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Inappropriate expression of an NLP effector in *Colletotrichum orbiculare* impairs infection on cucurbitaceae cultivars via plant recognition of the C-terminal region (Article)

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Abstract

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The hemibiotrophic pathogen *Colletotrichum orbiculare* preferentially expresses a necrosis and ethylene-inducing peptide 1 (Nep1)-like protein named NLP1 during the switch to necrotrophy. Here, we report that the constitutive expression of NLP1 in *C. orbiculare* blocks pathogen infection in multiple Cucurbitaceae cultivars via their enhanced defense responses. NLP1 has a cytotoxic activity that induces cell death in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. However, *C. orbiculare* transgenic lines constitutively expressing a mutant NLP1 lacking the cytotoxic activity still failed to infect cucumber, indicating no clear relationship between cytotoxic activity and the NLP1-dependent enhanced defense. NLP1 also possesses the microbe-associated molecular pattern (MAMP) sequence called nlp24, recognized by *Arabidopsis thaliana* at its central region, similar to NLPs of other pathogens. Surprisingly, inappropriate expression of a mutant NLP1 lacking the MAMP signature is also effective for blocking pathogen infection, uncoupling the infection block from the corresponding MAMP. Notably, the deletion analyses of NLP1 suggested that the C-terminal region of NLP1 is critical to enhance defense in cucumber. The expression of mCherry fused with the C-terminal 32 amino acids of NLP1 was enough to trigger the defense of cucurbits, revealing that the C-terminal region of the NLP1 protein is recognized by cucurbits and, then, terminates *C. orbiculare* infection. © 2018 The American Phytopathological Society.

SciVal Topic Prominence

Topic: Magnaporthe | *Oryza sativa* | plant infection

Prominence percentile: 95.306



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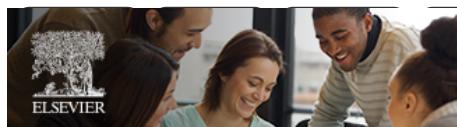
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Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms: [fungal protein](#)

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Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers:

Fungal Proteins

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