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## Dissecting the role of lysin motif receptor-like kinases (LYKs) in chitin-triggered immunity in grapevine

Laura Davies, Clizia Villano, Daphnée Brulé, Marie-Claire Heloir, Freddy Boutrot, Cyril Zipfel, Benoît Poinssot, Ian B. Dry

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Laura J. Davies<sup>1</sup>, Clizia Villano<sup>2</sup>, Daphnée Brulé<sup>3</sup>, Marie-Claire Héloir<sup>3</sup>, Freddy Boutrot<sup>4</sup>, Cyril Zipfel<sup>4</sup>, Benoit Poinssot<sup>3</sup>, Ian B. Dry<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia; <sup>2</sup>University of Naples Federico II, Portici, Naples, Italy; <sup>3</sup>INRA, Université de Bourgogne, Agrosup, Dijon, France. <sup>4</sup> The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, UK.

### **Dissecting the role of lysin motif receptor-like kinases (LYKs) in chitin-triggered immunity in grapevine**

A key aspect of the plant innate immune system is the recognition of invading pathogens. This occurs through plasma membrane localised pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) detecting conserved pathogen signatures, termed pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs). In *Arabidopsis thaliana* CERK1 is a lysin motif receptor-like kinase (LYK), which is involved in the perception of chitin released from invading fungal pathogens. In comparison to the five members of the *LYK* gene family in *Arabidopsis*, we have identified ten members of the gene family in grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*), three of which (*VvLYK1-1*, *VvLYK1-2* & *VvLYK1-3*) are highly homologous to CERK1. *VvLYK1-1:GFP* was shown to localise to the plasma membrane. Expression of *VvLYK1-1* in the *Atcerk1* mutant background restored chitin-induced defense responses as demonstrated by MAPK activation and infection assays with the non-adapted grapevine powdery mildew pathogen, *Erysiphe necator*. This suggests that *VvLYK1-1* plays a key role in PAMP-triggered immunity to powdery mildew in grapevine.

The kinase domain of *VvLYK1-1* was used as a bait in a yeast two-hybrid screen to search for interacting factors. The yeast two-hybrid screen identified a U-box E3 ubiquitin ligase, which shows high homology to the *Arabidopsis* PUB13 protein. PUB13 has been previously demonstrated to polyubiquitinate FLS2, the receptor of bacterial flagellin (flg22), and promote flagellin-induced FLS2 endocytosis and subsequent degradation.