

Diverse mechanisms of resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* in a thousand natural accessions of *Arabidopsis thaliana*

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Summary

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- Plants are continuously threatened by pathogen attack and, as such, they have evolved mechanisms to evade, escape and defend themselves against pathogens. However, it is not known what types of defense mechanisms a plant would already possess to defend against a potential pathogen that has not co-evolved with the plant. We addressed this important question in a comprehensive manner by studying the responses of 1041 accessions of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to the foliar pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000.
- We characterized the interaction using a variety of established methods, including different inoculation techniques, bacterial mutant strains, and assays for the hypersensitive response, salicylic acid (SA) accumulation and reactive oxygen species production.
- Fourteen accessions showed resistance to infection by *Pst* DC3000. Of these, two accessions had a surface-based mechanism of resistance, six showed a hypersensitive-like response while three had elevated SA levels. Interestingly, *A. thaliana* was discovered to have a recognition system for the effector AvrPto, and HopAM1 was found to modulate *Pst* DC3000 resistance in two accessions.
- Our comprehensive study has significant implications for the understanding of natural disease resistance mechanisms at the species level and for the ecology and evolution of plant–pathogen interactions.

Introduction

Genetic variation is crucial for the survival of all organisms and for crop improvement (Glaszmann *et al.*, 2010). It is in the untapped potential of uncharacterized individuals within a population where we may find new and improved traits for plant adaptation and resilience (Riely & Martin, 2001; Saintenac *et al.*, 2013). One of the major deterrents to crop productivity is disease. It is estimated that the actual loss of productivity due to pathogens for the major cultivated crops is close to 14% (Oerke, 2006). This loss of productivity could be reduced if the plant's defense mechanisms against pathogens could be heightened.

Plants have intricate defense mechanisms that impede pathogen colonization and infection, and that minimize fitness costs to the infected plants. Two defense mechanisms that occur almost in parallel when a plant encounters a potential pathogen are pathogen-associated molecular pattern (PAMP)-triggered immunity (PTI) and effector-triggered immunity (ETI) (Jones & Dangl, 2006). During PTI, epitopes of molecules ubiquitously present in microbes (e.g. flagellin for bacteria and chitin for

fungi) are perceived by pattern-recognition receptors (PRRs), which ultimately contributes to halted microbial growth (Zipfel *et al.*, 2004; Wan *et al.*, 2008). How this is achieved is not currently well defined. Successful pathogens are able to dampen PTI responses, mainly by the activity of toxins and effector proteins (Melotto *et al.*, 2006; Cheng *et al.*, 2011; Xiang *et al.*, 2011). However, certain plant individuals carry specific resistance (R) proteins that recognize either the presence or the activity of effectors, which ultimately triggers ETI (Grant *et al.*, 1995; Gassmann *et al.*, 1999). ETI usually leads to a localized programmed cell death response, the hypersensitive response, in the cells that are in contact with the pathogen, a phenomenon that is thought to limit pathogen spread. However, the boundaries distinguishing PTI and ETI are not as clear, as in nature both responses form a continuum (Thomma *et al.*, 2011).

Phytohormones influence both PTI and ETI (Tsuda *et al.*, 2009). Salicylic acid (SA) is a phenolic hormone involved in local defense as well as systemic acquired resistance (SAR), the latter of which protects infected plants from future pathogen colonization in uninfected tissue (Fu & Dong, 2013). Accumulation of SA increases after PTI elicitation (Tsuda *et al.*, 2008), and

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pretreatment of plants with an SA analog potentiates several flagellin responses (Tateda *et al.*, 2014). As for the involvement of SA in ETI, SA biosynthesis is partially required for effective ETI in some, but not all, effector–R protein pairs (Tsuda *et al.*, 2009). Furthermore, SA accumulation increases in a biphasic manner during ETI (Malamy *et al.*, 1990), while enzymatic depletion of SA accumulation causes ETI pathogen containment (but not cell death) to fail (Mur *et al.*, 1997).

Until now, studies on plant resistance have focused on a limited number of natural accessions or cultivars of a plant species. A fundamental question that remains to be answered in plant–pathogen interactions is how many types of resistance mechanisms a given plant species would already possess to defend against a potential pathogen that apparently has not co-evolved with the plant. *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 is a phyto-bacterial pathogen that has been extensively studied for its ability to infect tomato (from which it was initially isolated; Cuppels, 1986) and *Arabidopsis* (Whalen *et al.*, 1991), and has been used as a model to probe plant defense responses (Xin & He, 2013). *Pst* DC3000 delivers more than 30 effector proteins into the plant cell using a type III secretion system (T3SS) (Wei *et al.*, 2015), which collectively with a phytotoxin, coronatine (Melotto *et al.*, 2006), are the two most important virulence-promoting mechanisms of this pathogen. Thus far, several studies have evaluated the variation in disease resistance to *P. syringae* in *Arabidopsis*, the largest of which examined 75 *Arabidopsis* accessions (Kover & Schaal, 2002; Perche-pied *et al.*, 2006; Hossain & Sultana, 2015). To address the question of how many types of resistance mechanisms a given plant species would already possess to defend against a potential pathogen that has potentially not co-evolved with the plant, we investigated the responses of over 1000 *Arabidopsis* accessions to infection by *Pst* DC3000 and identified 14 accessions that were resistant. Further characterization separated these accessions into four defined categories: (1) two accessions were only resistant if bacteria were inoculated onto the leaf surface; (2) six accessions were able to mount an ETI-like response; (3) three accessions showed increased basal SA accumulation; and (4) three accessions did not fall into any of the previous three categories. AvrPto and HopAM1 were identified as effectors that influence the resistance in several accessions that show an ETI-like response to *Pst* DC3000. These results highlight the diverse mechanisms of resistance already in place in individuals of a population even before exposure to a particular pathogen strain occurs and, like in tomato, AvrPto recognition appears to play a prominent role in mediating the ETI-type interaction between *A. thaliana* and *Pst* DC3000.

Materials and Methods

Materials and methods detailing the crosses between *Arabidopsis* accessions, next-generation sequencing (NGS), SHOREMAP mapping of resistance loci and statistical analyses are described in the Supporting Information Methods S1–S3 and Notes S1.

Bacterial strains and antibiotics

P. syringae van Hall strains were grown in modified LB medium (LM; 10 g l⁻¹ tryptone, 6 g l⁻¹ yeast extract, 1.5 g l⁻¹ KH₂PO₄, 0.6 g NaCl and 0.4 g MgSO₄·7H₂O) or King's B medium at 30°C, while *Escherichia coli* (Migula) Castellani and Chalmers strains were grown in LB (Lennox) medium at 37°C (Table S1). Antibiotics were used at the following concentrations: 100–400 µg ml⁻¹ for ampicillin, 50 µg ml⁻¹ for kanamycin, 100 µg ml⁻¹ for rifampicin and 50 µg ml⁻¹ for spectinomycin.

Plant growth conditions

A. thaliana (L.) Heynh seeds were stratified for 6 d at 4°C before sowing. Before stratification, seeds were incubated with 1.8% sodium hypochlorite for 15 min, as two accessions, Xan-2 and Xan-5, require this treatment for even germination. Plants were grown in a growth chamber with a 12-h photoperiod and a temperature of 23°C during the day and 21°C during the night, under a partially covered transparent dome.

Construction of *Pst* Δ hopAM1-1 Δ hopAM1-2 mutant

Pst DC3001 is a strain that has a c. 10-kb deletion in *Pst* DC3000 plasmid A that includes *hopAM1-2* (Landgraf *et al.*, 2006). Deletion of *hopAM1-2* in *Pst* DC3001 was confirmed using three primers: P1, P5 and T1 (Table S2); and GoTaq DNA polymerase (Promega), as PCR would produce amplicons of different sizes for wild-type *Pst* DC3000 and mutated *Pst* DC3001. *Pst* Δ hopAM1-1 Δ hopAM1-2 mutant was constructed following a previously described procedure (Kvitko & Collmer, 2011). Effector *hopAM1-1* was deleted from *Pst* DC3001 by conjugation, integration of the deletion construct, and sucrose counter-selection of double crossover strains using *E. coli* S17-1 pCPP5914 (pK18mobsacB:: Δ hopAM1-1; Cunnac *et al.*, 2011). After sucrose counter-selection, genomic DNA was extracted from several putative deletion strains using a Gentra Puregene Yeast/Bact. kit (Qiagen). Deletion of *hopAM1-1* from *Pst* DC3001 was confirmed using PCR with primers P2615 and P2616 and Phusion high-fidelity DNA polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

Plasmid transformation into *P. syringae* followed the protocol of Choi *et al.* (2006). *Pseudomonas* cultures were grown until they reached an absorbance at 600 nm of 0.5–0.8, washed twice with 0.5 M sucrose and then used to electroporate the corresponding plasmids using the following parameters: 1.8 kV, 25 µF and 200 Ω.

Screen for *A. thaliana* accessions resistant to *Pst* DC3000

Arabidopsis accessions used in the screen included an initial set of 96 accessions from a study that evaluated genetic polymorphism in *A. thaliana* (Nordborg *et al.*, 2005), and all the available accessions at the *Arabidopsis* Biological Resource Center (ABRC; The Ohio State University, USA) as of February 2009 (Table S3). Five-week-old plants were inoculated by dipping them into a *Pst* DC3000 suspension of 2×10^8 colony-forming units

(CFU) ml⁻¹ with 0.025% Silwet L-77. Plants were left covered under a transparent plastic dome for the duration of the experiment to maintain high humidity. At 5 d post-inoculation, plants were evaluated for disease symptoms. Inoculated accessions lacking conspicuous disease symptoms (chlorosis, necrosis or leaf collapse) were selected for further study.

Bacterial multiplication assays

Dip inoculation was done as described for the screen except that bacteria were resuspended in 0.25 mM MgCl₂ to an inoculum of 10⁸ CFU ml⁻¹. For infiltration-based inoculation, leaves of 4–4.5-wk-old Arabidopsis plants were poked with a needle and infiltrated with a bacterial suspension of 1 × 10⁵ to 5 × 10⁶ CFU ml⁻¹ in 0.25 mM MgCl₂ using a needleless syringe. After the liquid inside the leaves dried (c. 1 h after infiltration), plants were left covered under a transparent dome for the duration of the experiment. At least three plants were inoculated per treatment to evaluate bacterial multiplication.

To evaluate if the accessions exhibited an ETI-like response to high bacterial inoculum, leaves were infiltrated with a bacterial suspension of 10⁸ CFU ml⁻¹ in 0.25 mM MgCl₂ using a needleless syringe. After the liquid inside the leaves dried, plants were left partially covered with a transparent dome for the duration of the experiment. Between 18 and 96 h post-inoculation, plants were evaluated for cell death. Individual leaves were visually categorized as having no necrosis, partial necrosis or full cell death (Fig. S1). Alternatively, when individual effectors were expressed from strain *Pst* Δ28E, leaves were categorized as showing either no observable changes or chlorosis. At least four leaves from different plants were inoculated per treatment.

Hormone quantification

Hormones were extracted and quantified as described previously (Zeng *et al.*, 2011). Approximately 50 mg of frozen leaf tissue was ground and then incubated at 4°C for 20 h in 80% methanol containing 0.1% formic acid, 0.1 g l⁻¹ butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), and 100 nM deuterated abscisic acid (ABA-d₆, courtesy of Dr A. Daniel Jones, as an internal standard to account for hormone loss during extraction). Samples were vortexed, centrifuged and filtered using 0.2-μm PTFE filter units (Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany), and the flow through was used for hormone quantification.

Ten microlitres of plant extracts were injected onto an Ascentis Express C18 column (50 × 2.1 mm, 2.7 μm; Sigma-Aldrich) installed in the column heater (50°C) of an Acquity ultra performance liquid chromatography (UPLC) system (Waters Corp., Milford, MA, USA). For UPLC separation, we used a 5-min gradient method starting with a 9:1 mixture (v/v) of 0.1% aqueous formic acid (solvent A) and 100% methanol (solvent B) and increasing linearly to 100% solvent B with a mobile phase flow rate of 0.4 ml min⁻¹. After separation, samples were injected into a Quattro Premier XE mass spectrometer (Waters Corp.) equipped with an electrospray

ionization (ESI) source operated in negative ion mode. Capillary voltage, cone voltage, and extractor voltage were set to 3.5 kV, 25 V and 5 V, respectively, with the source temperature set to 120°C and the desolvation temperature set to 350°C. Desolvation gas and cone gas were set to flow rates of 600 and 50 l h⁻¹, respectively.

Selected ion monitoring (SIM) was performed to quantify ABA (*m/z* 263.1 > 153.1), ABA-d₆ (*m/z* 269.1 > 159.1), jasmonic acid (JA; *m/z* 209.1 > 59), jasmonoyl isoleucine (JA-Ile; *m/z* 322.2 > 130.1), SA (*m/z* 137 > 93) and SA glucoside (SAG; *m/z* 299.1 > 137). The QUAN-OPTIMIZE software was used to identify the parent and daughter SIM pairs, and the QUANLYNX software v. 4.1 (Waters Corp.) was used to determine analyte responses relative to the internal standard ABA-d₆. Hormones were quantified using standard curves prepared with purified hormones for each compound (hormones were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, except for JA-Ile, which was a kind gift from Dr Paul Staswick, and SAG, for which the SA standard was used). Total SA was calculated by adding SA and SAG concentrations. Final concentrations are expressed as nanograms of hormone per gram of sample fresh weight.

Benzothiadiazole treatment

Arabidopsis accessions were sprayed with a solution of 0.025% Silwet L-77 with or without 100 μM BTH until the plants were thoroughly wet. Twenty-four hours after spraying, leaf tissue was collected and frozen for further analysis.

Protein extraction

Frozen leaf tissue was ground using the TissueLyser II homogenizer (Qiagen) and 3-mm zirconium oxide beads (Glen Mills Inc., Clifton, NJ, USA). Ground tissue was incubated for 10 min at 4°C with three volumes of extraction buffer (0.5% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl, 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM dithiothreitol (DTT), 5 mM EDTA, and protease inhibitor cocktail for plant cell and tissue extracts; Sigma-Aldrich) per milligram of tissue to extract proteins. After removal of tissue debris, protein concentration was determined using the Bradford method (Bio-Rad protein assay), so that equivalent protein concentrations would be used for every sample.

Electrophoresis and Western blot

Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) was performed using the NuPAGE electrophoresis system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and NuPAGE Novex 4–12% Bis-Tris gels. Proteins were transferred to polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes and stained with Ponceau S stain (0.1% Ponceau S in 5% acetic acid) to confirm efficient transfer. Western blotting was done using α-PR1 (courtesy of Dr Xinnian Dong) and α-rabbit IgG-HRP (Thermo Scientific) antibodies. Protein detection used SuperSignal West Dura extended duration substrate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Blue Ultra Autoradiography films (GeneMate; BioExpress, Kaysville, UT, USA).

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) detection

ROS production was detected using a luminol-based assay. Leaf discs of 4 mm in diameter were placed on white 96-well plates (Greiner Bio-One International, Kremsmünster, Austria) and floated overnight in water. The next day, water was removed and leaf discs were floated in a 2×10^8 CFU ml⁻¹ *Pst* DC3000 suspension in 0.25 mM MgCl₂, 34 µg ml⁻¹ luminol (Sigma-Aldrich) and 10 µg ml⁻¹ horseradish peroxidase (type VI-A; Sigma-Aldrich). Luminescence was detected with a SpectraMax L microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) using integration intervals of 1.5–2 s. Each treatment had 6–8 samples and each biological repeat was done in triplicate or quadruplicate.

Results

To discover as many types of *A. thaliana* resistance mechanisms to *Pst* DC3000 as possible, a large collection of 1041 *A. thaliana* accessions obtained from the ABRC (Table S3) were infected by dip-inoculation into a suspension of *Pst* DC3000. Fourteen

accessions did not show any disease symptoms and were classified as being resistant to infection by *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. S2). Their geographic collection origin did not reveal any distinguishable pattern, as they were scattered throughout the native range of *A. thaliana*, which is restricted to Europe, the north of Africa and western Asia (Fig. S3) (Nordborg *et al.*, 2005; 1001 Genomes Consortium, 2016).

As dip-inoculation does not distinguish resistance mechanisms based on the leaf surface vs the leaf apoplast, and the lack of disease symptoms could be caused by reduced bacterial multiplication and/or disease tolerance, we further examined the 14 resistant accessions by an infiltration-based infection assay (i.e. by delivering bacterial inoculum directly into the leaf apoplast) and recorded both disease symptoms and bacterial multiplication (Figs 1a,b, S4). The 14 accessions could be categorized into two groups: 12 accessions showed variable reduction of bacterial growth and disease symptoms, from accessions such as Ra-0 showing only a six-fold decrease in bacterial growth (compared to the susceptible Col-0 control) and slightly reduced symptoms, to accessions such as Xan-5, in which bacterial growth was reduced more than 650-fold and no symptoms were observed.

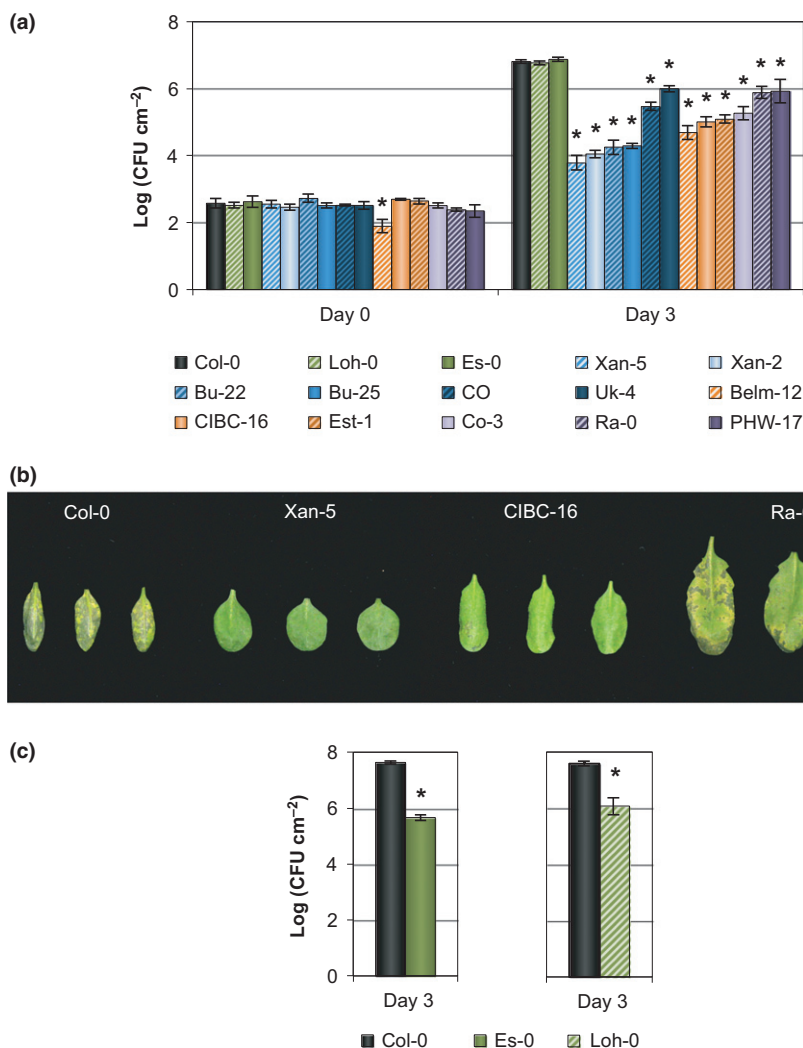


Fig. 1 Natural variation of resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 amongst *Arabidopsis* accessions. (a) Bacterial growth in resistant *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions at 0 and 3 d after syringe-infiltration with 10^5 colony-forming units (CFU) ml⁻¹ of *Pst* DC3000. Error bars show \pm SE of the mean of three (for day 0) or at least five (day 3) biological samples. Bars are colored according to the type of resistance observed in this study: green, plant surface-mediated resistance; blue, hypersensitive-like cell death response; orange, enhanced salicylic acid defenses; purple, unknown. The asterisk indicates accessions whose bacterial growth was significantly different when compared to the susceptible Col-0 control as determined by a Dunnett's test ($P < 0.05$). Statistical analyses for each day after infection were done separately. (b) Disease symptoms in select resistant *A. thaliana* accessions 3 d after syringe-infiltration with 10^5 CFU ml⁻¹ of *Pst* DC3000. Bar, 1 cm. Image was composed from accessions' individual images from a single experiment. (c) Bacterial populations are reduced in accessions Es-0 and Loh-0 when bacteria are inoculated on the surface of plants. Bacterial growth was quantified 3 d after dip-inoculation with 10^8 CFU ml⁻¹ of *Pst* DC3000. Error bars show \pm SE of the mean of four biological samples. The asterisk indicates accessions whose bacterial growth was significantly different when compared to the susceptible Col-0 control as determined by a Student's *t*-test ($P < 0.05$).

The other two accessions, Es-0 and Loh-0, were no more resistant to *Pst* DC3000 than Col-0 in an infiltration-based infection assay (Fig. 1a). However, when bacteria were inoculated onto the surface of these two accessions, as was done for the initial screen, it was quite evident that these accessions were resistant to *Pst* DC3000 (Figs 1c, S5).

Accessions showing a hypersensitive-like cell death response to *Pst* DC3000

In an infection using low bacterial inoculum, recognition of effectors by R proteins manifests without any visible symptoms on the plants, as the plant cells that die due to localized programmed cell death are not visible macroscopically. However, when using higher bacterial titers, effector recognition will cause collapse of the infiltrated area by hypersensitive-like cell death that proceeds much faster (by several hours) than that which is observed due to disease (i.e. the one that would be observed in Col-0 leaves, an accession that does not carry any resistance genes against *Pst* DC3000; Whalen *et al.*, 1991). To evaluate if resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in any of the accessions was due to effector recognition (i.e. ETI), accessions were infiltrated with a high bacterial titer of *Pst* DC3000. Six accessions showed a hypersensitive-like cell death response when compared to Col-0, reminiscent of what would be observed for ETI (Table 1; Figs 2a, S6) (Lewis *et al.*, 2010). The hypersensitive-like cell death response was more pronounced for accessions Bu-22, Bu-25 and

Table 1 Several Arabidopsis accessions show an accelerated cell death response after being inoculated with high titers of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000

Accession	Plant response to <i>Pst</i> DC3000 infection			Total
	No	Partial	Collapsed	
Col-0	31	3	2	36
Loh-0	18	0	0	18
Es-0	12	6	0	18
Bu-22	0	5	13	18
Bu-25	0	0	24	24
CO	13	11	0	24
Uk-4	11	11	2	24
Xan-2	1	9	8	18
Xan-5	0	0	18	18
Belm-12	18	0	0	18
CIBC-16	11	7	0	18
Est-1	14	4	0	18
Co-3	17	1	0	18
PHW-17	21	2	1	24
Ra-0	16	2	0	18

Cell death after infiltration with 10^8 colony-forming units (CFU) ml^{-1} *Pst* DC3000 is accelerated in six Arabidopsis accessions, compared to that observed for Col-0. Cell death was evaluated 26 h after infiltration into three categories: (1) no leaf area showing necrosis symptoms; (2) partial necrosis symptoms; (3) fully collapsed leaf. Eighteen to 36 leaves were evaluated per accession, with three leaves being infiltrated per plant. Highlighted in bold and in italics are those accessions whose response to *Pst* DC3000 inoculation was different from Col-0, as determined by a Fisher's exact test ($P < 0.0036$).

Xan-5, with cell death observed for Bu-22 and Bu-25 as early as 18 h post-inoculation. The appearance of cell death in accessions CO and Uk-4 was only slightly faster than in susceptible Col-0 plants, which might reflect why these accessions do not restrict bacterial growth as much as the other four accessions (Fig. 1a), as they may mount weaker defense responses.

Several accessions have elevated basal SA accumulation

Plants that over-accumulate SA have been reported to be more resistant to infection by *P. syringae* (Greenberg *et al.*, 1994; Bowling *et al.*, 1997; Jirage *et al.*, 2001; Todesco *et al.*, 2010). We measured SA accumulation in the remaining six *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions that were resistant when bacteria were delivered directly into the apoplast but that did not display a hypersensitive-like cell death response after *Pst* DC3000 inoculation. Three of these accessions had higher accumulation of free and total SA when compared to Col-0 (Fig. 2b), which might explain why these plants were more resistant to *Pst* DC3000 infection, as these high SA concentrations could potentially prime these accessions for enhanced defense. Under the conditions in which plants were grown, accession Est-1 showed variable accumulation of SA, even though individual plants always had higher SA accumulation than Col-0 plants and this correlated with Est-1 plants always being more resistant to *Pst* DC3000 infection.

In contrast to SA, ABA and JA/JA-Ile accumulation was not significantly different between these *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions and Col-0 (Fig. S7).

Further characterization of selected resistant accessions with different types of resistance mechanisms

Four of the 14 *Pst* DC3000-resistant Arabidopsis accessions were chosen for further characterization of their molecular and/or cellular defense responses. Accessions Xan-2 and Xan-5 had a hypersensitive-like cell death response (Table 1), CIBC-16 had an elevated basal accumulation of SA (Fig. 2b), while Ra-0 had a yet-to-be characterized mechanism of resistance. A commonly used marker for the induction of the SA defense pathway is the increase of *PATHOGENESIS-RELATED GENE 1* (*PR1*) transcript and protein accumulation (Yalpani *et al.*, 1991), a response that may be induced by BTH (an SA analog) (Lawton *et al.*, 1996), but that can also be observed during senescence and after exposure to other stressful environmental stimuli (Sharma *et al.*, 1996; Surplus *et al.*, 1998; Zhang *et al.*, 2013). Consistent with the elevated basal SA accumulation detected in CIBC-16 (Fig. 2b), there was an increased basal accumulation of PR1 protein in this accession (Fig. 3a), whereas no PR1 protein was detectable for Ra-0, an accession whose SA accumulation was equivalent to that observed for Col-0. Interestingly, accessions Ra-0, Xan-2 and Xan-5 showed higher accumulation of PR1 protein after induction of SA signaling with BTH compared to Col-0 (Fig. 3a).

Recognition of bacteria/PAMPs triggers rapid production of ROS, a phenomenon that is mainly due to bacterial flagellin recognition by the PRR FLS2 (*FLAGELLIN-SENSING 2*) in

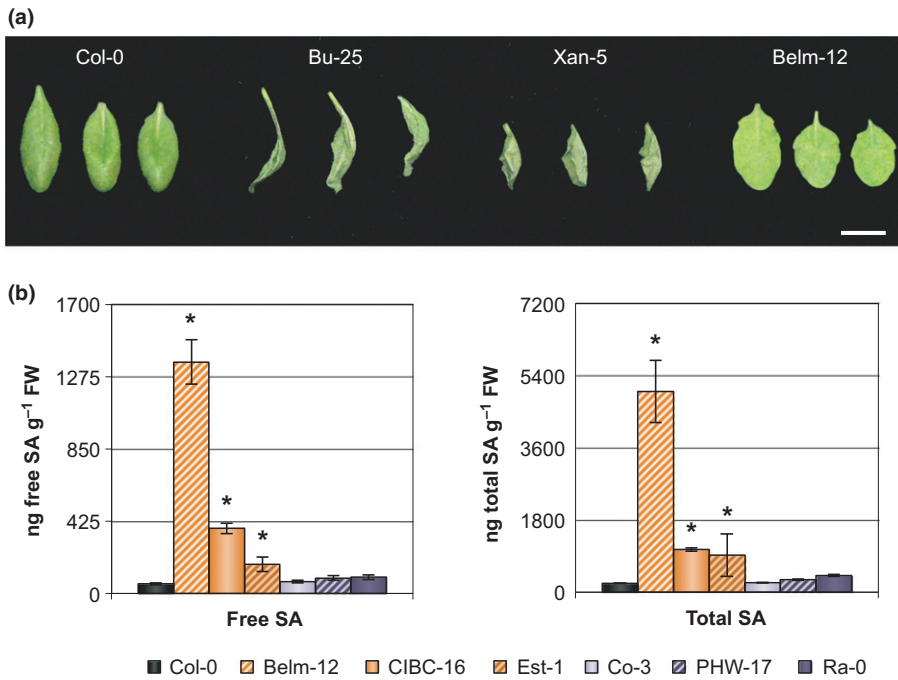


Fig. 2 Several Arabidopsis accessions either show an accelerated cell death response reminiscent of a hypersensitive response or have higher basal levels of salicylic acid (SA) accumulation. (a) Cell death symptoms 27 h after infiltration with 10^8 colony-forming units (CFU) ml⁻¹ of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 in select *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions. Bar, 1 cm. Image was composed from accessions' individual images from a single experiment. (b) Free SA and total SA concentration in 5-wk-old leaves of Col-0 and *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions. Error bars represent \pm SE of the mean from six plants. The asterisk indicates accessions whose hormone concentration was significantly different when compared to the susceptible Col-0 control as determined by a Dunnett's test on the log₁₀-transformed data (so that variances would be homogeneous, $P < 0.05$).

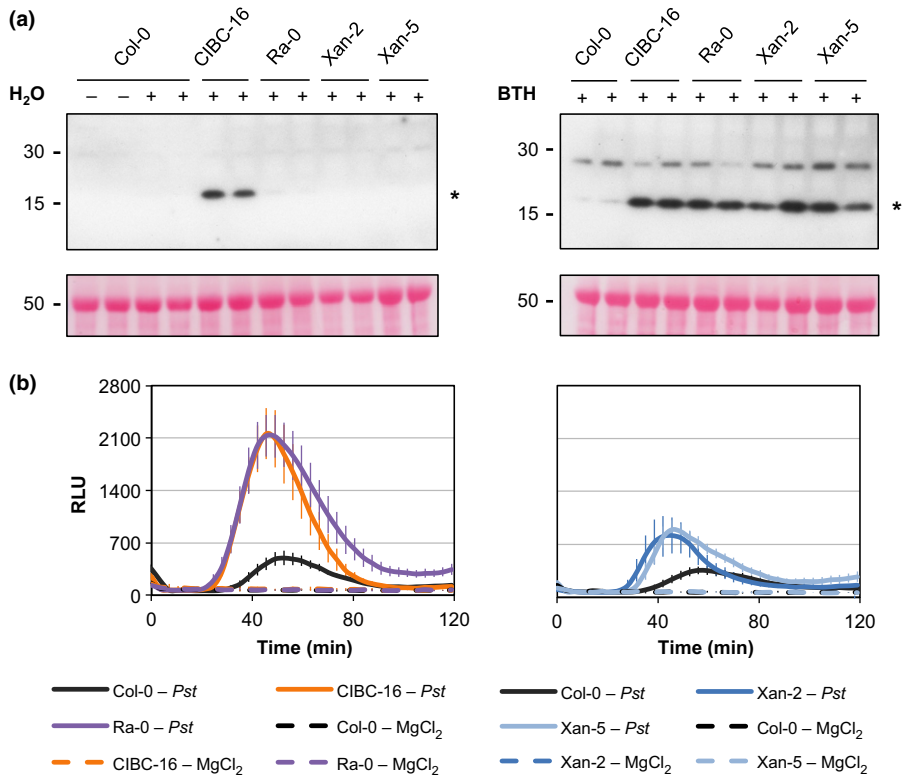


Fig. 3 Several defense responses are enhanced in *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000-resistant Arabidopsis accessions. (a) Pathogenesis-related gene 1 (PR1) protein accumulation 24 h after H₂O and 100 μ M benzothiadiazole (BTH) treatment in select *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions shows an enhanced response after elicitation with BTH. Two samples are shown per each treatment. Untreated (–) Col-0 is shown as a negative control. Proteins were detected using α -PR1 antibodies while the asterisk points to the expected molecular weight of PR1. Bottom image shows the Ponceau S staining of the polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes. Twenty micrograms of total protein were loaded per well. (b) Reactive oxygen species (ROS) production in Col-0 and resistant accessions in response to 2×10^8 colony-forming units (CFU) ml⁻¹ *Pst* DC3000 or 0.25 mM MgCl₂ as the ROS elicitors. RLU, relative light units. Error bars show the 95% confidence intervals for the means. Detection was done using a SpectraMax L microplate reader (Molecular Devices).

Arabidopsis (Smith & Heese, 2014). When compared to Col-0, all four resistant accessions showed an increased ROS production after elicitation with *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. 3b). Larger increases were observed for CIBC-16 and Ra-0, compared to Xan-2 and Xan-5, which showed modest ROS increases that were evident in only two of the three experiments performed.

We also investigated whether the above-mentioned four accessions showed increased resistance to a different pathogenic strain

of *Pseudomonas*, *Pseudomonas cannabina* pv. *alisalensis* (*Pcal*) ES4326R (formerly known as *P. s.* pv. *maculicola* ES4326 or CFBP 1637; Bull *et al.*, 2010) (Figs 4a, S8a). When compared to susceptible Col-0 plants, the four accessions showed increased resistance to *Pcal* ES4326R, with Ra-0 being the least resistant accession of the four, similar to what was observed for infection with *Pst* DC3000 (Fig. 1a). By contrast, no accession difference was observed for the growth of a nonpathogenic strain, *Pst*

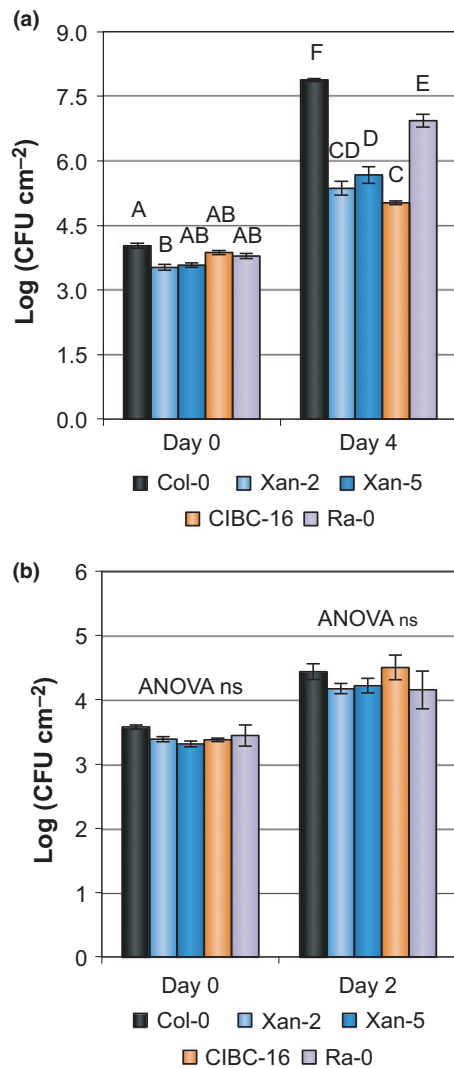


Fig. 4 Several *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000-resistant accessions are also resistant to *Pseudomonas cannabina* pv. *alisalensis* (*Pcal*) ES4326R. (a) Bacterial growth in *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions 0 and 4 d after syringe-infiltration with *Pcal* ES4326R at an inoculum of 5×10^6 colony-forming units (CFU) ml⁻¹. (b) Bacterial growth in *A. thaliana* accessions 0 and 2 d after syringe-infiltration with nonpathogenic *Pst* Δ *hrcC* at an inoculum of 2×10^6 CFU ml⁻¹. Error bars show \pm SE of the mean of three (day 0) or at least five (days 2 and 4) biological samples. Different letters above the bars indicate significant differences, as determined by a Tukey honest significant difference test ($P < 0.05$). ns, Not significant. ANOVA performed separately for each day for (b).

DC3000 Δ *hrcC* (in which a structural gene for the T3SS is deleted; Deng & Huang, 1999) (Figs 4b, S8b), suggesting that the mechanisms of resistance are associated with restricting T3SS-dependent growth.

Segregation of the resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in F₂ populations reveals the action of multiple loci

To evaluate the genetic segregation of the resistance to *Pst* DC3000, crosses between three resistant accessions, CIBC-16, Ra-0 and Xan-5, to the susceptible accession Col-0 were

performed (Fig. S9b–d). The F₂ population of these three crosses was inoculated with *Pst* DC3000, and the bacterial numbers within each plant were determined (Fig. S10). F₂ individuals were characterized as resistant if their *in planta* bacterial growth was lower than the highest data point for the resistant parent, and susceptible if their bacterial growth was higher than the lowest data point for Col-0. The F₂ segregation of the resistance did not follow a Mendelian segregation that would be expected from the effect of one or two genes (Fig. 5b–d; Table S4), and many of the F₂ individuals could not be classified as either resistant or susceptible (i.e. their values were above the highest data point for the resistant parent and below the lowest data point for Col-0). Nevertheless, we attempted to map the loci involved in the resistance of these accessions using bulked segregant analysis (BSA) and NGS. Since we expected major genes to be controlling the resistance, we used a method that identifies qualitative traits for mapping (SHOREMAP; Sun & Schneeberger, 2015). Unfortunately, no association was observed for any region in the F₂ populations for any of the three accessions, suggesting a complicated polygenic nature of the resistance (Fig. S11). This quantitative nature has been observed before in *Arabidopsis* for resistance to *P. syringae* (Forsyth *et al.*, 2010). The inability to map the loci controlling the resistance after BSA suggests that several gene combinations in the F₂ individuals could create the same resistance phenotype as the one observed in the parents.

Search for bacterial effectors responsible for the hypersensitive cell death response in accessions Xan-5, Bu-22 and Bu-25

To further investigate whether the hypersensitive-like cell death response in the resistant accessions (Table 1) is due to effector perception by R proteins (i.e. ETI), we inoculated these accessions with *Pst* DC3000 mutant strains in which various effector genes were deleted in order to uncover the relevant effectors responsible for triggering the ETI-type resistance. The three accessions with the fastest cell death response, Bu-22, Bu-25 and Xan-5, were chosen for this analysis. *Pst* DC3000 is reported to contain 36 effector genes (Wei *et al.*, 2015 and Table S5; two identical genes coding for HopAM1 are present in *Pst* DC3000 and counted only once), and a *Pst* DC3000 mutant strain in which 28 of these 36 effector genes are deleted (*Pst* Δ 28E; Cunnac *et al.*, 2011) is available. *Pst* Δ 28E was unable to cause any visible changes when inoculated into the leaves of any of the resistant accessions (Table S6a), suggesting that one or more of the missing 28 effectors is responsible for the observed hypersensitive-like cell death response.

To identify the specific effectors that cause hypersensitive-like cell death in Bu-22, Bu-25 and Xan-5, we tested other *Pst* DC3000 mutant strains in which smaller subsets of effector genes were deleted. For example, 19 effector genes of *Pst* DC3000 are clustered in the genome, and mutant strains deleted in these gene clusters are available (Kvitko *et al.*, 2009; Table S1). However, we found that none of the 19 clustered effectors were responsible for the hypersensitive-like cell death phenotype in Bu-22, Bu-25

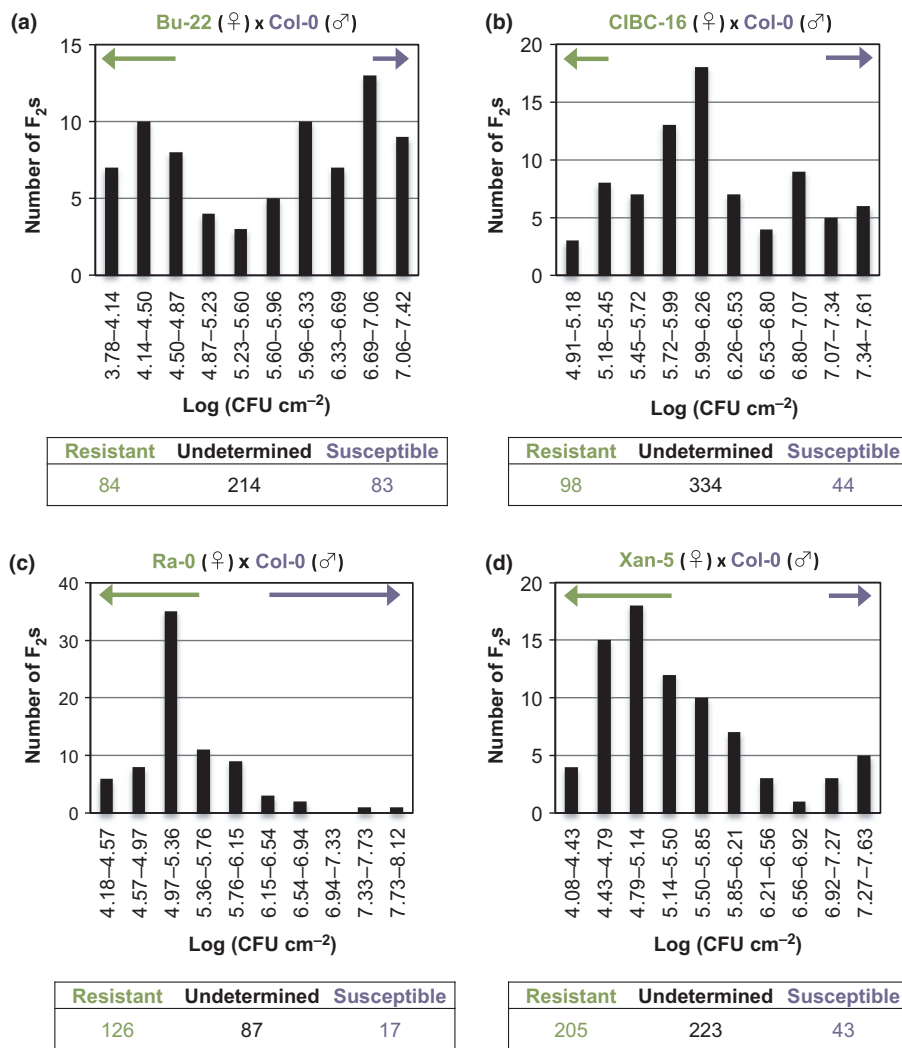


Fig. 5 Multiple loci are involved in resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 in the resistant Arabidopsis accessions. Segregation of the resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in the F₂ generation derived from crosses of the resistant accessions (♀) (a) Bu-22, (b) CIBC-16, (c) Ra-0 and (d) Xan-5 with the susceptible parent Col-0 (♂). The segregation of the resistance of c. 80 F₂ individuals is shown in each graph. The arrows above the bars indicate those F₂ individuals that were identified as either resistant (green arrow) or susceptible (purple arrow) to *Pst* DC3000 infection. F₂ individuals were determined as resistant if their value of *in planta* bacterial growth was lower than the highest data point for the resistant parent, and were deemed as susceptible if that value was higher than the lowest data point for the susceptible parent. The table below the graph indicates the segregation of the resistance for all of the F₂ individuals evaluated. CFU, colony-forming units.

or Xan-5 (Table S6b; based on infection with *Pst* $\Delta I\Delta I\Delta IV\Delta IX\Delta X$, which has 15 effector genes deleted, and *Pst* ΔCEL , which has four effectors deleted). We then inoculated these three accessions with a strain with the *avrPto* and *avrPtoB* (*hopAB2*) effector genes deleted. We found that the hypersensitive-like cell death phenotype in Bu-25 was reduced (Table S6c), suggesting that one of these two effectors might be responsible for the resistance to *Pst* DC3000 observed in Bu-25.

To test the potential recognition of the remaining *Pst* DC3000 effectors, we introduced individually each of these eight-effector genes into *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ and tested if these strains caused any observable changes in the leaves after infiltration. As a positive control, we used a *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ strain expressing a heterologous effector not present in *Pst* DC3000, *avrRpt2* (which is recognized by the RPS2 resistance protein in Col-0 and therefore capable of causing tissue collapse; Bent *et al.*, 1994) (Fig. 6a). Of the eight strains, only the *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ strain expressing effector *hopAMI* was capable of causing chlorosis on the leaves of Xan-5 (sometimes, a few chlorotic spots were observed in the other accessions), indicating that this effector could be involved in the resistance phenotype observed for Xan-5 (Table S7; Fig. 6a).

In planta bacterial multiplication confirms the involvement of AvrPto and HopAM1 recognition in resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in Bu-22, Bu-25, Xan-2 and Xan-5

As the presence of *hopAMI* in *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ caused a chlorotic response in Xan-5 leaves, we decided to delete this gene from *Pst* DC3000. The *hopAMI* gene is present in two duplicated copies in *Pst* DC3000, one on the chromosome (*hopAMI-1*) and the other on the endogenous plasmid A (*hopAMI-2*, formerly known as *avrPpiB2_{pro}*; Buell *et al.*, 2003). We used strain *Pst* DC3001, which has a 10-kb deletion that includes *hopAMI-2* (Landgraf *et al.*, 2006), to delete *hopAMI-1*. This strain, which was lacking both *hopAMI* genes, was inoculated into Xan-5 at 10^6 CFU ml⁻¹ (a titer normally used for disease assays). When compared to *Pst* DC3000, a reproducible increase (four- to 10-fold) in bacterial growth was observed in Xan-5 (Fig. 6b). Because another accession with a hypersensitive-like response, Xan-2, was originally collected in the same region of Azerbaijan as Xan-5, infection of Xan-2 with a strain lacking *hopAMI* was performed. A similar increase in *Pst* $\Delta hopAMI-1\Delta hopAMI-2$ population compared to *Pst* DC3000 was observed in Xan-2, as had been previously

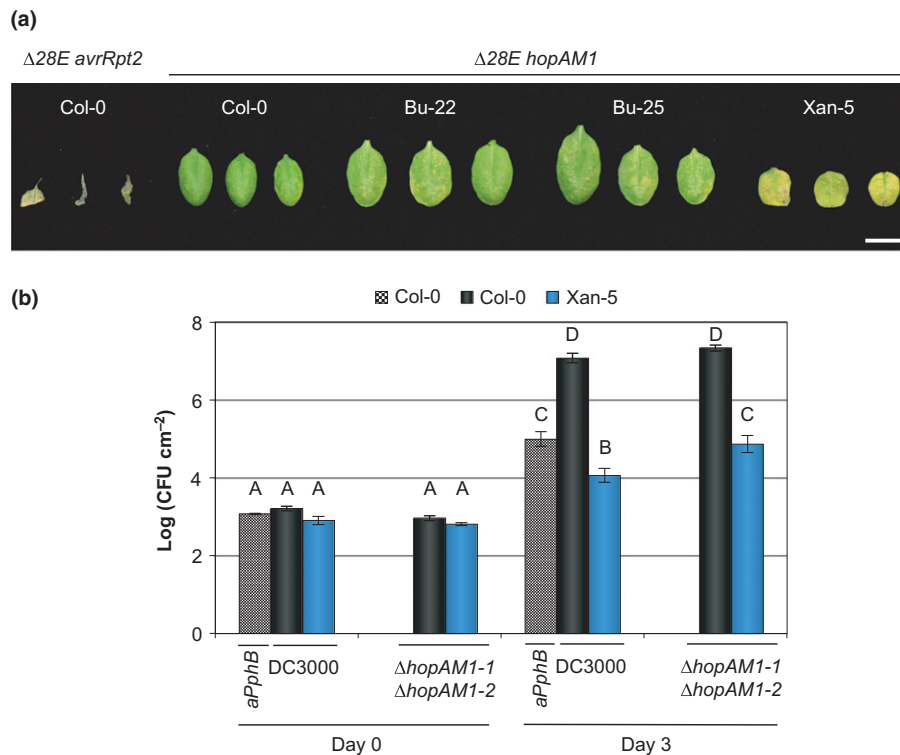


Fig. 6 HopAM1 recognition influences resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 in the Xan-5 Arabidopsis accession. (a) Cell death symptoms 4 d after inoculation with 2×10^7 colony-forming units (CFU) ml^{-1} of *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ carrying pBBR::*hopAM1-1* ($\Delta 28E$ *hopAM1*) and pUCP19::*avrRpt2* ($\Delta 28E$ *avrRpt2*). Image was composed from accessions' individual images from a single experiment. Bar, 1 cm. The *Pst* $\Delta 28E$ *avrRpt2* strain was used to confirm that the strain with 28 effectors deleted was still capable of mounting a hypersensitive response response in Col-0. (b) HopAM1 recognition is partially responsible for the *Pst* DC3000 resistance in the Xan-5 accession. Leaves were infiltrated with *Pst* DC3000, *Pst* DC3000 $\Delta hopAM1-1$ ($\Delta hopAM1-1 \Delta hopAM1-2$) and *Pst* DC3000 pDSK600::*avrPphB* (*aPphB*) at an inoculum of 10^6 CFU ml^{-1} . Error bars show \pm SE of three and six biological samples for day 0 and day 3, respectively. Letters above each bar indicate similar groups as determined with a Tukey honest significant difference test ($P < 0.05$). A slight reproducible increase in *in planta* bacterial growth was observed for Xan-5 when inoculated with a strain lacking *hopAM1*.

identified for Xan-5 (Fig. S12), suggesting analogous recognition mechanisms for HopAM1 on both Xan-2 and Xan-5. However, deletion of both *hopAM1* genes in *Pst* DC3000 did not fully restore virulence in Xan-2 or Xan-5, as evidenced by the lower final bacterial population when compared to that achieved in Col-0. Furthermore, the resistance of Xan-5 to a strain lacking *hopAM1* was similar to that observed with a strain expressing *avrPphB*, an effector recognized in Col-0 by the resistance protein RPS5 (Warren *et al.*, 1998; Fig. 6b). Therefore, there are factors other than HopAM1 recognition that influence resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in the Xan-2 and Xan-5 accessions.

Next, we conducted bacterial multiplication assays to determine if the slower cell death response to inoculation by a strain lacking both *avrPto* and *avrPtoB* in Bu-25 (Table S6c) was accompanied by a loss of resistance in this accession. In contrast to *Pst* $\Delta hopAM1-1 \Delta hopAM1-2$ infection of Xan-5, in which only a modest increase in growth was observed when compared to *Pst* DC3000 infection of Xan-5, *Pst* $\Delta avrPto \Delta avrPtoB$ became fully virulent in Bu-25 (Fig. S13). We also infected Bu-22 and Xan-5 with *Pst* $\Delta avrPto \Delta avrPtoB$ and found that, remarkably, Bu-22 was also fully susceptible to a strain lacking both effector genes, while Xan-5 maintained full resistance (Fig. S13). The minor (nonstatistically significant) increase in growth of *Pst* $\Delta avrPto \Delta avrPtoB$ observed in Bu-22 in comparison to Col-0

(also note Fig. 7a for *Pst* $\Delta avrPto$ growth in these accessions) might explain why no effect was initially noticed in Bu-22 when evaluating the hypersensitive-like cell death caused by a strain lacking both effector genes, since an increased bacterial growth at earlier infection times could have caused disease-associated cell death to progress faster in Bu-22 than in Col-0.

To evaluate if *AvrPto* alone, *AvrPtoB* alone or both effectors were recognized in Bu-22 and Bu-25, bacterial strains with *avrPto* or *avrPtoB* genes individually deleted were inoculated into plants. No differences in bacterial growth were observed in Bu-22 or Bu-25 after inoculation with either *Pst* $\Delta avrPtoB$ or *Pst* DC3000, while a large increase in bacterial growth and the appearance of disease symptoms similar to those observed for *Pst* DC3000 in Col-0 were observed in Bu-22 and Bu-25 accessions inoculated with a strain lacking *avrPto* (Fig. 7a,b). Compared to Bu-22, Bu-25 had a slightly lower bacterial growth when infected with *Pst* $\Delta avrPto$, suggesting that either *Pst* $\Delta avrPto$ is more virulent in Bu-22 due to the combined action of *Pst* DC3000 effectors (without *AvrPto*) or that there is a minor locus in Bu-25 controlling resistance against *Pst* DC3000. Evaluation of the F₂ segregation of the resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in Bu-22 revealed that probably a single locus controlled recognition of the *AvrPto* effector (Figs 5a, S9a; Table S4). Bu-25 was collected from the same region in Germany; it remains to be determined whether *AvrPto* recognition in this

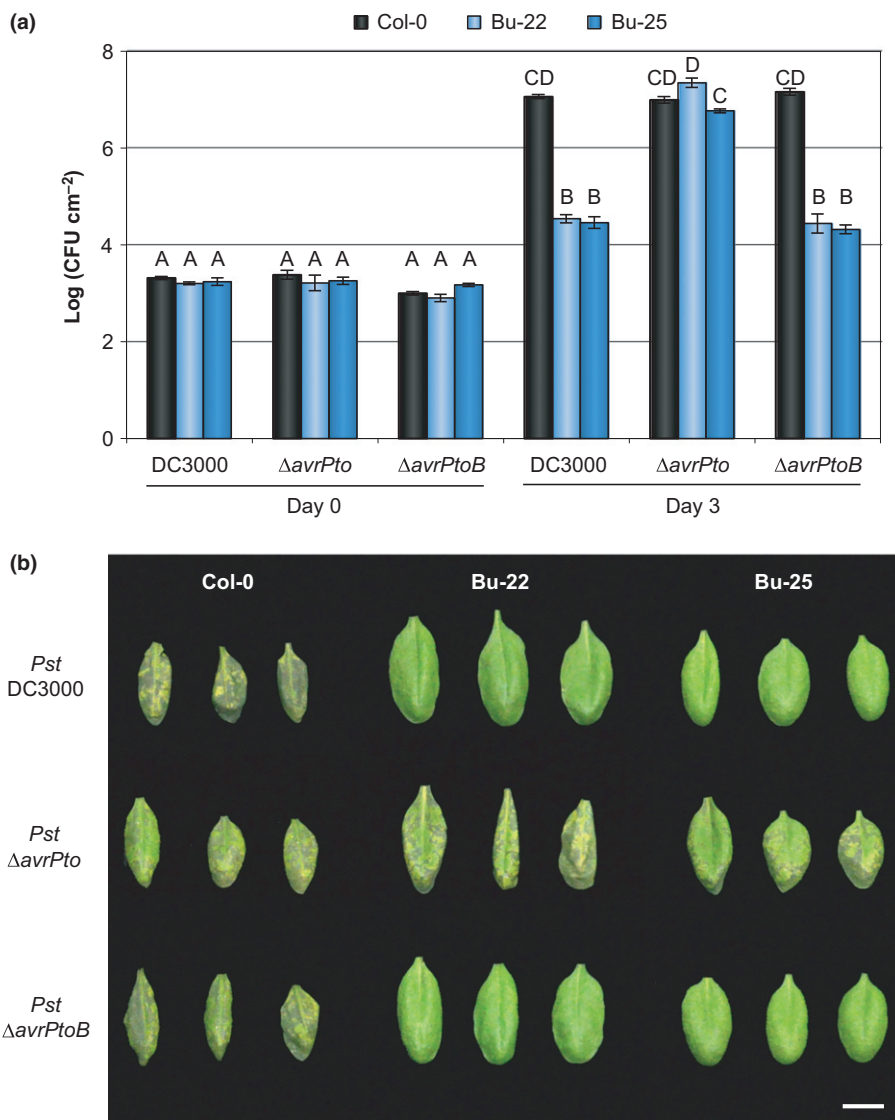


Fig. 7 AvrPto recognition is a major factor mediating resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 in Bu-22 and Bu-25 Arabidopsis accessions. (a) *In planta* bacterial growth in *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions after infiltration with *Pst* DC3000, *Pst* Δ avrPto and *Pst* Δ avrPtoB at an inoculum of 5×10^5 colony-forming units (CFU) ml⁻¹. Error bars show \pm SE of three and at least seven biological samples for days 0 and 3, respectively. Letters above each bar indicate similar groups as determined with a Tukey honest significant difference test ($P < 0.05$). Notice that the absence of AvrPto allows *Pst* to multiply to high titers in both Bu-22 and Bu-25 accessions. (b) Disease symptoms 3 d after inoculation with 5×10^5 CFU ml⁻¹ of *Pst* DC3000, *Pst* Δ avrPto and *Pst* Δ avrPtoB. Image was composed from accessions' individual images from a single experiment. Bar, 1 cm.

accession is similar to that of Bu-22. Either way, it seems that AvrPto recognition is the main determinant for resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in both Bu-22 and Bu-25 accessions.

Discussion

We have performed a large-scale screen of 1041 *A. thaliana* natural accessions to address a fundamental question in plant-pathogen interactions: How many types of resistance mechanisms a plant species may already have against potential infection by a bacterial pathogen that has not apparently co-evolved with the plant species? It is well known that disease phenotypes are strongly influenced by environmental conditions. To select for robustly resistant accessions, we performed our screen under high humidity that simulates disease-conducive conditions (Xin *et al.*, 2016). Of the 14 *Pst* DC3000-resistant accessions identified in this screen, two accessions, Est-1 and Ra-0, had already been shown in previous studies to be more resistant to *Pst* DC3000 infection (Todesco *et al.*, 2010; Hossain & Sultana, 2015), further validating the results of our screen. Other accessions that

had been observed before to be resistant to *Pst* DC3000 (Kover & Schaal, 2002; Perchepied *et al.*, 2006; Hossain & Sultana, 2015) were not resistant in our screen, probably because our disease-conducive (e.g. high humidity) conditions favor the development of disease; therefore, we only characterized accessions with a robust resistance phenotype. Further characterization of the 14 resistant accessions enabled us to classify them into four distinct categories: two accessions had a plant surface-based resistance mechanism, six accessions showed an ETI-like response, three accessions exhibited increased basal SA accumulation, while in the three remaining accessions the mechanism of resistance could not be classified (Fig. S14; Table S8). The mechanisms controlling resistance in these unclassified accessions remain to be determined and could be due to preformed antimicrobial physical barriers or compounds, and/or resistance to bacterial retrieval of nutrients and water during infection. Overall, to our knowledge, this is the first time all four types (possibly more) of pre-existing resistance mechanisms have been uncovered in different individuals of a single host population/species against the same potential pathogen in a single study.

Accessions Es-0 and Loh-0 showed *Pst* resistance only by surface inoculation (Fig. 1c) and do not have a mechanism that restricts *Pseudomonas* growth once the bacteria reach the apoplast. This is interesting because a previous genetic screen identified two Arabidopsis mutants (*scord5* and *scord7*, in the Col-7 genetic background) that were exclusively more susceptible by surface inoculation (but not apoplastic infiltration inoculation) to a coronatine-deficient strain of *Pst* DC3000 (Zeng *et al.*, 2011). Stomata are the most common entry point for foliar infecting pseudomonads (Melotto *et al.*, 2006), and while the wild-type Col-0 stomata close in response to the coronatine-deficient strain of *Pst* DC3000 as an early defense response in plants, the *scord5* and *scord7* mutant stomata are unable to close after bacterial inoculation. It remains to be determined whether Es-0 and Loh-0 represent natural accessions that have enhanced stomatal defense against *Pst* DC3000. Alternatively, the increased resistance could be caused by a more hostile epiphytic environment experienced by *Pst* DC3000 in these accessions, which would decrease the number of bacteria before they could enter the leaves through the stomata and reach the apoplast. Of note, epiphytic community differences between Arabidopsis accessions have been observed (Horton *et al.*, 2014), so genetic differences among accessions could have an impact on the initial pathogen epiphytic colonization.

Arabidopsis accessions Belm-12, CIBC-16 and Est-1 showed an enhanced basal SA accumulation (Fig. 2b). In Est-1, this elevated SA accumulation is caused by a hyperactive allele of *ACD6* (Rate *et al.*, 1999; Todesco *et al.*, 2010). The loci controlling the *Pst* DC3000 resistance in accessions Belm-12 and CIBC-16 await discovery. Mutagenesis experiments, done mostly in accessions Col-0 and Ler, show that mutant alleles of many Arabidopsis genes cause enhanced SA and *Pst* resistance, including, to name a few: *CPR5*, involved in nuclear pore trafficking (Bowling *et al.*, 1997; Gu *et al.*, 2016); *CPR30*, coding for an F-box protein (Gou *et al.*, 2009); *DND2* (also known as *CNGC4*), encoding a cyclic nucleotide gated channel (Jurkowski *et al.*, 2004); and *ACD2*, coding for an enzyme involved in chlorophyll breakdown (Greenberg *et al.*, 1994; Mach *et al.*, 2001). Almost invariably, SA-enhancing mutants of Col-0 tend to be dwarf, possibly due to the growth–defense tradeoff (Huot *et al.*, 2014). By contrast, Belm-12 and CIBC-16 do not exhibit any obvious dwarfism. As such, it would be interesting in the future to determine why natural accessions such as Belm-12 and CIBC-16 can accumulate a high basal level of SA and have elevated pathogen resistance, but maintain apparently normal growth and development.

In addition to leaf-surface- or elevated SA-based resistance, six accessions have an ETI-like response to *Pst* DC3000 infection, with Bu-22, Bu-25 and Xan-5 showing a strong hypersensitive-like cell death response (Table 1). Our further characterization of these three accessions led to identification of *Pst* DC3000 effectors that trigger ETI in these accessions. Specifically, recognition of HopAM1 partially controlled resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in accessions Xan-2 and Xan-5. When *hopAM1* was expressed from an effectorless *Pst* DC3000 strain, instead of tissue collapse resulting from coalescing cell death (as was observed for expression of *avrRpt2*; Fig. 6a), only enhanced chlorosis was observed.

Therefore, HopAM1 recognition in Xan-2 and Xan-5 seems to be involved in a weak ETI-like response. A quantitative nature of the cell death response after HopAM1 bacterial delivery was recently reported in 98 Arabidopsis accessions (Iakovidis *et al.*, 2016). However, even though deletion of *hopAM1* slightly increased bacterial growth in strong ETI-like accession Bur-0 (an accession evaluated in our screen that, unlike Xan-2 and Xan-5, was susceptible to *Pst* DC3000 infection), no correlation was found between the accelerated cell death response and disease resistance, as the same effect of increased bacterial growth for a strain lacking *hopAM1* was observed after infection of both Col-0 and Bur-0 (Iakovidis *et al.*, 2016). The observed lack of increased growth of *Pst* Δ *hopAM1-1* Δ *hopAM1-2* in Col-0 plants in this study (although, a slight, nonstatistically significant two-fold growth increase was observed; Figs 6b, S12a) probably reflects the fact that bacterial populations were much higher in our experiments (*c.* 5×10^5 CFU cm⁻² in Iakovidis *et al.*, 2016; in comparison to 2×10^7 CFU cm⁻²; Fig. 6b), and, as such, could have been saturated (this same lack of growth difference in Col-0 was observed in a different previous study; Boch *et al.*, 2002). In addition, accessions Xan-2 and Xan-5 are resistant to *Pcal* ES4326R (Fig. 4a), a strain that does not carry HopAM1. This further suggests that the major mechanism(s) controlling resistance to *Pst* DC3000 in Xan-2 and Xan-5 is probably independent of HopAM1 recognition, consistent with the polygenic nature of resistance in Xan-5 based on our analysis of F₂ populations (Figs 5d, S11c).

We found that AvrPto plays a major role in conditioning *Pst* DC3000 resistance in accessions Bu-22 and Bu-25. AvrPto recognition was first identified in the Solanaceae as being conferred by a cytoplasmic kinase, Pto, introgressed from *Solanum pimpinellifolium* into cultivated tomato (Martin *et al.*, 1993). Pto-mediated resistance absolutely requires a nucleotide-binding site–leucine-rich repeat (NBS-LRR) protein (Prf, encoded in the same locus as *Pto* for resistance; Salmeron *et al.*, 1996). Pto can also recognize the structurally unrelated effector AvrPtoB (Kim *et al.*, 2002). In contrast to Pto, the factor controlling resistance in Arabidopsis accessions Bu-22 and Bu-25 recognizes only AvrPto and not AvrPtoB (Fig. 7). Guided by the Pto-AvrPto and Pto-AvrPtoB structures, *Pto* mutations have been made that abolish interaction with AvrPtoB but maintain AvrPto interaction (Dong *et al.*, 2009). Also, alleles of *Pto* have been found in a wild tomato species (*Solanum chmielewskii*) that are capable of recognizing only AvrPtoB (Kraus *et al.*, 2016). In other Solanaceae, phosphorylation of the C-terminus of AvrPto conditions resistance, a domain not involved in Pto-mediated resistance (Yeam *et al.*, 2010). It will be exciting to discover if the *R* gene in Bu-22 and Bu-25 encodes a kinase like *Pto* or a more typical NBS-LRR like *Prf*, and which AvrPto regions are involved in recognition.

The mechanisms that a plant can potentially employ to defend against and evade microbes are numerous. These include, but are not limited to, ETI (Martin *et al.*, 1993), PTI (Zipfel *et al.*, 2004), SAR (Fu & Dong, 2013), elevated basal SA accumulation (Todesco *et al.*, 2010), production of inhibitors of pathogen cell-wall-degrading enzymes (Ferrari *et al.*, 2006), RNA silencing (Yang *et al.*, 2004), phytoalexin

and phytoanticipin production (Fan *et al.*, 2011), toxin detoxification (Johal & Briggs, 1992), and physical barriers to entry and colonization (Melotto *et al.*, 2006). In this study, enhanced PTI, ETI, SA accumulation and defense, and surface-mediated barriers were among the mechanisms that were identified as contributing to resistance in individuals of natural populations of Arabidopsis. These mechanisms were present even though *Pst* DC3000 is apparently not a native pathogen of Arabidopsis, which emphasizes how plants are able to cope with future pathogen attack even if they lack an adaptive immune system similar to that found in vertebrates. The detection of an ETI-like mechanism in some accessions suggests that these accessions are probably co-evolving with some adapted pathogen(s) in nature, and they recognize effectors that happen to be present in *Pst* DC3000. In this sense, ETI can be a 'cryptic' defense strategy against infection by emerging new pathogens that carry the same effectors. In fact, it would be advantageous for plants to recognize conserved effectors that are present in multiple pathogens. For example, a study found that *avrPto* was present in more than half of the evaluated *P. syringae* strains (Baltrus *et al.*, 2011), highlighting how this effector recognition could have evolved in nature as a mechanism against Arabidopsis pathogens other than *Pst* DC3000. Remarkably, even though *Pst* DC3000 is not known to be a natural pathogen of *A. thaliana*, under laboratory conditions with dip-inoculation of a high bacterial titer, the vast majority of *A. thaliana* accessions developed visible disease symptoms. Only 14 accessions (*c.* 1.3% of all accessions) were resistant to *Pst* DC3000. This result suggests that, in nature, a major reason for *Pst* DC3000 not being a natural pathogen of *A. thaliana* is probably because of the high inoculum needed for infection and/or a mismatch of the environmental conditions needed for *Pst* DC3000 infection. The molecular basis for the need of a high inoculum and matching environmental conditions are important topics for future studies; however, plants seem to already possess a myriad of mechanisms to defend against a potential invader.

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Author contributions

A.C.V. designed and performed most of the experiments, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript; M.O. designed and performed the screen and the initial characterization of the accessions; B.H. performed experiments and analyzed the data; S.X.

performed experiments; and S.Y.H. designed and supervised the experiments, and wrote the manuscript.

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Supporting Information

Additional Supporting Information may be found online in the Supporting Information tab for this article:

Fig. S1 Cell death symptom categories observed after inoculation of high bacterial titers in Arabidopsis accessions.

Fig. S2 Large-scale screen for Arabidopsis accessions resistant to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 infection.

Fig. S3 Geographic collection origins of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000-resistant Arabidopsis accessions and the susceptible control Col-0.

Fig. S4 Several Arabidopsis accessions are resistant to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 infection.

Fig. S5 Two accessions exhibit resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 only when bacteria are inoculated onto the leaf surface.

Fig. S6 Accelerated cell death is observed in several Arabidopsis accessions after inoculation with a high titer of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000.

Fig. S7 Basal accumulation of abscisic acid (ABA), jasmonic acid (JA) and jasmonoyl isoleucine (JA-Ile) is unchanged between *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000-resistant accessions and susceptible Col-0.

Fig. S8 Several *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000-resistant accessions are also resistant to *Pseudomonas cannabina* pv. *alisalensis* (*Pcal*) ES4326R.

Fig. S9 Genotyping of F₁ plants of the crosses between accessions resistant to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000 and the susceptible accession Col-0.

Fig. S10 Disease symptoms in individuals of the CIBC-16 ♀ × Col-0 ♂ F₂ population and the parents from which the population was derived.

Fig. S11 SHOREMAP analysis of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000-resistant and -susceptible F₂ bulks.

Fig. S12 Xan-2 shows the same weak effector-triggered immunity-like recognition of HopAM1 as Xan-5.

Fig. S13 AvrPto or AvrPtoB recognition mediates resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 in Bu-22 and Bu-25 accessions.

Fig. S14 Mechanisms of resistance identified in *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions.

Table S1 Strains used in this study

Table S2 Primers used in this study

Table S3 *Arabidopsis thaliana* accessions evaluated for resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000

Table S4 χ^2 goodness-of-fit test between the observed and expected segregation for the resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000 in F₂ populations derived from crosses between resistant and susceptible accessions

Table S5 List of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 effectors and the effector gene cluster to which they belong

Table S6 Search for the effector responsible for the accelerated cell death response in *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000-resistant accessions

Table S7 HopAM1 may be responsible for the accelerated cell death observed in accession Xan-5

Table S8 Arabidopsis accessions and the mechanism of resistance against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* DC3000 identified in this study

Methods S1 Crosses between Arabidopsis accessions.

Methods S2 Next-generation sequencing and SHOREMAP mapping of resistance loci.

Methods S3 Statistical analyses.

Notes S1 References.

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