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1 Localization of thapsigargin biosynthesis

2

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10 **Localization and *in-vivo* characterization of *Thapsia garganica* CYP76AE2 indicates a role in**  
11 **thapsigargin biosynthesis**

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23

24 **One sentence Summary**

25 The secretory ducts in the root of *Thapsia garganica* harbor the cytotoxin thapsigargin and the cells  
26 lining these ducts express the first enzymes in the biosynthesis of thapsigargin.

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T.B.A. established the major part of the results and prepared the major part of the paper. K.A.M. prepared samples for MALD, performed the *in situ* PCR experiment and contributed to the manuscript. S.A.R. purified epidihydrocostunolide. S.B.C., S.A.R. and N.N. performed the NMR. B.A.B. performed the MALDI analysis. J.A.R. did part of the purification of compound **2** and **3**, K.J. contributed to the *in situ* PCR experiment. H.T.S. initiated, directed and supported the research and writing of the manuscript. All authors edited and approved the final manuscript.

27 **Abstract**

28 The Mediterranean plant *Thapsia garganica* (dicot, Apiaceae), also known as Deadly carrot,  
29 produces the highly toxic compound thapsigargin. This compound is a potent inhibitor of the  
30 SERCA calcium pump in mammals, and is of industrial importance as the active moiety of the  
31 anticancer drug Mipsagargin, currently in clinical trials. Knowledge of thapsigargin *in planta*  
32 storage and biosynthesis has so far been limited. Here we present the putative second step in  
33 thapsigargin biosynthesis, by showing that the cytochrome P450 *TgCYP76AE2*, transiently  
34 expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana*, converts epikunzeaol into epidihydrocostunolide.  
35 Furthermore, we show that thapsigargin is likely to be stored in secretory ducts in the roots.  
36 Transcripts from *TgTPS2* (epikunzeaol synthase) and *TgCYP76AE2* in roots were only found in the  
37 epithelial cells lining these secretory ducts. This emphasizes the involvement of these cells in the  
38 biosynthesis of thapsigargin. This study paves the way for the further studies of thapsigargin  
39 biosynthesis.

40

## 41 **Introduction**

42 Sesquiterpenoids are widely distributed across the plant kingdom and are recognized for their  
43 pharmacological properties and commercial value (Simonsen et al., 2013). Artemisinin, which  
44 today is the cornerstone for treatment of malaria, is an outstanding example (Wiesner et al., 2003;  
45 Tu, 2011), along with fragrances such as patchoulol and santalol (Zhan et al., 2014). The genus  
46 *Thapsia* L. (Apiaceae) produces a variety of sesquiterpenoids including sesquiterpene lactones  
47 (Christensen et al., 1997; Drew et al., 2009). The most studied sesquiterpene from the genus is the  
48 sesquiterpene lactone thapsigargin, which is the most predominant sesquiterpene lactone in *Thapsia*  
49 *garganica* L. and *Thapsia gymnesica* Rouy (Christensen et al., 1997). In the Mediterranean area *T.*  
50 *garganica* has been used in traditional medicine for over 2000 years for the treatment of pulmonary  
51 diseases, catarrh, fever, pneumonia and as a counter irritant for the relief of rheumatic pains  
52 (Andersen et al., 2015). The pharmacological effect of thapsigargin has been studied thoroughly  
53 and it has been established that thapsigargin is an inhibitor of the sarco-endoplasmic reticulum  
54  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase (SERCA) that leads to cell apoptosis (Thastrup et al., 1990). A pro-drug  
55 (Mipsagargin®) based on thapsigargin towards solid cancer tumors is currently in clinical trials  
56 (Doan et al., 2015; Mahalingam et al., 2016).

57 An unusual feature of thapsigargin and related guaianolides is the presence of a  $\beta$ -disposed C-6-O  
58 and an  $\alpha$ -disposed C-7-C-11 bond. In the majority of guaianolides from other plant families, the C-  
59 6-O bond is  $\alpha$ -disposed and the C-7-C-11 bond  $\beta$ -disposed (Christensen et al., 1997; Drew et al.,  
60 2009; Simonsen et al., 2013).

61 Thapsigargin is found in most parts of the plant *T. garganica*. Ripe fruits contain the highest  
62 amount of thapsigargin with 0.7-1.5% of the dry weight followed by roots (0.2-1.2% d.w.) and  
63 leaves (0.1% d.w.) (Smitt et al., 1995). It is well established that many Apiaceae species store  
64 lipophilic compounds such as phenyl propanoids and terpenoids in secretory ducts and vittae (Corsi  
65 et al., 1988; Poli et al., 1995; Maggi et al., 2015). We chose to examine the localization of  
66 sesquiterpenoids and their biosynthesis in *T. garganica* roots that have high amounts of  
67 thapsigargin. The roots could also be obtained commercially from plants grown in greenhouses, in  
68 contrast to the seasonal dependent harvest of fruits from the natural population. Fruits have so far  
69 not been obtained from greenhouse plants, not even from plants more than four years old. By  
70 histochemical staining, we show that *T. garganica* roots contain secretory ducts in parenchymatic  
71 tissue and that these may harbor terpenoids. Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization Mass  
72 Spectrometry Imaging (MALDI-MSI) of the roots was used to show that thapsigargin is present in

73 specific locations in the root and furthermore in a pattern likely to coincide with the location of  
74 secretory ducts.

75 The site and route of thapsigargin biosynthesis have not yet been established. The first specific step  
76 in the biosynthesis of most sesquiterpenoids is catalyzed by sesquiterpene synthases (Bohlmann et  
77 al., 1998). Two sesquiterpene synthases have previously been described from *T. garganica* roots.  
78 These were expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and biochemically characterized. It was shown  
79 that the sesquiterpenoid synthase *TgTPS2* was of particular interest to thapsigargin biosynthesis.  
80 The major product of *TgTPS2* is epikunzeaol, a germacrenol with a hydroxyl group at C-6 (Figure  
81 1) (Pickel et al., 2012).

82 Generally, the diversity of sesquiterpenoids is obtained by the catalytic activity of the sesquiterpene  
83 synthases and followed by modifications to the C<sub>15</sub> backbone by cytochromes P450 (P450s), acyl  
84 transferases and dehydrogenase amongst others (Weitzel and Simonsen, 2015). Complexity of  
85 sesquiterpenoid structures, including chiral centers and regio- and stereospecific oxidations, makes  
86 chemical synthesis difficult and synthesis approaches often result in low yields (Andrews et al.,  
87 2007; Ball et al., 2007; Chu et al., 2016). Attempts to find alternative sustainable production  
88 methods for sesquiterpenoids such as artemisinin by biological synthesis are actively pursued  
89 (Paddon et al., 2013). Sesquiterpenoid lactones are a subgroup of sesquiterpenoids, and compounds  
90 in this subgroup have been shown to have a potential for treatment of various cancers (Curry et al.,  
91 2004; Simonsen et al., 2013). Despite recent advances, only a few steps in the complex biosynthetic  
92 routes of plant sesquiterpenoid lactones have been characterized. These include enzymes involved  
93 in the biosynthesis of artemisinin (*Artemisia annua* L.) and (+)-costunolide, a precursor for a range  
94 of other sesquiterpene lactones (in *Cichorium intybus* L. and *Tanacetum parthenium* L.). These  
95 plants are all from the family Asteraceae (Yu and Wen, 2011; Liu et al., 2014).

96 P450s are common participators in sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis and especially P450s from the  
97 CYP71 clan have been shown to be involved in the biosynthesis of sesquiterpenoids (Luo et al.,  
98 2001; Diaz-Chavez et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2014; Takase et al., 2015; Weitzel and Simonsen, 2015;  
99 Yang et al., 2015). CYP71AV1, which is involved in artemisinin biosynthesis, is among the most  
100 well studied P450s in sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis (Teoh et al., 2006). Here we functionally  
101 characterize *TgCYP76AE2*, a P450 from the CYP71 clan, which was found in the root  
102 transcriptome of *T. garganica*. Through the transient co-expression in *Nicotiana benthamiana* of  
103 *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2*, epikunzeaol is converted to epidihydrocostunolide, a likely precursor  
104 for more complex sesquiterpenoid lactones including thapsigargin. Within the Apiaceae, only P450s





## 113 Results

### 114 Identification of cytochromes P450 from transcriptome data

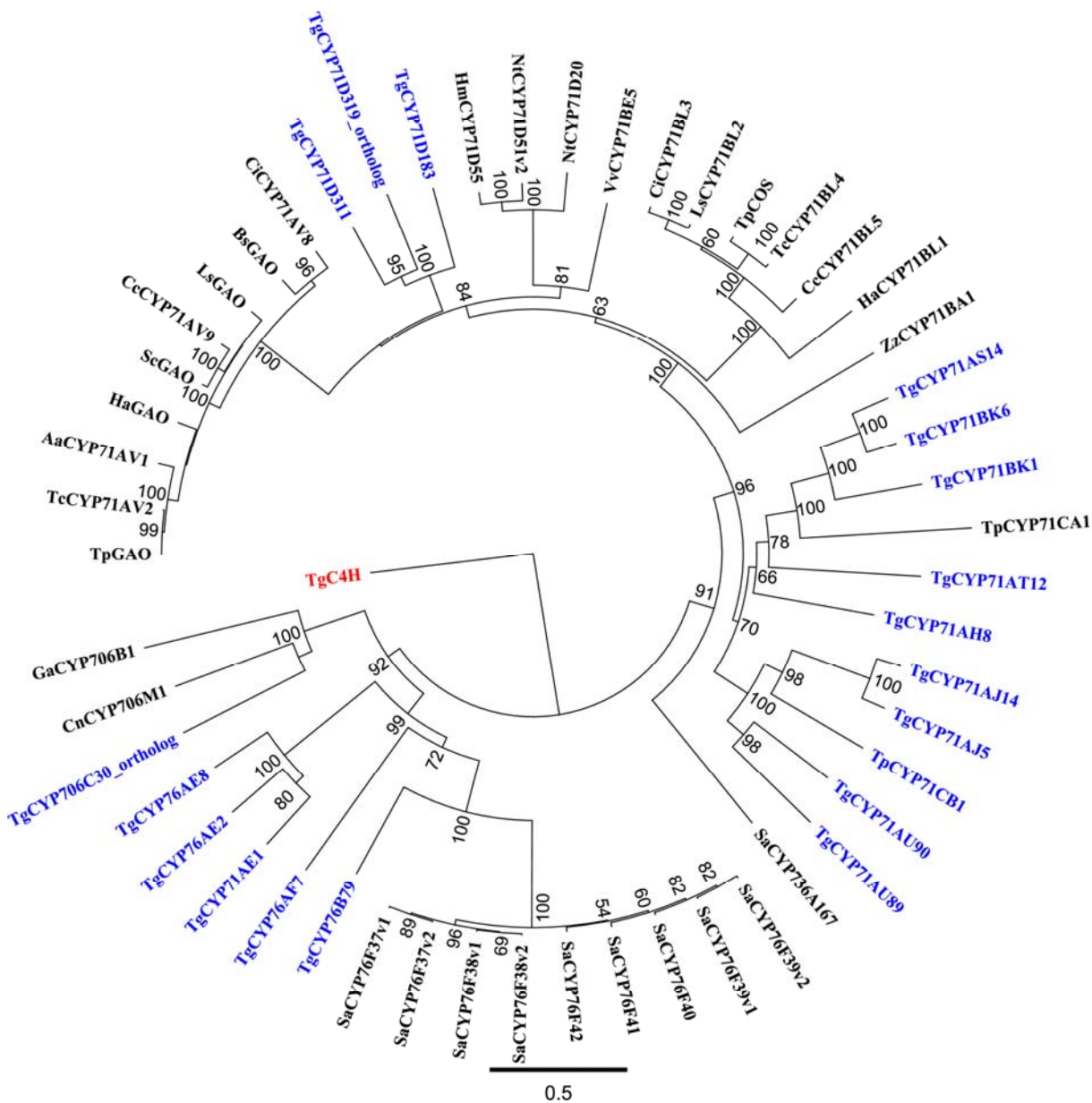
115 The root transcriptome data from *T. garganica* were mined to enable the discovery of possible  
116 sequential biosynthesis steps from epikunzeaol toward thapsigargin. The search was limited to  
117 P450s from the CYP71 clan due to the previous findings in this clan of P450s involved in  
118 sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis. We investigated the occurrence of orthologous genes to CYP71's in  
119 the *T. garganica* transcriptome using BLAST searches. The eighteen full-length P450 genes were  
120 found to be distributed with twelve belonging to the CYP71 family, one to the CYP706 family and  
121 five to the CYP76 family. The P450s were named by David Nelson according to the current  
122 annotation system (Nelson, 2009); *TgCYP7IAH8* (KX826939), *TgCYP7IAJ5* (KP191555),  
123 *TgCYP7IAJ14* (KP191558), *TgCYP7IAS14* (KX845553), *TgCYP7IAT12* (KX826940),  
124 *TgCYP7IAU89* (KX845548), *TgCYP7IAU90* (KX845552), *TgCYP7IBK1* (KX826941),  
125 *TgCYP7IBK6* (KX845546), *TgCYP7ID183* (KX845554), *TgCYP7ID311* (KX845555),  
126 *TgCYP7ID319\_ortholog* (KX845550), *TgCYP76AE1* (KX826942), *TgCYP76AE2* (KX826943),  
127 *TgCYP76AE8* (KX845545), *TgCYP76AF7* (KX845549), *TgCYP76B79* (KX845547) and  
128 *TgCYP706C30\_ortholog* (KX845551)

### 129 Phylogeny

130 Phylogenetic analyses of 35 full-length genes from the CYP71 clade involved in sesquiterpenoid  
131 biosynthesis from several plant species and the 18 enzymes from *T. garganica* revealed that these  
132 enzymes are grouped in several subclades (Figure 2). The analysis shows that there are blooms of  
133 genes within species and families (Hamberger and Bak, 2013), like the CYP76F bloom in *Santalum*  
134 *album*. Although, the phylogeny only included P450s related to sesquiterpenoid metabolism, the  
135 sequences are from most families and subfamilies in the CYP71 clade. This shows that  
136 phylogenetic analysis are not a useful to predict specific functionality of P450s, as also shown  
137 previously (Dueholm et al., 2015). The analysis merely serve to indicate what range of enzymes  
138 that have to be examined biochemically; in this case 18 sequences.

139 .

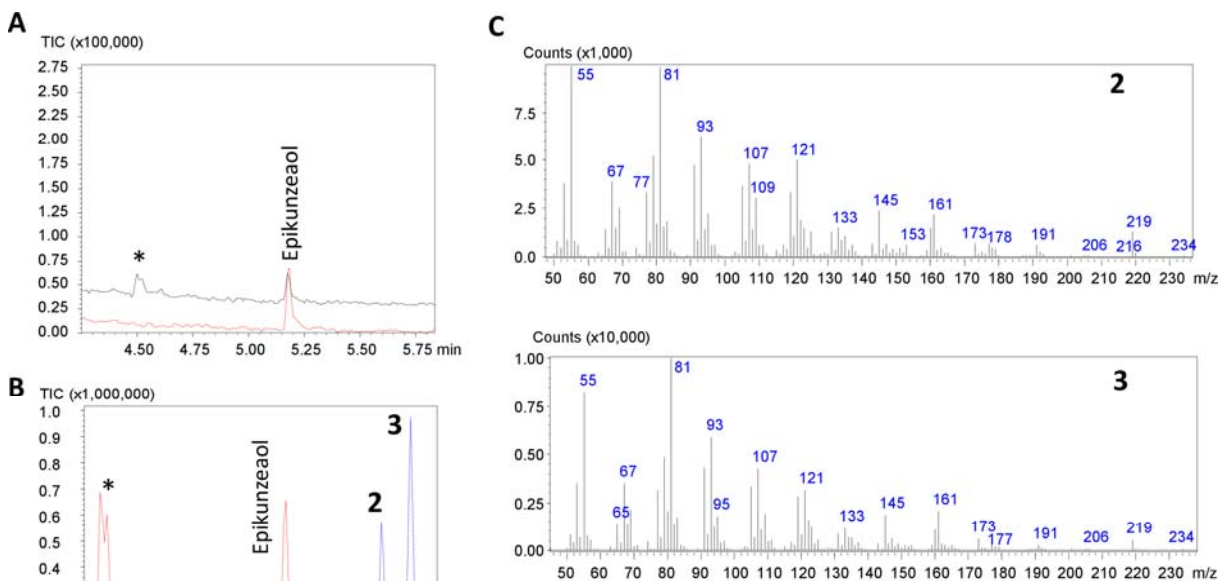
140



141 **GC-MS and LC-MS analysis of extracts from *N. benthamiana* expressing *TgTPS2* and**  
 142 **cytochromes P450, including *TgCYP76AE2***

143 The cyclodeca-1(10),4-diene ring of epikunzeaol (Figure 1) is susceptible to thermal Cope  
 144 rearrangement at the high temperatures in the GC-MS injection port. Extracts of *N. benthamiana*  
 145 expressing *AtHMGR* and *TgTPS2* were therefore analyzed with the two injection port temperatures,  
 146 250°C and 160°C. At 250°C, the *TgTPS2* product epikunzeaol is detected along with degradation  
 147 compounds whereas at 160°C, only epikunzeaol is detected (Figure 3A). Similar rearrangement  
 148 have been identified for other cyclodeca-1(10),4-diene products of sesquiterpene synthases  
 149 (Andersen et al., 2015). To enhance the level of precursors available for *TgTPS2* in *N.*

150 *benthamiana*, a truncated version of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* HMGR, *At*tHMGR, was transiently



**Figure 3.** GC-MS analysis of hexane extracts from *N. benthamiana* expressing in **A** *At*tHMGR and *Tg*TPS2 with a GC-MS injection port temperature of 160°C (red) and of 250°C (black), in **B** *At*tHMGR alone (black), *At*tHMGR and *Tg*TPS2 (red), *At*tHMGR, *Tg*TPS2 and *Tg*CYP76AE2 (blue) with a GC-MS injection port temperature of 250°C. \* Denotes epikunzeal thermal rearrangement products. **C:** Mass spectra the clemanolides **2** and **3**.

151 co-expressed. *At*tHMGR has previously been shown to enhance production levels of  
152 sesquiterpenoids (Cankar et al., 2015).

153 In order to discover, which P450(s) that could utilize epikunzeal as substrate the eighteen P450s  
154 from the CYP71 clan were transiently co-expressed with *Tg*TPS2 and *At*tHMGR in *N.*  
155 *benthamiana*.

156 Of the tested P450s, only *Tg*CYP76AE2 was evidently able to utilize epikunzeal as a substrate. To  
157 test for further downstream pathway steps the remaining P450s were co-expressed with *At*tHMGR,  
158 *Tg*TPS2 and *Tg*CYP76AE2. No new products or decline in substrate was detected. At this stage, it  
159 cannot be excluded that new products were not detected due to low expression or lack of expression  
160 of the seventeen P450s.

161 GC-MS analysis of the hexane extracts of *N. benthamiana* leaves expressing *At*tHMGR, *Tg*TPS2  
162 and *Tg*CYP76AE2 is shown in Figure 3B, where two new products, **2** and **3**, are observed. It was  
163 not possible to detect these products with the injection port at 160°C, which can be explained by a  
164 lower volatility of the new product(s) in comparison with epikunzeal. The co-expression of  
165 *At*tHMGR, *Tg*TPS2 and *Tg*CYP76AE2 in *N. benthamiana* resulted in a complete conversion of  
166 epikunzeal (Figure 3B).

167 To expand the search for *TgCYP76AE2* products or derivatives hereof, not detectable by GC-MS,  
168 the *N. benthamiana* extracts was analyzed by analytical LC-MS. In contrast to the GC-MS analysis,  
169 epikunzeaol was not detected in free form, but as the aglycon in a glycoside of a disaccharide , and  
170 only one *TgCYP76AE2* product was detected (Figure 4). In the LC-MS analysis product **1** was  
171 detected as the protonated molecular ion ( $m/z$  235.23,  $[M+H]^+$ ), the sodium adduct ( $m/z$  257.23,  
172  $[M+Na]^+$ ), and the base peak equal to  $m/z$  491.3126 ( $[2M+Na]^+$ ), corresponding to the sodiated  
173 dimer adduct.

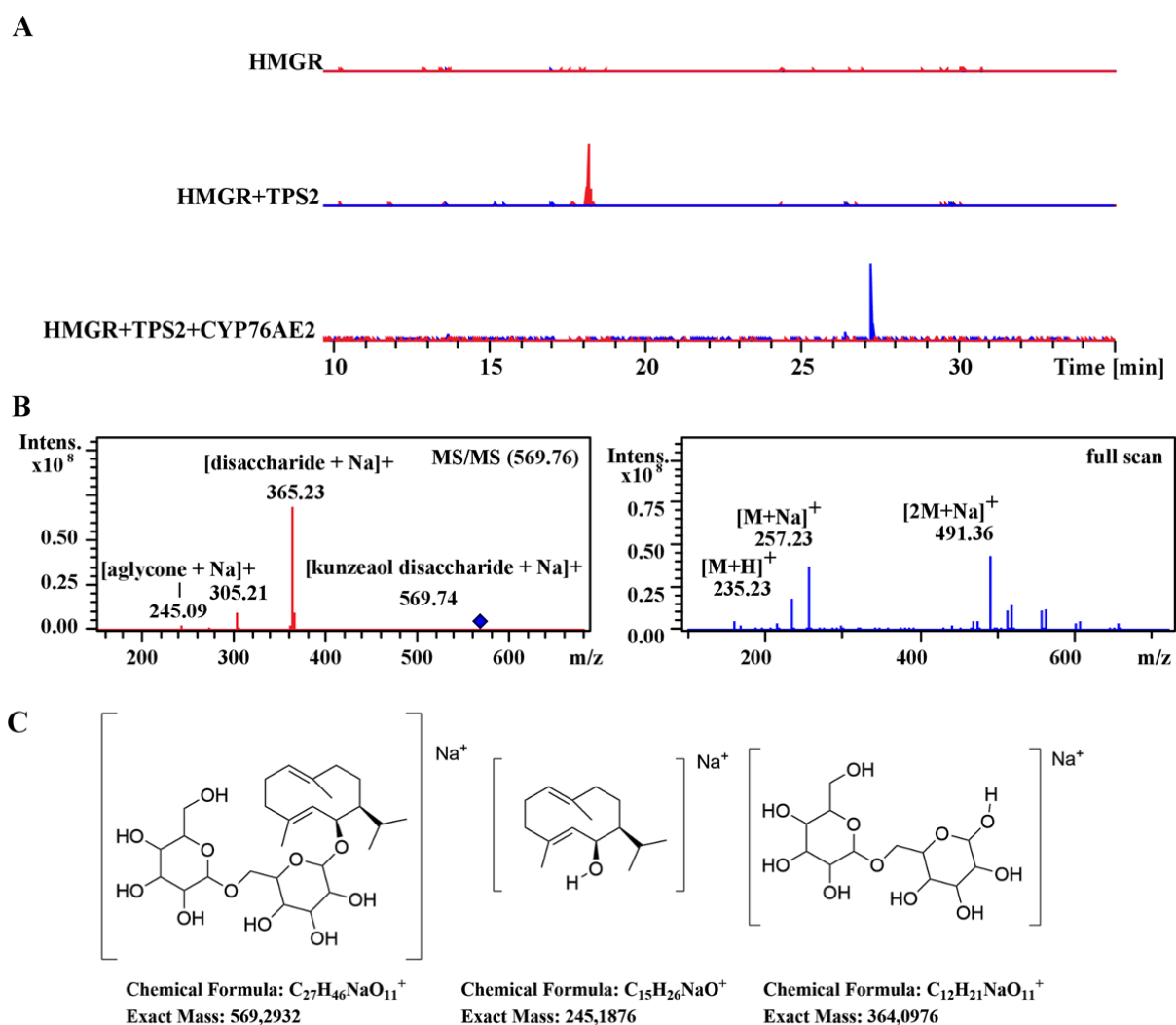
#### 174 **Isolation of epidihydrocostunolide (1) and the two 1,3-elmendien-12,6-olides (2 and 3) by** 175 **HPLC and preparative GC-MS for NMR analysis.**

176 To determine the structure of the three new compounds (**1**, **2**, and **3**) these were isolated from the  
177 hexane extract of *N. benthamiana* leaves expressing *AttHMGR*, *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2*.  
178 Compound **1** was isolated by semi-preparative normal-phase HPLC and the purity was confirmed  
179 by LC-HRMS. Compounds **2** and **3** were isolated using preparative GC-MS. To confirm that **2** and  
180 **3** are thermal Cope rearrangement products of **1**, pure **1** was injected into the GC-MS (Figure 5). No  
181 traces of compound **1** was seen in this GC-MS chromatogram, whereas the mass spectra of the  
182 peaks originating in compound **2** and **3** were identical to those obtained from the compounds  
183 isolated by preparative GC-MS (Figure S2). This confirm the thermal Cope rearrangement of **1** into  
184 **2** and **3**.

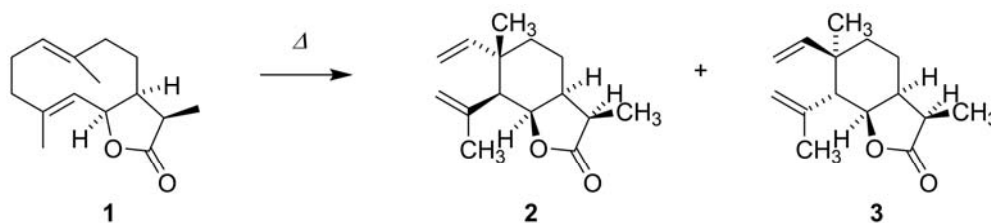
#### 185 **Structure elucidation of product 1, 2 and 3**

186 The structures of **1**, **2** and **3** were elucidated by the interpretation of  $^1H$ ,  $^{13}C$  and 2D COSY, HSQC,  
187 HMBC and ROESY spectra. The molecular formula of **1** was established using High Resolution  
188 Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) to be  $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$  (observed  $m/z$  235.1692, calculated for  $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$   
189  $[M+H]^+$   $m/z$  235.1693, 0.2 ppm error). Comparison of the  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of **1** with that of  
190 dihydrocostunolide and in particular the  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum (Sanz et al., 1990; Barrero et al., 2002)  
191 revealed significant similarities. The structure elucidation was complicated as all nuclei exhibited  
192 one major signal and a minor signal, as is clearly observed in the  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum (Figure S1).  
193 This is most likely an effect caused by the presence of two slowly interconverting conformers of the  
194 decadiene ring. However, closer inspection showed that the isolated germacranolide had to be a  
195 stereoisomer of the previously proposed structure of dihydrocostunolide. The ROE interactions  
196 between H-7, H-11 and H-6 indicated that these protons were all cis-disposed, thus supporting the  
197 proposed structure of **1**.

198 From the preparative GC-MS isolation, two products (**2** and **3**) were obtained (Figure 3B).  
 199 Compound **2** had the molecular formula  $C_{15}H_{22}O_2$  as revealed by MS. Inspection of the  $^{13}C$  NMR  
 200 spectrum indicated the presence of two signals for methylene groups at 110 and 116, a signal for a  
 201 quaternary carbon at 144 (Table 1). A signal for a methine group at 149 ppm suggested the presence  
 202 of a mono substituted and a germinal di-substituted double bond, respectively. A signal for a  
 203 carbonyl group at 179 ppm indicated the presence of a  $\gamma$ -lactone. These chemical shift values were



**Figure 4:** A: Extracted Ion Chromatograms of epikunzeol [epikunzeol disaccharide+Na]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  569.74 (red) and epidihydrocostunolide [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup>  $m/z$  491.32 (blue) of the LC-MS analysis of methanol extract of *At*HMGR alone, *At*HMGR plus *Tg*TPS2, and *At*HMGR plus *Tg*TPS2 plus *CYP76AE2* in *Ma*CRP24A2017 - Published by www.plantphysiol.org  
 B: The MS/MS spectrum of the epikunzeol peak at 18 minutes detected as the epikunzeol disaccharide. The MS spectrum of epidihydrocostunolide at 27 minutes shows a  $m/z$  of 491.3258 corresponding to a sodium adduct and a dimer of  $m/z$  235.1741.  
 C: The structure of epikunzeol disaccharide including the fragmentation pattern.



**Figure 5:** Thermal rearrangement of **1** into the two compounds **2** and **3**. The Cope rearrangement is well known for transforming germacradi-1(10),4-dienolides into elemanolides.

204 very similar to those reported for the saussurea lactone (Barrero et al., 2002). Inspection of the  $^1\text{H}$   
 205 NMR spectrum of **2** (Table 2) and the reported spectrum of the saussurea lactone (Ando et al.,  
 206 1983) however, revealed significant differences between the sizes of the 3-bond coupling constants  
 207 in **2** and in the saussurea lactone. In the saussurea lactone, the lactone ring is *trans*-fused with the  
 208 cyclohexane ring, enabling an axial location of H-6 and H-7 and consequently coupling constants of  
 209 approximately 10 Hz are expected. Assuming that the lactone ring and the cyclohexane ring of **2** are  
 210 *cis*-fused this would prevent an axial-axial coupling and consequently smaller  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  couplings are  
 211 expected. Inspection of the ROESY spectrum also revealed ROE-correlation between H-6 and H-7  
 212 confirming the *cis*-fusion. An additional ROE-correlation between H-7 and H-11 revealed that these  
 213 protons also are *cis*-disposed. ROE-correlations between CH<sub>3</sub>-15, CH<sub>3</sub>-14 and CH<sub>3</sub>-13 confirm that  
 214 all of these methyl groups are  $\beta$ -disposed. Based on the data the stereochemistry of **2** is suggested as  
 215 shown in Figure 5 to be (3*R*,3*aS*,6*S*,7*S*,7*aR*)-3,6-dimethyl-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-6-  
 216 vinylhexahydrobenzofuran-2(3H)-one.

217 The spectra of **3** were very similar to those of **2**. In **3** however, a similar ROE-correlation as  
 218 described above for compound **1** was present except for ROE-correlation between CH<sub>3</sub>-15 and CH<sub>3</sub>-  
 219 13. Combined with similar  $^3J_{\text{HH}}$  coupling constants this suggest the stereochemistry of **3** shown in  
 220 Figure 5 to be (3*R*,3*aS*,6*R*,7*R*,7*aR*)-3,6-dimethyl-7-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-6-vinylhexahydrobenzofuran-  
 221 2(3H)-one. **1** is a new compound for which, we suggest the name epidihydrocostunolide. The stable  
 222 structure of **2** and **3** led to the full structure elucidation of **1**.

### 223 Tissue localization of thapsigargin biosynthesis in roots

224 Histochemical staining and MALDI-MS imaging (MALDI-MSI) was performed to determine the  
 225 localization of thapsigargin and its biosynthesis. Histochemical staining was used to indicate the  
 226 presence of terpenoids in secretory ducts in root tissue. The location of thapsigargin was analyzed  
 227 by MALDI-MSI. Based on these results further investigations by *in situ* PCR was performed to  
 228 observe if the expression of *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2* involved in the biosynthesis of thapsigargin  
 229 showed co-localization with thapsigargin.

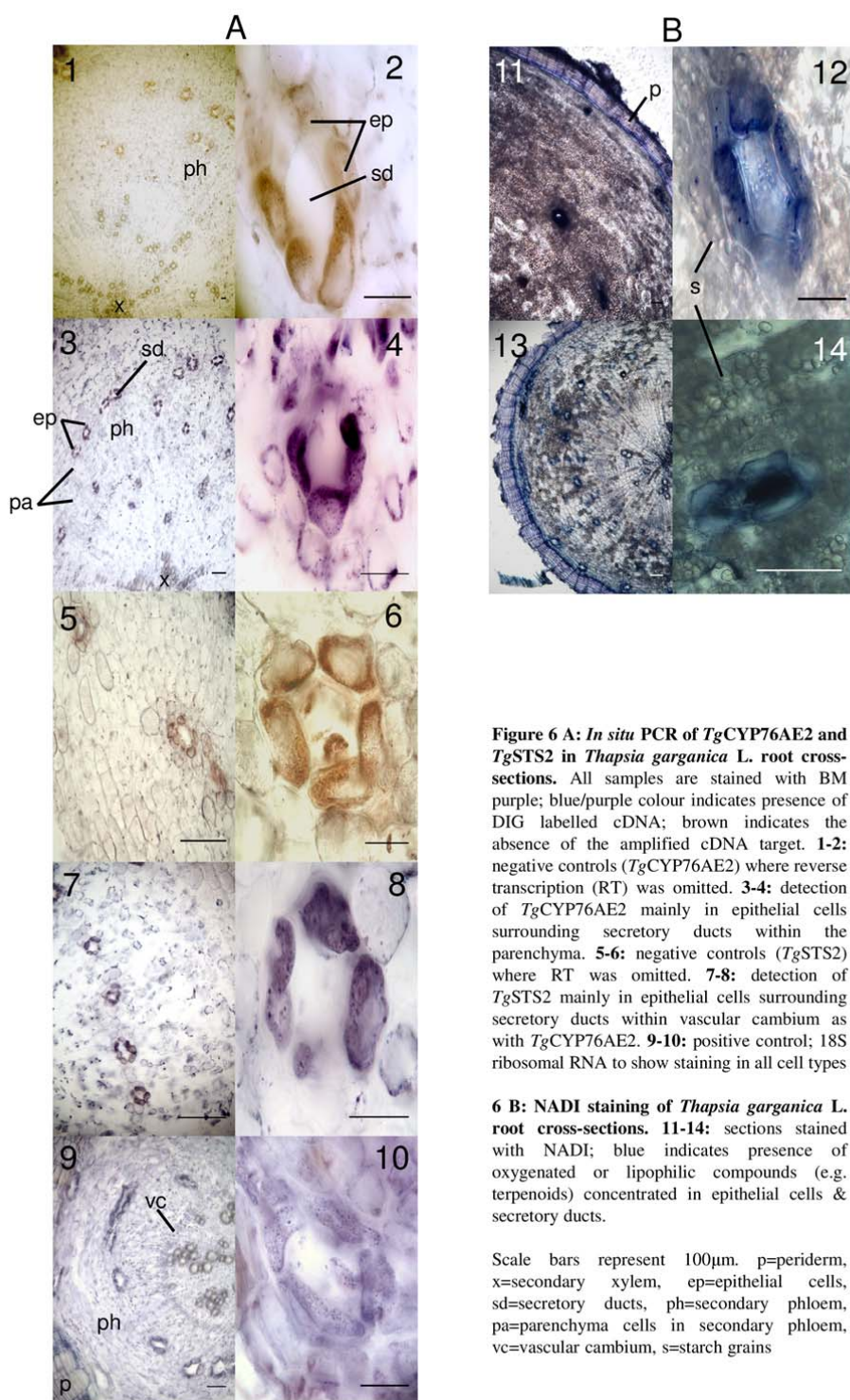
230 **Histochemical analysis of *T. garganica* roots**

231 The presence of special storage structures in the root possibly containing terpenoids was  
232 investigated by a histochemical analysis using NADI staining (David and Carde, 1964; Caissard et  
233 al., 2004; Jezler et al., 2013; Kromer et al., 2016; Muravnik et al., 2016; Stešević et al., 2016;  
234 Stojičić et al., 2016). The NADI reagent has been reported to give rise to a blue/purple color in the  
235 presence of oxygenated or lipophilic compounds (e.g. terpenoids) in oil secretory cells such as  
236 ducts, trichomes and other specialized tissue. NADI is a two component system consisting of  
237 dimethyl-p-phenylenediamine and  $\alpha$ -naphthol. The mechanism is suggested to be a non-enzymatic  
238 reduction of the oxidized target and an oxidation of dimethyl-p-phenylenediamine followed by the  
239 formation of a radical, which react with  $\alpha$ -naphthol to produce indophenol blue (Harwig, 1967;  
240 Takamatsu and Hirai, 1968).

241 Prior to staining, *T. garganica* roots were cut in 60  $\mu\text{m}$  cross-sections. As in other *Daucus* species  
242 the roots showed a clear secondary growth (Havis, 1939; Korolev et al., 2000). White resin was  
243 observed oozing out of the root upon cutting. Figure 6 indicates the presence of oxygenated or  
244 lipophilic compounds (e.g. terpenoids) in the sections after staining with NADI and here secretory  
245 ducts are clearly visible as blue spots. These were located in concentric rings within the  
246 parenchymatic tissue radiating out from the pith until just below the periderm as also shown in  
247 *Daucus* (Deutschmann, 1969). At higher magnification, it is evident that both the ducts themselves  
248 and the epithelial cells surrounding these were stained blue indicating the presence of oxygenated or  
249 lipophilic compounds (e.g. terpenoids). Apart from the ducts in the parenchymatic tissue the  
250 periderm also showed blue staining, which could be due to tannins in this tissue. In general, ducts  
251 were not found in cross-sections from the crown or the very bottom of the roots, but otherwise  
252 generally distributed throughout the root.

253 **MALDI-MSI of *T. garganica* roots**

254 The spatial distribution of thapsigargin, the intermediates epikunzeaol and epihydrocostunolide;  
255 including related guaianolides were examined using High Resolution Matrix Assisted Laser  
256 Desorption Ionization-Fourier Transform-Ion Cyclotron Resonance-Mass Spectrometry Imaging  
257 (HR MALDI-FT-ICR-MSI). MALDI-MSI is able to measure ionized chemicals as their mass-to-  
258 charge ratio ( $m/z$ ) in a highly localized manner (Boughton et al., 2016). Root sections of *T.*  
259 *garganica*, that had previously been confirmed to contain thapsigargin by HPLC, were prepared by  
260 initial cryo-sectioning, mounting to slides on double sided tape, freeze drying and application of  
261 DHB matrix by sublimation (Jarvis et al., 2017). Prepared sections were analyzed by MALDI-MSI



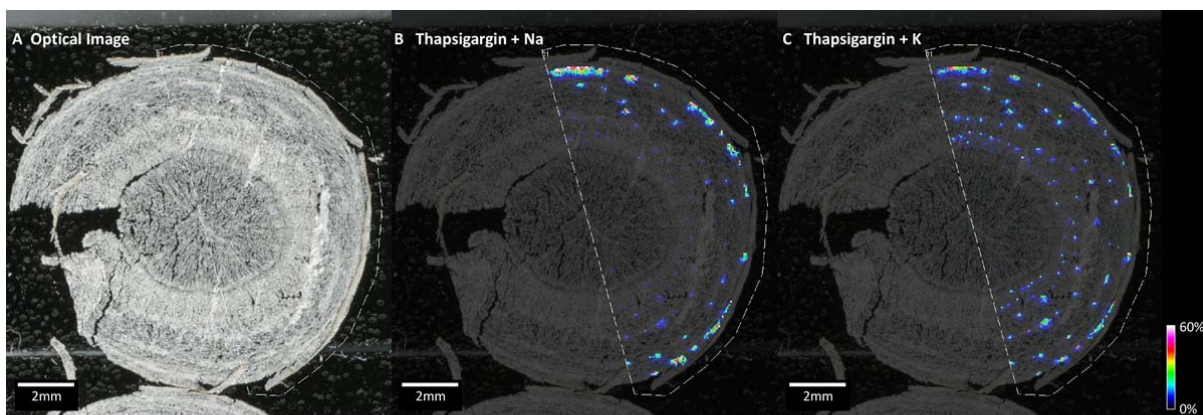
**Figure 6 A: In situ PCR of *TgCYP76AE2* and *TgSTS2* in *Thapsia garganica* L. root cross-sections.** All samples are stained with BM purple; blue/purple colour indicates presence of DIG labelled cDNA; brown indicates the absence of the amplified cDNA target. **1-2:** negative controls (*TgCYP76AE2*) where reverse transcription (RT) was omitted. **3-4:** detection of *TgCYP76AE2* mainly in epithelial cells surrounding secretory ducts within the parenchyma. **5-6:** negative controls (*TgSTS2*) where RT was omitted. **7-8:** detection of *TgSTS2* mainly in epithelial cells surrounding secretory ducts within vascular cambium as with *TgCYP76AE2*. **9-10:** positive control; 18S ribosomal RNA to show staining in all cell types

**6 B: NADI staining of *Thapsia garganica* L. root cross-sections.** **11-14:** sections stained with NADI; blue indicates presence of oxygenated or lipophilic compounds (e.g. terpenoids) concentrated in epithelial cells & secretory ducts.

Scale bars represent 100µm. p=periderm, x=secondary xylem, ep=epithelial cells, sd=secretory ducts, ph=secondary phloem, pa=parenchyma cells in secondary phloem, vc=vascular cambium, s=starch grains

262 in the positive ionization mode across the mass range  $m/z$  200-3000. Results demonstrated complex  
 263 mass spectra containing numerous ions that could be tentatively assigned as small molecule  
 264 metabolites, sugars and lipids (Figure S3). Specific ions were found to localize to the epidermis,





**Figure 7.** MALDI-MSI analysis of *T. garganica* taproot section. **A:** optical image of taproot section with sublimed DHB matrix. **B:** distribution of thapsigargin Na adduct,  $[M+Na]^+$   $m/z$  673.3186 (calc. 673.31945, 1.26 ppm error). **C:** distribution of thapsigargin K adduct,  $[M+K]^+$   $m/z$  689.2924 (calc. 689.29339, 1.43 ppm error). Images normalized to RMS and scaled to 0-60 % of maximum signal intensity using FlexImaging 4.1 to enhance visualization. Results demonstrate thapsigargin to be localized to concentric circles of secretory ducts.

265 parenchyma, stele and a series of concentric spots correlating with the observed distribution of  
 266 secretory ducts (Figure 7). The acquired spectra were screened for thapsigargin, epikunzeaol and  
 267 epidihydrocostunolide by searching for the calculated  $m/z$  of proton, sodium and potassium adducts.  
 268 Ions corresponding to thapsigargin,  $[M+Na]^+$  ion  $m/z$  673.3186 (calc. 673.31945, 1.26 ppm error)  
 269 and a  $[M+K]^+$  ion  $m/z$  689.2924 (calc. 689.29339, 1.43 ppm error) were found. Proton adducts of  
 270 thapsigargin were barely observed and in general the K adduct showed a much higher signal  
 271 intensity relative to the Na adduct (signal intensity ratio of 2.5-3:1). The spatial distribution of both  
 272 Na and K adducts showed a distinct distribution within the parenchymatic tissue (Figure 7), where  
 273 the distribution pattern correlated with concentric circles of secretory ducts visualized from  
 274 histochemical staining (Figure 6). Both epikunzeaol and epidihydrocostunolide were not detected in  
 275 the images, indicating that concentrations were below the limit of detection using this methodology.  
 276 The root sections were also screened for seven related guaianolides from *T. garganica* (Table 3).  
 277 Structures of the related guaianolides and the MALDI imaging results from these are shown in Figure  
 278 S4. The seven structurally similar sesquiterpenoids, thapsigargin, nortrilobolide, trilobolide,  
 279 thapsivillosin I and thapsivillosin L all showed distributions that coincided with thapsigargin,  
 280 including a similar pattern of a more intense  $[M+K]^+$  adduct.

### 281 **Localization of mRNA for *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2***

282 Following the specific localization of thapsigargin in the roots and likely in secretory ducts it was  
 283 investigated if the production of the compound takes place here as well. Cellular localization of  
 284 transcripts encoding *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2*, involved in the biosynthesis, was investigated by  
 285 in tube *in situ* PCR. *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2* transcripts were found to show the same spatial  
 286 expression pattern in the investigated tissue and were detected solely in the epithelial cells lining the

287 secretory ducts (Figure 6A and 6B). The presence of the transcripts were visualized by the color  
288 reaction of the alkaline phosphates bound to the antibody specific to the DIG group incorporated  
289 during the amplification of the PCR product from the specific produced cDNA using the reverse  
290 specific primers recognizing *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2* respectively. In *T. garganica* roots this  
291 reaction only took place in the epithelial cells of the secretory ducts when specific reverse primers  
292 where included. When no specific reverse primers were used no color reaction were detected. This  
293 reaction clearly shows that the ducts follow the circular growth pattern of the parenchymatic tissue.  
294 The transcripts show a spatial distribution similar to the *m/z* corresponding to thapsigargin as is seen  
295 in Figure 7.  
296

297 **Discussion**

298 In this study, *TgCYP76AE2* was found to catalyze the oxidations that lead to the formation of a  
299 lactone ring hereby converting epikunzeaol into epidihydrocostunolide (**1**) (Figure 1). The structure  
300 of **2** and **3** confirm the proposed structure of **1** and also finally confirm the structure of epikunzeaol  
301 produced by *TgTPS2* as seen in Figure 1. The structure of kunzeaol previously published as the  
302 product of *TgTPS2* did not benefit from the Cope rearrangement study included here and the  
303 stereochemistry was therefore not final (Pickel et al., 2012). In general, Cope rearrangements are  
304 stereoselective and only one product would be expected (Setzer, 2008; Adio, 2009). However, here  
305 upon injection of **1** into a GC-MS two elemanolides, **2** and **3**, were formed in almost equal amounts  
306 (Figure S2). This type of rearrangement has been studied for sesquiterpenoids belonging to the  
307 germacrenes and germacranolides. Germacrenes are characteristic by their backbone structure,  
308 which is a 10-membered open ring as seen in epikunzeaol (Figure 1). Conversion of  
309 germacranolides to elemanolides by Cope rearrangement has previously been used to structurally  
310 elucidate the heat labile germacranolides (Fischer and Mabry, 1967; Takeda, 1974; Raucher et al.,  
311 1986; de Kraker et al., 2001; Barrero et al., 2002; Adio, 2009). At high temperatures or low pH  
312 germacrenes via Cope rearrangement establish equilibrium with elemenes (Takeda, 1974; de Kraker  
313 et al., 2002; Pickel et al., 2012). Elemenes are characteristic by the lack of a bond between C2 and  
314 C3 (Figure 4). The unexpected formation of two products after Cope-rearrangement of **1** might be  
315 explained by the *cis*-fused lactone and instability of the 10-membered decadiene ring. Most  
316 reported studies on Cope rearrangements have been performed on *trans*-fused germacranolides,  
317 where the preferred chair-chair-conformation of the intermediate is easily accessible (Setzer, 2008;  
318 Adio, 2009). One example, however, with Cope rearrangement of a *cis*-fused germacranolide is  
319 described. In this example, also only one product is formed in high yield (Appendino and Gariboldi,  
320 1983).

321 The biochemical lactone ring reaction observed here is also known from Asteraceae where the  
322 biosynthesis of (+)-costunolide follow the same type of reaction. In order to establish the lactone  
323 ring in (+)-costunolide, two P450s are needed. First three consecutive hydroxylations are performed  
324 on C-12 by one P450 (GAO), generating germacra-1(10),4,11(13)-trien-12-ol followed by  
325 germacra-1(10),4,11(13)-trien-12-al and resulting in germacra-1(10),4,11 (13)-trien-12-oic acid  
326 (Nguyen et al., 2010; Cankar et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al.,  
327 2014; Liu et al., 2014) (Figure 7). A second P450 (COS) hydroxylates germacra-1(10),4,11(13)-  
328 trien-12-oic acid at C-6, resulting in spontaneous lactone formation (Ikezawa et al., 2011; Liu et al.,

329 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014). The lactone formation in *T. gargarica* is  
330 simpler than the formation reported in the Asteraceae species, since epikunzeaol already has a  
331 hydroxyl group at C-6 and therefore only requires one P450. Thus, the triple oxidation on C-12 to  
332 the carboxylic acid leads to a spontaneous lactone ring formation. Consequently, it is not possible to  
333 detect the intermediates that are expected to be an alcohol, aldehyde and acid. The suggested  
334 mechanism of epidihydrocostunolide biosynthesis in Figure 7 is based on the previously described  
335 mechanism for costunolide in Asteraceae (Nguyen et al., 2010; Cankar et al., 2011; Ikezawa et al.,  
336 2011; Liu et al., 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014).

337 Neither of the two enzymes CYP71BL1 (GAO) and CYP71BL2 (COS) which, catalyze 8 $\beta$ - and 6 $\alpha$ -  
338 hydroxylation of germacrene A acid, respectively, shows high identity to *TgCYP76AE2* with 32.2  
339 % for GAO and 36.6 % for COS (Ikezawa et al., 2011). This is despite Apiaceae and Asteraceae are  
340 closely related families, exemplifying limitations with prediction of CYP functionality based on  
341 phylogenetic relationship. Sesquiterpenoid lactones are a broad class of compounds and other  
342 mechanisms for formation of a lactone ring have been reported. The biosynthesis of the lactone ring  
343 in the sesquiterpenoid artemisinin for instance is different to what is found for (+)-costunolide and  
344 epidihydrocostunolide. Here an aldehyde dehydrogenase and an aldehyde reductase are involved in  
345 addition to a P450. These jointly participate in the formation of an acid that is then non-  
346 enzymatically converted into the lactone ring, as opposed to the (+)-costunolide and  
347 dihydrocostunolide biosynthesis where ring formation is achieved solely by P450 catalysis (Teoh et  
348 al., 2006; Liu et al., 2011)

349 The P450s, GAO and COS, from Asteraceae that catalyze the lactone ring formation in (+)-  
350 costunolide are from the CYP71 family. While the CYP71 family of the CYP71 clan has had much  
351 focus, the CYP76 family is now emerging as another major participant in the biosynthesis of  
352 specialized metabolites especially terpenoids. CYP76's have been found to participate in both  
353 mono- sesqui- and diterpenoid biosynthesis (Collu et al., 2001; Guo et al., 2013; Weitzel and  
354 Simonsen, 2015). In sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis, CYP76F has been described in *Santalum album*  
355 as part of the santalol and bergamotol biosynthesis (Diaz-Chavez et al., 2013; Celedon et al., 2016).  
356 The CYP71 clan is becoming more of a continuum and it is expected that future sequencing will  
357 add to this and make it even harder to distinguish between the families and subfamilies of this clan.  
358 Investigation of P450s involved in sesquiterpenoid metabolism are expanding from the CYP71  
359 family to the CYP71 clan, as seen in Figure 2, and in the future probably also beyond that.

### 360 **Stereochemistry and non-conjugation**

361 A characteristic difference between the guaianolides from Asteraceae and Apiaceae, like  
362 thapsigargin, is the  $\alpha$ -disposal of the C-6-O bond in Asteraceae whereas it is  $\beta$ -disposed in Apiaceae  
363 (Simonsen et al., 2013). The present study support that the  $\beta$ -C-6-O bond characteristic for  
364 thapsigargin is introduced already at the very first step of sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis with the  
365 formation of epikunzeaol. *TgCYP76AE2* converts epikunzeaol to epidihydrocostunolide, which  
366 differs from dihydrocostunolide by the  $\beta$ -disposed C-6-O bond. Since no epimerization of C-6 is  
367 likely under the oxidative transformation of C-12 into a carboxylic acid the previous suggested  
368 structure of epikunzeaol as the  $6\alpha$ -hydroxygermacrene must be considered unlikely (Pickel et al.,  
369 2012). The suggested structure was only based on assignment of major signals in the spectrum,  
370 which might explain the erroneous assignment of stereochemistry.

371 The expression of genes, involved in sesquiterpene biosynthesis, in *N. benthamiana* has previously  
372 been reported to result in glycosylation or other conjugations of the produced sesquiterpenoids. For  
373 artemisinic acid in the artemisinin pathway, it was seen that this was conjugated to a diglucoside  
374 (van Herpen et al., 2010). When the genes in the costunolide biosynthesis was expressed in *N.*  
375 *benthamiana* costunolide was conjugated to glutathione or cysteine (Liu et al., 2011). Analysis of  
376 products of *TgCYP76AE2* did not reveal any conjugation and were therefore detectable by GC-MS.  
377 In contrast to costunolide, epidihydrocostunolide does not possess a C-11-C-13 double bond  
378 preventing a conjugation to a thiol group.

### 379 **Downstream pathway towards thapsigargin**

380 Costunolide has been suggested as a precursor of many of the studied sesquiterpene lactones in the  
381 Asteraceae (de Kraker et al., 2002). The finding of a P450 from *T. garganica*, which synthesizes  
382 epidihydrocostunolide, indicates that epidihydrocostunolide could have a similar role in *Thapsia*  
383 and that the unusual stereochemistry at C-6 is introduced at a very early stage. Further modification  
384 of epidihydrocostunolide to produce thapsigargin would require a mechanism to produce a 5- and 7-  
385 ring closure of the 10-membered ring of epidihydrocostunolide. The exact reaction and enzyme  
386 responsible are yet unknown. A putative route could be the oxidation mediated ring closure similar  
387 to what has been described for the biosynthesis of lathyranes in *Euphorbiaceae* species (Luo et al.,  
388 2016). Furthermore, several hydroxylations and various acetylations of the backbone are required.  
389 A number of these reactions are likely to be performed by P450s.

390

### 391 **Specialized tissue for storage of sesquiterpenoids**

392 Terpenoids are often located in specialized storage structures in plants, which include oil glands,  
393 secretory ducts, laticifers, trichomes and vacuoles (Fahn, 1988; Chadwick et al., 2013). Cells  
394 adjacent to or harboring these compartments have been shown to be involved in the biosynthesis of  
395 terpenoids that are then transported into the storage compartment (Olsson et al., 2009; Lange,  
396 2015). *T. garganica* is closely related to the genus *Daucus* and has a taproot like carrots (Weitzel et  
397 al., 2014). In carrots, it was shown that lipophilic compounds including specialized metabolites  
398 were primarily localized in extracellular, long schizogenous hydrophobic oil ducts that were located  
399 in the periderm/pericyclic parenchyma tissue (Esau, 1940; Schuphan and Boek, 1960;  
400 Deutschmann, 1969; Garrod and Lewis, 1980). The secretory ducts in *Daucus* are highly organized  
401 and connected throughout the phloem of roots and exhibit a concentric ring pattern in horizontal  
402 sections (Deutschmann, 1969; Bowes and Mauseth, 2008). Likewise, a positive correlation between  
403 the number of ducts and amount of terpenoids has been demonstrated (Garrod and Lewis, 1980;  
404 Senalik and Simon, 1986).

405 NADI was chosen as a possible stain for terpenoids. The use of NADI has been known since the  
406 1880's and has since been used to detect oxidized compounds. David and Carde, 1964 were the first  
407 to report the use of NADI for staining of terpenoids, unfortunately the exact mechanism nor the  
408 specificity were described. Throughout the years, the exact mechanism has been much debated and  
409 the specificity for terpenoids is still uncertain. NADI does however, function as a useful method in  
410 the current setting to visualize secretory ducts whether the stain is specific towards oxidized and/or  
411 lipophilic compounds, including terpenoids.

412 The finding that transcripts from *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2* are exclusively found in epithelial  
413 cells surrounding secretory ducts in the middle part of the root supports their involvement in the  
414 biosynthesis of thapsigargin. Intermediates from the biosynthesis of thapsigargin were not identified  
415 in extracts from *T. garganica* in this study nor in previous studies. This could signify a specific and  
416 efficient or possibly even a channeled biosynthetic pathway indicating metabolon formation of the  
417 enzymes (Møller, 2010). The presence of thapsigargin in highly specific locations also supports the  
418 function of ducts as storage compartments in the roots, and possibly also ducts in the fruits of *T.*  
419 *garganica*, which might explain the high content in these two organs. Similar observations were  
420 made in stem cross-sections from the conifer *Picea sitchensis* upon methyl jasmonate treatment  
421 (Zulak and Bohlmann, 2010). An antibody against the diterpene synthase,  
422 levopimaradiene/abietadiene synthase allowed detection of a fluorescence signal in the epithelial  
423 cells of cortical and traumatic resin ducts 2 days after methyl jasmonate treatment. In addition, this

424 indicated the importance of these epithelial cells in the biosynthesis of specialized metabolites. In a  
425 following study in *Picea sitchensis* the importance of the epithelial cells were further implemented  
426 (Abbott et al., 2010; Hamberger et al., 2011). Here epithelial cells were isolated with laser micro-  
427 dissection, studied by RT-qPCR and found to be enriched in a variety of CYP720s including  
428 PsCYP720B4 involved in biosynthesis of isopimaric acid and abietic acid. This approach is of high  
429 relevance to the further elucidation of the thapsigargin biosynthetic pathway.

430 Focus in the present study has been directed towards localizing specific tissue in *T. garganica*,  
431 which could biosynthesize and store sesquiterpenoids such as thapsigargin. As it was previously  
432 shown that the amount of secretory ducts correlate with the amount of terpenoids and especially  
433 lipophilic terpenoids, cells lining these are an obvious target for biosynthesis studies (Senalik and  
434 Simon, 1986). The finding that thapsigargin is stored in secretory ducts in the roots and the  
435 enzymes involved in the biosynthesis are present in the surrounding cells opens up new  
436 possibilities. The data presented here suggest that future studies, including identification of  
437 enzymes involved in specialized metabolism and specialized transporters in the cells lining the  
438 secretory ducts would benefit from the transcriptomics of these.

#### 439 **Conclusion**

440 The roots of the Mediterranean plant *Thapsia garganica* (dicot, Apiaceae), also known as Deadly  
441 carrot, have been shown to have secretory ducts that likely contain the highly toxic compound  
442 thapsigargin and similar sesquiterpenoid lactones. Through transient expression of *TgTPS2*  
443 (epikunzeaol synthase) and *TgCYP76AE2* in *Nicotiana benthamiana* it was shown that *TgTPS2*  
444 (epikunzeaol synthase) and *TgCYP76AE2* converts epikunzeaol into epidihydrocostunolide,  
445 compounds which are possible intermediates in thapsigargin biosynthesis. Transcripts from *TgTPS2*  
446 (epikunzeaol synthase) and *TgCYP76AE2* were found in the epithelial cells lining the secretory  
447 ducts and nowhere else in the root. This emphasizes the involvement of these specific cells in the  
448 biosynthesis of thapsigargin and other sesquiterpene lactones in *T. garganica*.

449 The findings presented here enable the full elucidation of the biosynthesis of thapsigargin  
450 biosynthesis in the cells lining the secretory ducts. The findings also show the power of *in situ* PCR  
451 combined with MALDI-TOF imaging.

452 **Materials and Methods**

453 **Plant material**

454 *Thapsia garganica* L. roots used for cDNA synthesis to obtain genes of interest were collected in  
455 June 2010, 25 km SSW of Bari, Italy (GPS 40.898625, 16.706139).

456 For NADI staining, in tube *in situ* PCR and MALDI-MSI 2 year old *T. garganica* plants were used.  
457 These had been grown in Ibiza, and were purchased from ThapsIbiza S. L.

458 **Identification and cloning of genes**

459 The ORF of P450s belonging to the CYP71 clade was found in the transcriptome of the *Thapsia*  
460 *garganica* root (SRX096991) (Pickel et al., 2012) based on BLAST searches using a set of CYP71  
461 clan members as previously described (Dueholm et al., 2015). The P450s are available on NCBI;  
462 *TgCYP71AH8* (KX826939), *TgCYP71AS14* (KX845553), *TgCYP71AT12* (KX826940),  
463 *TgCYP71AU89* (KX845548), *TgCYP71AU90* (KX845552), *TgCYP71BK1* (KX826941),  
464 *TgCYP71BK6* (KX845546), *TgCYP71D183* (KX845554), *TgCYP71D311* (KX845555),  
465 *TgCYP71D319\_ortholog* (KX845550), *TgCYP76AE1* (KX826942), *TgCYP76AE2* (KX826943),  
466 *TgCYP76AE8* (KX845545), *TgCYP76AF7* (KX845549), *TgCYP76B79* (KX845547) and  
467 *TgCYP706C30\_ortholog* (KX845551). *TgCYP71AJ5* (KP191555) and *TgCYP71AJ14* (KP191558)  
468 were also tested previously (Dueholm et al., 2015). The discovery of *TgTPS2* (JQ290345) has been  
469 described in (Pickel et al., 2012). Full-length gene sequences were obtained from a cDNA library of  
470 *T. garganica* root material.

471 Forward and reverse primers for all genes were designed with USER-overhangs, to enable cloning  
472 into a pEAQ USER compatible version of the pEAQ-*HT* vector (Table S1,) (Luo et al., 2016).  
473 pEAQ-*HT* harbors the viral suppressor p19 and was kindly provided by George Lomonosoff  
474 (John Innes Research Centre, Norwich, UK) (Peyret and Lomonosoff, 2013). USER cloning was  
475 performed as depicted previously (Nour-Eldin et al., 2006). A truncated version of *Arabidopsis*  
476 *thaliana* HMGR (GenBank J04537), described previously (Cankar et al., 2015), was kindly  
477 provided Katarina Cankar (Wageningen University, The Netherlands).

478 *TcCYP71AV2* (KC441527.1), *CiCYP71AV8* (HQ166835.1), *CcCYP71AV9* (KF752448.1),  
479 *LsCYP71BL2* (HQ439599.1), *CiCYP71BL3* (JF816041.1), *TcCYP71BL4* (KC441528.1) and  
480 *CcCYP71BL5* (KF752451.1) were furthermore blasted into the *T. garganica* root transcriptome.  
481 Setting the expectation value to 1E-100 no hits were available.



## 482 **Phylogeny**

483 In total 53 full-length sequences of functional characterized cytochromes P450 related to  
484 sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis and cytochromes P450 from *T. garganica* were used to build the  
485 phylogenetic tree. The full list is in the supplementary file as part of the alignment, and the NCBI  
486 numbers for the *Thapsia* genes are given above.

487 All obtained full length sequences were aligned using default options in MUSCLE and ClustalW  
488 (Edgar, 2004), as implemented in the software Geneious 10.0.5 (www.geneious.com) followed by  
489 manual modification. Phylogenetic analyses were conducted using maximum likelihood. Default  
490 options for PhyML based on the substitution model LG, in Geneious 10.0.5 was chosen (Guindon et  
491 al., 2010). All maximum likelihood trees (ML) were obtained using 1,000 replicates of random  
492 taxon addition sequence. All characters were included in the analyses. Clade support was assessed  
493 using non-parametric bootstrap re-sampling. Bootstrap analysis (Felsenstein, 1985) was carried out  
494 using 1,000 replicates. We defined bootstrap percentages (BS) < 50 % to be unsupported, between  
495 50 % and 74 % as weak support, between 75 % and 89 % BS as supported, and scores of greater  
496 than 90 % BS as strong support. Alignments supporting the tree are given in supplementary file 1  
497 (for Figure 2). The *Thapsia* gene cinnamate-4-hydroxylase (*TgC4H*) was used to root the tree.

498

## 499 **Expression of *TgTPS2* and P450s in *Nicotiana benthamiana***

500 *N. benthamiana* plants were grown from seeds at 24°C/19°C (day/night) for five weeks before  
501 transformation. The transformation of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and infiltration of *N.*  
502 *benthamiana* with *A. tumefaciens* followed the protocol described by (Bach et al., 2014). In short,  
503 10 ml LB containing kanamycin, rifampicin and carbenicillin was inoculated with several  
504 agrobacterium colonies containing the plasmid of interest. Cultures were grown ON at 28°C and  
505 200 rpm. Cell pellets were washed twice with water before final resuspension in water followed by  
506 a dilution to OD<sub>600</sub> 0.5. Resuspended *A. tumefaciens* carrying plasmids containing *AttHMGR*,  
507 *TgTPS2* or *TgCYPs* were mixed 1:1:1 and infiltrated into leaves of at least three *N. benthamiana*  
508 plants by use of a syringe. Plants were placed at 24°C/19°C (day/night) and harvested five days  
509 after infiltration. As controls, plants were infiltrated with *A. tumefaciens* carrying plasmids with no  
510 additional genes, *AttHMGR*, and *AttHMGR* plus *TgTPS2*.

511 The ~100 plants needed for purification of products **1**, **2** and **3** were infiltrated by use of vacuum.  
512 Three *A. tumefaciens* cultures containing *AttHMGR*, *TgTPS2* or *TgCYP76AE2* were grown ON at  
513 28°C and 200 rpm in 500 ml LB (containing kanamycin, rifampicin and carbenicillin) from 20 ml

514 starter cultures. Cell pellets were washed twice with water before final resuspension in water  
515 followed by a dilution to OD<sub>600</sub> 0.5. Resuspended *A. tumefaciens* carrying plasmids containing  
516 *AtHMGR*, *TgTPS2* or *TgCYP76AE2* were mixed 1:1:1. Plants were submerged in a 1 L suspension  
517 of *A. tumefaciens* and infiltrated by use of vacuum at 50-100 mbar for 1 min (Andersen-Ranberg et  
518 al., 2016).

#### 519 **GC-MS detection of sesquiterpenoids**

520 Two leaf discs (Ø=3cm) from *N. benthamiana*, expressing genes from *T. garganica* were extracted  
521 with 1.2 ml hexane for GC-MS analysis to provide one sample, a minimum of three biological  
522 replicates were examined.

523 Hexane extracts were analyzed on a Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 using an Agilent HP-5MS UI, 20 m,  
524 0.18 mm diameter × 0.18 µm film thickness column kept at a pressure of 66.7 kPa giving a column  
525 flow of 1 mL/min (Drew et al., 2012). The injection port temperature was set to 160°C or 250°C to  
526 find the optimal temperature (Andersen et al., 2015). The oven temperature was set to 60°C for 3  
527 min, and then increased to 160°C with a rate of 7°C/min. The temperature was further increased to  
528 300°C at a rate of 50°C/min, held for 5 min, finally increased to 320°C at 50°C/min and maintained  
529 for 3 min. The carrier gas was H<sub>2</sub> and the ionization electron energy was 70 eV. The ion source  
530 temperature was 230°C with an interface temperature 280°C. The total run time was 11.67 min. All  
531 data were analyzed using the Shimadzu software Lab Solutions, GCMS Solutions version 2.50  
532 SU3, with the 2008 libraries provided by NIST and Wiley.

#### 533 **Analytical LC-MS for detection of novel sesquiterpenoids**

534 Two leaf discs with a diameter of 3 cm were ground in liquid nitrogen to provide one samples, a  
535 minimum of three biological replicates was examined. Samples were extracted with 1200 µl 80 %  
536 methanol and sonicated for 30 min. Before LC-MS analysis samples were filtered through a 0.45  
537 µm filter. Analytical LC-MS was carried out using an Agilent 1100 Series LC (Agilent  
538 Technologies, Germany) coupled to a Bruker HCT-Ultra ion trap mass spectrometer (Bruker  
539 Daltonics, Bremen, Germany). A Gemini-NX column (Phenomenex; 3 µm, C18, 110A, 2 × 150  
540 mm) maintained at 35°C was used for separation. The mobile phases were; A, water with 0.1 %  
541 (v/v) formic acid; B, acetonitrile with 0.1 % (v/v) formic acid. The gradient program was: 0 to 1  
542 min, isocratic 12 % B; 1 to 33 min, linear gradient 12 to 80 % B; 33 to 35 min, linear gradient 80 to  
543 99 % B; 35 to 38 min, isocratic 99 % B; 38-47 min, isocratic 12 % B. The flow rate was 0.2 ml min<sup>-1</sup>.  
544 The mass spectrometer was run in positive mode and the mass range *m/z* 100-1000 was acquired.

545 **Preparative GC-MS - purification of Cope rearranged sesquiterpenoids (2 and 3)**

546 For isolation of compounds **2** and **3**, a large-scale hexane extraction was made from *N. benthamiana*  
547 leaves expressing *AtHMGR*, *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2*. The leaves from approximately 130 five-  
548 week-old plants were used. The sample was subjected to an initial separation on a silica column and  
549 eluted with hexane:ethyl acetate at 13% ethyl acetate. The final purification was done on an Agilent  
550 7890B GC installed with an Agilent 5977A inert MSD, GERSTEL Preparative Fraction Collector  
551 (PFC) AT 6890/7890 and a GERSTEL CIS 4C Bundle injection port. For separation by GC, a  
552 RESTEK Rtx-5 column (30 m × 0.53 mm ID × 1 μm d<sub>f</sub>) with H<sub>2</sub> as the carrier gas was used. At the  
553 end of this column was a split piece with a split of 1:100 to the MS and the PFC, respectively. A  
554 sufficient amount of sesquiterpene product for NMR analysis (0.5-1 mg) was obtained by 100  
555 repeated injections of 5 μL of extract. The injection port was put in solvent vent mode with a carrier  
556 gas flow of 100 mL/min until 0.17 min. This was combined with an injection speed of 1.5 mL/min.  
557 The purge flow was set to 3 mL/min from 0.17 min to 2.17 min. The injection temperature was held  
558 at 40°C for 0.1 min, followed by ramping at 12°C/sec until 320°C, which was held for 2 min. The  
559 column flow was set to 7.5 mL, which was held constant throughout the GC program. The GC  
560 program was set to hold at 60°C for 1 min, ramp 20°C/min to 320°C, which was held for 3 min.  
561 Temperature of the transfer line from GC to PFC and the PFC itself was set to 250°C. The PFC was  
562 set to collect the peak of product **2** and **3** by their retention time identified by the MS. The MS was  
563 set in scan mode from *m/z* 35 to *m/z* 500, with a threshold of 150. Solvent cut-off was set to 4 min,  
564 and the temperature of the MS source and the MS quadrupole was set to 300°C and 150°C,  
565 respectively. Traps were kept at -20°C and rinsed with chloroform-d (Euriso-top, 99.8 atom % D).

566

567 **Purification of epidihydrocostunolide (1)**

568 For isolation of compound **1**, a large-scale hexane extraction was made from *N. benthamiana* leaves  
569 expressing truncated *AtHMGR*, *TgTPS2* and *TgCYP76AE2*. The leaves from approximately 100  
570 five-week-old plants were used. The crude hexane extract was subjected to an initial preparative  
571 separation on a Biotage Isolera autoflasher using a 10 g, 50 μm diol column and eluted stepwise  
572 with hexane to hexane:ethyl acetate (80:20) with 2 % increments of ethyl acetate. Final isolation of  
573 **1** was achieved by semi-preparative HPLC on a 250 × 10 mm, 7 μm Nucleosil PEI column  
574 (Macherey-Nagel) eluted isocratic with hexane on a Waters 600 HPLC equipped with a Waters 996  
575 PDA detector.

576 **<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic analysis**

577 NMR-spectra were acquired using a 600 MHz Bruker Avance III HD NMR spectrometer (<sup>1</sup>H  
578 operating frequency 600.13 MHz) equipped with a Bruker SampleJet sample changer and a  
579 cryogenically cooled gradient inverse triple-resonance 1.7-mm TCI probe-head (Bruker Biospin,  
580 Rheinstetten, Germany) optimized for <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H. Samples were analyzed at 300 K. Proton spectra,  
581 at 600.03 MHz, were obtained using 30°-pulses, a spectral width of 12 kHz, collecting 16 scans  
582 with a length of 65536 data points with a relaxation delay of 1.0 sec. Carbon spectra were acquired  
583 at 150.88 MHz with 30°-pulses, a spectral width of 36 kHz, collecting 256 scans with a length of  
584 65536 data points and with a relaxation delay of 2.0 sec. The <sup>13</sup>C nuclei were <sup>1</sup>H-decoupled using  
585 the Waltz-16 composite pulse-decoupling scheme. FID's were exponentially multiplied with a line-  
586 broadening factor of 1.0 Hz before Fourier transformation. The 2D experiments were recorded  
587 using Bruker standard parameter settings. The isolated product **1** was dissolved in MeCN-d<sub>3</sub> (99.8  
588 atom % D), while **2** and **3** were dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (99.8 atom % D) prior to NMR analysis.

589 **Histochemical analysis staining**

590 Taproots (~ 2 cm in diameter) were dug up just prior to sectioning. Cross-sections of roots were cut  
591 in 60 µm thick sections with a vibratome (Microm, HM 650 V). Histochemical analysis was  
592 performed with NADI reagent (1% naphthol + 1% dimethyl-p-phenylenediamine + 0.05M  
593 phosphate buffer, pH 7.2) reported to stain terpenoids blue (David and Carde, 1964). Sections were  
594 immersed in phosphate buffer 0.05 M (pH 7.2) buffer or NADI solution immediately after cutting  
595 and left for minimum 30 min before analysis. Samples were mounted on glass slides and images of  
596 the sections were obtained under a Leica DMR HC microscope through x20, x40 dry objectives and  
597 an x100 oil immersion objective.

598 **MALDI-MSI**

599 Prior to MALDI analysis, thapsigargin had been verified to be present in the roots by HPLC as  
600 previously described (Christensen et al., 1984; Pickel et al., 2012).

601 **Tissue preparation** Root tissue was snap-frozen in a cooling bath (2-propanol:dry-ice) and tissue  
602 blocks from the middle part of the root were mounted to the chuck using Tissue-Tek® O.C.T.  
603 compound. Tissues were sectioned on a cryosectioner (Leica 3050S cryostat). Sections were cut to  
604 60 µm thick, ensuring no O.C.T. came into contact with the sectioned tissue. Sections were  
605 transferred onto pre-chilled Menzel-Gläser Superfrost Plus 25 mm × 75 mm × 1.0 mm glass slides  
606 and gently adhered to pre-mounted double-sided adhesive carbon tape (Agar Scientific, UK). The

607 frozen slide with sections was transferred into a chilled 50 mL falcon tube then freeze dried for 24h  
608 using a freeze dryer (ScanVac CoolSafe), set to  $-95^{\circ}\text{C}$  and an operating pressure of 1 mBar.  
609 Samples were stored in a vacuum desiccator prior to matrix deposition.

610 **Matrix Deposition** Matrix, 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB) was sublimed onto tissue sections  
611 using a custom built sublimation apparatus at temperatures of  $130\text{-}140^{\circ}\text{C}$ , at vacuum pressures less  
612 than 0.1 mBar for a period of 15 minutes generating a matrix coverage of  $0.3 \pm 0.1 \text{ mg/cm}^2$ . An ice  
613 slurry was used to cool the sample cold finger. Alternatively, DHB was deposited onto tissues by  
614 spray deposition using a HTX Imaging TM Sprayer (HTX Technologies). DHB in acetone/water  
615 (50 mg/mL, 95:5) was sprayed at  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  using 4 passes, a solvent flow rate of  $150 \mu\text{L/min}$ , a nozzle  
616 velocity of  $1200 \text{ mm/min}$ , with alternate passes at  $90^{\circ}$  offset, 2 mm track spacing and 1 mm offset  
617 for repeat passes, nitrogen sheath gas pressure was set to 10 psi. After deposition, samples were  
618 then stored in a desiccator prior to analysis.

619 **Optical Image** Optical images of tissue sections were acquired using an EPSON Photosmart 4400  
620 flatbed scanner using EPSON Scan Version 3.04A with a setting of 4800 d.p.i.

621 **Mass Spectrometer** For spatial mass spectrometric analysis, a SolariX XR 7 Tesla Hybrid ESI /  
622 MALDI FT-ICR-MS (Bruker Daltonik) was used. The instrument was operated in the Positive ion  
623 mode using optimized instrumental settings across the mass range  $100\text{-}2000 \text{ m/z}$ , with the  
624 instrument set to Broadband mode with a Time Domain for Acquisition of 2M providing an  
625 estimated resolving power of approximately 260000 at  $400 \text{ m/z}$  using a total of 1 ICR cell fills. The  
626 instrument was calibrated to less than 1 ppm tolerance against elemental Red Phosphorous clusters  
627 using a Quadratic calibration curve across the mass range  $216\text{-}1951 \text{ m/z}$ . The laser was set between  
628 38-50 % power using the minimum spot size with Smart Walk enabled using a width of  $40 \mu\text{m}$ , grid  
629 increment of 10 and offset of 1 using a random walk pattern resulting in ablation spots of  
630 approximately  $40\text{-}50 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter. A total of 500-750 shots were fired per spectra at a frequency  
631 of 2 KHz within a  $50 \times 50 \mu\text{m}$  array.

632 **Data Analysis** Acquired mass spectrometry data was analysed using Compass FlexImaging 4.1  
633 (Build 116, Bruker Daltonik GmbH). Images were either normalized to Root Median Square (RMS)  
634 or Total Ion Chromatogram (TIC) and brightness optimization employed to enhance visualization  
635 of the distribution of selected compounds. Individual spectra were analyzed and recalibrated using  
636 Bruker Compass DataAnalysis 4.3 (Build 110.102.1532) to internal lock masses of known DHB  
637 clusters;  $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{O}_6 = 273.039364$  and  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_9 = 409.055408 \text{ m/z}$ . Peak lists were generated using  
638 S/N threshold = 4 and 0.15 % base peak height threshold.

639 **In tube *in situ* RT-PCR on root tissue sections**

640 The *in situ* PCR was performed as previously described (Athman et al., 2014), with some  
641 modifications. Root tissue was left for 4 hours in ice cold FAA. 75µm thick root cross-sections  
642 were cut with a vibratome and transferred into tubes containing, RNAsin (Promega, N2515) as the  
643 RNase inhibitor. A DNase treatment with DNase 1 and 10x Turbo DNase (Qiagen 79254) was  
644 extended to overnight at 37°C. Sections were incubated for 15 min in 0.5M EDTA at 70°C, rinsed  
645 with ice cold nuclease free water then incubated on ice for 15 min in 2mg Pepsin in 0.1M HCl prior  
646 to the reverse transcription step to remove cross-linking. Reverse transcription was carried out using  
647 the Sensicript Reverse Transcription Kit (Qiagen 205213). The first cycling conditions were 5 min  
648 at 65°C followed by 1 min at 4°C. RNAsin and the reverse transcriptase enzyme were then added  
649 and the following cycling parameters used: 60 min at 42°C, 95°C for 5min, 1 min at 4°C for 1 min  
650 and the tubes were then placed directly on ice. The *in situ* PCR followed using TaKaRa Ex Taq  
651 (Clontech, RR001A), 5mM dNTPs and PCR DIG labelling mix (Sigma-Aldrich, 11585550910) in  
652 the PCR solution.

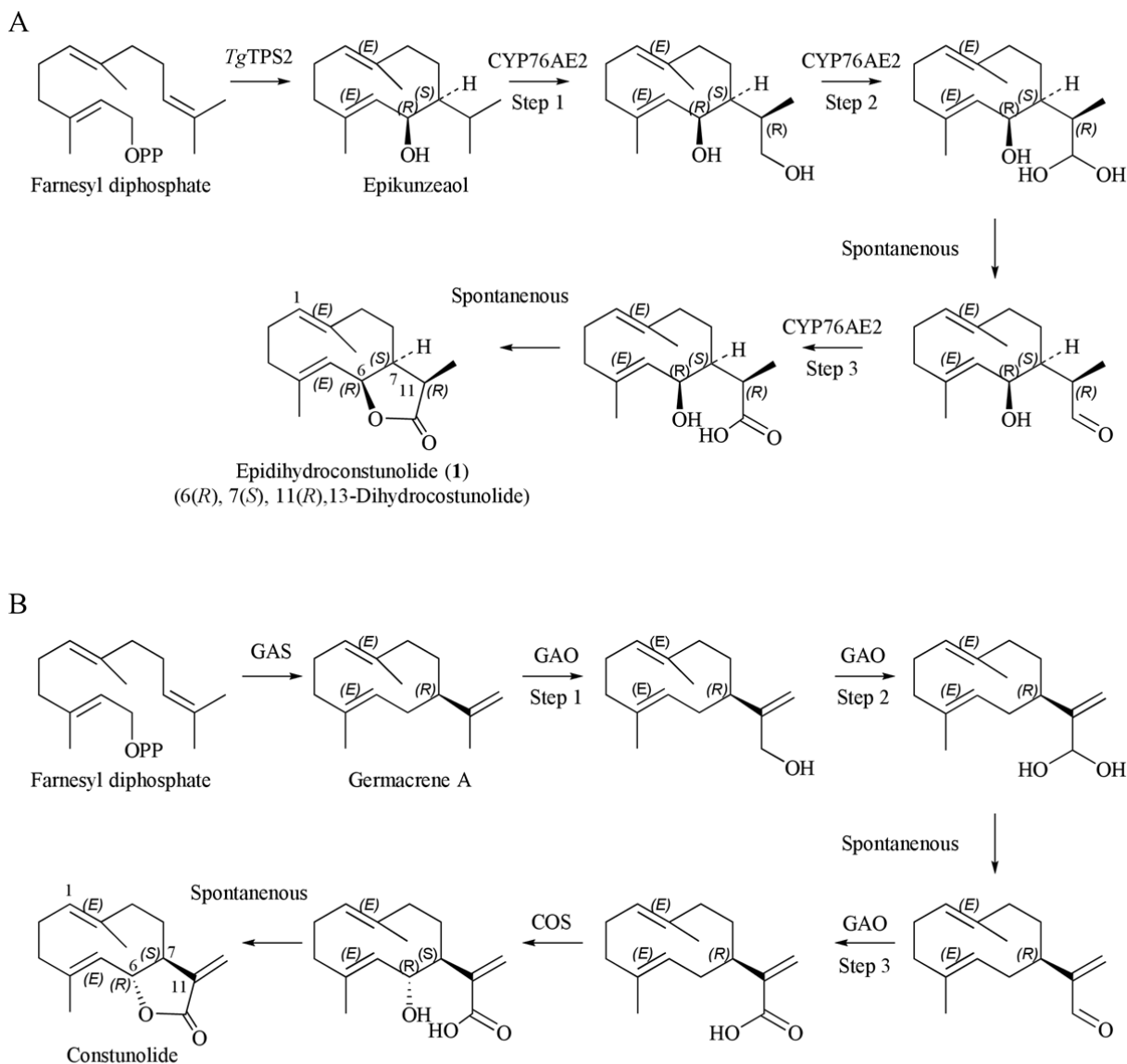
653 The negative controls followed the preparation of the test samples, but with the reverse transcriptase  
654 enzyme omitted. A positive control was carried out with the ribosomal 18S transcript. The primers  
655 used for the cDNA synthesis step [reverse (R) only] and PCR [forward (F) and reverse] are listed in  
656 Table S2; the products amplified by these primers were sequenced to confirm their specificity. The  
657 cycling parameters were: initial denaturation at 95°C for 2 min, 40 cycles of 95°C for 10 sec, X°C  
658 for 30 sec, 72°C for 1 min (X = 58°C for *TgCYP76AE2*, 56°C for *TgTPS2* and 18S). The final  
659 extension was at 72°C for 5 min and then held at 4 °C. Sections were incubated on ice for 30 min in  
660 a blocking solution (1% bovine serum albumin in 1X phosphate buffer) to prevent background  
661 staining. Anti-DIG-AP Fab fragments were then added followed by a 60 min incubation at room  
662 temperature. BM purple AP substrate (Sigma-Aldrich, 000000011442074001) was used for  
663 colorimetric staining. Sections were stained for 1.5 hours and mounted in Antifading solution  
664 (Citifluor, AF3-25). Slides were viewed with a Leica DMR HC microscope.

665 **Acknowledgements**

666 George Lomonosoff (John Innes Research Centre, Norwich, UK) provided the pEAQ-*HT*  
667 plasmid. Katarina Cankar provided the truncated HMGR (Wageningen University, Wageningen,  
668 The Netherlands). MALDI MSI was conducted at Metabolomics Australia (School of BioSciences,  
669 The University of Melbourne, Australia), a NCRIS initiative under Bioplatforms Australia Pty Ltd.

670

671 (Figure 8)



**Figure 8 A:** Proposed biosynthesis of **1**. *Tg*CYP76AE2 is suggested to catalyze three hydroxylations to obtain epidihydroconstunolide. The intermediates are based on knowledge from the costunolide pathway. **B:** The costunolide pathway is as follows. Step one is GAS (germacrene A synthase (Bouwmeester et al., 2002)) followed by three consecutive hydroxylations by GAO (germacrene A oxidase, CYP71AV2-9, (Nguyen et al., 2010; Cankar et al., 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014)). Finally, a one hydroxylation of C6 by COS (costunolide synthase, CYP71BL2-5, (Ikezawa et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014)) to yield costunolide.

672 **Table 1:**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR results for **1**, **2** and **3**. Samples were analyzed at 300 K. The isolated product **1**  
 673 was dissolved in  $\text{MeCN-d}_3$  (99.8 atom % D), while **2** and **3** were dissolved in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (99.8 atom %  
 674 D).

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
#C	$\delta_{\text{C}}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$ (ppm)
1	128.7	148.7	147.2



2	26.4	110.9	111.2
3	40.6	116.4	114.4
4	137.7	143.5	144.6
5	127.1	54.8	51.9
6	79.3	81.2	81.2
7	46.2	40.6	37.2
8	23.7	18.6	18.9
9	37.7	37.6	32.1
10	139.4	39.0	37.7
11	41.5	41.3	40.6
12	180.6	179.3	178.9
13	10.9	9.2	10.2
14	22.2	18.6	25.5
15	17.4	26.0	26.1

675

676

677 **Table 2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR results for **1**, **2** and **3**. Samples were analyzed at 300 K. The isolated product **1**  
 678 was dissolved in MeCN-d<sub>3</sub> (99.8 atom % D), while **2** and **3** were dissolved in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (99.8 atom %  
 679 D).

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
#H	ppm δ <sub>H</sub> ( <i>J</i> in Hz)	ppm δ <sub>H</sub> ( <i>J</i> in Hz)	ppm δ <sub>H</sub> ( <i>J</i> in Hz)
1	5.00 m, overlaid	5.80 dd, <i>J</i> =17.5, 10.8 Hz, 1 H	5.93 dd, <i>J</i> =17.6, 11.0 Hz, 1 H
2a	2.10 m, overlaid H	4.97 d, <i>J</i> =10.5 Hz, 1 H	4.98 d, <i>J</i> =17.2 Hz, 1 H
2b	2.27 m, overlaid H	4.98 d, <i>J</i> =18.0 Hz, 1 H	4.99 d, <i>J</i> =11.7 Hz, 1 H
3a	2.04 m, overlaid H	5.02 s, 1 H	4.85 s, 1 H
3b	2.23 m, overlaid H	5.07 s, 1 H	4.99 s, 1 H
5	4.98 d, <i>J</i> =10.1, overlaid H	2.13 d, <i>J</i> =2.6 Hz, 1 H	2.56 d, <i>J</i> =4.0 Hz, 1 H
6	5.14 dd, <i>J</i> =9.8, 4.6, 1H	4.45 t, <i>J</i> =3.3 Hz, 1 H	4.50 t, <i>J</i> =4.8 Hz, 1 H
7	2.49 m, overlaid H	2.29 - m, 1 H 2.36	2.57 - m, 1 H 2.65
8	1.59 s		
8a		1.37 qd, <i>J</i> =13.9, 2.90 Hz, 1 H	1.42 - m, 1 H 1.52
8b		1.64 ddd, <i>J</i> =13.5, 6.3, 3.3 Hz, 1 H	1.61 - m overlaid, 1 H 1.67
9			1.56 - m overlaid, 2 H 1.61
9a	1.70 m, overlaid H	1.55 m, overlaid H	
9b	2.45 d, <i>J</i> =13.0, 1H	1.53 m, overlaid H	
11	2.94 m, overlaid H	2.76 quin, <i>J</i> =7.0 Hz, 1 H	2.79 quin, <i>J</i> =7.3 Hz, 1 H
13	1.13 s, 3H	1.21 d, <i>J</i> =7.3 Hz, 3 H	1.22 d, <i>J</i> =7.3 Hz
14	1.53 s, 3H	1.20 s, 3 H	1.03 s, 3 H
15	1.67 s, 3H	1.87 s, 3 H	1.85 s, 3 H

680

681

682 **Table 3.** Calculated and observed masses (incl. error expressed in ppm) of Na and K adducts of  
 683 thapsigargin, epikunzeaol, epidihydrocostunolide and a selection of known guaianolides from *T.*  
 684 *garganica* in the MALDI experiment.

Compound	Mol. Form.	[M+Na] <sup>+</sup>			[M+K] <sup>+</sup>		
		Calc.	Obs.	Error	Calc.	Obs.	Error
Epikunzeaol	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O	245.18759	-	-	261.16152	-	-
Epidihydrocostunolide	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	257.15120	-	-	273.12514	-	-
Nortrilobolide	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	531.22007	531.22110	-1.94	547.19401	547.19380	0.38
Trilobolide	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>38</sub> O <sub>10</sub>	545.23572	545.23370	3.70	561.20966	561.20730	-0.01
Thapsivillosin L	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	617.25685	-	-	633.23079	633.23240	-2.55
Thapsivillosin I	C <sub>31</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	629.25685	629.25830	-2.31	645.23079	645.2327	-2.97
Thapsivillosin J	C <sub>31</sub> H <sub>44</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	631.27250	-	-	647.24644	-	-
Thapsigargin	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>46</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	645.28815	645.2864	2.71	661.26209	661.26040	-0.01
Thapsigargin	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>50</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	673.31945	673.3186	1.26	689.29339	689.2924	1.43
Thapsivillosin C	C <sub>35</sub> H <sub>52</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	687.34588	-	-	703.30904	-	-

685

686

687

688 SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

689

690 Supplemental Table 1. Primers for cloning into the USER version of the vector pEAQ.

691 Supplemental Table 2. In tube *in situ* primers.

692 Supplemental Figure 1. <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of product 1, 2 and 3.

693 Supplemental Figure 2. Cope-rearrangement of 1 upon GC-MS analysis.

694 Supplemental Figure 3. MALDI-MSI analysis of *T. garganica* taproot section and structures of  
 695 metabolites.

696 Supplemental Figure 3-2. MALDI-MSI analysis of *T. garganica* taproot section.

697 Supplemental Figure 4. Alignment for the figure 2 tree.

698

699

700 **Figure legends**

701

702 **Figure 1.** The structure of epikunzeaol and epidihydrocostunolide (**1**). Both metabolites are  
703 suggested intermediates in the thapsigargin pathway in *T. garganica*.

704

705 **Figure 2:** The tree shows the phylogeny of P450s from *Thapsia garganica* (within CYP71 clade)  
706 and cytochromes related to sesquiterpenoid biosynthesis. The notes with *Thapsia* genes are marked  
707 in blue. The only two groups in the tree that can be assigned to a biochemical function are the  
708 germacrene A oxidase group CYP71AVx and the costunolide synthase group CYP71BLx.  
709 However, both groups are from the related species within the Asteraceae family thus cannot be used  
710 in general for functional identification. Only bootstrap values higher than 50 are shown in the tree.

711

712 **Figure 3.** GC-MS analysis of hexane extracts from *N. benthamiana* expressing in **A** *At*HMGR and  
713 *Tg*TPS2 with a GC-MS injection port temperature of 160°C (red) and of 250°C (black), in **B**  
714 *At*HMGR alone (black), *At*HMGR and *Tg*TPS2 (red), *At*HMGR, *Tg*TPS2 and *Tg*CYPAE2 (blue)  
715 with a GC-MS injection port temperature of 250°C. \* Denotes epikunzeaol thermal rearrangement  
716 products. **C:** Mass spectra the elemanolides **2** and **3**.

717

718 **Figure 4: A:** Extracted Ion Chromatograms of epikunzeaol (**1**) [epikunzeaol disaccharide+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z*  
719 569.74 (red) and epidihydrocostunolide [2M+Na]<sup>+</sup> *m/z* 491.32 (blue) of the LC-MS analysis of  
720 methanol extract of *At*HMGR alone, *At*HMGR plus *Tg*TPS2, and *At*HMGR plus *Tg*TPS2 co-  
721 expressed with *Tg*CYP76AE2.

722 **B:** The MS/MS spectrum of the epikunzeaol peak at 18 minutes detected as the epikunzeaol-  
723 disaccharide. The MS spectrum of epidihydrocostunolide at 27 minutes shows a *m/z* of 491.3258  
724 corresponding to a sodium adduct and a dimer of *m/z* 235.1741.

725 **C:** The structure of epikunzeaol disaccharide including the fragmentation pattern.

726

727 **Figure 5:** Thermal rearrangement of **1** into the two compounds **2** and **3**. The Cope rearrangement is  
728 well known for transforming germacradi-1(10),4-dienolides into elemanolides.

729

730 **Figure 6 A:** *In situ* PCR of *Tg*CYP76AE2 and *Tg*STS2 in *Thapsia garganica* L. root cross-  
731 sections. All samples are stained with BM purple; blue/purple colour indicates presence of DIG

732 labelled cDNA; brown indicates the absence of the amplified cDNA target. **1-2:** negative controls  
733 (*TgCYP76AE2*) where reverse transcription (RT) was omitted. **3-4:** detection of *TgCYP76AE2*  
734 mainly in epithelial cells surrounding secretory ducts within vascular cambium. **5-6:** negative  
735 controls (*TgTPS2*) where RT was omitted. **7-8:** detection of *TgTPS2* mainly in epithelial cells  
736 surrounding secretory ducts within vascular cambium as with *TgCYP76AE2*. **9-10:** positive control;  
737 18S ribosomal RNA to show staining in all cell types. **B:** NADI staining of *Thapsia garganica* L.  
738 root cross-sections **11-14:** blue indicates presence of oxygenated or lipophilic compounds (e.g.  
739 terpenoids) concentrated in epithelial cells & secretory ducts. Scale bars represent 100  $\mu\text{m}$ . p =  
740 periderm, ph = phloem, x = xylem, ep = epithelial cells, sd = secretory ducts, vc = vascular  
741 cambium, s = starch grains.

742

743 **Figure 7.** MALDI-MSI analysis of *T. garganica* taproot section. **A:** optical image of taproot section  
744 with sublimed DHB matrix, **B:** distribution of thapsigargin Na adduct,  $[M+Na]^+$   $m/z$  673.3186 (calc.  
745 673.31945, 1.26 ppm error), **C:** distribution of thapsigargin K adduct,  $[M+K]^+$   $m/z$  689.2924 (calc.  
746 689.29339, 1.43 ppm error). Images normalized to RMS and scaled to 0-60 % of maximum signal  
747 intensity using FlexImaging 4.1 to enhance visualization. Results demonstrate thapsigargin to be  
748 localized to concentric circles similar to the pattern of secretory ducts.

749

750 **Figure 8. A:** Proposed biosynthesis of **1**. *TgCYP76AE2* is suggested to catalyze three  
751 hydroxylations to obtain epidihydrocostunolide. The intermediates are based on knowledge from  
752 the costunolide pathway shown in **B. B:** The costunolide pathway. Step one is GAS (germacrene A  
753 synthase (Bouwmeester et al., 2002)) followed by three consecutive hydroxylations by GAO  
754 (germacrene A oxidase, CYP71AV2-9, (Nguyen et al., 2010; Cankar et al., 2011; Ramirez et al.,  
755 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014)). Finally, a hydroxylation of C6 by COS (costunolide synthase,  
756 CYP71BL2-5, (Ikezawa et al., 2011; Liu et al., 2011; Ramirez et al., 2013; Eljounaidi et al., 2014))  
757 to yield costunolide.

758

759



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