



Antepenultimate residue at the C-terminus of NADPH oxidase RBOHD is critical for its function in the production of reactive oxygen species in *Arabidopsis*^{*,#}

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Abstract: Production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is a conserved immune response primarily mediated by NADPH oxidases (NOXs), also known in plants as respiratory burst oxidase homologs (RBOHs). Most microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs) trigger a very fast and transient ROS burst in plants. However, recently, we found that lipopolysaccharides (LPS), a typical bacterial MAMP, triggered a biphasic ROS burst. In this study, we isolated mutants defective in LPS-triggered biphasic ROS burst (*delt*) in *Arabidopsis*, and cloned the *DEL1* gene that was shown to encode RBOHD. In the *delt1-2* allele, the antepenultimate residue, glutamic acid (E919), at the C-terminus of RBOHD was mutated to lysine (K). E919 is a highly conserved residue in NADPH oxidases, and a mutation of the corresponding residue E568 in human NOX2 has been reported to be one of the causes of chronic granulomatous disease. Consistently, we found that residue E919 was indispensable for RBOHD function in the MAMP-induced ROS burst and stomatal closure. It has been suggested that the mutation of this residue in other NADPH oxidases impairs the protein's stability and complex assembly. However, we found that the E919K mutation did not affect RBOHD protein abundance or the ability of protein association, suggesting that the residue E919 in RBOHD might have a regulatory mechanism different from that of other NOXs. Taken together, our results confirm that the antepenultimate residue E is critical for NADPH oxidases and provide a new insight into the regulatory mechanisms of RBOHD.

Key words: Reactive oxygen species (ROS); NADPH oxidase (NOX); Microbe associated molecular pattern (MAMP); Lipopolysaccharides (LPS); Respiratory burst oxidase homolog D (RBOHD)

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1 Introduction

In plants, the first layer of innate immunity is initiated by the recognition of conserved microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs), such as bacterial flagellin, lipopolysaccharides (LPS), elongation factor Tu (EF-Tu), and peptidoglycan or fungal chitooligosaccharides (COs) (Boller and Felix, 2009; Dodds and Rathjen, 2010). MAMPs are recognized by surface-localized pattern recognition receptors, leading to MAMP-triggered immunity which prevents

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microbial entry, growth, and colonization (Antolin-Llovera et al., 2012; Macho and Zipfel, 2014).

Production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) is one of the rapid immune responses after perception of MAMPs (Mehdy, 1994; Lamb and Dixon, 1997). ROS not only directly reduce microbe viability, but also serve as local and systemic signaling molecules to activate additional immune responses, such as stomatal closure (Melotto et al., 2006; Mittler et al., 2011; Qi et al., 2017). The MAMP-induced ROS burst is produced in the apoplast and is often very fast and transient (Baker and Orlandi, 1995; Lamb and Dixon, 1997). Recently, we found LPS, the major component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria, could trigger a biphasic ROS burst, in which the first ROS burst is similar to that induced by other MAMPs, and the second shows slow and prolonged kinetics (Shang-Guan et al., 2018). However, the molecular mechanism underlying the LPS-triggered biphasic ROS burst is poorly understood.

Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) oxidases (NOXs) are mainly responsible for ROS production during immune responses, and are highly conserved in mammals, plants, and fungi (Lambeth, 2004; Bedard and Krause, 2007). In mammals, NADPH oxidases consist of seven members, NOX1–NOX5 and dual oxidases DUOX1 and DUOX2, whereas *Arabidopsis* has ten members belonging to the respiratory burst oxidase homolog (RBOH) family (Bedard and Krause, 2007; Kawahara et al., 2007; Sumimoto, 2008). All NADPH oxidases are plasma- and/or endo-membrane enzymes, and contain a C-terminal dehydrogenase domain that binds flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD) and NADPH, and a functional oxidase domain responsible for superoxide production by transferring electrons from NADPH to oxygen (Lambeth, 2004; Sumimoto, 2008). The resulting superoxide then can be converted to hydrogen peroxide by superoxide dismutase (Vignais, 2002). In terms of the molecular mechanisms underlying the activation of NADPH oxidase, the best characterized member is the phagocytic NOX2 (Segal et al., 2012; Singel and Segal, 2016). In phagocytes, NOX2 is complexed with p22phox, and its activation requires translocation of cytosolic regulatory proteins to the membrane and their assembly with the NOX2 complex to facilitate electron transfer (Sumimoto, 2008; Leto et al., 2009). Mutations of the NOX2

complex and its regulatory proteins result in chronic granulomatous disease, a rare congenital immunodeficiency disorder (Heyworth et al., 2003; Kuhns et al., 2010). In natural variants of X⁺-linked chronic granulomatous disease, characterized by defective enzyme activity but normal gene expression, mutation sites in the *NOX2* gene are highly correlated with the FAD/NADPH binding region, suggesting that the C-terminal region of NADPH oxidases plays a critical role in the immune responses (Stasia and Li, 2008; Debeurme et al., 2010).

Unlike NOX2, plant RBOH proteins have an additional N-terminal region with calcium binding EF-hand motifs, which are absent in NOX1–4, but present in NOX5 and DUOXs (Bedard et al., 2007; Suzuki et al., 2011). In plants, NADPH oxidases regulate a wide variety of biological processes, including plant development and responses to biotic or abiotic stresses (Marino et al., 2012; Suzuki et al., 2012). The MAMP-induced ROS burst is primarily regulated by RBOHD, as *rbohD* mutants do not produce ROS in response to flagellin, EF-Tu, or chitin treatment (Torres et al., 2002; Chinchilla et al., 2007). Activation of RBOHD upon MAMP treatment has been extensively studied, including the roles of phosphorylation, the binding of calcium ions, and phosphatidic acid (Ogasawara et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2009; Kadota et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). All these regulatory sites locate at the N-terminal region of RBOHD. However, the regulation of the C-terminal FAD/NADPH-binding region is unknown.

In this study, *delt* (defective in LPS-triggered ROS burst) was isolated by a genetic screen for *Arabidopsis* mutants that showed reduced ROS burst after LPS treatment. We cloned *DELTI* gene by map-based cloning and whole genome sequencing approaches, and found that *DELTI* encoded RBOHD protein. In the *delt1-2* allele, a G-to-A mutation converts the Glu-919 residue to Lys (E919K) in RBOHD. E919 is located two amino acids before the C-terminal stop codon of RBOHD, and is highly conserved in NOX family members. We found that the RBOHD transcript level and protein abundance were not altered in *delt1-2* mutants compared to wild type. In addition, the E919K mutation did not affect the subcellular localization and oligomerization of RBOHD. However, the E919 residue was indispensable for RBOHD function in LPS-induced stomatal closure.

2 Materials and methods

2.1 Plant materials and growth conditions

Aequorin-expressing transgenic *Arabidopsis* was kindly provided by Marc KNIGHT (Knight and Knight, 1995), and *rbohD* (CS9555) mutant seeds were obtained from the *Arabidopsis* Biological Resource Center (Ohio State University, USA). *Arabidopsis* seeds were sterilized with 10% (0.1 g/mL) sodium hypochlorite, and then grown on 1/2 Murashige-Skoog (MS) agar plates in a growth chamber (model A1000AR, Conviron) under a 16-h photoperiod, 75% humidity, at 22 °C. Ten-day-old seedlings were transferred to pots of peat-based compost (Klasmann-Deilmann, Germany) and grown under a 14-h photoperiod for the ROS assay or 10-h photoperiod for the stomatal assay.

2.2 Chemiluminescence assay of ROS production

ROS production was measured using a chemiluminescence assay as previously described (Liang et al., 2013). Briefly, leaf disks (0.2 cm²) from mature leaves were punched and the chemiluminescent signal was recorded for 24 h or 1 h using a Photek camera HRPCS5 (Photek Ltd., UK). LPS (Sigma, USA), elf26 (a synthetic polypeptide that corresponds to EF-Tu, GenScript, China), chitooctase (IsoSep, Sweden), and flg22 (a 22-amino acid synthetic polypeptide that corresponds to *Pseudomonas syringae* flagellin, GenScript, China) were dissolved in sterilized double distilled H₂O (ddH₂O). The lipid A (the active moiety of LPS) was extracted as previously described (Shang-Guan et al., 2018).

2.3 Map-based cloning of *DELTI-1* gene

The *delt1-1* mutants were crossed to the Landsberg erecta (*Ler*) ecotype, and the generated F1 was self-pollinated to produce F2 seeds. A mapping population which showed reduced ROS production after LPS treatment was isolated in the F2 generation. Genomic DNA was extracted from each individual for linkage analysis. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) markers were developed using the *Arabidopsis* Mapping Platform (<https://www.arabidopsis.org/browse/Cereon/help.jsp>), and the primers used are listed in Table S1.

2.4 Whole genome sequencing

The *delt1-1* mutants were backcrossed to ColQ, and the generated F1 was self-pollinated to produce F2 seeds. Individuals with or without ROS production

after LPS treatment were pooled together, respectively, and subjected to whole genome sequencing using Illumina HiSeq (Illumina Company, China). Illumina short reads generated from the bulked DNA samples were filtered by their Phred quality score and aligned to the wild-type reference sequence using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA) software (<http://bio-bwa.sourceforge.net/bwa.shtml>). The alignment data were converted to sequence alignment map (SAM)/binary alignment map (BAM) files using SAMtools (<https://sourceforge.net/projects/samtools>), and low-quality single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were excluded with a Coval filter.

2.5 RNA isolation and qRT-PCR

Total RNA was extracted from 10-d-old seedlings using a RNeasy kit (Qiagen, China) according to the manufacturer's instructions. First-strand complementary DNA (cDNA) was synthesized from 2 µg RNA using reverse transcriptase (Promega, USA). SYBR Green Master Mix (Vazyme, China) was used for quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) reactions. The relative levels of gene expression were calculated using the 2^{-ΔΔC_t} method with *ELONGATION FACTOR1α* (*EF1α*) as an internal control. All primers used for qRT-PCR are listed in Table S1.

2.6 Gene cloning and plasmid construction

All primers used for gene cloning are listed in Table S1. The coding sequences of *RBOHD*, *RBOHD*^{E919K}, and *Botrytis*-induced kinase 1 (*BIK1*) were amplified and cloned into the pDONR-Zeo plasmid by BP cloning (Invitrogen, USA). After the inserts were verified by sequencing, they were cloned into the destination plasmids: pGWB5 for subcellular localization, pCAMBIA-GW-nLUC and pCAMBIA-GW-cLUC for the split luciferase complementation (SLC) assay, and pEarly gate 201-nYFP and pEarly gate 201-cYFP for the bimolecular fluorescence complementation (BiFC) analysis.

2.7 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated transient protein expression in *Nicotiana benthamiana*

Transient protein expression in *N. benthamiana* was performed as previously described (Liao et al., 2017).

2.8 SLC assay

The SLC assay was performed as previously described (Liao et al., 2017). To detect the activity of

luciferase, 0.5 mmol/L luciferin (Promega, USA) was sprayed on the leaves and the signal was captured with a Photek camera HRPCS5 (Photek Ltd., UK).

2.9 BiFC analysis

The BiFC assay was performed as previously described (Liao et al., 2017). Fluorescence was imaged using a confocal laser scanning microscope (Zeiss, Germany).

2.10 Protein extraction and immunoblot analysis

Total protein extraction and immunoblot analysis were performed as previously described (Liao et al., 2017). Buffer (50 mmol/L Tris-HCl pH 5.7, 2% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), and 1 mmol/L phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF)) was used for total protein extraction. Plasma membrane proteins were extracted using the Brij-58 method (Zhang and Peck, 2011). Briefly, 5 g fresh weight of seedlings were ground and dissolved in 5 mL buffer B (330 mmol/L sucrose, 50 mmol/L 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid (HEPES)/KOH pH 7.5, 50 mmol/L $\text{Na}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$, 25 mmol/L NaF, 5% (50 g/L) glycerol, 0.5% (5 g/L) polyvinyl pyrrolidone, 10 mmol/L ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1 mmol/L Na_2MoO_4 , 1 mmol/L PMSF, 10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ leupeptin, 1 nmol/L calyculin A, and 3 mmol/L dithiothreitol (DTT)). After clearing the homogenate of cell debris by centrifugation for 10 min at 10000g at 4 °C, crude microsomes (CMs) were isolated from the supernatant by ultracentrifugation for 30 min at 100000g at 4 °C, then dissolved in buffer C (buffer B without DTT but with 0.02% (0.2 g/L) Brij-58) and kept on ice for 45 min. These CMs within buffer C were centrifuged again for 30 min at 100000g at 4 °C. The resulting pellets were dissolved in Tris-HCl pH 7.5 to yield the plasma membrane-enriched fraction. RBOHD was detected with anti-RBOHD antibody (Agriseria, Sweden), and plasma membrane protein chitin elicitor receptor kinase 1 (CERK1) was used as a loading control (Cao et al., 2014; Liao et al., 2017).

2.11 Stomatal closure assay

Abaxial epidermal strips of fully expanded rosette leaves from 5-week-old plants were peeled and floated on 10 mmol/L 2-(*N*-morpholino)ethanesulfonic acid hydrate (MES)/KOH buffer (pH 6.2) for 30 min to close stomata. The peels were then transferred to opening buffer (10 mmol/L MES/KOH, 50 mmol/L

KCl, pH 6.15). After incubation under white light (125 $\mu\text{mol}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{s})$) for 3 h, 100 nmol/L flg22 and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ lipid A were added, and 1 h after treatment photos were taken under a light microscope (Nikon, Japan). Stomatal apertures were measured using ImageJ software 1.52 (National Institutes of Health, USA).

3 Results

3.1 Isolation of *delt1* mutants

To identify the signaling components required for LPS-triggered biphasic ROS burst, we performed a genetic screen to identify mutants that exhibited reduced ROS production after LPS treatment. A previously ethylmethylsulfonate mutagenized *Arabidopsis* ColQ (stable transgenic Col-0 with aequorin insertion) seedling population was used for mutant isolation (Choi et al., 2014). Aequorin does not affect luminol-based ROS measurement. More than ten mutants were isolated from about 10000 M2 individuals, and two of these mutants showed no biphasic ROS burst after LPS treatment and were selected to be characterized in detail (Figs. 1a and 1b). These two mutants were indistinguishable from wild-type plants when grown in soil (Fig. 1c). Complementation tests between these two mutants indicated that they were allelic to each other (Figs. S1a and S1b), and so are named *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* hereafter. The F1 genotype of *delt1-2* × *delt1-1* was confirmed by sequencing the *DELTI-1* mutation site after *DELTI* was cloned (Fig. S1c). The *delt1-1* mutant was backcrossed to ColQ, and the LPS-triggered ROS burst was evaluated in the resulting F1 and F2 population. All eight tested F1 plants showed a level of ROS similar to that of ColQ plants after LPS treatment. Among the 145 tested F2 plants, 33 plants showed no biphasic ROS after LPS treatment. The remainder were similar to wild type (with ROS: without ROS=112:33, $\chi^2=0.39$, $P>0.01$), indicating that the *DELTI-1* mutation is recessive in a single nuclear gene. Similarly, *DELTI-2* is also a single recessive mutation. The original *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* mutants were backcrossed to ColQ twice, and homozygous progenies of F3 or subsequent generations were used in all experiments described below.

3.2 Mapping of *delt1* mutant

To genetically map *DELTI-1*, we generated an F2 population derived from the cross between *delt1-1*

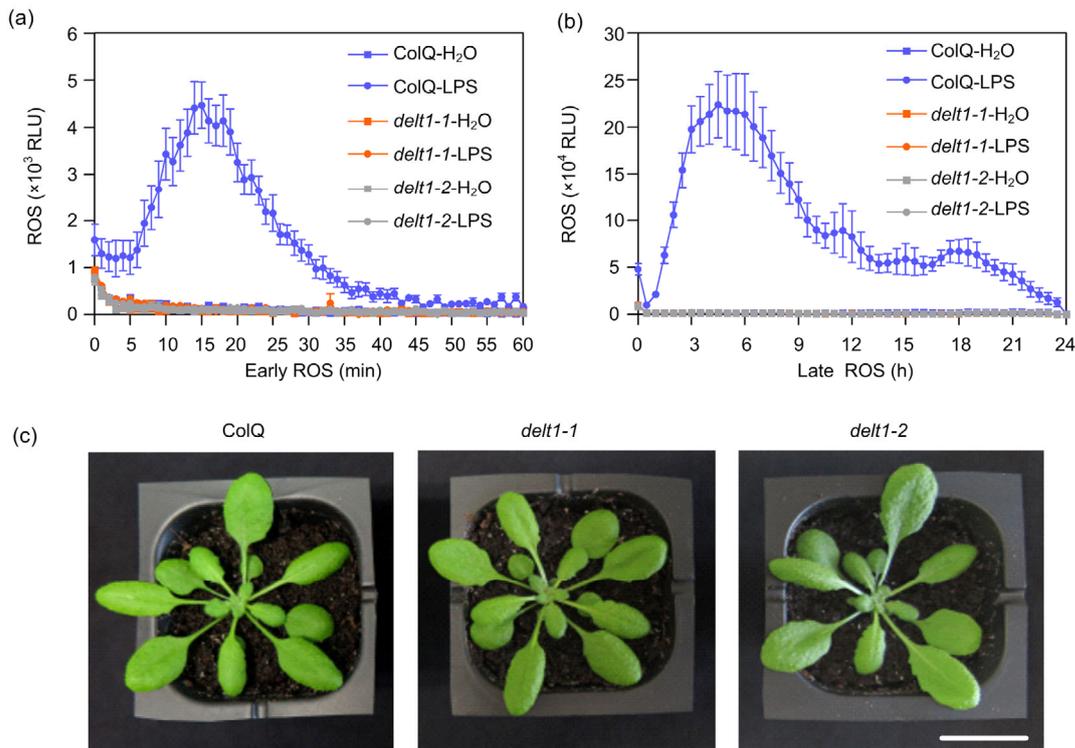


Fig. 1 Isolation of the *del1-1* and *del1-2* mutants

(a, b) The *del1-1* and *del1-2* mutants showed deficiency in biphasic reactive oxygen species (ROS) production after LPS (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) treatment. ROS were monitored using a chemiluminescence assay and signal was recorded for 24 h after LPS treatment (b). To show the early ROS burst, a graph was plotted from 0 to 1 h (a). The data are shown as mean \pm standard error (SE, $n=8$). (c) Mature plants of *del1-1* and *del1-2* are indistinguishable from those of ColQ. Photos were taken four weeks after germination. Bar=1 cm. RLU: relative light unit

and Ler. We roughly mapped the position of *DEL1-1* to the short arm of chromosome 5 between two molecular markers, K9E15 and MRB17, which are 3.87 Mb apart (Fig. 2a). We identified an SNP in *del1-1* compared to wild type using a whole genome sequencing approach. The F2 progenies generated from the backcross between *del1-1* and ColQ were divided into two pools according to their mutant or wild-type phenotype. The genomic DNA from 22 individuals was pooled together and subjected to whole genome sequencing. After filtering for detected SNPs, we found a 2.05-Mb region on chromosome 5 with a relatively high SNP index, which located within our mapping region, indicating linkage with the *del1-1* phenotype (Fig. 2b). Three nonsynonymous SNPs were found in the linkage region and one mutation was in the *At5g47910* gene, encoding an RBOHD protein (Fig. 2c). The *del1-1* mutant harbors

a G-to-A mutation at nucleotide 830 of *RBOHD* (Fig. 2d), which results in a substitution of residue Trp-246 by a stop codon (W246*) (Fig. 2e). We then amplified *RBOHD* using *del1-2* genomic DNA. The sequencing results revealed a G-to-A mutation at nucleotide 4137 in the *DEL1-2* genomic DNA and 2755 in the cDNA (Fig. 2d), which converts residue Glu-919 of *RBOHD* to Lys (E919K) in *del1-2* mutants (Fig. 2d).

RBOHD is an evolutionarily conserved protein widely distributed in most eukaryotic organisms. E919 is located two amino acids before the C-terminal stop codon of RBOHD. The sequence alignment of RBOH family proteins demonstrated that E919 was not only highly conserved in all ten RBOH proteins in *Arabidopsis*, but also conserved in human and fungal NOXs (Fig. 2e). This implies that residue E919 plays a conserved and critical role in maintaining the function of NADPH oxidases.

3.3 *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* mutations are allelic to *rbohD* null mutations

A null mutation in *RBOHD*, *rbohD* T-DNA insertion (CS9555), results in loss of ROS production upon MAMP treatment (Torres et al., 2002; Kadota et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). To test the possible allelism between *delt1* and *rbohD*, we crossed *rbohD* T-DNA mutants with *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* mutants, respectively. Results showed that all 16 F1 plants from *rbohD*×*delt1-1* and *rbohD*×*delt1-2* had no ROS burst after LPS treatment (Figs. 3a and 3b). Genotyping with T-DNA insertion indicated that F1 individuals contained the T-DNA fragments, suggesting that the cross was successful (Fig. 3c). Similar to the *rbohD* T-DNA mutants, *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* also showed no ROS burst after flg22, chitin, elf26, and lipid A treatments (Figs. 3d–3h), suggesting that *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* are loss-of-function mutants of *RBOHD*.

3.4 E919K mutation does not affect *RBOHD* transcript and protein levels

It is easy to understand why *delt1-1* is a loss of function mutant of *RBOHD* since it contains a premature stop codon, which might result in the elimination of *RBOHD* transcripts because of the nonsense-mediated mRNA decay mechanism in eukaryotes (Peccarelli and Kebaara, 2014). We then focused on the *delt1-2* mutants, in which E919K substitution abolishes *RBOHD* function in MAMP-induced ROS production. We examined the transcript levels of *RBOHD* by RT-PCR and qRT-PCR. *RBOHD* transcripts were not altered in *delt1-2* mutants when a short fragment was amplified (Figs. 4a and 4b; F1-R1 primer pair). Surprisingly, we could not amplify the full-length *RBOHD* transcripts from *delt1-2* mutants by RT-PCR when wild-type reverse primer was used (Fig. 4b; F1-R2 primer pair). The *DELTI-2* mutation site (G2755A for cDNA) is within the R2 primer region, and therefore we suspected that it may reduce PCR efficiency. Therefore, we designed a reverse primer complementary to the G2755A mutation which enabled us to amplify full-length *DELTI-2* (Fig. 4b; F1-R3 primer pair). Consistently, the reverse primer at the 3' untranslated region (UTR) was able to amplify *DELTI-2* transcripts (Fig. 4b; F2-R4 primer pair). qRT-PCR also confirmed that the transcript level of *RBOHD* was not affected by the *DELTI-2* mutation (Fig. 4c).

Next, we examined whether *RBOHD* protein stability was affected by the E919K substitution in *delt1-2* mutants. The protein abundance of *RBOHD* was detected by immunoblot analysis in a total protein extraction with an anti-*RBOHD* antibody. Antibody specificity was verified using *rbohD* T-DNA mutants (Fig. 4d). The predicted molecular mass of the full-length *RBOHD* is around 103 kDa. A specific band around 110 kDa was detected in Col-0 but not *rbohD* mutants, indicating that the anti-*RBOHD* antibody could specifically detect *RBOHD* (Fig. 4d). Compared to ColQ, *RBOHD* protein abundance in *delt1-2* mutants was not significantly reduced (Fig. 4d). *RBOHD* is a membrane protein, and therefore we performed an immunoblot analysis using the enriched plasma membrane fraction. Similarly, *RBOHD* protein in *delt1-2* mutants showed a level equal to that in ColQ (Fig. 4e). Taken together, these results show the E919K mutation of *RBOHD* does not affect its transcript or protein level.

3.5 E919K mutation does not affect *RBOHD* subcellular localization

To examine whether E919K affects *RBOHD* subcellular localization, green fluorescence protein (GFP) was fused to the N-termini of *RBOHD* and *RBOHD*^{E919K} and then transiently expressed in *N. benthamiana*. Both GFP-*RBOHD* and GFP-*RBOHD*^{E919K} showed strong green fluorescence signals in the plasma membrane, as they were colocalized with the membrane marker FM4-64 (Fig. 5a). The protein size was verified by immunoblot analysis with an anti-GFP antibody. The GFP-*RBOHD* and GFP-*RBOHD*^{E919K} proteins were significantly less abundant than the free GFP proteins, but clear bands with a predicted size around 130 kDa were shown after a long exposure (Fig. 5b). All these results suggest that the E919K mutation does not affect *RBOHD* subcellular localization.

3.6 E919K mutation does not affect *RBOHD* association with proteins

It has been suggested that the C-terminal dehydrogenase domain is required for oligomerization of NADPH oxidase (Kawahara et al., 2011). Therefore, using an SLC assay, we examined whether *RBOHD* was associated with itself in *N. benthamiana*. Strong luminescent signal could be detected when

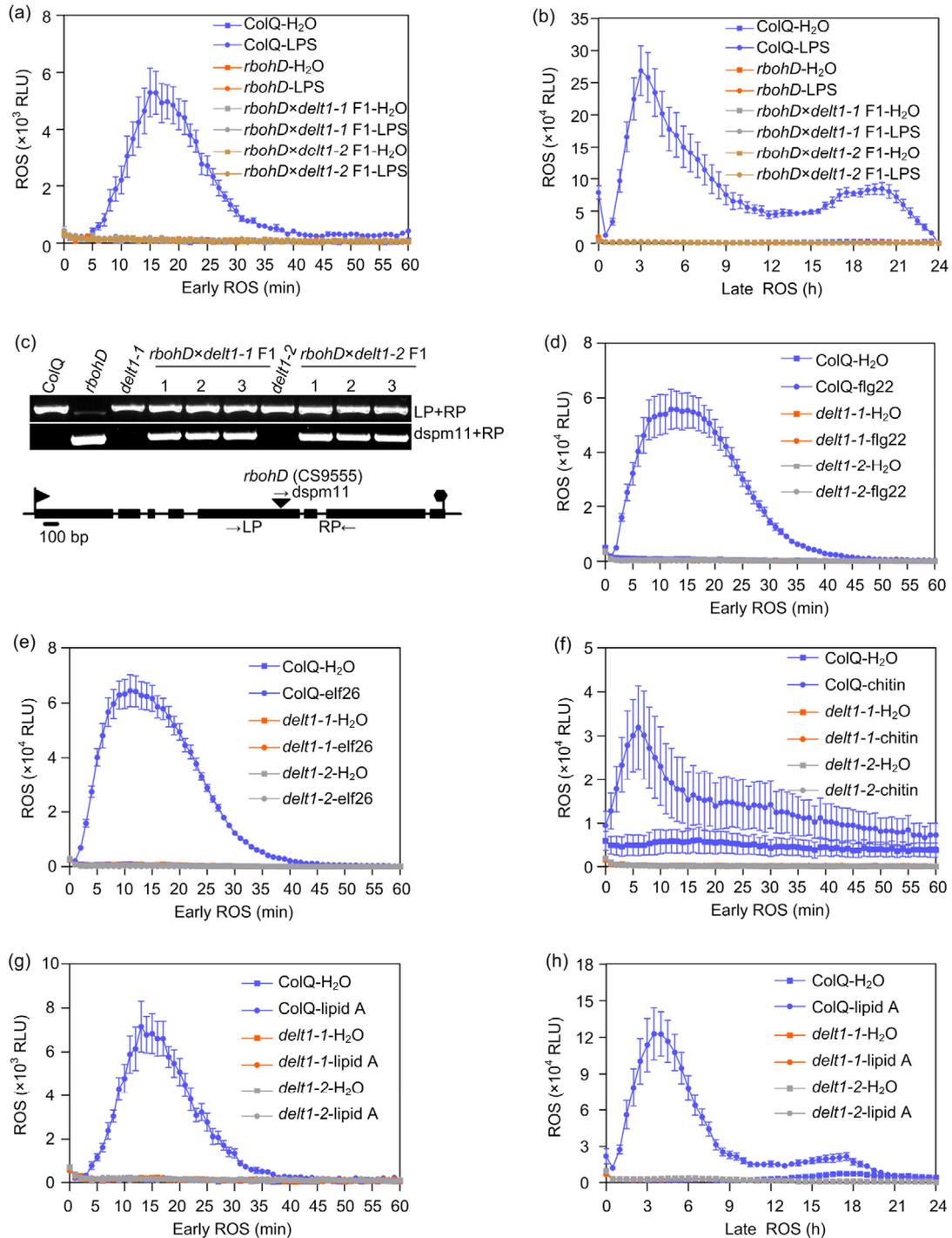


Fig. 3 *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* mutations are allelic to *rbohD* null mutations

(a, b) *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* are allelic to *rbohD* T-DNA mutants. F1 individuals were generated from homozygous *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* pollinated with *rbohD* pollen. ROS were monitored using a chemiluminescence assay after 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ LPS treatment. Signal was recorded for 24 h after LPS treatment (b). To show the early ROS burst, a graph was plotted from 0 to 1 h (a). The data are shown as mean \pm standard error (SE, $n=8$). (c) Genotyping of the T-DNA insertion of *rbohD* confirmed that the cross was successful. The triangle indicates the *rbohD* T-DNA insertion site. (d–h) The *delt1-1* and *delt1-2* mutants showed no ROS production after flg22, elf26, chitin, or lipid A treatment. ROS were monitored using a chemiluminescence assay after 100 nmol/L flg22 (d), 500 nmol/L elf26 (e), 500 nmol/L chitin (f), and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ lipid A (g and h) treatment. The data are shown as mean \pm standard error (SE, $n=8$). LP: left primer; RP: right primer; RLU: relative light unit

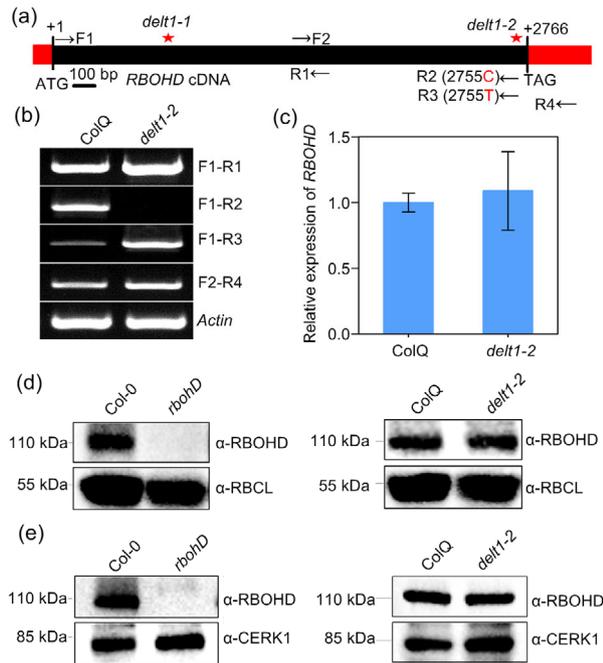


Fig. 4 *RBOHD* transcript and protein abundance in *del1-2* mutants

(a) Diagram of primer position used in (b). (b, c) *RBOHD* transcript levels. Total RNA was prepared from leaves of 7-d-old plants. *RBOHD* transcript levels were determined by semi-quantitative (b) and quantitative (c) RT-PCR. *EF-1 α* was used as the reference gene. Values are mean \pm standard error (SE) of three biological repeats in (c). (d, e) *RBOHD* protein abundance. Total (d) and plasma membrane (e) proteins were extracted and detected by immunoblot analysis with anti-*RBOHD* antibody. The *rbohD* T-DNA null allele was used to verify the specificity of anti-*RBOHD* antibody. Rubisco (RBCL) and chitin elicitor receptor kinase 1 (CERK1) were used as loading controls. The experiment was carried out twice with similar results

RBOHD-nLUC and *RBOHD*-cLUC were co-expressed, as well as when *RBOHD*^{E919K}-nLUC and *RBOHD*^{E919K}-cLUC were co-infiltrated, suggesting that E919K substitution does not affect the self-association of *RBOHD* (Fig. 6a). *RBOHD* self-association was confirmed using the BiFC assay (Fig. 6b). During the MAMP-induced ROS burst, *RBOHD* interacts directly with BIK1, a member of the receptor like cytosolic kinase, acting as a central signaling component which activates *RBOHD* through phosphorylation (Kadota et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). We found that the E919K mutation did not impair *RBOHD*-BIK1 association (Figs. 6c and 6d). Taken together, these results suggest that E919 is not required

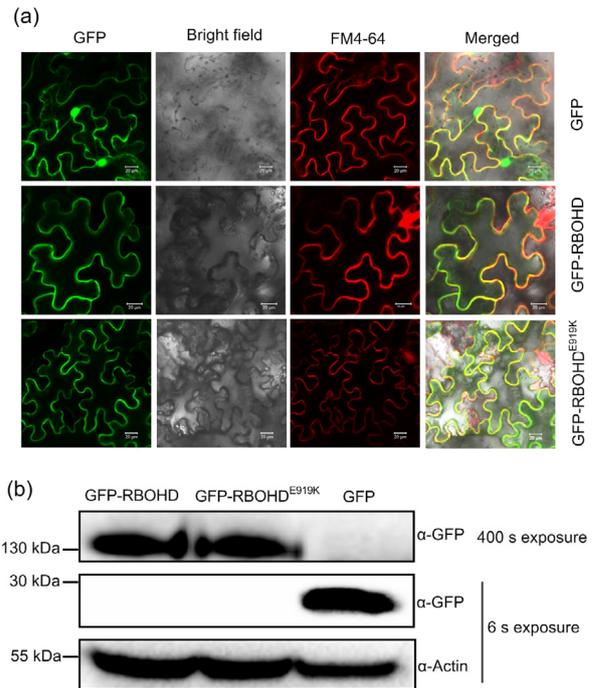


Fig. 5 *RBOHD* subcellular localization

E919K does not affect *RBOHD* subcellular localization. (a) *RBOHD* and *RBOHD*^{E919K} were expressed on the plasma membrane. Green fluorescence protein (GFP)-*RBOHD* and GFP-*RBOHD*^{E919K} fusion proteins were transiently expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaves via agroinfiltration. The plasma membrane was stained with the membrane marker FM4-64. Images were taken 3 d after infiltration by a confocal laser scanning microscope. Scale bar represents 20 μ m. (b) GFP-*RBOHD* and GFP-*RBOHD*^{E919K} were correctly expressed. Total proteins were extracted from leaves expressing GFP-*RBOHD* and GFP-*RBOHD*^{E919K} in (a). Immunoblot analysis was performed using anti-GFP antibody. Actin was used as a loading control. The experiment was carried out three times with similar results

for *RBOHD* oligomerization and *RBOHD*-BIK1 interaction.

3.7 E919 of *RBOHD* is critical for its function in stomatal closure

RBOHD has been shown to play an important role in the MAMP-induced stomatal closure. Therefore, we wondered whether E919 of *RBOHD* was required for stomatal closure in response to flg22 and lipid A. Lipid A (10 μ g/mL) could induce stomatal closure at a level equivalent to 100 nmol/L flg22, and the *rbohD* T-DNA mutants failed to close stomata after flg22 and lipid A treatments (Figs. 7a and 7b). Similar to the *rbohD* T-DNA line, *del1-2* mutants

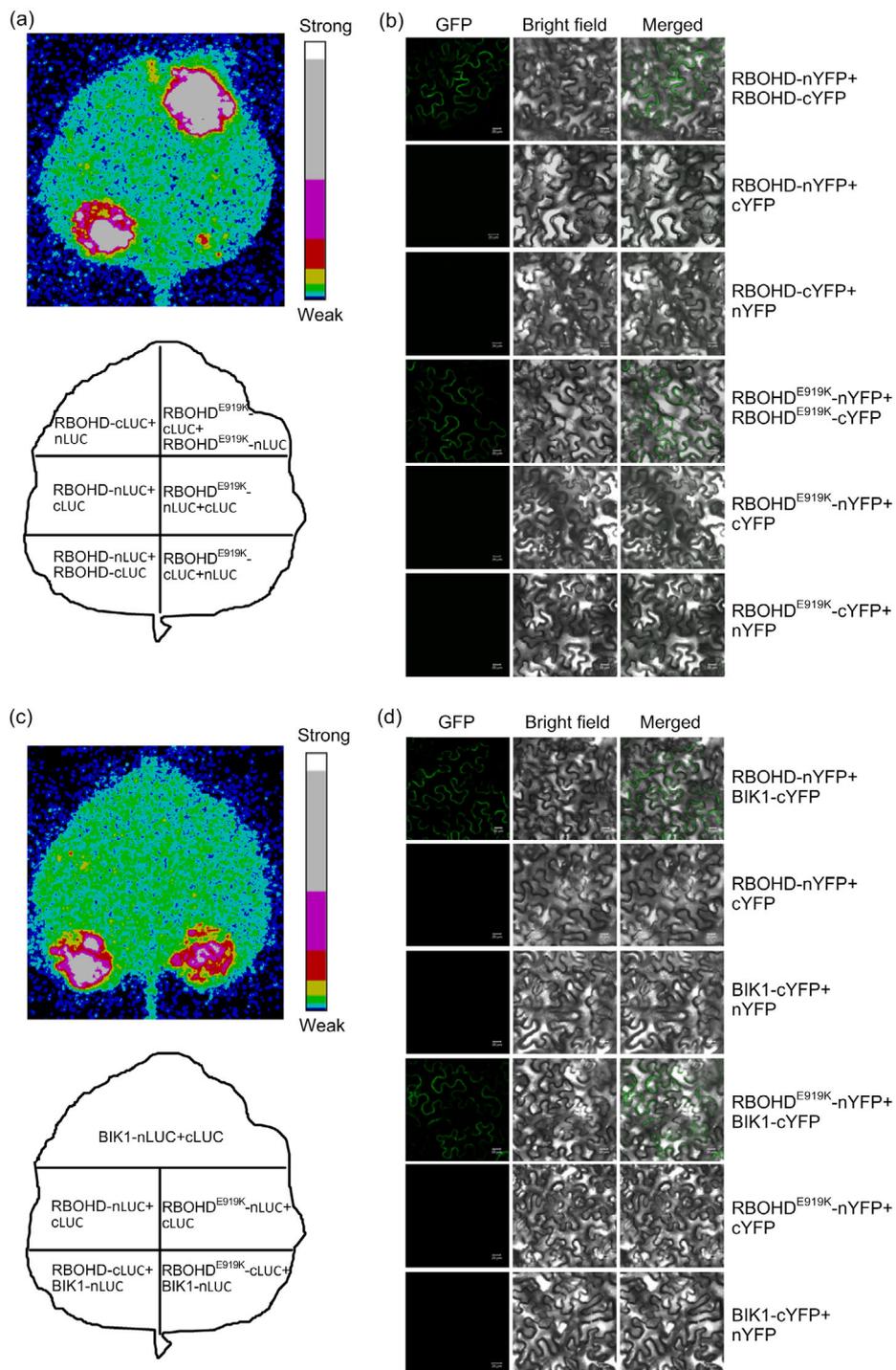


Fig. 6 RBOHD oligomerization and RBOHD-BIK1 interaction

E919K does not affect RBOHD oligomerization and RBOHD-BIK1 interaction. (a, c) Detection of protein-protein interactions by the split luciferase complementation (SLC) assay. RBOHD, RBOHD^{E919K}, and *Botrytis*-induced kinase 1 (BIK1) were fused to the N- or C-terminal portion of luciferase (nLUC or cLUC), and the indicated fusion proteins were co-expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. Images were taken using a Photek camera 3 d after infiltration. (b, d) Detection of protein-protein interactions by the bimolecular fluorescence complementation (BiFC) assay. RBOHD, RBOHD^{E919K}, and BIK1 were fused to the N- or C-terminal portion of yellow fluorescence protein (nYFP or cYFP), and the indicated fusion proteins were co-expressed in *N. benthamiana*. Images were taken using a confocal laser scanning microscope 3 d after infiltration. Scale bar represents 20 μ m. These experiments were carried out twice with similar results. GFP: green fluorescence protein

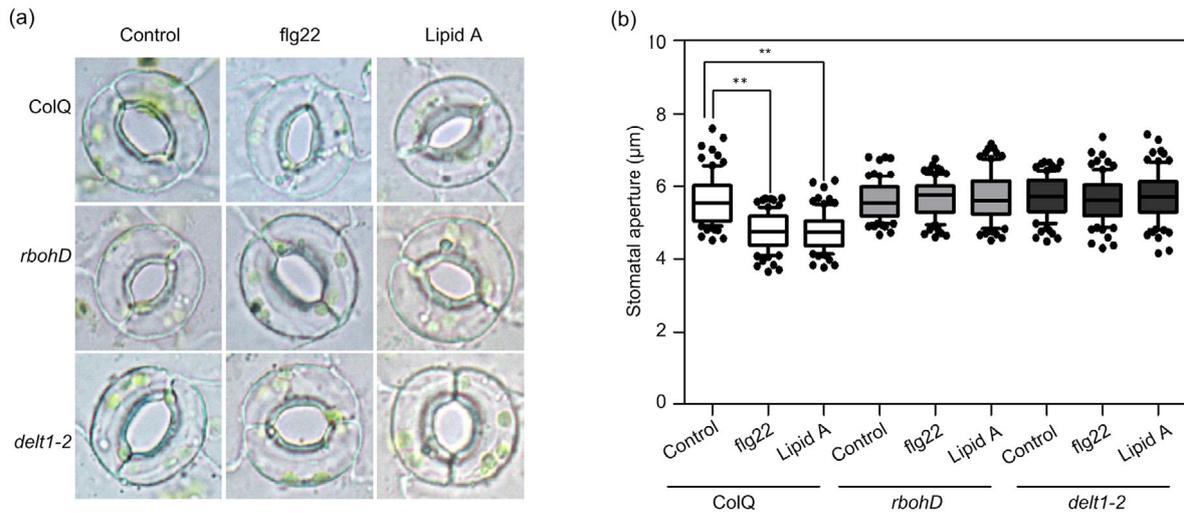


Fig. 7 Effects of flg22 and lipid A treatments on stomatal closure

delt1-2 mutants fail to close stomata in response to flg22 and lipid A. (a) Representative photographs of stomata; (b) The median of the stomatal aperture. The stomatal assay was performed using epidermal strips and stomatal aperture was measured 1 h after flg22 or lipid A treatment. The values of the stomatal aperture are expressed in microns and represented in the box plot where the box is bound by the 25th to 75th percentiles, whiskers span the 10th to 90th percentiles, and the line in the middle is the median. The individual points represent outliers. Data are represented as mean±standard error (SE, $n=80$). Asterisks indicate a significant difference from the control treatment (Student's *t*-test, ** $P<0.01$)

also lost sensitivity to flg22 and lipid A. All these results suggest that E919 of RBOHD is critical for its function in stomatal closure.

4 Discussion

The antepenultimate residue at the C terminus of NADPH oxidase RBOHD, E919, is highly conserved in NOX family members (Kawahara et al., 2007; Magnani et al., 2017). Mutation of the corresponding residue E568 in human NOX2 leads to chronic granulomatous disease (Verhoeven, 1997; Heyworth et al., 2003; Kuhns et al., 2010). Consistently, our results suggest that residue E919 is critical for RBOHD function in the MAMP-induced ROS burst and stomatal closure.

Although residue E568 is indispensable for NOX2, how this residue affects NOX2 function is still unclear. Mutation of E568 in NOX2 correlates with the lack of oxidase activity, FAD incorporation, and translocation of cytosolic factors (Debeurme et al., 2010). E568 of NOX2 is not the binding site of NADPH and FAD. However, it has been predicted that mutation of E568 in NOX2 alters the structural

orientation of the C-terminus, and indirectly impairs the protein's ability to bind to substrates and other complex subunits (Debeurme et al., 2010). Unlike NOX2, the comparable cytosolic subunits of RBOHD have not yet been identified in Arabidopsis (Liu and He, 2016). It has been shown that the C-terminus of NOX5 is required for the binding of other proteins which facilitate NOX5 oligomerization (Kawahara et al., 2011; Chen et al., 2015), and the C-terminus of rice OsRBOHB could interact with its N-terminus to mediate a direct intramolecular interaction (Oda et al., 2010). These studies suggest that the C-terminus of NADPH oxidase might play a role in oligomerization or protein-protein interaction. However, in this study, we found that mutation of E919 did not impair RBOHD oligomerization or RBOHD-BIK1 interaction. In addition, the sequence of the C-terminal dehydrogenase domain was very similar to that of members of the ferredoxin NADP⁺ reductase (FNR) family (Kawahara et al., 2007). The mutation of the corresponding residue in the FNR of peas impairs protein stability (Calcaterra et al., 1995), but we found that mutation of E919 in RBOHD had no effect on protein accumulation. Taken together, the most likely explanation for the impairment caused by

E919K substitution of RBOHD is that it might disrupt the ability of the C-terminal dehydrogenase domain to bind to NADPH. However, this hypothesis awaits experimental verification in vivo by some sophisticated techniques, such as NADPH-based fluorescence lifetime imaging (Niesner et al., 2008; Leben et al., 2018).

RBOHD plays a predominant role in MAMP-induced ROS production, and phosphorylation is one of the most important regulatory mechanisms for RBOHD upon MAMP perception. MAMP receptors activate BIK1 which subsequently phosphorylates residues S39, S339, S343, and S347 of RBOHD in a calcium independent manner (Kadota et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). The elevation of Ca^{2+} in cytoplasm activates Ca^{2+} -dependent protein kinases which can phosphorylate residues S133, S148, S163, and S347 of RBOHD (Dubiella et al., 2013; Kadota et al., 2014). Recently, a mitogen-activated protein 4 (MAP4) kinase has been reported that mainly phosphorylates residue S347 of RBOHD to promote a flg22-induced ROS burst (Zhang et al., 2018). Similar to the MAMP-induced ROS burst, phosphorylation of RBOHD is also required for damage-associated molecular pattern (DAMP)-induced ROS bursts, for example, caused by extracellular ATP (eATP) (Choi et al., 2014). Upon eATP treatment, its receptor LecRK-I.9 (DORN1) kinase could directly phosphorylate the residues S22 and T24 of RBOHD to trigger an ROS burst (Chen et al., 2017). Other than phosphorylation, RBOHD is also activated by intracellular Ca^{2+} and phosphatidic acid (Ogasawara et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2009). However, all these regulatory sites are located in the N-terminal region of RBOHD, and how the activation of the N-terminal region coordinates the binding of the C-terminal domain to NADPH and directs the electron flow across plasma membrane from NADPH to oxygen is still unknown. It will be interesting to examine whether the N-terminal modification of RBOHD alters the structural orientation of the C-terminal region, and whether residue E919 plays a role in this process.

ROS is also produced during effector triggered immunity (ETI), but the kinetics of ROS burst during ETI is very different from that in MAMP-triggered immunity (MTI) (Doke, 1983; Lamb and Dixon, 1997). MTI-ROS shows a fast and transient pattern, whereas ETI-ROS shows a slow and prolonged pat-

tern. In terms of ROS kinetics, LPS-triggered biphasic ROS burst resembles that produced upon incompatible pathogen treatment (Lamb and Dixon, 1997; Shang-Guan et al., 2018). It has long been known that RBOHD is also required for ETI-ROS (Torres et al., 2002). Similarly, in this study we found that RBOHD was indispensable for LPS-triggered late ROS production. Interestingly, a quantitative phosphoproteomics study comparing pathogen associated molecular pattern (PAMP)-triggered immunity (PTI) and ETI found that residues S343 and S347 of RBOHD were necessary for both MTI-ROS and ETI-ROS (Kadota et al., 2019). This prompts the question of how RBOHD is regulated to trigger different kinetics of ROS burst. Do transcriptional regulation, post-transcriptional modification, or other interacting factors mediate the specificity? Therefore, further study on the regulation of RBOHD upon LPS treatment could be useful for deciphering the molecular mechanisms of different ROS kinetics.

5 Conclusions

RBOHD plays the predominant role in the production of ROS in plant immunity. Although the molecular mechanism underlying the activation of RBOHD has been extensively studied, all known regulatory sites locate at the N-terminal region of RBOHD. In this study, we found that residue E919 in the C-terminal region of RBOHD was critical for MAMP-induced ROS burst and stomatal closure. Unlike the function of the corresponding residue in other NADPH oxidases, we found that the E919K mutation did not affect RBOHD protein abundance or the ability of protein association, suggesting that the C-terminal region of RBOHD might have an uncommon regulatory mechanism.

Contributors

Yan LIANG planned and designed the research; Qiu-ying LI and Ping LI performed most of the experiments; Nang MYINT PHYU SIN HTWE and Ke-ke SHANGGUAN contributed to the cloning of *DELTI*. Qiu-ying LI and Ping LI wrote the draft manuscript and Yan LIANG revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript. Therefore, all authors have full access to all the data in the study and take responsibility for the integrity and security of the data.

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Compliance with ethics guidelines

Qiu-ying LI, Ping LI, Nang MYINT PHYU SIN HTWE, Ke-ke SHANGGUAN, and Yan LIANG declare that they have no conflict of interest.

This article does not contain any studies with human or animal subjects performed by any of the authors.

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List of electronic supplementary materials

Table S1 Primer sequences used in this study

Fig. S1 Allelic mutants *delt1-1* and *delt1-2*

中文概要

题目:拟南芥 NADPH 氧化酶 RBOHD 羧基端倒数第三位氨基酸在其介导活性氧迸发中的重要作用

目的:解析呼吸爆发氧化酶同系物蛋白 D (RBOHD) 介导活性氧迸发的分子机制。

创新点:首次研究 RBOHD 蛋白羧基端在植物体内活性氧迸发中的作用, 并对其机制进行初步探究。

方法:本文利用正向遗传学方法筛选得到在多种病原物相关分子模式 (PAMP) 处理后活性氧不迸发的突变体 *delt*。然后结合图位克隆和全基因测序技术, 发现 *DELTI* 编码了 RBOHD 蛋白。*DELTI-2* 在 RBOHD 羧基端倒数第三位谷氨酸位置发生了突变。深入分析发现, 谷氨酸的突变不影响 *DELTI-2* 表达、蛋白定位和互作等功能, 但会导致植物不响应 PAMP 诱导的气孔关闭。

结论:RBOHD 羧基端倒数第三位谷氨酸对其功能发挥着决定作用。

关键词:活性氧; NADPH 氧化酶; 微生物相关分子模式; 脂多糖; 呼吸爆发氧化酶同系物蛋白 D(RBOHD)