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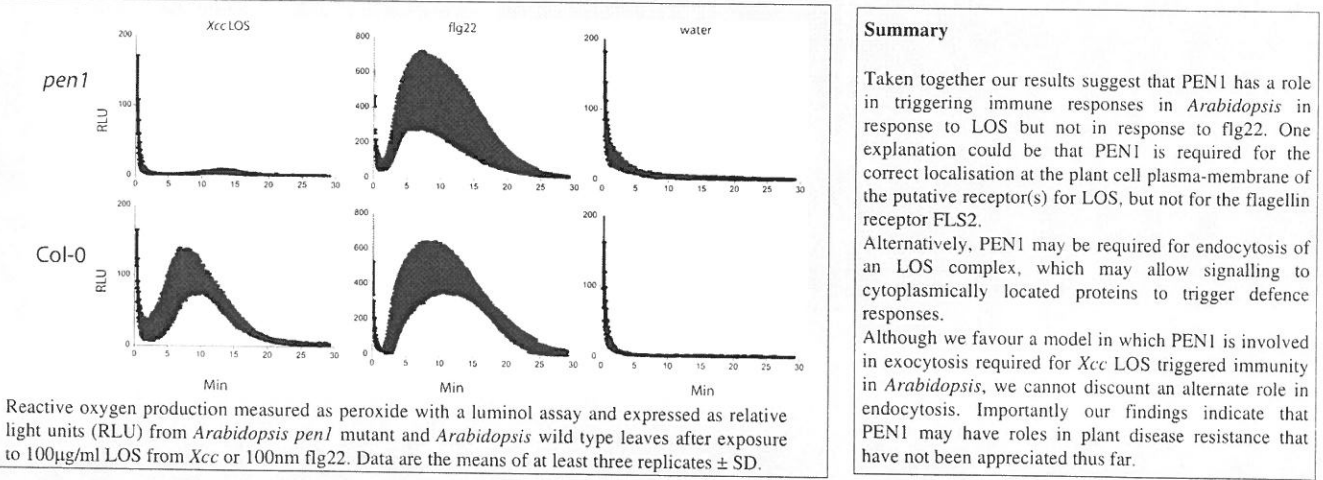
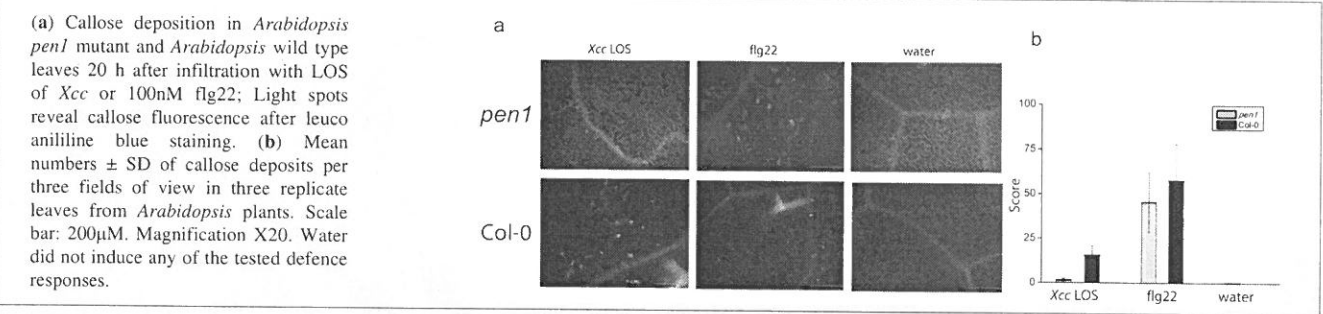
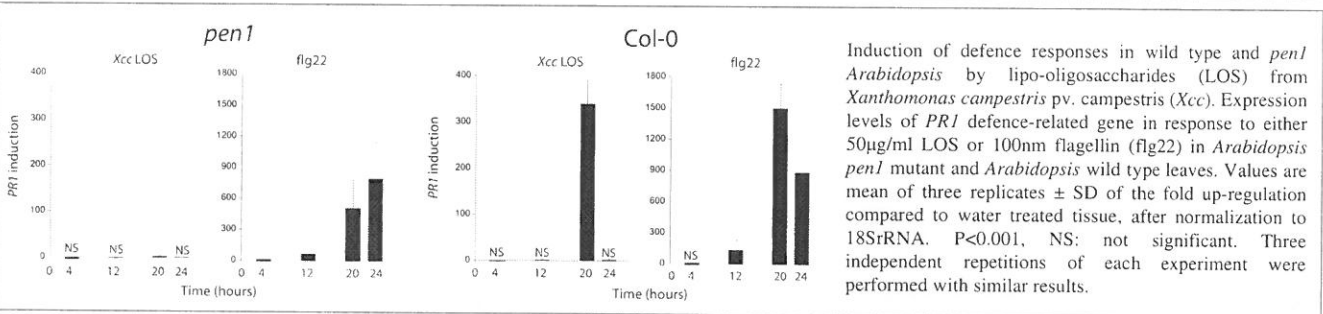
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Abstract

In eukaryotes, proteins of the soluble *N*-ethylmaleimide-sensitive factor attachment protein receptor (SNARE) family are believed to be required for docking and fusion of intracellular transport vesicles with acceptor/target membranes. The *Arabidopsis* syntaxin PEN1 (AtSYP121) is a SNARE protein that has been shown to play a role in pathogen resistance in *Arabidopsis* towards fungi (Kwon *et al.*, 2008). We present data to show that *Arabidopsis* PEN1 is also involved in signal transduction leading to the induction of the innate immune responses by particular microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs) of bacterial origin. Specifically we show that PEN1 is required for induction of *PR1* gene induction, callose deposition and generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) by LOS but not by flagellin.



Summary

Taken together our results suggest that PEN1 has a role in triggering immune responses in *Arabidopsis* in response to LOS but not in response to flg22. One explanation could be that PEN1 is required for the correct localisation at the plant cell plasma-membrane of the putative receptor(s) for LOS, but not for the flagellin receptor FLS2. Alternatively, PEN1 may be required for endocytosis of an LOS complex, which may allow signalling to cytoplasmically located proteins to trigger defence responses. Although we favour a model in which PEN1 is involved in exocytosis required for *Xcc* LOS triggered immunity in *Arabidopsis*, we cannot discount an alternate role in endocytosis. Importantly our findings indicate that PEN1 may have roles in plant disease resistance that have not been appreciated thus far.