13). In the latter experiment, it was clear that the GFP signal was not overlapping with the signal from the plasma membrane, confirming that the transgenic ACD6 proteins were only localizing to the cytoplasm. Since wild-type ACD6 is also known to be at the cytoplasm and its migration to the plasma membrane has been shown to be triggered by SA (Zhang et al., 2014), we wondered if our ACD6 constructs could still be functional. Therefore, we grew positive transgenic T3 lines confirmed by CLSM at constant 17°C to see if the necrotic phenotype could be induced. The results indicated that the positive lines, with a clear cytoplasmic ACD6 signal, did not acquire a hybrid necrotic phenotype (Fig. S8).

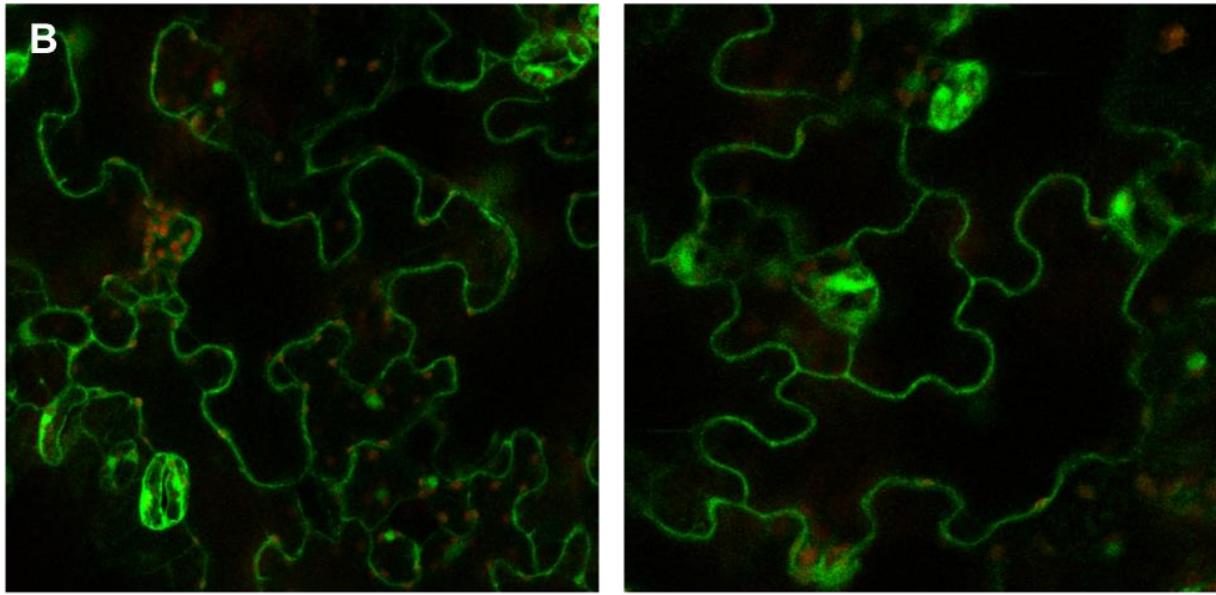
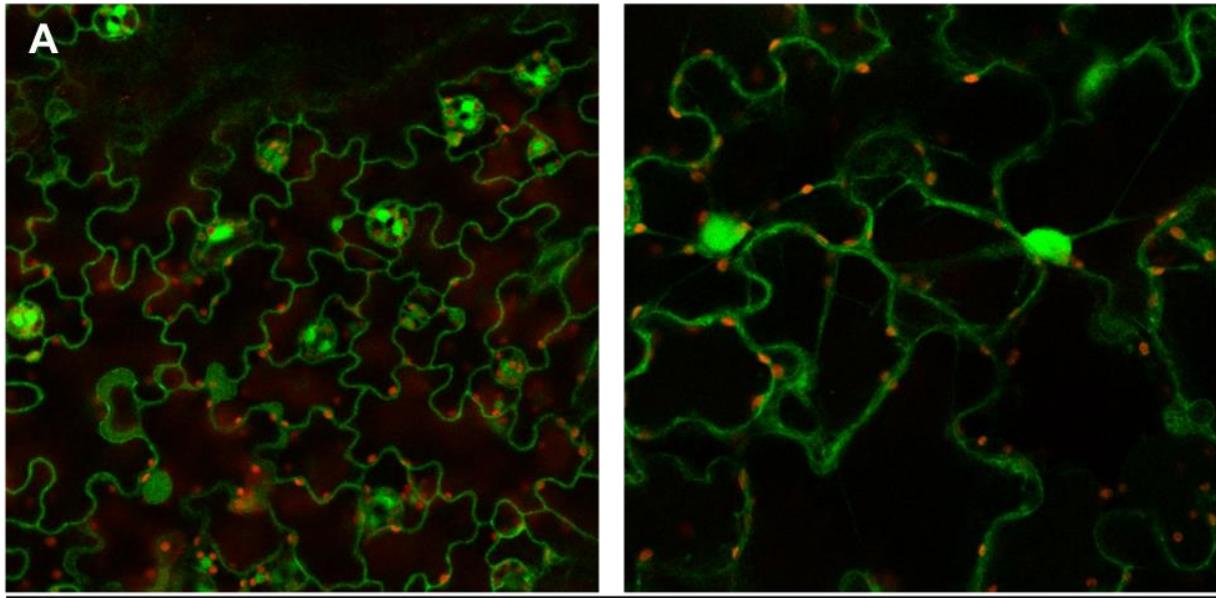
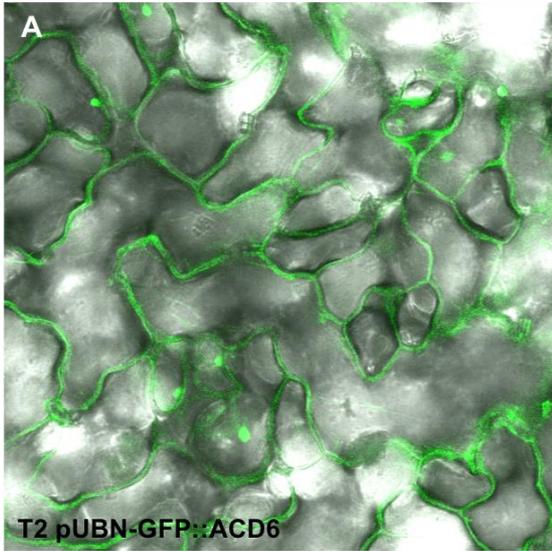
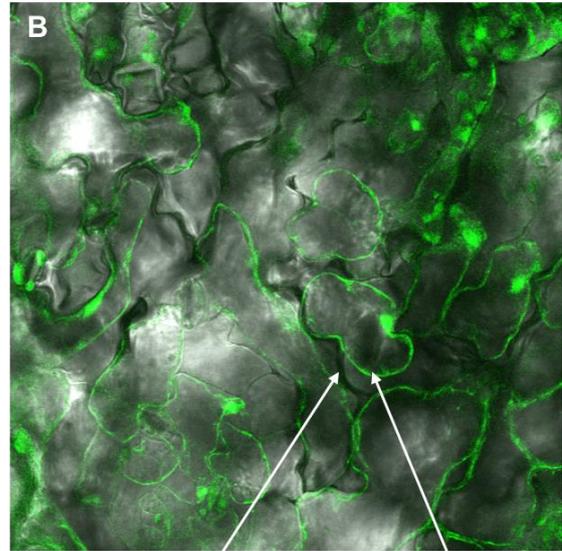


Figure 12. N and C-terminal GFP-tagged ACD6 localized to the cytoplasm and nucleus. (A) T1 transgenic lines expressing N-terminal GFP-tagged ACD6. (B) T2 transgenic lines expressing C-terminal GFP-tagged ACD6.

Before Sucrose Treatment



0.5M Sucrose Treatment (45 min.)



Cell Wall

Cytoplasm

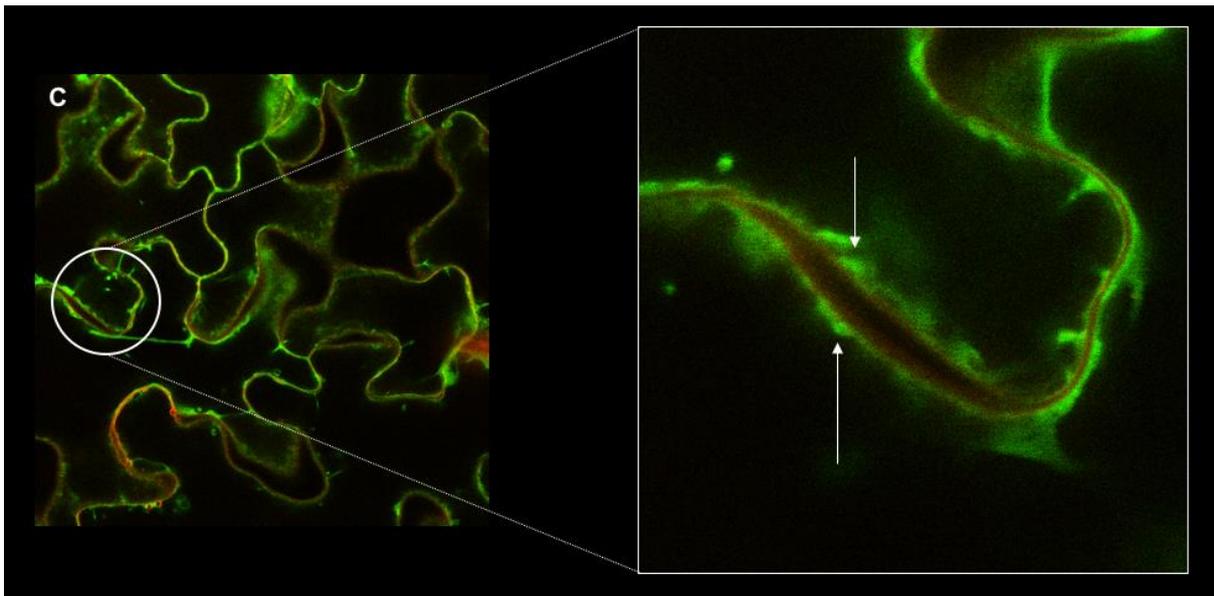


Figure 13. Cell plasmolysis and FM4-64 staining of transgenic Bod-6 plants harboring GFP-tagged ACD6 confirmed a cytoplasmic localization. Confocal laser scanning microscopy image of pUBN-GFP::ACD6 from leaf cells (A) and plasmolyzed leaf cells using 0.5 M sucrose for 45 min (B). Staining with the FM4-64 dye enabled to differentiate the cytoplasmic GFP signal (green) from the plasma membrane (red) (C).

Due to the unexpected prolongation of the GFP pull-down experiment, a yeast two-hybrid screen of ACD6 fused to the Gal4 DNA-binding domain (DNA-BD) was done using the Matchmaker® Gold Yeast Two-Hybrid System from Clontech. For this, Y2HGold yeast strains were transformed with the pGBKT7-BD construct containing the coding sequence of ACD6 from Col-0 or the *acd6-1* mutant. To confirm that ACD6 would not autonomously activate the reporter genes in Y2HGold in the absence of a prey protein, transformed colonies were plated on SD/-Trp/X- α -Gal. It was expected for the transformed colonies to grow with a white or very pale blue colour. Nevertheless, this was not the case and most of the isolated colonies turned blue (Fig. 14B). To reconfirm that ACD6 was indeed auto-activating the reporter genes in Y2HGold, the empty vector carrying the Gal4 activation domain (pGADT7-AD) was transformed to Y187 yeast cells and transformants from Y2HGold and Y187 were mated. Diploid clones were confirmed on SD/-Trp/-Leu media and SD/-Trp/-Leu/X- α -Gal/Aureobasidin A. Under the assumption that ACD6 was not autoactivating the reporter genes, no cells were expected to grow in the presence of Aureobasidin A. Additionally, colonies could only acquire a blue tone in the presence of X- α -Gal if the α -galactosidase reporter gene was activated. The presence of colonies with a slight bluish tone (Fig. 14A) indicated that identifying ACD6 interacting partners by yeast two-hybrid was not a viable approach.

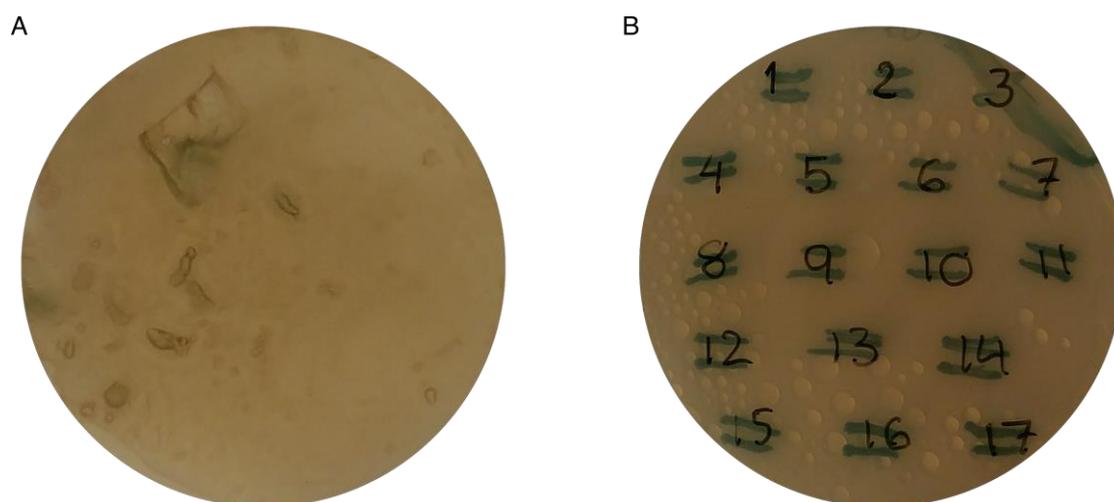


Figure 14. Autoactivation of the yeast two-hybrid reporter genes by ACD6. (A) Diploid cells of a mating between Y2HGold cells transformed with pGBKT7::ACD6 and Y187 cells transformed with the empty vector pGADT7, plated on SD/-Leu/-Trp/X- α -Gal/AbA. (B) Y2HGold cells transformed with pGBKT7::ACD6 plated on SD/-Trp/X- α -Gal.

To conclude, the different GFP-tagged ACD6 constructs developed in this work showed a similar cytoplasmic and nuclear localization. The proportion of positive transformants in the T1 generation was low, making the screening by laser scanning confocal microscopy a long process. The T2 seedlings coming from the confirmed T1 lines didn't show a high number of positive individuals either, indicating that the confirmed T1 individuals were heterozygous. The T3 generation produced a sufficient number of positive individuals.

To confirm whether the GFP-tagged ACD6 proteins are also localizing to the plasma membrane, root cells from seedlings of the T3 generation will be stained with a cytoplasmic dye and plasmolyzed with sucrose. Leaf cell plasmolysis of confirmed T2 seedlings using 0.5 M sucrose for 45 min was previously done but separation between the cytoplasm and plasma membrane was not discernable (Fig. S5).

4. Discussion

In my thesis, I presented two different studies. The first one analyzed the impact of hybridization on plant metabolism and growth within a local *Arabidopsis* collection site by means of a full diallel crossing scheme. In the second study, physiological and molecular changes associated to ACD6 activation were characterized in incompatible hybrids emerging from crosses between individuals within the same collection site.

4.1 Hybridization increased overall metabolic variation in *Arabidopsis*, impacting mostly secondary metabolites related to stress responses

Nonadditive inheritance refers to the effect of being above or below the midparent (additive) inheritance value (Falconer & Mackay, 1996). Nonadditive effects can also be referred to as epistatic interactions since epistasis helps explain how two alleles can give rise to phenotypes that challenge the expected Mendelian outcomes. In this sense, nonadditive inheritance can lead to novel phenotypes, which can impact traits desired by plant breeders or affect the adaptation of a plant to its environment. Nonadditive inheritance can therefore lead to both heterotic and disadvantageous phenotypes (Z. J. Chen, 2013) and makes prediction of hybrid phenotypes more challenging. Omic studies on hybrid vigour have identified nonadditive changes associated to transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics. Of special interest, it was shown that nonadditive gene expression changes in *Arabidopsis* hybrids correlated with an increased capacity for photosynthesis (Fujimoto, Taylor, Shirasawa, Peacock, & Dennis, 2012), and biomass heterosis of *Arabidopsis* intraspecific hybrids was correlated with increased levels of metabolic activity during early developmental stages (Meyer et al., 2012). Furthermore, Korn and collaborators were able to predict *Arabidopsis* freezing tolerance based on a limited number of metabolites (Korn et al., 2010), opening the possibility of using metabolic inheritance patterns to predict hybrid vigour. Nevertheless, a general model to explain the basis of nonadditive genetic variation is missing and hybrid phenotype prediction based on parental information remains an unsolved challenge (Seymour et al., 2016). Thus, the nonadditive effects on genetic variation remain largely unknown and should be further studied.

Previous literature has already highlighted the use of F₁ hybrids generated by diallel crossing to investigate the non-additive inheritance patterns underlying hybrid vigour in *Arabidopsis* inbred lines (Seymour et al., 2016). However, not much is known about the role of hybridization in the variation of plant metabolism in a single growth habitat. Even though the parent lines used in our study were mostly inbred, with heterozygosity ranging from 1 – 5.4%, hybridization among these natural local accessions was able to drastically change the metabolite abundance patterns in hybrid secondary metabolism. Hybrid secondary metabolism also varied greatly depending on the cross and direction of the cross (Fig. 3B-C), with fourteen showing non-additive inheritance in at least 50% of their secondary metabolism (i.e. 26) (Fig. 3B-C). In contrast, only six hybrids showed non-additive inheritance in more than 50% of their primary metabolism (i.e. 43). Since only two of the twenty crosses exhibiting more than 50% non-additive inheritance were reciprocal (Alt6xAlt1 and Alt6xAlt2), the direction of the cross was an important factor when determining the extent of non-additive inheritance.

Overall, hybridization increased the variation in hybrid secondary metabolism, with almost 40% of the crosses exhibiting significant deviations from the expected midparent values. The secondary metabolites that exhibited the greatest variation from the expected midparent values were related with plant stress responses (Fig. 3A), mainly glucosinolates and flavonoids. In contrast, primary metabolism was more robust, with not a single primary metabolite showing a significant non-additive inheritance pattern across all hybrids (p -value < 0.01). These observations go in hand with the notion that primary metabolism plays a central role in developmental processes. Consequently, while changes in primary metabolism exert pressure on vital processes such as growth, secondary metabolism variation is more prone to positive selection based on environmental factors (D. Kliebenstein, Kroymann, Brown, & Figuth, 2001; Kroymann, 2011; Manzaneda & Prasad, 2010; Schranz, Manzaneda, Windsor, & Clauss, 2009; Windsor, Reichelt, Figuth, & Svatoš, 2005). Therefore, an increased variation in secondary metabolism due to heterozygosity could provide mainly selfing plant populations/species such as *Arabidopsis* with more options to cope with rapid changes in their environments.

Although secondary metabolism showed a greater number of non-additive cases than primary metabolism, hybridization increased both primary and secondary metabolism variation (Fig. 1A-B). Even growth exhibited on average higher fluctuations in hybrids when compared to the parents (Fig. 1C). Hybrids from highly inbred maize parents, known to cause heterosis, were previously shown to display a reduced metabolic variation than their progenitors (Lisec et al., 2011). Given the hypothesis that metabolic profiles associated with better growth should be similar, the decreased variability among a heterotic hybrid population that was artificially selected for its phenotypic similarity should come as no surprise. In contrast, our study highlights that within a natural population with no prior artificial selection, hybridization increases metabolic variability, with special emphasis on secondary metabolites linked to environmental stress responses. This, in turn, increased the phenotypic diversity in hybrids as well (Fig. 1C-D).

4.2 Final rosette size was correlated with the earliest growth rate and both primary and secondary metabolites

In our study, we used growth as an indirect measurement of plant fitness and possible existing relationships between specific metabolic patterns and growth were of particular interest. Curiously, no specific inheritance patterns were shared among the biggest or smallest hybrids within our study. Yet, even though different metabolic profiles could give rise to big phenotypes, only the earliest growth rate was significantly correlated with the final rosette size (Fig. 5, Fig. S4). In contrast, smaller hybrids typically increased their growth rate at a later stage, between the development of their second and third pair of leaves (Fig. S5).

The fact that mostly secondary metabolites, particularly glucosinolates, were positively correlated with the final rosette size strengthened the notion that the trade-off between energy investment in defense compounds and growth is more complex than what we acknowledge. Several recent studies have highlighted how the trade-off between plant defense and growth has been flagrantly oversimplified, while identifying additional positive correlations between glucosinolates and growth (Joseph et al., 2013; Kliebenstein, 2016; Mauricio, 1998). In this respect, it's worth highlighting that different investigations have not been able to identify a significant association between glucosinolate-deficient genotypes and absolute growth (Joseph

et al., 2013; Paul-Victor, Züst, Rees, Kliebenstein, & Turnbull, 2010; Züst et al., 2011). On the contrary of what one would expect, it has even been shown that exogenous allyl glucosinolate increases the biomass of several *Arabidopsis* accessions; an effect that was modulated by the sucrose concentration in the media (Francisco et al., 2016). These observations go in line with the idea that growth-limiting factors are determined by the specific growing conditions of the plant (D. J. Kliebenstein, 2016). In this sense, defense compounds could affect plant growth either positively or negatively depending on the nutrient balance of the environment. Besides secondary metabolites, two primary metabolites were also positively associated with the final rosette radius: 1,6-anhydrobeta-glucose, a by-product of cellulose degradation (Riedelsheimer et al., 2012) and spermidine, a polyamine capable of promoting plant growth under abiotic stress conditions (Paschalidis, Roubelakis-Angelakis, Perez-Amador, & Carbonell, 2005; Radhakrishnan & Lee, 2013). Hence, though it is usually expected that primary metabolites will positively correlate with plant growth, as they are involved in central metabolic pathways involved in carbohydrate assimilation, several secondary metabolites associated to plant stress responses were also found to be positively correlated to growth within the hybrid individuals of this study.

The connection between overall metabolic variation and growth is not well established yet. Though biomass has already been correlated with specific metabolite combinations in *Arabidopsis* (Meyer et al., 2007), the implications on how metabolic diversity can impact growth is still not understood. In our study, both positive and negative dominance in secondary metabolism was associated with big rosette sizes (Fig. 5A, Fig. S4), going in hand with the notion that different metabolic signatures can be associated with higher growth. In this sense, carrying more metabolic signatures could increase the probabilities of having a signature related to higher growth within a population under specific conditions. Although we observed more significant positive dominant cases related to rosette size, five out of twelve hybrids showed negative dominance (Fig. 5A). Whether these smaller hybrids would actually show a reduced fitness in the field is something worth to investigate in future experiments. All parental individuals used in this experiment were part of a natural wild population collected in Tübingen (southern Germany). Unlike inbred lines or induced mutation-based studies, natural populations are more suitable to understand mechanisms underlying variability and adaptation. Our study revealed that

hybridization increased the metabolic variation of a local *Arabidopsis thaliana* collection site. We also saw that the same genetic background could yield completely different metabolic phenotypes, as evidenced in certain reciprocal hybrids which showed clearly different profiles in their secondary metabolism (Fig. 4). In these cases, the hybrids involved included the top four biggest hybrids within our study. Therefore, different metabolic inheritance patterns were associated with big size within our hybrids, indicating that larger fluctuations in secondary metabolism won't always hinder growth. Additionally, if natural environments are in constant change, having more metabolic diversity might increase the probabilities of resiliency in terms of optimal growth. These results therefore add intriguing insights to our understanding of the nature of non-additive inheritance in a natural *Arabidopsis* population; information that may also hold in major crop species.

4.3 Characterizing the role of ACD6 by studying molecular and physiological changes associated with its activation in necrotic hybrids

Among crosses from the local individuals collected at Tübingen area (Germany), different cases of hybrid necrosis were detected. This hybrid incompatibility characterized by stunted growth and necrotic lesions was attributed to different allelic interactions of *ACD6* (Świadek et al., 2017). Previously, Todesco and collaborators identified incompatible interactions between *ACD6* alleles from different global *Arabidopsis* accessions (Todesco et al., 2014). The fact that *ACD6* alone is able to generate hybrid incompatibilities between local and global individuals suggests it is a central regulator of plant defense responses. Furthermore, the existence of many different *ACD6* alleles in a single population suggests this locus is under balancing selection, a pattern often seen in disease resistance (R) genes (Todesco et al., 2010; Van der Hoorn, De Wit, & Joosten, 2002). The reason to why such a high degree of sequence polymorphisms could be maintained within a locus might therefore be explained by a strong fluctuating selective pressure. Most loci involved in hybrid incompatibilities are actually well-described nucleotide-binding leucine-rich repeat (NLRs) proteins (Chae et al., 2014) in charge of detecting effectors secreted by phytopathogenic bacteria and fungi. The strong selective pressure exerted by the arms race between pathogen effectors and plant NLRs drives a surge in sequence diversity (Büttner & Bonas, 2010; Kay & Bonas, 2009; Koebnik et al., 2006); one that increases the probability of encountering genetic incompatibilities (Chae et al., 2014).

Sequence diversity in the *ACD6* locus has also been observed (Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014), but the role of this non-NLR protein in plant defences remains largely unknown. Therefore, to better understand the role of *ACD6* within the plant stress pathways, molecular and physiological responses related to its activation were characterized in necrotic hybrids.

4.4 Senescence is induced earlier in necrotic hybrids when compared to its parents

Known to be involved in a positive feedback loop with salicylic acid (SA), *ACD6* is able to induce hybrid necrosis through the activation of defense genes linked to the systemic acquired resistance (SAR) response (Świadek et al., 2017; Todesco et al., 2014). The involvement of defense genes in senescence has been reported previously, with members of the WRKY transcription factor family, brassinosteroids, and novel genes like *HYS1/CPR5* promoting both disease resistance and senescence (Bartwal, Mall, Lohani, Guru, & Arora, 2013; T Eulgem et al., 2000; Yoshida, 2003; Zentgraf et al., 2001). Furthermore, it has been revealed that expression of senescence-related genes is impaired in *pad4* and *npr1* mutants unable to trigger a normal defense response through SA (Morris et al., 2000). This might be due to the fact that both defense and senescence share common molecular pathways, amongst them programmed cell death (Brodersen & Petersen, 2002; Piffanelli, Zhou, & Casais, 2002; S Robatzek & Somssich, 2002; Silke Robatzek & Somssich, 2001). Therefore, it should be more efficient to relay this activation to a common set of genes rather than having unique isolated pathways to turn on similar biological processes. To better understand the relationship between defense and senescence in necrotic hybrids with an active version of *ACD6*, molecular markers for both pathways were monitored in a time-course manner. Our results indicated that senescence was induced earlier in necrotic hybrids than in parental lines, but it was only after the induction of the SAR marker *PR1* (Fig. 6). Therefore, these findings suggest that the earlier onset of senescence could be a by-product of the sustained defense response in hybrids.

Fitness costs related to an early senescent phenotype can be dramatic, especially if plants don't have enough time to produce seeds. An interesting observation in our experiments was that although hybrids displayed earlier senescence, flowering did

not occur earlier. This raised further questions around the genes controlling flowering time in hybrids. It has already been reported that plants with an active defense response show stunted growth and an earlier flowering phenotype (S Robatzek & Somssich, 2002; Steventon, Okori, & Dixelius, 2001; Veronese & Narasimhan, 2003). Nevertheless, cases where necrotic hybrids are not able to reach flowering and the involvement of stress-related genes in flowering time have also been reported (Alcazar et al., 2009; Bomblies et al., 2007; Liu & Howell, 2010; G.-F. Wang et al., 2011). However, key regulatory genes involved in flowering, among them *CBF1*, *FLC*, and *FT* were not differentially expressed in hybrids when compared to parents. Yet, *NF-YA1* and *NF-YA4*, two genes coding for the HAP2 subunit of the CCAAT-binding Heme Activator Protein (HAP) transcription factor complex were found to be significantly upregulated in hybrids when compared to parents (Fig. 6). Involved in stress responses that confer drought tolerance and trigger the unfolded protein response (UPR), the HAP complex has also been shown to delay flowering time when over-expressed in *Arabidopsis* (Liu & Howell, 2010; Nelson et al., 2007; Wenkel et al., 2006). Hence, it seems plausible that the upregulation of these genes linked to abiotic stress tolerance might be interfering with the flowering time in necrotic hybrids. This might be happening through the reported interaction between the HAP complex and the CCT domain-containing protein CONSTANS (CO), which promotes flowering in *Arabidopsis* (Wenkel et al., 2006).

4.5 Carbohydrate metabolism intermediates and sugars are upregulated in necrotic hybrids shortly after the temperature switch

As mentioned earlier, a key characteristic of hybrid necrosis is its temperature-dependency. To better understand early metabolic changes linked to the appearance of hybrid necrosis, metabolites induced in hybrids 220 minutes after a switch to 17°C were analyzed. Production of simple sugars and compatible solutes, including glucose-6-phosphate (G6P) and trehalose, together with several intermediates of the TCA cycle and glutathione metabolism seemed to indicate a very early response to abiotic stress (Miura et al. 2014, Zhong et al. 2016). The immediate increase in G6P and fructose-6-phosphate (F6P) together with several TCA intermediates indicated that ACD6 activation could be triggering glycolysis and the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle. This might lead to an increase in the ATP-producing pathway of cellular respiration (Sadava, Hillis, Heller, & Hacker, 2017). The fact that the polyamine (PA)

putrescine was also significantly accumulated in necrotic hybrids shortly after the temperature switch could be linked to the upregulation of the citric acid cycle. PAs have been shown to enhance molecular protective effects in plants undergoing drought stress by adjusting the glycolytic metabolism and the TCA cycle (Zhong et al., 2016). In fact, Putrescine can be converted to γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA), a regulator of the TCA cycle (Gill & Tuteja, 2010). It has also been shown that exogenous putrescine can alleviate the inhibition of glycolysis and TCA resulting from salt stress in chickpea and cucumber plants (Shu et al., 2011; Zhong et al., 2016) by increasing the contents of TCA intermediates, specifically in citrate, succinate and malate. The early metabolic changes associated to ACD6-induced defense responses in necrotic hybrids included a significant increase in putrescine, citrate, succinate and malate, together with G6P and F6P, known intermediates of the glycolysis metabolism. However, since photosynthesis is interrupted during abiotic conditions, including drought or high salinity, new sugar sources should be available if a plant wishes to maintain the glycolysis and TCA pathways steady for ATP production. Hence, accumulation of simple sugars, including glucose and fructose, is usually observed in genotypes tolerant to drought under osmotic stress conditions (Kerepesi & Galiba, 2000). In this regard, sugars, including glucose and fructose, were also significantly upregulated in necrotic hybrids 220 minutes after the temperature switch.

Shikimic acid, a precursor of salicylic acid (SA), and SA were also upregulated exclusively in necrotic hybrids. SA regulation is widely known to be linked both to biotic and abiotic stress responses (Kang et al., 2013; Miura & Tada, 2014; Shah, 2003). Regarding abiotic stress conditions, SA has been shown to alleviate the toxic levels of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) accumulated under salt or drought stress in different plant species (Khan, Syeed, Masood, Nazar, & Iqbal, 2010; Nazar, Iqbal, Syeed, & Khan, 2011; Noreen & Ashraf, 2010; Sawada, Shim, & Usui, 2006). This protective effect has been attributed to an increase in ascorbate and glutathione, two non-enzymatic antioxidants involved in the ascorbate-glutathione cycle (Kang et al., 2013). Necrotic hybrids in our experiment also showed increased levels of both ascorbate and glutathione intermediates shortly after the temperature switch (Table 2). Another role of SA during both biotic and abiotic stress responses is the closure of stomata in an ABA-independent manner. This avoids both pathogen colonization and water transpiration (Miura & Tada, 2014). In fact, it was already reported that *acd6*

gain-of-function mutants exhibited stomatal closure and drought tolerance due to SA accumulation (Miura et al., 2013; Okuma et al., 2014). Additionally, necrotic hybrids also displayed increased levels of trehalose, a known osmoprotectant, in comparison to parents after the temperature-dependent activation of ACD6. Trehalose is a disaccharide and a compatible solute that protects cells against osmotic stress, and its accumulation in plants is linked to enhanced drought tolerance (Nuccio et al., 2015; Pilon-Smits et al., 1998). Hence, taken together, our results support the findings of (Miura et al., 2013) and (Okuma et al., 2014), adding novel information as to the timing of molecular changes associated with hybrid necrosis. The amount of primary metabolites affected 220 minutes after the temperature switch, from 21°C to 17°C, contrast with the lack of changes observed 24 hours after the switch (Świadek et al., 2017). Hence, the metabolic changes that induce hybrid necrosis seem to be occurring very early after temperature perception. It would be interesting to consider secondary metabolism during this short time frame as well.

4.6 Low temperature did not induce any ionic changes in hybrids in comparison to parents

ACD6's migration to the membrane has been linked to its activation and is increased by SA (Zhang et al., 2014). Though it might be tempting to think that ACD6 activation is an effect of SA signaling, it has been shown that BTH, a synthetic SA analogue, is not sufficient to trigger the necrotic phenotype without an active *ACD6* allele (Rate et al., 1999). The notion that ACD6 activation is temperature-dependent raises further questions as to its possible role as a membrane protein. To further understand any possible ionic changes coupled to the activation of ACD6, ionic chromatography of the same samples used for the temperature shift experiment was done. These results did not yield any clear differences between the hybrids and both parents. Although ammonium and sulfate showed a significant increase in hybrids after the temperature switch, their final levels were not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent (Fig. 9, Fig. S2). It might be possible that the bigger biological variation observed for the Alt-5 parent could have influenced this result. Nevertheless, repeating the same experimental design using an alternate extraction protocol yielded the same results for ammonium, but not for sulfate (Fig. S7). Therefore, there seems to be a lot of biological variation in the total ionic concentrations of these samples, particularly the Alt-5 parent. Until this experiment is repeated with more than six biological replicates,

it remains difficult to estimate the significance of this ammonium rise in necrotic hybrids. Since an accumulation of intracellular ammonium has been reported to induce production of ROS, which in turn leads to SAR in rice plants (Ahn, 2007), we hypothesized whether the significant increase in intracellular ammonium could be triggering the SAR phenotype in necrotic hybrids. For this, the ACD6 gain-of-function (*acd6-1*) and loss-of-function (*acd6-2*) mutants were grown together with Columbia (Col-0) seedlings under different ammonium concentrations in soil and synthetic media. We thought *acd6-1* plants would show reduced symptoms when grown on lower ammonium concentrations. However, this was not the case and the ammonium concentration in the nutrient substrates did not correlate with the severity of the symptoms in any of the cases (Fig. S3).

The second ionic compound that was significantly increased in hybrids due to temperature was sulfate. Sulfate is the oxidized form of sulfur and is used as a sulfur carrier to generate sulfur-containing compounds (Bohrer & Takahashi, 2016). Sulfate has been previously linked with autophagy induction during senescence in mammal cells (Patel et al., 2013). Additionally, it was also shown that sulfate-reducing enzymes are usually activated after dark-induced senescence in *Phaseolus vulgaris* seedlings (Schmutz, Wyss, & Brunold, 1983). Hence, sulfur assimilation into sulfur-containing amino acids would decrease the sulfate pool in senescent tissues. Sulfur remobilization from old leaves to younger leaves has also been seen during leaf senescence, and is accompanied by decreased sulfate in senescent leaves (Dubousset et al., 2009). Since whole rosettes were harvested for the ionic measurements in our study, it was not possible to discern between senescent and non-senescent leaves. Nevertheless, an increased sulfate level within the whole rosette could be an indicator of catabolic processes that release sulfur. Whether these catabolic processes might include autophagy is not possible to determine with the current data. Hence, more experiments would need to be done to identify the source of this increased ion. Yet, taking into account that the final levels of both ammonium and sulfate were not significantly different than the Alt-5 parent, its significant rise due to temperature might not be linked to the hybrid necrotic phenotype.

4.7 Ca²⁺ signaling in response to cold was not altered in necrotic hybrids

The fact that we could not detect major ionic changes in necrotic hybrids after the temperature-dependent ACD6 induction did not mean that important ionic changes were not happening. Ion chromatography captures ionic changes at the whole cellular level. Therefore, most intracellular signaling events will be masked unless they generate substantial ionic changes. Since membrane proteins such as mechanosensory calcium (Ca²⁺) and potassium (K⁺) channels are known to transduce signaling events in response to temperature changes (Alcázar & Parker, 2011; Cheong et al., 2003; Finka, Cuendet, Maathuis, Saidi, & Goloubinoff, 2012; Kim, Cheong, Grant, Pandey, & Luan, 2003), we didn't discard the possibility that ACD6 could mediate intracellular calcium signaling in response to a decrease in temperature.

It has already been reported that intracellular Ca²⁺ regulates SA-mediated plant immunity in Arabidopsis (Du et al., 2009). Therefore, to monitor the changes in free cytosolic Ca²⁺ in response to temperature, fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based yellow cameleon sensors, described in (Krebs et al., 2012), were transformed into necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents. The differences between the ranges of the FRET/CFP measurements was calculated between the hybrid and each parent, and a random distribution with 10000 iterations was generated to establish the significance of the observed differences between the calcium peaks. Results revealed that the Ca peak of the hybrids was not significantly different from the Alt-5 parent with an $\alpha = 0.05$ (Fig. 10). Just like with ammonium, hybrids showed a significant difference only with respect to the Bod-6 parent. Among the local Tübingen collection of Arabidopsis individuals, Alt-5 displayed the largest number of crosses involved in hybrid necrosis (Świadek et al., 2017). Nevertheless, we didn't observe any particular differences in the expression of defense marker genes when compared to other Altenriet individuals from the same collection site. Particularly interesting in this expression study was that the Altenriet 7 (Alt-7) individual was the only one displaying an increased expression of *PR1*, a molecular marker of the SAR response (Fig. S6). However, this individual was not involved in any hybrid incompatibility with other plants from the same collection site (Świadek et al., 2017). Even though Alt-5 had similar intracellular ammonium and Ca²⁺ accumulation in response to cold when compared to necrotic hybrids, its phenotype at 17°C remained healthy. This strengthens the notion that *ACD6* alleles can show

different levels of activation among different individuals. In fact, Todesco and collaborators did see that interactions between different combinations of *ACD6* alleles could elicit different levels of defense responses in hybrids, indicating that *ACD6*-induced reactions are not binary by nature (Todesco et al., 2014).

4.8 *PIF4* expression did not explain the temperature-dependent activation of defense responses in necrotic hybrids

A well-described thermosensory regulator of plant defense responses is the Phytochrome Interacting Factor 4 (*PIF4*). Known to suppress plant immunity at elevated temperatures, *pif4* mutants show activation of SAR-related genes including *PR1* and *PR5* (Gangappa et al., 2017). The temperature-dependent negative regulation of plant defenses through *PIF4* is mediated by the Phytochrome B (*PHYB*) photoreceptor. In this sense, *PHYB* promotes light-dependent degradation of the *PIF4* transcription factors. It has also been shown that the immune and growth regulation exerted by *PIF4* is dependent on its expression level, with bigger plants susceptible to *P. syringae* pv. Tomato (*Pto*) DC3000 showing increased *PIF4* expression (Gangappa et al., 2017). Therefore, to know whether the temperature-dependent regulation of immunity and growth was being mediated by *PIF4* in necrotic hybrids, the expression of this gene was monitored in necrotic hybrids, their corresponding parents, and the *ACD6* gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1*. Results indicated that *PIF4* expression was reduced after a decrease in temperature, as expected. However, levels of *PIF4* in both parents decreased to the same levels observed in necrotic hybrids. Furthermore, the *ACD6* gain-of-function mutant *acd6-1* showed expression levels of *PIF4* comparable to the Alt-5 parent grown at 21°C (Fig. 11). These results indicated that the temperature-dependent upregulation of the defense response in necrotic hybrids was not caused by a downregulation of *PIF4*.

4.9 GFP-tagged *ACD6* constructs showed cytoplasmic and nuclear localization

Since it is known that transcript expression levels of *ACD6* don't generate necrosis (Todesco et al., 2010), the phenotype observed in necrotic hybrids is most likely caused at the protein level. In this sense, identifying candidate interacting partners of *ACD6* would yield new clues as to its role during hybrid necrosis. Zhang and collaborators already reported that *ACD6* migrates to the membrane in protein

complexes with the pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) Flagellin Sensing 2 (FLS2) and BR1-Associated Receptor Kinase 1 (BAK1) upon SA induction. The active version of *acd6* (*acd6-1*), however, was already present at the membrane in larger amounts prior to SA stimulation (Zhang et al., 2014). The localization of ACD6 at the membrane points to a possible role in signal perception. No ligands related to pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) have been described to interact with ACD6 so far. However, the fact that PRRs are reduced in plants lacking ACD6 (Tateda et al., 2014), and that these plants show more susceptibility to *P. syringae* due to an attenuated *flg22* response (Tateda et al., 2014) indicates that ACD6 could play an indirect role in PAMP-mediated defense signaling. Even though Zhang and collaborators were able to identify more membrane-associated proteins as candidate interactors of ACD6, among them receptor-like kinases (RLKs), the function of this protein remains unknown (Zhang et al., 2017). Important to note is that Zhang and collaborators used the hemagglutinin (HA) epitope-tagged gain-of-function ACD6-1 construct described in (Lu et al., 2005) for their immunoprecipitation assays. Several identical regions of the short HA peptide sequence can be found within the Arabidopsis proteome, incrementing the risk of pulling down false interactors with an HA-antibody. In fact, only a soluble cytoplasmic portion from a single candidate interactor described by (Zhang et al., 2017) could be confirmed by yeast two-hybrid. For this reason, we were interested in identifying novel interacting partners by creating a novel ACD6 construct fused to GFP.

N and C-terminal constructs were created and GFP signals were detected by laser scanning confocal microscopy in T1 and T2 transgenic lines (Fig. 12). Nevertheless, the GFP-fused ACD6 protein did not show a plasma membrane localization, as evidenced after FM4-64 staining (Fig. S5). Therefore, it seemed the GFP tag was altering the expected plasma membrane localization. Enriching SDS-PAGE bands during immunoprecipitation (IP) of ACD6-GFP from microsomal fractions did not reveal a GFP signal after immunoblotting with anti-GFP. Therefore, it seemed that the recombinant protein was not at the membrane.

A Y2H screen of ACD6 fused to the Gal4 DNA-binding domain was planned. Hence, ACD6 was cloned into the vector pGBKT7 DNA-BD and its ability to autoactivate the reporter genes from Clontech's Y2HGold yeast strain was assessed. Transformed yeast strains turned blue in the presence of the chromogenic substrate X- α -Gal and

grew on the toxic drug Aureobasidin A, indicating the activation of the reporter genes (Fig. 13). A second autoactivation test was done to reconfirm the results, but this time a Y187 strain carrying the empty vector pGADT7 AD was mated with the transgenic Y2HGold strain carrying the pGBKT7::ACD6 construct. Again, colonies grew, indicating the ACD6 bait could autoactivate the reporter genes; screening against a library of prey proteins was not done to avoid identification of false positives.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, we used a full diallel crossing scheme to identify inheritance patterns induced by hybridization in a local collection site of *Arabidopsis*. We were able to observe that hybridization increased the overall variation in metabolism and size within hybrids when compared to parents, with several secondary metabolites showing significant non-additive inheritance patterns across most hybrids. Secondary metabolites also showed an increased non-additive mode of inheritance in hybrids when compared to primary metabolites (39% versus 28%, respectively). Interestingly, the highest midparent deviation was attributed to secondary metabolites linked to plant defense responses, mainly glucosinolates and flavonoids. Additionally, certain crosses were more likely to show non-additive inheritance in metabolism, with the direction of the cross determining the extent of non-additive inheritance. We believe therefore that an increased metabolic diversity induced by hybridization could provide hybrids with a needed source for phenotypic variation in natural changing environments, especially among inbred individuals growing at a single growth habitat.

To better characterize the role of ACD6 in plant defense responses, physiological and metabolic changes induced during hybrid necrosis were compared between necrotic hybrids and their corresponding parents. With this work, it was possible to establish that senescence markers were induced earlier in necrotic hybrids than in parents and that an active defense response preceded this early senescence induction. Additionally, the HAP2 subunit of the CCAAT-binding Heme Activator Protein (HAP) transcription factor complex was found to be significantly upregulated in necrotic hybrids; an upregulation in this transcription factor was previously linked with drought tolerance in corn and delayed flowering time in *Arabidopsis*.

Early metabolic changes induced in necrotic hybrids 220 minutes after a temperature switch to 17°C included accumulation of salicylic acid, trehalose, simple sugars and putrescine, together with several by-products of the TCA cycle and glutathione metabolism. Our findings therefore strengthen the notion that ACD6 could play a role in abiotic tolerance, besides its more widely discussed role in biotic stress. Strengthening this idea is the fact that ACD6 gain-of-function mutants have displayed an enhanced tolerance to drought (Miura et al., 2013; Okuma et al., 2014).

Since calcium signaling has been reported to be involved in response to temperature changes, influx of cytosolic calcium in response to cold was compared between necrotic hybrids and parents using yellow cameleon sensors. We concluded that cytoplasmic calcium signaling was not altered in necrotic hybrids in response to cold when compared to parents.

This work gave further insights into the role of hybridization within a natural local *Arabidopsis* collection site at the metabolic and phenotypic scale. Physiological and metabolic responses linked to the temperature-dependent induction of ACD6 were analyzed and new knowledge about the molecular processes affected by this protein was generated.

6. Supplementary Figures

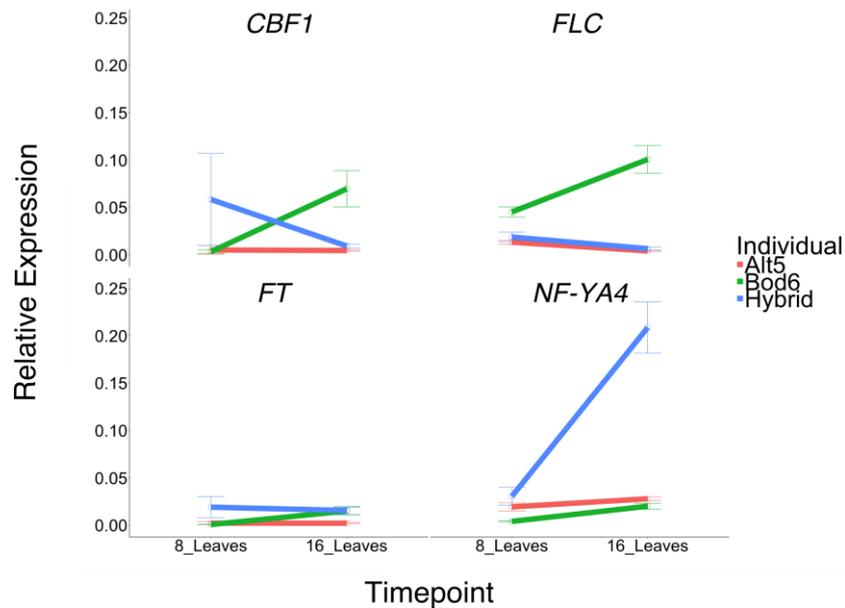


Figure S1. Known flowering regulators didn't show alterations in necrotic hybrids when compared to both parents. Only subunits of the NF-Y/HAP transcription factor complex involved in ER stress, flowering and drought tolerance were upregulated in hybrids with respect to both parents at the 16-leaf stage. Other known flowering regulators (*CBF1*, *FLC*, *FT*) didn't show differences between hybrids and parents. $\alpha = 0.05$. Wilcoxon Test. Red line: Alt-5. Green line: Bod-6. Blue line: Hybrids.

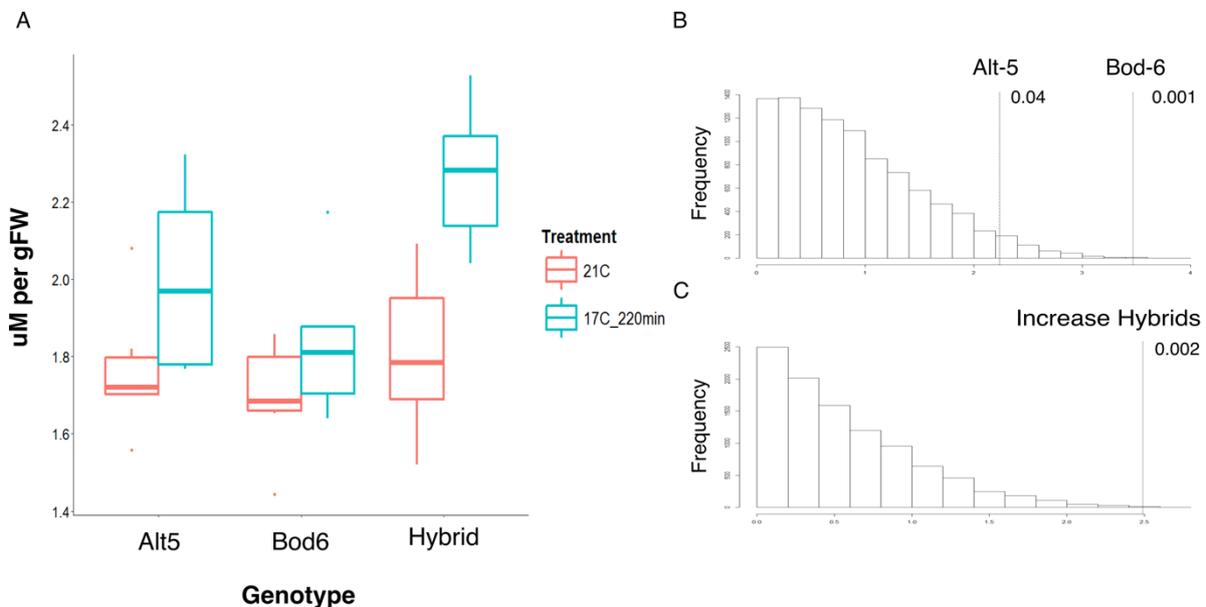


Figure S2. Sulfate increased significantly in hybrids after the temperature switch. (A) Sulfate increased significantly in hybrids after the temperature switch. Nevertheless, the accumulation pattern seen in parents could not be replicated when repeating the experiment (Fig S8). (B) A random permutation analysis revealed that the final sulfate level in hybrids was significantly different from both parents. (C) Random permutations also showed that the increase in sulfate between the two timepoints was significant in hybrids.

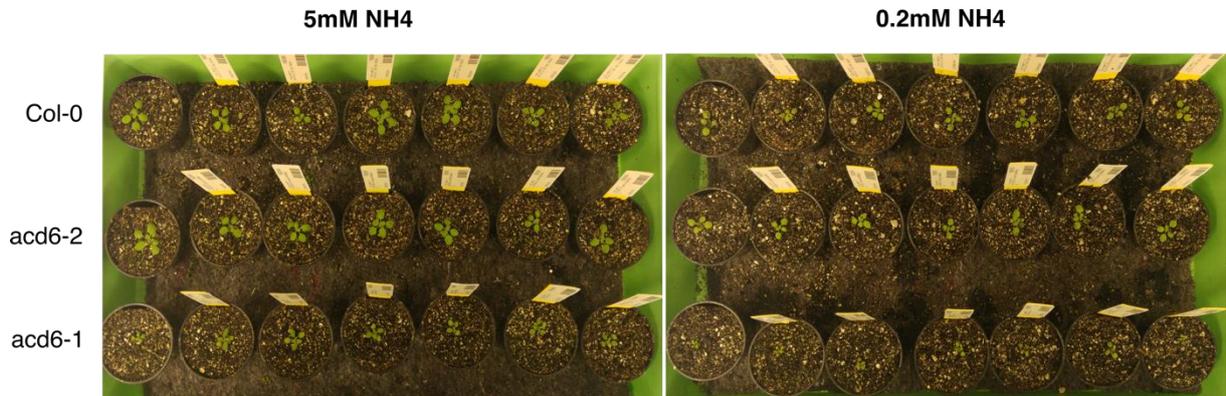


Figure S3. Ammonium (NH₄) concentrations in soil did not affect the retarded growth of ACD6 gain-of-function mutants (*acd6-1*) in comparison to Col-0 and ACD6 loss-of-function mutants (*acd6-2*). The retarded growth characteristic of *acd6-1* mutants is maintained both in high and low NH₄ concentrations, rejecting our hypothesis that higher NH₄ concentrations could aggravate the phenotype triggered by ACD6 activation.

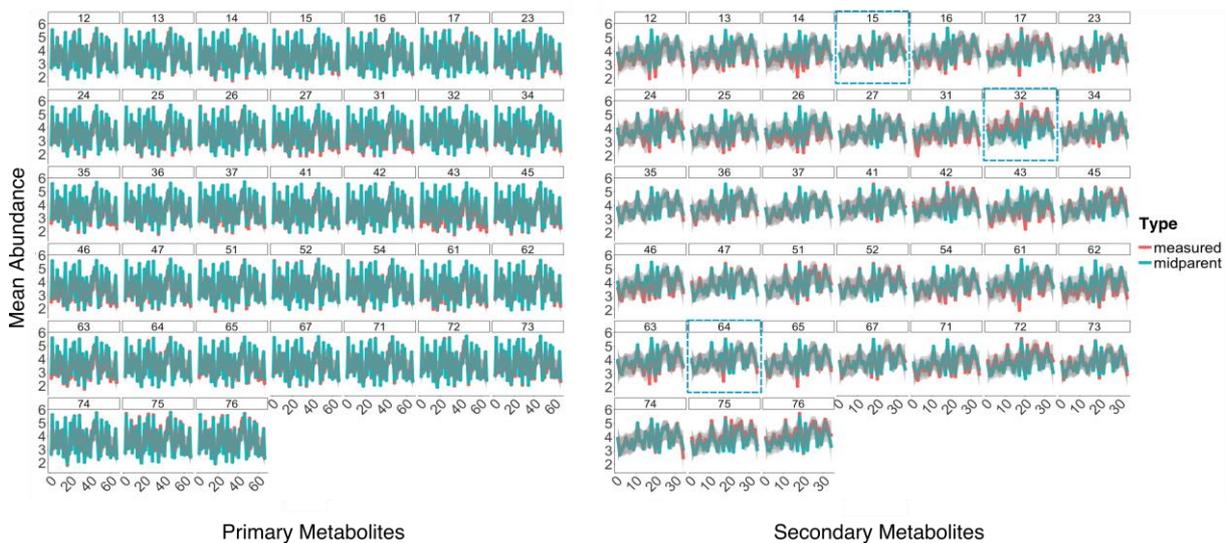


Figure S4. Secondary metabolism showed more deviations from the midparent levels than primary metabolism. Blue lines indicate the midparental level and orange lines the observed levels. Overall, secondary metabolism showed more variation from the midparent levels when compared to primary metabolism. The three biggest hybrids (inside dotted blue boxes) showed different inheritance patterns in their secondary metabolism relative to the midparent levels.

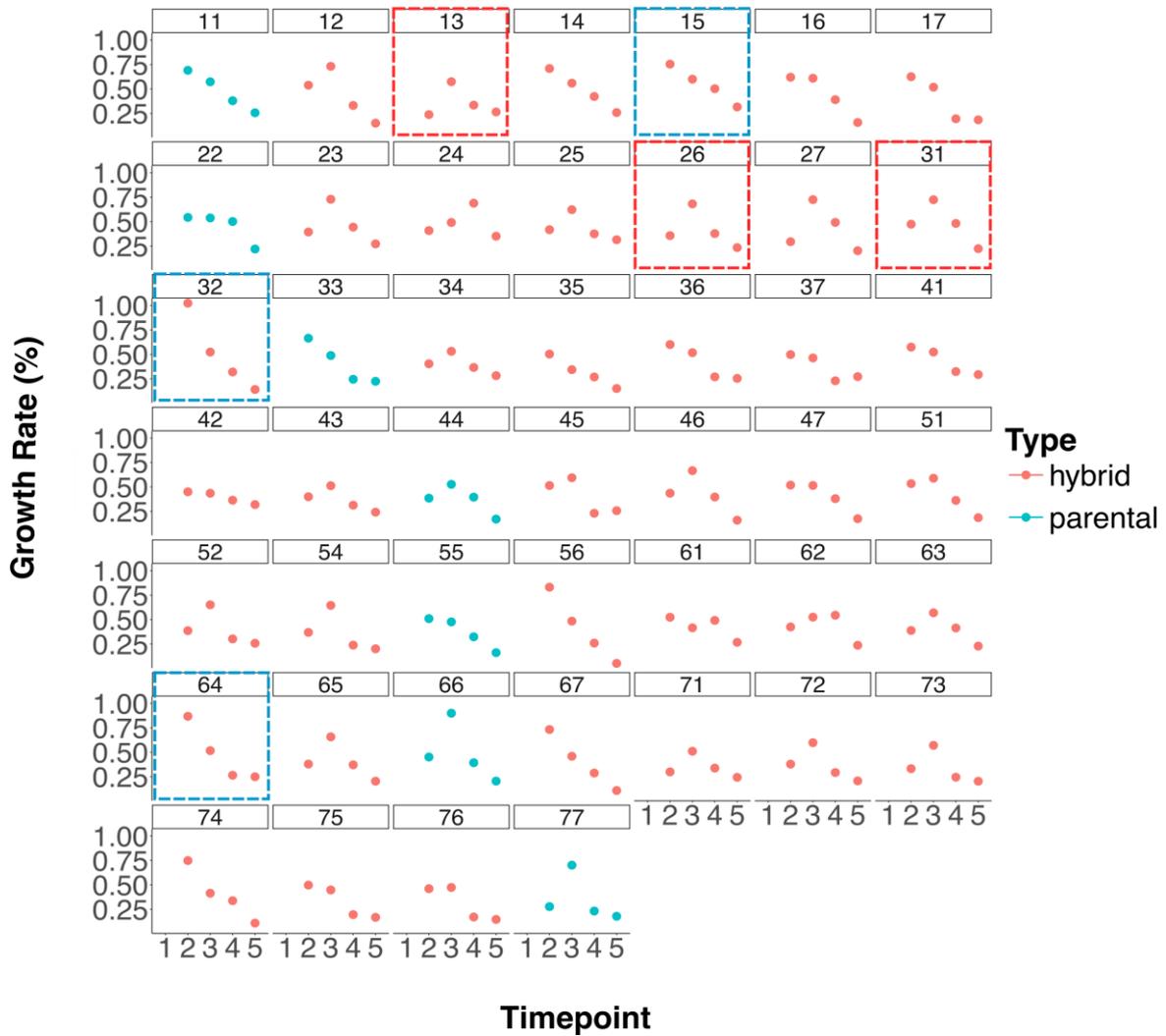


Figure S5. Biggest hybrids display similar growth rate patterns. Percent growth rate per hybrid across all timepoints revealed that the first growth rate was the highest one among larger hybrids (e.g. 15, 32, 64 enclosed in blue boxes). Small hybrids (e.g. 13, 26, 31 enclosed in red boxes) displayed a different growth rate pattern characterized by a pyramid-like arrangement, with a low initial growth rate followed by the highest one. The five timepoints reflect the following developmental stages based on the rosette-leaf number: 2-leaf, 4-leaf, 6-leaf, 8-leaf, and 10-leaf. N = 5 - 8.

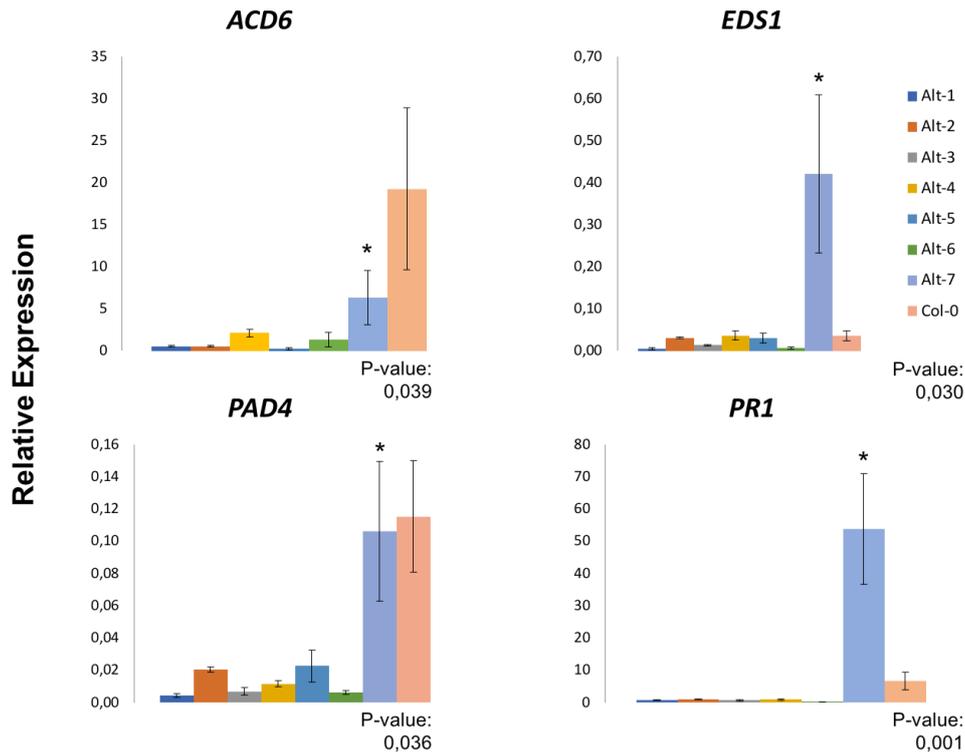


Figure S6. Expression of defense genes was altered in the Alt-7 individual. The expression levels of different defense genes involved in SAR were monitored within the Altenriet individuals collected in Tübingen, Germany. Except for Alt-7, most individuals didn't show any upregulation in any defense marker. The Col-0 accession was taken as reference. Asterisks denote a significant change was detected within the Altenriet group. Test: Kruskal-Wallis. N = 3.

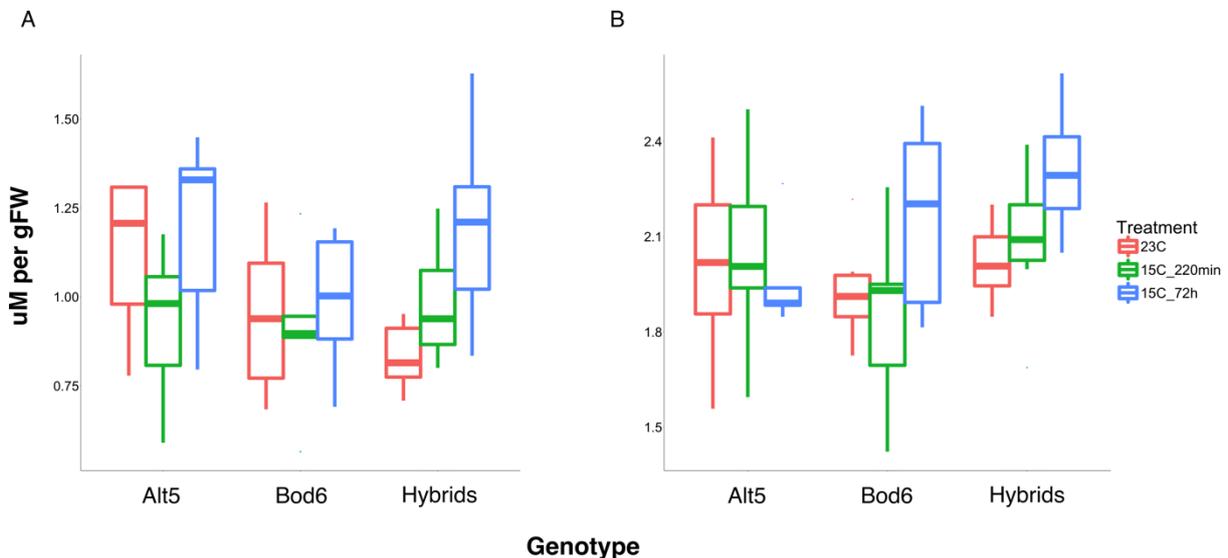


Figure S7. A second ionic measurement experiment corroborated that ammonium and sulfate were not accumulating significantly higher in hybrids than in / relative to parents. As seen before, ammonium (A) and sulfate (B) increased in hybrids due to temperature. However, even though an additional timepoint of 72 hours was added, both ammonium and sulfate failed to reach a significant difference with respect to both parents. A random permutation analysis with 10000 iterations and an alpha of 0.05 was used to identify significance. N = 6.



Figure S8. T3 lines confirmed by microscopy and grown at 17°C. After confirming T3 transgenic lines with GFP-tagged ACD6 constructs by CLSM, three different lines from each construct were grown at constant 17°C. The ACD6 allele used to generate these constructs came from the Alt-5 individual and it was transformed in the Bod-6 genetic background. Therefore, if the GFP-tagged ACD6 was functional, hybrid necrosis should be visible at 17°C. Yet, none of the transgenic plants displayed stunted growth.

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8. Supplementary Tables

Table S1. Primers used throughout the study for the different target and housekeeping genes.

| Name | Sequence | Description |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 18S_rRNA_F | GCGACGCATCATTCAAATTC | Housekeeping |
| 18S_rRNA_R | TCCGGAATCGAACCCCTAATTC | Housekeeping |
| GAPDH3'_F | TTGGTGACAACAGGTCAAGCA | Housekeeping |
| GAPDH3'_R | AAACTTGTCGCTCAATGCAATC | Housekeeping |
| GAPDH5'_F | TCTCGATCTCAATTTGCAAAA | Housekeeping |
| GAPDH5'_R | CGAAACCGTTGATTCCGATTC | Housekeeping |
| ACT2-155_F | AACTCTCCCGCTATGTATGTCGC | Housekeeping |
| ACT2-155_R | CAATACCGGTTGTACGACCACTG | Housekeeping |
| ACT2-633_F | ACTTTCATCAGCCGTTTTGA | Housekeeping |
| ACT2-633_R | ACGATTGGTTGAATATCATCAG | Housekeeping |
| SAND_50_F | TCGCCGATCCAAATCCTAGC | Housekeeping |
| SAND_50_R | TTGCTAACTCCGCCTTCGTT | Housekeeping |
| SAND_862_F | ATGACACCCTTGCTTGAGG | Housekeeping |
| SAND_862_R | ATAAGACACCAGACGCGCAA | Housekeeping |
| UBQ-5_F | CCAAGCCGAAGAAGATCAAG | Housekeeping |
| UBQ-5_R | ATGACTCGCCATGAAAGTCC | Housekeeping |
| EF_F | TGAGCACGCTCTTCTTGCTTTCA | Housekeeping |
| EF_R | GGTGGTGGCATCCATCTTGTTACA | Housekeeping |
| TUB2_F | CAACGCTACTCTGTCTGTCC | Housekeeping |
| TUB2_R | TCTGTGAATTCCATCTCGTC | Housekeeping |
| CDS(ACD6)-pJL_F | AAATTCTCGAGTTATGGACAGTTCTGGAGC AGA | ACD6 CDS for insertion in pJL-Blue |
| CDS(ACD6)-pJL_R | AATATGCGGCCGCTTATTCGGAACACGCC ACAC | ACD6 CDS for insertion in pJL-Blue |
| Ct-CDS(ACD6)pJL_R | AATATGCGGCCGCTTCGGAACACGCCACA C | ACD6 CDS for insertion in pJL-Blue (no stop codon) |

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| ACD6Prom_F | AAATTCTCGAGGAGTTTGTAGCCTATTCAA AGGC | ACD6 promoter for GUS constructs |
| ACD6Prom_R | AATATGCGGCCGCCGCAAACCTAAAATAA TCACAC | ACD6 promoter for GUS constructs |
| FT_F | AGTCCTAGCAACCCTCACCT | Flowering marker |
| FT_R | CCTGCAGTGGGACTTGGATT | Flowering marker |
| FLC_F | GGCTAGCCAGATGGAGAATAATCA | Flowering marker |
| FLC_R | AGTCACCGGAAGATTGTCGG | Flowering marker |
| CBF_F | TGTGATACGACGACCACGAA | Flowering marker |
| CBF_R | AAACGCACCTTCGCTCTGTT | Flowering marker |
| NF-YA1_F | GGAAAGTCATCCGGGACAGAAAGC | Late-flowering marker |
| NF-YA1_R | TTTCTTCGCAAACCGGCCTCCA | Late-flowering marker |
| NF-YA4_F | CAGATCCCAAACCCGACCA | Late-flowering marker |
| NF-YA4_R | CTGCAATTGGACCCAGGAT | Late-flowering marker |
| GSR2_F | CACATCAGTGCCTACGGTGA | Ammonium assimilation |
| GSR2_R | ACGTCACACGAATAGAGC | Ammonium assimilation |
| PAL1_F | ACACTGTCTCTCAAGTGGCG | Ammonium assimilation |
| PAL1_R | ACGTTGCGCTACAAGGATCA | Ammonium assimilation |
| CSY4_F | TGACGACCCTCTTTCCAGC | Ammonium assimilation |
| CSY4_R | CAAGACCCACTGTGAGCAT | Ammonium assimilation |
| ACO3_F | GACTGGTCACGAACGCTACA | Ammonium assimilation |
| ACO3_R | GCGGACTGTGCAAGTGAAAG | Ammonium assimilation |
| AOX2_F | CGCGGTTAGCTCATAGGGTC | Ammonium assimilation |
| AOX2_R | AATCAATAGCAATCGCGGGC | Ammonium assimilation |
| GLU1_F | GTTCGTGCCGTTATCGACCT | Ammonium assimilation |
| GLU1_R | GAACTTTGCACGTTGGGTGT | Ammonium assimilation |
| GDH1_F | GGTGGATCGCTAGGGAGAGA | Ammonium assimilation |
| GDH1_R | GATGACAAAACGCTGCCCTG | Ammonium assimilation |

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| IDH1_F | ACCATGCGGTATTCGAGCAA | Ammonium assimilation |
| IDH1_R | TTTCGTCCGGCACTTTCCTT | Ammonium assimilation |
| CICDH_F | AAGTGTGCCACCATCACTCC | Ammonium assimilation |
| CICDH_R | ATGCAGATGGGCTTTGTCCA | Ammonium assimilation |
| EDS1_F | TCC TGA GGA ATG TCC TGT GA | Defense marker |
| EDS1_R | GAA CCG TGT TCA GTT TCC TTG | Defense marker |
| NPR1_F | CGT TTC TCA GCA GTG TCG TC | Defense marker |
| NPR1_R | CCG TCT CAC TGG TAC GAA GA | Defense marker |
| PAD4_F | GGC GGT ATC GAT GAT TCA GT | Defense marker |
| PAD4_R | GGT TGA ATG GCC GGT TAT C | Defense marker |
| PR1_F | CGT TCA CAT AAT TCC CAC GA | Defense marker |
| PR1_R | AAG AGG CAA CTG CAG ACT CA | Defense marker |
| PDF1.2_F | CTG CTC TTG TTC TCT TTG CT | Defense marker |
| PDF1.2_R | GTG TGC TGG GAA GAC ATA | Defense marker |
| PR5_F | CGG AAA CGG TAG ATG TGT AAC | Defense marker |
| PR5_R | GTT GAG GTC AGA GAC ACA GCC | Defense marker |
| SAG12_F | CGA AGG CGG TTT AAT GGA TAC TGC | Senescence marker |
| SAG12_R | TTA ACC GGG ACA TCC TCA TAA CCT G | Senescence marker |
| WRKY53_F | AGCCGCAGACTTCTTGTTGT | Senescence marker |
| WRKY53_R | GCGAATACGTCTTTGCAGGA | Senescence marker |
| PIF4_F | ACAGAGCCCGGTACAGTTAC | Thermosensory immunity regulator |
| PIF4_R | CCATCGGCTGCATCTGAGTC | Thermosensory immunity regulator |

Table S2. Pairwise comparison of genetic similarity among Altenriet individuals. The amount of heterozygosity for each Altenriet parent is indicated in the first row. A total of 1985 SNPs were used.

| | Alt1 | Alt2 | Alt3 | Alt4 | Alt5 | Alt6 | Alt7 |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Heterozygosity | 1.66% | 1.21% | 2.37% | 1.01% | 1.21% | 2.67% | 5.39% |
| Alt2 | 66.5% | | | | | | |
| Alt3 | 65.5% | 68.8% | | | | | |
| Alt4 | 72.7% | 66.4% | 64.3% | | | | |
| Alt5 | 73.6% | 67.0% | 67.5% | 79.7% | | | |
| Alt6 | 97.5% | 65.6% | 65.2% | 72.6% | 73.2% | | |
| Alt7 | 60.3% | 68.8% | 67.5% | 65.0% | 69.5% | 60.3% | |

Table S3. Metabolites identified in the first project. Sixty-six analytes from primary metabolism and thirty-four from secondary metabolism were identified and quantified using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Mass and retention times of secondary metabolites (Met_ID 67-100) are included respectively inside parenthesis.

| Met_ID | Metabolite | Class |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Adenine | Amines |
| 2 | Alanine | Amines |
| 3 | Alanine_beta | Amines |
| 4 | Arginine | Amines |
| 5 | Ascorbic_acid | Acids |
| 6 | Asparagine | Amines |
| 7 | Aspartic_acid | Acids |
| 8 | Benzoic_acid | Acids |
| 9 | Citric_acid | Acids |
| 10 | Cysteine | Amines |
| 11 | Dehydroascorbic_acid_dimer | Acids |
| 12 | Fructose | Sugars |
| 13 | Fructose_6_phosphate | Sugars |
| 14 | Fucose | Sugars |
| 15 | Fumaric_acid | Acids |
| 16 | GABA | Sugars |
| 17 | Galactinol | Sugars |
| 18 | Galactonic_acid | Acids |
| 19 | Gluconic_acid | Acids |
| 20 | Glucose | Sugars |
| 21 | Glucose_6_phosphate | Sugars |
| 22 | Glucose_1_6_anhydro_beta | Sugars |
| 23 | Glutamic_acid | Acids |
| 24 | Glutamine | Amines |
| 25 | Glutaric_acid_2_oxo | Acids |
| 26 | Glyceric_acid | Acids |

| | | |
|----|----------------------|--------|
| 27 | Glycerol | Sugars |
| 28 | Glycerol_3_phosphate | Sugars |
| 29 | Glycine | Amines |
| 30 | Guanidine | Amines |
| 31 | Homoserine | Amines |
| 32 | Inositol_myo | Sugars |
| 33 | Isoleucine | Amines |
| 34 | Isomaltose | Sugars |
| 35 | Lysine | Amines |
| 36 | Malic_acid | Acids |
| 37 | Maltose | Sugars |
| 38 | Methionine | Amines |
| 39 | Nicotinamide | Sugars |
| 40 | Nicotinic_acid | Acids |
| 41 | Ornithine | Amines |
| 42 | Phenylalanine | Amines |
| 43 | Phosphoric_acid | Acids |
| 44 | Proline | Amines |
| 45 | Putrescine | Amines |
| 46 | Pyroglutamic_acid | Acids |
| 47 | Pyruvic_acid | Acids |
| 48 | Raffinose | Sugars |
| 49 | Rhamnose | Sugars |
| 50 | Ribose_5_phosphate | Sugars |
| 51 | Serine | Amines |
| 52 | Serine_O_acetyl | Amines |
| 53 | Shikimic_acid | Acids |
| 54 | Spermidine | Amines |
| 55 | Succinic_acid | Acids |

| | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 56 | Sucrose | Sugars |
| 57 | Threitol | Sugars |
| 58 | Threonine | Amines |
| 59 | Trehalose_alpha.alpha | Sugars |
| 60 | Tryptophan | Sugars |
| 61 | Tyramine | Amines |
| 62 | Tyrosine | Amines |
| 63 | Uracil | Sugars |
| 64 | Urea | Sugars |
| 65 | Valine | Amines |
| 66 | Xylose | Sugars |
| 67 | Coniferin; Coniferoside (333.31, 2.48) | Glucosides |
| 68 | Unknown (463.3, 12.1) | Unknown |
| 69 | L-Glutathione (306.23, 3.22) | Glucosinolates |
| 70 | Disinapoyl.glucoside-I (591.3, 18.2) | Glucosides |
| 71 | Most likely Anthocyanin (841.5, 29.3) | Flavonoids |
| 72 | Unknown (721.3, 26.3) | Unknown |
| 73 | Disinapoyl.glucoside-II (591.3, 19.15) | Glucosides |
| 74 | Trans-sinapoyl malate (341, 2.16) | Glucosinolates |
| 75 | Unknown (585.1, 24.7) | Unknown |
| 76 | 7-Methylthioheptyl glucosinolate (462.3, 23.8) | Glucosinolates |
| 77 | Kaempferol 3-galactoside-7-rhamnoside (593.7, 14.9) | Flavonoids |
| 78 | Quercetin.Glc.Rha (609.3, 14.2) | Flavonoids |
| 79 | Phenylpropanoid, hydroxyferuloyl Glc (372.23, 10.4) | Phenylpropanoids |
| 80 | Phenylpropanoid, cis or trans, sinapoyl malate (339.3, 21.5) | Phenylpropanoids |
| 81 | Glucosinolate.SO (422.29, 4.6) | Glucosinolates |
| 82 | Sinapoyl.glucoside (385.4, 13.4) | Glucosides |
| 83 | Anthocyanin (1685.4, 24.8) | Flavonoids |
| 84 | 3-methylsulfinylpropyl Gluc (358.36, 7.08) | Sugars |

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 85 | Glucosinolate (478.2, 12.8) | Glucosinolates |
| 86 | Unknown (406.2, 11.81) | Unknown |
| 87 | Glucosinolates, glucobrassicin (447.3, 15.3) | Glucosinolates |
| 88 | Sinapoyl + sugar (289.1, 3.74) | Sugars |
| 89 | Glucosinolates, methylsulfinyloctyl Gluc (492.5, 14.5) | Glucosinolates |
| 90 | Glucosinolates, 3-methylbutyl Gluc (387.53, 2.16) | Glucosinolates |
| 91 | Glucosinolates, 8-methylthiooctyl Gluc (476.4, 27.7) | Glucosinolates |
| 92 | Flavonoids, 3-Rha-7-Rha-Kae (577.6, 15.8) | Flavonoids |
| 93 | indole-3-carboxylate hex (323.30, 11.1) | Unknown |
| 94 | Glucosinolates, neoglucobrassicin or 4-methoxyglucobrassicin (477.3, 17.3) | Glucosinolates |
| 95 | Benzenoids, protocatechoyl Xyl (285.2, 7.6) | Glucosinolates |
| 96 | Possible flavonoid (565.19, 4.50) | Flavonoids |
| 97 | Glucosinolate (679.4, 17.0) | Glucosinolates |
| 98 | Indolic.glucosinolate (477.2, 20.1) | Glucosinolates |
| 99 | Kaempferol.Glc.Rha.Rha (739.5, 13.5) | Flavonoids |
| 100 | Unknown (371.2, 11.6) | Unknown |

Table S5. Metabolites identified in the second project. 165 analytes from primary metabolism were identified and quantified using gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Metabolites induced by the temperature switch (21–17°C) in necrotic hybrids were identified from this dataset.

| Class | Name | MPIMP-ID | Sum Formula | KEGG-ID | Derivate |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Acids | Benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid | M001710 | NA | NA | Benzene-1,4-dicarboxylic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Benzoic acid | M000347 | C7H6O2 | C00180 | Benzoic acid (1TMS) |
| Acids | Benzoic acid, 4-hydroxy- | M000463 | C7H6O3 | C00156 | Benzoic acid, 4-hydroxy- (2TMS) |
| Acids | Boric acid | M001531 | NA | NA | Boric acid (3TMS) |
| Acids | Citric acid | M000069 | C6H8O7 | C00158 | Citric acid (4TMS) |
| Acids | Dehydroascorbic acid | M000082 | NA | NA | Dehydroascorbic acid (2MEOX) BP |
| Acids | Fumaric acid | M000067 | C4H4O4 | C00122 | Fumaric acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Glutaric acid, 2-hydroxy- | M000809 | C5H8O5 | C03196 | Glutaric acid, 2-hydroxy- (3TMS) |
| Acids | Glutaric acid, 2-oxo- | M000571 | C5H6O5 | C00026 | Glutaric acid, 2-oxo- (1MEOX) (2TMS) MP |
| Acids | Glycolic acid | M000886 | C2H4O3 | C00160 | Glycolic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Lactic acid | M000100 | C3H6O3 | C00186 | Lactic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Maleic acid | M000076 | C4H4O4 | C01384 | Maleic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Malic acid | M000065 | C4H6O5 | C00149 | Malic acid (3TMS) |
| Acids | Malic acid, 2-methyl- | M000066 | C5H8O5 | C02612 | Malic acid, 2-methyl- (3TMS) |
| Acids | Piperidine-2-carboxylic acid | M000528 | NA | NA | Piperidine-2-carboxylic acid (1TMS) |
| Acids | Pyroline-2-carboxylic acid | M000896 | NA | NA | Pyroline-2-carboxylic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Pyruvic acid | M000071 | C3H4O3 | C00022 | Pyruvic acid (1MEOX) (1TMS) |
| Acids | Salicylic acid | M000220 | C7H6O3 | C00805 | Salicylic acid (2TMS) |
| Acids | Shikimic acid | M000607 | C7H10O5 | C00493 | Shikimic acid (4TMS) |
| Acids | Succinic acid | M000074 | C4H6O4 | C00042 | Succinic acid (2TMS) |
| Alcohols | Benzylalcohol | M000422 | C7H8O | C00556 | Benzylalcohol (1TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Alanine | M000026 | C3H7NO2 | C00041 | Alanine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Alanine, 3-cyano- | M000466 | C4H6N2O2 | C02512 | Alanine, 3-cyano- (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Alanine, beta- | M000027 | C3H7NO2 | C00099 | Alanine, beta- (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Asparagine | M000013 | NA | NA | Asparagine (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Aspartic acid | M000033 | C4H7NO4 | C00049 | Aspartic acid (3TMS) |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|--------|--|
| Amino Acids | Glutamic acid | M000036 | C5H9NO4 | C00025 | Glutamic acid (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Glutamine | M000032 | NA | NA | Glutamine [-H2O] (2TMS) MP |
| Amino Acids | Glycine | M000031 | C2H5NO2 | C00037 | Glycine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Isoleucine | M000017 | C6H13NO2 | C00407 | Isoleucine (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Lysine | M000014 | C6H14N2O2 | C00047 | Lysine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Methionine | M000018 | C5H11NO2S | C00073 | Methionine (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Ornithine | M000028 | C5H12N2O2 | C00077 | Ornithine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Phenylalanine | M000011 | C9H11NO2 | C00079 | Phenylalanine (1TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Proline | M000029 | NA | NA | Proline [+CO2] (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Pyroglutamic acid | M000037 | C5H7NO3 | C02238 | Pyroglutamic acid (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Serine | M000015 | C3H7NO3 | C00065 | Serine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Serine, O-acetyl- | M000024 | C5H9NO4 | C00979 | Serine, O-acetyl- (2TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Threonine | M000016 | C4H9NO3 | C00188 | Threonine (3TMS) |
| Amino Acids | Valine | M000030 | C5H11NO2 | C00183 | Valine (2TMS) |
| Fatty Acids | Hexadecanoic acid | M000483 | C16H32O2 | C00249 | Hexadecanoic acid (1TMS) |
| Fatty Acids | Octadecanoic acid | M000485 | C18H36O2 | C01530 | Octadecanoic acid (1TMS) |
| Fatty Acids | Tetradecanoic acid | M000480 | C14H28O2 | C06424 | Tetradecanoic acid (1TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Agmatine | M000234 | NA | NA | Agmatine [-NH3] (3TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Arginine | M000835 | NA | NA | Arginine [-NH3] (2TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Ethanolamine | M000096 | C2H7NO | C00189 | Ethanolamine (3TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Indole-3-acetonitrile | M000593 | NA | NA | Indole-3-acetonitrile (1TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Octylamine | M000934 | NA | NA | Octylamine (2TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Putrescine | M000186 | C4H12N2 | C00134 | Putrescine (4TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Spermidine | M000106 | C7H19N3 | C00315 | Spermidine (4TMS) |
| N- Compounds | Uracil | M000456 | C4H4N2O2 | C00106 | Uracil (2TMS) |
| Phenylpropanoids | Sinapic acid, cis- | M000648 | C11H12O5 | NA | Sinapic acid, cis- (2TMS) |
| Phenylpropanoids | Sinapic acid, trans- | M000010 | C11H12O5 | C00482 | Sinapic acid, trans- (2TMS) |
| Phosphates | Ethanolaminephosphate | M001131 | NA | NA | Ethanolaminephosphate (4TMS) |
| Phosphates | Fructose-6-phosphate | M000510 | C6H13O9P | C00085 | Fructose-6-phosphate (1MEOX) (6TMS) MP |
| Phosphates | Glucose-6-phosphate | M000513 | C6H13O9P | C00092 | Glucose-6-phosphate (1MEOX) (6TMS) MP |
| Phosphates | Glycerol-3-phosphate | M000328 | C3H9O6P | C00093 | Glycerol-3-phosphate (4TMS) |

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|-------------------|--|---------|-----------|--------|---|
| Phosphates | Glycerophosphoglycerol | M000834 | C6H15O8P | C03274 | Glycerophosphoglycerol (5TMS) |
| Phosphates | Mannose-6-phosphate | M000711 | C6H13O9P | C00275 | Mannose-6-phosphate (1MEOX) (6TMS) MP |
| Phosphates | Phosphoric acid | M000075 | H3O4P | C00009 | Phosphoric acid (3TMS) |
| Phosphates | Phosphoric acid monomethyl ester | M000507 | NA | NA | Phosphoric acid monomethyl ester (2TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Ascorbic acid | M000001 | NA | NA | Ascorbic acid (4TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Dehydroascorbic acid dimer | M000082 | C6H6O6 | C05422 | Dehydroascorbic acid dimer (2MEOX) MP |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Erythronic acid | M000454 | C4H8O5 | NA | Erythronic acid (4TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Galactonic acid | M000596 | C6H12O7 | C00880 | Galactonic acid (6TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Gluconic acid | M000508 | C6H12O7 | C00257 | Gluconic acid (6TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Gluconic acid-1,5-lactone | M000638 | C6H10O6 | C00198 | Gluconic acid-1,5-lactone (4TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Glyceric acid | M000073 | C3H6O4 | C00258 | Glyceric acid (3TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Lyxonic acid-1,4-lactone | M001180 | NA | NA | Lyxonic acid-1,4-lactone (3TMS) |
| Polyhydroxy Acids | Threonic acid | M000078 | C4H8O5 | C01620 | Threonic acid (4TMS) |
| Polyols | Threonic acid-1,4-lactone | M000595 | C4H6O4 | NA | Threonic acid-1,4-lactone (2TMS) |
| Polyols | Arabitol | M000588 | C5H12O5 | C01904 | Arabitol (5TMS) |
| Polyols | Erythritol | M000054 | C4H10O4 | C00503 | Erythritol (4TMS) |
| Polyols | Glycerol | M000053 | C3H8O3 | C00116 | Glycerol (3TMS) |
| Polyols | Inositol, myo- | M000060 | C6H12O6 | C00137 | Inositol, myo- (6TMS) |
| Polyols | Ribulose + Xylulose | M000879 | NA | NA | Ribulose + Xylulose (1MEOX) (4TMS) MP |
| Polyols | Sorbitol | M000055 | C6H14O6 | C00794 | Sorbitol (6TMS) |
| Polyols | Threitol | M000469 | C4H10O4 | NA | Threitol (4TMS) |
| Sugar Conjugates | alpha-D-Galactopyranosyl-(1,4)-D-galac | M001185 | NA | NA | "alpha-D..." (1MEOX) (8TMS) MP |
| Sugar Conjugates | Galactinol | M000673 | C12H22O11 | C01235 | Galactinol (9TMS) |
| Sugar Conjugates | Salicylic acid-glucopyranoside | M001182 | NA | NA | Salicylic acid-glucopyranoside (5TMS) |
| Sugars | Fructose | M000606 | C6H12O6 | C00095 | Fructose (1MEOX) (5TMS) BP |

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|--------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Sugars | Galactose | M000043 | C6H12O6 | C00124 | Galactose (1MEOX) (5TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Glucose | M000040 | C6H12O6 | C00031 | Glucose (1MEOX) (5TMS) BP |
| Sugars | Lyxose | M000576 | C5H10O5 | C00476 | Lyxose (1MEOX) (4TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Maltose | M000048 | C12H22O11 | C00897 | Maltose (1MEOX) (8TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Mannose | M000633 | C6H12O6 | C00936 | Mannose (1MEOX) (5TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Raffinose | M000049 | C18H32O16 | C00492 | Raffinose (11TMS) |
| Sugars | Rhamnose | M000590 | C6H12O5 | C00507 | Rhamnose (1MEOX) (4TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Sucrose | M000044 | C12H22O11 | C00089 | Sucrose (8TMS) |
| Sugars | Tagatose | M000622 | NA | NA | Tagatose (1MEOX) (5TMS) MP |
| Sugars | Trehalose, alpha,alpha'- | M000671 | C12H22O11 | C01083 | Trehalose, alpha,alpha'- (8TMS) |
| Sugars | Xylose | M000579 | C5H10O5 | C00181 | Xylose (1MEOX) (4TMS) MP |
| MSTs | A112003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A112003-101 |
| MSTs | A116014-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | Unknown#bth-pae-013 |
| MSTs | A139006-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A139006-101 |
| MSTs | A138004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A138004-101 |
| MSTs | A142003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A142003-101 |
| MSTs | A143003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A143003-101 |
| MSTs | A144007-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | similar to Aspartic acid (2TMS) |
| MSTs | A145008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A145008-101 |
| MSTs | A145016-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA145016 (classified unknown) |
| MSTs | A145015-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA145015 |
| MSTs | A147001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A147001-101 |
| MSTs | A147005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A147005-101 |
| MSTs | A147011-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA147011 (classified unknown) |
| MSTs | A148006-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A148006-101 |
| MSTs | A151008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A151008-101 |
| MSTs | A155014-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D155405 |
| MSTs | A157003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A157003-101 |
| MSTs | A159002-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A159002-101 |
| MSTs | A160018-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | Unknown#sst-cgl-037 |
| MSTs | A161007-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A161007-101 |

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|------|-------------|---------|----|----|-------------------------------|
| MSTs | A163004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A163004-101 |
| MSTs | A167005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A167005-101 |
| MSTs | A165011-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D165453 |
| MSTs | A167004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A167004-101 |
| MSTs | A167003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A167003-101 |
| MSTs | A170001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA170001 (classified unknown) |
| MSTs | A171003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A171003-101 |
| MSTs | A171005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A171005-101 |
| MSTs | A171025-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D171803 |
| MSTs | A174005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A174005-101 |
| MSTs | A174001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA174001 |
| MSTs | A175008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A175008-101 |
| MSTs | A176001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA176001 (classified unknown) |
| MSTs | A176010-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A176010-101 |
| MSTs | A178003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A178003-101 |
| MSTs | A180004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA180004 |
| MSTs | A185003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A185003-101 |
| MSTs | A187005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A187005-101 |
| MSTs | A191007-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A191007-101 |
| MSTs | A190021-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A190021-101 |
| MSTs | A196006-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A196006-101 |
| MSTs | A199004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A199004-101 |
| MSTs | A203003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A203003-101 |
| MSTs | A209004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A209004-101 |
| MSTs | A211001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA211001 |
| MSTs | A213001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA213001 |
| MSTs | A214003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A214003-101 |
| MSTs | A214004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A214004-101 |
| MSTs | A217007-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A217007-101 |
| MSTs | A222008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D222462 |
| MSTs | A228001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A228001-101 |

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| MSTs | A227008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA227008 |
| MSTs | A000512-101 | M001430 | NA | NA | similar to Sinigrin_A |
| MSTs | A000512-101 | M001430 | NA | NA | similar to Sinigrin_B |
| MSTs | A240004-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A240004-101 |
| MSTs | A250001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A250001-101 |
| MSTs | A251003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A251003-101 |
| MSTs | A254002-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A254002-101 |
| MSTs | A255012-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | Unknown#sst-cgl-119 |
| MSTs | A260006-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D260482 |
| MSTs | A276008-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A276008-101 |
| MSTs | A278005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | NA278005 |
| MSTs | A279005-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A279005-101 |
| MSTs | A278013-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | D278931 |
| MSTs | A300001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | similar to Galactinol |
| MSTs | A302003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A302003-101 |
| MSTs | A308003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A308003-101 |
| MSTs | A311002-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A311002-101 |
| MSTs | A313001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A313001-101 |
| MSTs | A317003-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A317003-101 |
| MSTs | A324001-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A324001-101 |
| MSTs | A329006-101 | M000000 | NA | NA | A329006-101 |