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## **ROZPRAWA DOKTORSKA**

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**Funkcje nadtlenoazotynu w odporności liści ziemniaka  
(*Solanum tuberosum* L.) na  
*Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary**

**Functions of peroxy-nitrite in resistance of potato leaves  
(*Solanum tuberosum* L.) to  
*Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary**

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## STRESZCZENIE ROZPRAWY DOKTORSKIEJ

W odpowiedzi na atak patogenicznego mikroorganizmu w komórkach roślinnych dochodzi m.in. do generowania tlenku azotu (NO), co może prowadzić do formowania innych reaktywnych form azotu (RFA), spośród których największe znaczenie biologiczne przypisywane jest nadtlenoazotynowi ( $\text{ONOO}^-$ ). Wiedza dotycząca funkcjonalności tej pochodnej NO u roślin, szczególnie w interakcji roślina – patogen, pozostaje bardzo ograniczona, stąd nadrzędnym celem pracy doktorskiej było zweryfikowanie udziału nadtlenoazotynu oraz poznanie funkcjonalnych modyfikacji wywołanych za pośrednictwem tej reaktywnej formy azotu w odporności liści ziemniaka na *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary. Doświadczenia prowadzono na liściach ziemniaka (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) odmian skrajnie różniących się odpornością na *P. infestans*, lęgniowca będącego sprawcą zarazy ziemniaka. Układ badawczy pozwolił zatem określić, na ile zdarzenia metaboliczne zależne od  $\text{ONOO}^-$  towarzyszą aktywacji skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych w odporności typu ETI indukowanej przez efektory patogena (ang. *Effector-Triggered Immunity*), a na ile odpowiedziom obronnym w odporności określanej jako bazowa PTI (ang. *PAMP-Triggered Immunity*; *PAMP-Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns*), która zaangażowana jest w rozpoznawanie konserwatywnych czynników pochodzących od patogena.

Eksperymenty przeprowadzone w pierwszym etapie badań wykazały, że głównym źródłem biosyntezy NO w liściach ziemniaka jest reduktaza azotanowa (NR), a zależna od NR nadprodukcja NO wraz z akumulacją anionorodnika ponadtlenkowego prowadzi do formowania  $\text{ONOO}^-$  w odpowiedzi na *P. infestans*. Wykorzystując precyzyjne metody detekcji nadtlenoazotynu stwierdzono różnice międzyodmianowe w kinetyce generowanego  $\text{ONOO}^-$ . Odmiana odporna charakteryzowała się wczesnym i okresowym formowaniem tej RFA, natomiast w odmianie podatnej podwyższony poziom  $\text{ONOO}^-$  obserwowano zdecydowanie później tj. dopiero w pierwszej dobie po inokulacji. Poinfekcyjna akumulacja nadtlenoazotynu korelowała w czasie ze wzrostem ekspresji peroksydazy tioredoksyny (*TPx*), wskazując na potencjalne zaangażowanie produktu *TPx* w kontrolę endogennego poziomu  $\text{ONOO}^-$  u obu odmian ziemniaka.

W oparciu o sekwencyjne traktowanie liści odmiany podatnej donorem  $\text{ONOO}^-$  i *P. infestans* stwierdzono, że podwyższony poziom  $\text{ONOO}^-$  we wczesnych godzinach po inokulacji sprzyja ograniczeniu kolonizacji tkanek rośliny-gospodarza przez patogen m.in. na drodze szybszej i bardziej efektywnej akumulacji mRNA dla *PR-1* oraz *PR-2*, uznawanych za kluczowe markery odpowiedzi obronnej rośliny na stres biotyczny.

Poinfekcyjny charakter generowania nadtlenoazotynu odzwierciedlał akumulację nitrowanych białek w liściach obu odmian ziemniaka. Stąd, w odmianie odpornej obserwowano wczesną i przejściową akumulację modyfikowanych *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> białek. Ponadto analizy nitroproteomu liści odmiany odpornej wykazały akumulację białek podobnych do subtylizyny (SBT5.3, SBT1.7) w komórkach otaczających strefę reakcji nadwrażliwości. W toku dalszych analiz nad poszukiwaniem związków modyfikowanych *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> wykazano, że inokulacja liści *P. infestans* prowadzi do nitrowania kwasów nukleinowych tj. RNA i mRNA. W oparciu o detekcję 8-nitroguaniny, po raz pierwszy w świecie roślin udokumentowano, obecność nitro-RNA oraz nitro-mRNA. Analiza porównawcza pomiędzy genotypem odpornym a podatnym wskazała na okresowy, istotnie wyższy poziom nitrowanego RNA oraz mRNA w inokulowanych liściach odmiany odpornej. Ponadto, zastosowanie zmiataczy endogennego ONOO<sup>-</sup> prowadziło do obniżenia poziomu nitrowanego mRNA oraz ograniczenia liczby komórek wykazujących reakcję TUNEL-pozytywną.

Podsumowując uzyskane wyniki należy stwierdzić, iż wczesna i okresowa, akumulacja ONOO<sup>-</sup> w liściach ziemniaka odgrywa istotną rolę w odporności na *P. infestans*, zarówno poprzez selektywne nitrowanie białek, jak i kwasów nukleinowych, zaangażowanych w regulację zasięgu programowanej śmierci komórek ziemniaka oraz ekspresji genów *PRs*.

## SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS

As a reaction to the attack of pathogenic microorganism plant cells generate nitric oxide (NO), which may lead to the formation of other reactive nitrogen species (RNS), among which the greatest biological significance is attributed to peroxynitrite ( $\text{ONOO}^-$ ). As far as plants are concerned the knowledge related to the functionality of this NO-derivative, particularly during a plant-pathogen interaction remains very limited, hence, the overriding aim of the doctoral thesis was to verify participation of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  and the recognition of the functional modifications caused by the RNS in the resistance phenomenon of potato leaves to *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary. Experiments were conducted on the potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) leaves of cultivars, whose resistance radically differs to *P. infestans*, an oomycete pathogen causing late blight disease. Thus, the research system allowed to determine to what extent  $\text{ONOO}^-$ -dependent metabolic events accompany effective defense responses in effector-triggered immunity (ETI) as well as the extent of the defense during pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) that trigger immunity (PTI) which is involved in the recognition of conserved pathogen-derived factors.

Experiments carried out in the first stage of the study showed that nitrate reductase (NR) is the main source of NO biosynthesis in potato leaves. Moreover, NR-dependent NO overproduction together with the accumulation of superoxide anion leads to the formation of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  in response to *P. infestans*. The adoption of precise  $\text{ONOO}^-$  detection methods, has led to recognizing the contrasting kinetics of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  generation in both potato cultivars. The resistant genotype was characterized by the early and transient formation of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  whereas in the susceptible one, an elevated level of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  was observed much later, i.e. after the first 24 hours after the inoculation. The postinfectious  $\text{ONOO}^-$  accumulation was correlated in time with thioredoxin peroxidase (*TPx*) gene expression, potentially implicating TPx in the control of endogenous  $\text{ONOO}^-$  in both potato cultivars.

The next step of the study subjected the susceptible potato leaves to the sequential treatment with the  $\text{ONOO}^-$  donor and *P. infestans* it has revealed that an elevated level of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  in the early stages after inoculation is conducive to slowing down colonization of the host tissues by the pathogen, mainly *via* a faster and stronger up-regulation of *PR-1* and *PR-2* mRNA level, which are considered to be key markers of the plant's defense against the pathogen.

The post-infectious nature of the  $\text{ONOO}^-$  formation reflected the accumulation of nitrated proteins in the leaves of both potato cultivars. Hence, an early and transient accumulation of the  $\text{ONOO}^-$ -modified proteins was observed in the resistant genotype.



Moreover, the analyses of nitroproteome in leaves of the resistant cultivar have indicated the accumulation of subtilisin-like proteins (SBT5.3, SBT1.7) in the cells which surrounded the hypersensitive reaction zone. In the course of further analysis to find compounds modified *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup>, it was revealed that the inoculation of leaves by *P. infestans* leads to nucleic acids nitration, i.e. RNA and mRNA. Based on the 8-nitroguanine detection, the presence of nitro-RNA and nitro-mRNA was documented, for the first time, in plants. The comparative analysis has indicated a transient and significantly higher level of nitrated RNA and mRNA in the leaves of resistant genotype after inoculation. Furthermore, the use of endogenous ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavengers has led to lowering the level of nitrated mRNA and reducing the number of cells exhibiting a TUNEL-positive reaction.

To summarise the obtained results, it should be noted that the early and transient accumulation of ONOO<sup>-</sup> in the potato leaves plays a crucial role in the resistance to *P. infestans*, both by the selective nitration of proteins as well as nucleic acids involved in the regulation of the programmed cell death range and the expression of *PR* genes.

## WYKAZ PUBLIKACJI WCHODZĄCYCH W SKŁAD ROZPRAWY DOKTORSKIEJ

### Funkcje nadtlenoazotynu w odporności liści ziemniaka (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) na *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary

#### Publikacja 1.

Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., **Izbiańska K.** (2016) The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Physiology and Biochemistry*, 108: 468–477 (**IF=2,928; 35 pkt MNiSW**).

#### Publikacja 2.

Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., Floryszak-Wieczorek J., **Izbiańska K.**, Gzyl J., Jelonek T. (2016) Implication of peroxynitrite in defence responses of potato to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Pathology*, 65: 754–766 (**IF=2,383; 35 pkt MNiSW**).

#### Publikacja 3.

**Izbiańska K.**, Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Gajewska J., Meller B., Kuźnicki D., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M. (2018) RNA and mRNA nitration as a novel metabolic link in potato immune response to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 9: 672 (**IF=3,678; 40 pkt MNiSW**).

## WPROWADZENIE

Szybka aktywacja szlaków przekazywania sygnałów, wyzwalająca szeroki wachlarz odpowiedzi obronnych, jest jedną z pierwszych reakcji uruchamianych przez roślinę w odpowiedzi na atak patogena. Dzięki receptorom błonowym PRR (ang. *Pattern Recognition Receptors*), rozpoznającym tzw. wzorce molekularne powiązane z patogenami PAMP (ang. *Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns*) dochodzi do uruchomienia odporności określanej jako bazowa lub podstawowa – PTI (ang. *PAMP-Triggered Immunity*), która może przejawiać się m.in. wybuchem tlenowym, depozycją kalozy, bądź indukcją genów związanych z patogenezą (Świątek i Śliwka, 2011). Z kolei, rozpoznanie czynników awirulencji patogena specyficznych względem danego gospodarza, tzw. efektorów, prowadzi do uruchomienia odporności indukowanej przez efekторы – ETI (ang. *Effector-Triggered Immunity*). Istotą odporności typu ETI jest aktywacja roślinnych genów odporności *R*, których produkty, białka *R*, są wewnątrzkomórkowymi receptorami specyficznymi oddziałującymi z produktami genów awirulencji patogenów. W efekcie tego oddziaływania dochodzi do uruchomienia szlaku transdukcji sygnału, który prowadzi do reakcji nadwrażliwości (ang. *Hypersensitive Response*, HR) (Świątek i Śliwka, 2011).

Badania ostatnich 20 lat wykazały, że w inicjowaniu i koordynowaniu zdarzeń obronnych, kluczową rolę odgrywa tlenek azotu (NO) – cząsteczka sygnałowa, która dzięki prostocie budowy i właściwościom fizykochemicznym może oddziaływać na wiele procesów wewnątrzkomórkowych. Na potwierdzenie, sygnałową funkcję NO udokumentowano empirycznie, zarówno w odporności roślin typu PTI, jak i w odporności indukowanej przez efekторы ETI (m.in. Leitner i in., 2009; Schlicht i Kombrink, 2013; Bellin i in., 2013; Trapet i in., 2015; Floryszak-Wieczorek i Arasimowicz-Jelonek, 2016). Dowiedziono również, że wzmożone generowanie NO, obserwowane już w pierwszych minutach po rozpoznaniu patogena, może prowadzić do formowania innych reaktywnych form azotu (RFA), co istotnie wpływa na stan redoks komórki i dalszą sekwencję uruchamianych zdarzeń metabolicznych (Floryszak-Wieczorek i Arasimowicz-Jelonek, 2016).

Spośród wszystkich RFA największe znaczenie biologiczne, poza NO, przypisywane jest nadtlenoazotynowi (ONOO<sup>-</sup>). Pod względem biochemicznym ONOO<sup>-</sup> jest silnym utleniaczem oraz związkem nitrującym, który powstaje w wyniku gwałtownej reakcji pomiędzy NO, a anionorodnikiem ponadtlenkowym (O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>). Ze względu na krótki czas półtrwania obu cząsteczek macierzystych (NO – 3-5 sekund; O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup> – kilka milisekund), formowanie nadtlenoazotynu wymaga równoczesnego tworzenia obu reagujących ze sobą rodników, obecnych w tych samych strukturach komórkowych (Arasimowicz-Jelonek

i Floryszak-Wieczorek, 2011). Jak dotąd, mechanizm działania nadtlenoazotynu został stosunkowo dobrze poznany tylko w odniesieniu do komórek zwierzęcych i ludzkich, u których cząsteczka ta, poprzez charakterystyczne reakcje nitrowania białek, kwasów tłuszczowych oraz kwasów nukleinowych, wiązana jest głównie ze stresem nitrooksydacyjnym, który towarzyszy stanom patofizjologicznym o różnym podłożu.

W świecie roślin wyższych, wiedza dotycząca pochodnych NO, pozostaje ciągle bardzo fragmentaryczna. Chociaż obecność *in vivo* ONOO<sup>-</sup> została udokumentowana w kilku układach eksperymentalnych (m.in. Chaki i in., 2009; Gauples i in., 2011; Arasimowicz-Jelonek i in., 2012; Corpas i Barroso, 2014; Krasuska i in., 2014; Floryszak-Wieczorek i Arasimowicz-Jelonek, 2016; Gzyl i in., 2016; Krasuska i in., 2017), to jednak rola tej molekuly u roślin pozostaje niewyjaśniona. Niemniej jednak, pierwsze prace doświadczalne, w których zastosowano podejście farmakologiczne dostarczyły dowodów, iż w przeciwieństwie do komórek zwierzęcych nadtlenoazotyn nie jest tak toksyczny dla komórek roślinnych. Na potwierdzenie, ekspozycja komórek soi na stężenie 1 mM egzogenego ONOO<sup>-</sup> nie spowodowała ich śmierci, podczas gdy stężenie nadtlenoazotynu 1000 razy niższe (1 μM) okazało się być letalne dla komórek zwierzęcych (Delledonne i in., 2001). Udokumentowano ponadto, że poddanie roślin *Arabidopsis* działaniu wysokiego stężenia ONOO<sup>-</sup> (3 mM), nie powoduje śmierci komórek (pomimo obserwowanego wzrostu nitrowanych białek) zarówno u formy dzikiej, jak i mutantów linii PrxII E z obniżoną ekspresją *PrxII E*, wykazującą aktywność reduktazy nadtlenoazotynu (Romero-Puertas i in., 2007). Dowiedziono również, że wzbogacenie komórek korzeni łubinu w egzogeny ONOO<sup>-</sup> (1 mM) podczas stresu kadmowego, wręcz sprzyjało ich żywotności (Arasimowicz-Jelonek i in., 2012). Dostępne dane literaturowe wskazują, że ONOO<sup>-</sup> może być formowany także w warunkach fizjologicznych, jako nieodłączny element metabolizmu zdrowych komórek, ponieważ organizmy roślinne są ewolucyjnie wyposażone w szerokie spektrum mechanizmów unieczyniających nadmiar ONOO<sup>-</sup> (m.in. Romero-Puertas i in., 2007; Arasimowicz-Jelonek i Floryszak-Wieczorek, 2011). Najnowsze badania opublikowane przez Gzyl i in. (2016) wykazały, że selektywne nitrowanie wolnych reszt tyrozynowych w białkach *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> stanowi ważny mechanizm regulujący aktywność białek w komórkach korzeni siewek soi, zarówno w warunkach fizjologicznych, jak i w trakcie działania stresu kadmowego. Również Serrano i in. (2012) stwierdzili, iż to właśnie nadtlenoazotyn, poprzez nitrowanie białek, funkcjonuje jako cząsteczka sygnałowa w aktywacji programowanej śmierci komórek (PCD), w wywołanej reakcji samoniezdgodności pyłku *Olea europaea* L. Stosunkowo niedawno udokumentowano, że nitrowanie kwasów tłuszczowych *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> prowadzi także u roślin, do generowania biologicznie aktywnych

nitrolipidów, które mogą uczestniczyć w transdukcji sygnału (m.in., jako endogenne źródło NO), w odpowiedzi *Arabidopsis thaliana* na różne abiotyczne czynniki stresowe (Mata-Pérez i in., 2016).

Powyższe wyniki badań wskazują, iż generowanie ONOO<sup>-</sup> w organizmach roślinnych jest nie tylko markerem stresu nitrozacyjnego, ale poprzez selektywne nitrowanie biocząsteczek, może stanowić ważny modulator szlaków sygnałowych, bądź metabolicznych, uruchamianych zarówno w procesach rozwojowych, jak i w reakcji roślin na różne stresse środowiskowe. Należy podkreślić, że wiedza dotycząca roli ONOO<sup>-</sup> i związków modyfikowanych za pośrednictwem nadtlenoazotynu, szczególnie w interakcji roślina – patogen, jest ograniczona. Do momentu podjęcia badań, będących celem niniejszej rozprawy, obecność *in vivo* ONOO<sup>-</sup> w odpowiedzi na stres biotyczny, udokumentowano w zaledwie dwóch układach eksperymentalnych (Saito i in., 2006; Gauples i in., 2011; Bellini i in., 2016).

Zaraza ziemniaka, powodowana przez mikroorganizm z grupy *Chromista*, gromady *Oomycetes* – *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary, jest najważniejszą, pod względem ponoszonych strat ekonomicznych, chorobą ziemniaka (*Solanum tuberosum* L.). Towarzyszy uprawom ziemniaka na całym świecie, przynosząc obniżenie lub całkowitą utratę plonu i generując wysokie koszty ochrony chemicznej upraw. Jak wiadomo, drugi komponent badanej interakcji – ziemniak, to gatunek o niezmiernie istotnym znaczeniu gospodarczym w skali globalnej, gdyż po ryżu, pszenicy i kukurydzy jest najważniejszą rośliną uprawną na świecie. Obecnie łączny koszt ochrony chemicznej przed *P. infestans* oraz strat przez nią powodowanych jest szacowany, w samej tylko Europie, na ponad miliard euro rocznie. Co więcej, stosowane fungicydy nie gwarantują stuprocentowej skuteczności w ochronie przed zarazą oraz nie pozostają obojętne dla środowiska. W celu zmniejszenia zakresu ochrony chemicznej konieczna jest hodowla odpornych na *P. infestans* odmian ziemniaka. Do tej pory, zidentyfikowano kilkadziesiąt *R* genów odporności na zarazę, wprowadzonych do odmian uprawnych z różnych dzikich gatunków *Solanum* (Rodewald i Trognitz, 2013). Niestety patogen przejawia znaczące zdolności do przełamania odporności uwarunkowanej mechanizmem ETI opartym o białka R. Wynika to z niestabilności genomu *P. infestans* oraz możliwości rozmnażania płciowego form kojarzeniowych A1 i A2, co prowadzi finalnie do zmian w populacji i powstawania nowych, często bardziej agresywnych ras patogena (Raffaele i in., 2010). Wobec braku odmian zdecydowanie odpornych na ten patogen oraz w związku z uodparnianiem się izolatów *P. infestans* na komercyjnie stosowane fungicydy, niezwykle ważne stają się wszelkie próby poznania oraz wzmocnienia naturalnej odporności rośliny-gospodarza.

**Stąd, nadrzędnym celem przedstawionej rozprawy doktorskiej było zweryfikowanie udziału nadtlenoazotynu oraz poznanie funkcjonalnych modyfikacji wywołanych za pośrednictwem tej reaktywnej formy azotu, w odporności liści ziemniaka na zarazę powodowaną przez *Phytophthora infestans*.**

Przyjęto, że cel ten zostanie osiągnięty poprzez realizację 3 głównych zadań badawczych.

- (1) Określenie źródła biosyntezy NO oraz monitorowanie generowania NO i  $O_2^{\cdot-}$  wraz z  $ONOO^-$  w liściach ziemniaka inokulowanych *P. infestans*, przy wykorzystaniu wysoce precyzyjnych technik pomiarowych, dających obraz generowania RFA w czasie rzeczywistym.
- (2) Poszukiwanie korelacji pomiędzy akumulacją  $ONOO^-$ , a poziomem ekspresji genów kodujących kluczowe markery odporności roślin, tj. PR-1, PR-2 (beta-1,3-glukanazę) oraz PR-3 (chitynazę).
- (3) Detekcję oraz identyfikację związków modyfikowanych za pośrednictwem  $ONOO^-$  w ziemniaku oraz wytypowanie tych modyfikacji, które mają istotny wpływ na odporność liści względem patogena.

Wszystkie doświadczenia prowadzono na odciętych liściach ziemniaka (*Solanum tuberosum* L.), odmian skrajnie różniących się odpornością na hemibiotroficzny patogen *Phytophthora infestans* (izolat 1.3.4.7.10.11; MP 946). Wykorzystana w doświadczeniach odmiana podatna Bintje nie posiada *R*-genów odporności. Natomiast, odmiany odporne posiadają w swym genomie zidentyfikowane *R*-geny odporności tj. *R1* i *R2-like* (Bzura – Gebhardt i in., 2004; Plich i in., 2015) oraz *R3a*, *R3b*, *R4*, *Rpi-Smira1* i *Rpi-Smira2* (Sarlo Mira – Rietman i in., 2012) i wykazują reakcję nadwrażliwości względem MP 946. Wobec powyższego, układ badawczy pozwolił określić, na ile zdarzenia metaboliczne zależne od  $ONOO^-$  towarzyszą aktywacji skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych w odporności typu ETI, a na ile odpowiedziom obronnym podczas PTI.

## OMÓWIENIE WYNIKÓW

Niewątpliwie dużą przeszkodą w wyjaśnieniu funkcji sygnałowej oraz regulacyjnej NO/ONOO<sup>-</sup> w odporności roślin, jest brak w pełni rozpoznanych źródeł syntezy NO. Najczęściej wyróżnia się trzy główne możliwości powstawania NO w organizmach roślinnych, tj.: szlak zależny od L-argininy z udziałem potencjalnej syntazy tlenu azotu typu ssaczego (NOS-like), szlak zależny od azotynów z udziałem reduktazy azotanowej (NR) oraz nieenzymatyczną drogę przekształcania azotynów do NO (m.in. Gupta i in., 2011; Röszer, 2014; Jeandroz i in., 2016). **Wobec powyższego, pierwszym etapem pracy doktorskiej było uzyskanie odpowiedzi na pytanie, co odpowiada za syntezę NO w infekowanych patogenem liściach ziemniaka?** Przeprowadzone doświadczenia wykazały, że wczesne i wzmożone generowanie NO, obserwowane w liściach ziemniaka w odpowiedzi na *P. infestans*, było ściśle skorelowane w czasie, zarówno ze wzrostem poziomu transkryptu genu *NR*, jak i zwiększeniem aktywności enzymatycznej kodowanego białka (**Publikacja 1, Fig. 3 A-B**). Niezależne zastosowanie specyficznych inhibitorów syntezy NO wykazało istotne, poinfekcyjne blokowanie generowania tej molekuly w odpowiedzi na wolframian (inhibitor NR) oraz nieznaczne hamowanie przez podanie L-NAME (ester metylowy L-N<sup>G</sup>-nitroargininy; inhibitor syntazy tlenu azotu – NOS-like). Tym samym uzyskane wyniki wykazały, że reduktaza azotanowa jest głównym źródłem NO w liściach ziemniaka inokulowanych *P. infestans* (**Publikacja 1, Fig. 2**). Podobnie, jak opisano wcześniej w bulwach ziemniaka infekowanych *P. infestans* (Yamamoto i in., 2003).

Chociaż stosunkowo dawno, Alamillo i Garcia-Olmedo (2001) zasugerowali już udział ONOO<sup>-</sup> w zamieraniu komórek podczas reakcji nadwrażliwości, obserwowanej w odpowiedzi *Arabidopsis* na awirulentny szczep *Pseudomonas syringae*, to jednak obecność *in vivo* tej RFA odnotowano dotychczas jedynie we wczesnych etapach odpowiedzi komórek tytoniu BY-2 na elicytor INF1, pochodzący z *P. infestans* (Saito i in., 2006) oraz liści *Arabidopsis thaliana* na awirulentny szczep bakterii *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *tomato* (Gaupels i in., 2011; Bellini i in., 2016). **Chcąc zatem sprawdzić, jak kształtuje się status metaboliczny NO w liściach ziemniaka inokulowanych *P. infestans*, w kolejnym etapie badań przeprowadzono analizę generowania NO i O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> – cząsteczek macierzystych nadtlenoazotynu, jak również zbadano poziom samego ONOO<sup>-</sup>.** Wykorzystując wysoce specyficzny fluorochrom Cu-FL (czułość detekcji NO na poziomie 100 pikomoli), stwierdzono dwufazowy przebieg generowania NO w infekowanych liściach odmiany odpornej. Pierwszy, wczesny wybuch NO, odnotowano pomiędzy 1 a 3 godziną po inokulacji

(hpi), drugi, nieco słabszy, w 24 hpi. W odmianie podatnej generowanie NO było zdecydowanie niższe i opóźnione w czasie, w stosunku do odmiany odpornej, osiągając maksimum w 6 hpi (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 2**). W odniesieniu do anionorodnika ponadtlenkowego stwierdzono od 1 hpi stopniowy wzrost generowania w obu odmianach (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 3**).

Różnice międzyodmianowe odnotowano także w kinetyce formowania ONOO<sup>-</sup>, która była skorelowana w czasie z akumulacją NO i O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>. Posługując się dwoma wysoce czułymi metodami ilościowej detekcji ONOO<sup>-</sup> (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 1a-b** oraz **Publikacja 3, Fig. 1**) wykazano poinfekcyjne generowanie ONOO<sup>-</sup> w liściach obu genotypów ziemniaka. Przy czym odmiana odporna, podobnie jak w przypadku NO, charakteryzowała się wczesnym (do 6 hpi) i wzmożonym formowaniem tej RFA (**Publikacja 2 i Publikacja 3**). Ponadto rejestracja generowania ONOO<sup>-</sup> w kolejnych dobach po inokulacji wykazała obecność drugiego, słabszego „wybuchu” tej RFA w 72 hpi (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 1A**). W przypadku odmiany podatnej istotnie wyższą akumulację nadtlenoazotynu odnotowano dopiero w 24 hpi (**Publikacja 2 i Publikacja 3**). Równocześnie przeprowadzona analiza cytochemiczna wykazała, iż wzmożone generowanie ONOO<sup>-</sup> było zlokalizowane przede wszystkim w komórkach epidermy oraz miękiszu palisadowym i gąbczastym (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 1c-f**). Obecność ONOO<sup>-</sup> obserwowano również w zdrowych, nieinfekowanych liściach obu odmian ziemniaka, jakkolwiek była ona ograniczona tylko do nielicznych komórek parenchymatycznych (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 1g-h**).

W celu utrzymania homeostazy redoks w komórce roślinnej narażonej na stres biotyczny, wczesnemu generowaniu RFA oraz reaktywnych form tlenu (RFT) powinna towarzyszyć aktywacja systemu antyoksydacyjnego. Z szeregu roślinnych antyutleniaczy na szczególną uwagę, w kontekście poinfekcyjnego formowania nadtlenoazotynu w liściach ziemniaka, zasługują peroksydazy tioredoksyn (TPx). **Stąd, w kolejnym etapie badań przeprowadzono analizę ekspresji genu peroksydazy tioredoksyny (TPx), którego produkt, jak wskazuje najnowsza literatura, może stanowić bardzo istotny element mechanizmów kontrolujących endogenne poziomy ONOO<sup>-</sup> (Ferrer-Sueta i in., 2018).** W rezultacie wykazano, że zwiększenie puli ONOO<sup>-</sup> poprzez traktowanie donorem ONOO<sup>-</sup> (3-morfolino-sydnonimina, SIN-1) zdrowych liści obu odmian ziemniaka, istotnie indukowało ekspresję TPx już w pierwszych godzinach po potraktowaniu (**Publikacja 2, Fig. S1**). Co więcej, wzmożona akumulacja ONOO<sup>-</sup>, w odpowiedzi na *P. infestans*, była skorelowana w czasie z istotnym zwiększeniem ekspresji TPx u obu odmian ziemniaka (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 4 a-b**).



Ogólnie wiadomo, że w zainfekowanych tkankach akumulacja białek związanych z patogenezą (PRs; ang. *Pathogenesis-Related Proteins*) stanowi efektywną linię obrony uruchamianą przez rośliny w odpowiedzi na atak patogenów. Już pierwsze prace eksperymentalne dotyczące metabolizmu NO u roślin wykazały, iż podanie donora ONOO<sup>-</sup> powoduje w liściach tytoniu wzrost ekspresji genu kodującego białko PR-1, uznawane za kluczowy marker odpowiedzi obronnej rośliny (Durner i in., 1998). **Zatem, w celu określenia potencjalnego udziału nadtlenoazotynu w uruchamianiu odpowiedzi obronnych, w kolejnym etapie badań, wykorzystano wyłącznie liście odmiany podatnej, które traktowano donorem ONOO<sup>-</sup> w postaci SIN-1.** Uzyskane dane wykazały, że egzogenne ONOO<sup>-</sup> indukuje ekspresję *PR-1* oraz *PR-2*, począwszy od 3 godziny po potraktowaniu (**Publikacja 2, Fig. S2**). Ponadto sekwencyjne traktowanie liści odmiany podatnej donorem ONOO<sup>-</sup> i *P. infestans* powodowało szybszą i wzmożoną indukcję genów kodujących białka PR skorelowaną z ograniczoną kolonizacją tkanek rośliny-gospodarza (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 6 i Fig. 5**). Zwiększonej ekspresji *PR-1*, *PR-2* oraz *PR-3* nie zaobserwowano pod wpływem sekwencyjnego oddziaływania zmiatacza ONOO<sup>-</sup> i *P. infestans*, co jednoznacznie potwierdziło udział tej RFA w regulacji ekspresji genów kodujących białka PR (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 6**).

Selektywne nitrowanie biocząsteczek *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> może być ważnym mechanizmem regulatorowym, wpływającym na wewnątrzkomórkowe szlaki przekazywania sygnałów zależne od NO. Należy jednak podkreślić, że zjawisko nitrowania biocząsteczek za pośrednictwem ONOO<sup>-</sup> u roślin jest nowym, zasygnalizowanym jedynie obszarem badań w metabolizmie NO, wymagającym weryfikacji eksperymentalnej. **Stąd też kolejną istotną kwestią podjętą w niniejszej pracy było uzyskanie odpowiedzi na pytanie, czy i w jakim stopniu akumulacja nitrowanych za pośrednictwem ONOO<sup>-</sup> związków w liściach ziemniaka, sprzyja uruchamianiu skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych względem *P. infestans*?**

Reakcją charakterystyczną i jednocześnie najlepiej rozpoznaną dla ONOO<sup>-</sup> jest nitrowanie wolnych reszt tyrozynowych w białkach, prowadzące do zmiany ich struktury i aktywności katalitycznej. W odniesieniu do roślin, dostępne dane literaturowe wskazują, iż najczęstszą konsekwencją tego procesu jest utrata funkcji modyfikowanego białka (Kolbert i in., 2017). Niemniej jednak, w przypadku zwierząt eksperymentalnie dowiedziono, że nitrowanie tyrozyny może prowadzić również do wzmocnienia aktywności katalitycznej białka (Yeo i in., 2015). Przeprowadzone analizy nitroproteomu wykazały, że liście odmiany podatnej podlegały silnemu nitrowaniu w następstwie infekcji, co może świadczyć

o niekontrolowanej nadprodukcji RFA, prowadzącej do stresu nitrozacyjnego. Wśród białek, które zidentyfikowano jako podlegające wzmożonemu nitrowaniu w trakcie rozwoju choroby (w 24 i 48 hpi), były białka zaangażowane w podstawowe procesy metaboliczne takie jak translacja, fotosynteza czy glikoliza (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 7b i Tab. 2**). Podobnej tendencji nie obserwowano w przypadku odmiany odpornej w 24 i 48 hpi. Wręcz przeciwnie, odnotowano obniżoną akumulację nitrowanych białek związanych z odpowiedziami obronnymi, w tym: katalazę, peroksydazę anionową, S-transferazę glutationową oraz białka z grupy PR (beta-1,3-glukanazę oraz chitynazę) (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 7a i Tab. 2**).

Szczególnie istotne znaczenie w kontekście uruchamiania skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych, w badanym układzie eksperymentalnym, może mieć nitrowanie beta-1,3-glukanazy należącej do rodziny białek PR-2. Jak powszechnie wiadomo, enzym ten odpowiedzialny jest za hydrolizę glukanów, będących głównym składnikiem ściany komórkowej grzybopodobnych lęgniowców. Zatem precyzyjna regulacja aktywności beta-1,3-glukanazy może potencjalnie przekładać się na ograniczenie porażenia rośliny przez *P. infestans*. Powyższa obserwacja stała się podstawą do dalszych dociekań naukowych nad funkcjonalnością tej potranslacyjnej modyfikacji, w regulacji aktywności kluczowych białek odporności roślin i zaowocowała projektem badawczym PRELUDIUM 12 pt. „Analiza jakościowa i funkcjonalna nitrowanej beta-1,3-glukanazy w odporności liści ziemniaka na *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary”. Przeprowadzone dotychczas badania, z wykorzystaniem donora nadtlenoazotynu oraz rekombinowanej beta-1,3-glukanazy, jednoznacznie potwierdzają, że enzym ten podlega nitrowaniu. Natomiast efektem tej reakcji jest hamowanie aktywności katalitycznej białka, co może mieć bardzo istotne znaczenie w inaktywacji *P. infestans*. Otrzymane wyniki zostały zaprezentowane podczas międzynarodowej konferencji dotyczącej biologii NO u roślin (Izbiańska i in., 2018; 7<sup>th</sup> *Plant Nitric Oxide International Meeting*; Nicea, Francja).

Obok wspomnianych powyżej zmian, w profilu nitroproteomu liści odmiany odpornej stwierdzono pojawienie się dodatkowego prążka (B13), który zawierał białka podobne do subtylizyny o aktywności proteaz serynowych (SBT5.3 i SBT1.7) (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 7a i Tab. 2**). Dodatkowy eksperyment obejmujący punktową inokulację liści, a tym samym umożliwiający precyzyjną ocenę zmian w strefie reakcji nadwrażliwości i jej okolicy, wykazał podwyższoną akumulację nitrowanych białek, zidentyfikowanych jako proteazy podobne do subtylizyny (tj. SBT5.3 i SBT1.7), jedynie w strefie okalającej HR. Ponadto akumulacja wspomnianych nitrowanych proteaz korelowała z hamowaniem ich aktywności proteolitycznej (**Publikacja 3 Fig. 5A-D, Fig. S1 oraz Tab. S1**). Dowiedziono wcześniej, że

subtylizyny mogą pełnić funkcję enzymów egzekutorowych – kaspaz (Fernández i in., 2015), dlatego obecnie wnioskuje się, że nitrowanie tych białek i w konsekwencji hamowanie ich aktywności proteolitycznej, może mieć szczególnie istotne znaczenie w kontroli zasięgu aktywnego zamierania komórek ziemniaka. Ponadto, analiza ilościowa ogólnej puli nitrowanych białek, przy wykorzystaniu specyficznych testów ELISA, potwierdziła, że wzmożona akumulacja nitrowanych białek ściśle korelowała w czasie z tempem generowanego ONOO<sup>-</sup> w infekowanych liściach obu odmian ziemniaka (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 4A-B**). Należy podkreślić, że w odmianie odpornej wzrost ogólnej puli nitrowanych białek odnotowano zarówno w trakcie pierwszego (1-6 hpi), jak i po drugim wybuchu ONOO<sup>-</sup> (72 hpi) (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 4A**). Uzyskane wyniki wykazały także obecność nitrowanych białek w zdrowych, nieinfekowanych liściach obu odmian ziemniaka. Zatem stanowi to kolejny dowód na to, że zjawisko nitrowania *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> jest fizjologiczną modyfikacją potranslacyjną białek (**Publikacja 2, Fig. 7**).

**W toku dalszych analiz nad poszukiwaniem związków modyfikowanych *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> wykazano, że inokulacja liści *P. infestans* prowadziła również do nitrowania RNA oraz mRNA. Nitrowanie puli RNA i mRNA *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> zostało wykazane na podstawie analizy poziomu akumulacji 8-nitroguaniny, specyficznego markera nitrowania nukleotydów. Należy podkreślić, że jest to pierwsze doniesienie literaturowe, dokumentujące obecność tej modyfikacji w organizmach roślinnych (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 3**). W przypadku odmiany odpornej stwierdzono stukrotnie wyższy poziom nitrowanego RNA, począwszy od pierwszej godziny po inokulacji, przy czym podobną tendencję obserwowano także w przypadku puli izolowanego mRNA. Według najnowszych badań, modyfikacje mRNA mogą stanowić jeden z mechanizmów regulacji ekspresji genów, a tym samym wpływać na poziom kodowanych przez nie białek (Gilbert i in., 2016; Chmielowska-Bąk i in., 2018). Dalsze analizy wykazały, że odnotowany w odmianie odpornej, wysoki poziom nitrowanego RNA i mRNA towarzyszył aktywnemu zamieraniu jąder komórek liści atakowanych przez *P. infestans*, co wykazała reakcja TUNEL dając wynik pozytywny. W ten sposób potwierdzono, że w komórkach podlegających programowanej śmierci, czyli podczas HR dochodzi do akumulacji nitrowanych białek tj. białek (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 5a**) oraz kwasów nukleinowych (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 3C,E i Fig. 2a**). Natomiast w odmianie podatnej, istotny wzrost poziomu nitrowanego RNA/mRNA stwierdzono dopiero w późniejszych stadiach rozwoju choroby (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 3D,F**). Na podstawie uzyskanych wyników można zatem wnioskować, że nitrowanie RNA/mRNA u roślin jest nie tylko markerem uszkodzeń kwasów nukleinowych wywołanych przez akumulację ONOO<sup>-</sup>, ale może**

stanowiąc wysoce selektywny proces potranskrypcyjnej regulacji ekspresji genów zaangażowanych w uruchamianie i/lub regulację śmierci komórek podczas HR. Na potwierdzenie, zastosowanie zmiataczy endogennego ONOO<sup>-</sup> wyraźnie ograniczało liczbę komórek zamierających aktywnie, a jednocześnie obniżeniu ulegał poziom nitrowanego mRNA (**Publikacja 3, Fig. 2b-c**). Uzyskane wyniki potwierdzają zatem hipotezę zaproponowaną przez Alamillo i Garcia-Olmedo (2001), że nadtlenoazotyn, obok NO i RFT, uczestniczy w programowanej śmierci komórek podczas reakcji nadwrażliwości.

## WNIOSKI

Badania nad poznaniem funkcji nadtlenoazotynu w odporności liści ziemniaka na *Phytophthora infestans* prowadzą do następujących konkluzji:

- 1) Reduktaza azotanowa stanowi główne źródło biosyntezy NO w liściach ziemniaka.
- 2) Generowanie tlenu azotu oraz anionorodnika ponadtlenkowego w miejscu bezpośredniego kontaktu patogena z tkanką liścia prowadzi do formowania nadtlenoazotynu, jednakże kinetyka i natężenie tej reakcji jest uzależnione od genotypu ziemniaka. Odmiana odporna charakteryzowała się wczesnym i okresowym generowaniem ONOO<sup>-</sup>, któremu towarzyszył istotny wzrost akumulacji NO i O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>. Z kolei w odmianie podatnej wzmożone generowanie ONOO<sup>-</sup> obserwowano dopiero od pierwszej doby po infekcji.
- 3) Analiza ekspresji genu peroksydazy tioredoksyny na poziomie akumulacji transkryptu wskazała, że TPx w liściach ziemniaka może pełnić rolę modulatora poziomu ONOO<sup>-</sup>.
- 4) Poinfekcyjna akumulacja nitrowanych białek, w liściach obu odmian ziemniaka odzwierciedlała charakter generowania ONOO<sup>-</sup>. Stąd, wczesna i przejściowa akumulacja modyfikowanych *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup> białek w odmianie odpornej, wskazuje na możliwość okresowej zmiany funkcjonalnej tych białek. Natomiast wzrost puli nitrowanych białek odnotowany w kolejnych godzinach po inokulacji w odmianie podatnej, w połączeniu z nadprodukcją RFA, odzwierciedla stres nitro-oksydacyjny sprzyjający rozwojowi choroby.
- 5) Przeprowadzona równoległe analiza nitroproteomu w komórkach otaczających strefę HR wykazała podwyższoną ekspresję białek podobnych do subtylizyny (SBT5.3, SBT1.7), co korelowało z hamowaniem ich aktywności proteolitycznej w badanej strefie. Uzyskane wyniki wskazują zatem, że akumulacja nitrowanych proteaz może mieć

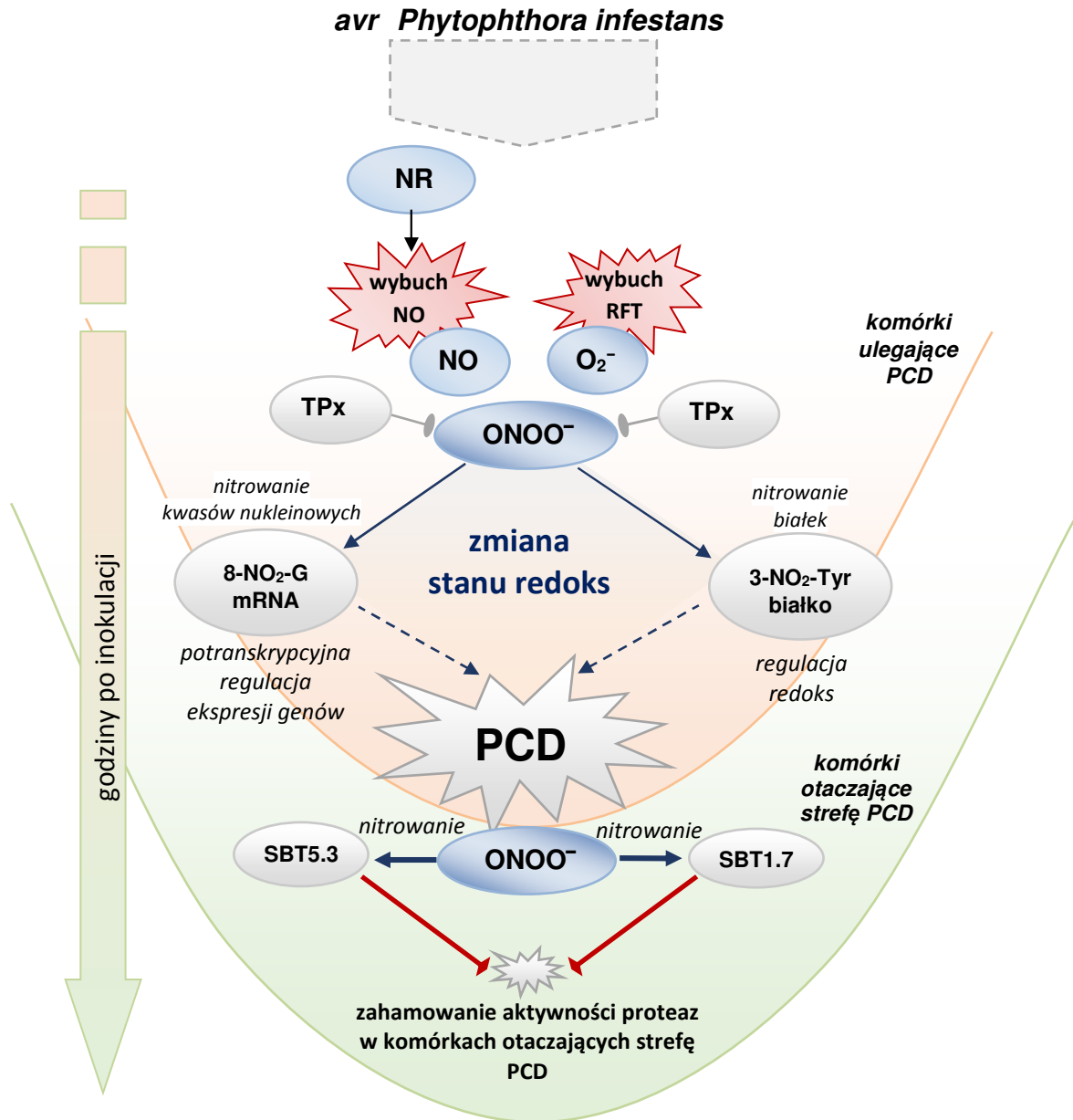
szczególnie istotne znaczenie w kontroli zasięgu reakcji nadwrażliwości poprzez wygaszenie ich funkcji egzekutorowej w odpowiedzi typu HR.

- 6) Udokumentowano po raz pierwszy w świecie roślin, że kwasy nukleinowe tj. RNA i mRNA podlegają nitrowaniu *via* ONOO<sup>-</sup>. Analiza porównawcza pomiędzy genotypem odpornym, a podatnym wskazała na okresowy, istotnie wyższy poziom nitrowanego RNA oraz mRNA w inokulowanych liściach odmiany odpornej. Eliminacja ONOO<sup>-</sup> za pośrednictwem zmiataacza, skutkowała istotnie obniżonym poziomem mRNA oraz reakcją TUNEL negatywną w komórkach liści ziemniaka odmiany odpornej, co wskazuje, że nitrowanie mRNA może być procesem wysoce selektywnym, wpływającym na potranskrypcyjną regulację ekspresji genów zaangażowanych m.in. w programowaną śmierć komórki podczas HR.
- 7) Obok wyszczególnionych powyżej nitrowanych biocząsteczek o istotnym znaczeniu defensywnym, również sekwencyjne traktowanie liści odmiany podatnej donorem ONOO<sup>-</sup> i *P. infestans* powodowało szybszą i wzmożoną indukcję genów kodujących białka PR-1, PR-2 i PR-3, co korelowało z ograniczoną kolonizacją tkanek rośliny-gospodarza.

## PODSUMOWANIE

Na podsumowanie przeprowadzonych badań stwierdza się, iż wczesna i okresowa, akumulacja ONOO<sup>-</sup> w liściach ziemniaka w odpowiedzi na *P. infestans*, wywołuje selektywne nitrowanie białek oraz kwasów nukleinowych, zaangażowanych w regulację zasięgu programowanej śmierci komórek ziemniaka oraz indukcję ekspresji genów *PRs*, przez co sprzyja uruchamianiu skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych związanych z odpornością (Ryc. 1).

Wyniki niniejszej rozprawy doktorskiej mają znaczenie nie tylko poznawcze, ale mogą również posłużyć jako punkt wyjścia do badań nad nowymi mechanizmami ograniczającymi rozwój patogenów *via* NO. Szczególnie istotne znaczenie w kontekście uruchamiania skutecznych odpowiedzi obronnych może mieć poznanie i charakterystyka funkcjonalnych celów nitrowania mRNA. Modyfikacje mRNA mogą bowiem wpływać na poziom ekspresji określonych białek i tym samym stanowić jeden z mechanizmów regulacji ekspresji genów, co w konsekwencji przyczyni się do lepszego zrozumienia interakcji roślina – patogen oraz może być przydatne m.in. w hodowli odpornościowej posługującej się celowanymi modyfikacjami genetycznymi.



**Rycina 1.** Skonstruowana w oparciu o uzyskane wyniki, sekwencja zdarzeń metabolicznych z udziałem nadtlenoazotynu w odporności liści ziemniaka na *P. infestans* (**Publikacja nr 3, zmodyfikowane**).

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## **OŚWIADCZENIA WSPÓŁAUTORÓW**

**Publikacja 1.**

Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., Izbiańska K. (2016) The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Physiology and Biochemistry*, 108: 468–477 (IF=2,928; 35 pkt MNiSW).

Poznań, 17.12.2018

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### OŚWIADCZENIE

dotyczące udziału w pracach wspólnych z mgr Karoliną Izbiańską  
stanowiących podstawę rozprawy doktorskiej

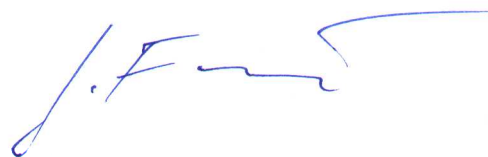
W związku z zamiarem włączenia przez mgr Karolinę Izbiańską publikacji:

(Publikacja 1) Jolanta Floryszak-Wieczorek, Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek, Karolina Izbiańska (2016) The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*,  
Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, 108: 468–477

do Jej rozprawy doktorskiej oświadczam, że mój wkład w powstanie powyższej publikacji był związany z:

- opracowaniem koncepcji badań i planowaniem eksperymentów,
- interpretacją uzyskanych wyników i przygotowaniem publikacji.

Swój wkład oceniam na 30%



Poznań, 17.12.2018

Prof. UAM dr hab. Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek

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dotyczące udziału w pracach wspólnych z mgr Karoliną Izbiańską  
stanowiących podstawę rozprawy doktorskiej

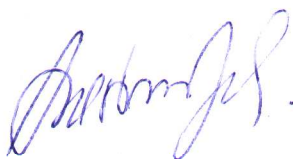
W związku z zamiarem włączenia przez mgr Karolinę Izbiańską publikacji:

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do Jej rozprawy doktorskiej oświadczam, że mój wkład w powstanie powyższej publikacji był związany z:

- udziałem w opracowaniu koncepcji i planowaniu badań,
- opieką merytoryczną w trakcie realizacji badań,
- oznaczaniem aktywności reduktazy azotynowej (NiR),
- udziałem w oznaczaniu zawartości azotanów,
- analizą statystyczną wyników,
- udziałem w interpretacji wyników i przygotowaniu publikacji.

Swój wkład oceniam na 30%



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### OŚWIADCZENIE

Oświadczam, że w publikacji:

(Publikacja 1) Jolanta Floryszak-Wieczorek, Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek, Karolina Izbiańska (2016) The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*  
Plant Physiology and Biochemistry, 108: 468–477

mój wkład był związany z:

- prowadzeniem uprawy ziemniaka
- przygotowaniem zawiesiny zarodników *P. infestans*,
- inokulacją materiału roślinnego,
- zbiorem materiału do analiz,
- udziałem w oznaczaniu poziomu tlenku azotu (NO),
- oznaczaniem aktywności reduktazy azotanowej (NR)
- przeprowadzeniem eksperymentu z wykorzystaniem inhibitorów enzymów odpowiedzialnych za generowanie NO,
- izolacją RNA oraz analizą ekspresji genów,
- udziałem w analizie statystycznej wyników.

Swój wkład oceniam na 40%

*Karolina Izbiańska*

**Publikacja 2.**

Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Izbiańska K., Gzyl J., Jelonek T. (2016) Implication of peroxynitrite in defence responses of potato to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Pathology*, 65: 754–766 (IF=2,383; 35 pkt MNiSW).



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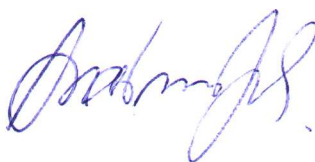
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Plant Pathology, 65: 754–766

mój udział obejmował:

- traktowanie roślin donorem nadtlenoazotynu (SIN1) oraz jego zmiataczem (ebselen)
- przygotowanie zawiesiny zarodników *P. infestans*,
- inokulację materiału roślinnego,
- wyznaczenie indeksu chorobowego,
- zbiór materiału do analiz,
- oznaczanie ilościowe poziomu nadtlenoazotynu, tlenku azotu i anionorodnika ponadtlenkowego,
- cytochemiczne obrazowanie nadtlenoazotynu,
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- udział w analizie nitroproteomu,
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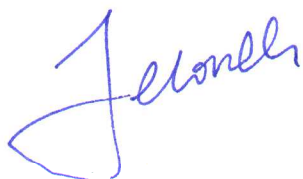
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Plant Pathology, 65: 754–766

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Swój wkład oceniam na 5%.



**Publikacja 3.**

Izbiańska K., Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Gajewska J., Meller B., Kuźnicki D., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M. (2018) RNA and mRNA nitration as a novel metabolic link in potato immune response to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Frontiers in Plant Science*, 9: 672 (IF=3,678; 40 pkt MNiSW).

Poznań, 17.12.2018

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mój udział obejmował:

- prowadzenie uprawy ziemniaka,
- traktowanie roślin donorem nadtlenoazotynu (SIN1) oraz jego zmiataczem (ebselen),
- udział w przygotowaniu zawiesiny zarodników *P. infestans*,
- udział w inokulacji materiału roślinnego,
- udział w zbiorze materiału do analiz,
- izolację RNA oraz mRNA,
- opracowanie metody i analizę poziomu akumulacji 8-nitroguaniny w puli RNA oraz mRNA z wykorzystaniem testów ELISA,
- analizę ilościową ogólnej puli nitrowanych białek,
- oznaczanie ilościowe poziomu nadtlenoazotynu,
- analizy nitroproteomu,
- detekcję programowanej śmierci komórek metodą TUNEL,
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Swój wkład oceniam na 5%

Gajewska

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Swój wkład oceniam na 5%

Meller  
Barbara

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Mgr inż. Daniel Kuźnicki  
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Swój wkład oceniam na 5%



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Swój wkład oceniam na 20%



**KOPIE PUBLIKACJI WCHODZĄCYCH W SKŁAD  
ROZPRAWY DOKTORSKIEJ**

**Publikacja 1.**

Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., Izbiańska K. (2016) The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*. *Plant Physiology and Biochemistry*, 108: 468–477 (IF=2,928; 35 pkt MNiSW).



## Research article

# The combined nitrate reductase and nitrite-dependent route of NO synthesis in potato immunity to *Phytophthora infestans*



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## ABSTRACT

In contrast to the in-depth knowledge concerning nitric oxide (NO) function, our understanding of NO synthesis in plants is still very limited. In view of the above, this paper provides a step by step presentation of the reductive pathway for endogenous NO generation involving nitrate reductase (NR) activity and nitrite implication in potato defense to *Phytophthora infestans*. A biphasic character of NO emission, peaking mainly at 3 and then at 24 hpi, was detected during the hypersensitive response (HR). In avr *P. infestans* potato leaves enhanced NR gene and protein expression was tuned with the depletion of nitrate contents and the increase in nitrite supply at 3 hpi. In the same time period a temporary down-regulation of nitrite reductase (NiR) and activity was found. The study for the link between NO signaling and HR revealed an up-regulation of used markers of effective defense, i.e. Nonexpressor of PR genes (*NPR1*), thioredoxins (*Thx*) and *PR1*, at early time-points (1–3 hpi) upon inoculation. In contrast to the resistant response, in the susceptible one a late overexpression (24–48 hpi) of *NPR1* and *PR1* mRNA levels was observed. Presented data confirmed the importance of nitrite processed by NR in NO generation in inoculated potato leaves. However, based on the pharmacological approach the potential formation of NO from nitrite bypassing the NR activity during HR response to *P. infestans* has also been discussed.

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## 1. Introduction

Nitric oxide (NO) is a reactive and simple atomic structure molecule affecting a broad spectrum of physiological and pathophysiological processes in every living organism, including plant cells. Despite the increasing body of knowledge regarding its complex and numerous functions, NO production is always a matter of controversy. Nitric oxide is synthesized in each living cell, but its level is modulated by various endogenous and exogenous stimuli. It may not be excluded that the origin of constitutive NO production in healthy plants differs from the source of the post-stress boosted NO generation.

The biosynthetic pathways of NO in plants may be classified as either oxidative or reductive in operation. The oxidative route involves mammalian-type L-arginine-dependent nitric oxide synthase (NOS)-like activity. The NOS-like activity has been detected in various plant organs, including leaves, roots and nodules, as well as

cell cultures (Cueto et al., 1996; Ribeiro et al., 1999; Foissner et al., 2000; Tun et al., 2001). Although homolog genes of mammalian NOS have been identified recently in the genome of photosynthetic organisms including the marine green algae *Ostreococcus tauri* and *Ostreococcus lucimarinus* (Foresi et al., 2010), there is no evidence that higher plants have retained this gene (Hancock, 2012). A recently performed *in silico* search for NOS homologs within 1087 sequenced transcriptomes of land plants revealed no typical NOS sequences, including species, in which the NOS-like activity has been detected (Jeandroz et al., 2016). Polyamines and hydroxylamine are other candidates involved in the oxidative route of NO synthesis in plant cells, activated under normoxic conditions (Tun et al., 2006; Rumer et al., 2009; Wimalasekera et al., 2011).

The reductive pathway towards NO synthesis is dependent on nitrite as a primary substrate and may occur practically within the whole cell environment, including the cytoplasm, mitochondria, chloroplasts, peroxisomes as well as the apoplast (Röszer, 2014). Up to date assimilatory nitrate reductase (NR) has been considered as the hub enzyme for NO synthesis via the reductive route. Under physiological conditions the enzyme reduces nitrate to nitrite at the expense of NAD(P)H, but is also able to catalyze 1-electron transfer

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from NAD(P)H to nitrite, resulting in NO formation (Planchet and Kaiser, 2006). Stöhr et al. (2001) suggested the presence of a plasma membrane bound nitrite: NO-reductase (NI-NOR), which was found to be insensitive to cyanide and unique to NR. The NI-NOR, identified only in tobacco roots and not in leaves, reduced nitrite to NO using reduced cytochrome *c* as an electron donor. NO generation of NI-NOR was comparable to the nitrate reducing activity of a root-specific NR (Stöhr et al., 2001). Nitrite reduction to NO may also occur in the mitochondrial inner membrane. The mitochondrial respiratory chain is able to reduce nitrite to NO at complex III (cytochrome *bc1*) and complex IV (cytochrome-*c* oxidase); however, this mechanism results in mitochondrial NO generation in cells exposed to hypoxia (Igamberdiev et al., 2010; Gupta and Igamberdiev, 2011; Castello et al., 2006). What is noteworthy, nitrite reductase activity, optimally operative under O<sub>2</sub> limitation, has been assigned to the molybdopterin enzyme family including xanthine oxidoreductase and aldehyde oxidase (Weidert et al., 2014), but there is little evidence of its major involvement in plant systems.

An alternative route of NO production involves non-enzymatic NO formation. This type of chemical NO release might occur at the acidic pH of the apoplast, in the presence of ascorbic acid and other reductants (Yamasaki et al., 1999; Bethke et al., 2004; Wang and Hargrove, 2013). Moreover, there is *in vitro* evidence that simultaneous exposure of carotenoids to nitrite and light resulted in NO generation (Cooney et al., 1994).

Several lines of evidence suggested that NR activity is the core source for NO signal production by plants in response to both abiotic and biotic stress factors. The induction of an NR-dependent route of NO synthesis was documented during osmotic stress (Kolbert et al., 2010), water stress (Sang et al., 2008), hypoxia (Benamar et al., 2008; Blokhina and Fagerstedt, 2010) as well as a response to pathogen or elicitor treatment (Yamamoto-Katou et al., 2006; Salgado et al., 2010). Importantly, the *Arabidopsis* mutant *nia1nia2* lacking NR and constantly producing less NO was more susceptible to bacterial or fungal pathogens (Modolo et al., 2005, 2006; Perchepeid et al., 2010; Rasul et al., 2012). In addition, Shi and Li (2008) using NR-deficient mutants documented that NO synthesis in response to *Verticillium dahliae* toxins is mostly the origin of the NR pathway and the contribution of the NOS-system appeared to be secondary under pathophysiological conditions.

The mutant or transgenic plants having an altered NO production, while being informative for studying NO-related signaling, are usually different from the wild type plants in terms of many physiological and biochemical features. Thus, direct effects due to an impaired NO synthesis are difficult to distinguish from those caused by metabolic alteration (Leitner et al., 2009). NR deficiency leads to impaired nitrogen assimilation and in consequence affects primary and secondary metabolism. As it was indicated by Modolo et al. (2006), the *Arabidopsis nia1nia2* mutant showed reduced levels of nitrites and amino acids (excluding L-Arginine). These findings revealed a significant role of NR in providing the substrates for NO synthesis both through oxidative and reductive pathways (Salgado et al., 2006). What is more, when NR-deficient (*nia1nia2*) mutants were treated with L-Arginine the total amino acid content increased, whereas *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants were unable to potentiate NO emission and induce hypersensitive response (HR) to *P. syringae* (Oliveira et al., 2009). In turn, when nitrite was supplied into NR-deficient leaves, NO synthesis and HR response to *P. syringae* were recovered (Modolo et al., 2006). In general, the available data revealed a direct effect of NR activity on the delivery of substrates for NO synthesis and an indirect effect on the establishment of plant resistance to the pathogen.

In conclusion, almost 20 years of extensive studies evidencing NO as a fundamental signaling molecule in plant organisms have left a considerable information gap concerning the NO synthesis. Although NOS-like and NR activities are supposed to be the two major enzymatic sources of NO production in plants, the nitrite can be converted into NO by NR-independent route as well (Modolo et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2014). For this reason in the presented paper we focused on the reductive pathway for NO generation involving NR activity and nitrite implication in potato defense to *Phytophthora infestans*. In particular, a combined parallel analysis has been conducted concerning both NR and NiR gene expression with protein activities, nitrate reduction with nitrite leaf tissue concentration during *avr P. infestans* response providing NO overproduction. Finally, looking for the link between pathogen challenged NO generation and HR response we compared the expression of different defense markers, i.e. *NPR1*, *Thx* and *PR1*, in resistant and susceptible potato leaves upon inoculation.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Plant material

Sterile potato plants (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) of cv. Bintje – (lacking *R* genes) highly susceptible to isolate 1.3.4.7.10.11. *Phytophthora infestans* and cv. Bzura – (carrying *R* genes derived from *S. demissum*) highly resistant and incompatible to 1.3.4.7.10.11. *P. infestans* were used in the experiments. Potato plants from *in vitro* tissue culture were transferred to soil and they were grown in a growth chamber with 16 h of light (180 μmol m<sup>-2</sup>·s<sup>-1</sup>) at 18 ± 2 °C and 60% humidity for 4 weeks.

### 2.2. Pathogen culture and inoculation with *P. infestans*

*Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary (1.3.4.7.10.11., isolate MP946), virulent for 'Bintje' and avirulent for 'Bzura', was kindly obtained from the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute, Research Division at Młochów, Poland. Isolate MP946 triggered hypersensitive pointed cell death in the 'Bzura' genotype identified as TUNEL-positive. Potato plants were inoculated by spraying leaves with 5 ml of the oomycete zoospore suspension at a concentration of 2.0 × 10<sup>5</sup> per 1 ml of water and then were kept overnight at 100% relative humidity and 18 °C and afterwards they were transferred to a growth chamber.

### 2.3. Measurement of nitric oxide generation

The NO-FL fluorescence from extracts of potato leaves challenged with *P. infestans* was assayed spectrofluorimetrically using a selective nitric oxide sensor (CuFL) similar as described Lim et al. (2006). The copper-complex of FL (2-[2-Chloro-6-hydroxy-5-[2-methylquinolin-8-ylamino)methyl]-3-oxo-3H-xanthen-9-yl]benzoic acid) was prepared as 1 mM water stock solution according to the manufacturer's instructions (Strem Chemicals). Leaf tissue (500 mg of fresh weight) was homogenized in 2 ml of 10 mM potassium-phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and centrifuged at 21,000 × *g* for 30 min at 4 °C. Then, 100 μl of supernatant was used for NO assay by adding CuFL to the final concentration of 2 μM. After 30 min of incubation in darkness at 25 °C the fluorescence intensity was determined with the Fluorescence Spectrometer Perkin Elmer LS50B (UK) equipped with microtiter plates with 96 wells using 488 nm and 516 nm for excitation and emission, respectively. All data (*F*) are normalized with respect to the emission of CuFL (*F*<sub>CuFL</sub>). [*F*]/[*F*<sub>CuFL</sub>] = 2 μM. Each value was expressed as NO-FL fluorescence intensity [*F*/*F*<sub>CuFL</sub>].



## 2.4. Inhibition of NO-synthesizing enzymes

To determine NO generation routes, specific inhibitors of reductive and oxidative NO sources were separately added to the incubation medium, i.e. tungstate (TG), vanadium (V), N<sub>ω</sub>-Nitro-L-arginine methyl ester hydrochloride (L-NAME) and aminoguanidine (AG). To block NR activity, 0,1 mM Na<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> or 0,1 mM MVOC<sub>2</sub> were used in *in vitro* assays. NOS-like routes of NO synthesis were affected by the addition of 5 mM AG or/and 5 mM L-NAME. Additionally, 1 mM carboxyPTIO was taken to scavenge NO in the CuFL-based fluorimetric approach.

## 2.5. Assays of enzymes activity

### 2.5.1. Nitrate reductase activity

The activity of NR was determined using a spectrophotometric assay (Corzo and Niell, 1991). Leaf tissue (250 mg of fresh weight, approx. 5 leaf discs) were placed in a 25-ml conical flask in 5 ml of incubation mixture, containing 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), 100 mM KNO<sub>3</sub>, 2% 1-propanol (v/v). After samples were incubated at 30 °C for 1 h, 1 ml of 1% sulphanilamide in 1 M HCl (v/v) and 1 ml of 0.01% N-(1-naphtyl)ethylenediamine dichloride (v/v) were added. After 15 min of incubation, optical density was measured at 540 nm. Enzyme activity was expressed as the production of nmol NO<sub>2</sub> × h<sup>-1</sup> × g<sup>-1</sup> FW and was calculated according to the standard curve prepared in the range of 5–30 nM of NO<sub>2</sub>.

### 2.5.2. Nitrite reductase activity

The activity of NiR was determined using a spectrophotometric assay according to Orea et al. (2001). Leaf tissue (250 mg of fresh weight) was ground in liquid nitrogen and homogenized with 2 ml of 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 containing 1 mM EDTA, 3% BSA, 0,1% Triton-X-100, 1 mM DDT, 1 mM PMSF. Homogenates were centrifuged at 15 000 × g for 15 min. Obtained supernatants were used directly for NiR measurements. The assay mixture contained 200 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 6 mM KNO<sub>2</sub>, 20 mM methyl viologen and crude extract (100 μl). The reaction was started by addition of Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (150 mg/ml). After samples were incubated at 40 °C for 20 min, 1 ml of 1% sulphanilamide in 1 M HCl (v/v) and 1 ml of 0.01% N-(1-naphtyl)ethylenediamine dichloride (v/v) were added. After 15 min of incubation, optical density was measured at 540 nm. Calculations were made subtracting the sample absorbance from that of the reference. Enzyme activity was expressed as the production of μmol NO<sub>2</sub> × h<sup>-1</sup> × g<sup>-1</sup> FW.

## 2.6. Gene expression measurements

The RNA was isolated from 150 mg of frozen leaf tissue using TriReagent<sup>®</sup> (Sigma) according to the method of Chomczynski and Sacchi (1987). The obtained RNA was purified with the use of a Deoxyribonuclease I Kit (Sigma). For the reverse transcription 1 μl of RNA from every experimental variant was processed with a RevertAid<sup>™</sup> Reverse Transcriptase Kit (Thermo Scientific) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Real-time PCR was performed on a Rotor Gene 6000 Thermocycler (Corbett Life Sciences). The reaction mixture contained 0.1 μM of each primer, 1 μl of 5 × diluted cDNA, 10 μl of the Power SYBR<sup>®</sup> Green PCR Master mix (Applied Biosystems) and DEPC-treated water to the total volume of 20 μl. The real-time PCR reaction conditions included an initial 5-min denaturation at 95 °C, followed by 55 cycles consisting of 10 s at 95 °C, 20 s at 53 °C and 30 s at 72 °C. Primers for genes (*NR*, *NiR*, *PR1*, *NPR1*, *Thx*) transcript accumulation are presented in the Suppl. Tab. 1. The data were normalized to the reference genes encoding the elongation factor and 18S rRNA. All used primers were designed using Primer-BLAST (Ye et al., 2012). The C<sub>t</sub> values were

determined with the use of a Real-time PCR Miner (Zhao and Fernald, 2005) and the relative gene expression was calculated with the use of efficiency corrected calculation models presented by Pfaffl (2001).

## 2.7. Quantification of total nitrate pool

The concentration of nitrate content was determined by the colorimetric assay proposed by Cataldo et al. (1975). Leaf tissue (250 mg of fresh weight) were ground in liquid nitrogen and then homogenized in 2 ml of distilled water. After 15-min thermal denaturation of samples (100 °C), the homogenates were centrifuged at 15,000 × g for 30 min. To the supernatant volume (100 μl), 400 μl of 5% salicylic acid in concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were added and incubated for 20 min at RT. Further, to raise the pH above 12, 9.5 ml of 2 M NaOH were pipetted into each sample. Optical density was measured at 410 nm (Jasco V-780). Nitrate concentration was calculated according to the standard curve prepared in the range of 5–30 mg NO<sub>3</sub> × g<sup>-1</sup> FW.

## 2.8. Quantification of total nitrite pool

The concentration of nitrite content was determined by chemiluminescence using a Sievers<sup>®</sup> Nitric Oxide Analyzer NOA 280i (GE Analytical Instruments, USA) according to the procedure proposed by Corpas et al. (2008). The detection of NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> was based on the reductive decomposition of nitroso compounds by an iodine/triiodide mixture at RT. Leaf tissue (250 mg of fresh weight) was homogenized in Tris-HCl 0.1 M buffer pH 7.5 (1:4, w/v) containing 100 μM DTPA, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM PMSF, 0.1 mM neocuproine, 0.25% (v/v) Triton X-100 and centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 10 min. The supernatants were served for analysis by the injections of 30 μl of supernatant to a purge chamber of the NOA containing 8 ml of glacial acetic acid, 300 μl of antifoam agent (30:1, v:v, Sigma-Aldrich) and 300 μl of 200 μM CuSO<sub>4</sub> at RT. Obtained data were calculated according to the standard curve prepared in the range of 0–80 pM of NaNO<sub>2</sub>.

## 2.9. Statistical analysis

All results are based on three independent experiments, each with at least three biological replicates. For each experiment, means of the obtained values were calculated along with standard deviations. The analysis of variance was performed (ANOVA) and the mean values were compared by Tukey's test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

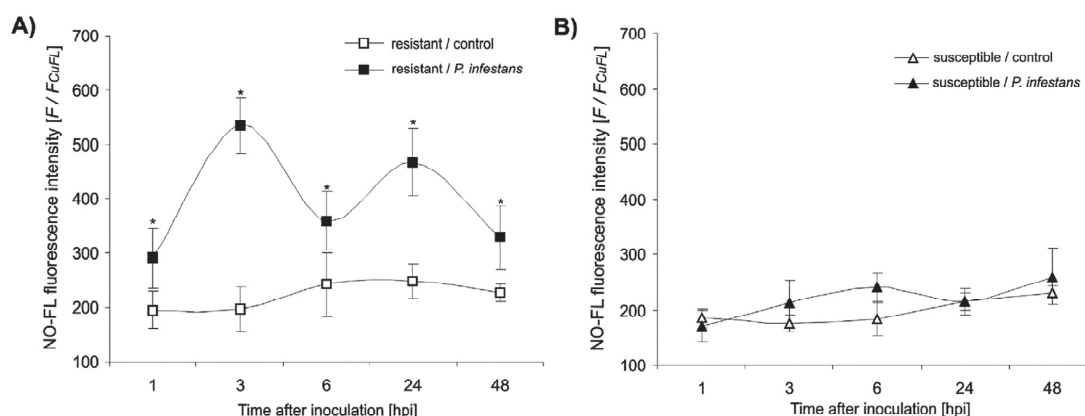
## 3. Results

### 3.1. NO generation in potato resistance

Using the NO-selective fluorescent probe copper-complex of FL an enhancement of NO generation during 48 hpi was observed in *avr P. infestans* inoculated resistant potato, when compared to the mock inoculated (control) potato leaves (Fig. 1A). A biphasic character of NO emission, peaking mainly at 3 and then at 24 hpi, was detected. However, the first peak of NO burst was much more pronounced than the subsequent one. In contrast, susceptible potato infected with *P. infestans* did not reveal marked changes in the NO status after inoculation (Fig. 1B).

### 3.2. The effect of inhibitors on NO emission in HR response

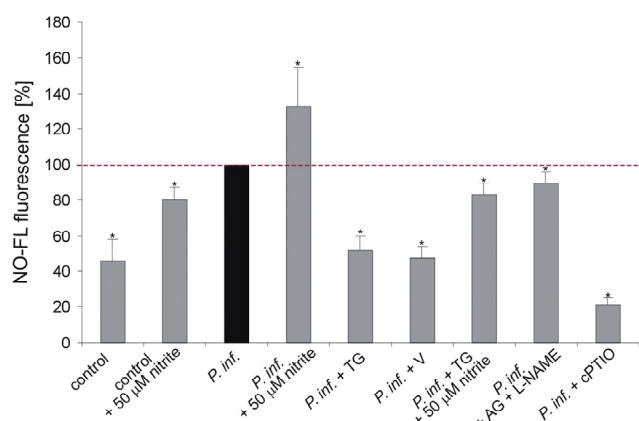
In order to recognize the source of NO production at 3 hpi during HR response we applied *in vitro* different inhibitors related to the inactivation of the NO reductive or oxidative pathway,



**Fig. 1.** Nitric oxide generation in potato leaves of resistant 'Bzura' (A) and susceptible 'Bintje' (B) genotype challenge inoculated with avirulent and virulent isolate of *P. infestans*. The NO-FL fluorescence from extracts of potato leaves challenged with *P. infestans* was determined as described in Materials and methods. All data ( $F$ ) are normalized with respect to the emission of CuFL ( $F_{CuFL}$ ). [CuFL] = 2  $\mu$ M. Each value was expressed as NO-FL fluorescence intensity [ $F/F_{CuFL}$ ]. \* significantly different from mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves,  $P < 0.05$ . Values represent the average of data  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments.

respectively (Fig. 2). To this end, an avr inoculated leaf extract exhibiting NO emission by 66% higher than the control, was independently supplied with the following inhibitors: tungstate (TG), vanadium (V) and aminoguanidine (AG) with L-NAME. NO-FL fluorescence of the medium was strongly inhibited by tungstate (52%) and vanadium (48%), while the reduction by aminoguanidine with L-NAME was smallest (8%) when compared with the avr inoculated leaf extract without an inhibitor. In turn, 1 mM cPTIO at more than 70% effectively scavenged the NO production.

To further determine the nitrite impact on NO emission, the avr inoculated potato leaf extract (at 3 hpi) was supplied with 50  $\mu$ M  $NO_2^-$  (Fig. 2). The extract supplemented with exogenous nitrite showed an enhanced production of NO, approx. 30% higher than the pathogen augmented without nitrite. In turn, a 17% reduction of NO emission was found when the avr inoculated leaf extract was supplied first with tungstate and then nitrite. Although it is worth noting that an addition of nitrite restored NO production significantly higher than the NO level found in the avr inoculated leaf extract plus tungstate, but deprived of nitrite.



**Fig. 2.** Nitric oxide generation in non-inoculated and inoculated resistant potato leaves (at 3 hpi) analyzed *in vitro* with the following inhibitors: 0.1 mM TG (Tungstate), 0.1 mM V (Vanadium), 5 mM L-NAME, 5 mM AG (Aminoguanidine) or 1 mM carboxyPTIO, used separately or in combination; NO emission was also monitored in medium supplied with 50  $\mu$ M  $NO_2^-$  plus TG or deprived of it. \* significantly different from *P. infestans* inoculated potato leaves,  $P < 0.05$ . Values represent the average of data  $\pm$  SD of at least three independent experiments.

Both findings strongly suggest that potato leaves were not able to effectively produce NO by the oxidative pathway and most of NO was derived from the reduction of nitrite by NR-dependent or independent routes.

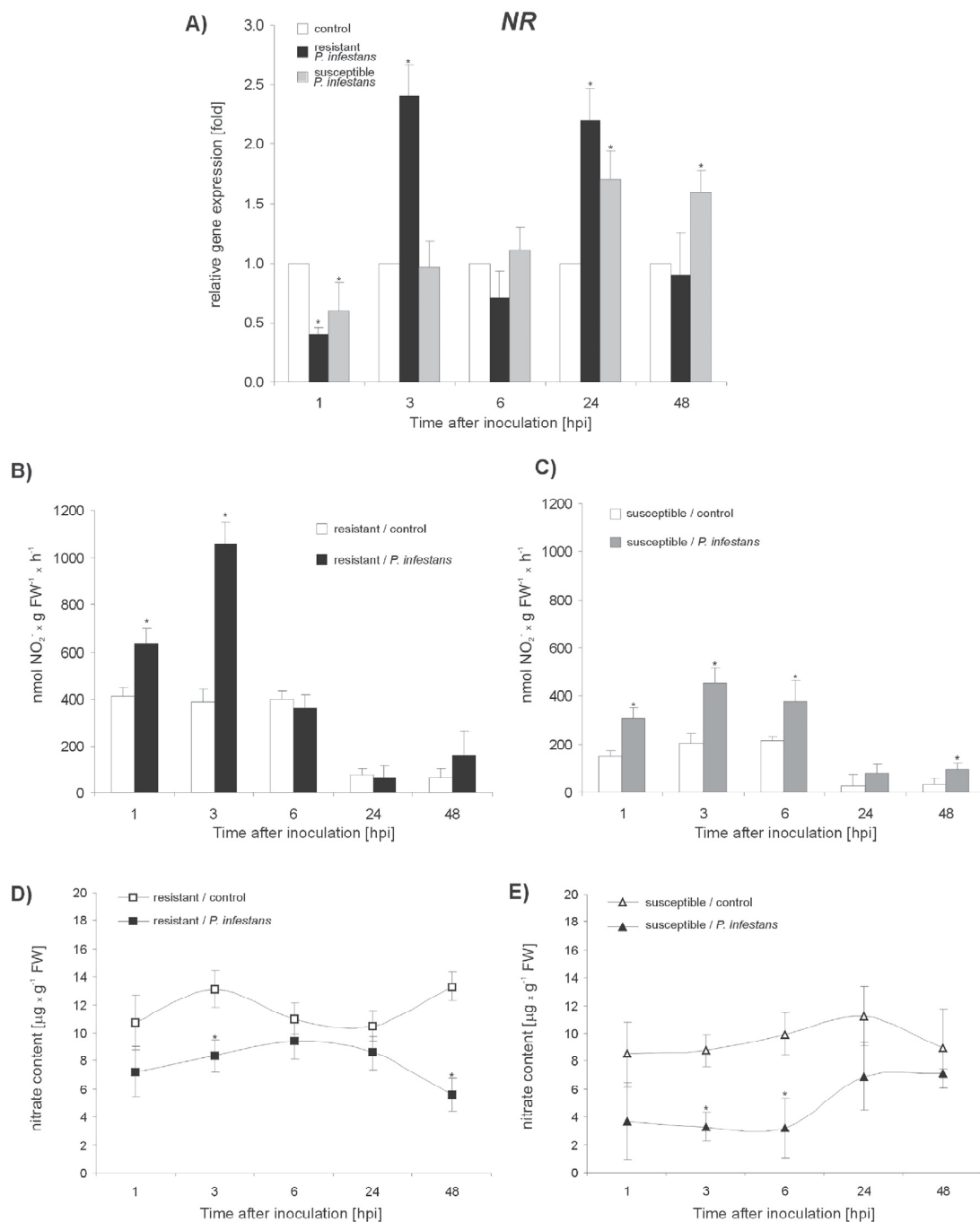
### 3.3. Combined analysis of NR-dependent route in potato resistance to *P. infestans*

In order to confirm the NO origin in potato defense we explored the activity and gene expression of NR together with the nitrate endogenous pool in leaves of potato cultivars susceptible and resistant to *P. infestans*. When analysing the NR gene expression it was found that except for the first rise of NR transcript accumulation (2.5-fold) at 3 hpi, elicited only by avr *P. infestans*, the next up-regulation of NR (2-fold increase) was commonly noted at 24 hpi in both potato interactions with the oomycete pathogen (Fig. 3A).

In turn, obtained data revealed significant differences in NR activity between incompatible and compatible responses to the pathogen (Fig. 3B, C). The avirulent pathogen enhanced NR activity starting from 1 hpi, with the maximum, ca. 2.5-fold increase at 3 hpi, followed by its decrease after 24 hpi. In the compatible interaction NR activity significantly raised during disease development, apart from 24 hpi. It is worth noting that the constitutive level of nitrate assimilation was 2-fold lower in the compatible genotype in relation to the incompatible one.

In potato leaves of the resistant genotype the total nitrate pool rapidly decreased (almost 2-fold) after inoculation (1–3 hpi) and it was significantly lower than in the control leaves until 48 hpi (Fig. 3D). A particularly strong decline in the nitrate level was also found in *P. infestans* inoculated susceptible potato leaves during 1–6 hpi, while in the following hours it increased to the level recorded in the control (Fig. 3E).

Interestingly, an inhibition of *NiR* gene expression was observed during the first 6 hpi in both the compatible and incompatible response after pathogen treatment (Fig. 4A). Only at 24 hpi a substantial up-regulation of the mRNA level for *NiR* was found, more pronounced (4-fold increase) in HR response rather than in the susceptible one (3-fold increase). Nitrite reductase gene expression correlated in time with *NiR* activity, thus the avr inoculated leaves at 3 and 48 hpi revealed a strong decline in enzyme activities (Fig. 4B), tuned with the highest level (4 and 6-fold increase, respectively) of nitrite contents in the cytosol (Fig. 4D). In turn, in



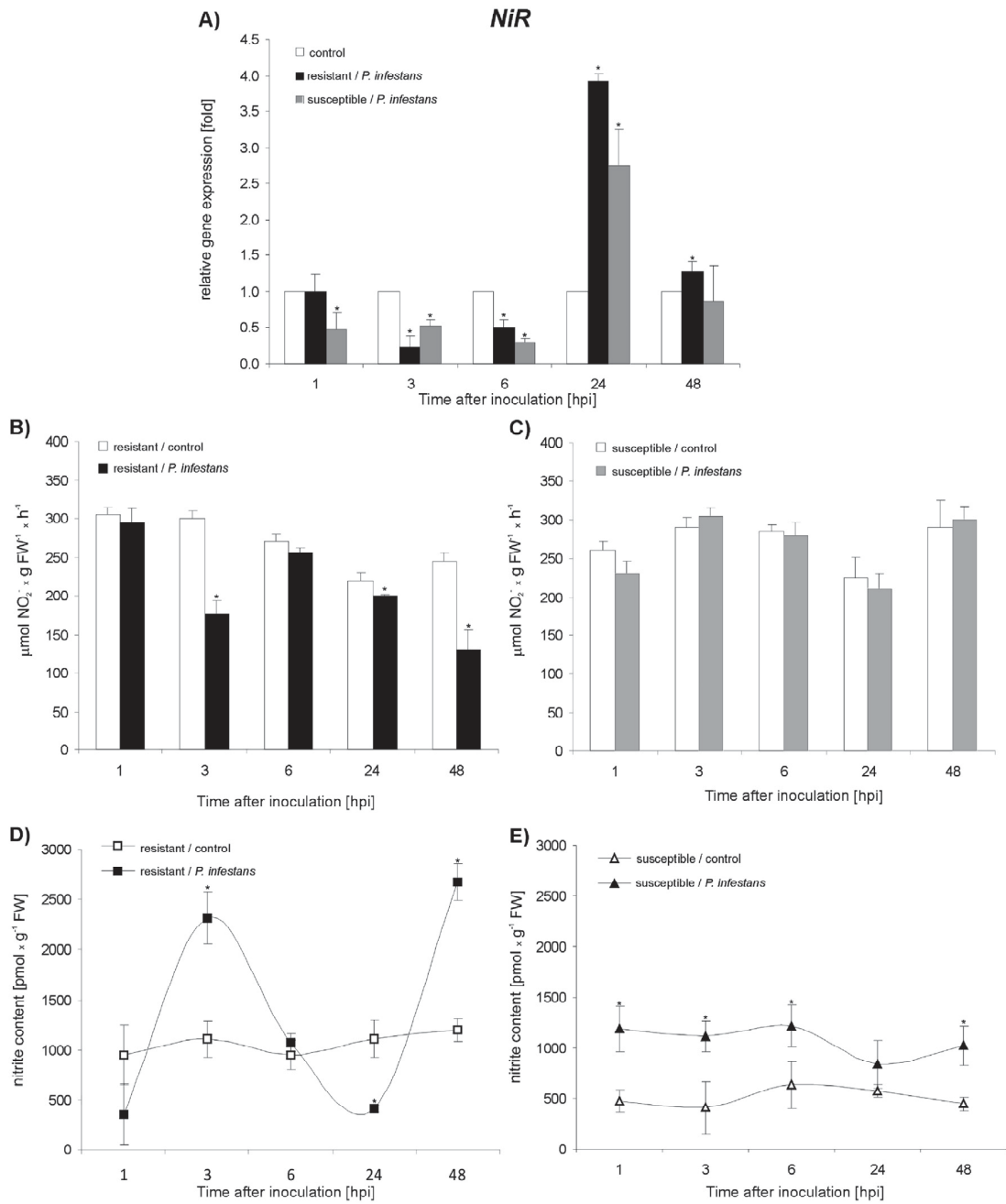
**Fig. 3.** The effect of *P. infestans* inoculation on nitrate reductase (NR) pathway in potato leaves. NR at the level of gene transcript accumulation in resistant and susceptible genotypes (A); NR at the level of protein activity in resistant (B) and susceptible (C) genotype; total pool of nitrate in resistant (D) and susceptible (E) genotype after challenge inoculation. \* significantly different from mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves,  $P < 0.05$ . Values represent the average of data  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments.

the susceptible response the pathogen did not affect NiR activity; however, nitrite content increased 2.5-fold at 1 hpi and was higher than in the mock inoculated leaves at the analyzed time points after challenge inoculation (Fig. 4C, E).

### 3.4. Indirect effect of NO on redox mediated changes tuned with immunity

In the plant-pathogen encounter *NPR1* (Nonexpressor of *PR*

genes 1 – a positive co-regulator of resistance) is a key modulator of systemic responses in plants through the effect on *PR1* expression and its involvement in the signaling interaction of SA and jasmonic acid pathways (Koornneef et al., 2008). Thioredoxins (*Thx*) govern the reduction of the *NPR1* oligomers release monomers that translocate to the nucleus and indirectly activate the expression of *PR* genes (Tada et al., 2008). Therefore semi-quantitative real-time RT-PCR was performed to analyse *NPR1*, *PR-1*, *Thx* genes expression upon inoculation, in order to better



**Fig. 4.** The effect of *P. infestans* inoculation on nitrite reductase (NiR) pathway in potato leaves. NiR at the level of gene transcript accumulation in resistant and susceptible genotypes (A); NiR at the level of protein activity in resistant (B) and susceptible (C) genotype; total pool of nitrite in resistant (D) and susceptible (E) genotype after challenge inoculation.

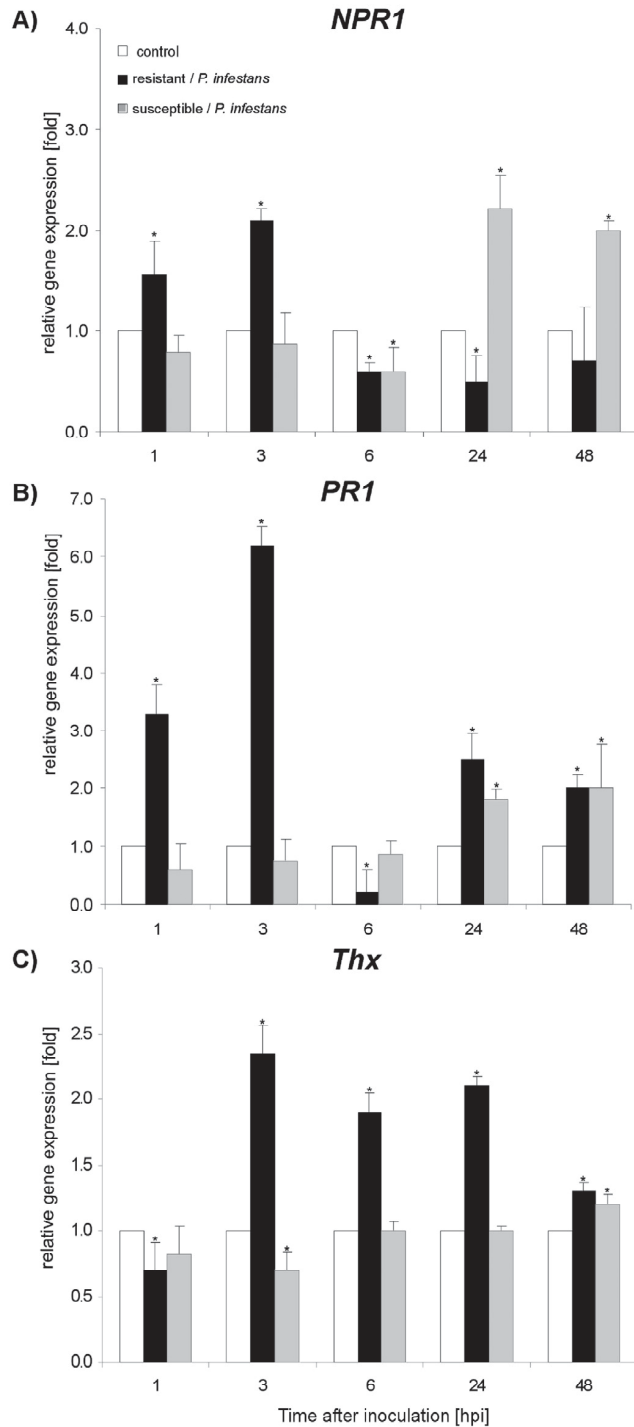
\* significantly different from mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves,  $P < 0.05$ . Values represent the average of data  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments.

clarify how NO affected the SA-signaling defense pathway in potato leaves.

Early (1–3 hpi) up-regulation of *NPR1* tuned with the *PR1* gene expression was found in resistant potato (Fig. 5A, B). In contrast to the resistant response, in the susceptible one a late overexpression (24–48 hpi) of *NPR1* and *PR1* mRNA levels was observed (Fig. 5A, B). Similarly, the above-mentioned key regulators of resistance, *P. infestans* triggered *Thx* gene up-regulation mainly in the HR response from 3 to 24 hpi (Fig. 5C).

#### 4. Discussion

In spite of the growing body of evidence for the important pathophysiological role of NO in plant defense and significant progress made in NO-dependent establishment of pathogen resistance, it is still unclear whether and under which conditions NO is overproduced by nitrite in stress. The finding that potato leaves in the presence of increased nitrite concentrations, tuned with a temporary NiR suppression, showed a boosted NO generation early



**Fig. 5.** The effect of *P. infestans* inoculation on gene expression of key regulators of potato immunity. Accumulation of gene transcript for NPR1 (Nonexpressor of PR genes 1 – a positive co-regulator of resistance) (A); PR-1 (pathogen-related protein 1) (B); Thx (Thioredoxins) (C) in resistant and susceptible genotypes. \* significantly different from mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves,  $P < 0.05$ . Values represent the average of data  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments.

after avr *P. infestans* inoculation is new and broadens our pathophysiological knowledge.

As we found, the endogenous NO level in potato leaves displayed a time-dependent increase during HR response. The NO

emission was biphasic in character, with an early, strong augmentation at 3 hpi and a weaker one at 24 hpi. However, the first transient phase of NO overproduction seems to be essential in the determination of the resistant response to the avr pathogen.

In tune with this statement, our previous experimental approach with the same genotype of potato leaves, cv. Bzura, exposed to avr and vr *P. infestans* revealed that only in an incompatible response, early NO generation led to peroxyxynitrite formation and together with hydrogen peroxide production, synchronized first with NADPH oxidase and then with SOD activities, induced effective HR defense responses (Abramowski et al., 2015).

The biphasic pattern of NO overproduction with the first higher wave of NO recorded at 1 hpi and the second weaker at 6–8 hpi was documented in a soybean cell suspension exposed to avr *P. syringae* (Delledonne et al., 1998). Two phases of NO production were also found in wheat and *Arabidopsis* (Kolbert et al., 2008, 2010) under osmotic stress. According to those authors, early stress-induced NO generation might play a significant role in the process of plant acclimation to stress conditions, which was not dependent on NOS-like or NR activity.

To search for NO-sources, we used the extract of avr resistant leaves (at 3 hpi) possessing *in vitro* capacity to release approx. 70% more NO than the control and supplied it with various inhibitors of NO production detected by NO-FL fluorescence. Used inhibitors affected *in vitro* NO emission. The extract treatment with an inhibitor of NR (tungstate or vanadium) or NOS-like associated pathways (L-NAME and aminoguanidine) decreased NO production by approx. 50% and 8%, respectively, in relation to the avr inoculated leaves. On this basis the putative involvement of the arginine derived NO route was considered as an insignificant origin of NO synthesis in potato leaves.

Focusing on the reductive pathway of NO synthesis in potato leaves we first analyzed both the NR transcript abundance and activity. After potato challenge with avr *P. infestans* the observed profile of NR mRNA accumulation temporarily correlated with nitrate assimilation and the emission of NO-associated fluorescence (NO-FL). The enhanced NR gene expression and NO burst at the early time point were tuned with a relatively high NR activity at 1–3 hpi in both potato genotypes. However, in the incompatible response an early increase in NR activity was 2-fold greater than in the compatible one. A positive correlation between NR activity and nitrate depletion was also found. *Phytophthora infestans* treatment significantly reduced nitrate concentrations in the two genotypes during the first day after inoculation.

A transient increase in the NR transcript and enhanced nitrite-dependent NO production (at 6 hpi) were found in an incompatible, but not a compatible, interaction in potato tubers challenged with *P. infestans* or pathogen hyphal wall components (Yamamoto et al., 2003). Moreover, NO generation (1–3 hpi) in the hypersensitive cell death induced by elicitor was distinctly diminished by the silencing of NR genes in *Nicotiana benthamiana* (Yamamoto et al., 2004; Yamamoto-Katou et al., 2006).

Nitrate reductase is a relatively labile protein and even at physiological conditions it may be rapidly degraded through phosphorylation at serine residue to interact with 14-3-3 proteins and undergoes proteolysis (Kaiser and Huber, 2001). Furthermore, NR is up- and down-regulated in response to various treatments and environmental stresses (Lillo et al., 2004), which modify one electron reduction of nitrite to form NO using NAD(P)H as the electron donor (Yamasaki et al., 1999; Rockel et al., 2002). In *Arabidopsis* roots  $H_2O_2$ -mediated phosphorylation by MAP kinase 6 activated NR and modified NO production (Wang et al., 2010). The results presented by Rosales et al. (2011) showed that NR activity in wheat leaves was negatively regulated by NO emitted from the NO donors (SNP and GSNO). In turn, conflicting data were found by Du

et al. (2007), who found a positive impact of exogenous NO on NR activity in *Brassica chinensis*.

The emerging evidence suggests that NR seems the only likely source of NO from nitrite with respect to plant defenses. However, it remains an unanswered issue how NR undergoes a regulatory shift from its preferential high-affinity substrate into nitrate to low-affinity substrate into nitrite with the final NO production (Gupta et al., 2011). Currently, it is believed that NR-mediated NO production under biotic stresses requires a high nitrite accumulation with the inhibition of plastidial NiR and a relatively low nitrate concentration (Gupta et al., 2011; Mur et al., 2013). Genetic evidence using antisense NiR tobacco (clone 271) also supports a link between nitrite and NO (Morot-Gaudry-Talarmain et al., 2002). However, in these transformants with a strongly reduced NiR activity, the relative increase in NO generation was much higher (100-fold rise) than the relative increase in the nitrite concentration (10-fold rise). It was postulated that nitrite was not equally distributed among subcellular compartments, and cytosolic nitrite concentration available for NR might differ from the total concentration determined in fresh leaf tissue (Morot-Gaudry et al., 2002).

Evidently, the accumulation of nitrite in cells is a basic condition to provoke NR-dependent NO production. In the presented paper mainly in *avr P. infestans* potato an enhanced NR gene and activity were tuned with the depletion of nitrate content and the transient rise in nitrite accumulation at 3 hpi. At the same time period a temporary down-regulation of NiR and protein activity was noted. It seems likely that the early increase in the nitrite pool was tuned with NR-dependent NO production. As it was previously stated, the first transient phase of NO overproduction seems to be pivotal in the onset of the resistant response to the *avr* pathogen. In turn, the next weaker NO emission (at 24 hpi) was probably not driven by NR activity. The late drastic rise in the total nitrite accumulation at 48 hpi could reflect chloroplast impairment and contribute to the HR-type potato cell death because of the toxic and deleterious nature of nitrites.

In the compatible interaction, despite a rapid 2-fold drop in the concentration of nitrate and a similar increase in nitrite accumulation, post-stress NO production was not observed. The lack of NO emission in susceptible potato was probably due to the fact that the concentration of nitrate, as an NR preferential substrate, drastically diminished in the following hours after being challenged with *vr P. infestans*. Admittedly, NR activity increased (at 1–6 hpi), but similarly as nitrite it only reached a level similar to the control resistant genotype. Moreover, at the same period after inoculation the inhibition of plastidial NiR activity was not found.

The question returns on the regulation and conditions for the reductive pathways leading to NO synthesis, while bearing in mind that probably NR is engaged in NO production only in ~1% or even less of its nitrate-reducing capacity (Rockel et al., 2002; Planchet et al., 2005).

Additionally, nitrite has emerged as an alternative source of NO. Nitric oxide can be non-enzymatically formed from nitrite in the presence of such reductants as ascorbate or reduced glutathione, which was shown both in illuminated algae suspension and in pure nitrite solution with these reductants (Mallick et al., 2000).

Although NR is the most considerable route of NO generation in plants, there is a growing body of evidence that nitrite might be converted into NO by the NR-independent route (Modolo et al., 2005, 2006). Based on experiments using the *nia1 nia2* double mutant deficient in NR with a low NO content and an impaired HR response to *avr Pseudomonas syringae*, it was shown that supplementing this mutant with nitrite restored NO production against avirulent bacteria. A slightly improved NO emission after the delivery of nitrite to the *nia1 nia2* mutant was also found in response to *Pst AvrB* using a chemiluminescence detector (Chen et al., 2014).

Notably, it has been shown here that the *avr* leaf extract (at 3 hpi) supplemented *in vitro* with 50  $\mu$ M nitrite emitted over 30% more NO than the *avr* infected one. Moreover, in the same experimental approach the nitrite treatment mitigated the inhibitory effect of tungstate as well.

Relatively little is known about nitrite being a transient intermediate in the nitrate assimilation and the precursor to NO production. The nitrite-dependent NO synthesis has been implicated in ABA-induced stomatal closure (Desican et al., 2004; Bright et al., 2006). Using the transcriptome approach Wang et al. (2007) documented that nitrite can serve as a signal to control the expression of almost 900 genes equally well or even better than nitrate. Interestingly, their experimental data revealed a strong down-regulation of the *NIA1* mRNA level after 2 h of 5 or 250  $\mu$ M nitrite treatments. Previously published data documented an even longer repression of *NIA1* mRNA accumulation after 6 and 24 h of nitrite treatment in *Arabidopsis* roots (Loque et al., 2003).

In *Arabidopsis*, NR is encoded by two genes: *NIA1* responsible for 10% of NR activity and *NIA2* accounted for 90% of the total NR activity (Wilkinson and Crawford, 1993), but *NIA1* is mainly responsible for NO production in ABA-stimulated guard cells (Bright et al., 2006) and in plant cold acclimation and freezing tolerance (Zhao et al., 2009). Southern analysis documented the presence of at least two NR genes (*StNR5* and *StNR6*) in potato tubers (cv. Rishiri) genome (Yamamoto et al., 2003). However both *StNR5* and *StNR6* transcripts were induced and their levels were similar after the *P. infestans* elicitor - hyphal wall components (HWC) treatment for 6 h.

We revealed that *avr P. infestans* early triggered NR in potato leaves while increasing nitrite concentrations to the extent that nitrite reduction cannot keep up due to NiR temporary suppression and this would enhance NO production. However, a further decrease in nitrite concentrations could cause a decline of NO generation (from 3 hpi).

In turn, less efficient NR activity with a constant low supply of nitrate led to a slow rate of two-step nitrate reduction without NO generation in a compatible interaction of potato leaves to *vr P. infestans*. It seems difficult to assume the maintenance of a high nitrite concentration, because the virulent pathogen did not suppress NiR activity, however, gene expression for NiR was down-regulated (1–6 hpi). Yet another possibility of a limited NO production managed by NR might be connected with the cytosolic NADH, which appears to be the major limiting factor apart from the nitrate/nitrite supply in infected leaves of susceptible potato.

What is noteworthy, recently we presented that early NO generation positively correlated in time with the enhanced content of S-nitrosothiols (SNOs) which was governed by GSNO reductase (GSNOR) activity in the response of potato cv. Bzura to *avr P. infestans* (Abramowski et al., 2015). Thereby, most of SNOs, e.g. GSNO or other NO-related species, should be taken into account as sources capable of mobilizing the stress-induced NO as well. Probably basal or constitutive NO production in plants exists and differs substantially from the post-stress production with respect to the NO source and its capacity to generate NO. According to many authors, early stress-induced NO generation can play a significant role in the process of plant resistance or acclimation to stress conditions (e.g. Yu et al., 2014; Simontacchi et al., 2015).

Our next findings provided evidence that the first transient phase of NO overproduction is pivotal in triggering defense responses to *avr P. infestans*. First hours after inoculation in potato responses are likely to be important for resistance, because *P. infestans* as a hemibiotrophic pathogen is in its early biotrophic phase at approx. 22 hpi in the compatible interaction, next it enters its destructive necrotrophic phase at approx. 46 hpi (Vleeshouwers et al., 2000). This is confirmed by the very early induction (at 1 hpi)

of two key transcription factors (TDF10 and TDF11), showing similarity to the molecular sensor of ROS and the WRKY to regulate the expression of PR1, PR2, PR3 and PR5 proteins, found in the incompatible interaction between potato leaves and *P. infestans* (Orłowska et al., 2012).

A positive interconnection between NO synthesis from substrates provided by NR and resistance to pathogens has been presented using various experimental approaches (Salgado et al., 2010). In our experimental proposal looking for the link between NO signaling and HR response we found that the used markers of effective defense were up-regulated, i.e. *NPR1*, *Thx* and *PR1* at early time-points (1–3 hpi) upon inoculation. In contrast to the resistant response, in the susceptible one a late overexpression (24–48 hpi) of *NPR1* and *PR1* mRNA levels was observed. Probably, effective defenses were stimulated too late and were too weak to protect the susceptible potato against *vr P. infestans*.

Summing up, our attempt to identify NO sources in potato resistance revealed that potato leaves reduced mainly nitrite to NO by both NR-dependent and additionally by NR-independent routes. Even though the aspect of non-enzymatic NO generation from nitrite is rather speculative, the basic outline for endogenous NO synthesis via NR was documented step by step in potato leaves immunity to *P. infestans*. In the future an integrated genetic and pharmacological approach will be needed to investigate in more detail how the host plant attack by *P. infestans* governs the drawback of nitrite reduction to NO production bypassing the NR activity.

#### Author contribution

JFW provided the idea, planned and supervised the research work, interpreted the results, wrote the manuscript. MAJ planned and carried out the experiments, participated in results interpretation and writing the manuscript. KI carried out the experiments concerning NR and NiR gene expression measurement. All authors have read and approved the manuscript.

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#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.plaphy.2016.08.009>.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

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**Table S1.** Sequences of primers used for the real-time PCR reaction.

Gene accession number in NCBI database	Gene	Primers
U76701.1	<i>NR</i>	Forward: ACGTCTCACCGGTAAACACC Reverse: GAAGTGGGACTGGGGTGATG
FN691930.1	<i>NiR</i>	Forward: AGAAAGCCGTTCCGTGTGAT Reverse: TCGTGGAAGTGCACCAAAGT
JX428804.1	<i>Thx</i>	Forward: TGATTGGAACACCATCCTGA Reverse: CAGAGGGAGGAGGTGAACAA
AY615281.1	<i>NPR1</i>	Forward: TGGAGCCTACGCTCTTCATT Reverse: TGATTGAGGGTTCCTTACGC
NM_001247429.1	<i>PR1</i>	Forward: GAGCTGGGGACTGCAGGATGC Reverse: CCGCGTTGAGCTGGGGGAAA
X67238	<i>18S RNA</i>	Forward: GGGCATTTCGTATTTTCATAGTCAGAG Reverse: CGGTTCTTGATTAATGAAAACATCCT
AB061263	<i>ef1<math>\alpha</math></i>	Forward: ATTGGAAACGGATATGCTCCA Reverse: TCCTTACCTGAACGCCTGTCA

**Publikacja 2.**

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## Implication of peroxynitrite in defence responses of potato to *Phytophthora infestans*

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In this study peroxynitrite (ONOO<sup>-</sup>) is proposed as an important player in defence responses during the interaction of potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and the oomycete pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*. The potato–avr *P. infestans* model system exhibited a transient programme of boosted ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation correlated in time with the burst of nitric oxide (NO) and superoxide during the first 6 h post-inoculation (hpi). The early ONOO<sup>-</sup> over-accumulation was not accompanied by *TPx* gene expression. In contrast, the compatible interaction revealed a 24 h delay of ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation; however, an enhanced level of NO and superoxide correlated with *TPx* up-regulation was recorded within the earlier stages of pathogen infection. Peroxynitrite over-accumulation in the susceptible potato coincided with an enhanced level of protein tyrosine nitration starting from 24 hpi. Surprisingly, the nitroproteome profile of the resistant potato did not show any visible difference after inoculation, apart from one band containing subtilisin-like protease-like proteins, which appeared 48 h after pathogen attack. An additional pharmacological approach showed that treatment of the susceptible genotype with ONOO<sup>-</sup> followed by inoculation with *P. infestans* contributed to slowing down of the colonization of host tissues by the pathogen via a faster and stronger up-regulation of the key defence markers, including the *PR-1* gene. Taken together, the results obtained indicate that a precise control of emitted NO and superoxide in cooperation with thioredoxin-dependent redox sensors in sites of pathogen ingress could generate a sufficient threshold of ONOO<sup>-</sup>, triggering defence responses.

**Keywords:** peroxynitrite, *Phytophthora infestans*, plant defence, potato, protein tyrosine nitration, reactive nitrogen species

### Introduction

Recent advances in understanding of plant defence signalling pathways have shown that plants are capable of recognizing the type of invaders, and they tightly regulate complex defence mechanisms in order to fend off pathogens. Nitric oxide (NO) has been identified as a crucial signalling molecule effective in triggering plant responses against a broad range of pathogens during both pathogen-associated molecular patterns-triggered immunity and a highly specific effector-triggered immunity (Schlicht & Kombrink, 2013). This gaseous free radical is generated by plants as a local NO burst (the NO hotspots type) during the first minutes following pathogen challenge, stimulating a further sequence of defence events (Floryszak-Wieczorek *et al.*, 2007). The burst of NO, occurring rapidly after pathogen recognition in synergy with reactive oxygen species (ROS), may lead to peroxynitrite (ONOO<sup>-</sup>) formation, which may function as an NO-dependent signal via protein modification by

tyrosine residue nitration (Arasimowicz-Jelonek & Floryszak-Wieczorek, 2011; Vandelle & Delledonne, 2011).

From the chemical point of view, ONOO<sup>-</sup> is a reactive nitrogen species (RNS), a product of the rapid and diffusion-controlled reaction between two radicals, i.e. NO and superoxide anion (O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>). Within the physiological milieu ONOO<sup>-</sup> is a relatively short-lived molecule, which may readily migrate through biological membranes and interact with biotargets in the surrounding cells within the radius of one or two cells (~5–20 μm) (Szabó *et al.*, 2007). ONOO<sup>-</sup> generation seems to be spatially associated with sources of the superoxide anion, which is much shorter-lived than the NO molecule (Szabó *et al.*, 2007). It was recently documented by Corpas & Barroso (2014) in the *Arabidopsis* model that peroxisomes are endogenous sources of ONOO<sup>-</sup> in root and guard cells, where the compound is over-produced under heavy metal stress. Due to its chemical nature, ONOO<sup>-</sup> is an important biological oxidant and nitrated compound, contributing to oxidative and nitrosative stress in living cells (Arasimowicz-Jelonek & Floryszak-Wieczorek, 2011). However, the tyrosine nitration phenomenon, which has been assumed to be a reliable marker of nitro-oxidative stress, may be provoked by other cellular nitrating agents. The fate of ONOO<sup>-</sup>

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formation and action in plant cells seems to be rather different than its well-recognized equivalent in animals. First, in contrast to animal cells, ONOO<sup>-</sup> itself seems to be less destructive for plants (Delledonne *et al.*, 2001). It has been documented that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is not an essential mediator of NO/ROS induced cell death in plants (Delledonne *et al.*, 2001). Secondly, accumulating data indicate that ONOO<sup>-</sup> might be continuously formed in healthy tissues as an inevitable event of plant cell metabolism, because plant cells are adapted to detoxify its excess by a broad range of both nonenzymatic and enzymatic mechanisms including thiol-dependent peroxidases. The *Arabidopsis* peroxiredoxin IIE (PrxII E) and poplar glutathione peroxidase 5 (Gpx5) were both able to reduce ONOO<sup>-</sup> to NO<sup>-</sup><sub>2</sub> (Romero-Puertas *et al.*, 2008; Ferrer-Sueta & Radi, 2009). The enzymes were then reactivated by thioredoxin in an NADPH-consuming manner (Gross *et al.*, 2013). A similar function as that proposed for *Arabidopsis* PrxII E could also apply to 2-CysPrx (Dietz, 2011).

Although the first reports speculating on the presence of ONOO<sup>-</sup> in plants had implicated ONOO<sup>-</sup> in the hypersensitive response (HR; Alamillo & García-Olmedo, 2001), the *in vivo* formation of this RNS during biotic interactions has been demonstrated only in *Arabidopsis thaliana* challenged with *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (Gaupels *et al.*, 2011) and tobacco cells treated with the elicitor INF1 secreted by *Phytophthora infestans* (Saito *et al.*, 2006).

*Phytophthora infestans* is an oomycete pathogen causing late blight disease in solanaceous plants, particularly in potato, tomato and their wild relatives. The pathogen is a major threat to sustainable food production worldwide, as control measures and crop losses due to the disease reach multibillion-dollar amounts (Ali *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, understanding the molecular basis of resistance and susceptibility to late blight is highly relevant for breeding for disease resistance.

Although it is strongly suggested that balanced levels of ROS and RNS are required for plant immune responses, the fate of ONOO<sup>-</sup> during these events is still ambiguous. The present study focuses on the analysis of the intensity and kinetics of ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation and assessment of ONOO<sup>-</sup> importance in triggering defence responses in potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) leaves challenged by the hemibiotroph *P. infestans*.

## Materials and methods

### Plant materials and growth conditions

*Solanum tuberosum* ' Bintje' and 'Sarpö Mira' were used in the experiments. Disease-free plants of both cultivars derived from *in vitro* tissue culture were transferred to soil and grown in a growth chamber with 16 h of light (180  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) at 18  $\pm$  2°C and 60% humidity for 4 weeks.

### Pathogen culture

*Phytophthora infestans* 1.3.4.7.10.11 (MP 946) isolate virulent to Bintje and avirulent (causing hypersensitive reaction) to Sarpö

Mira, was kindly supplied by the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute (IHAR), Research Division at Młochów, Poland. The pathogen was grown on a cereal–potato medium with an addition of dextrose. A zoospore suspension of *P. infestans* was prepared as described by Floryszak-Wieczorek *et al.* (2007).

### Plant challenge inoculation with *P. infestans*

For *P. infestans* infection, 10 leaves of each potato cultivar detached from 10 plants (i.e. one leaf per plant) were inoculated by spraying the abaxial surface of the leaves with a zoospore suspension in water (10<sup>5</sup> zoospores mL<sup>-1</sup>). Leaves were then maintained at 100% humidity in a growth chamber until 72 h post-inoculation (hpi).

### Peroxynitrite donor and scavenger treatment

To evaluate the effect of exogenous ONOO<sup>-</sup> on disease development, *PR* and *TPx* gene expression, potato leaves were sprayed with the ONOO<sup>-</sup> donor, 50  $\mu\text{M}$  3-morpholinopyridone (SIN-1; Calbiochem), which gradually decomposed to yield equimolar amounts of NO and O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, and the ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavenger, 50  $\mu\text{M}$  cbselen (Sigma). Control plants were treated with water. After 5 h of incubation leaves were gently dried and inoculated as described above.

### Assessment of disease development

Disease development on potato leaves was assessed on the third day after inoculation by visually estimating the percentage of leaf area covered by late blight symptoms. Values presented in the results are means from 30 leaves (10 leaves from each of three independent experiments).

### Peroxynitrite detection

The level of ONOO<sup>-</sup> was assayed according to Huang *et al.* (2007) using folic acid as the ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavenger, giving high fluorescent emission products. Leaf discs (1 g) were immersed in an incubation mixture containing a barbital buffer solution (pH 9.4) and folic acid (10<sup>-5</sup> M). Fluorescence intensity of the solution was recorded at 460 nm with the excitation wavelength set at 380 nm. The standard curve was prepared with SIN-1 from 1 to 14 nM. Additionally, the fluorescent reagent aminophenyl fluorescein, APF (Sigma; excitation 495 nm; emission 515 nm) was used to localize the ONOO<sup>-</sup> production in leaf tissue. Leaves were incubated for 1 h at room temperature with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  APF, prepared using loading buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4). After incubation, samples were washed five times for 1 min with 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4 and leaf fragments were embedded in a mixture of 15% acrylamide/bisacrylamide stock solution. Then 70  $\mu\text{m}$ -thick sections were cut under 10 mM phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) with a vibratome (Leica). Ultrathin sections were immediately studied under an LSM 510 microscope (Zeiss) equipped with standard filters and collection modalities for APF green fluorescence. Images were processed and analysed using an LSM Image Browser (Zeiss).

### Nitric oxide and superoxide detection

Nitric oxide formation was detected using a fluorescent dye Cu-FL (the copper complex of FL (2-[2-chloro-6-hydroxy-5-[2-methylquinolin-8-ylaminomethyl]-3-oxo-3H-xanthen-9-1]benzoic

acid). Cu-FL was prepared as 1 mM stock solution in water according to the manufacturer's instructions (Strem Chemicals). Leaf tissue (0.5 g) was homogenized in 2 mL of 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 6.0). The extract was centrifuged at 21 000 g for 30 min at 4°C. Then, 100 µL of supernatant were immediately used for NO assay by adding Cu-FL to a final concentration of 2 µM. Fluorescence intensity in supernatants was determined with an LS 50B fluorescence spectrometer (Perkin Elmer) using 488 and 516 nm for excitation and emission, respectively. The level of O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> was assayed spectrophotometrically on the basis of the capacity of the superoxide anion radical to reduce nitroblue tetrazolium (NBT) to diformazan, according to Doke (1983).

### Gene expression

RNA was isolated from 0.2 g of frozen leaf and root tissues using TriReagent (Sigma). The obtained RNA was purified with the use of a deoxyribonuclease kit (Sigma). For the reverse transcription, 1 µg RNA from every experimental variant was processed with a reverse transcription kit (Thermo Scientific Fermentas) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Real-time PCR was performed on a RotorGene 6000 thermocycler. The reaction mixture contained 0.1 µM of each primer, 1 µL of 5 × diluted cDNA, 10 µL of the Power SYBR Green PCR Master mix (Applied Biosystems) and DEPC-treated water to a total volume of 20 µL. The real-time PCR reaction conditions included an initial 5 min denaturation at 95°C, followed by 55 cycles consisting of 10 s at 95°C, 20 s at 55°C and 30 s at 72°C. The reaction was finalized by denaturation at a temperature rising from 72 to 95°C by 1°C/5 s. Reaction specificity was confirmed by the occurrence of one peak in the melting curve analysis. The data were normalized to two reference genes encoding the elongation factor (EF1α, AB061263) and 18S RNA (X67238). All primers used are presented in Table 1. The C<sub>T</sub> values were determined with the use of REAL-TIME PCR MINER (Zhao & Fernald, 2005) and the relative gene expression was calculated with the use of efficiency corrected calculation models presented by Pfaffl (2001).

### Protein extraction, SDS-PAGE and western blot

Leaves (0.25 g) were ground in liquid N<sub>2</sub> to a fine powder and then suspended in a ratio of 1:3 (w/v) in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.6) with 2 mM EDTA, 4 mM DTT, 0.6% PVPP, 1 mM

PMSF and plant inhibitor cocktail (Sigma). The crude extracts were centrifuged at 10 000 g for 15 min at 4°C, then the concentration of supernatant proteins was determined with the Bradford assay, using bovine serum albumen (BSA) as a standard. The solution of proteins was mixed with the Laemmli sample buffer and boiled for 10 min at 70°C. The sample of proteins (50 µg each) was separated on a gradient SDS PAGE (4–20%; Bio-Rad) and gels were stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue G-250 or proteins were electroblotted to PVDF membranes. After transfer, membranes were blocked (5% BSA) and used for cross-reactivity assays with polyclonal antibodies against nitrotyrosine (Life Technologies) at a dilution of 1:1000. For immunodetection, the goat anti-rabbit antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (Agriscra) and Lumi-Light western blotting substrate (Roche) was used. The intensity of bands was quantified using a Gel Doc system (Bio-Rad) coupled with a high-resolution camera.

### Mass spectrometry (MS) and protein identification

Protein identification was performed using liquid chromatography coupled to the mass spectrometer at the Laboratory of Mass Spectrometry, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland).

The PVDF membrane fragments with protein were put in a solution of 100 mM ammonium carbonate (pH 8) and directly subjected to the standard procedure of trypsin digestion, during which proteins were reduced with 10 mM DTT for 30 min at 56°C, alkylated with iodoacetamide in darkness for 45 min at room temperature and digested overnight with 10 ng µL<sup>-1</sup> trypsin. The resulting peptide mixtures were concentrated and desalted on an RP-C18 pre-column (Waters), and further peptide separation was achieved on a nano-Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) RP-C18 column (Waters, BEH130 C18 column, 75 µm i.d., 250 mm long) of a nanoACQUITY UPLC system, using a 45-min linear acetonitrile gradient. The column outlet was directly coupled to the electrospray ionization (ESI) ion source of the Orbitrap Velos type mass spectrometer (Thermo), working in the regime of data-dependent MS to MS/MS switch with HCD type peptide fragmentation. An electrospray voltage of 1.5 kV was used. Raw data files were preprocessed with the MASCOT DISTILLER software (v. 2.4.2.0; MatrixScience). The obtained peptide masses and fragmentation spectra were matched to the National Center Biotechnology Information (NCBI) non-redundant database (37 425 594 sequences; 13 257 553 858 residues), with a Viridiplantae filter (1 760 563 sequences) using the MASCOT search engine (Mascot Daemon v. 2.4.0, Mascot Server v. 2.4.1; MatrixScience). The following search parameters were applied: enzyme specificity was set to semi-trypsin, peptide mass tolerance to ± 30 ppm and fragment mass tolerance to ± 0.1 Da. The protein mass was left as unrestricted, and mass values as monoisotopic with two missed cleavages being allowed. Alkylation of cysteine by carbamidomethylation was set as fixed, whilst oxidation of methionine and carboxymethylation on lysine were set as a variable modification.

Protein identification was performed using the MASCOT search engine, with the probability-based algorithm. The expected value threshold of 0.05 was used for analysis, which means that all peptide identifications had less than 1 in 20 chance of being a random match.

### Statistical analysis

All the experiments included three independent experiments carried out in at least three replications. For each experiment,

Table 1 Primers used in real-time PCR

GenBank accession no.	Protein	Primers (5'–3')
AF043248.1	PR-3	F ACTGGAGGATGGGCTTCAGCA R TGGATGGGGCCTCGTCCGAA
AJ009932.1	PR 2	F TTGGCCTTCTGAGGGACACCC R GTGTTCCAGTCCCTCCTTCCAG
NM_001247429.1	PR-1	F GAGCTGGGGACTGCAGGATGC R CCGCGTTGAGCTGGGGGAAA
GQ180105.1	TPx	F GAGCTTCACTCCCCTTCCAG R GGCATGGGTGTATTTCCAG
JX428804.1	Thx	F TGATTCGAACACCATCCTGA R CAGAGGGAGGAGGTGAACAA
X67238	18S RNA	F GGGCATTGATTTTCATAGTCAGAG R CCGTTCCTGATTAATGAAAACATCCT
AB061263	EF1α	F ATTGGAAACGGATATGCTCCA R TCCTTACCTGAACGCCTGTCA

means of the values obtained were calculated along with standard deviations. The analysis of variance was performed (ANOVA) and the mean values were compared by Tukey's test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

## Results

### RNS and ROS generation during potato–*P. infestans* incompatible and compatible interactions

Peroxynitrite formation was quantitatively measured using the folic acid method and visualized using the fluorescence probe APF. Time-course experiments using a quantitative measurement of ONOO<sup>−</sup> revealed *c.* 3-fold induction of ONOO<sup>−</sup> production within 1 hpi in resistant potato leaves (Fig. 1a). Then, ONOO<sup>−</sup> accumulation gradually decreased, reaching the level of the control at 24 hpi. In the susceptible genotype, the pathogen induced a strong ONOO<sup>−</sup> formation (over 2-fold increase) starting from 24 hpi (Fig. 1b). Real-time imaging by fluorescence microscopy confirmed the results provided by the fluorometric method (Fig. 1c–f). Bioimaging with APF revealed that control potato leaves generated some ONOO<sup>−</sup>, with green fluorescence corresponding to ONOO<sup>−</sup> restricted to cells adjacent to vascular bundles (Fig. 1g,h). The significantly enhanced peroxynitrite-dependent green fluorescence was noted in susceptible potato leaves challenge-inoculated with *P. infestans* at 48 hpi, which was localized in epidermal cells, the palisade and spongy mesophyll (Fig. 1f). Additionally, the application of ebselen, a specific ONOO<sup>−</sup> scavenger, resulted in the suppression of ONOO<sup>−</sup> generation in potato leaves, showing specificity of the assays used for ONOO<sup>−</sup> detection in the plant material (Fig. 1i).

The levels of NO and superoxide anion forming ONOO<sup>−</sup> were also modified in potato leaves inoculated with *P. infestans*. A quantitative measurement of NO using the selective Cu-FL revealed that NO increased much faster (within the first 3 h of challenge) in the resistant than in the susceptible potato (Fig. 2). A delayed NO production was found during the compatible interaction (Fig. 2b). NO accumulation significantly increased starting from 6 hpi, reaching its highest level at this time point. Additionally, an early superoxide production was observed in response to *P. infestans* in both potato cultivars (Fig. 3a,b). However, the maximum superoxide production was recorded at different time points, i.e. at 6 and 48 hpi in the resistant and susceptible potato, respectively.

### Thioredoxin peroxidase and thioredoxin gene expression during potato–*P. infestans* interactions

It has been documented that thioredoxin peroxidases (TPxs) may also reduce ONOO<sup>−</sup>, in addition to hydrogen peroxide or phospholipid hydroperoxides (Wood *et al.*, 2003). Based on the quantitative PCR data, it was found that *TPx* could also be indirectly engaged in the regulation of ONOO<sup>−</sup> concentration in leaves of both potato genotypes. The ONOO<sup>−</sup> donor SIN-1 provoked an over 2-fold

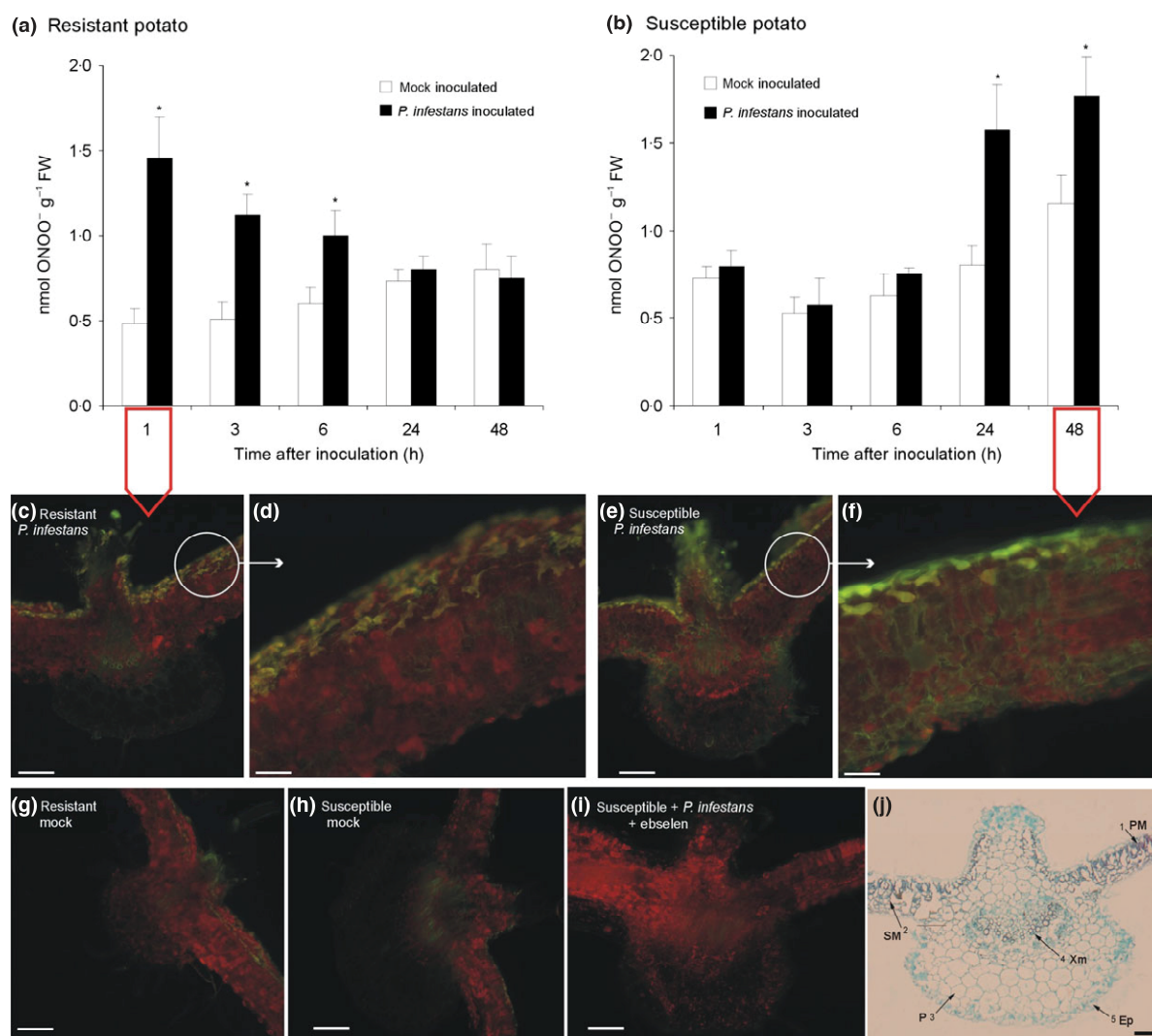
up-regulation of *TPx* gene expression starting from 1 and 3 h after pretreatment in healthy resistant and susceptible leaves, respectively (Fig. S1). Interestingly, the basal level of *TPx* was higher in the susceptible potato. Pathogen challenge resulted in a significantly induced gene expression starting from 3 and 1 hpi in both resistant and susceptible potato, respectively (Fig. 4a,b). In the resistant response, a peak of *TPx* transcript accumulation was observed at 24 hpi, following the ONOO<sup>−</sup> burst, whereas in the susceptible one, *TPx* expression reached the highest amount (*c.* 20-fold increase in comparison to mock-inoculated leaves) at 3 hpi, preceding ONOO<sup>−</sup> overproduction. The induced *TPx* expression was accompanied by *Thx* mRNA accumulation (Fig. 4c,d). The only exception was noted at 1 hpi in the susceptible potato, when a *c.* 3-fold down-regulation of the *Thx* gene expression was observed (Fig. 4d). SIN-1 did not provoke changes in the *Thx* expression profile (data not presented).

### Late blight disease development on potato leaves exposed to the ONOO<sup>−</sup> donor and scavenger

To assess the effect of ONOO<sup>−</sup> on late blight disease development, potato leaves were pretreated for 5 h with 50  $\mu$ M SIN-1 (susceptible potato) or 50  $\mu$ M ebselen (resistant potato) and then inoculated with the oomycete pathogen. At 3 days post-inoculation (dpi), reduced disease spots were found on susceptible leaves enriched with exogenous ONOO<sup>−</sup>, with the area covered by late blight at 24% (Fig. 5). In contrast, the area infected by *P. infestans* on leaves not pretreated with SIN-1 reached 35%. Pre-exposure to ONOO<sup>−</sup> scavenger and subsequent challenge inoculation did not modify the resistant potato–*P. infestans* interaction (Fig. 5).

### Peroxynitrite enhanced expression of genes encoding proteins involved in disease resistance

To gain further insight into the participation of ONOO<sup>−</sup> in the activation of defence to an oomycete pathogen in potato leaves, an analysis was performed using the susceptible genotype pretreated with SIN-1, or resistant genotype pretreated with ebselen. It was found that SIN-1 provoked *PR-1* and *PR-2* up-regulation in healthy leaves (Fig. S2). Moreover, the quantitative RT-PCR data revealed that leaves enriched with ONOO<sup>−</sup> and subsequently challenge-inoculated showed an early and stronger induction of *PR-1* in comparison to H<sub>2</sub>O-pretreated inoculated leaves (Fig. 6a). The expression of *PR-1* started to rise at 3 hpi and then gradually increased to reach the highest amount (over 7-fold increase in comparison to H<sub>2</sub>O-pretreated inoculated leaves) at 48 hpi. The *PR-2* mRNA was effectively up-regulated already at 1 and 24 hpi in leaves sequentially treated with SIN-1 and *P. infestans*. Moreover, an over 2-fold enhancement of the *PR-3* gene expression was observed at 48 h of pathogen challenge. Leaves of resistant potato lacking ONOO<sup>−</sup> due to ebselen pretreatment did not show *PR-1* expression during the first 6 h after challenge inoculation (Fig. 6b).



**Figure 1** Peroxynitrite formation in leaves of resistant (a) and susceptible (b) potato inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans*. The analyses were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after challenge inoculation. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from the mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*). Bio-imaging of peroxynitrite formation with fluorescent reagent APF at 1 hpi in resistant (c, d) and at 48 hpi susceptible (e, f) potato. Leaves of mock-inoculated (control) potato (g, h); sequential treated (50  $\mu\text{M}$  ebselen + *P. infestans* at 48 hpi) leaves of susceptible potato (i); leaf cross section of the susceptible potato genotype viewed under white light (j): 1 – palisade mesophyll (PM), 2 – spongy mesophyll (SM), 3 – parenchyma (P), 4 – xylem (Xm), 5 – epidermal cells (Ep). Images show general phenomena representative of three individual experiments. The green fluorescence corresponds to peroxynitrite and the red colour is due to the chlorophyll autofluorescence. Bars indicate 150  $\mu\text{m}$  (c, e, g–i), 60  $\mu\text{m}$  (d, f) and 200  $\mu\text{m}$  (j).

Application of ebselen also affected expression of *PR-3* at 48 hpi.

#### Tyrosine nitration pattern during potato defence response to *P. infestans*

Tyrosine nitration protein patterns detected with an antibody against nitrotyrosine in potato leaves challenged with *P. infestans* at 24 and 48 hpi are presented in Figure 7. A total of 15 immunoreactive bands were detected in leaves mock-inoculated and inoculated with *P. infestans* of both potato genotypes. These bands were analysed by LC-MS-MS/MS after trypsin digestion, using the MASCOT search engine to analyse MS data in order to

identify proteins from primary-sequence databases. The identified immunoreactive proteins are listed in Table 2, with the protein score confidence interval (CI) in almost all cases being over 99%, which indicates that the proteins were not identified by random matches of peptide mass data. Amino acid sequences of the homologous proteins identified are shown in Table S1.

The most prominent immunoreactive bands were observed during the compatible interaction. The protein bands, the intensities of which were enhanced after pathogen challenge, contained proteins involved in primary metabolism and defence responses (Table 2). Only one protein band (B6, 23 kDa) appeared *de novo* at 24 hpi and another protein band (B10, 38 kDa)

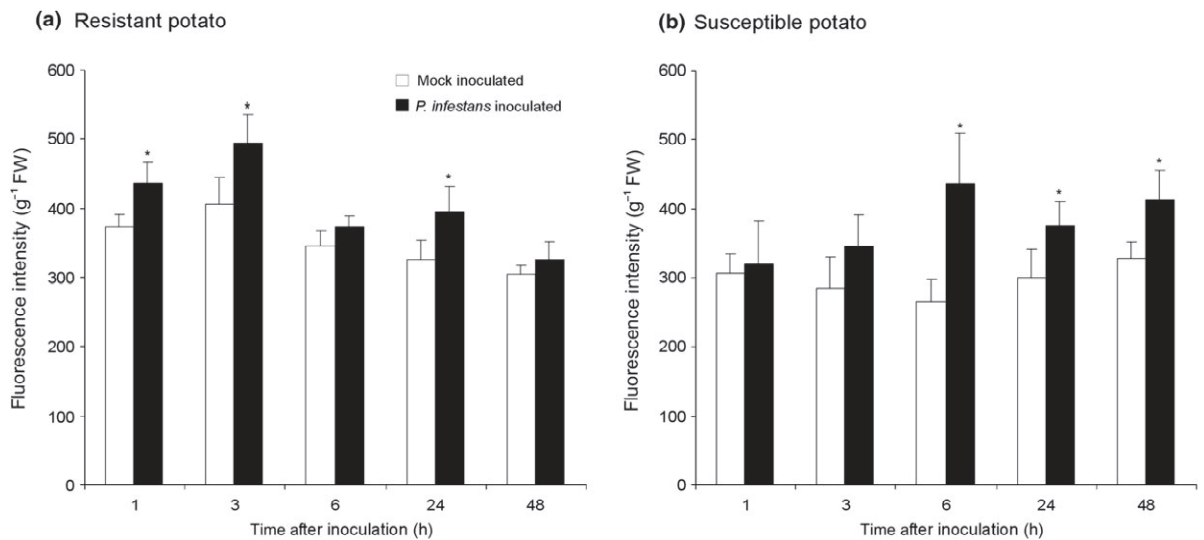


Figure 2 Nitric oxide production in leaves of resistant (a) and susceptible (b) potato inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans*. NO production was assayed spectrofluorimetrically using a selective NO sensor (Cu-FL). The analyses were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after challenge inoculation. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from the mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

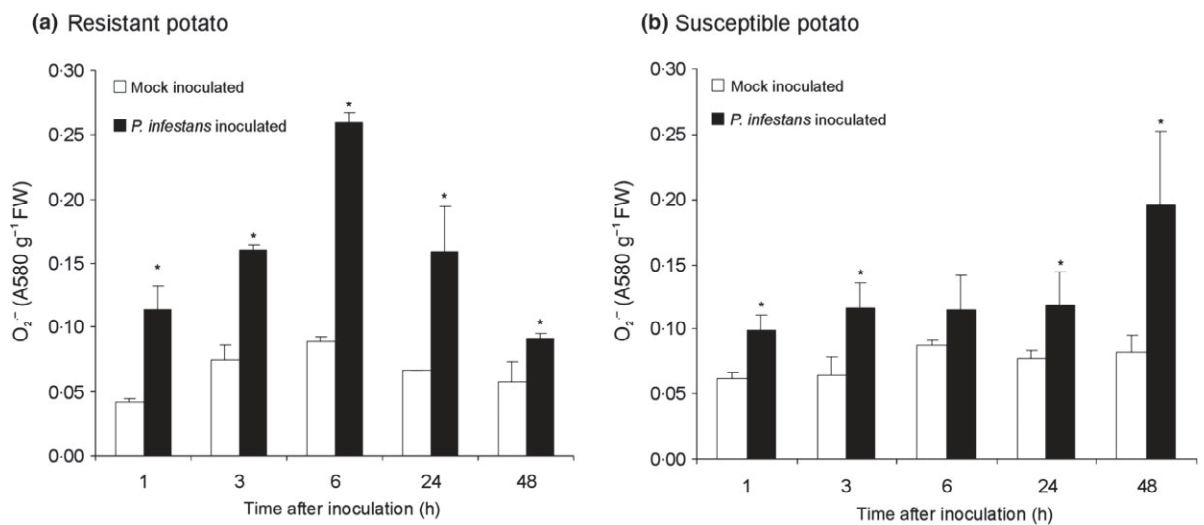


Figure 3 Superoxide production in leaves of resistant (a) and susceptible (b) potato inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans*. The analyses were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after challenge inoculation. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from the mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

appeared after 48 h of *P. infestans* challenge inoculation. The pathogen also provoked a lowered expression of one protein band (B12, 50 kDa). During the incompatible interaction, no increase was found in the total protein pool undergoing tyrosine nitration; however, one protein band (B13, 85 kDa) appeared at 48 h after pathogen attack which contained proteins involved in proteolysis (Table 2). Additionally, two bands (B5, 22 kDa; B12, 50 kDa), the intensities of which were diminished after pathogen infection, contained proteins involved mainly in defence response and photosynthesis (Table 2).

## Discussion

This report presents evidence of ONOO<sup>-</sup> contribution to the potato defence against the oomycete pathogen *P. infestans*. In the resistant potato genotype, *P. infestans* provoked a transient peak of ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation within the first hpi; however, the elevated generation of the RNS was maintained up to 6 hpi. The early ONOO<sup>-</sup> over-accumulation in potato leaves was coincident with the burst of NO and superoxide. Gaupels *et al.* (2011), applying a leaf disk assay with the HKGreen-2 fluores-



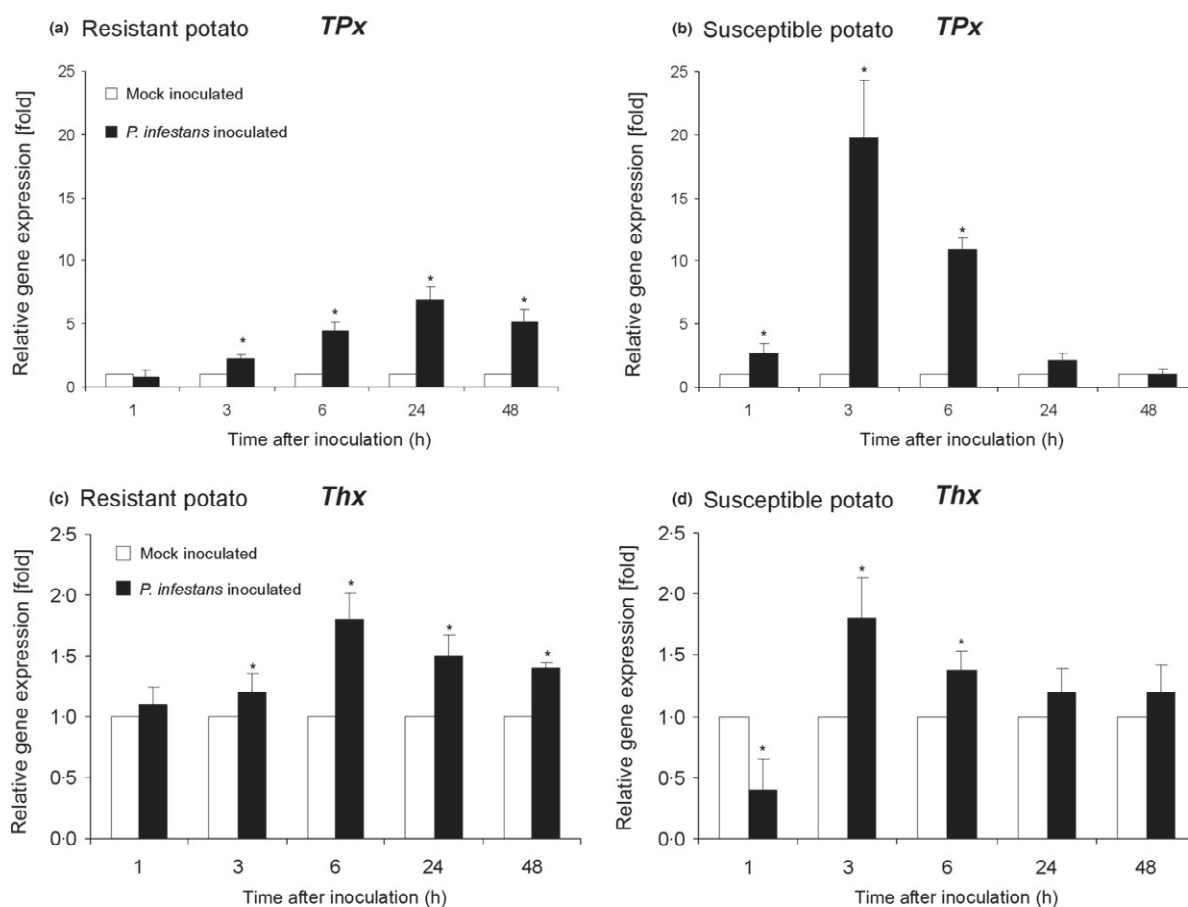


Figure 4 The qRT-PCR analysis of *TPx* and *Thx* gene expression in leaves of resistant (a, c) and susceptible (b, d) potato inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans*. The analyses were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after challenge inoculation. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from the mock-inoculated (control) potato leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

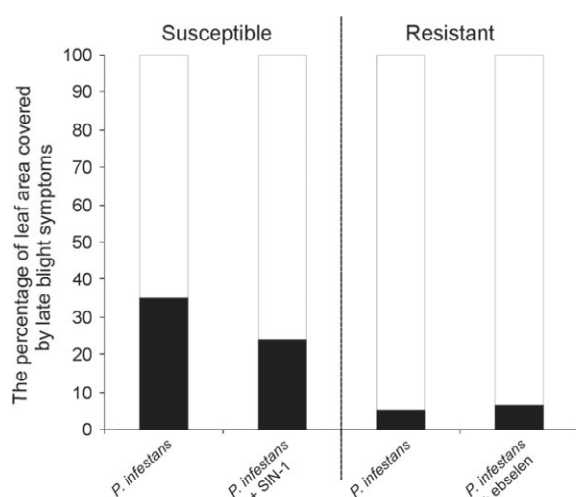
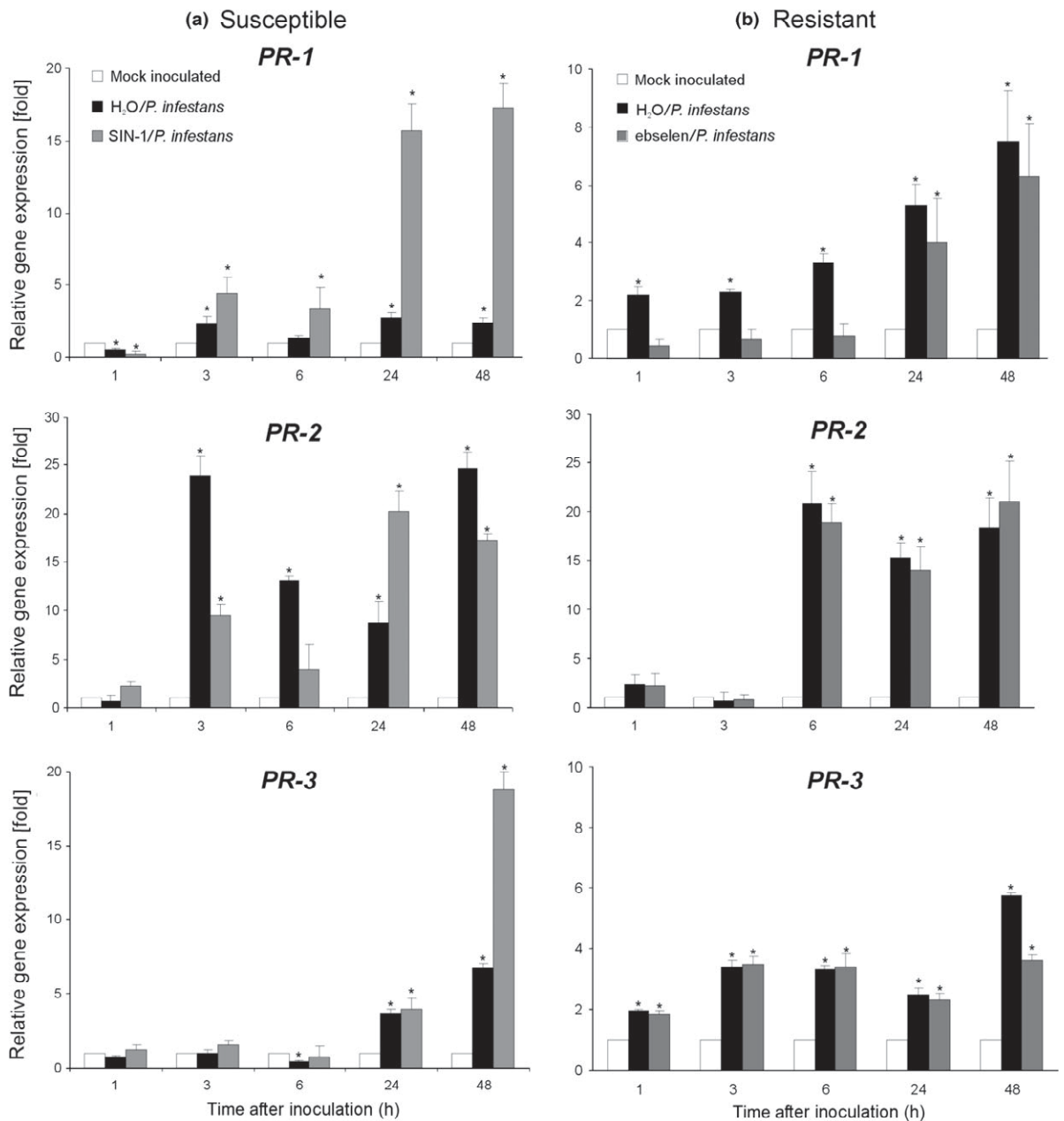


Figure 5 The effect of peroxynitrite donor (SIN-1) and scavenger (ebselen) pretreatment on late blight disease establishment in the susceptible and resistant potato cultivars. The percentage of leaf area infected by *Phytophthora infestans* was measured 3 days after pathogen challenge inoculation. Values are means from 30 leaves (10 leaves from each of three independent experiments).

cent dye, observed a significant accumulation of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  at 3–4 h during *Arabidopsis* and an *avr Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* interaction, which visibly peaked at 7–8 h after pathogen treatment. Saito *et al.* (2006) found  $\text{ONOO}^-$  generation in tobacco BY-2 cells treated with INF1, an elicitor that induces HR in tobacco. In this experimental model  $\text{ONOO}^-$  formation occurred already within the first hour and reached a maximum level at 6–12 h after elicitation. This sequence of events seems to be quite different from the plant response during compatible interactions, in which  $\text{ONOO}^-$  formation was detected at later stages of pathogen challenge. The potato *avr P. infestans* interaction was accompanied by the generation of considerable amounts of  $\text{ONOO}^-$  starting from 24 hpi; however, an enhanced level of NO and superoxide was already recorded during the earlier phase of disease development. It should be stressed that  $\text{ONOO}^-$  biosynthesis is not controlled in the narrower physiological sense, but equilibrated levels of both parent molecules could be precisely modified by various pathogen effectors and finally influence resistance.



**Figure 6** The effect of susceptible potato (a) pretreatment with peroxynitrite donor (50  $\mu$ M SIN-1) and resistant potato (b) pretreatment with peroxynitrite scavenger (50  $\mu$ M ebselen) followed by challenge inoculation with *Phytophthora infestans* on PR-1, PR-2 and PR-3 gene expression in potato leaves. The qRT-PCR analyses were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after challenge inoculation. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from mock-inoculated leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

It was earlier asserted by Alamillo & García-Olmedo (2001) that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is relevant to HR. However, when studying the mechanisms of RNS and ROS cooperation in triggering the hypersensitive cell death it was seen that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is not involved in NO-mediated cell death in plants (Delledonne *et al.*, 2001), although high external concentrations of ONOO<sup>-</sup> (1 mM) have been reported to induce tyrosine nitration in soybean and some necrotic lesions in *Arabidopsis* (Alamillo & García-Olmedo,

2001). More recently, Serrano *et al.* (2012) shed new light on ONOO<sup>-</sup> implication in plant cell death, with their results suggesting that ONOO<sup>-</sup> functions as a key signal molecule during developmental programmed cell death (PCD) of incompatible pollen in *Olea europaea*.

A potential signalling role of ONOO<sup>-</sup> during the induction of defence gene expression has also been proposed (Alamillo & García-Olmedo, 2001; Vandelle & Delledonne, 2011). As found in the present study, treat-

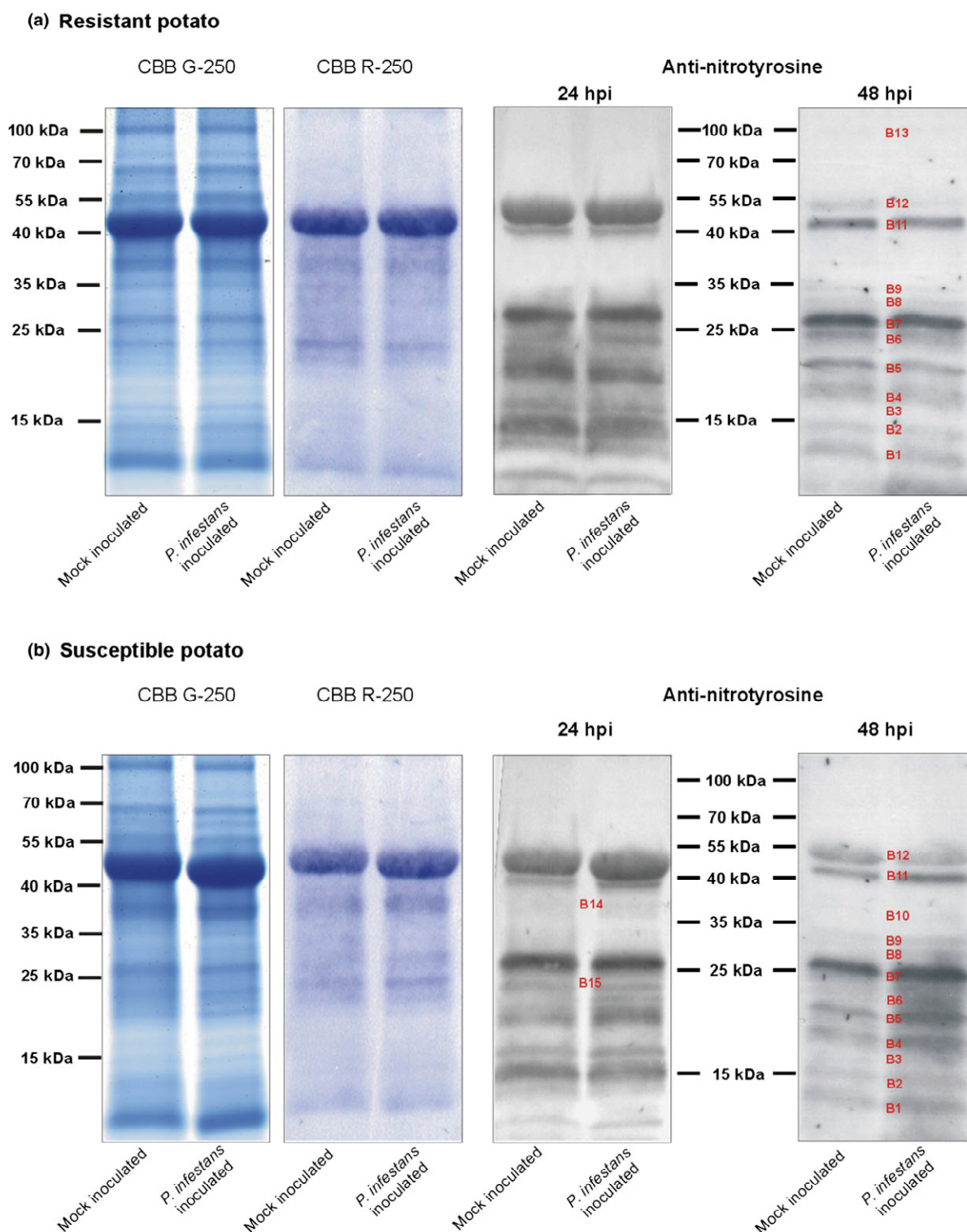


Figure 7 Tyrosine nitration pattern in potato leaves challenge-inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans* at 24 and 48 h post-inoculation (hpi) in resistant (a) and susceptible (b) genotypes. Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) G-250-stained SDS PAGE (4–20%) gels, the loading control determined by staining the blot with CBB R-250, and western blot was probed with a rabbit anti-nitrotyrosine polyclonal antibody at a 1:1000 dilution. Numbers indicate the immunoreactive bands referring to the proteins listed in Table 2.

**Table 2** Nitrated proteins in potato leaves inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans* isolated from PVDF membrane and identified by LC-MS/MS/MS

No.	Protein name	NCBI accession no.	BI-AST score	Functional category
B1	40S ribosomal protein S14-2-like	gi 568215322	230	Translation
	PREDICTED: pathogenesis-related protein ST11-2-like	gi 565347758	157	Defence response
	Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase small subunit	gi 162946541	110	Photosynthesis
B2	Putative kunitz-type proteinase inhibitor precursor P1D4	gi 20087001	132	Endopeptidase inhibitor activity
	Pathogenesis-related protein P2-like precursor	gi 568815624	102	Defence response
B3	PREDICTED: ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase small subunit	gi 565383834	67	Photosynthesis
B4	Proteinase inhibitor	gi 994778	163	Endopeptidase inhibitor activity
	Ribosomal protein S7-like protein	gi 568214675	158	Translation
	Oxygen-evolving enhancer protein 2, chloroplastic precursor	gi 568214772	89	Photosynthesis
B5	PREDICTED: 2-Cys peroxiredoxin BAS1-like, chloroplastic-like	gi 565344108	216	Antioxidant activity
	60S ribosomal protein L15-like	gi 82621122	169	Translation
	PREDICTED: carbonic anhydrase, chloroplastic-like isoform X1	gi 565342863	94	Photosynthesis
B6	PREDICTED: carbonic anhydrase, chloroplastic-like isoform X2	gi 565342865	94	Photosynthesis
	60S ribosomal protein L19-like protein	gi 568214986	184	Translation
B7	Chitinase	gi 21495	99	Defence response
	PREDICTED: glutathione S-transferase L3-like	gi 565343884	84	Defence response
B8	Putative 40S ribosomal protein S8-like protein	gi 568215087	174	Translation
	PREDICTED: 60S ribosomal protein L6-like	gi 565371561	179	Translation
B9	Chloroplast manganese stabilizing protein	gi 313586398	355	Photosynthesis
	Glucan endo-1,3-β-glucosidase, basic isoform 2 precursor	gi 568214854	111	Defence response
B10	Pectin methyl esterase	gi 568214923	195	Hydrolase activity/cell wall modification
	Low temperature-induced cysteine proteinase-like precursor	gi 568215000	65	Peptidase activity
	Class I chitinase precursor	gi 568214310	101	Hydrolase activity/chitinase activity/carbohydrate metabolism
B11	PREDICTED: aldo-keto reductase-like	gi 565368099	256	Oxidoreductase activity
	PREDICTED: probable fructose-bisphosphate aldolase 2, chloroplastic-like	gi 565347367	94	Glycolysis
B12	Uncharacterized protein LOC102577718	gi 568215399	329	Unknown
	Anionic peroxidase, partial	gi 169555	138	Defence response
	60S ribosomal protein L3-like	gi 568214933	123	Translation
B13	Leucine aminopeptidase	gi 21487	1791	Stress response
	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase, mitochondrial	gi 568215114	1178	Glycine metabolic process
	Ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase large subunit	gi 108773138	933	Photosynthesis
	PREDICTED: ATP synthase subunit beta, mitochondrial-like	gi 565389366	632	ATP binding
	S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine hydrolase-like	gi 81075407	224	Carbon metabolic process/hydrolase activity
B14	Catalase	gi 587568	102	Defence response/response to oxidative stress
	PREDICTED: subtilisin-like protease-like	gi 565378238	1214	Proteolysis
B15	PREDICTED: subtilisin-like protease-like	gi 565378352	864	Proteolysis
	PREDICTED: quinone oxidoreductase-like protein At1g23740, chloroplastic-like	gi 565399387	186	Oxidoreductase activity
B16	PREDICTED: quinone oxidoreductase PIG3-like	gi 565360697	68	Oxidoreductase activity
	Unnamed protein product	gi 21465	130	Unknown
B17	Aspartic proteinase inhibitor	gi 21413	68	Protease inhibitor

ment of susceptible potato with SIN-1 before inoculation effectively activated key markers of plant defence against pathogens, including *PR-1*, *PR-2* and *PR-3*. Peroxynitrite implication in defence activation at the molecular level was even strengthened by the application of ebselen and subsequent inoculation with *P. infestans*, which provoked a significant down-regulation of *PR-1* expression in the resistant cultivar. This finding is in line with previous pharmacological reports showing the ONOO<sup>-</sup> association with *PR-1* gene expression in tobacco (Durner *et al.*, 1998). Moreover, the mRNA level of *PR-1* was reduced during *Arabidopsis* response to ONOO<sup>-</sup>

scavenger treatment and subsequent inoculation with the virulent strain *P. syringae* pv. *phaseolicola* (*avrRPM1*<sup>-</sup>). Also a transient peak of *PAL*, encoding a key enzyme of the phenylpropanoid pathway, observed at 4 h upon challenge with the avirulent (*avrRPM1*<sup>+</sup>) strain of the bacterial pathogen, did not occur in the presence of urate, indicating that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is obligatory for the early induction of this defence gene (Alamillo & García-Olmedo, 2001). Most probably a specific redox imbalance created by ONOO<sup>-</sup> is crucial to unlock the sequence of events towards responses engaged in basal defence. Based on the potato incompatible response this

may include enhancement of the Thx pool, which may favour plant immunity via *NPR-1* regulation and subsequent *PR-1* gene expression (Tada *et al.*, 2008).

It is known that the production of ONOO<sup>-</sup> not only affects the redox balance, but also diminishes the concentration of bioavailable NO. In animal cells it means a switch of the redox environment from controlled by cytoprotective NO to controlled by the cytotoxic ONOO<sup>-</sup> (Burewicz *et al.*, 2013). In plants an early, transient and balanced/controlled burst of NO, occurring rapidly after pathogen recognition, is essential to immunity (Floryszak-Wieczorek *et al.*, 2007). In turn, an accurate resetting of the boosted NO signal prevents a homeostasis misbalance towards nitrosative stress. The accumulating data indicate that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is generated not only during plant pathological states, but might be continuously formed in healthy tissues as an inevitable event of cell metabolism, because plant cells are adapted to detoxify its excess by a broad range of decomposition mechanisms (Romero-Puertas *et al.*, 2008). Thus, the plant NO buffering system could also include an enhanced ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation, which provides an important regulatory loop for NO bioactivity, especially under stress conditions. An efficient mechanism for ONOO<sup>-</sup> detoxification could involve thiol-dependent peroxidases. In the present study, an early ONOO<sup>-</sup> over-production noted during the incompatible interaction was not accompanied by *TPx* gene expression. However, *TPx* mRNA gradually increased, reaching maximum expression at 24 hpi, which was negatively correlated with ONOO<sup>-</sup> accumulation. Thioredoxin peroxidases were proved to reduce ONOO<sup>-</sup>, while they may also convert hydrogen peroxide or phospholipid hydroperoxides (Wood *et al.*, 2003). In this way *TPx* could control not only ONOO<sup>-</sup> concentration, but also indirectly mediate in hydrogen peroxide accumulation, which in orchestration with boosted NO synthesis, promoted HR observed in the plant-*avr* pathogen interaction.

Because the average distance of ONOO<sup>-</sup> diffusion is less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , the molecule is able to travel short distances, reaching subcellular compartments and neighbouring cells (Szabó *et al.*, 2007). This characteristic may play a significant role in the amplification of the signal, especially during the incompatible interaction accompanied by a quick and transient ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation. Moreover, the identification of several proteins subjected to specific tyrosine nitration during HR supports the potential role of ONOO<sup>-</sup> as a mediator of NO-dependent signalling during defence responses (Cecconi *et al.*, 2009). Although it is generally accepted that ONOO<sup>-</sup> contributes to nitrosative stress in cells and tyrosine nitration has been associated with pathophysiological states during plant response to various abiotic stress stimuli (Chaki *et al.*, 2011; Tanou *et al.*, 2012; Signorelli *et al.*, 2013), nitration activity of ONOO<sup>-</sup> could be beneficial in terms of host defence against invading microorganisms. Increasing data point out that this post-translational modification may perform a signalling function in cellular behaviour through its positive or negative

implication into existing tyrosine phosphorylation/dephosphorylation pathways, which could be crucial to plant defence responses (Vandelle & Delledonne, 2011).

A one-dimensional western blot analysis showed no intensification of nitrotyrosine immunoreactivity in the challenge-inoculated resistant potato, except for one protein band (85 kDa), which appeared only at 48 hpi. This indicates a subtilisin-like protease-like protein involved in proteolysis. Importantly, the tomato subtilase P69 has been identified as a pathogenesis-related protein and was shown to be one of several subtilases that are specifically induced following pathogen infection. Moreover, subtilisin-like protease promoters *P69B* and *P69C* may act as an early line of defence, because expression of both *P69B* and *P69C* occurs in cells distal from the necrotic lesion, being a consequence of HR during the incompatible interaction (Jordá & Vera, 2000). Some caspase-like activities are attributable to plant subtilisin-like proteases (Vartapetian *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, subtilisin-like proteases as potential sensors of ONOO<sup>-</sup> could be a functional link between ONOO<sup>-</sup> and active cell death under both physiological PCD (Serrano *et al.*, 2012) and plant immune responses. The nitroproteome profile did not show any visible differences in the resistant sunflower cultivar inoculated with the biotroph *Plasmopara halstedii* (Chaki *et al.*, 2009). In contrast, in susceptible sunflower plants the protein tyrosine nitration increased after infection with the pathogen. An enhanced expression of protein undergoing tyrosine nitration during the potato-*P. infestans* compatible interaction starting from 24 hpi was also found in the present study. Identified 3-nitrotyrosine targets from the susceptible potato genotype indicated proteins homologous to ones involved in gene transcription, translation, defence response, carbohydrate metabolism and photosynthesis. However, these proteins should be considered putatively nitrated until the nitrated sites have been identified by sequence analysis. Some of the identified proteins have been previously reported to be nitrated in other plant species and they included aldo-keto reductase, fructose-bisphosphate aldolase 2, the RuBisCo large and small subunit, ATP synthase subunit  $\beta$ , carbonic anhydrase 1 and 2, S-adenosyl-L-homocysteine hydrolase, endochitinase and peroxidase (Lozano-Juste *et al.*, 2011; Begara-Morales *et al.*, 2013; Chaki *et al.*, 2013). Importantly, the 38 kDa protein band (B10) appearing *de novo* at 48 hpi during the genetically compatible potato *P. infestans* interaction contained redox-regulated proteins, which modified by nitration could affect cellular redox balance contributing to plant susceptibility to pathogen attack. Moreover, anionic peroxidase located in the 45 kDa band (B11) was recently proved to be involved in potato resistance to *P. infestans* (Sorokan *et al.*, 2014). As nitration may result in reversible or irreversible down-regulation of the targeted protein, it is highly likely that these post-translational modifications of anionic peroxidase and the other up-regulated proteins identified in this study, could favour potato susceptibility to an oomycete pathogen.

In *Arabidopsis* challenged with an avirulent bacterial pathogen Cecconi *et al.* (2009) identified 11 proteins that undergo nitration during the progression of HR. The proteins were related to primary metabolism, such as nitrogen assimilation, ATP synthesis, the Calvin cycle and glycolysis. Moreover, in tobacco BY-2 suspension cells treated with a fungal elicitor, Saito *et al.* (2006) revealed the induction of tyrosine nitration in proteins with molecular masses in the range of 20–50 kDa.

The results presented here indicate that an early and transient ONOO<sup>-</sup> generation in cooperation with fine balanced TPx at the site of the *P. infestans* contact with the resistant potato most probably made it possible to generate sufficient amounts of ONOO<sup>-</sup>, promoting defence responses. Moreover, selective nitration of tyrosine residues in a small number of proteins suggests that ONOO<sup>-</sup> might function as a key regulator of redox signalling in cells undergoing HR. In contrast, a time-delayed formation of ONOO<sup>-</sup>, together with a prolonged and boosted NO accumulation in the compatible response, may strongly influence the redox milieu via elevated protein nitration, resulting in failed resistance. Tissue enrichment with ONOO<sup>-</sup> was able to reprogramme molecular mechanisms in susceptible potato cells, facilitating more potent defence responses to a subsequent pathogen attack, as shown by a significant induction of PR genes and reduced disease symptoms as a result of the sequential treatment with SIN-1 and *P. infestans*. Taken together, ONOO<sup>-</sup> is an important redox regulation player of defence responses engaged in basal resistance.

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## Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article at the publisher's web-site.

**Figure S1** The effect of peroxynitrite donor (50  $\mu$ M SIN-1) on *TPx* gene expression in leaves of susceptible and resistant potato. The qRT-PCR analyses of *TPx* were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after SIN-1 treatment. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from reference *EF1 $\alpha$*  and *18S RNA* at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

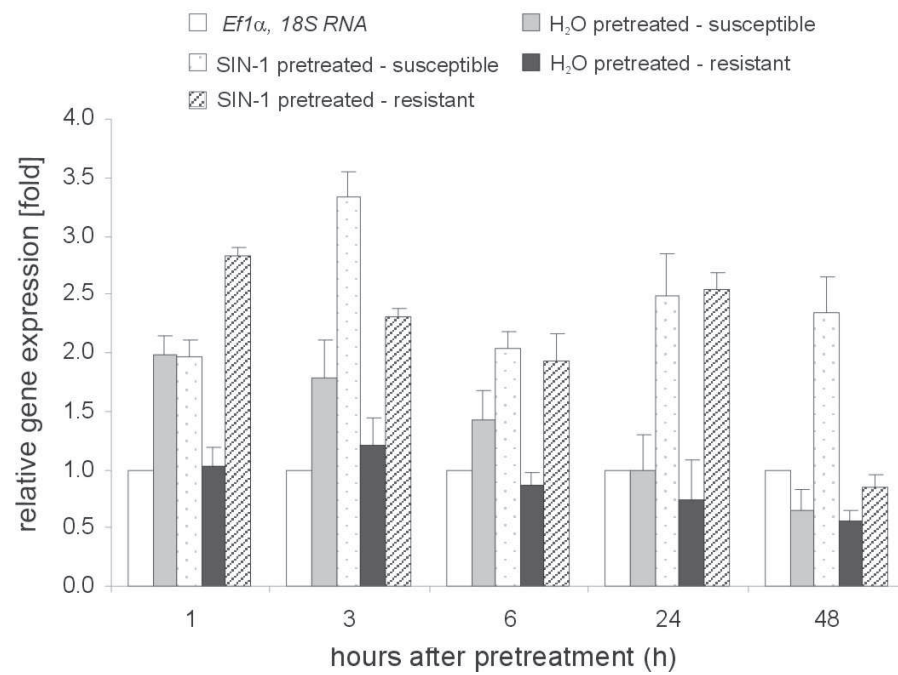
**Figure S2** The effect of peroxynitrite donor (50  $\mu$ M SIN-1) on *PR-1*, *PR-2* and *PR-3* gene expression in leaves of susceptible potato. The qRT-PCR analyses of *PR* genes were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after SIN-1 treatment. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from H<sub>2</sub>O-pretreated leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).

**Table S1** Amino acid sequence of the identified homologous proteins (matched peptides derived from *Solanum tuberosum* shown in bold red).

## Supporting information

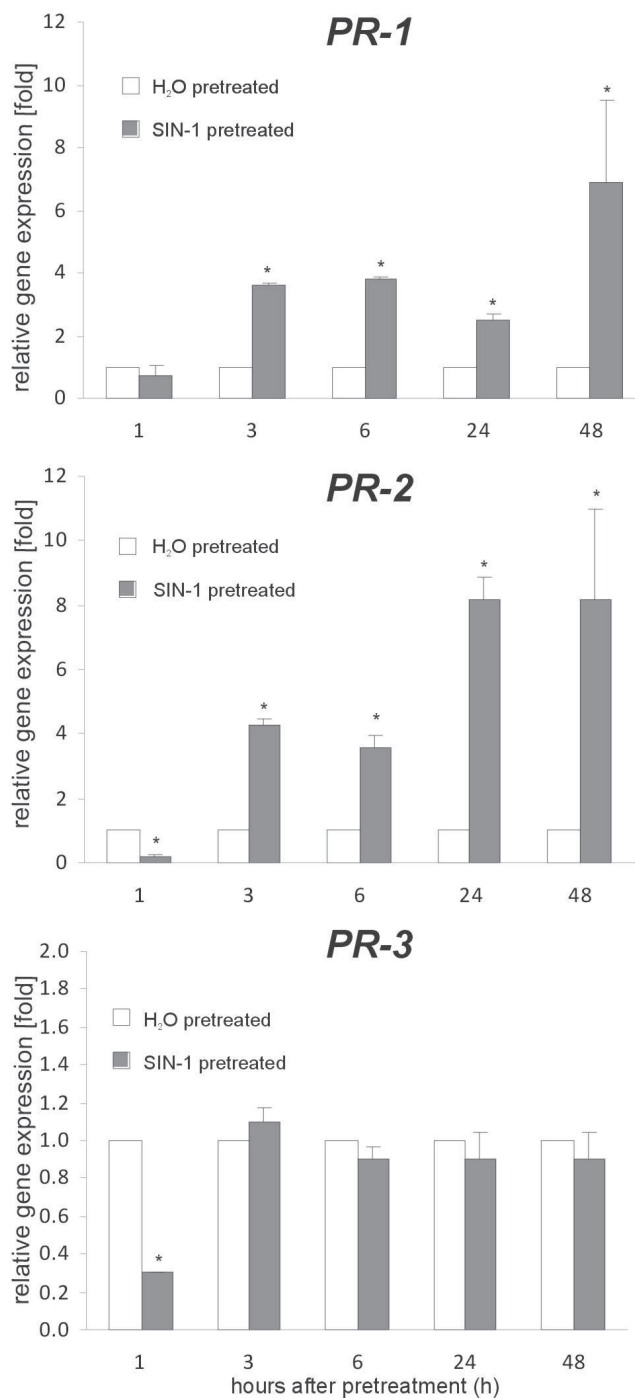
(<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ppa.12471>)

**Figure S1.** The effect of peroxyxynitrite donor (50  $\mu$ m SIN-1) on *TPx* gene expression in leaves of susceptible and resistant potato. The qRT-PCR analyses of *TPx* were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after SIN-1 treatment.





**Figure S2.** The effect of peroxyntirite donor ( $50 \mu\text{m}$  SIN-1) on *PR-1*, *PR-2* and *PR-3* gene expression in leaves of susceptible potato. The qRT-PCR analyses of *PR* genes were performed at 1, 3, 6, 24 and 48 h after SIN-1 treatment. Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from H<sub>2</sub>O-pretreated leaves at  $P < 0.05$  (\*).



**Table S1.** Amino acid sequence of the identified homologous proteins (matched peptides derived from *Solanum tuberosum* shown in **Bold Red**)

No.	NCBI accession no.	Matched peptides ( <b>BOLD RED</b> )					
<b>B1</b>	gil568215322	1	MSKRRRTREPK	<b>EETVTLGPSV</b>	REGELVFGVA	HIFASFNDTF	IHVTDLSGRE
		51	TMVRITGGMK	VK <b>ADRESSP</b>	<b>YAAMLAAQDV</b>	<b>SQRCKELGIN</b>	ALHIKLRATG
		101	GNKTK <b>TPGPG</b>	<b>AQSALRALAR</b>	SGMKIGRIED	<b>VTPIPTDSTR</b>	RKGGRRGRRL
	gil565347758	1	MGVNIF <b>THES</b>	<b>TTTIAPTRLF</b>	<b>KGLVLDLDFDSL</b>	<b>VPKLLSHDVK</b>	QFKPEEITAI
		51	<b>AGSIKQ</b> MNFV	EGGPIKYLKH	KIHAIDDKNL	ETKYSLIEGD	GVTVKKTGAA
		101	YDVKFEEAGD	GGCVCKTTTT	YHTK <b>GDIYVS</b>	<b>EEEHNVGK</b> GK	
	gil162946541	1	MASSVISSAA	VATRTNVTQA	GSMIAPFTGL	KSAATFPVSR	KQNLDITSIA
		51	SNGGRVRCMQ	VWPPINTK <b>KY</b>	<b>ETLSYLPDLT</b>	<b>DEQLLKEVEY</b>	LLKNGWVPC
		101	EFETEHEGIVY	REKHK <b>SPGY</b>	<b>DGRYWNM</b> WKL	PMFGCTDATQ	VLAEVQECKK
151		SYPQAWIR <b>II</b>	<b>GFDNVRQ</b> VQC	ISFIAYKPEG	Y		
<b>B2</b>	gil20087001	1	MKCLFLLCLC	LVPIVFSST	FTSQNPIN <b>LP</b>	<b>SDATPVL</b> DVT	<b>GKELDP</b> RLSY
		51	RIISIGR <b>GAL</b>	<b>GGDVYL</b> GKSP	NSDAPCANGV	<b>FRYNSD</b> VGGS	<b>GTPVR</b> FIGSS
		101	SHFGPHIFED	ELLNIQFAIS	TSKLCVSYTI	WKVGDYDASL	GTMLLETGGT
	gil568815624	1	MERVNKLKVA	FFVISMMAM	AAAQSATNVR	ATYHLYNPQN	INWDLRTASA
		51	YCATWDADKP	LAWRQRYGWT	AFCGPAGPRG	QASCGRCLRV	<b>TNTGTGTQET</b>
		101	<b>VR</b> IVDQCSNG	GLDLDVNVFN	RLDTNGLGYQ	RGNLNVNYEF	VNC
<b>B3</b>	gil565383834	1	MASSVISSAA	VATRTNVTQA	SSMVAFTGL	KSTPTFPVSR	KQNLDITSIA
		51	SNGGRVRCMQ	VWPPINMKKY	ETLSYLPDLT	DEQLLKEVEY	LLKNGWVPC
		101	EFETEHEGFVY	RENNKSPGY	DGRYWTMWKL	PMFGCTDATQ	VLAEVQECKN
		151	AYPQAWIR <b>II</b>	<b>GFDNVRQ</b> VQC	ISFIAYKPEG	Y	
<b>B4</b>	gil994778	1	MMKCLFFLCL	CLFPILVFSS	TFTSQNPINL	PSESPV <b>PKPV</b>	<b>LDTDGK</b> KLNP
		51	NSSYRIISTF	<b>WGALGGD</b> VYL	<b>GKSPNSD</b> APC	PDGVFR <b>YNSD</b>	<b>VGPSGT</b> PVRF
		101	IPLSTNIFED	QLLNIQFNIP	TVKLCVSYTI	WKVGNLNTHL	WTMLLETGGT
		151	IGKADSSYFK	IVKSSKFGYN	LLYCPITRPP	IVCPFCRDD	FCAKVGVIQ
		201	NGKRR <b>LALVN</b>	<b>ENPLD</b> VLFOE	<b>V</b>		
	gil568214675	1	MYTSKQKIHK	DKDAEPSEFE	VSVAQAFDL	ENTNQELKSE	LKDLYINSAT
		51	QIDVSGNR <b>KA</b>	<b>VVIHV</b> PYRLR	KAFRKHVHRL	VRELEKKFSG	KDVFIATR
		101	IVRPPKRGSA	AQRPRTR <b>TLT</b>	<b>SVHDAILEDL</b>	<b>VVPAEIV</b> GKR	TRYRVDGSKI
		151	MKVYLDPKER	NNTEYK <b>LET</b> F	<b>SAVYR</b> KLSGK	DVVFEYPITE	A
	gil568214772	1	MAASTQCFLH	QYHALRSPA	RTSSVSPKP	NQLICRAQKQ	DDANNTSNAV
		51	SRRALAL <b>LLI</b>	GTAAGSKVS	PADAAIGEAA	NVFGPKENT	DFLPYNGDGF
		101	KLQIPAKWNP	SKEIEFFGQV	LRYEDNFDST	SNLMVAVTPT	DKKSITDYGS
151		PEEFLSKVDY	LLGKQAYFGK	TDSEGGFESG	AVATANLLEA	SSATVGGKQY	
201		YYLSVLTRTA	DGDEGGK <b>HQL</b>	<b>ITATVNDG</b> KL	YICKAQAGDK	RWFKGAKKFV	
<b>B5</b>	gil565344108	1	MACSASSSTA	LLSSTSRASI	SPKSHISQSI	SVPSAFNGLR	NCKPFVSRVA
		51	RSISTRVAQ <b>S</b>	ERRRFAVCAS	SELPLVGNQA	PDFEABAVFD	QEFIKVKLSE
		101	YIGKKYVILF	FYPLDFTFVC	PTEITAFSDR	YEEFEKVNTE	VLGVSVDVSF
		151	SHLAWQTER	KSGGLGDLNY	PLISDVTKSI	SK <b>SYNVLIPD</b>	<b>QGIALR</b> GLFI
		201	IDK <b>EGVIQHS</b>	<b>TINNLG</b> IGRS	VDETLRTLQA	LQYVENPDE	VCPAGWKPE
	gil82621122	1	MGAYTYVSEL	WRKTSDVMSL	AKVEVLEYRQ	LPSMVRVTRP	TRPDKARRLG
		51	YKAKQGYV <b>VY</b>	RVRVKRGGRK	RPVSK <b>GIVYG</b>	<b>KPTNQGV</b> TQL	<b>KFQR</b> SKRSVA
		101	EERAGRKLGG	LR <b>VLSY</b> WIN	<b>EDSTY</b> KYF		
	gil565342863	1	MSTASINNCL	TISPAQASLK	KPTRPVAFAR	LGNSSSSSSI	PSLIRNEPVF
		51	AAPTPIINPI	VREEMAKESY	DQAIAALEKL	LSEKALGPV	AAARVDQITA
		101	ELKSADGSKA	FDPVEHMKAG	FIHFKTEKYD	TNPALYGELA	KGQSPKFMVF
		151	ACSDSRVCP <b>S</b>	HVLNFPGEA	<b>FMVRNIAN</b> MV	<b>PAYDK</b> VRYSG	VGAAIEYAVL
201		HLKVENIVVI	GHSACGGIKG	LMSLPEDGSE	STAFIEDWVK	ICLPKAKV <b>L</b>	
251		ADHGDK <b>EFGH</b>	QCTACEKEAV	NVSLGNLLTY	PFVREGLVKK	TLALK <b>GGYYD</b>	
301	<b>FVKG</b> GFELWG	LEFGLSPPLS	VKDVASILHW	RLM			
gil565342865	1	MSTASINNCL	TISPAQASLK	KPTRPVAFAR	LGNSSSSSSI	PSLIRNEPVF	

		51	AAPTPIINPI	VREEMAKESY	DQAIAALEKL	LSEKAE LGPV	AAARVDQITA
		101	ELKSADGSKA	FDPVEHMKAG	FIHFKTEKYD	TNPALYGELA	KGQSPKFMVF
		151	ACSDSRVCP	HVLNFQPGEA	FMVVR <b>NIANMV</b>	<b>PAYDK</b> VRYSG	VGAAIEYAVL
		201	HLLKVENIVVI	GHSACGGIKG	LMSLPEDGSE	STAFIEDWVK	ICLPKAKAVL
		251	ADHGDKFEGH	QCTACEKEAV	NVSLGNLLTY	PFVREGLVKK	TLALK <b>GGYYD</b>
		301	<b>FVK</b> GGFELWG	LEFGLSPPLS	V		
<b>B6</b>	<b>gil568214986</b>	1	MVSLKLQKRL	<b>AASVLK</b> CGRG	<b>KVWLDP</b> NEGN	<b>EISMANSR</b> QN	IRKLVKDGFI
		51	IRKPTKIHSR	SRARRMKEAK	RKGRHSGYGK	RKGTREARLP	TKVLWMRRLR
		101	VLRRLLRKYR	ESKKIDKHYM	HDMYMKVKGN	VFKNKR <b>VLME</b>	<b>NIHKT</b> KAEKA
		151	REK <b>TLSDQFE</b>	<b>ARRAKN</b> KASR	ERKFARREER	<b>LAQGP</b> GGEKP	<b>VQQPA</b> APAAA
		201	<b>APAQPA</b> QGI				
	<b>gil21495</b>	1	MRLVLVLAWS	VLCLKCVLAQ	DVGS LINKNL	FERIFLHRND	AACAAGFYT
		51	YEAFITATKS	<b>FAAFGT</b> TGDT	<b>NTRK</b> KEIAAF	LAQTSHETTG	GWATAPDGPY
		101	SWG YCFKQEQ	GSPGDYCVAS	QQWPCAPGKK	YFGRGPIQIS	YNYNYGPAGR
		151	AIGVNLNNP	DLVANDAVVS	FKTALWFMT	PQQPKPSAHD	VITGR <b>WSPSA</b>
		201	<b>ADS</b> AAGRVPG	FGVITNIING	GIECSKGSNA	QMDNRIGFYR	RYCQILGVDP
	<b>gil565343884</b>	1	MATPSVQQIR	<b>PASLDS</b> TSEP	<b>PALFDG</b> TTRL	YISYICPFAQ	RAWITRNFKG
		51	LQDKIELVPI	DLQNRPVWYK	EKVYPQNKVP	SLEHKNKVIG	ESLDLVKYID
		101	SNFEGPSLLP	DDPEKQKFAE	ELIAYSDFL	KEIYGNFKGD	IEKHAGPQFD
		151	YLEKALDKFD	DGPFFLGQFS	QADIVYAPFV	ERFQIFLKEV	FDYDITSGRP
		201	KLAKWIEELN	KLSYIQTKA	DPKEVVDLYK	KKYLA	
<b>B7</b>	<b>gil568215087</b>	1	MGISRDSMHK	RRATGGKKKS	WRKKRKYEMG	RQSANTKLVP	NAKTVRRIRV
		51	RGGNVKWRAL	<b>RLDTGN</b> YSWG	<b>SEAVTR</b> KTRL	LDVVYNASNN	ELVRTQTLVK
		101	SAIVQVDAAP	FKQWYLQHYG	VEIGRKKKSA	AKKEGEEAAE	GAAEEKSNH
		151	VQRKLEKRQQ	DRK <b>IDPH</b> VEE	<b>QFASGR</b> LLAA	ISSRPQCGR	<b>ADGYI</b> LEGKE
		201	LEFYMKKLQK	KKGKGASGAT	A		
	<b>gil565371561</b>	1	MAAKKTARNP	ELIRGVGKFS	RSKMYHKKGL	WAIKKKNGGA	LPVHSHKPPAA
		51	APAAEKSPKF	<b>YPADDV</b> KKPL	VNKHKKPKPTK	LR <b>SSIT</b> PGTV	<b>LIILAG</b> RFBKG
		101	KRVVFLKQLV	SGLLLVTGPF	KFNGVPLRRV	<b>NQAYVI</b> GTST	<b>KVDIS</b> GVSDV
		151	<b>KIDD</b> KYFAKQ	AEKKQKKGEG	EFFEKKKEEK	NVLPQEKKDD	QKAVDAALIK
		201	AIEAVPELKG	YLSARFSLKS	GMKPHLVF		
<b>B8</b>	<b>gil313586398</b>	1	AAATLMQPTK	VGARNNLQLR	SVQSVSKAFG	VEQGSARLTC	SLQTEIKELA
		51	QKCTDAAKIA	GFALATSALV	VSGANAEGVP	KR <b>LT</b> YDEIQS	<b>KTYME</b> VKGTG
		101	TANQCPTIEG	GVGSFAFKPG	KYTAKKFCLE	PTSFTVKAEG	VSKNSAPDFQ
		151	KTKLMTR <b>LT</b> Y	<b>TLDEIE</b> GPFE	<b>VSPDGT</b> VKFE	EK <b>GDID</b> YAAV	<b>TVQLP</b> GGERV
		201	<b>PFLFT</b> IKQLV	<b>ASGKPE</b> SFSG	<b>EFLVPS</b> YRGS	SFLDPKGRGG	<b>STGDY</b> NAVAL
		251	<b>PAGGR</b> GDEEE	LQKENVKNTA	SLTGKITLSV	TQSKPETGEV	IGVFESIQPS
		301	DTDLGAKVPK	DVKIQGIWYA	Q		
	<b>gil568214854</b>	1	MATSQIAVIV	LLGLLVATNI	HITEAQLGVC	YGMMGNLPS	HSEVIQLYKS
		51	RNIGRLR <b>LYD</b>	<b>PNQGAL</b> NALR	GSNIEVILGL	PNVDVKHIAS	GMEHARWWVQ
		101	KNVKDFWPDV	KIKYIAVGNE	ISPVGTSSL	TSFQVPALVN	IYKAVGEAGL
		151	GNDIKVSTSV	DMTLIGNSYP	PSQGSFRNDV	RWFTDPIVGF	LRDTRAPLLV
		201	NIYPYFSYSG	NPGQISLPYA	LFTAPNVVVQ	DGSRQYRNLF	DAMLDVYAA
		251	MERTGGGSVG	IVVSECWPS	AGAFGATQDN	AATYLRNLIQ	HAKEGSPRKP
		301	GPIETYIFAM	FDENKNPEL	EKHFGFLSPN	KQPKYNLNF	VSERVWDISA
		351	ETNSTASSLI	SEM			
<b>B9</b>	<b>gil568214923</b>	1	MLDSGKQIDF	SKRKKKIYLA	IVASVLLVAA	VIGVVAGVKS	RSNNSDDDDAD
		51	IMATSSSAHA	IVKSACSNTL	HPELCYSATV	NVTDVSKKVT	SQKDVIELSL
		101	NITVKAVRRN	YYAVKELIKT	RKGLTPREKV	ALHDCLTMD	ETLDELHTAV
		151	ADLELYPNKK	SLKEHAEDLK	TLISSAITNQ	ETCLDGFSDH	EADKKVRKVL
		201	LKGQKHVEKM	CSNALAMICN	MTNTDIANEM	KLSGSRKLVE	DNGEWPEWLS
		251	AGDRRLQSS	TVTDPVVVAA	DGSGDYKTVS	EAVAKAPEKS	SKRYVIRIKA
		301	GVYRENVDP	KKKTINIMFMG	DGRSNTIITA	SRNVQDGSTT	FHSATVAAVG
		351	EKFLAR <b>DITF</b>	<b>QNTAG</b> ASHQ	AVALR <b>VGSD</b> L	<b>SAFYK</b> CDILA	YQDTLYVHSN
		401	RQFFVQCLVA	GTVDIFGNG	AAVLQDCDIH	ARRPQSGQKN	MVTAQGR <b>TDP</b>
		451	<b>NQNTG</b> IVIQK	<b>CRIGAT</b> SDLR	<b>PVQK</b> SFPTYL	GRPWKEYSRT	VIMQSSITDV

	<b>gil568215000</b>	1	MAAHSSTLTI	SLLLMLIFST	LSSASDMSII	SYDETHIHR	SDDEVSALYE
		51	SWLIEHGKSY	NALGEKDKRF	QIFKDNLYI	DEQNSVFNQS	YKLGKTKFAD
		101	LTNEEYRSIY	LGTKSSGDRR	KLSKNKSDRY	LPKVGDSLPE	SVDWRDKGVL
		151	VGVKDQSCG	SCWAFSAVAA	MESINAIVTG	NLISLSEQEL	VDCDKSYNEG
		201	CDGGLMDYAF	EFVINNGGID	TEEDYPYKER	NDVCDQYRKN	AKVVK <b>IDSYE</b>
		251	<b>DVPVNNEKAL</b>	QKAVAHQPV	IAIEAGGRDL	QHYKSGIFTG	KCGTAVDHGV
		301	VAAGYGSENG	MDYWIVRNSW	GAKWGEKGYL	RVQRNVASS	GLCGLATEPS
	<b>gil568214310</b>	1	MRLSACSLLF	SLLLLTVSAE	QCGRQAGGAP	CAAGLCCSNV	GWCNTDDYC
		51	GPGKCQSQCP	SGPSPKPPTP	GPGPSGGDIG	DVINSNMFQ	LLMHRNENSC
		101	EGKNNFYSYN	AFINAAR <b>SFS</b>	<b>GFGTTGDTTA</b>	<b>RKKEIAAFFA</b>	QTSHETTGGW
		151	ASATDGPYAW	GYCFIRERND	HREHCTPSSQ	WPCAPGRKYF	GRGPIQISYN
		201	YNYGPCGRAL	EVDLLNPNPD	VATDPVISFK	SAIWFWMTPQ	SPKPSCHDVI
		251	IGSWQPSDAD	RAANRLPGFG	VITNIINGGK	ECGHGNDTQV	QDRIGFFRRY
<b>B10</b>	<b>gil565368099</b>	1	MASCSTFTPG	IPSCRNF MRT	LRPSSPSWRK	SRVVTAKLAQ	KNAMQYRKL
		51	DSDLNISEIT	IGTMTFGEQN	TEK <b>EAHEL</b>	<b>YAFDQGINII</b>	<b>DTAEAYPVPM</b>
		101	<b>RKETQGTDL</b>	<b>YISSWMKSQP</b>	RDVILATKV	CGYSERSSYI	RENAKVLVVD
		151	AANIREVVEK	SLKRLNTDYI	DLQIHWPD	<b>YVPLGGEFFY</b>	<b>ETSKWRP</b>
		201	FVEQLRAFQE	LIDEGKVRYI	GVSNETSYGV	MEFVHAAKVE	GLPKIVSIQN
		251	SYSLLVRCHF	EVDLVEVCHP	NNCNIGLLSY	SPLAGGTLSG	<b>KYLDNNSEAA</b>
		301	<b>KKGRLNLPFG</b>	YMERYNKSLA	KEATKKYEEV	AKKHGLTLVE	LALGFAR <b>DRP</b>
		351	<b>FMTSSIIGAT</b>	<b>SVDQLKEDID</b>	AFLTERPLP	PQVMDIEDI	FKRYRDPASR
	<b>gil565347367</b>	1	MASASLLKIS	PVLDKTEFVK	GQSLRPLSVS	VRCHPASPSA	LTVRASSYAD
		51	ELVKTAKTIA	SPGRGILAMD	ESNATCGKRL	<b>ASIGMENTEA</b>	<b>NRQAFRTLLV</b>
		101	SVPGLGEYIS	GAILFEETLY	QSTVEGKMMV	DVLVEQNIVP	GIKVDKGLVP
		151	LAGSNNESWC	QGLDGLASRS	AAYYQGGARF	AKWRTVVSIP	NGPSALAVKE
		201	AAWGLARYAA	ISQDNLVPI	VEPEILLDGE	HNIDRTFEVA	KQVWAEVFFY
		251	LAQNNVMFEG	ILLKPSMVTP	GAECKEKATP	QQVADYTL	LRQRIPPAVP
		301	GIMFLSGGQS	EVEATLNLNA	MNQSPNPHV	SFSYARALQN	TCLKTWSGRP
		351	ENVKAAQD	LVRAKANSLA	QLGKYTGEGE	SDEAKKGMFV	KGYVY
	<b>gil169555</b>	1	SFVALALAGV	AIYRNTYEA	IMNNGSLLQN	ASPHFDSLES	GVASILT
		51	KKRNSDMLR	QQLTPEACVF	SAVR <b>GVD</b>	<b>IDAETRM</b>	LIRLHFHDCF
		101	VDGCDGGILL	DDINGTFTGE	QNSPPNANSA	RGYEVIAQAK	QSVIDTCPNI
		151	SVSCADILAI	AARDSVAK <b>LG</b>	<b>GQTYNVALGR</b>	SDARTANFTG	ALTQLPAPFD
		201	NLTVQIQFEN	DKNFTLREMV	ALAGAHTVGF	ARCSTVCTSG	NVNPAAQLQC
		251	NCSATLTDSD	LQQLDTP	FDKVYDNLN	NNQGIMFSDQ	VLTDGATTAG
		301	FVTDYSNDVS	VFLGDFAAAM	IKMGDLPPSA	GAQLEIRDVC	SRVNPTSVAS
		351	M				
<b>B11</b>	<b>gil568215399</b>	1	MAPLRIPTT	VQSLENDMAT	DSAAVPLPAV	MKAPIRPDVV	TYVHSNISK
		51	ARQPYAVSRK	AGHQTSAESW	GTGRAVSRL	GCSGGGTHRA	GQGAFGNMCR
		101	GGRMFAPTQI	WRRWRHKIPV	NQKRYAVASA	IAASSVPSLV	LARGHRI <b>ESV</b>
		151	<b>PELPLVISDS</b>	<b>IEGIEKTSNA</b>	IKALK <b>QIGAY</b>	<b>PDAEKAK</b>	AIRQGKGKMR
		201	NRRYISRKGP	LIVYGTEGAK	LVKAFRNIPG	VEICHVDRLN	LLK <b>LAPGGHL</b>
		251	<b>GRFIWTKCA</b>	YEKLDGIYGT	FDKPSLKKKG	YLLPRPKMVN	ADLARI <b>I</b>
		301	<b>EVQSVVRPIK</b>	KDVNKRATLK	KNPLKLNVL	LKLNYPAKTA	RRMSLLAEAQ
		351	RVKAKKEKLD	KKRHQITKEE	ASAIRGASHS	WYK <b>TMISDS</b>	<b>YAEFDNF</b>
		401	LGVSQ				<b>TKW</b>
			<b>gil568214933</b>	1	MSHRKFEHPR	HGSLGFLPRK	RAARHRGKVK
		51	AGMTHIVREV	EKPGSKLHKK	ETCEAVTIVE	TPPMVIVGVV	GYVKT
		101	CLNTVWAQHL	SEDIKRRFYK	NWCKSKKAF	LKYSKKYETD	EGKDKIQAQL
		151	EKLKKYACVI	<b>RVLAHTQIRK</b>	MKGLKQKKAH	LMEIQVNGGS	IAQKVDFAYG
		201	FFEKQVPVDA	VFQKDEMIDI	IGVTKGKGYE	GVVTRWGVTR	LPRKTHRGLR
		251	KVACIGAWHP	ARVSFTVARA	GQNGYHHRTE	MNKKVYKLGK	<b>VGQESHTAVT</b>
		301	<b>EFDRTEKEIT</b>	PIGGFAHYGV	VKDDYLLIKG	CCVGP	TLRQSLNQT
		351	SRVALEEIKL	KFIDTSSKFG	HGRFQTTQEK	QKFYGR	
<b>B12</b>	<b>gil21487</b>	1	NPSVFTKQCS	SPRWAFSFSV	TPLCRRRSKR	IVHC <b>IAGDTL</b>	<b>GLTRPNESDA</b>
		51	<b>PKISIGAKDT</b>	<b>DVVQWQD</b>	<b>AIGATENDLA</b>	<b>RDDNSKFKNP</b>	LLQRLD



		251	TKDLYDSIAA	GNYPEWKLF I	QTMDPEDVDK	FDFDPLDVTK	TWPEDLLPLI
		301	PVGRVLVLRN	IDNFFAENEQ	LAFNPGHIVP	GIYYSEDKLL	QTR <b>IFAYADT</b>
		351	<b>QRHRIGPNYM</b>	<b>QLPVNAPKCG</b>	HHNNHRDGAM	NMTHRDEEVD	YLP SRFDPCR
		401	PAEQYPI PAC	VLNGRR TNCV	IPKENNFKQA	GERYRSWESD	RQDRYITKWV
		451	ESLSDPRVTH	EIRSIWISYL	SQADKSCGQK	VASRLTVKPT	M
<b>B13</b>	gil565378238	1	MKNHHIIVFL	FSFFLIMSLR	GFVSCDQET	KVYVVYLGEH	NGEKT LKEIE
		51	DHHYSFLHSV	KGTTTSKEDV	RASLVHSYKN	VINGFSAVLT	PQEVDMISGM
		101	EGVVSVFHSD	PYEIRPHTTR	<b>SWDFVSLLEG</b>	<b>TSL LNSREEL</b>	LQNASYGKDI
		151	IVGVMDSGVW	PESLSFSDEG	MEPVPKSWNG	ICQEGVAFNA	SHCNRLKIGA
		201	RYYLKG YEAA	AGPLNETRDF	<b>RSPRDVDG HG</b>	<b>THTAGTVGGR</b>	RVANASAI GG
		251	FAK <b>GTATGGA</b>	<b>PNVRLAIYKV</b>	CWPAPDQSLA	EGNICATDDI	LAAFDDAIAD
		301	GVHVLSISLG	SLPK <b>STYYTE</b>	<b>NAIAIGSLHA</b>	<b>VKKNIVVACS</b>	<b>AGNDGPTPST</b>
		351	<b>VANVAPWVIT</b>	<b>VGASTIDRVF</b>	SSPIMLGNGM	IVEGQITIQI	RRRR <b>LHPLVY</b>
		401	<b>AGDVEIRGTT</b>	ASNTTGACLP	GTLSRNLVRG	KVVCLNSDI	QASMEVKRAG
		451	GVAAILGNPF	NEIQVIPFLN	PTTVTFLDGL	NLLTYIRTE	<b>KHPTATLVP G</b>
		501	<b>NTMIGTKTAP</b>	<b>VMAPFSSKGP</b>	<b>NVVDPNILKP</b>	<b>DITAPGFNIL</b>	<b>AAWSEASSPL</b>
		551	<b>NIPEDHRVVK</b>	YNIDSGT SMS	CPHVS AVIAL	LK <b>SIHPDWSS</b>	<b>AAVRSALMTT</b>
		601	<b>STINNVGRP</b>	<b>IKNATGDDAN</b>	PFEYGSGHFR	PSKAADPGLI	YDATYTDYLL
		651	YLCSQNIRPD	LSYNCPAKVP	<b>AASNLNYP SL</b>	<b>AIANMRGSSK</b>	TVTRVVTNVG
		701	KDNSTYVVAV	<b>RSPPGYAVDI</b>	<b>VPKSLRF SKL</b>	GEKHSFNITI	IRAQSSVDRR
		751	NEFSFGRYTW	<b>SDGVHVQSP</b>	<b>IAVSSA</b>		
			gil565378352	1	MRLGSFVSCT	EETKVYIVYL	GEHNGDKTLK
51	DVRASLVHSY			KNVINGFSAV	LTPQEVDMIS	GMEGVVSVFH	SDPYEIRPHT
101	TR <b>SWDFVSL L</b>			<b>EGTSL LNSRE</b>	ELLQNASYGK	DIIVGVMDSG	VWPES S FND
151	EGMEPVPKSW			NGICQEGVAF	NSSH CNR KLI	GARYYLKGYE	AAAGPLNETR
201	DFRSPRDVDG			<b>HGTHTAGTVG</b>	<b>GRRVANASAI</b>	GGFAK <b>GTATG</b>	<b>GAPNVRLAIY</b>
251	KVCWPVPDQS			LAEGNACATD	DILA AFDDAI	ADGVHVL SIS	LGSLPK <b>STYY</b>
301	<b>TENAIAIGSL</b>			<b>HAVKKNIVVA</b>	CSAGNDGPTP	STVGNVAPWI	ITVGASSIDR
351	VFSSPIMLGN			GMIVEGQTVT	PIRRRR <b>LHPL</b>	<b>VYAGDVEIRG</b>	TTNNTSGTC
401	LPGTLSRNLV			RGKVVL CINN	LRAASMEVKR	AGGVAAILGN	RFNEIQVTPF
451	LDTTTVVFSY			SLNTLLTYIR	TEKNPMATLV	PGNTLIGTKP	<b>APVMASFTSK</b>
501	GPNI VDPN <b>IL</b>			<b>KPDITAPGFN</b>	<b>ILAAWSEASS</b>	<b>PLKMPEDRRV</b>	VKYNMQSGTS
551	MSCPHVSAVI			ALLKSIHPDW	SSAAIR <b>SALM</b>	<b>TTSTINNVVG</b>	<b>RP IKNATGDD</b>
601	ANPFEYGSGH			FRPSRAVDPG	LVYDATYTDY	LLYLCSQNIS	LDSSFSCEPEK
651	VPTASNLNYP			SLAIANMRGS	IRTVTRVVTN	VGKDNSTYVL	GVRSPPGYVV
701	DIVPKSLHFS			KLGEKHSFNI	TIIRAQSSVE	RRNEFSFGWY	TWNDGVHVVR
751	SPIAVSST						
<b>B14</b>	gil565399387			1	METLLSSTTL	QLKPLHPPSS	FSSLHSPFSS
		51	FSTVLPVRVS	ASSQAAAQ T	STISISIPSEM	KAWSYTDYGS	VDVLK <b>LESNV</b>
		101	<b>AVPDIKEDQV</b>	<b>LIKVVAAALN</b>	<b>PIDFKRRLGK</b>	FKATDSPLPT	VPGYDVAGVV
		151	VKVG SQVKEL	KEGDEVYGDI	NEKAIDGPNQ	FGSLAEYTAV	EEKLVALKPK
		201	NLSFAEAAAL	PLVIETAYEG	LEKAGFSAGQ	SILVLGGAGG	VGSLVIQLAK
		251	HVFGASKVAA	TSSTGKLELL	KSLGADLAID	YTKDNFEDLP	DKFDVVYDSV
		301	GQGEKAVKAV	KEGGSVVVLT	GAVTPPGFRF	VVTSNGEMLK	<b>KLNPYLESGK</b>
		351	VKPVIDPKGP	FPFDK <b>VVDAF</b>	<b>SHLETGRATG</b>	KVVIYPI P	
		1	MKAVVITIPG	GPEVLKLQEV	EDPQIKDDEI	LIKIAATALN	RADTLQRQ GK
		51	YPPPKGDSEY	PGLECSGTVE	AVGKDVTRWK	IGDQVCALIG	GGGYAEKVAV
		101	PTGQVLP I PS	GVSLQDAASF	PEVACTVWST	IFMTSKLSSG	ETFLIHGGSS
		151	GIGTFAIQMA	KCLGVKVFIT	AGSEEKLAAC	KELGADV CIN	YKTEDFVTRI
		201	KEETGGKGVD	VILDNIGGSY	<b>FQRNLD SLNV</b>	<b>DGR LFIIGFM</b>	GGTVTQVNLG
		251	CLLARRLTVQ	AAGLR SRSTK	NKAQIVREVE	KNVWPAI AAG	KVKPVVYKYF
301	PLAEAAEAHQ	LMESSKHIGK	ILLTV				
<b>B15</b>	gil21465	1	TIFSLFSL L	LLNAGSGNVV	HRPDALCAPG	LCCSKFGWCG	NTNDYCGPGN
		51	CQSQC PGGPG	PSGDLGGVIS	NSMFDQMLNH	RNDNACQGKN	NFYSYNAFIS
		101	AAGSFPGFGT	TGDITARKRE	IAAF LAQTSH	ETGGWPSAP	DGPYAWGYCF
		151	LREQSGPGDY	CTPSSQWPCA	PGRKYFGRGP	IQISHNYNYG	PCGR <b>AI GVDL</b>
		201	<b>LNNPDLVATD</b>	<b>SVISFKSAIW</b>	FWMT PQSPKP	SXHDVITGRW	<b>QPSGADQAA N</b>
		251	<b>RVPFGVITN</b>	IINGGLECGH	GSDSRVQDRI	GFYRRYCGIL	GVSPGDNLDC

		<b>301</b>	GNQRSFGNGL	LVDTV			
<b>gi21413</b>	<b>1</b>	MKCLFLLCLC	LVPIVVFSSST	FTSKNPINLP	SDATPVLDVA	GKELDSRLSY	
	<b>51</b>	RIISTFWGAL	GGDVYLGKSP	NSDAPCANGI	FR <b>YNSDVGPS</b>	<b>GTPVRF</b> SHFG	
	<b>101</b>	QGIFENELLN	IQFAISTSKL	CVSYTIWKVG	DYDASLGTML	LETGGTIGQA	
	<b>151</b>	DSSWFKIVKS	SQFGYNLLYC	PVTSTMSCPF	SSDDQFCLKV	GVVHQNGKRR	
	<b>201</b>	LALVKDNPLD	VSEKQVQ				

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# RNA and mRNA Nitration as a Novel Metabolic Link in Potato Immune Response to *Phytophthora infestans*

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Peroxynitrite (ONOO<sup>-</sup>) exhibits a well-documented nitration activity in relation to proteins and lipids; however, the interaction of ONOO<sup>-</sup> with nucleic acids remains unknown in plants. The study uncovers RNA and mRNA nitration as an integral event in plant metabolism intensified during immune response. Using potato-*avr/vr Phytophthora infestans* systems and immunoassays we documented that potato immunity is accompanied by two waves of boosted ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation affecting guanine nucleotides embedded in RNA/mRNA and protein tyrosine residues. The early ONOO<sup>-</sup> generation was orchestrated with an elevated level of protein nitration and a huge accumulation of 8-nitroguanine (8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G) in RNA and mRNA pools confirmed as a biomarker of nucleic acid nitration. Importantly, potato cells lacking ONOO<sup>-</sup> due to scavenger treatment and attacked by the *avr* pathogen exhibited a low level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G in the mRNA pool correlated with reduced symptoms of programmed cell death (PCD). The second burst of ONOO<sup>-</sup> coincided both with an enhanced level of tyrosine-nitrated proteins identified as subtilisine-like proteases and diminished protease activity in cells surrounding the PCD zone. Nitration of both RNA/mRNA and proteins *via* NO/ONOO<sup>-</sup> may constitute a new metabolic switch in redox regulation of PCD, potentially limiting its range in potato immunity to *avr P. infestans*.

**Keywords:** peroxynitrite, reactive nitrogen species, hypersensitive response, nucleic acid nitration, *Phytophthora infestans*, potato

## INTRODUCTION

Peroxynitrite (ONOO<sup>-</sup>) is a product of the extremely rapid and diffusion-controlled reaction between the two radicals, nitric oxide (NO) and superoxide anion (O<sub>2</sub><sup>•-</sup>). The formation of the NO cognate has been detected *in vivo* in different cellular compartments in plants exposed to various stress factors (e.g., Saito et al., 2006; Corpas et al., 2009; Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2011, 2012; Corpas and Barroso, 2014). However, unlike in animals, ONOO<sup>-</sup> does not appear to be as destructive to plant cell metabolism and is not an essential intermediate of plant cell death (Delledonne et al., 2001; Romero-Puertas et al., 2007). Moreover, it has also been revealed that incubation of *Arabidopsis* plants in a high concentration of ONOO<sup>-</sup> (3 mM) did not lead to the cell death, even in the Prx II E mutant line with the defective expression of *PrxII E* exhibiting peroxynitrite reductase activity (Romero-Puertas et al., 2007). Additionally, there are also several premises suggesting that ONOO<sup>-</sup> production occurs in plants as an integral

event of cellular metabolism, which is exactly adopted to its accumulation (Romero-Puertas et al., 2004; Gzyl et al., 2016). Therefore ONOO<sup>-</sup> production could provide an important regulatory loop for NO bioactivity under both physiological and pathophysiological states, since ONOO<sup>-</sup> can provoke tyrosine nitration, recently considered to be a regulatory mechanism for protein activity (Gzyl et al., 2016).

It is well documented that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is one of the most important species engaged in nitration of various biomolecules. Apart from proteins it can modify lipids and oligonucleotides, significantly affecting their biochemistry (Jones, 2012). In plants, more than 100 protein involved in a wide range of biological processes in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and other model plants are known to be potential targets for tyrosine nitration, although the functional significance of this modification so far has been proven only for 13 proteins (Chaki et al., 2009, 2013; Álvarez et al., 2011; Galetskiy et al., 2011; Lozano-Juste et al., 2011; Melo et al., 2011; Begara-Morales et al., 2013, 2014, 2015; Corpas et al., 2013; Holzmeister et al., 2015; Sainz et al., 2015; Takahashi et al., 2015). The presence of endogenous nitro-linolenic acid in *Arabidopsis thaliana* was also evidenced, including data supporting the signaling role of these molecules in the tolerance mechanism against different abiotic stress factors such as wounding, salinity, cadmium, and low temperature (Mata-Pérez et al., 2016). The interaction of peroxynitrite with other important biomolecules, such as nucleic acid, to date has not been studied in plant systems. However, it is well established that various RNS, including ONOO<sup>-</sup> or nitrogen oxides, can nitrate guanine and related nucleosides and nucleotides either in the free form or embedded in DNA and/or RNA (Ihara et al., 2011). Notably, when peroxynitrite react with guanine, it forms several products, among which 8-oxoguanine (8-Oxy-G) and 8-nitroguanine (8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G) are most abundant. Importantly, ONOO<sup>-</sup> reacts with the DNA and RNA bases at selected positions (Jena and Mishra, 2007). As indicated by Sodum and Fiala (2001), ONOO<sup>-</sup> can mediate oxidation and nitration of guanine which occurs mainly at the C8 position.

Potato response to the oomycete pathogen *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary is accompanied by changes in the NO metabolic status within the attacked cell (Kato et al., 2013; Abramowski et al., 2015; Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016; Floryszak-Wieczorek et al., 2016). These include ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation evidenced as an important redox regulator of defense responses involved in basal resistance (Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016). Furthermore, selective nitration of tyrosine residues in a small number of proteins recorded during the late phase of resistant response allowed us to form hypothesis that peroxynitrite might act as redox regulator also in cells undergoing hypersensitive cell death. Exploring the functional role of ONOO<sup>-</sup> in the potato – *P. infestans* pathosystem, the present study demonstrates the first experimental evidence of nucleic acid nitration in plants, since the elevated formation of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G within the RNA and mRNA pools was found in response to pathogen attack. What is more, the early ONOO<sup>-</sup>-mediated

modifications at mRNA and protein levels favor active cell death and limit its range in potato immunity to *avr P. infestans*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant Growth

The experiments were conducted on two sterile potato cultivars (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) – cv. Bintje (lacking R genes) which is highly susceptible to isolate 1.3.4.7.10.11. *P. infestans*, and cv. Bzura [carrying the R1 gene (Gebhardt et al., 2004) and the R2-like gene located in chromosome IV (Plich et al., 2015)] – highly resistant to 1.3.4.7.10.11. *P. infestans*. Plants of both cultivars derived from *in vitro* tissue culture were transferred to soil and grown for 4 weeks in a growth chamber with 16 h of light (180 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>) at 18 ± 2°C and 60% humidity.

### Pathogen Culture

*Phytophthora infestans* – isolate 1.3.4.7.10.11. was kindly obtained from the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute, Research Division at Młochów, Poland. The oomycete was grown on a cereal-potato medium with an addition of dextrose.

### Method of Inoculation

For *P. infestans* inoculation, the abaxial site of the detached leaves of both potato cultivars were sprayed with a zoospore suspension in water (conc. 2.0 × 10<sup>5</sup> per ml) and kept at 100% humidity in a growth chamber. The material for further analysis was taken until 96 h post inoculation (hpi). For the point inoculation experiment, 20 μl of the zoospore suspension were drop inoculated on the abaxial leaf surface and kept at 100% humidity in a growth chamber. The material for analysis was taken at the site of inoculation from an area of 0.5 cm in diameter (PCD zone, 1) and from the surrounding area within the radius 0.25 cm; (PCD distal zone, 2) until 96 hpi.

### Peroxynitrite Donor and Scavenger Treatment

To estimate the effect of exogenous ONOO<sup>-</sup> detached potato leaves were sprayed with ONOO<sup>-</sup> donor – 50 μM SIN-1 (3-Morpholiniosydnonimine, Calbiochem) which gradually decomposed to yield equimolar amounts of NO and O<sub>2</sub><sup>-•</sup>. Scavengers of ONOO<sup>-</sup> (50 μM ebselen or 1 mM epicatechin, Sigma) were used to evaluate the effect of endogenous on 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G formation. Control plants were treated with water. After 5 h of incubation leaves were gently dried and inoculated as described above.

### Peroxynitrite Detection

Peroxynitrite formation was measured quantitatively using aminophenyl fluorescein (APF). Leaf disks (0.5 g) were incubated in darkness for 1 h in a mixture containing 5 μM APF in 100 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). After the incubation, the probes were transferred into 24-well plates (1 ml per well) and the fluorescence was measured using spectrofluorometer at

485 nm excitation and 510 nm emission filters. Fluorescence was expressed as a relative fluorescence units.

### TUNEL Assay

The TUNEL assay measures DNA fragmentation using the terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT)-mediated deoxyuridine triphosphate (dUTP) nick end labeling method, which involves the TdT-mediated addition of fluorescein-12-dUTP to the 3'-OH ends of fragmented DNA. The samples were studied using TUNEL fluorescein kit (Roche; United States) according to Floryszak-Wieczorek and Arasimowicz-Jelonek (2016) and examined using a fluorescence microscope (Axiostar plus, Carl Zeiss, Germany) equipped with a digital camera, with excitation at 488 nm and emission at 515 nm. Experiments were repeated four times with ten slides per treatment. A region of 100 cells from at least 5 randomly selected slices in each treatment was counted and statistically analyzed.

### RNA Extraction and Poly(A)-RNA Purification

Potato leaves were frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until use. For RNA extraction leaves (0.5 g) were ground to a fine powder in liquid nitrogen, and total RNA was extracted using TriReagent (Sigma) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The Poly(A)-RNA from previously prepared total RNA was prepared using the GenElute mRNA Miniprep Kit (Sigma Aldrich) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, the obtained total RNA was mixed with the binding buffer and oligo(dT) beads followed by 3-min incubation at  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$  and 10-min incubation at room temperature. After centrifugation the pellet of the oligo(dT) polystyrene beads: the mRNA complex was mixed with washing buffer and transferred to spin columns. After the second washing the mRNA was eluted at  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$  using an elution buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5). The quantity and quality of obtained mRNA were measured by spectrophotometric methods.

### 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G Quantification

The level of 8-nitroguanine was determined using a competitive enzyme immunoassay OxiSelect™ Nitrosative DNA/RNA Damage ELISA Kit (Cell Biolabs; STA-825), similar to Phookphan et al. (2017). For the analysis, 10 mg of the sample (total RNA or mRNA) was used. The unknown 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-Gua samples or 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-Gua standards were first added to an 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-Gua-BSA conjugate preabsorbed microplate. After a brief incubation, an anti-8-NO<sub>2</sub>-Gua monoclonal antibody was added, which bind to either the 8-nitroguanine of the samples or standards or to the 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-Gua-BSA conjugate preabsorbed on the plate. The more 8-nitroguanine in the sample, the less free antibody available to bind to the conjugate on the plate. The absorbance of the samples was measured at a wavelength of 450 nm using an iMark microplate reader (BioRad). The 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G content was determined by comparing with the predetermined 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G standard curve. Each sample was analyzed in triplicate on ELISA microplates and values presented are means of three biological replicates ( $n = 9$ )  $\pm$  SD.

### Protein 3-Nitrotyrosine Assay

3-nitrotyrosine in a protein sample was measured using the OxiSelect™ Nitrotyrosine ELISA Kit (Cell Biolabs; STA-305) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, nitrated BSA or samples were added to each well of 96-well plates and incubated with an anti-nitrotyrosine antibody at a 1:1000 dilution for 1 h on an orbital shaker. Wells were then washed three times, afterward the secondary antibody was added and the mixture incubated for 1 h at room temperature. Subsequently, the wells were washed three times and the substrate solution was added to each well. Finally after the color development the reaction was stopped and optical density was measured at 450 nm using an iMark microplate reader (BioRad). The 3-nitrotyrosine content in protein samples was determined by comparing with the predetermined 3-nitrotyrosine standard curve. Each sample was analyzed in triplicate on ELISA microplates and the values presented are means of three biological replicates ( $n = 9$ )  $\pm$  SD.

### Protease Activity Assay

Protease activity was determined according to Fernández et al. (2015) using azocasein as substrate in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 5.2) and 0.5  $\mu\text{g}$  of isolated protease. Samples were incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2.5 h. Protease activity was measured as an increase in the absorbance at 335 nm of the supernatant.

### Trypan Blue Staining

To visualize cell death the trypan blue dye was used according to Fernández-Bautista et al. (2016).

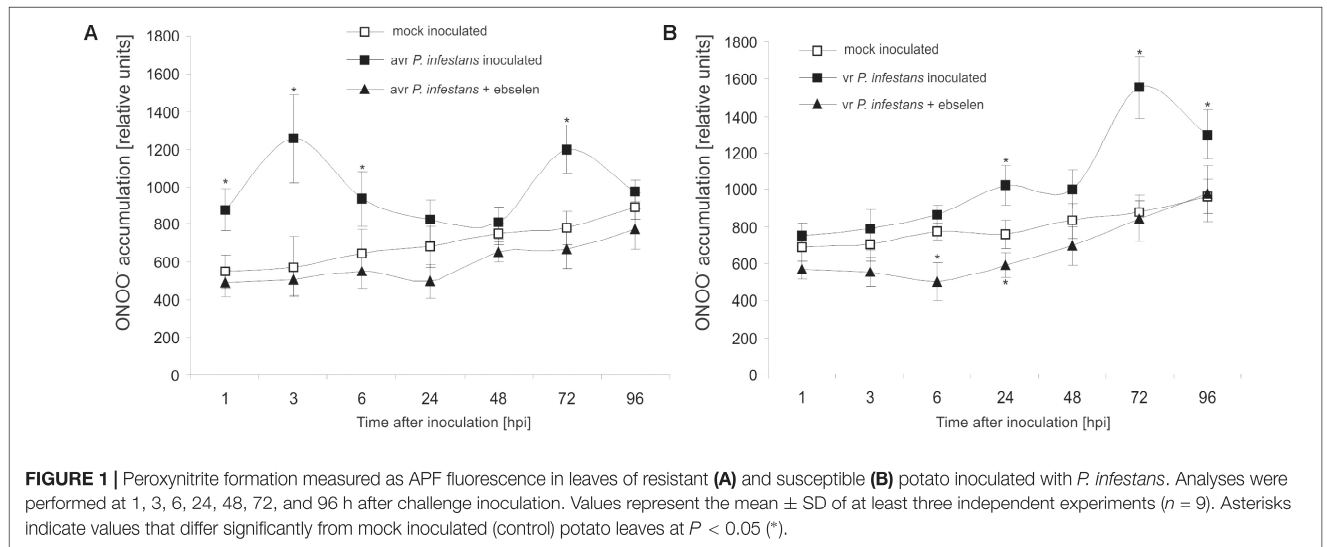
### Statistical Analysis

All results are based on three biological replicates derived from three or four independent experiments. For each experiment, means of the obtained values were calculated along with standard deviations. The analysis of variance was performed (ANOVA) and the mean values were compared by Tukey's test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ).

## RESULTS

### *P. infestans* Provokes Two Waves of ONOO<sup>-</sup> Formation During Potato Immune Response

Based on the folic acid method, we previously reported that the *P. infestans* challenge provoked an early and transient program of boosted ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation only in the resistant potato genotype (Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016). In the present study the ONOO<sup>-</sup> production in potato leaves was detected quantitatively using APF fluorochrome up to 96 hpi. Bio-monitoring confirmed that the potato-*avr P. infestans* interaction is accompanied by a significant ONOO<sup>-</sup> accumulation within the first 6 hpi; however, monitoring within the successive hours revealed a second, lower burst of ONOO<sup>-</sup> at 72 hpi (Figure 1A). The potato-*vr P. infestans* pathosystem revealed ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation starting from 24 hpi, which reached the highest (ca. 2-fold increase) level at 72 hpi (Figure 1B).



Moreover, to verify that the detected pathogen-induced increase in APF fluorescence was caused by endogenous ONOO<sup>-</sup>, its detection was performed in the presence of ebselen, an ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavenger. The used scavenger strongly suppressed fluorescence at 3rd and 24th hpi (Figures 1A,B), providing evidence that APF is a reliable tool to quantitatively investigate ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation in potato leaves.

### The Presence of ONOO<sup>-</sup> Is Necessary for PCD During HR

The potato-*avr P. infestans* interaction resulted in HR-like cell death (Floryszak-Wieczorek and Arasimowicz-Jelonck, 2016). To gain insight into ONOO<sup>-</sup> participation in the death of pathogen attacked cells, the TUNEL assay illustrating the programmed DNA fragmentation in the presence of ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavengers was performed (Figure 2). Cells of potato leaves treated with *avr P. infestans* contained green-colored nuclei starting from 24 hpi (Supplementary Figure S1), while phenotype HR-like symptoms appeared 48 h after the *avr P. infestans* challenge (Figure 2e). The number of TUNEL-positive nuclei indicated that the effect was dependent on the ONOO<sup>-</sup> presence within potato leaf cells, since the sequential treatment with epicatechin, a ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavenger and *P. infestans* effectively reduced the number of cells with symptoms of active death from 85 to 45% at 48 hpi (Figures 2b,i). Similarly, potato cells pretreated with ebselen and next elicited by the pathogen at 48 hpi showed 35% of nuclei with TUNEL-positive staining (Figures 2c,i). An independent application of both ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavengers resulted in reduced phenotype HR-like symptoms (Figures 2f,g).

### Peroxynitrite Mediates 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G Formation Within RNA and mRNA Pools During Potato-*P. infestans* Interaction

To explore the functional role of ONOO<sup>-</sup> generation in potato leaves challenge-inoculated with *P. infestans* we examined whether, and to what extent, this RNS is able to target nucleic

acids. Firstly, we confirmed that SIN-1 is effective in ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation within potato cells (Supplementary Figure S2). Secondly, to verify that ONOO<sup>-</sup> is able to provoke nitration at the RNA level in cells of potato, we monitored the accumulation of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G, a marker of nucleic acid nitration, in healthy leaves treated with the ONOO<sup>-</sup> generator. As we expected, SIN-1 was effective in 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G RNA formation within potato cells of both genotypes (Figures 3A,B).

The potato-*avr P. infestans* interaction resulted in an impressive rise in the level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G within the RNA pool starting from the 1st hpi (Figure 3C). The highest increase of nitrated RNA in relation to mock inoculated leaves was noted at 3 hpi; however, a strong, ca. 5-fold enhancement of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G RNA was observed also between 24 and 72 hpi. Then the level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G RNA declined. Surprisingly, RNA from cells of the susceptible genotype revealed a time-delayed and definitely lower level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G than did RNA of the resistant potato (Figure 3D). Only a 2-fold increase in RNA nitration was observed starting from 24 hpi and the enhancement was maintained during disease progress.

Since mRNA modifications have the potential to affect most post-transcriptional steps in gene expression (Gilbert et al., 2016), in the next set of experiments we verified if ONOO<sup>-</sup> targets mRNA in potato leaves as well. Interestingly, the use of poly(A)-RNA purified from total RNA showed a significant 2-fold increase in the level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G mRNA at 1 hpi, peaking at 3 and 48 hpi, respectively (Figure 3E). The amount of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G mRNA in cells of the susceptible genotype was raised at 6 hpi, reaching the highest level at 72 hpi (Figure 3F). It should be highlighted that the steady-state level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G mRNA observed within the first 48 h of the experiment was significantly higher in healthy leaves of resistant potato than in the susceptible one (Figures 3E,F). What is more, cells of both potato genotypes lacking ONOO<sup>-</sup> due to the scavenger application and next attacked by the pathogen exhibited significantly lower levels of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G both in RNA and mRNA (Figures 3C-F).

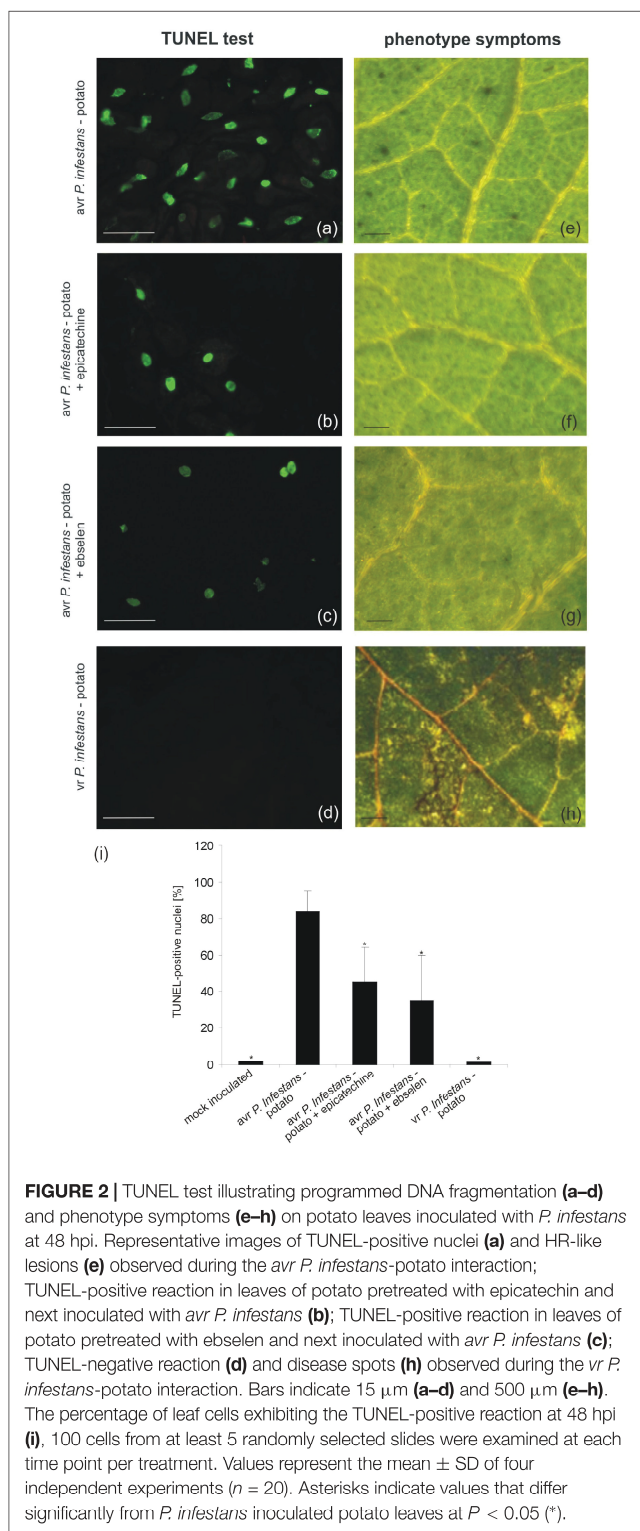
## Protein Nitration as a Switch of the Redox Environment During HR Establishment

The nitrative modification of RNA and mRNA overlapped with the tyrosine residue nitration in proteins within the first 24 h after *avr P. infestans* challenge inoculation (Figure 4A). Based on the immunoassay (Supplementary Figure S3) we found the highest, ca. 30-fold increase in the total protein pool undergoing tyrosine nitration at 3 hpi (Figure 4A). Then, the level of nitrated proteins was gradually decreased and reached the amount recorded in mock inoculated leaves at 48 and 72 hpi. Interestingly, a ca. 3-fold increase of nitrated proteins at 96 hpi was followed by the second burst of ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation (Figure 4A). Additional experiment involving point inoculation revealed that only cells surrounding the PCD zone showed an elevated level of protein nitration at 96 hpi identified as subtilisin-like proteases (Figures 5A–C and Supplementary Tables S1,S2). Moreover, changes noted within the PCD distal zone coincided with the significantly reduced protease activity (Figure 5D). In contrast, disease progress observed during the potato-*vr P. infestans* interaction was accompanied by an increase of the nitrated protein pool starting from 24 hpi (Figure 4B).

## DISCUSSION

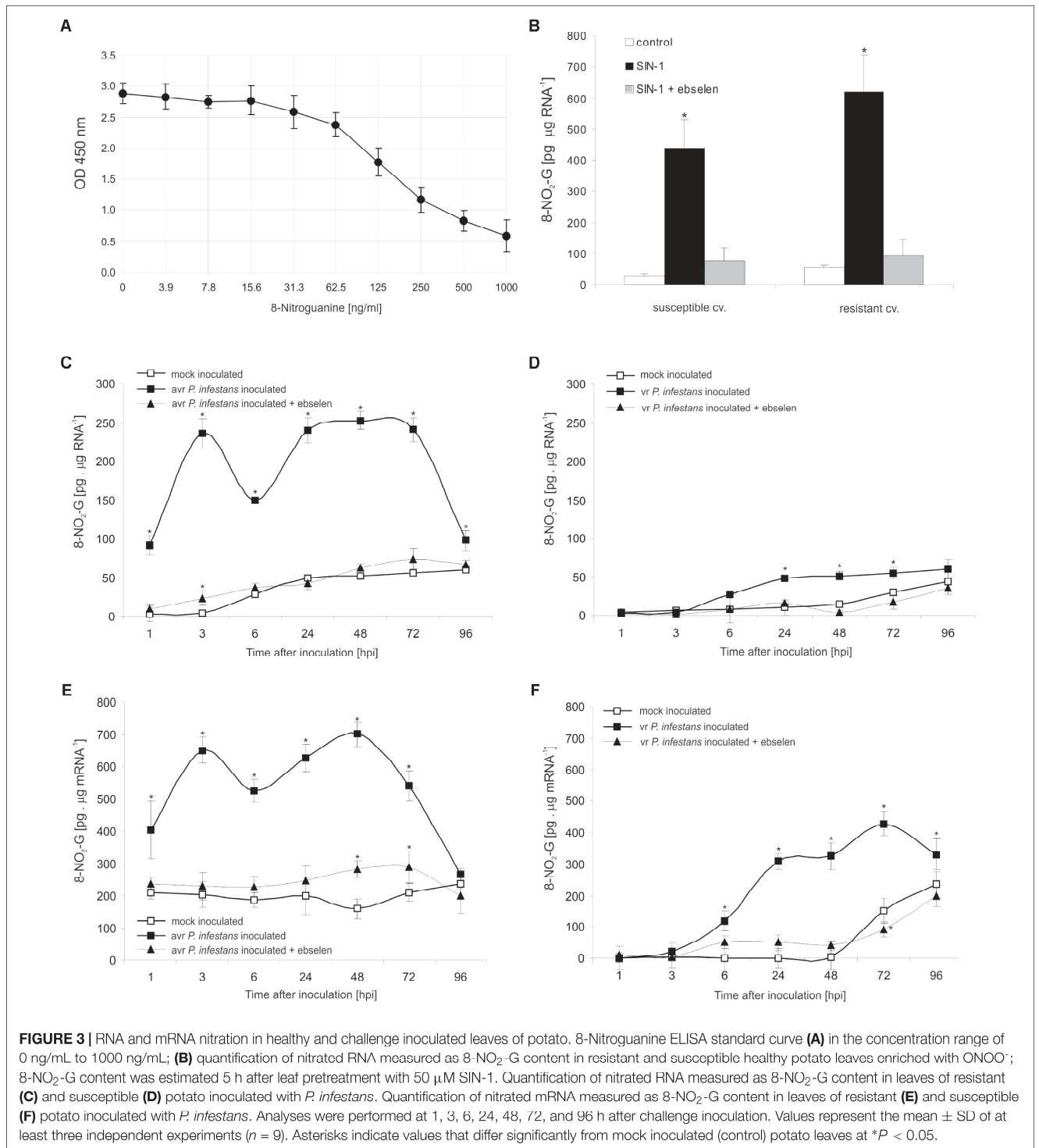
The hypersensitive response (HR) considered as a form of programmed cell death (PCD) is a hallmark of effector-triggered immunity (ETI). According to current knowledge, properly balanced doses of NO and ROS co-operate to trigger PCD in plants (Delledonne et al., 2001; Zago et al., 2006). To date the role of ONOO<sup>-</sup> in HR has been ambiguous. Although application of 1 mM ONOO<sup>-</sup> has been reported to cause some necrotic lesions in *Arabidopsis* (Alamillo and García-Olmedo, 2001), high concentration of peroxynitrite does not seem to be essential to PCD induction (Delledonne et al., 2001; Romero-Puertas et al., 2007). That is probably due to the capacity of plants to detoxify ONOO<sup>-</sup> under normal physiological conditions.

Some evidence demonstrated that ONOO<sup>-</sup> in plants fulfills an important role in the creation of a cellular redox milieu promoting defense expression (Durner et al., 1998; Alamillo and García-Olmedo, 2001; Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016). Our earlier results showed that NO and O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup> coexisted after potato leaf inoculation (Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016) and both molecules were needed to activate PCD in the potato-*avr P. infestans* system. Using the spectrofluorometric method for ONOO<sup>-</sup> detection we verified that the potato-*avr P. infestans* interaction is accompanied by ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation within the first 6 hpi and revealed an additional wave of ONOO<sup>-</sup> during the following hpi. The first burst of ONOO<sup>-</sup> definitely preceded the TUNEL-positive reaction of cell nuclei. What is more, significantly reduced numbers of cells undergoing PCD were observed in potato leaves pretreated with epicatechin and ebselen, confirming that ONOO<sup>-</sup> next to NO and ROS participates in the active cell-death program.



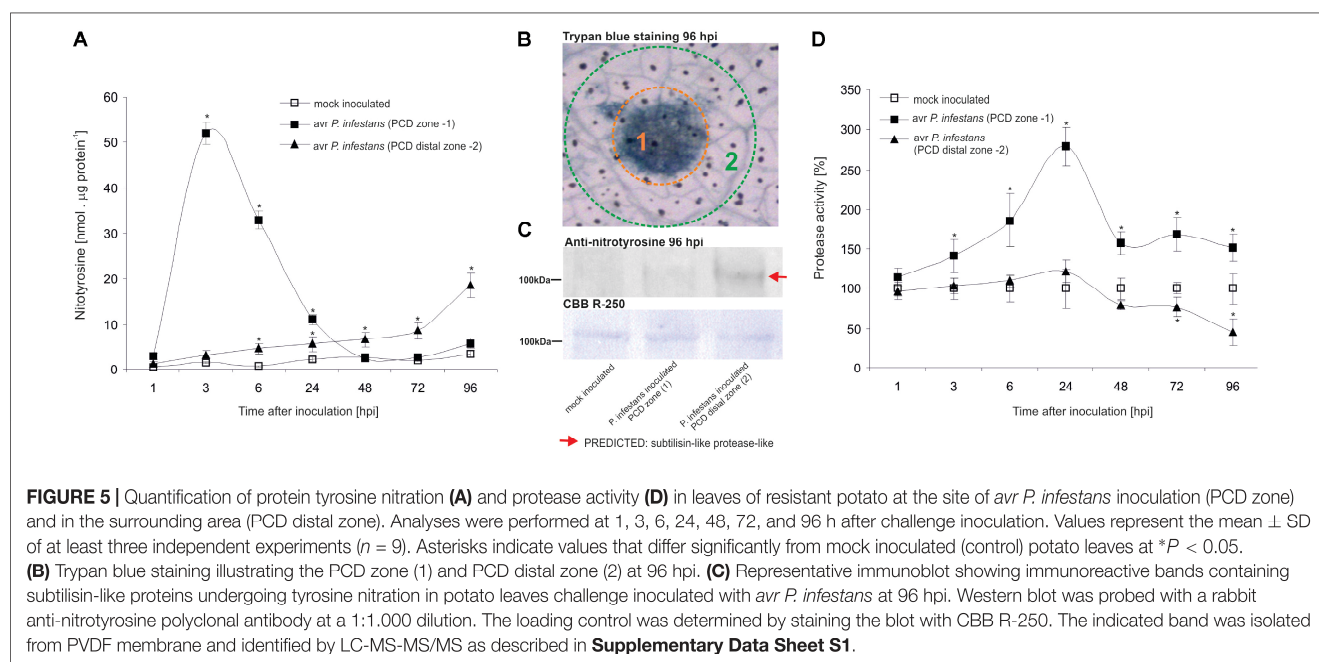
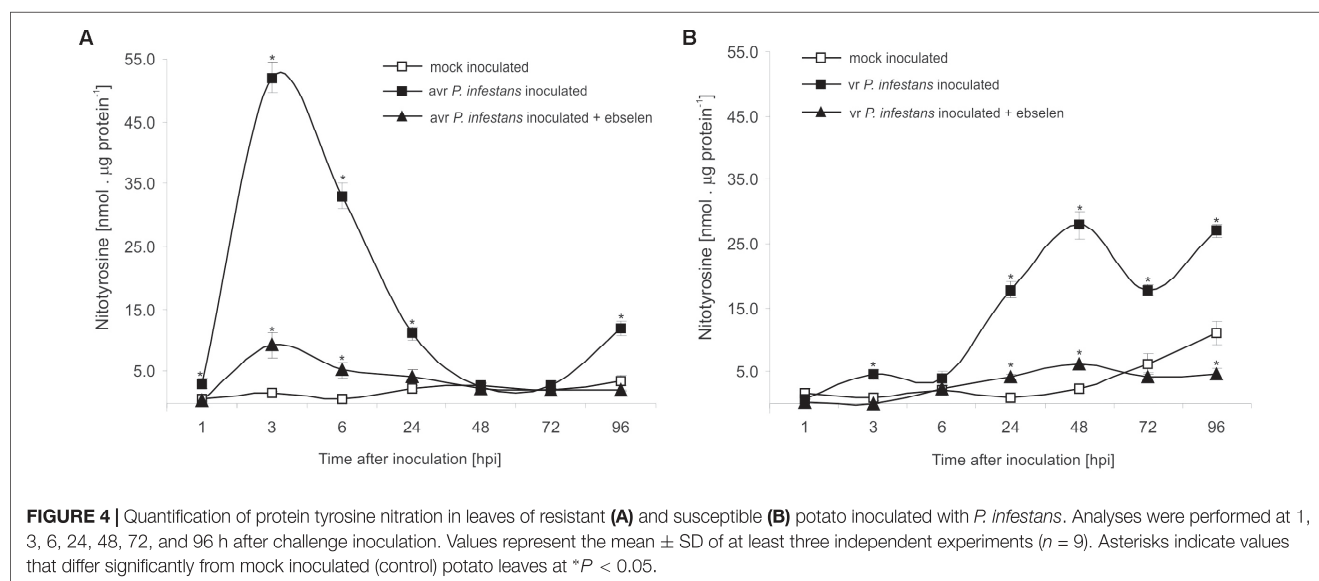
**FIGURE 2 |** TUNEL test illustrating programmed DNA fragmentation (a–d) and phenotype symptoms (e–h) on potato leaves inoculated with *P. infestans* at 48 hpi. Representative images of TUNEL-positive nuclei (a) and HR-like lesions (e) observed during the *avr P. infestans*-potato interaction; TUNEL-positive reaction in leaves of potato pretreated with epicatechin and next inoculated with *avr P. infestans* (b); TUNEL-positive reaction in leaves of potato pretreated with ebselen and next inoculated with *avr P. infestans* (c); TUNEL-negative reaction (d) and disease spots (h) observed during the *vr P. infestans*-potato interaction. Bars indicate 15 μm (a–d) and 500 μm (e–h). The percentage of leaf cells exhibiting the TUNEL-positive reaction at 48 hpi (i), 100 cells from at least 5 randomly selected slides were examined at each time point per treatment. Values represent the mean ± SD of four independent experiments (n = 20). Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from *P. infestans* inoculated potato leaves at P < 0.05 (\*).

Searching for a novel link connecting an early ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation with PCD during the potato-*avr P. infestans* interaction we found that not only protein tyrosine residues are affected by nitration activity of this RNS. In this study we



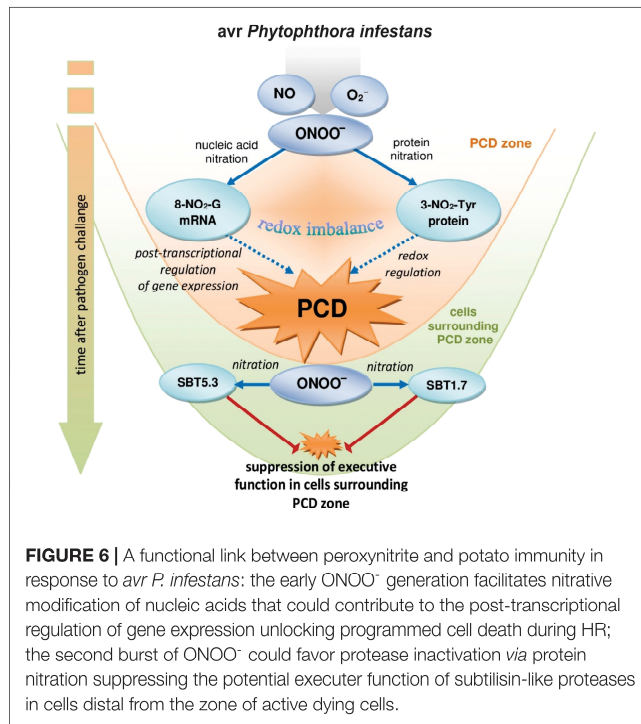
demonstrated for the first time that also the guanine nitration phenomenon occurs in plant cells. Nitration of nucleotides in DNA and RNA and the resulting 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G formed in response to RNS were first suggested to be activated in hamster livers infected with *Opisthorchis viverrini* (Pinlaor et al., 2003), and in the human gastric mucosa infected with *Helicobacter pylori* (Ma

et al., 2004). In both cases the phenomenon was associated with infection- or inflammation-induced carcinogenesis (Terasaki et al., 2006). Although most of the studies regarding to nucleic acid nitration is focused on DNA, several reports indicate that RNA is more susceptible to this phenomenon (Shan et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2012; Hawkins et al., 2017).



8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G was detected in both potato genotypes challenge inoculated with the pathogen. However, only the resistant response was accompanied by a significant accumulation of the nitrated RNA pool starting from the first hpi. What is more, the modification dropped after 72 hpi. A similar trend was observed also within the mRNA pool. Thus, we conclude that mRNA nitration is an early event preceding or coincident with the first symptoms of PCD during HR and this process is not merely a consequence of dying cells. In confirmation, disease symptom development was accompanied by low levels of RNA/mRNA nitration starting from 24 hpi and correlated with necrotic cell dying. Formation of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G in RNA may interfere with RNA functions and metabolism, similarly as RNA

modification *via* ROS (Kong and Lin, 2011; Wang and He, 2014; Fimognari, 2015). It was earlier suggested that mRNA may be a major target of oxidative modification because of its relative abundance, widespread subcellular distribution, single-strand nature and, lack of protection from histone proteins (Shan et al., 2007). Messenger RNA modification *via* oxidation was found to be an early event prior to cell death in animals, rather than a simple consequence of an already dying cell, and it was shown to induce reduced protein expression (Shan et al., 2007). The effect of oxidized bases in mRNAs may cause ribosome stalling on the transcripts, leading to a decrease of protein expression or slowing the translation process. In a similar manner, an important consequence of RNA nitration could be



an impairment of protein synthesis (Rivera-Mancía et al., 2017). Briefly, targeted RNA nitration might lead to the diminished expression of specified proteins and thus constitute a mechanism of post-transcriptional gene expression regulation. What is more, oxidized transcripts could be subjected to ribosome-based quality control and predestined for degradation through No-Go decay pathway (Simms et al., 2014). It should be noted that targeted mRNA oxidation has also been documented in plants. Namely, increased levels of 8-oxo-7,8-dihydroguanosine (8-OHG), which is a marker of RNA oxidation, were detected in sunflower seeds. Importantly, the observed modification was not a random process, but highly selective, directed toward a specific subset of 24 mRNAs, including mRNAs corresponding to genes associated with cell signaling (Bazin et al., 2011). So far, it is not clear what determine the susceptibility of mRNA to this type of modification. However, it has been proved that its sensitivity is not dependent on the abundance of specific mRNA species in the cell, the frequency of guanine in the sequence or the occurrence of any specific motif (Chang et al., 2008; Bazin et al., 2011). It should be noted that the observed increase in 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G mRNA in healthy leaves of susceptible potato might hinder protein synthesis or generate errors in the protein products related to senescence disorders.

Nitration of both guanine nucleotides embedded in RNA and mRNA and protein tyrosine residues can constitute an early switch of the redox environment facilitating HR establishment. Cecconi et al. (2009) observed *in vivo* an increase in nitrated proteins during the progression of hypersensitive response. In *A. thaliana* challenge inoculated with an avirulent bacterial pathogen defense responses were correlated with a modulation of nitrated proteins involved in regulation of a number of

important cellular functions after 4 and 8 hpi confirming that Tyr-nitration could be a relevant physiological process in resistance (Gaupels et al., 2011). More recently, we found that *avr P. infestans* in potato leaves provoked nitration of subtilisin-like proteases, i.e., SBT1.7 and SBT5.3 belonging to serine-dependent enzymes at 48 hpi (Arasimowicz-Jelonek et al., 2016). Importantly, subtilisin-like protease (StSBTc-3) induced in potato leaves after *P. infestans* infection was found to exhibit caspase-3 like activity and display an executor function (Fernández et al., 2015). Since a physiological consequence of the ONOO<sup>-</sup> reaction with proteins often involves inactivation or impairment of its function, therefore nitration following the second burst of ONOO<sup>-</sup> may efficiently inhibit the activity of serine proteases and suppress a potential executor function in the distal zone from dying cells (Figure 6). In confirmation, an experiment applying point inoculation revealed nitration of SBT1.7 and SBT5.3 concomitant with reduced protease activity only in cells surrounding the PCD zone. It should be noted that the distal changes were not correlated with nitrative mRNA modification (data not presented).

## CONCLUSION

Our study demonstrates that the nitration phenomenon presents a much more complex functionality in plant cells than it was assumed previously. The modification of RNA and mRNA via ONOO<sup>-</sup> is an integral part of plant cell metabolism and is intensified in response to pathogen attack. Although nitrative modification of bases in RNA and mRNA can be simply induced by an enhanced peroxynitrite level in the cellular milieu, the rate of ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation is dependent on the plant genetic makeup. An early and transient program of boosted ONOO<sup>-</sup> formation during the potato resistant response accelerated the time-dependent switch of the redox environment via the nitration phenomenon. The observed nitrative modification of RNA and mRNA could regulate the post-transcriptional gene expression and fine-tune cell signaling that contributes to PCD during HR (Figure 6). In confirmation, ONOO<sup>-</sup> elimination overlapped with a reduced pool of nitrated mRNA and the number of cells that undergo programmed cell death. In contrast, a time-delayed peroxynitrite over-accumulation in the potato-*vr P. infestans* interaction coincident with a relatively low level of 8-NO<sub>2</sub>-G in the RNA/mRNA pools resulted in failed resistance. The challenge for the future is to understand the mechanisms of selective mRNA nitration and the physiological consequences of mRNA nitration. To this aim identification of mRNA nitration targets during plant responses to pathogen attack should be experimentally verified.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MA-J and JF-W planned and designed the research. KI, JG, BM, and DK performed the experiments. KI collected, analyzed the data and participated in writing the manuscript. MA-J wrote the manuscript.



## FUNDING

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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2018.00672/full#supplementary-material>

**FIGURE S1** | Percentages of leaf cells exhibiting the IUNEL-positive reaction at 24, 48, and 72 hpi (i), 100 cells from at least 5 randomly selected slides were examined at each time point per treatment. Values represent the mean  $\pm$  SD of at least four independent experiments ( $n = 20$ ). Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from *P. infestans* inoculated potato leaves at  $*P < 0.05$ .

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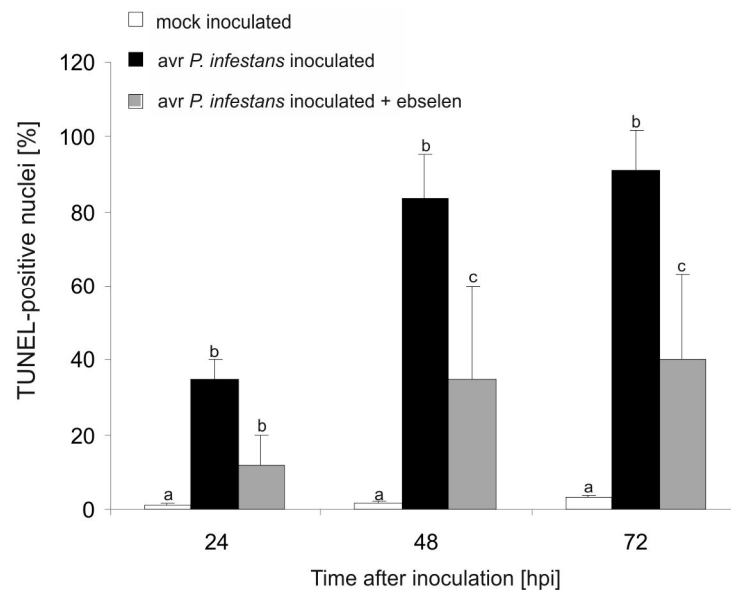
**Conflict of Interest Statement:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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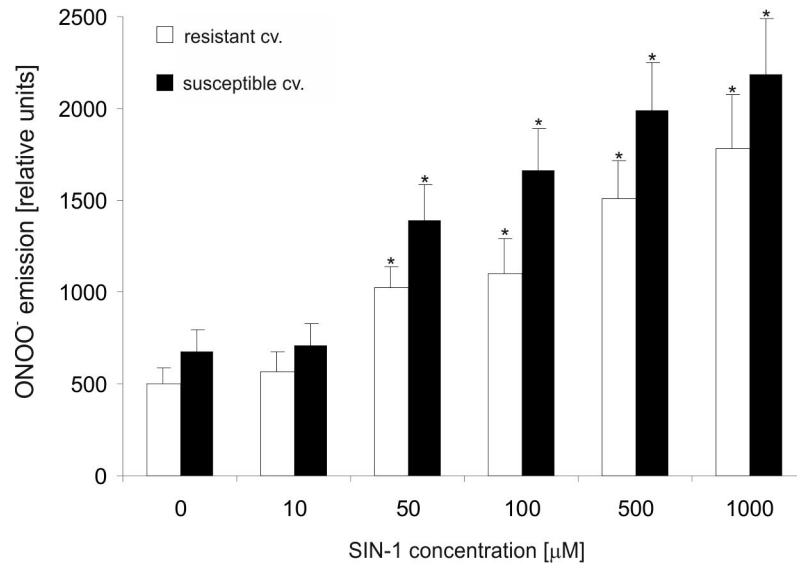
## Supplementary Material

(<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2018.00672/full#supplementary-material>)

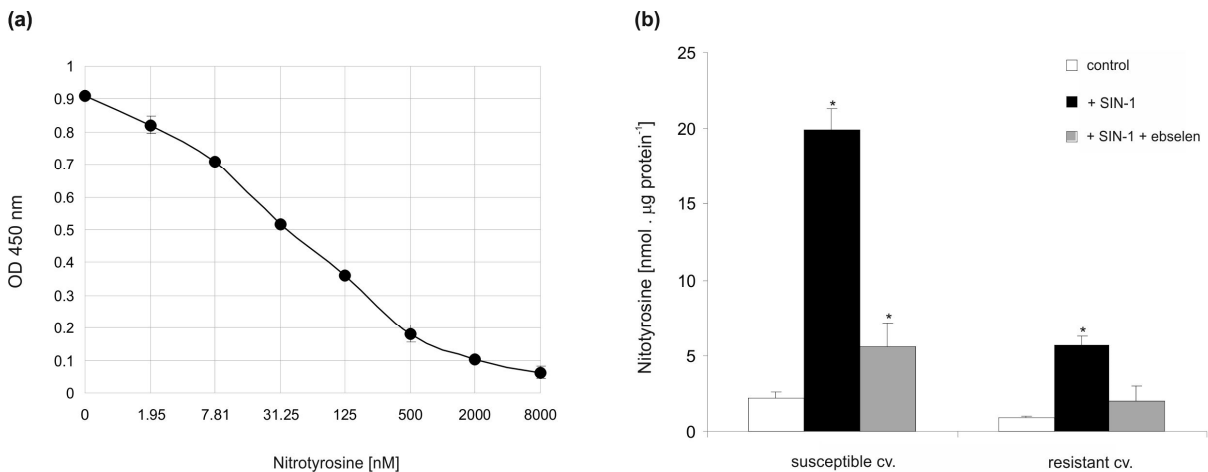
**FIGURE S1.** Percentages of leaf cells exhibiting the TUNEL-positive reaction at 24, 48, and 72 hpi (i), 100 cells from at least 5 randomly selected slides were examined at each time point per treatment. Values represent the mean  $\pm$  SD of at least four independent experiments ( $n = 20$ ). Different letters indicate values that differ significantly from *P. infestans* inoculated potato leaves at  $P < 0.05$ .



**FIGURE S2.** ONOO<sup>-</sup> generation measured as APF fluorescence in healthy leaves of resistant and susceptible potato in response to increasing SIN-1 concentration. Values represent the mean ± SD of at least three independent experiments (*n* = 9). Asterisks indicate values that differ significantly from non-treated potato leaves at \**P* < 0.05.



**FIGURE S3.** (a) 3-Nitrotyrosine ELISA standard curve in the concentration range of 0–8000 nM; (b) quantification of nitrated proteins measured as 3-nitrotyrosine content in resistant and susceptible healthy potato leaves enriched with ONOO<sup>-</sup>; 3-nitrotyrosine content was estimated 5 h after leaf pretreatment with 50 µM SIN-1.



**TABLE S1.** Identification of nitrated proteins in potato leaves inoculated with avr *P. infestans* which appeared *de novo* at 96 hpi. Proteins were isolated from PVDF membrane and identified by LC-MS-MS/MS.

No.	Protein name	NCBI accession no.	Blast Score	Functional category
1	PREDICTED: subtilisin-like protease-like	gil565378238	885	Proteolysis
	PREDICTED: subtilisin-like protease-like	gil565378352	245	Proteolysis

**TABLE S2.** Amino acid sequence of the identified homologous proteins (matched peptides derived from *Solanum tuberosum* shown in **Bold Red**).

No.	NCBI accession no.								
1	gil565378238	1	MKNHHIIVFL	FSFFLIMSLR	GFVSCDQET	KVYVVYLGEH	NGEKTLEIE		
		51	DHHYSFLHSV	KGTTTSKEDV	RASLVHSYKN	VINGFSAVLT	POEVDMISGM		
		101	EGVVSVFHSD	PYEIRPHTTR	SWDFVSLLEG	TSLNLSREEL	LQNASYGKDI		
		151	IVGVMDSGVW	PESLSFSDEG	MEPVPKSWNG	ICQEGVAFNA	SHCNRLIGA		
		201	RYYLKGYEAA	AGPLNETRDF	RSPRDVDGHG	THTAGTVGGR	RVANASAI		
		251	FAKGTATGGA	PNVRLAIYKV	CWPAPDQSLA	EGNICATDDI	LAAFDDAIAD		
		301	GVIVLSISLG	SLPK <b>STYYTE</b>	<b>NAIAIGSLIA</b>	<b>VKKNIVVACS</b>	<b>AGNDGPTPST</b>		
		351	<b>VANVAPVVIT</b>	<b>VGASTIDRVF</b>	SSPIMLGNGM	IVEGQTTIQI	RRRRLHPLVY		
		401	<b>AGDVEIRGTT</b>	ASNTTGACLP	GTLSRNLVRG	KVVLCLNSDI	QASMEVKRAG		
		451	GVAAILGNPF	NEIQVIPFLN	PTTVTFLDGL	<b>NTLLTYIRTE</b>	<b>KHPTATLVPG</b>		
		501	<b>NTMIGTKTAP</b>	<b>VMAPFSSKGP</b>	<b>NVVDPNILKP</b>	<b>DITAPGFNIL</b>	AAWSEASSPL		
		551	NIPEDHRVVK	YNIDSGTSM	CPHSAVIAL	<b>LKSIHPDWSS</b>	<b>AAVRSALMTT</b>		
		601	<b>STINNVVGRP</b>	<b>IKNATGDDAN</b>	PFEYGSGHFR	PSKAADPGLI	YDATYTDYLL		
		651	YLCSQNIKRP	LSYNCPAKVP	<b>AASNLYPSL</b>	<b>AIANMRGSSK</b>	TVTRVVTVNG		
		701	KDNSTYVVAV	<b>RSPPGYAVDI</b>	<b>VPKSLRFSKL</b>	GEKHSFNITI	IRAQSSVDRR		
		751	NEFSFGRYTW	SDGVHVQSP	IAVSSSA				
		1	gil565378352	1	MRLGSFVST	EETKVYIVYL	GEHNGDKTLK	EIEDHCSFL	HSVKGTTTKE
				51	DVRASLVHSY	KNVINGFSV	LTPQEVDNIS	GMEGVVSVFH	SDPYEIRPHT
				101	TRSWDFVSL	EGTSLNSRE	<b>ELLQNASYGK</b>	<b>DIIVGVMDSG</b>	VWPESSFND
				151	EGMEPVPKSW	NGICQEGVAF	NSSHCNRKLI	GARYYLKGYE	AAAGPLNETR
201	DFRSPRDVDG			HGHTAGTVG	GRRVANASAI	GGFAKGTATG	GAPNRLAIY		
251	KVCWPVPDQS			LAEGNACATD	DILAAFDDAI	ADGVHVLIS	LGSLPKSTYY		
301	TENAIAGSL			HAVKKNIVVA	CSAGNDGPTP	STVGNVAPWI	ITVGASSIDR		
351	VFSSPIMLGN			GMIVEGQTVT	<b>PIRRRLHPL</b>	<b>VYAGDVEIRG</b>	TTTNTSNGTC		
401	LPGTLRNLV			RGKVLCINN	LRAASMEVKK	AGGVAAILGN	RFNEIQVTPF		
451	LDTTTVVFSY			SLNTLLTYIR	TEKNPMATLV	PGNTLIGTKP	APVMASFTSK		
501	GPNIVDPNIL			KPDITAPGFN	ILAAWSEASS	PLKMPEDRRV	<b>VKYNMQSGTS</b>		
551	<b>MSCP</b> HVSAVI			ALLKSIHPDW	SSAAIRSALM	TTSTINNVVG	RPIKNATGDD		
601	ANPFEYGSFH			FRPSRAVDPG	LVYDATYTDY	LLYLCSQNIS	LDSSFSCPEK		
651	VPTASNLNYP			SLAIANMRGS	IRTVTRVVTN	VGKDNSTYVL	GVRSPGYVV		
701	DIVPKSLHFS			KLGEKHSFNI	TIRAQSSVE	RRNEFSFGWY	TWNDGVHVVR		

## **DATA SHEET S1.** Nitrotyrosine immunodetection and protein identification procedures.

### **Protein extraction, SDS-PAGE and Western blot**

Leaves (0.25 g) were ground in liquid N<sub>2</sub> to a fine powder and then suspended in a ratio of 1 to 3 (w/v) in 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.6) with 2 mM EDTA, 4 mM DTT, 0.6% PVPP, 1 mM PMSF and plant inhibitor cocktail (Sigma). The crude extracts were centrifuged at 10 000g for 15 min at 4°C, then the concentration of supernatant proteins was determined with the Bradford assay, using BSA as a standard. The solution of proteins was mixed with the Laemmli sample buffer and boiled for 10 min at 70°C. The sample of proteins (50 µg each) was separated on a gradient SDS-PAGE (4% - 20%, BioRad) and gels were stained with CBB-G250 or proteins were electroblotted to PVDF membranes. After transfer, membranes were blocked (5% BSA) and used for cross-reactivity assays with polyclonal antibodies against nitrotyrosine (Life Technologies) at a dilution of 1:1000. For immunodetection, the goat anti-rabbit antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (Agrisera) and Lumi-Light Western Blotting Substrate (Roche) was used. The intensity of bands was quantified using a Gel Doc system (Bio-Rad) coupled with a highly sensitive camera.

### **MS and protein identification**

Protein identification was performed using liquid chromatography coupled to the mass spectrometer at the Laboratory of Mass Spectrometry, Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland). Raw data files were pre-processed with the Mascot Distiller software (version 2.4.2.0, MatrixScience). The obtained peptide masses and fragmentation spectra were matched to the National Center Biotechnology Information (NCBI) non-redundant database (37425594 sequences; 13257553858 residues), with a *Viridiplantae* filter (1760563 sequences) using the Mascot search engine (Mascot Daemon v. 2.4.0, Mascot Server v. 2.4.1, MatrixScience). The following search parameters were applied: enzyme specificity was set to semiTrypsin, peptide mass tolerance to  $\pm 30$  ppm and fragment mass tolerance to  $\pm 0.1$  Da. The protein mass was left as unrestricted, and mass values as monoisotopic with two missed cleavage being allowed. Alkylation of cysteine by carbamidomethylation as fixed, oxidation of methionine and carboxymethylation on lysine were set as a variable modification. Protein identification was performed using the Mascot search engine (MatrixScience), with the probability based algorithm. The expected value threshold of 0.05 was used for analysis, which means that all peptide identifications had less than 1 in 20 chance of being a random match.

## WYKAZ POZOSTAŁYCH OSIĄGNIĘĆ

### PUBLIKACJE I MONOGRAFIE

1. Chmielowska-Bąk J., **Izbiańska K.**, Ekner-Grzyb A., Bayar M., Deckert J. (2018) Cadmium stress leads to rapid increase in RNA oxidative modifications in soybean seedlings. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 8: 2219 (IF=3,678; 40 pkt MNiSW)
2. Chmielowska-Bąk J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M., **Izbiańska K.**, Frontasyeva M., Zinicovscaia I., Guance-Varela C., Deckert J. (2017) NADPH oxidase is involved in regulation of gene expression and ROS overproduction in soybean (*Glycine max* L.) seedlings exposed to cadmium. *Acta Societatis Botanicorum Poloniae* 86: 3551 (IF=1,321; 15 pkt MNiSW).
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2. **Izbiańska K.**, Gajewska J., Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M. Peroxynitrite-mediated posttranslational regulation of  $\beta$ -1,3-glucanase activity in potato leaves inoculated with *Phytophthora infestans*. 7<sup>th</sup> Plant Nitric Oxide International Meeting, Nice (France) 24 – 26/10/2018
3. Gajewska J., **Izbiańska K.**, Bingöl O.A., Azzahra N.A., Floryszak-Wieczorek J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M. Heavy metals affect RNS metabolism in *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary structures. 7<sup>th</sup> Plant Nitric Oxide International Meeting, Nice (France) 24 – 26/10/2018
4. Floryszak-Wieczorek J., **Izbiańska K.**, Gajewska J., Gzyl J., Arasimowicz-Jelonek M. New insight into the fate of peroxynitrite in plants. 8th Conference of the Polish Society of Experimental Plant Biology Białystok, (Poland) 12 – 15/09/2017
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### **Udział w projektach naukowych**

#### **2017 – obecnie**

Kierownik grantu „Analiza jakościowa i funkcjonalna nitrowanej beta-1,3-glukanazy w odporności liści ziemniaka na *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary” finansowanego przez Narodowe Centrum Nauki projekt nr 2016/23/N/NZ9/00181.

#### **2016 – 2017**

Kierownik Grantu Dziekana Wydziału Biologii „Wpływ nadtlenoazotynu na żywotność komórki roślinnej na przykładzie *Solanum tuberosum* L.”

#### **2015 – 2018**

Wykonawca w grantcie: „Identyfikacja i analiza funkcjonalna zdarzeń metabolicznych zależnych od tlenu azotu u *Phytophthora infestans* (Mont.) de Bary” finansowanego przez NCN 2014/13/B/NZ/02177. Kierownik projektu: dr hab. Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek.

#### **2015 – 2017**

Wykonawca w grantcie: „Udział oksydacyjnie modyfikowanego mRNA w odpowiedzi siewek soi na stres kadmowy” finansowanym przez NCN 2014/13/D/NZ9/04812. Kierownik dr Jagna Chmielowska-Bąk.

#### **2014**

Wykonawca w grantcie: „Kontynuacja badań nad poszukiwaniem biomarkerów stanu patofizjologicznego w roślinie - w układzie modelowym ziemniak / *Phytophthora infestans*” finansowanym przez MNiSW „IUVENTUS PLUS” IP2011 000671. Kierownik projektu: dr hab. Magdalena Arasimowicz-Jelonek.

#### **2013 – 2014**

Wykonawca w grantcie: „Poszukiwanie nowych źródeł syntezy i funkcjonowania tlenu azotu w odporności liści ziemniaka na *Phytophthora infestans*” finansowanym przez NCN 2011/01/B/NZ9/00243. Kierownik: prof. dr hab. Jolanta Floryszak-Wieczorek.

