

1 Title

2 ***An update on salicylic acid biosynthesis, its induction and***  
3 ***potential exploitation by plant viruses***

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8 Addresses

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26 exclusion.

**27 Abstract** (111 words)

28 Salicylic acid (SA) is a plant hormone essential for effective resistance to viral and  
29 non-viral pathogens. SA biosynthesis increases rapidly in resistant hosts when a  
30 dominant host resistance gene product recognizes a pathogen. SA stimulates  
31 resistance to viral replication, intercellular spread and systemic movement. However,  
32 certain viruses stimulate SA biosynthesis in susceptible hosts. This paradoxical  
33 effect limits virus titer and prevents excessive host damage, suggesting that these  
34 viruses exploit SA-induced resistance to optimize their accumulation. Recent work  
35 showed that SA production in plants does not simply recapitulate bacterial SA  
36 biosynthetic mechanisms, and that the relative contributions of the shikimate and  
37 phenylpropanoid pathways to the SA pool differ markedly between plant species.

38

**39 Article Highlights**

- 40 • Salicylic acid (SA) stimulates plants to resist viral replication, cell-to-cell  
41 movement and systemic movement
- 42 • Recent work indicates that SA also contributes to meristem exclusion of  
43 viruses and symptom amelioration
- 44 • Certain viruses induce SA biosynthesis as they spread through susceptible  
45 hosts, suggesting they exploit SA-induced resistance to prevent over-  
46 accumulation and to moderate host damage
- 47 • Plant SA biosynthesis from isochorismate is completed in the cytosol, not in  
48 the plastid, and the relative importance of the shikimate versus  
49 phenylpropanoid pathways in SA biosynthesis varies between plants

50 **Introduction: Salicylic acid has a central but ambiguous role in defense**  
51 **against viruses and other pathogens**

52 In a groundbreaking paper, White [1\*\*] showed that applying aspirin (acetylsalicylic  
53 acid), benzoic acid (BA) or salicylic acid (SA) solutions enhanced virus resistance  
54 and induced pathogenesis-related (PR) protein accumulation in plants of three  
55 tobacco mosaic virus (TMV)-resistant tobacco cultivars. PR proteins are known to  
56 effect resistance against certain cellular phytopathogens but at that time were  
57 suspected to be antiviral [2]. White's discoveries led to the realization that SA is a  
58 phytohormone required for induction of systemic acquired resistance (SAR: a  
59 pathogen-induced or stress-induced plant-wide enhancement of resistance to  
60 secondary infection by a variety of phytopathogens), for localization of pathogens to  
61 the infection site during hypersensitive responses (HRs) induced by resistance (*R*)  
62 gene-mediated effector-triggered immunity, and for maintenance of basal resistance  
63 [3,4,5,6].

64 Initial studies suggested that pathogen-induced SA biosynthesis was associated with  
65 necrosis occurring during the HR or caused by infection with necrotrophic pathogens  
66 such as *Colletotrichum lagenarium* [7,8]. However, subsequent work showed that  
67 certain viruses that spread systemically in hosts without causing necrosis can also  
68 induce SA accumulation [9,10,11,12]. Viruses that induce SA biosynthesis express  
69 factors that subvert SA-induced virus resistance, which explains how they can still  
70 replicate and spread. However, this provides no clarity as to whether SA  
71 accumulation is an incidental effect of infection, if it is somehow advantageous to the  
72 virus, or if it represents a delayed or ineffective resistance response. In this article,  
73 we review recent advances in the understanding of plant SA biosynthesis and how  
74 some viruses may exploit its induction to optimize their accumulation.

## 75 **Plant salicylic acid biosynthetic pathways are distinct from those in bacteria**

76 Soon after SA was shown to be an endogenous defensive signal, rapid progress  
77 was made in tracing its biosynthesis from intermediates in the phenylpropanoid  
78 pathway (Figure 1). In early work with tobacco and it was found that effective HR-  
79 type resistance to TMV, which is dependent upon SA, is inhibited in transgenic  
80 plants with decreased expression of phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL), which  
81 catalyzes the initial step of the phenylpropanoid pathway [13]. SA can be  
82 synthesized by hydroxylation of the phenylpropanoid pathway product BA by a  
83 cytochrome P450 oxygenase, BA 2-hydroxylase [14,15] or, as later work suggested,  
84 from *ortho*-coumarate [16]. During this early research it was also found that SA is  
85 metabolized to methyl-SA, a volatile resistance inducer, and to biologically inactive  
86 forms (SA- $\beta$ -D-glucoside or to a lesser extent to SA-glucose ester) that serve as  
87 vacuole-localized SA reserves [17,18] (Figure 1). Recent work indicated that the  
88 glycosylation status of di-hydroxylated SA metabolites helps regulate HR-related cell  
89 death [19\*\*,20].

90 In 2001 SA biosynthesis research re-focused almost exclusively to the shikimate  
91 pathway as a source of SA precursors. This was stimulated by Wildermuth and  
92 colleagues' [21] discovery that plants of the SA-deficient Arabidopsis mutant line SA  
93 *induction-deficient 2* (*sid2*) were depleted in isochorismate synthase (ICS) activity.  
94 ICS catalyzes conversion of the shikimate pathway product chorismate to  
95 isochorismate (Figure 1). Arabidopsis chloroplasts contain two enzymatically active  
96 ICS isozymes with similar catalytic properties: ICS1, encoded by the wild-type *SID2*  
97 gene, and ICS2 [21,22]. ICS1 is translated from an inducible mRNA, transcription of  
98 which is stimulated by pathogen attack and auto-regulated by SA, whereas ICS2 is

99 produced constitutively at low levels [22,23]. ICS1 but not ICS2 is indispensable for  
100 effective pathogen resistance in Arabidopsis [21].

101 Bacteria use ICS in the first step of conversion of chorismate to SA, which they use  
102 in synthesis of iron-scavenging molecules called siderophores [24,25]. The second  
103 step of bacterial SA synthesis is conversion of isochorismate to SA, catalyzed by  
104 isochorismate pyruvate-lyase (IPL). Certain bacteria, including *Yersinia*  
105 *enterocolitica*, produce SA synthases: bifunctional proteins with ICS and IPL  
106 activities. Others (e.g. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) produce separate ICS and IPL  
107 enzyme molecules [24,25] (Figure 1). Several groups showed that plant ICS  
108 enzymes lack IPL activity (and are therefore not SA synthases) but attempts to  
109 identify *IPL*-like sequences in plant genomes proved unsuccessful [22]. A putative  
110 Arabidopsis *IPL* gene, encoding a protein with a sequence characteristic of a  
111 peroxidase (PRXR1), was detected by screening an Arabidopsis cDNA library using  
112 SA-responsive bacterial biosensors [26]. However, no work has been reported on  
113 SA biosynthesis in *prxr1* mutants, or if PRXR1 converts isochorismate to SA *in vitro*.  
114 Thus, PRXR1's conjectured IPL activity remains unconfirmed.

115 A recent exciting paper by Rekhter and colleagues [27\*\*] indicates that in  
116 Arabidopsis complete synthesis of SA from chorismate does not require an IPL.  
117 Previous work had established that the protein ENHANCED DISEASE  
118 SUSCEPTIBILITY 5 (EDS5) transports SA across chloroplast envelopes [28]. The  
119 new paper reported that EDS5 also extrudes isochorismate from the chloroplast into  
120 the cytoplasm where it encounters an amidotransferase, *avrPphB* SUSCEPTIBLE 3  
121 (PBS3) [27\*\*]. PBS3 belongs to the Gretchen Hagen 3 group of proteins that  
122 catalyze formation of several phytohormone-amino acid conjugates. PBS3 is  
123 required for normal levels of SA accumulation [29,30,31] and can bind isochorismate

124 or chorismate [27\*\*,32]. Rekhter et al. [27\*\*] demonstrated that PBS3 catalyzes a  
125 condensation reaction between isochorismate and glutamate to produce  
126 isochorismate-9-glutamate, a conjugate that decomposes to SA and 2-hydroxy-  
127 acryloyl-N-glutamate (Figure 1). Thus, it now appears that plant biosynthesis of SA  
128 from chorismate is completed in the cytosol and is distinct from the bacterial IPL-  
129 dependent mechanism

130 At this time it appears that plants synthesize SA using carbon skeletons abstracted  
131 either from the shikimate or phenylpropanoid pathways. However, the proportion of  
132 total SA derived from each pathway differs between plant species. For instance, in  
133 *Arabidopsis* most SA is produced from chorismate via isochorismate and  
134 isochorismate-9-glutamate, with an additional <10% arising from the  
135 phenylpropanoid pathway [27\*\*,33]. But in some dicots, such as tobacco and  
136 *Prunus*, SA arises predominantly from phenylpropanoid pathway activity  
137 [13,14,15,34]. Similar variation occurs in the grasses. For example, most SA in  
138 barley is synthesized from chorismate [35] whereas SA biosynthesis in maize is  
139 largely dependent upon PAL activity [36\*\*]. Soybean is a particularly interesting  
140 case in that the shikimate and phenylpropanoid pathways are equally important in  
141 providing the carbon skeletons needed to generate sufficient SA to support defense  
142 against pathogens [37\*\*].

143 Variation between plants that are mostly dependent upon ICS activity versus those  
144 dependent upon PAL activity for SA production may reflect specific metabolic needs  
145 or limitations in each plant, or the nature of external challenges (including viruses  
146 and other pathogens), or the degree of metabolic flexibility required to rise to various  
147 challenges. Chorismate is essential for production of several vital metabolites  
148 synthesized in chloroplasts, including aromatic amino acids, folate and

149 phylloquinone [18]. Some plants may not have sufficient metabolic flexibility to be  
150 able to maintain synthesis of these compounds while drawing on what might be a  
151 limited chorismate pool to synthesize SA.

## 152 **Salicylic acid-induced resistance to viruses: Still not fully understood**

153 We recently reviewed the topic of SA-induced resistance to viruses and how it  
154 connects with resistance mechanisms regulated by signals such as jasmonic acid,  
155 abscisic acid, azelaic acid, glycerol-3-phosphate, nitric oxide, reactive oxygen  
156 species (ROS) and pipecolic acid [2]. Therefore, the mechanisms suspected to be  
157 involved in SA-induced resistance will only be summarized here (Figure 2).

158 For the most part SA influences virus resistance by acting as a signal over various  
159 ranges to stimulate genetic and physiological changes in the plant. An exception to  
160 this occurs in the case of the viral replicase complex of tomato bushy stunt virus,  
161 where SA binds directly to a host factor, a glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate  
162 dehydrogenase (GAPDH) isoform, required for regulating the ratio of viral genomic  
163 (plus-sense) to viral minus-strand synthesis [38\*]. In SA-treated tobacco the relative  
164 proportions of minus and plus strands of TMV RNA and of sub-genomic mRNAs  
165 synthesized were also altered. But in that plant-virus combination the effect of SA on  
166 viral RNA synthesis was indirect and mediated by defensive signaling modulated by  
167 the mitochondrial respiratory enzyme, alternative oxidase (AOX) [39] (Figure 2).

168 AOX and AOX-like enzymes occur in mitochondria of plants, certain fungi,  
169 invertebrates and proteobacteria, but not in mitochondria of higher vertebrates [40\*].  
170 Plant AOX is an accessory respiratory chain component that prevents over-reduction  
171 of ubiquinone, neutralizes excess reducing power from photosynthesis, and  
172 moderates mitochondrial ROS accumulation [40\*]. AOX uses ubiquinol to catalyze

173 reduction of oxygen to water, without concomitant generation of ATP [40\*]. There  
174 are multiple examples of virus-plant interactions in which AOX is a factor in SA-  
175 induced virus resistance (reviewed in [2]).

176 Modulation of mitochondrial ROS by AOX is theorized to affect nuclear gene  
177 expression via retrograde signaling. This probably involves signaling transduced via  
178 reversible oxidation of sulfhydryl groups and reduction of disulfide bridges on  
179 mitochondrial sensor proteins [41]. SA stimulates mitochondrial ROS production by  
180 interactions with  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase and/or inhibition of electron  
181 transport [2,42\*]. Increased mitochondrial ROS levels activate AOX activity and a  
182 transient increase in AOX gene expression to counteract further ROS production  
183 [2,42\*]. Consistent with this idea, altering glutathione levels can compensate for  
184 decreased SA accumulation in induction of virus resistance [43]. However, AOX is  
185 not always a factor in SA-induced virus resistance. While SA-induced resistance is  
186 modulated by AOX in Arabidopsis, tobacco and *N. benthamiana*, it is AOX-  
187 independent in squash [2,44,45] (Figure 2).

188 SA-induced virus resistance is not dependent on any known PR protein and in most  
189 cases is not dependent on NPR1 ('Non-Expresser of PR proteins 1'), a regulator of  
190 *PR* gene expression (reviewed in [2]) (Figure 2). However, NPR1 is implicated in  
191 two examples of virus resistance. One is virus localization during the HR [46]. The  
192 second is the suggested role of NPR1 in resistance induced by the SA analog  
193 benzothiadiazole against plantago asiatica mosaic virus in Arabidopsis [47]. SA can  
194 induce resistance to viral replication, cell-to-cell movement, and systemic movement.  
195 But which step of the infection cycle is inhibited depends upon the virus-host  
196 combination [2,6,45,47].



197 SA treatment can limit access of viruses to tissues adjacent to the meristem; the  
198 growing tip where most cell division and differentiation occurs [48]. The extent of  
199 viral invasion of meristematic tissue correlates with symptom severity [48,49]. Until  
200 recently, meristem access was thought to be controlled predominantly by RNA  
201 silencing mediated by RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RDR) 6 (which is not SA-  
202 regulated) and RDR1, which SA induces at the transcriptional level and activates at  
203 the enzymatic level [48,49]. Although RNA silencing and its reinforcement by SA  
204 explains exclusion of TMV and potato virus X from meristems and symptom  
205 amelioration [48,49], Medzihradzky and colleagues [50\*\*] contend that for  
206 tombusviruses, such as cymbidium ringspot virus, virus-induced changes in host  
207 gene expression are more important for exclusion. Most significantly, they point to  
208 decreased gene expression for GAPDH, which, as previously noted, is not only a  
209 host factor required for efficient tombusvirus replication but is also a target for SA  
210 [38\*,50\*\*] (Figure 2).

211 RDR1 is an ancillary RNA silencing component that maintains basal resistance  
212 against several viruses and SA enhances its expression in an NPR1-dependent  
213 fashion [23,48,51]. However, neither RDR1, nor core RNA silencing components  
214 such as the endonucleases Dicer-like (DCL) 2, 3, or 4 are essential for resistance  
215 induced by SA or its functional analogs [47,52]. Thus, SA-induced virus resistance  
216 is not dependent upon RNA silencing. However, RDR1 enhances expression of  
217 RDR6, AOX and of a suspected antiviral factor (Inhibitor of Viral Replication [51]).  
218 Taken together with data showing that *RDR1* expression, but not *AOX* expression, is  
219 regulated by NPR1 [23], it seems that a complex but incompletely elucidated  
220 regulatory network coordinates SA-induced resistance with other aspects of SAR  
221 and with RNA silencing (Figure 2).

## 222 **Balancing act: Salicylic acid as a pro-viral factor**

223 Treatment of susceptible plants with exogenous SA, synthetic resistance inducers or  
224 induction of endogenous SA biosynthesis prior to inoculation inhibits infection by  
225 most viruses, although it is not as effective as ETI in completely preventing infection  
226 [2,6]. Paradoxically, some of the viruses that would be inhibited in some aspect of  
227 their infection cycle in plants pre-treated with SA can induce SA biosynthesis,  
228 although this does not prevent infection (Figure 3). Examples include potyviruses,  
229 cucumber mosaic virus (CMV) and cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV), which induce  
230 SA biosynthesis during compatible interactions with plants [9,10,11,36\*\*,53].

231 Probably the best-studied viral factors that enable viruses to overcome at least some  
232 aspects of SA-induced resistance include the CMV 2b protein [54,55], the potyviral  
233 HC-Pro protein [56,57\*] and the P6 protein of CaMV [11]. Interestingly, these viral  
234 gene products also enable their respective viruses to overcome RNA silencing, and  
235 provoke disease symptoms through interference with small RNA pathways as well  
236 as via other mechanisms [58,59]. Two amino acid sequences within P6 condition  
237 suppression of SA-mediated signaling by CaMV [60]. For the 2b protein, the N- and  
238 C-terminal domains are required for evasion of SA-induced resistance to local virus  
239 accumulation. These domains, plus the region containing superimposed nuclear  
240 localization and RNA binding sequences, and the central gly-ser-glu-leu sequence  
241 contribute to priming of SA biosynthesis, which is induced by another, unidentified  
242 CMV gene product. The phosphorylation (nucleus-cytoplasm shuttling) domain  
243 negatively regulates SA biosynthesis [10,55,61]. For potyviruses, HC-Pro both  
244 induces SA biosynthesis and allows potyviruses to evade the antiviral effects of SA,  
245 with inhibition of downstream signaling caused by interaction with SA-binding protein  
246 3 [57\*,62].

247 Recently, it was found that the tobacco rattle virus (TRV) 16K protein induces SA  
248 biosynthesis and expression of *RDR1* and other SA-regulated genes in systemically  
249 infected *N. benthamiana* plants [63\*\*]. Mechanistically, the process hinges on  
250 interaction of the 16K protein with the host protein coilin, leading to coilin's relocation  
251 from the intra-nuclear Cajal bodies to the nucleoli, which triggers SA-induced  
252 resistance to further TRV accumulation [63\*\*]. Once invoked, this process prevents  
253 significant accumulation of TRV in young, developing tissues, which display no  
254 discernable symptoms: a recovery phenotype. When TRV-induced SA accumulation  
255 was hindered by transgenic expression of the SA-degrading enzyme SA hydroxylase,  
256 knockdown of *coilin* expression, or infection with a TRV 16K-deletion mutant,  
257 infected plants exhibited aggravated symptoms culminating in necrosis [63\*\*].

258 Shaw and colleagues [63\*\*] showed that recovery, previously attributed solely to  
259 RNA silencing (critically reviewed in [64]), is SA-dependent and that, rather than  
260 being a pure resistance phenomenon, may represent viral manipulation of host  
261 resistance to optimize virus accumulation, whilst limiting damage to the host. Other  
262 evidence for viral self-limitation and symptom amelioration by inducing SA  
263 biosynthesis is provided by studies where transgenic expression of SA hydroxylase  
264 led to increased pathogenicity in potato virus Y-infected potato plants [53], and in  
265 *PAL*-depleted maize plants infected with sugarcane mosaic virus [36\*\*]. SA might be  
266 considered to be pro-viral where it facilitates limitation of virus accumulation to avoid  
267 excessive host damage such as necrosis, which would inactivate virus particles in  
268 dying tissues or might render hosts unattractive to vectors (Figure 3).

269 **Concluding comments: Future studies of SA-induced resistance**

270 Although SA-induced virus resistance occurs independently of RNA silencing, it  
271 appears that these two phenomena reinforce each other [48,56] and are linked,  
272 perhaps through the action of RDR1 [51]. It is plausible that SA accumulation in virus  
273 infected plants primes RNA silencing. This is suggested by observations that in  
274 transgenic Arabidopsis plants expressing the CMV 2b protein AGO2 expression  
275 becomes SA-inducible [10], and that AGO2 provides a second line of defense  
276 against CMV [65]. Priming of RNA silencing by SA, whether through induction and  
277 activation of RDR1, or by increasing core components of silencing such as AGO2  
278 would strengthen SA-induced resistance (Figure 3a) but may also be exploitable by  
279 viruses to control their own accumulation (Figure 3b). Further research on the SA -  
280 RNA silencing linkage is likely to yield important new insights into plant-virus  
281 relationships.

282 Work on the tobacco-TMV pathosystem suggested that in general SA accumulation  
283 is not induced during infection of susceptible plants [7]. However, virus-induced SA  
284 accumulation has now been observed in many susceptible hosts, which suggest that  
285 this may be the rule, and that the TMV-tobacco system might be an exception.  
286 Further research in this area may reveal additional functions for virus-induced SA  
287 accumulation in infected plants beyond modulation of virus titer. Aguilar and  
288 colleagues have shown that SA is needed to establish virus-induced drought  
289 resistance [66] and that virus-induced SA accumulation protects plants against  
290 secondary infection by bacteria [67\*\*]. Both effects have mutual benefits for host and  
291 virus and it is conceivable that SA will prove to be a key factor in facilitating quasi-  
292 mutualistic 'pay-backs' between viruses and their hosts.

293 **Conflicts of interest**

294 All authors confirm that there are no known conflicts of interest associated with this  
295 publication and there has been no significant financial support for this work that  
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297 **Author declaration**

298 All authors reviewed the final draft. The corresponding author had final responsibility  
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311 **References and Recommended Reading**

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313 highlighted as:

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631

632 **Figure Legends**633 **Figure 1. Biosynthetic Pathways for Production of Salicylic Acid in Plants and**634 **Bacteria. (a)** In plants SA biosynthesis can utilize carbon skeletons derived from

635 either or both of the shikimate or phenylpropanoid pathways. The relative importance

636 of each of these pathways varies between plant species. SA derived from the

637 phenylpropanoid pathway and dependent upon the conversion of phenylalanine to

638 *trans*-cinnamic acid by PAL and subsequent conversion by either of two CoA-

639 dependent routes or a CoA-independent route to BA, which is converted to SA by

640 the action of a cytochrome P450 enzyme, BA2H, using molecular oxygen. SA

641 produced from carbon skeletons provided by the shikimate pathway is derived from

642 isochorismate produced in the plastid. Isochorismate is translocated into the cytosol

643 by EDS5 and conjugated to glutamate by PBS3. The resulting compound,

644 isochorismate-9-glutamate, decomposes to release SA and 2-hydroxy-acryloyl-N-

645 glutamate (1). Alternatively, but only in Brassicaceae, EPS can catalyze

646 decomposition of isochorismate-9-glutamate to N-pyruvoyl-L-glutamate (an 2-

647 hydroxy-acryloyl-N-glutamate isomer) and SA [68] (2). A large proportion of SA is

648 glucosylated to SA- $\beta$ -D-glucoside (labelled SA-glucose) and a smaller proportion to

649 the glucose-SA ester and both of these biologically inactive molecules accumulate in

650 the vacuole and may act as stores or reserves of SA. SA can also be metabolized to

651 various dihydroxybenzoates, which can also be glycosylated (omitted here for

652 simplicity). Methyl-SA is volatile and can act as a resistance inducer and also

653 influences plant-insect interactions. **(b)** In bacteria SA, which is typically utilized for

654 the synthesis of siderophores, is derived from the shikimate pathway. In some

655 bacteria (e.g. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), chorismate is converted to SA via656 isochorismate by two enzymes, ICS and IPL **(i)**. In others (e.g. *Yersinia*

657 *enterocolitica*) an SA synthase, i.e. a bifunctional enzyme with both ICS and IPL  
658 activity, converts chorismate directly to SA (shown with isochorismate as a transient  
659 intermediate) (ii). Abbreviations: AO4, aldehyde oxidase 4; BA, benzoic acid; BA2H,  
660 BA 2-hydroxylase; BSMT, BA/SA carboxyl methyltransferase; 4-CL, 4-  
661 coumarate:CoA ligase; EDS5, Enhanced Disease Susceptibility 5 (isochorismate  
662 transporter); EPS1, a member of the BAHD acyltransferase protein family; ICS,  
663 isochorismate synthase; IPL, isochorismate pyruvate-lyase; PAL, phenylalanine  
664 ammonia-lyase; PBS3, avrPphB SUSCEPTIBLE 3 (an amidotransferase), and SA,  
665 salicylic acid. Based on references [17,18,24,25,27\*\*,68].

666

667 **Figure 2. Salicylic acid sits at the center of a complex network regulating**  
668 **resistance to viruses and other pathogens.** The diagram depicts in simplified form  
669 some of the SA-dependent resistance phenomena described in this article (blue-  
670 outlined boxes). SA can have direct effects on antiviral defense (pale blue arrows)  
671 through its effects on ROS generation in mitochondria or its inhibitory effect on  
672 GAPDH (a component of tombusviral replicase complexes). SA-induced ROS  
673 increases in the mitochondria result in increased resistance to viruses and AOX  
674 activity and glutathione levels modulate this form of signaling. SA can also stimulate  
675 resistance to viral intercellular movement via a less well-characterized AOX-  
676 independent signaling system (dark blue arrow). Working through the master  
677 regulatory factor NPR1 (and its partners NPR3 and 4 and TGA transcription factors,  
678 which are omitted for simplicity) SA stimulates the transcription of PR mRNAs,  
679 contributing to defense against non-viral pathogens. SA-stimulated increases in  
680 RDR1 transcription (and possibly SA-stimulated increases in RDR1 activity) are also  
681 dependent on NPR1. RDR1 also influences transcription of *RDR6* and *AOX*  
682 (indicated by asterisks). Abbreviations: AOX, alternative oxidase; GAPDH,  
683 glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase; NPR1, Non-Expresser of PR proteins  
684 1; PR, pathogenesis-related protein; RDR, RNA-dependent RNA polymerase, and  
685 ROS, reactive oxygen species. Based on references [2,23,38\*,41,44,45,49,50\*\*,51].

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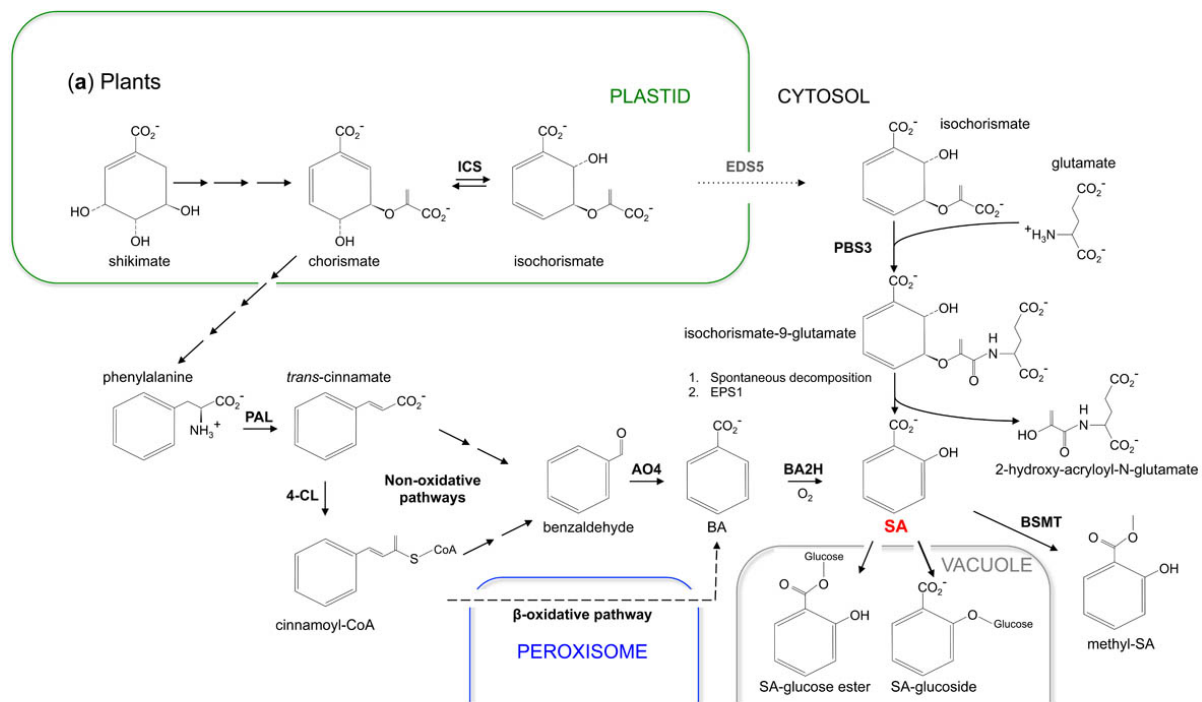
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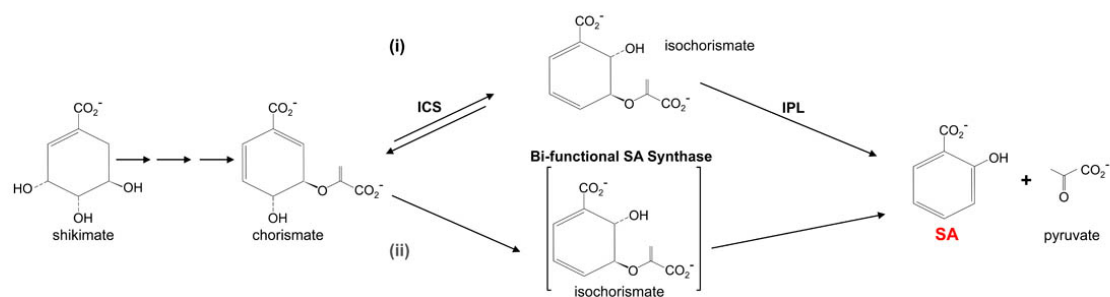
688 **Figure 3. Salicylic acid as anti-viral or pro-viral factor. (a)** In plants possessing a  
689 dominant virus-specific resistance (*R*) gene, recognition of virus (depicted in this  
690 cartoon by an icosahedron) triggers a hypersensitive reaction (HR), a resistance  
691 response in which localization of the invading virus to the vicinity of the inoculation  
692 site is dependent in part upon rapid production of salicylic acid by the host (SA). In  
693 susceptible plants that have been treated with exogenous SA, the spread of virus out  
694 of the inoculation zone is inhibited but not always completely halted. **(b)** Certain  
695 viruses (e.g. potyviruses, cauliflower mosaic virus, cucumber mosaic virus, and  
696 tobacco rattle virus) stimulate endogenous SA biosynthesis as they spread  
697 systemically through susceptible hosts, which limits virus accumulation and  
698 ameliorates disease symptoms. **(c)** In plants depleted in SA (by transgenic  
699 expression of SA-hydroxylase, or in mutant plants lacking SA biosynthetic capacity)  
700 virus accumulation is enhanced but this may lead to severe stunting of plants (and an  
701 overall decrease in virus yield per plant) or symptoms may be exacerbated leading  
702 to necrosis (likely leading to inactivation of virus particles present in the necrotizing  
703 tissue). Thus, in scenario **(b)**, the virus is exploiting SA as a pro-viral factor by  
704 ensuring that virus accumulation is optimized. Based on references  
705 [1,2,4,5,35,53,63\*].

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**(b) Bacteria**



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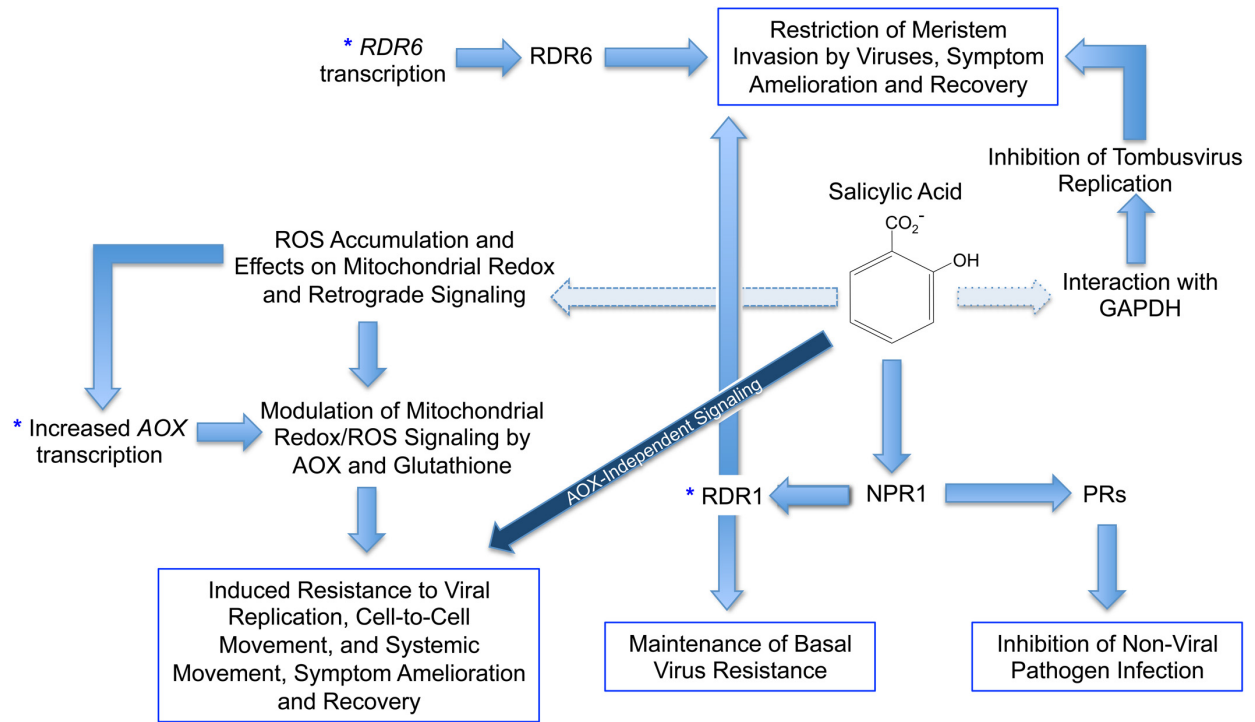
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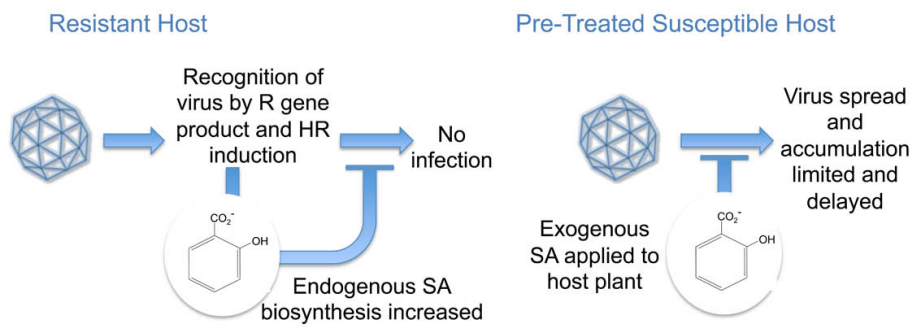
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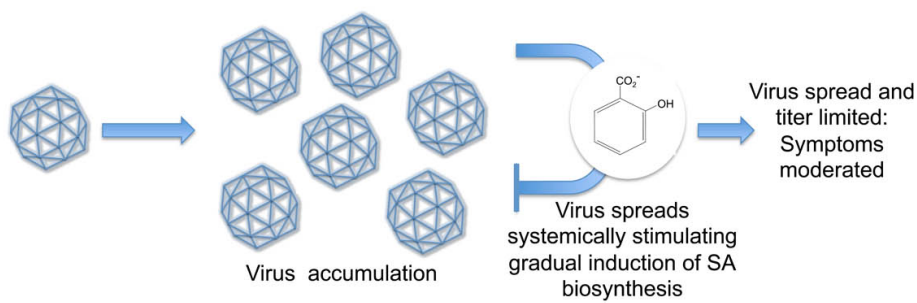
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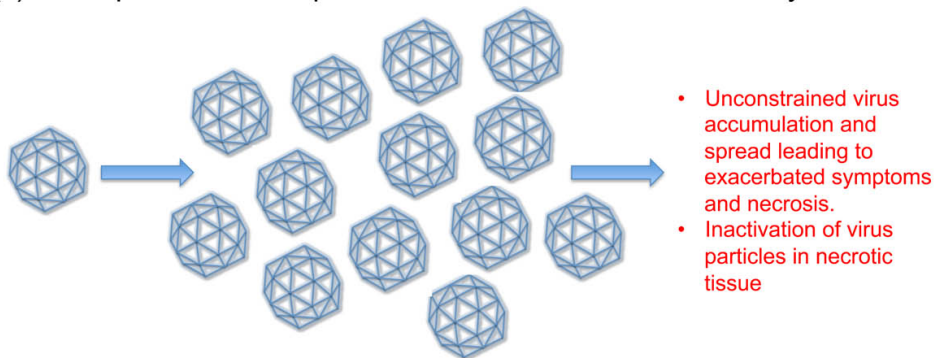
(a) Resistant host or susceptible host pre-treated with SA



(b) Susceptible host



(c) Susceptible host compromised in SA accumulation or biosynthesis



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