

1 **RESEARCH PAPER**

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3 **Aluminum resistance in common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) involves induction and**
4 **maintenance of citrate exudation from root apices**

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17 Running title: Citrate production and exudation and its relationship to Al resistance

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19

1 **Abstract**

2 Two common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) genotypes differing in aluminum (Al) resistance,
3 Quimbaya (Al-resistant) and VAX-1 (Al-sensitive) were grown in hydroponics for up to 25 h with or
4 without Al, and several parameters related to the exudation of organic acids anions from the root apex
5 were investigated. Aluminum treatment enhanced the exudation of citrate from the root tips of both
6 genotypes. However, its dynamic offers the most consistent relationship between Al-induced
7 inhibition of root elongation and Al accumulation in and exclusion from the root apices. Initially, in
8 both genotypes the short-term (4 h) Al injury period was characterized by the absence of citrate efflux
9 independent of the citrate content of the root apices, and reduction of cytosolic turnover of citrate
10 conferred by a reduced NADP-isocitrate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.42) activity. Transient recovery
11 from initial Al stress (4-12 h) was found to be dependent mainly on the capacity to utilize internal
12 citrate pools (Al-resistant genotype Quimbaya) or enhanced citrate synthesis (increased activities of
13 NAD-malate dehydrogenase (EC 1.1.1.37) and ATP-phosphofructokinase (EC 2.7.1.11) in Al-
14 sensitive VAX-1). Sustained recovery from Al stress through citrate exudation in genotype Quimbaya
15 after 24 h Al treatment relied on restoring the internal citrate pool and the constitutive high activity of
16 citrate synthase (CS) (EC 4.1.3.7) fuelled by high phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (EC 4.1.1.31)
17 activity. In the Al-sensitive genotype VAX-1 the citrate exudation and thus Al exclusion and root
18 elongation could not be maintained coinciding with an exhaustion of the internal citrate pool and
19 decreased CS activity.

20

21 **Key words:** aluminum toxicity, organic acids, exudation, synthesis, root apex

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23

1 **Abbreviations**

2

3	ACO	Aconitase
4	CS	Citrate synthase
5	EZ	Elongation zone
6	GFAAS	Graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometer
7	HPLC	High pressure liquid chromatography
8	ICDH	Isocitrate dehydrogenase
9	MDH	Malate dehydrogenase
10	Al _{mono}	Monomeric aluminum
11	MATE	Multidrug and toxic compound extrusion
12	OA	Organic acid
13	PEPC	Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase
14	PFK	Phosphofructokinase
15	PCV	Pyrocatechol violet
16	TZ	Transition zone
17	TCA	Tricarboxylic acid
18	DTNB	5, 5'-dithio-bis-2-nitrobenzoic acid

19

1 **Introduction**

2

3 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is the most important grain legume for direct human
4 consumption (Broughton et al. 2003). It is the second most important source of protein in Eastern and
5 Southern Africa and the fourth in tropical America. It is also the third most important caloric source
6 after cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) and maize (*Zea mays* L.) (Rao, 2001). Common bean is
7 mainly produced on small-scale farms (80% of the world's dry bean production) where about 40% and
8 30 to 50% of the bean-growing area in Latin America and Central, Eastern and Southern Africa,
9 respectively are affected by aluminum (Al) toxicity, the most important soil factor limiting crop yields
10 on acid soils (Wortmann et al. 1998, Rao et al. 1993, von Uexküll and Mutert 1995), leading to 30 to
11 60% yield reduction (CIAT 1992). First attempts to characterize genotypic differences in Al resistance
12 in beans date from the mid 70's (Foy et al. 1972, Howeler 1991). Since then, considerable progress
13 has been attained in identifying and improving germplasm better adapted to acid soils (Rao 2001,
14 Rangel et al. 2005, Manrique et al. 2006, Beaver and Osorno 2009). However, common bean is still
15 among the plant species, least adapted to soil acidity, generally, and Al toxicity, specifically.
16 Therefore, improving Al resistance of common bean to reduce the dependence of small farmers on
17 lime and nutrient inputs remains a major challenge.

18 Aluminum rapidly inhibits root growth (Foy 1988, Llugany et al. 1995) by injuring the most Al-
19 susceptible part of the plant, the root apex (Ryan et al. 1993, Sivaguru and Horst 1998, Kollmeier et al.
20 2000). The analysis of spatial growth profiles in common bean revealed that the initial inhibition of
21 root elongation by Al resulted from a generalized effect along the entire elongation zone (EZ) (Rangel
22 et al. 2007). Additionally, localized application of Al to specific zones of the root apex in common
23 bean showed that application of Al to the transition zone (TZ) resulted in root-growth inhibition to the
24 same extent as if the whole root tip would have been treated with Al, confirming previous studies with
25 maize, reporting that the TZ is the most Al-sensitive apical root zone (Kollmeier et al. 2000).
26 However, in contrast to maize, application of Al to the EZ also reduced root growth in both common
27 bean genotypes, though to a lesser extent than when applied to the TZ, indicating that not only the TZ
28 but the entire EZ need to be protected from the Al injury (Rangel et al. 2007).

29 Plant species and genotypes within species vary widely in resistance to Al, suggesting that Al-resistant
30 species or genotypes possess several mechanisms to avoid Al toxicity (Taylor 1991). Mechanisms of Al
31 resistance have been broadly classified as those which prevent the entrance of Al into the plant (Al
32 exclusion) and those that detoxify or sequester Al internally (Al tolerance) (Rengel 1996, Delhaize et
33 al. 2007). Several possibilities have been proposed for each type of mechanism (Taylor 1991), but
34 most of them remain speculative (Kochian et al. 2004). However, since 1991 accumulating evidence
35 has shown that organic acids (OA) play an important role in detoxifying Al internally and externally
36 (Ma 2000, Ma et al. 2001, Ryan et al. 2001, Ma and Furukawa 2003). Both, the kind and the amount
37 of exuded OA-anions contribute to the Al-detoxification capacity (Zheng et al. 1998a). Consequently,

1 the OAs have been classified as strongly (citrate, oxalate and tartrate), moderately (malate, malonate
2 and salicylate) and weakly (succinate, lactate, formate and acetate) Al-detoxifying compounds
3 according to the stability of the Al complex (Hue et al. 1986). The enhanced exudation of citrate in
4 response to Al stress has been reported in common bean (Miyasaka et al. 1991, Mugai et al. 2000,
5 Shen et al. 2002, Rangel and Horst 2006, Stass et al. 2007), maize (Pellet et al. 1995, Kollmeier et al.
6 2001) and soybean (*Glycine max* L., Yang et al. 2000, 2001, Silva et al. 2001), the exudation of malate
7 in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L., Delhaize et al. 1993, Pellet et al. 1997), a combination of both (citrate
8 and malate) in rye (*Secale cereale* L., Li et al. 2002) and triticale (*x Triticosecale* Wittmark., Ma et al.
9 2000, Hayes and Ma 2003), and oxalate in buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench., Zheng et al.
10 1998b) and taro (*Colocasia esculenta* L. Schott., Ma and Miyasaka 1998). These OAs are thought to
11 complex Al within the apoplast of the root apex (Kinraide et al. 2005).

12 Two patterns of OA exudation can be recognized, based on the timing and amount of secretion (Ma et
13 al. 2001). In Pattern-I plants species, exudation is switched on without a delay after exposure of plants
14 to Al and kept constant over time. In Pattern-II plants species, OA secretion is induced by the addition
15 of Al after a lag phase of several hours and the rates of release increase over time. This
16 characterization suggests a constitutive mechanism of OA release in the Pattern-I whereas in Pattern-II
17 the induction of genes and synthesis of proteins involved in the OA synthesis and/or membrane
18 transport is required (Ma et al. 2001, Ryan et al. 2001). Cumming and coworkers (1992) proposed that
19 Al resistance appears to be an inducible trait in common bean. In agreement with their studies, our
20 previous results (Rangel et al. 2007) have shown that both Al-resistant and Al-sensitive common bean
21 genotypes initially (at 4 h after Al treatment) were equally sensitive to Al. Thereafter, the root growth
22 recovered in the Al-resistant genotype while it remains inhibited after a transient recovery in the Al-
23 sensitive genotype. This dynamic of root elongation in response to Al was closely related to the Al
24 content in the root tip and suggested the presence of an Al-exclusion mechanism. Al-induced citrate
25 exudation has been reported in common bean (Miyasaka et al. 1991, Mugai et al. 2000, Shen et al.
26 2002, 2004, Rangel and Horst 2006, Stass et al. 2007): However, the pattern of OA exudation in
27 common bean remains a matter of debate (Ma and Furukawa 2003). In some experiments a rapid Al-
28 induced exudation of citrate could be observed after 2 h of Al treatment (Shen et al. 2004), while in
29 others, the citrate exudation seems to be delayed for a period of 3-5 h (Mugai et al. 2000, Shen et al.
30 2002). Therefore, a better characterization of the pattern of Al-induced citrate exudation in relation to
31 the observed changes in the dynamic of root elongation is necessary to generate physiological markers
32 to quantify differences in Al resistance in common bean.

33 Contrary to the better characterized process of Al-induced exudation of OA-anions by plant roots, the
34 role of the metabolism and accumulation of OA in Al resistance is still elusive (Ryan et al. 2001, Horst
35 et al. 2007). In many species, where OA-anion release is activated by Al, no correlations are apparent
36 between internal OA concentrations and efflux. For instance, Al-sensitive and Al-resistant wheat
37 genotypes did not differ in root concentrations of malate, although the Al-resistant genotypes excreted

1 5- to 10-fold more malate than the Al sensitive genotypes (Delhaize et al. 1993). Contrary to this
2 observation, in soybean a typical pattern II-plant species, an Al-enhanced internal accumulation of
3 malate (Yang et al. 2001) and citrate (Silva et al. 2001) contributed to the enhanced citrate secretion. A
4 similar controversy exists about the role of enzymes involved in OA synthesis/decomposition in Al-
5 induced OA-anion efflux. In wheat, Al-induced malate secretion occurred without significant changes
6 to the activities of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (PEPC) or malate dehydrogenase (NAD-MDH).
7 Moreover, the activities of these enzymes were not significantly different between genotypes (Ryan et
8 al. 1995). An enhanced citrate synthase (CS) activity has been reported in soybean (Yang et al. 2001)
9 and common bean (Mugai et al. 2000) after 12 and 24 h of Al treatment, respectively. In addition,
10 strategies to over-express enzymes involved in OA metabolism have been proven to be effective in
11 enhanced OA exudation leading to Al resistance in transgenic plants of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Koyama
12 et al. 2000), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L., Tesfaye et al. 2001, Barone et al. 2008), canola (*Brassica*
13 *napus* L., Anoop et al. 2003), and *Nicotiana bethamiana* (Deng et al. 2009). Therefore, the main
14 objective of the present study was to determine the effects of Al treatment (short- and medium-term)
15 on the dynamics of OA accumulation and their exudation from the root apex (1 cm) of an Al-sensitive
16 (VAX-1) and Al-resistant (Quimbaya) common bean genotypes. Additionally, the effect of Al on
17 some key enzymes of OA metabolism was also determined.
18

1 **Materials and methods**

2

3 **Plant material and growth conditions**

4

5 Seeds of two common bean genotypes with known differential Al resistance (Rangel et al., 2005) were
6 used in this study. Seeds of the Al-resistant (Quimbaya) and Al-sensitive (VAX-1) genotypes kindly
7 supplied by the Bean Program of CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture, Cali,
8 Colombia) were germinated between filter-paper styrofoam-sandwiches soaked with tap water, in an
9 upright position. Uniform seedlings were transferred to 181 pots with constantly aerated simplified
10 nutrient solution containing 5 mM CaCl₂, 0.5 mM KCl, and 8 μM H₃BO₃ (Rangel et al. 2005). Plants
11 were cultured in a growth chamber under controlled environmental conditions of a 16/8 h light/dark
12 regime, 27/25°C day/night temperature, 70% relative air humidity, and a photon flux density of 230
13 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ photosynthetic active radiation at the plant level (Sylvania Cool White, 195 W, Philips,
14 Germany).

15 After 24 h the pH of the solution was lowered gradually from 5.6 to 4.5 and kept constant throughout
16 the treatment period using an automatic pH titration device with 0.1 M HCl/KOH.

17 Unless indicated, the plants were treated with 0 or 20 μM AlCl₃ for up to 24 h. Mononuclear Al
18 (Al_{mono}) concentrations were measured colorimetrically using the aluminon or pyrocatechol violet
19 method (PCV) according to Kerven et al. (1989). Nominal 40 or 20 μM Al treatments resulted in 32 ±
20 3 or 16 ± 2 μM Al_{mono} after 24 h, respectively.

21

22 **Effect of Al on root growth and Al contents of 5 mm root apices**

23

24 Root growth was measured at 4, 8 and 24 h of Al treatment through marking the tap root 3 cm behind
25 the root tip 2 h before the beginning of the Al treatment with a blue permanent marker (Sharpie- Fine
26 Point, Sanford, FL). For the determination of the Al content, 5-mm root tips were washed with 1 ml of
27 ultra-pure deionized water and then digested in 500 μl of ultra-pure HNO₃ (65%) overnight on a
28 rotary shaker. To complete the digestion, samples were incubated in a water bath at 80°C for 20 min.
29 Aluminium was measured by GFAAS (Unicam 939 QZ; Analytical Technologies Inc., Cambridge,
30 UK), at a wavelength of 308.2 nm. When required, the samples were diluted with ultra-pure deionized
31 water.

32

33 **Collection of root exudates from intact root apices**

34

35 To collect root exudates from intact root apices, twelve plants were bundled in filter paper soaked with
36 nutrient solution. Approximately 1 cm of the main root apex of each plant was immersed into 18 ml of
37 a constantly aerated collection solution containing 5 mM CaCl₂, 8 μM H₃BO₃ and 0 or 40 μM AlCl₃

1 (nominal concentration), pH 4.5, in 20 ml poly-prep filtration columns (BioRad Laboratories,
2 Richmond, California, USA). Two different approaches (time dependent) were used for the collection
3 the root exudates. (i) For the study of short-term Al effects, root apices of non-pretreated plants were
4 incubated in presence of Al for a period of up to 10 h, changing the poly-prep columns with the
5 incubation medium at every 2 h. (ii) For the study of short to medium-term Al effects, root apices of
6 plants pretreated with Al (20 μ M) for 0, 3, 7, 15 and 23 h at pH 4.5 were subsequently incubated in an
7 identical solution with 0 or 40 μ M Al for 2 h. The Al concentration in the incubation medium was
8 doubled in order to compensate for the small volume and thus low total Al supply. In both approaches,
9 the basal part of the root system was constantly moistened with collection solution (see above) to
10 prevent dryness but avoiding dripping into the columns. After 2 h the incubation solution containing
11 the root exudates was immediately frozen at -20° C for later determination. After each incubation
12 period, the root tips (10 mm) were excised with a razor blade, washed with ultra-pure double
13 deionized water, transferred to Eppendorf cups, and fixed immediately in liquid nitrogen to measure
14 OA contents.

15

16 **Determination of OA in root exudates and root apices**

17

18 After OA collection, the incubation solution containing the OA was thawed and passed through 5 g of
19 a cation-exchange resin (AG50W-X8 with a 75-150 μ m mesh) at a flow rate of 1 ml min⁻¹. The resin
20 had been charged with 20 ml (3 M) HCl and washed four times with ultra-pure deionized water and
21 then poured into 20 ml poly-prep columns with a 200-400 mesh filter at the bottom of the column. The
22 resulting solution containing the OA was concentrated to dryness in a rotary vacuum evaporator (RCT
23 10-22T, Jouan, Saint-Herblain, France). The residue from each sample was re-dissolved in 500 μ l (10
24 mM) perchloric acid, sonicated for 15 min filled into centrifugal filter tubes with a membrane pore
25 size of 0.45 μ m (GHP Nanosep[®] MF Centrifugal Device, Pall Life Sciences, Ann Arbor, USA), and
26 centrifuged (10,000 g) for 25 sec. The centrifuged samples were immediately measured or frozen.

27 The OA content of root tips was determined by the modified method of de la Fuente et al. (1997).
28 Before thawing, 400 μ l of cold 70 % (v/v) ethanol was added to the samples which were then
29 homogenized in a micro-homogenizer (MM200 Retsch, Haan, Germany) at a speed of 20 oscillations
30 per second for 3 min. Organic acids were extracted at 75°C for 1 h with intermittent shaking in a
31 vortex at every 15 minutes. Thereafter, the samples were centrifuged at 20,000 g for 10 min and the
32 supernatant was transferred into a new Eppendorf cup. The supernatant was concentrated to dryness in
33 a rotary vacuum evaporator (RCT 10-22T, Jouan, Saint-Herblain, France). The concentrated residue
34 from each sample was re-dissolved in 200 μ l (10 mM) perchloric acid, sonicated for 15 min,
35 transferred into centrifugal filter tubes with a membrane pore size of 0.45 μ m (GHP Nanosep[®] MF
36 Centrifugal Device, Pall Life Sciences, Ann Arbor, USA), and centrifuged (10,000 g) for 25 sec. The
37 samples were immediately measured or frozen.

1 The OAs concentrations in the root exudates as well as in the extracts of root tissue were measured by
2 isocratic High Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC, Kroma System 3000, Kontron Instruments,
3 Munich, Germany). The OAs were detected through a 20 µl loop-injector (Auto-sampler 360) of the
4 HPLC, separating different OAs on an Animex HPX-87H (300 x 7.8 mm) column (BioRad,
5 Laboratories, Richmond, California, USA), supplemented with a cation H⁺ micro-guard cartridge,
6 using 10 mM perchloric acid as eluant at a flow rate of 0.5 ml per minute, constant temperature of
7 35°C (Oven 480), and 74 hPa of atmospheric pressure. Measurements were performed at a wavelength
8 $\lambda = 214$ nm (UV Detector 320). The peak of each OA was identified by the retention time (time
9 window 20%) of the same OA in a standard solution in 10 mM perchloric acid containing [mM]: 0.08
10 KNO₃, 0.10 oxalate, 0.05 cis-aconitate, 2 citrate, 0.5 tartrate, 0.10 pyruvate, 5 malate, 0.1 trans-
11 aconitate, 4 succinate, 2 formate and 0.1 fumarate. Organic acid-anion exudation was expressed as
12 nmol per root tip per hour and OA contents of root tissue as µmol per gram fresh weight of root tip.

13

14 **Enzyme activities in root apices**

15

16 After pH adaptation (see above), plants were treated with Al (20 µM, pH 4.5) for 0, 4, 8 and 24 h and
17 activities of several enzymes relevant for the OA metabolism were quantified in root apices. Roots of
18 8 plants per replicate were rinsed with distilled water and 5 mm root tips (primary plus the 4 longest
19 basal roots per plant) were excised using a razor blade, transferred to Eppendorf cups and fixed
20 immediately in liquid nitrogen. Before thawing, 500 µl cold 100 mM HEPES-NaOH buffer (pH 7.5)
21 was added to the samples which were then homogenized in pre-cooled (-18 °C) cup holders of a micro-
22 homogenizer (MM200 Retsch, Haan, Germany) at a speed of 20 oscillations per second for 3 min. The
23 procedure was repeated after cooling down of the Eppendorf cup containing the homogenate.
24 Thereafter, a second 500 µl HEPES-NaOH was added, the homogenate was centrifuged at 20,000 g for
25 5 min at 4°C, and the supernatant was used to determine the enzyme activities.

26 Citrate synthase (CS, EC 4.1.3.7) was measured by incubation of 150 µl extract in 1 ml of solution
27 containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 mM 5,5'-dithio-bis-2-nitrobenzoic acid
28 (DTNB), 0.3 mM acetyl CoA, and 0.5 mM oxaloacetate. The CS reaction was initiated by addition of
29 the enzyme extract and measured by following the reduction of acetyl CoA in the presence of DTNB
30 during 3 min at 412 nm according to Srere (1969) and Johnson et al. (1994). For the determination of
31 NADP-isocitrate dehydrogenase (NADP-ICDH, EC 1.1.1.42) 250 µl of extract was incubated in 1 ml
32 of assay solution, composed of 84 mM triethanolaminhydrochloric (pH 7,5), 42 mM NaCl, 4 mM DL-
33 isocitrate, 4 mM MnSO₄ and 0.4 mM NADP. The NADP-ICDH reaction started with the addition of
34 the enzyme extract and the activity recorded as the rate of reduction of NADP, monitored at 340 nm
35 for 3 min according to Bernt and Bergmeyer (1974). NAD-malate dehydrogenase (NAD-MDH, EC
36 1.1.1.37) activities were measured by monitoring the oxidation of NADH at 340 nm for 2 min,
37 following the method of Macnicol and Jacobsen (1992). The reaction started by adding 100 µl of a

1 ten-fold diluted extract in 1 ml of assay solution containing 50 mM Hepes-NaOH (pH 7.5), 0.5 mM
2 EDTA, 0.2 mM NADH, and 1 mM oxaloacetate. The activity of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase
3 (PEPC, EC 4.1.1.31) was measured by incubating 200 μ l extract in 1 ml of assay solution containing
4 100 mM bicine (pH 8.5), 0.2 mM NADH, 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM glucose-6-phosphate, 2 mM
5 phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP), 10 mM $NaHCO_3$ and 2 U of malate dehydrogenase. The reaction was
6 initiated by the addition of the enzyme extract, and the NADH oxidation was determined at 340 nm for
7 2 min, following the method of Hatch and Oliver (1978) and Macnicol and Jacobsen (1992). ATP-
8 phosphofructokinase (ATP-PFK, EC 2.7.1.11) was assayed in 1 ml reaction mixture containing 100
9 mM Hepes-NaOH, pH 8.0, 2.5 mM $MgCl_2$, 0.10 mM NADH, 10 mM Fru-6-P, 6 units ml^{-1} of aldolase,
10 1 unit ml^{-1} of triose-P isomerase, 6 units ml^{-1} of α -glycerol-P dehydrogenase, and 0.5 mM ATP. The
11 reaction was initiated with the addition of 180 μ l of the enzyme extract. Reaction was monitored at
12 340 nm for 3 min, following the method of Carnal and Black (1983). All previously described
13 enzymes were assayed using a spectrophotometer (UVICOM 943, Kontron Instruments, Munich,
14 Germany) at room temperature (24 $^{\circ}C$).

15 The total buffer (Hepes-NaOH)-extractable protein content of the root apices was determined in a
16 Microplate Spectrophotometer (μ Quant, Bio-Tek Instruments Inc, Winooski, Vermont, USA)
17 according to Bradford (1976). The specific enzyme activities were expressed in nmol of the monitored
18 reaction product per min per mg protein.

19

20 **Statistical Analysis**

21

22 Each experiment had a completely randomized design with four replicates. The ANOVA procedure of
23 the statistical program SAS 9.1 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA) was used for analysis of variance.
24 Means were compared using the Tukey test. *, **, ***, n.s. denote significant differences at $p < 0.05$,
25 0.01, and 0.001, or not significant, respectively.

26

27 **Results**

28

29 The inhibition of root elongation by Al reached about 70% in both genotypes after 4 h (Fig. 1A).
30 Whereas Al-resistant genotype Quimbaya completely recovered after 24 h, the Al-sensitive genotype
31 VAX-1 recovered only to 40% after 8 h and then got increasingly damaged up to 60% again after 24 h
32 Al treatment. The Al contents of the 5 mm root apex (Fig. 1B) reflect the inhibition of root elongation
33 induced by Al. Enhanced inhibition of root elongation up to 4 h of Al treatment was related to
34 increasing Al contents in the root tips even more in genotype Quimbaya than in VAX-1. Recovery
35 from Al stress was accompanied by continued decreasing of Al contents of the root apices of
36 Quimbaya while in VAX-1 the Al contents started to increase again after 8 h.

37

1 Fig. 1

2

3 Since an Al-induced release of OA-anions has been implicated in Al resistance of common bean and
4 other plant species (see introduction), the cumulative OA-anion exudation from 10 mm root tips
5 treated with Al for 10 h was characterized in a first approach (Fig. 2). The identified OA-anions in the
6 root exudates and their relative abundance independently of genotype and Al treatment were succinate
7 > citrate \approx oxalate > malate \approx tartrate > fumarate > aconitate. The total OA-anion exudation was
8 greater in Quimbaya than in VAX-1 with and without Al supply. Aluminium treatment did not modify
9 the cumulative exudation of tartrate, fumarate or aconitate, but enhanced the exudation of citrate in
10 both genotypes, oxalate and malate in VAX-1, and succinate in Quimbaya, and reduced oxalate
11 exudation in Quimbaya. The kinetics of the exudation of these OA-anions showed that the Al-
12 enhanced release of succinate (Quimbaya only) and citrate (Quimbaya and VAX-1) was characterized
13 by a lag phase of 4-6 h (Fig. 3). The exudation rates of malate and oxalate were stimulated by Al
14 during the 0-2 h Al treatment in genotype VAX-1 whereas in genotype Quimbaya they were even
15 decreased. However, genotype VAX-1 could not maintain this Al-enhanced exudation of OA-anions
16 beyond 6-8 h of Al treatment.

17

18 Fig. 2

19

20 Fig. 3

21

22 In order to be able to monitor the exudation of OA-anions from growing root tips for up to 24 h the
23 experimental system had to be changed. Therefore, intact plants were treated with Al for 0, 3, 7, 15 or
24 23 h prior to the collection of the root exudates for a 2 h period (Fig. 4). In agreement with results
25 from Fig. 2, citrate exudation (Fig. 4A) was induced by Al treatment after a lag phase of 3-5 h in
26 genotype VAX-1, whereas in genotype Quimbaya the lag phase lasted 7-9 h. By then the exudation
27 rate already declined in genotype VAX-1. In contrast, in genotype Quimbaya the citrate exudation
28 continued to increase up to 23-25 h of Al treatment (highly significant genotype x time interaction, $P <$
29 0.001). Partially in agreement with the observation in Fig. 3, succinate exudation was enhanced after a
30 3-5 h lag period (Fig. 4B) not only in Quimbaya, but also in VAX-1, however, to a lesser extent, and
31 decreased to a lower level thereafter.

32

33 Fig. 4

34

35 Aluminum-stimulated exudation of OA-anions could be related to the OA contents of the root tips.
36 Therefore, the OA contents of the 10 mm root tips were determined after the collection of root tip
37 exudates for 2 h in order to characterize the influence of Al treatment duration on the dynamics of the

1 OA content (Fig. 5). Eight OAs could be quantified with succinate >> malate > tartrate > citrate ≈
2 oxalate > pyruvate > aconitate ≈ fumarate. With the exception of malate, tartrate and oxalate genotype
3 Quimbaya had constitutively higher OA contents than VAX-1. Aluminium treatment generally
4 reduced the OA contents in the Al-sensitive genotype (VAX-1) during the first 4 h of Al treatment and
5 thereafter in both genotypes reaching a minimum after 9 h of Al treatment. Then, the OA contents
6 recovered reaching the original levels (no Al treatment) in Quimbaya after 25 h. In genotype VAX-1
7 this recovery was only transient and less marked before the contents reached very low levels after 25 h
8 of Al treatment. This general pattern of response of OA levels to Al treatment was particularly
9 expressed for citrate, malate, oxalate and fumarate.

10
11 Fig. 5

12
13 Differences between the genotypes in the constitutive contents of OAs and their changes induced by
14 Al treatment could be due to differences in the activities of enzymes involved in their synthesis and
15 degradation. Since the enzyme activities per unit of root weight depends on the protein content of the
16 sample, the root-tip protein-concentrations were determined (Fig. 6). The protein contents were
17 consistently up to 2 times higher in genotype Quimbaya than in VAX-1. Aluminium-treatment for 4 h
18 enhanced the protein contents particularly in genotype VAX-1. Subsequently, total protein contents
19 returned to the control levels without Al in both genotypes.

20
21 Fig. 6

22
23 Since the exudation of OA anions (Figs. 3 and 4) and the internal OA contents (Fig. 5) clearly showed
24 differences between the genotypes and the Al treatment duration, we determined activities related to
25 OA synthesis and degradation (Fig. 7). In root apices not treated with Al, genotype Quimbaya had
26 significantly higher specific activities of CS (4-fold) and PEPC (1.6-fold) than VAX-1. The activities
27 of NADP-ICDH, NAD-MDH or ATP-PFK did not differ between the genotypes. Aluminum treatment
28 for 4 h drastically reduced the activity of NADP-ICDH in both genotypes and remained at the low
29 level up to 24 h Al treatment. Only in genotype Quimbaya the activities of CS and NAD-MDH were
30 also reduced by Al treatment, but they recovered after longer Al treatment. In genotype VAX-1, CS
31 activity remained constant at a low level and was further reduced after 8 h Al treatment. In contrast, Al
32 treatment consistently enhanced the activities of NAD-MDH and ATP-PFK while PEPC was only
33 enhanced after exposure to Al for longer duration (> 8 h).

34
35 Fig. 7

36
37 **Discussion**

1
2 In this study, the effect of Al treatment on the dynamics of root elongation and Al accumulation in
3 root apices of the two genotypes differing in Al-resistance (Fig. 1) was in agreement with our previous
4 results (Rangel et al. 2007, 2009) and with an Al-induced Al resistance mechanism in common bean
5 (Cumming et al. 1992). According to these results three clear phases of the Al response could be
6 observed (i) a genotype-independent short-term (<4 h) Al-injury period, characterized by an enhanced
7 accumulation of Al in the root tip mainly determined by cell-wall characteristics such as pectin content
8 and its degree of methylation (Rangel et al. 2009); (ii) a genotypic-independent recovery of root
9 elongation with a concomitant reduction of Al accumulation in the root tip; and (iii) either a constant
10 decrease of Al contents leading to a steady recovery of root growth in the Al-resistant genotype
11 (Quimbaya) or a resumption of Al accumulation leading to severe inhibition of root growth in the Al-
12 sensitive genotype (VAX-1). Collectively, these results suggest an Al-exclusion mechanism acting in
13 common bean after the initial inhibition of root elongation.

14 Constitutively, higher total internal OA-contents, particularly succinate, citrate, aconitate and pyruvate
15 were observed in genotype Quimbaya compared to Al-sensitive VAX-1 (Fig. 5). This could be a result
16 of differences in the gene pools (Quimbaya is Andean and VAX-1 is Mesoamerican) of different
17 origin (Gepts et al. 1986, Singh 1989) leading to higher constitutively expressed biosynthetic capacity
18 of organic acids through greater CS and PEPC activities (Fig. 7). White and Gonzalez (1990) found
19 that large-seeded Andean genotypes (such as Quimbaya) possess larger cell volumes in different
20 tissues compared to the small-seeded Mesoamerican (such as VAX-1). Constitutively higher OA-
21 contents of the Al-resistant common bean genotype Dade compared to the Al-sensitive Romano have
22 been suggested to contribute to a higher potential for Al chelation and detoxification (Lee and Foy
23 1986, Miyasaka et al. 1991).

24 However, in spite of the higher OA contents of the root apices of Quimbaya than of VAX-1 (Fig. 5),
25 both genotypes were equally Al-sensitive during the first 4 h of Al treatment (Fig. 1A). This can be
26 attributed to low exudation of OAs particularly citrate and succinate which did not differ between the
27 genotypes (Fig. 3). The lack of enhanced OA anion exudation after short-term exposure of the root
28 apices to Al in spite of high OA contents in the root tips could be due to either an inhibition of anion
29 permeases in the plasma membrane that control OA anion transport from the cytoplasm to the
30 apoplast, or due to a low citrate concentration in the cytosol owing to sequestration of the OAs in other
31 symplastic compartments such as the mitochondria and the vacuoles.

32 Thus, recovery from the initial Al injury depends on the capacity to release organic acid anions (Figs.
33 3 and 4A) mediated by anion permeases. The importance of anion permeases facilitating the efflux of
34 OA in Al resistance has been well documented (reviewed by Delhaize et al. 2007). However, the
35 response differs with plant species, with regard to OA species, secretion patterns, temperature
36 sensitivity and dose response (Ma and Furukawa 2003). Shen et al. (2004) provided circumstantial
37 evidence for the existence of a plasma-membrane anion-channel mediating Al-enhanced citrate

1 exudation in common bean which was inhibited by the action of the anion-channel inhibitor
2 anthracene-9-carboxylic acid and K-252a, a broad range inhibitor of protein kinases.

3 Aluminium treatment increased the cumulative total OA anions secreted to the same extent in both
4 genotypes (Fig. 2). However, with the exception of citrate, the highly significant genotype x Al
5 treatment interaction indicated that the pattern of exudation in both genotypes was differentially
6 expressed particularly for succinate, malate and oxalate. The observed Al-induced secretion of malate
7 and oxalate in VAX-1 (Fig. 3) was in agreement with the reduction of oxalate and malate contents
8 after 5 h of Al treatment (Fig. 5). However, this exudation did not measurably contribute to Al
9 resistance because it was expressed during the time of maximum inhibition of root elongation (< 4 h,
10 Fig. 1A) and was not sustained over time. Similarly in soybean, Al treatment also stimulated a
11 transient secretion of malate during the first 6 h of root exposure, and sharply decreased thereafter
12 without any contribution to Al resistance (Silva et al. 2001).

13 Succinate was exuded following the same exudation pattern as citrate (Figs. 3 and 4). Aluminium-
14 induced succinate exudation in addition to malate or citrate in Al-resistant genotypes of different plant
15 species has also been reported. However, considering the Al-detoxifying capacity of different OA
16 anions, it can be assumed that succinate will not contribute much to Al resistance (Hue et al. 1986);
17 hence citrate exudation offers the most consistent explanation for the effects observed in root
18 elongation of both genotypes during the Al treatment (Fig. 1A).

19 Aluminum-enhanced citrate exudation has been previously implicated in Al resistance of common
20 bean (Miyasaka et al. 1991, Mugai et al. 2000, Shen et al. 2002, Rangel and Horst 2006, Stass et al.
21 2007). The citrate exudation pattern observed in both common bean genotypes is characteristic for
22 Pattern II plants with a 4-5 h lag phase corresponding to the maximum period of root-growth
23 inhibition (Fig. 1A) before the onset of enhanced exudation of citrate in both genotypes during the
24 recovery period (Figs. 3 and 4). Thereafter, citrate exudation was enhanced in the Al-resistant
25 genotype Quimbaya, while it was reduced in the Al-sensitive genotype VAX-1. Similar patterns of
26 exudation have been observed with soybean (Yang et al. 2001, Silva et al. 2001), rye (Li et al. 2000),
27 *Cassia tora* (Ma et al. 1997), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*, Magalhaes et al. 2007), Arabidopsis (Lui et
28 al. 2009) and *Citrus junos* (Deng et al. 2009).

29 In common bean, there is overall agreement that citrate exudation follows a Pattern II response (Mugai
30 et al. 2000, Shen et al. 2002) which is consistent with the Al-induced expression of Al resistance genes
31 (Kochian et al. 2004). In contrast to Pattern I plant species, in Pattern II plant species the genes coding
32 for the anion permeases are just being identified. Recently, three genes (*HvMATE*, *SbMATE*, and
33 *AtMATE*) belonging to the multidrug and toxic compound extrusion family (MATE) have been shown
34 to be associated with Al-activated citrate secretion conferring Al resistance in barley (*Hordeum*
35 *vulgare*, Furukawa et al. 2007), sorghum (Magalhaes et al. 2007) and Arabidopsis (Liu et al. 2009).
36 Fontecha and coworkers (2007) detected an Aluminum-Activated-Malate-Transporter (*ALMT*)
37 homologue of the *TaALMT1* that was characterized in wheat (Sasaki et al. 2004) and showed in

1 common bean at least 72% similarity to the wheat sequence, however, its role in Al resistance in
2 common bean remains unknown.

3 In Pattern I plant species the Al-induced release of OA anions neither depends on internal OA-
4 contents nor on gene induction (Delhaize et al. 1993, Yang et al. 2006), but on the activation of a
5 plasma membrane anion-channel (Delhaize et al. 2007). In Pattern-II species, the exudation of OA
6 anions was related to internal OA contents (Lee and Foy 1986, Silva et al. 2001), induction of genes
7 related to OA synthesis and catalysis (Li et al. 2000, Yang et al. 2004), activation of anion channels in
8 plasma (Ma et al. 2000, Magalhaes et al. 2007, Liu et al. 2009) or mitochondrial (Yang et al. 2006)
9 membranes. In our study with common bean, Al treatment generally reduced the OA contents
10 (especially citrate, malate, oxalate and fumarate) in both genotypes, more in VAX-1 than in
11 Quimbaya, reaching a minimum after 9 h of Al treatment (Fig. 5). Thereafter, the OA-contents in
12 Quimbaya recovered nearly to the control levels without Al, while it remained low in VAX-1. These
13 results are in agreement with earlier work on the effect of Al in common bean, in which long-term Al
14 treatment (> 3 d) generally reduced the OA contents (especially citrate and malate), more in the Al-
15 sensitive than in the Al-resistant genotype (Lee and Foy 1986). In soybean, short-term Al treatment (3
16 h) rapidly reduced the malate but not the citrate contents of the root apex (Yang et al. 2001), while
17 long-term Al treatment (72 h) enhanced the accumulation of both (citrate and malate) in the root tips
18 of Al-resistant genotypes (Silva et al. 2001). However, in triticale, also classified as Pattern-II species
19 (Ma et al. 2000) the levels of citrate in root tips increased during the exposure to Al in both Al-
20 resistant and Al-sensitive genotypes (Hayes and Ma 2003).

21 In this study, after the initial lag period (4h), Al-induced citrate exudation was switched on earlier in
22 genotype VAX-1 than in Quimbaya (Fig. 3, 4A) indicating a more rapid expression of anion
23 permeases or increase in cytosolic citrate concentration driving the citrate release. Increased
24 accumulation of citrate in the cytosol can be mediated by reduced activity of the enzymes aconitase
25 (ACO) and isocitrate dehydrogenase (NADP-ICDH) that are involved in citrate turnover (Massonneau
26 et al. 2001, Anoop et al. 2003, Fig. 8). Aluminium treatment rapidly reduced the activity of NADP-
27 ICDH (Fig. 7) in both genotypes, suggesting a rapid response leading to citrate accumulation in the
28 cytosol. Phosphorus deficiency-induced citrate exudation was related to reduce NADP-ICDH activity
29 in lupin (*Lupinus albus* L., Kania et al., 2003, Kihara et al., 2003a) and carrot cells (*Daucus carota* L.,
30 Takita et al. 1999, Koyama et al. 1999, Kihara et al. 2003b). Transformed yeast (*Saccharomyces*
31 *cerevisiae*) defective in ACO and NADP-ICDH action showed more accumulation and exudation of
32 citrate and were less Al-sensitive than the wild type (Anoop et al. 2003). However, in tobacco the
33 down-regulation of NADP-ICDH and up-regulation of citrate synthase enhanced citrate accumulation
34 but not citrate exudation (Delhaize et al. 2003) indicating that citrate accumulation in the cytosol and
35 citrate exudation are independently controlled processes with the latter being the decisive step for Al
36 resistance.

37

1 Fig. 8

2

3 Both genotypes were able to recover from the initial Al injury (Fig. 1A) coinciding with an enhanced
4 exudation of citrate (Fig. 4A). A quantitative comparison per root tip of the change in citrate content
5 (Fig. 5) with the enhanced citrate exudation during the same period (Fig. 4A) revealed that in
6 Quimbaya the enhanced citrate exudation between 4 and 8 h of Al treatment could be maintained for
7 at least two hours through the constitutive large internal pool of citrate. Therefore, in Quimbaya there
8 seems to be less need to up-regulate citrate synthesis through CS (Fig. 7) particularly at the
9 constitutively higher activity level than in VAX-1. However, in VAX-1 with a much lower citrate
10 internal pool size (Fig. 5) the initially enhanced citrate exudation (Fig. 4A) can only be maintained by
11 this pool for less than one hour. Thus the enhanced citrate exudation between 4-16 h Al treatment can
12 only be maintained by VAX-1 by up-regulating citrate synthesis through maintaining CS activity and
13 enhancing malate dehydrogenase (NAD-MDH) and phosphofructokinase (ATP-PFK, Fig. 7) which is
14 the key enzyme channeling assimilates from glycolysis to the TCA cycle (Carnal and Black 1983,
15 Stryer 1988, Fig. 8). After 24 h Al treatment the release of citrate can no longer be sustained in VAX-1
16 (Fig. 4A) owing to reduced CS activity (Fig. 7). In contrast Quimbaya is capable of resuming CS (Fig.
17 7) and increasing NAD-MDH activities thus maintaining a high citrate release necessary to prevent Al
18 from accumulation in the root apex (Fig. 1B).

19 A key role of CS in citrate synthesis in roots and citrate exudation is supported by a range of results
20 reported in the literature. Enhanced CS activity under low or moderate P supply has been
21 demonstrated in lupin (Johnson et al. 1994, 1996) and mutant carrot cells (Takita et al. 1999, Koyama
22 et al. 1999, Kihara et al. 2003a). Enhanced CS activity by Al treatment has been observed in soybean
23 (Yang et al. 2001) and rye (Li et al. 2000), where the increased CS activity coincided with the
24 beginning of citrate exudation. Aluminum-enhanced citrate exudation related to an apparently higher
25 CS activity has been previously reported in common bean (Mugai et al. 2000). Aluminum-induced
26 citrate exudation driven by Al-inducible expression of mitochondrial CS enhancing Al resistance in
27 *Paraserianthes falcaria* (L.) Neilson, a leguminous tree, was reported: Al treatment increased the
28 accumulation of mitochondrial CS transcripts, its activity and gene expression (Osawa and Kojima
29 2006). Recently, the over-expression of the mitochondrial CS gene from *Citrus junos* conferred Al
30 resistance in *Nicotiana bethaminana* (Deng et al. 2009).

31

32 Since the TCA cycle requires stoichiometric parity between acetyl Co-A and oxaloacetate to proceed,
33 removal of oxaloacetate or any of its precursors disrupts the cycle (Hill 1997, Fig. 8). Anaplerotic “fill
34 up” synthesis of intermediates (i.e. malate) redresses imbalances that may occur as a result of
35 consumption of TCA-cycle intermediates for amino-acid synthesis or other processes (Miller and
36 Cramer 2005). Oxaloacetate can be replenished via NAD-malic enzyme, glutamate oxidation
37 catalyzed by glutamate dehydrogenase, glyoxylate cycle or via PEPC (Palmieri et al. 1997, Held 2005,

1 Fig.8). Root isoforms of PEPC are known to have various anaplerotic functions that include providing
2 the C skeletons for N assimilation, cytoplasmic pH maintenance, and osmolarity regulation (Nisi and
3 Zocchi 2000). Aluminum treatment equally affected the activity of PEPC in both genotypes implying
4 a common pathway to replenish C skeletons after the beginning of citrate exudation (Fig. 7). However,
5 the constitutively higher PEPC activity in Quimbaya might suggest a more efficient anaplerotic
6 function than in VAX-1. This assumption is supported by the fact that in VAX-1 the enhanced citrate
7 exudation triggers the activities of particularly PFK (see above). A role of PEPC in Al resistance of
8 Al-induced citrate-exuding Al-resistant soybean genotypes has been demonstrated by Ermolayev et al.
9 (2003).

10 In conclusion, the kinetics of citrate exudation from root tips offers the most consistent explanation for
11 the response in root elongation and Al uptake of both genotypes of common bean to Al treatment. The
12 Al-induced citrate exudation pattern is characteristic for a Pattern-II response, with a 4-5 h lag phase,
13 which corresponds to the period of maximum Al accumulation in the root apices and root-growth
14 inhibition. Initial Al-dependent efflux of citrate from the root tips in both genotypes is not regulated by
15 the internal citrate levels in the roots but requires the expression of an organic anion permease in the
16 plasma membrane. Transient recovery from initial Al stress was found to be dependent on the capacity
17 to utilize internal citrate pools (Al-resistant genotype Quimbaya) or enhance citrate synthesis (Al-
18 sensitive VAX-1) associated with a reduced cytosolic turnover of citrate. However, sustained recovery
19 from Al stress in the Al-resistant genotype relied on the synthesis of citrate particularly via PEPC. The
20 results observed and the conclusions drawn from this study need to be substantiated through the
21 analysis of the transcription of those genes coding for the proteins/enzymes involved.

22
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32

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- 18

1 **Figure Legends**

2

3 **Fig. 1.** Effect of Al supply (20 μM) on root elongation (A) and Al contents in the root tips (B) of the
4 common bean genotypes Quimbaya (Al-resistant) and VAX-1 (Al-sensitive) grown in a simplified
5 nutrient solution containing 0.5 mM CaCl_2 , 0.5 mM KCl and 8 μM H_3BO_3 for up to 24 h, pH 4.5.
6 Average root-elongation rates under control conditions were 2.5 ± 0.3 and 2.38 ± 0.1 for Quimbaya
7 and VAX-1, respectively. Symbols represent means \pm SD of eight replicates (root growth) or four
8 replicates (Al content). For the ANOVA *** denotes a level of significance at $P < 0.001$; n.s. = not
9 significant. Means with the same letter are not significantly different between treatment times for
10 Quimbaya (capital) and VAX-1 (small); * on top of data points denote significant differences between
11 genotypes within each treatment time (Tukey test $P < 0.05$).

12

13 **Fig. 2.** Cumulated organic acid-anion exudation from 10 mm root tips of two common bean genotypes
14 grown for 10 h in a simplified collection solution containing 5 mM CaCl_2 and 8 μM H_3BO_3 at 0 or 40
15 μM Al supply, pH 4.5. Values for every organic acid-anion represent means of four replicates. For the
16 ANOVA *, *** denote levels of significance at $P < 0.05$ and 0.001. n.s. = not significant.

17

18 **Fig. 3.** Kinetics of the exudation of succinate, citrate, malate and oxalate from the 10 mm root tips of
19 two common bean genotypes grown over a 10 h period in simplified nutrient solution containing 5
20 mM CaCl_2 and 8 μM H_3BO_3 at 0 (—) or 40 μM Al (----), pH 4.5. Root exudates were collected over 2
21 h periods. Bars represent \pm SD of four replicates. For the ANOVA *, **, *** denote levels of
22 significance at $P < 0.05$, 0.01 and 0.001. n.s. = not significant.

23

24 **Fig. 4.** Citrate (A) and succinate (B) exudation-rate of 10 mm root tips of two common bean
25 genotypes precultured in simplified nutrient solution for 0 or 3, 7, 15 or 23 h at 20 μM Al, pH 4.5.
26 Root exudates were collected for 2 h in simplified collection solution at 0 (-2-0) or 40 μM Al supply,
27 pH 4.5. Bars represent \pm SD of four replicates. Fof the ANOVA **, *** denote probability levels at P
28 < 0.01 and 0.001. Means with the same letter are not significantly different between exudation periods
29 for Quimbaya (capital) and VAX-1 (small); * on top of data points denote significant differences
30 between genotypes within each treatment time (Tukey test $P < 0.05$)

31

1 **Fig. 5.** Dynamics of the contents of succinate, oxalate, malate, citrate, aconitate, tartrate, pyruvate and
2 fumarate in 10 mm root tips of two common bean genotypes precultured in simplified nutrient solution
3 for 0 or 3, 7, 15 or 23 h at 20 μ M Al, pH 4.5. Organic acid contents were measured after subsequent
4 collection of the root exudates for 2 h in simplified collection solution at 0 or 40 μ M Al supply, pH
5 4.5. Bars represent means \pm SD of four replicates. Means with the same letter are not significantly
6 different between treatment times for Quimbaya (capital) and VAX-1 (small); * on top of columns
7 denote significant differences between genotypes within each treatment time (Tukey test $P < 0.05$).

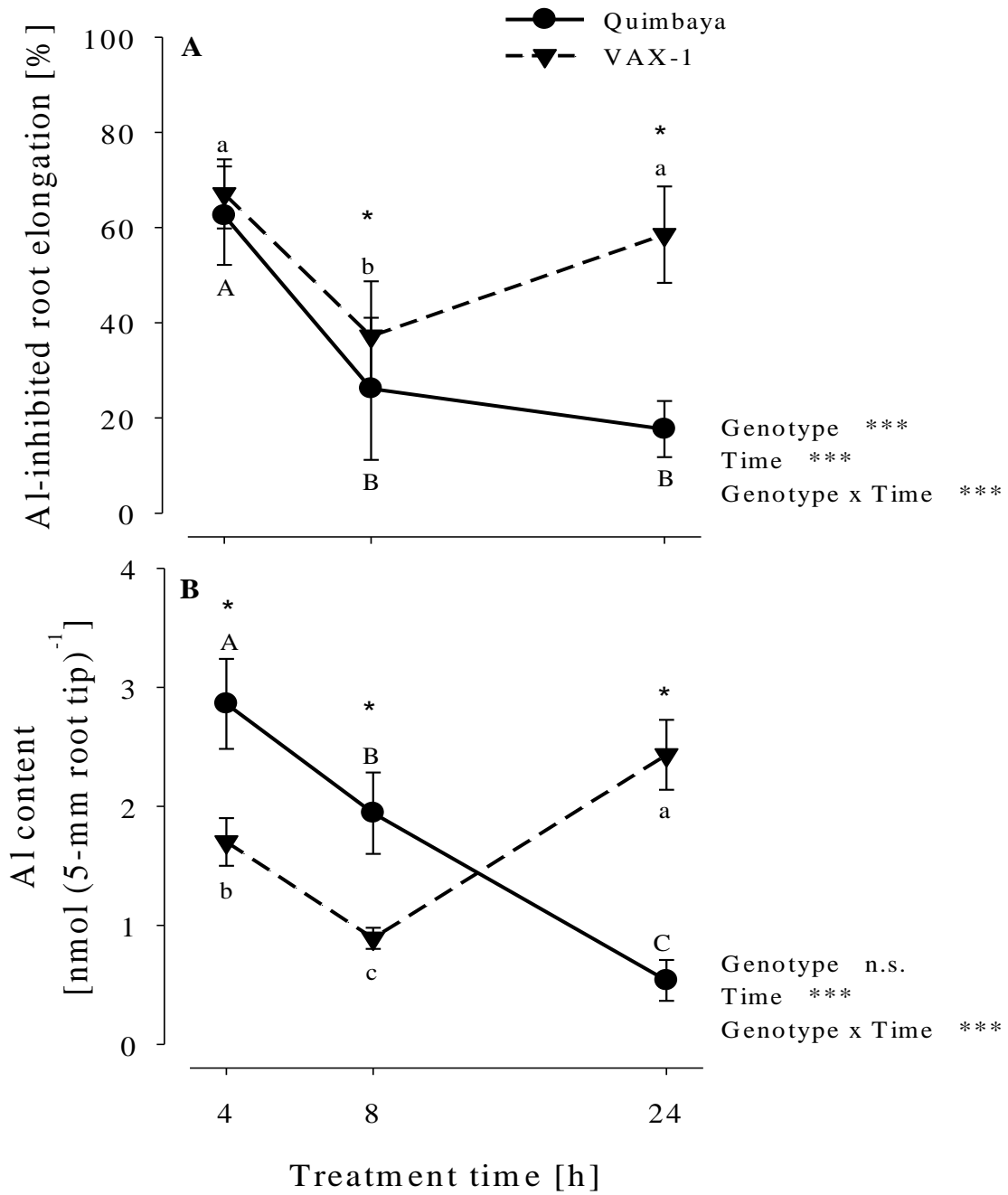
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9 **Fig. 6.** Effect of Al on buffer (Hepes-NaOH)-extractable protein content from 5 mm root tips of two
10 common bean genotypes grown up to 24 h in simplified nutrient solution at 20 μ M Al, pH 4.5. Bars
11 represent means \pm SD of four replicates. For the ANOVA *** denotes probability level at $P < 0.001$;
12 n.s = not significant. Means with the same letter are not significantly different between treatment times
13 for Quimbaya (capital) and VAX-1 (small); * on top of columns denote significant differences
14 between genotypes within each treatment time (Tukey test $P < 0.05$).

15
16 **Fig. 7.** Effect of Al on the specific activities of citrate synthase (CS), NADP-isocitrate dehydrogenase
17 (NADP-ICDH), NAD-malate dehydrogenase (NAD-MDH), Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase
18 (PEPC) and ATP-phosphofructokinase (ATP-PFK) from 5 mm root tips of two common bean
19 genotypes grown up to 24 h in simplified nutrient solution at 20 μ M Al, pH 4.5. Bars represent \pm SD
20 of four replicates. For the ANOVA *, *** denote probability level at $P < 0.05$ and 0.001; n.s = not
21 significant. Means with the same letter are not significantly different between treatment times for
22 Quimbaya (capital) and VAX-1 (small); * on top of data points denote significant differences between
23 genotypes within each treatment time (Tukey test $P < 0.05$).

24
25 **Fig. 8.** Schematic presentation of key enzymes involved in citrate biosynthesis (CS, PEPC, MDH) or
26 degradation (ICDH) and the supply of C skeletons to the TCA cycle (PFK, PEPC, NAD malic
27 enzyme) that might contribute to accumulation in and secretion of citrate from the roots of common
28 bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.). NAD malic enzyme is shown in the scheme although it was not assayed
29 in our experiments. Dashed lines show substrates (ATP and citrate) that negatively control the activity
30 of PFK. Dots at the membranes represent transporters, mostly antiporters that transport two substrates.
31 However, to simplify the scheme, only one substrate is shown according to their importance in the
32 discussion of this paper. Cytoplasm (c) or mitochondrial (m) isoenzymes of ICDH and MDH are
33 shown according to their location. Bold letters represent enzymes and substrates directly involved in
34 Al responses.

35

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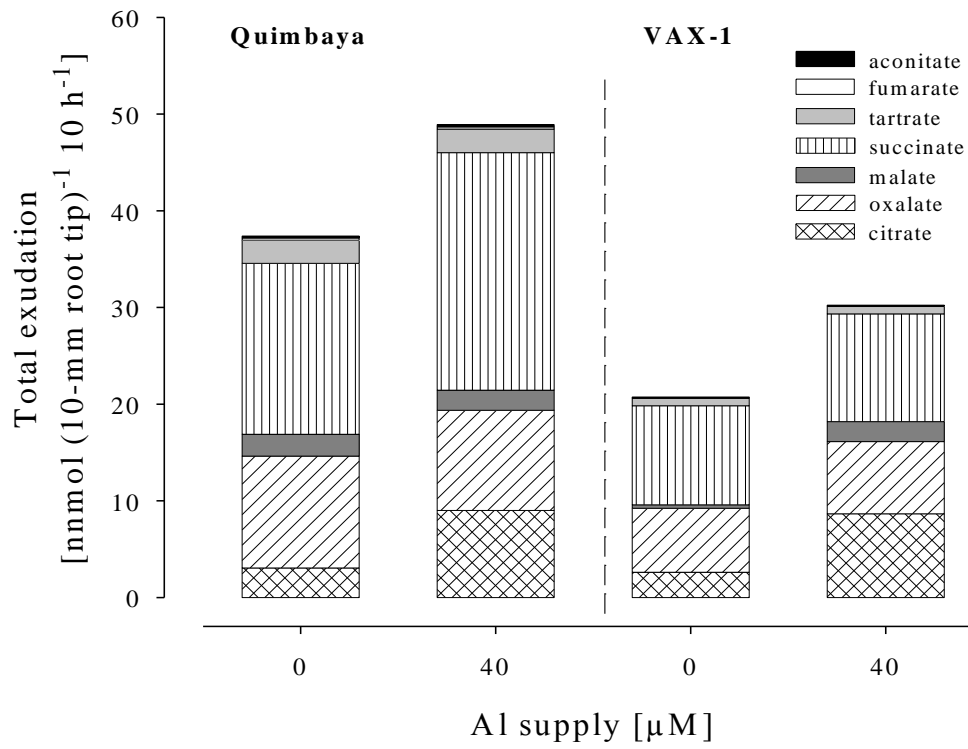
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4 Fig. 1

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1



Source ANOVA	citrate	oxalate	malate	succinate	tartrate	fumarate	aconitate	total
Genotype	*	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Treatment	***	n.s	***	***	n.s	n.s	n.s	***
Genotype x Treatment	n.s	***	***	***	n.s	n.s	n.s	n.s

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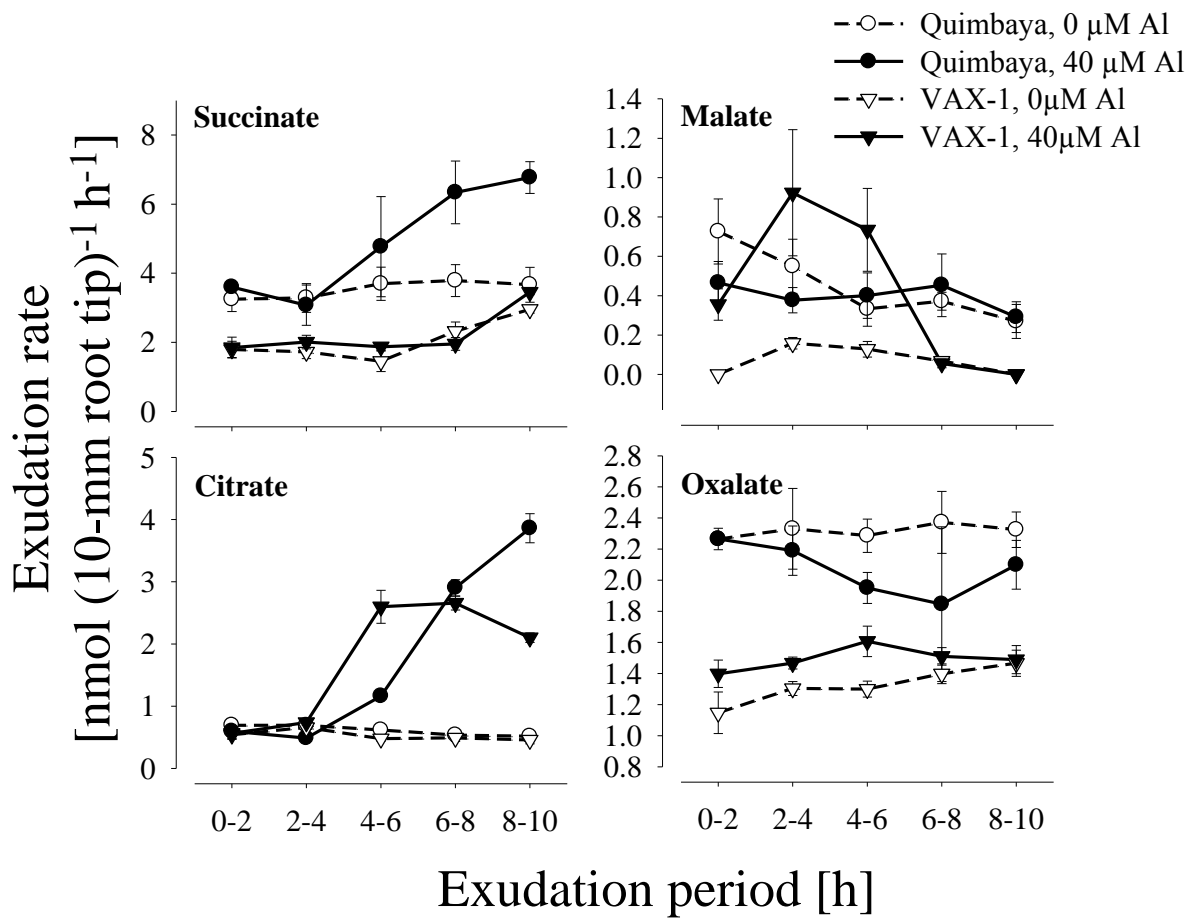
4 Fig. 2

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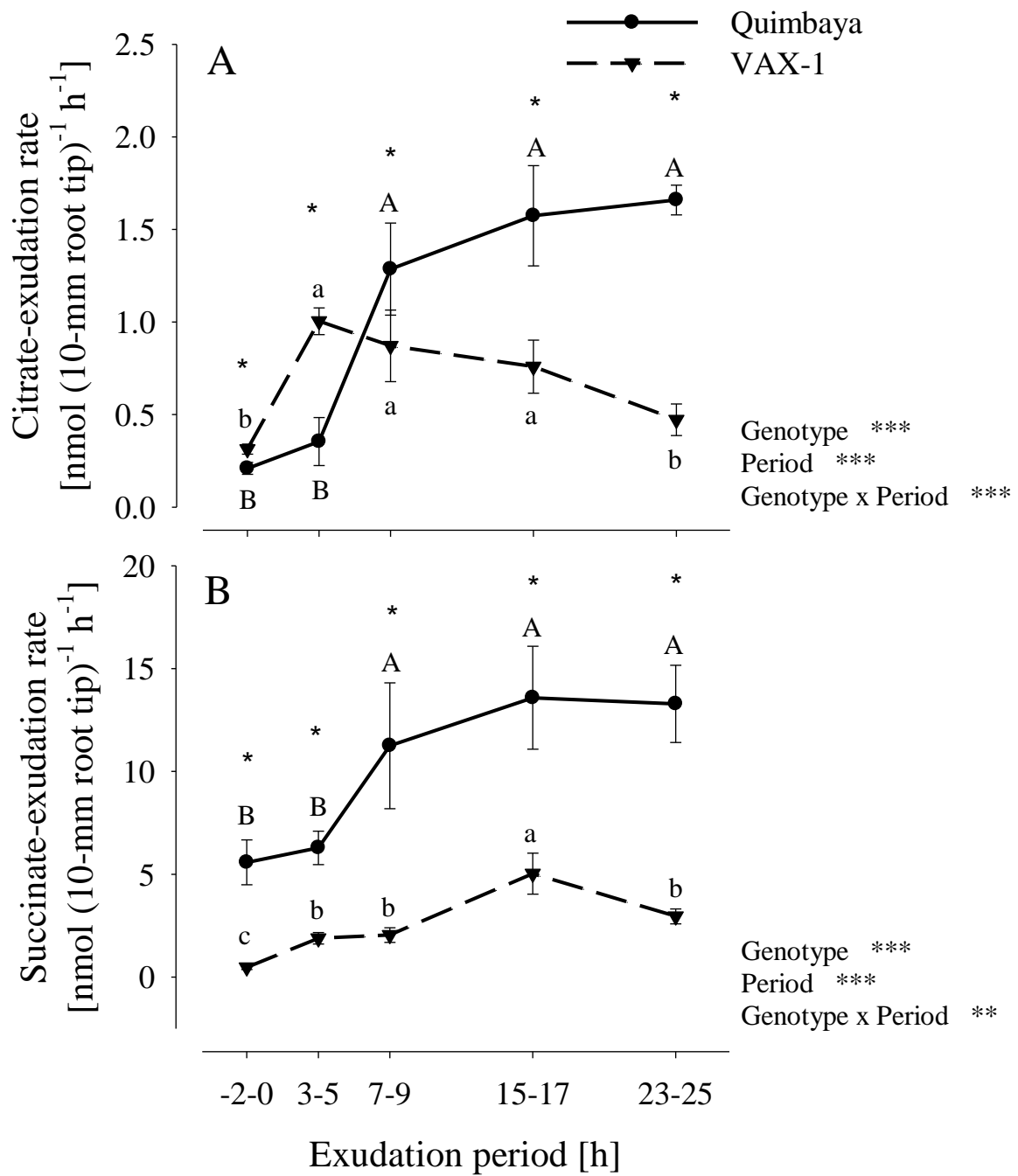


Source ANOVA	Succinate	Citrate	Malate	Oxalate
Genotype (Gen)	***	**	***	***
Al treatment (Treat)	***	***	***	n.s.
Exudation period (Time)	***	***	***	n.s.
Gen x Treat	***	n.s.	***	***
Gen x Time	***	***	***	*
Treat x Time	***	***	***	n.s.
Gen x Treat x Time	***	***	***	n.s.

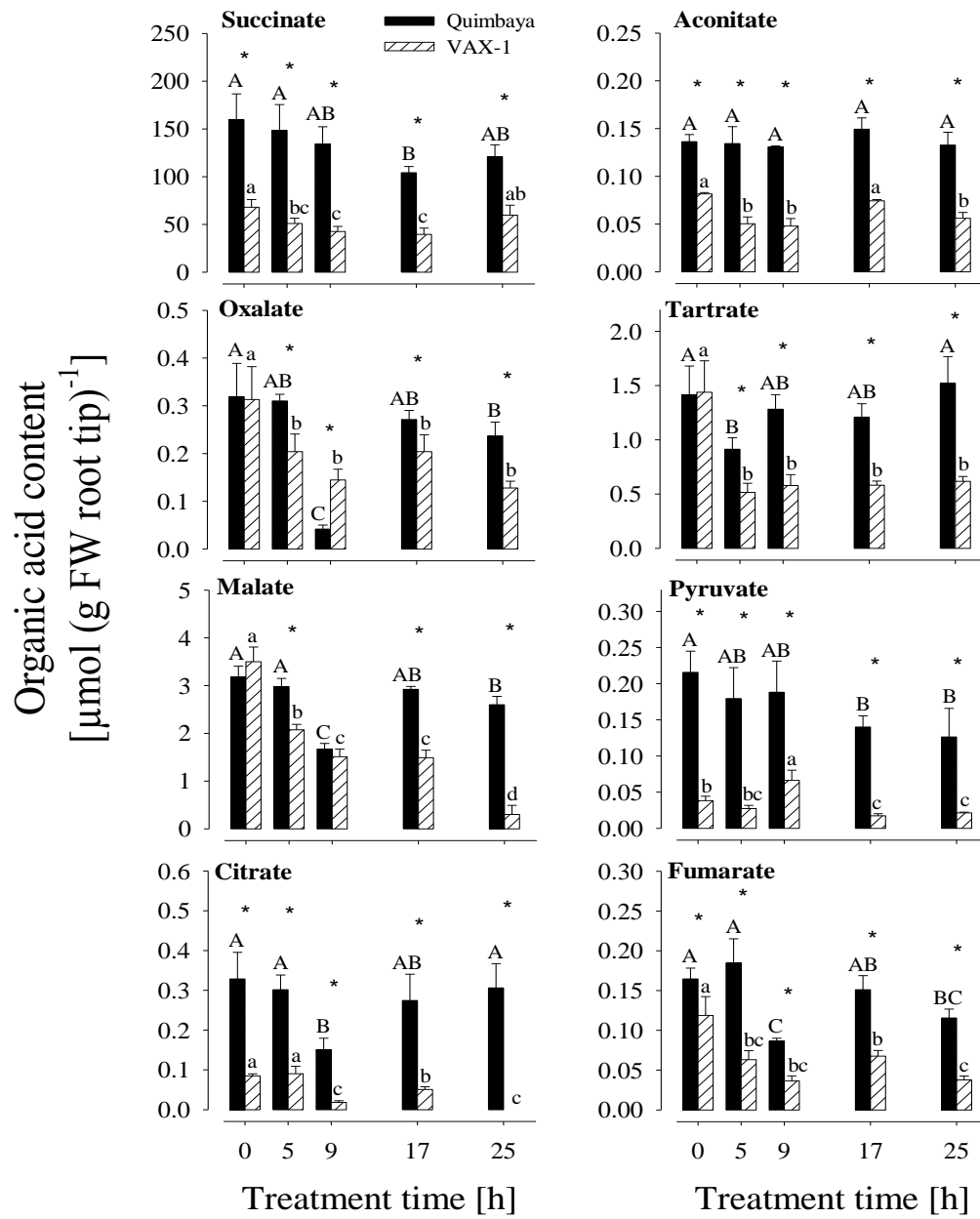
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4 Fig. 3



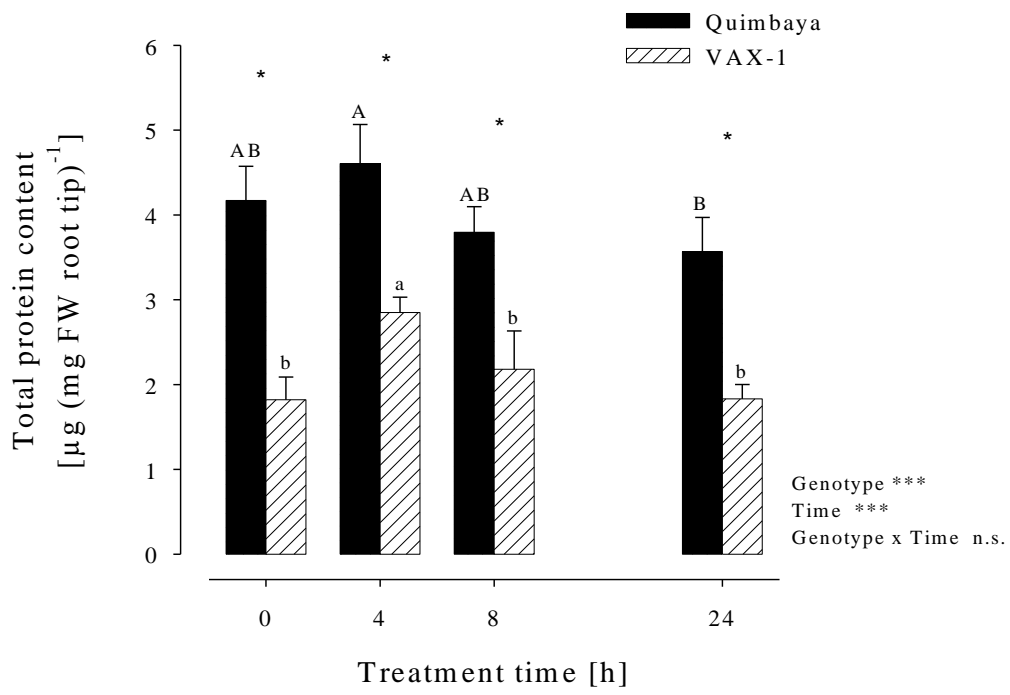
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3 Fig. 4
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Fig. 5

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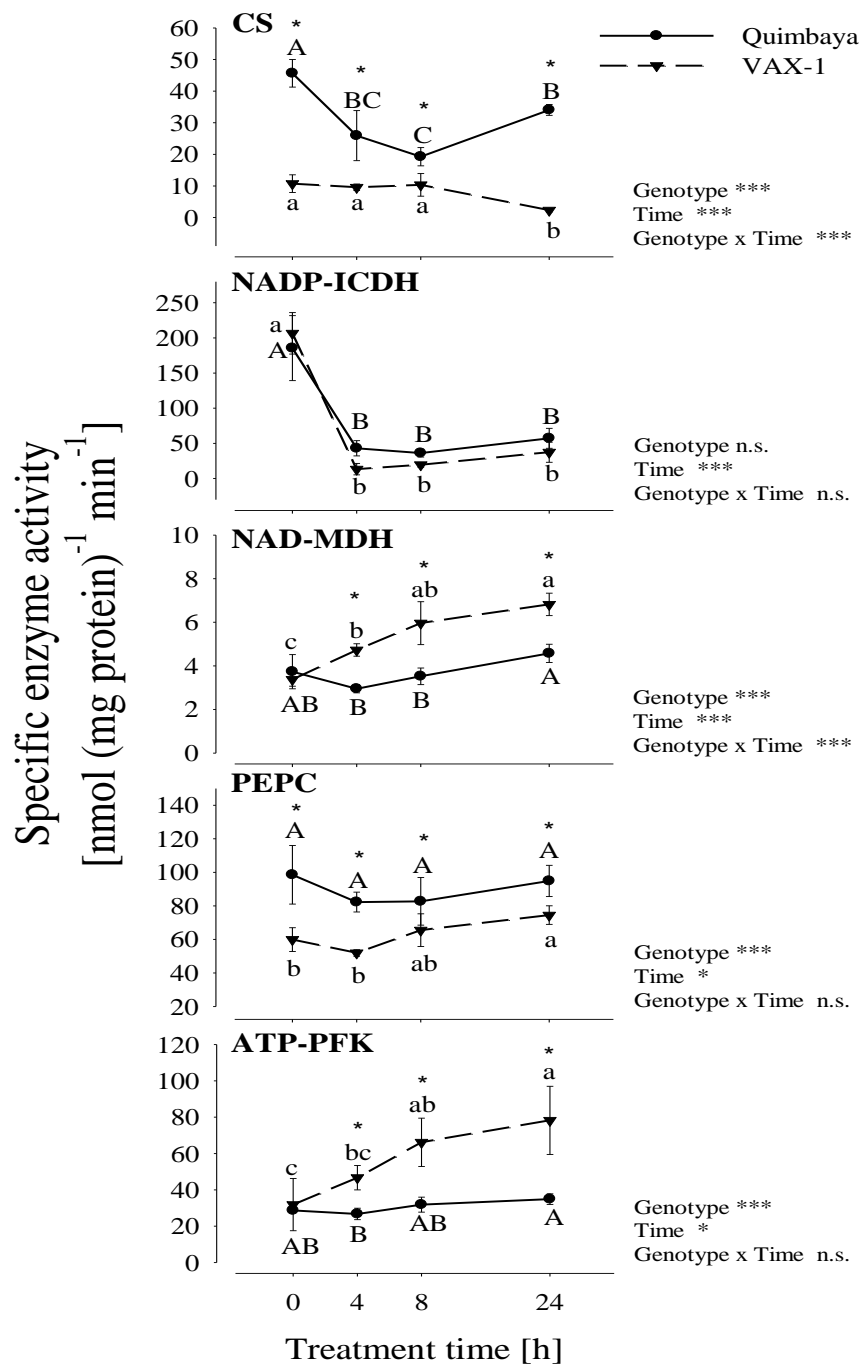


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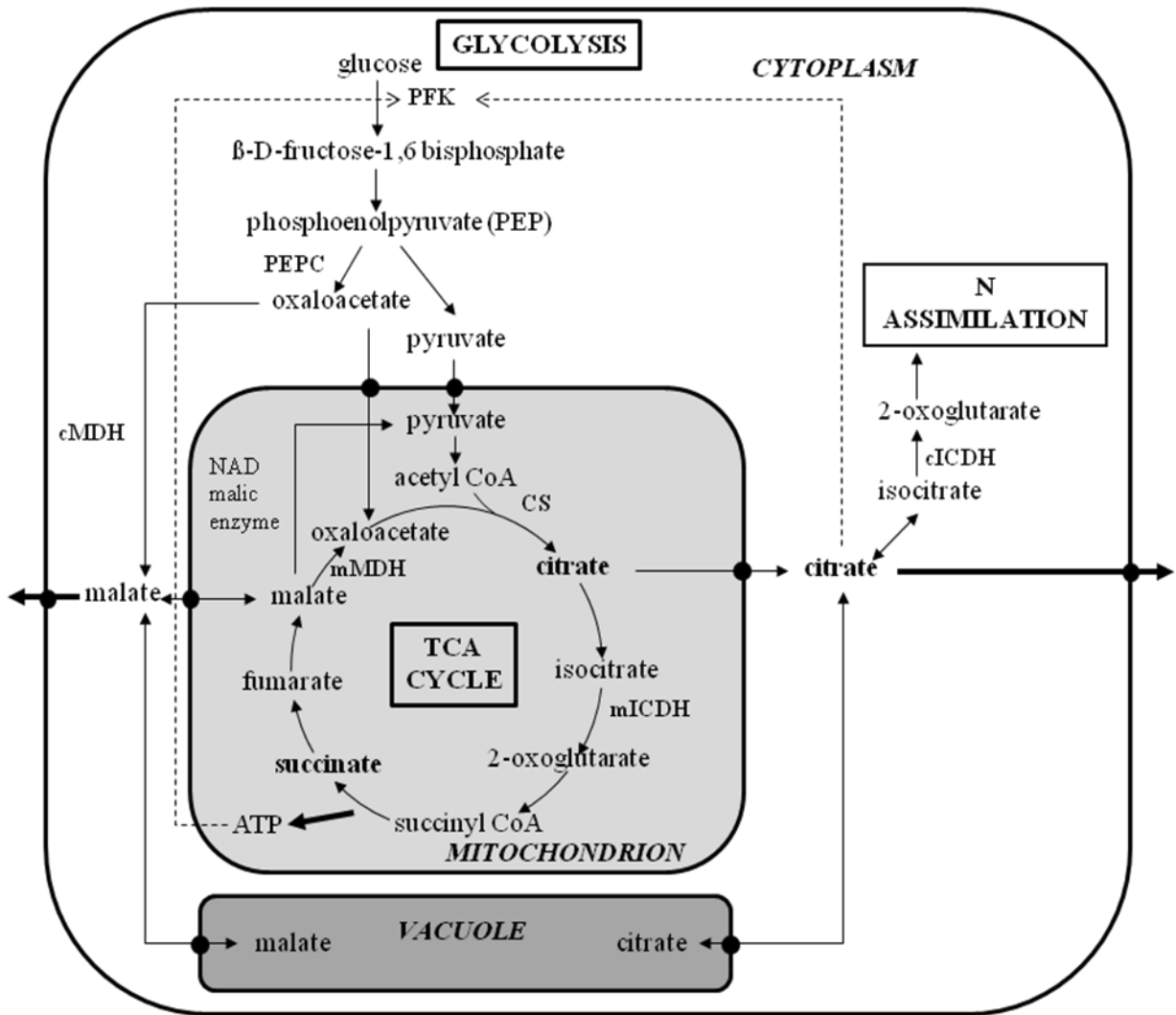
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4 Fig. 6

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2 Fig. 7
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2 Fig. 8