NADPH Oxidases Are Required for Appressorium-Mediated Penetration in Colletotrichum scovillei-Pepper Fruit Pathosystem

Teng Fu, Noh-Hyun Lee, Jong-Hwan Shin, and Kyoung Su Kim

Division of Bio-Resource Sciences, BioHerb Research Institute, and Interdisciplinary Program in Smart Agriculture, Kangwon National University, Chuncheon 24341, Korea

(Received on May 6, 2022; Revised on June 10, 2022; Accepted on June 13, 2022)

NADPH oxidase (Nox) complexes are known to play essential roles in differentiation and proliferation of many filamentous fungi. However, the functions of Noxs have not been elucidated in Colletotrichum species. Therefore, we set out to characterize the roles of Nox enzymes and their regulators in Colletotrichum scovillei, which causes serious anthracnose disease on pepper fruits in temperate and subtropical and temperate region. In this study, we generated targeted deletion mutants for CsNox1, CsNox2, CsNoxR, and CsNoxD via homologous recombination. All deletion mutants were normal in mycelial growth, conidiation, conidial germination, and appressorium formation, suggesting that CsNox1, CsNox2, CsNoxR, and CsNoxD are not involved in those developmental processes. Notably, conidia of ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr, other than ΔCsnox1 and ΔCsnoxd, failed to cause anthracnose on intact pepper fruits. However, they still caused normal disease on wounded pepper fruits, suggesting that Csnox2 and CsnoxR are essential for penetration-related morphogenesis in C. scovillei. Further observation proved that ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr were unable to form penetration peg, while they fully developed appressoria, revealing that defect of anthracnose development by ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr resulted from failure in penetration peg formation. Our results suggest that CsNox2 and CsNoxR are critical for appressorium-mediated penetration in C. scovillei-pepper fruit pathosystem, which provides insight into understanding roles of Nox genes in anthracnose disease development.

Keywords: Colletotrichum scovillei, NADPH oxidase, pepper fruit anthracnose

The NADPH oxidases (Noxs) are membrane-bound enzymatic complexes, which catalyze reduction of dioxygen \( \text{O}_2 \) to the superoxide anion \( \text{O}_2^- \) using electrons provided by NADPH (Lambeth, 2004; Rastogi et al., 2017; Scott, 2015; Sumimoto, 2008). The Noxs are widely distributed among eukaryotic organism and play essential roles in multiple cellular processes, including signaling transduction, host defense, and hormone response (Bedard and Krause, 2007; Sahoo et al., 2022; Sumimoto, 2008). The first catalytic subunit (gp91phox) of Noxs was found in mammalian phagocytes with a molecular mass of about 91 kDa (Sumimoto, 2008). Further research revealed that the human genome contains six additional gp91phox homologs (Sumimoto, 2008). The plant also contains several gp91phox homologs, named as Rboh (Torres and Dangl, 2005). Molecular genetic study suggests that each catalytic subunit of Noxs has its specific regulatory components (Rada and Leto, 2008). For example, the representative gp91phox is stabilized by p22phox and activated by Rac1 GTPase, p47phox, p67phox, and p40phox (Rada and Leto, 2008). Several plant pathogenic fungi were found to contain two gp91phox homologs (Nox1 and Nox2), a p22phox homolog (NoxD), and a p67phox homolog (NoxR) (Takemoto et al., 2007). Recently, a tetraspanin-like protein was sug-
gested as an adaptor protein of Nox2 (Zhao et al., 2016). Activation of Noxs is regulated by a small GTPase Rac1 (Takemoto et al., 2007). Genetic analysis demonstrated that Nox1 and Nox2, together with the regulatory components, play important and divergent roles in hyphal growth, sexual and asexual reproduction, and penetration and colonization in host (Cano-Dominguez et al., 2008; Kayano et al., 2013; Ryder et al., 2013; Yang and Chung, 2012; Zhao et al., 2016). For example, deletion of the Nox1 (Nox1) caused severe defects in asexual developments in Aspergillus nidulans and Neurospora crassa (Cano-Dominguez et al., 2008; Lara-Ortiz et al., 2003). The benoxB (Nox2) plays an essential role in appressorium penetration, whereas benoxA (Nox1) is dispensable for penetration but involves in host colonization of Botrytis cinerea (Segmüller et al., 2008). The adapter protein NoxD/Pro41, homologous to human p22phox, directly interacts with benoxA/Nox1 and shows similar functions to benoxA/Nox1 (Siegmund et al., 2015). In Magnaporthe oryzae, inactivation of Nox2 or NoxR abolished formation of penetration peg (Ryder et al., 2013). The deletion mutant of Nox1 was able to form penetration peg but failed in elongating the penetration peg (Ryder et al., 2013). The NoxD gene is involved in appressorium-mediated penetration (Galliano et al., 2017).

Chili pepper (Capsicum annum L.) is a valuable and important vegetable crop, widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical countries (Giacomin et al., 2020; Kim et al., 2014). However, the pepper production is seriously constrained by chilli anthracnose disease, caused by Colletotrichum species complex, was reported as a major agent of pepper fruit anthracnose (Fu et al., 2021). Anthracnose caused by this fungus initiates with emergence of germ tubes from conidia adhering to host surface (Lee et al., 2021). Upon recognition of surface signals, the tips of germ tubes become swollen and then differentiate into appressoria, which subsequently generate specialized penetration pegs to rupture pepper fruits cuticles (Shin et al., 2021). During penetration process, unique dendroid structures appear in the cuticle layer of pepper fruits (Fu et al., 2021; Liao et al., 2012).

Although Nox complexes have been studied in several filamentous fungi, they have not yet been functionally characterized in Colletotrichum species. Therefore, we set out to investigate the roles of Nox complexes in anthracnose development of C. scovillei—pepper pathosystem by phenotypical comparison of targeted deletion mutants (ΔCsnox1, ΔCsnox2, ΔCsnoxR, and ΔCsnoxD), which were generated via homologous replacement. Our results showed that all deletion mutants are normal in mycelial growth, conidiation and appressorium formation. However, ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxR failed to infect intact pepper fruits, caused by their defect in forming penetration peg from appressorium, which suggest that both CsNox2 and CsNoxR are essential for appressorium-mediated penetration in pepper fruit anthracnose by C. scovillei.

Materials and Methods

Fungal strains and culture conditions. The C. scovillei KC05 strain was used as wild-type strain. The wild-type and all transformants were routinely grown on minimal media agar (MMA) and oatmeal agar (OMA) at 25°C, as previously described (Fu et al., 2019, 2021). liquid complete media was used to culture mycelia for genomic DNA isolation, total RNA extraction, and protoplast generation (Han et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2020). Fungal transformants were grown on transformation agar (TB3) agar (Shin et al., 2019).

Sequence and phylogenetic analysis. The amino acid sequences of Nox proteins (CsNox1, CsNox2, CsNoxR, and CsNoxD) and their homologs were obtained from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) and Comparative Fungal Genomics Platform (CFGP, http://cfgp.riceblast.snu.ac.kr) (Han et al., 2016). Phylogenetic relationship, identity, and domain structures among Nox proteins were analyzed by using MEGA X software, NCBI BLASTP (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/), and InterPro Scan (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/), respectively.

Targeted gene deletion and complementation. Targeted deletion constructs were generated by a modified double joint polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Yu et al., 2004). Each flank (about 1.5 kb) in upstream and downstream of targeted gene was amplified using corresponding paired primers (5F/5R and 3F/3R) (Supplementary Table 1). The HPH cassette, which contains the hygromycin phosphotransferase gene, was amplified using the primers HPHF/HPHR from pBCATPH (Choi et al., 2009). The upstream and downstream flanks of each gene and HPH cassette were fused using corresponding primers 5F/3R, and then amplified using the corresponding primers NF/NR (Supplementary Table 1) to generate the deletion con-
structs. The protoplasts of wild-type were transformed with deletion constructs, and next grown on TB3 agar medium containing hygromycin B (Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA). The colonies observed on TB3 agar medium were selected using screening PCR with primers SF/SR (Supplementary Table 1), and finally confirmed with Southern blotting and reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). To generate complemented strains, the genomic copies of each targeted gene were amplified using primers NF/NR, and then co-introduced with pII99 vector into protoplasts of corresponded deletion transformants (Fu et al., 2021). Complemented strains were selected through screening PCR and confirmed by RT-PCR (Lee et al., 2021).

**Nucleic acid manipulation.** The genomic DNA was extracted through a quick and safe method for screening of transformants (Chi et al., 2009). Genomic DNA used in Southern blotting was extracted through a standard method (Park et al., 2013). Total RNA was isolated from the frozen fungal tissues using Easy-Spin Total RNA Extraction Kit (iNtRON Biotechnology, Seongnam, Korea). The cDNA was synthesis using SuperScriptTM III First-Strand Synthesis System Kit (Invitrogen Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA, USA) (Shin et al., 2022). Quantitative reverse transcription PCR was performed with Real-Time PCR 2× Master Mix (Elpis Bio, Daejeon, Korea) using a StepOne Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) (Fu et al., 2021). The target gene expression was expressed as $2^{-ΔΔCt}$, where $ΔΔCt = (C_{t, \text{target gene}} - C_{t, \beta\text{-tubulin}})_{\text{control}} - (C_{t, \text{target gene}} - C_{t, \beta\text{-tubulin}})_{\text{test condition}}$ (Livak and Schmittgen, 2001). This experiment was performed in three-independent experiments with two replicates per experiment.

**Phenotypic characterization of transformants.** To measure mycelial growth, three-day old mycelial agar plugs (5 mm in diameter) from MMA were inoculated onto potato dextrose agar (PDA) media and incubated at 25ºC for 5 days without light (Fu et al., 2021). To evaluate conidiation, three-day old mycelial agar plugs (5 mm in diameter) were inoculated onto V8 agar medium and incubated at 25ºC for 5 days without light and then 2 days with light (Lee et al., 2021). The conidia were harvested with 5 ml distilled water (DW) and counted using a hemocytometer. To perform appressorium formation assay, conidia were collected from 7-day-old OMA with 2 ml DW. The conidial suspensions were filtered through three layers of Miracloth (Calbiochem, San Diego, CA, USA) and next washed for three times by centrifuge at 5,000 rpm for 10 min. Conidial suspension ($5 \times 10^4$ conidia/ml) were dropped on the hydrophobic surface of coverslips, and incubated in a humid box at 25ºC. To perform pathogenicity assays, the washed conidial suspensions ($5 \times 10^5$ conidia/ml) were dropped onto intact and wounded pepper fruits. To perform microscopic observation of infection, the inoculation areas were sliced using a razor and observed using a light microscope. All phenotypes were evaluated at least in three-independent experiments with three repeats per experiment.

**Scanning electron microscope observation.** To observe the appressorium penetration site of *C. scovillei* on pepper fruit, the conidia suspensions ($5 \times 10^4$ conidia/ml) were inoculated onto intact pepper fruits. After incubated in humid box at 25ºC for 3 days, the inoculation areas were sliced using a razor and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde at 4ºC for 24 h (Fu et al., 2022). The samples were subsequently washed using 1× phosphate buffered saline. The washed samples were dehydrated in series of increasing concentrations of ethanol (30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, and 95%) for 30 min at each concentration, and then in 100% ethanol for 1 h and for three times (Pariona et al., 2019). The dehydrated samples were sonicated to remove the dust and detach appressoria from the pepper surface. After sonication, the samples were dried according to critical-point dried method, and mounted on the carbon tapes, and coated with gold (Schroeckh et al., 2009). The samples were observed through a scanning electron microscope (SEM).

**Results**

**Phylogenetic analysis and domain predictions of Nox proteins.** The phylogenetic analysis was performed with amino acid sequences of Nox proteins (Nox1, Nox2, NoxR, and NoxD) from *C. scovillei* and other fungal species, including *Alternaria alternata*, *B. cinerea*, *Colletotrichum higginsianum*, *Epichloë festucae*, *M. oryzae*, *N. crassa*, and *V. dahliae*. The result showed that all proteins were divided into four clades, representing Nox1, Nox2, NoxR, and NoxD clades (Fig. 1). Each Nox protein within the corresponded clade was closely related to its homolog in *C. higginsianum*, but distantly related to its homolog in *A. alternata* (Fig. 1). The domain prediction showed that Nox1, and Nox2 proteins contain a ferric reductase transmembrane component-like domain (IPR013130), FAD-binding 8 domain (IPR013112), and a ferric reductase-NAD binding domain (IPR013121); NoxR proteins contain a PB1 domain (IPR000270); NoxD proteins do not contain domain (Fig. 1). These results suggest that Nox proteins are highly conserved among filamentous fungi.
Targeted gene deletion of Nox genes. To investigate the functional roles of Nox proteins in *C. scovillei*, we generated the deletion mutants (ΔCsnox1, ΔCsnox2, ΔCsnoxr, and ΔCsnoxd) via targeted gene replacement (Fig. 2A). The targeted gene deletions were confirmed with Southern blotting (Fig. 2B). Expressions of target gene were found to be not detected in the corresponded deletion mutant (Fig. 2C). The recovery of expressions of target gene was verified in the corresponded complemented strain in RT-PCR (Fig. 2C).

Dispensable role of Nox genes in mycelial growth and conidiation. To investigate the roles of CsNoxs in mycelial growth, the diameters of colony growth were measured. The diameter of colony growth in wild-type was 42.4 ± 1.1 mm on PDA (Table 1). All deletion mutants exhibited similar colony growth, compared to the wild-type (Fig. 3), suggesting that CsNoxs are not involved in mycelial growth. To test whether CsNoxs are associated with conidiation, we counted the number of reproduced conidia in wild-type and transformants. The wild-type produced 117.8 ± 9.6 conidia/ml (Table 1). All deletion mutants produced similar amount of conidia compared to wild type, suggesting that
Fig. 2. Targeted deletion and complementation of Nox genes (CsNox1, CsNox2, CsNoxR, and CsNoxD). (A) Targeted gene deletion. Each Nox gene was replaced with the HPH cassette via homologous recombination. (B) Verification of deletion mutants. Genomic DNA of wild-type and candidates of deletion mutant was digested with restriction enzymes and hybridized to a probe (about 500 bp). (C) Expression of targeted gene in deletion mutant and complemented strain. Expression of each targeted gene was detected in wild-type and corresponded complemented strain, but not deletion mutant.

Table 1. Phenotypic characterization of CsNoxs-deletion mutants

| Strain    | Mycelial growth (mm) | Conidiation ($\times 10^4$/ml) | Conidial germination (%) | Appressorium formation (%) |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wild-type | 42.4 ± 1.1 A         | 117.8 ± 9.6 A                   | 94.1 ± 2.2 A             | 84.9 ± 3.4 A              |
| ΔCsnox1   | 43.0 ± 1.4 A         | 116.0 ± 10.1 A                  | 93.3 ± 2.6 A             | 84.8 ± 3.6 A              |
| ΔCsnox2   | 42.4 ± 1.1 A         | 115.1 ± 8.8 A                   | 94.6 ± 2.7 A             | 85.0 ± 3.7 A              |
| ΔCsnoxR   | 42.6 ± 1.1 A         | 113.9 ± 8.3 A                   | 93.9 ± 2.6 A             | 84.3 ± 3.4 A              |
| ΔCsnoxD   | 42.6 ± 1.0 A         | 114.0 ± 9.9 A                   | 94.8 ± 2.5 A             | 84.9 ± 3.6 A              |

Mycelial growth was measured at 6 dpi on potato dextrose agar; Conidiation was evaluated by counting conidia harvested with 5 ml of distilled water from V8 agar medium incubated at 5-day dark and then 2-day light condition; Conidial germination and appressorium formation was measured at 12 hpi and 16 hpi, respectively, on the hydrophobic surface by using conidia from 7-day-old oatmeal agar. The same letters in a column indicate no significant difference, which was estimated with Duncan’s test ($P < 0.05$).
CsNoxs are not associated with conidiation. Collectively, these results suggest that the CsNoxs are dispensable for mycelial growth and conidiation of C. scovillei.

**Requirement of Nox2 and NoxR for internal light spot formation during appressorium development.** We further investigated whether CsNoxs are related to appressorium development in response to the hydrophobic surface. The result showed that 94.1 ± 2.2% and 84.9 ± 3.4% of conidia in wild-type germinated and developed appressoria after 12 and 16 h, respectively (Table 1). All deletion mutants were identical in conidial germination and appressorium formation (Table 1), suggesting that CsNoxs are not related to appressorium formation of C. scovillei, in response to hydrophobic surface. During appressorium development,
the internal light spot (ILS) was reported to correspond to appressorium pore and penetration peg development in *Colletotrichum acutatum* (Diéguez-Uribeondo et al., 2003; Wharton and Schilder, 2008). Therefore, we observed the ILS during appressorium development in response to hydrophobic surface. The wild-type, ΔCsnox1, ΔCsnox2, and all complemented strains were found to form the ILS in appressoria, while ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr did not show ILS (Fig. 4), suggesting that CsNox2 and CsNoxR are required for ILS formation. These results suggested that Nox genes are dispensable for appressorium formation, whereas CsNox2 and CsNoxR are required for ILS formation during appressorium development.

**Requirement of Nox2 and NoxR for anthracnose disease development.** To determine whether Nox genes are related to anthracnose development, the conidial suspensions were inoculated onto both intact and wounded pepper fruits. The ΔCsnox1 and ΔCsnox2 caused typical anthracnose disease on both intact and wounded pepper fruits, similar to that caused by wild-type and each corresponded complemented strain (Fig. 5), suggesting that CsNox1 and CsNoxR are not related to pathogenicity of *C. scovillei*. ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr caused anthracnose disease on wounded pepper fruits, similar to that caused by the wild-type and the correspondent strains (Fig. 5). However, ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr failed to cause lesions on intact pepper fruits (Fig. 5), suggesting that CsNox1 and CsNoxR are required for anthracnose development.

**Requirement of Nox2 and NoxR for penetration on host and artificial surface.** We further perform microscopic observation to investigate the penetration process of ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr on intact pepper fruits. The wild-type, ΔCsnox1, ΔCsnox2, and all complemented strains induced dendroid structures in cuticle layers of pepper fruits (Fig. 6). However, ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr failed to induce dendroid structures, while they adequately formed appressoria (Fig. 6). We further performed SEM to study the appressorium-mediated penetration. The penetration hole in the wild-type, ΔCsnox1, and ΔCsnox2 infected pepper fruits could be clearly observed, while ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxr failed to generate penetration holes (Fig. 7A). This result suggests that CsNox2 and CsNoxR are critical for appressorium-mediated penetration on host surface.

To further investigate roles of CsNox2 and CsNoxR in appressorium-mediated penetration of *C. scovillei*. We dropped conidia suspensions onto cellophane membranes,
which were placed on PDA. After removing cellophane membrane and culturing 2 days more, the wild-type, ΔCsnox1 and ΔCsnoxR showed mycelial growth on PDA, revealing that they successfully penetrated onto cellophane membrane (Fig. 7B). However, ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxd failed to penetrate onto cellophane membrane, because no mycelial growth could be observed on PDA (Fig. 7B), suggesting that CsNox2 and CsNoxR are required for penetration onto cellophane membrane. Together, these results suggest that CsNox2 and CsNoxR are essential for appressorium-mediated penetration of C. scovillei on both host and artificial surface.

Discussion

The Nox genes (CsNox1, CsNox2, CsNoxR, and CsNoxD) are dispensable for fungal developments, including mycelial growth, conidiation, conidial germination, and appressorium formation of C. scovillei. However, those genes were previously demonstrated to be essential for growth, proliferation, and differentiation in many endophytes (Canodominguez et al., 2008; Kayano et al., 2013; Lara-Ortiz et al., 2003). For example, noxA and noxR are associated with hyphal fusion and conidiation in E. festucae (Kayano et al., 2013). Deletion of noxA blocked development of fruiting body in A. nidulans, whereas inactivation of noxA did not affect sexual development but reduced conidiation and hyphal growth in N. crassa (Canodominguez et al., 2008). These results suggest that Nox gens may play specific roles in fungal developments among different fungal species.

The ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxd were normal in appressorium formation and anthracnose formation on wounded pepper fruits (Table 1, Fig. 5), suggesting that ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxd may be defective in penetration peg development. The failures in developing ILS (Fig. 4) and penetrating cellophane membrane and host cuticle layer (Figs. 6 and 7) strongly indicate that ΔCsnox2 and ΔCsnoxd are defective in penetration peg development. The ILS is known to associate with penetration pore and is required for penetration peg differentiation of Colletotrichum acutatum (Diéguez-Uribeondo et al., 2003; Wharton and Schilder, 2008). Molecular mechanisms underlying Nox2 and NoxR-dependent penetration were extensively studied in M. oryzae (Ryder et al., 2013; Segmüller et al., 2008). The penetration peg initiates after the reorganization of F-actin during turgor pressure buildup in appressorium (Dagdas et al., 2012). Treatment with a Nox inhibitor (diphenyleneiodonium chloride), or deletion of Nox2 or NoxR resulted in abnormal localizations of gelsolin and septin, which are regulators of F-actin reorganization (Ryder et al., 2013). Later, the Nox2 and NoxR-dependent penetration was found to be controlled by a Zn(II)2Cys6 transcription factor Tpc1 via directly regulating the expression of NoxD (Galhano et al., 2017). Tpc1 physically interacts with Mst12, which is regulated by Pmk1-type MAP kinase during appressorium repolarization (Galhano et al., 2017). Thus, the Noxs should function in the downstream of Pmk1-dependent signaling pathway during appressorium repolarization and penetration peg initiation (Kou et al., 2019). Furthermore, Noxs-dependent appressorium repolarization is associated with autophagy in M. oryzae (Galhano et al., 2017). Although Nox2 and NoxR are required for penetration peg initiation in both C. scovillei and M. oryzae, generation of high turgor pressure inside appressorium and autophagic cell death of conidium do not occur in C. scovillei (Fu et al., 2021). Therefore, the underlying mechanisms of CsNox2 and CsNoxR in C. scovillei are still attractive for further investigation.

Unlike Nox2, which is essential for penetration peg differentiation, deletion of CsNox1 did not cause obvious defects in developments of ILS, penetration peg, and anthracnose disease of C. scovillei (Figs. 4-7). Intriguingly, the ΔbcnoxA in B. cinerea could successfully penetrate but failed to colonize in host tissues (Segmüller et al., 2008). The ΔnoxA in M. oryzae was non-pathogenic because it was unable to elongate the penetration peg (Ryder et al., 2013). The Δnoxa in V. dahlia still caused disease but severely reduced in its virulence (Zhu et al., 2021). These findings suggest that Nox1 may play divergent roles among different plant pathogenic fungi, and the Nox1 may be a functional redundancy of the Nox2 in C. scovillei. The adapter protein NoxD was reported to directly interact with Nox1, and both of Δnox1 and ΔnoxD in B. cinerea showed same phenotypes, including defects in fusion of conidial anastomosis tubes, formation of sclerotia and conidia, and pathogenicity (Sieg mund et al., 2015). In M. oryzae, the ΔnoxD showed similar phenotypes on mycelial growth in response to chemical stresses compared to Δnox1 and was significantly impaired in appressorium-mediated penetration and (Ryder et al., 2013). In our study, ΔCsnoxd was normal in fungal developments and pathogenicity, which is in accordance with phenotypes of ΔCsnox1. These findings reveal that Nox1 and the adapter NoxD may play same functional roles within a fungal species, but their orthologs are functionally diverse among different fungi.

Our study represents the first attempt to investigate functional roles of Nox complexes in C. scovillei. Notably, the CsNox2 and CsNoxR regulate penetration peg differentiation, whereas CsNox1 and CsNoxD are not associated with fungal developments and pathogenicity of C. scovillei. Our
Roles of CsNoxs in Pepper Anthracnose

Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the Basic Science Research Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea grant (NRF-2020R1A2C100550700) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and by a grant (918019043HD020) from the Strategic Initiative for Microbiomes in Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea.

Electronic Supplementary Material

Supplementary materials are available at The Plant Pathology Journal website (http://www.ppjonline.org/).

References

Bedard, K. and Krause, K.-H. 2007. The NOX family of ROS-generating NADPH oxidases: physiology and pathophysiology. Physiol. Rev. 87:245-313.

Cano-Dominguez, N., Álvarez-Delfín, K., Hansberg, W. and Aguirre, J. 2008. NADPH oxidases NOX-1 and NOX-2 require the regulatory subunit NOR-1 to control cell differentiation and growth in Neurospora crassa. Eukaryot. Cell 7:1352-1361.

Chi, M. H., Park, S. Y. and Lee, Y. H. 2009. A quick and safe method for fungal DNA extraction. Plant Pathol. J. 25:108-111.

Choi, J., Kim, Y., Kim, S., Park, J. and Lee, Y.-H. 2009. MoCRZI, a gene encoding a calcineurin-responsive transcription factor, regulates fungal growth and pathogenicity of Magnaporthe oryzae. Fungal Genet. Biol. 46:243-254.

Dagdas, Y. F., Yoshino, K., Dagdas, G., Ryder, L. S., Bielska, E., Steinberg, G. and Talbot, N. J. 2012. Septin-mediated plant cell invasion by the rice blast fungus, Magnaporthe oryzae. Science 336:1590-1595.

Diéguez-Uribeondo, J., Förster, H. and Adaskaveg, J. E. 2003. Digital image analysis of internal light spots of appressoria of Colletotrichum acutatum. Phytopathology 93:923-930.

Fu, T., Han, J.-H., Shin, J.-H., Song, H., Ko, J., Lee, Y.-H., Kim, K.-T. and Kim, K. S. 2021. Homeobox transcription factors are required for fungal development and the suppression of host defense mechanisms in the Colletotrichum scovillei-pepper pathosystem. mBio 12:e0162021.

Fu, T., Park, G.-C., Han, J. H., Shin, J.-H., Park, H.-H. and Kim, K. S. 2019. MoRBP9 encoding a Ran-binding protein microtubule-organizing center is required for asexual reproduction and infection in the rice blast pathogen Magnaporthe oryzae. Plant Pathol. J. 35:564-574.

Fu, T., Shin, J.-H., Lee, N.-H., Lee, K. H. and Kim, K. S. 2022. Mitogen-activated protein kinase CsPMK1 is essential for pepper fruit anthracnose by Colletotrichum scovillei. Front. Microbiol. 13:770119.

Galliano, R., Illana, A., Ryder, L. S., Rodríguez-Romero, J., De-muez, M., Badaruddin, M., Martínez-Rocha, A. L., Soanes, D. M., Studholme, D. J., Talbot, N. J. and Sesma, A. 2017. Tpc1 is an important Zn(II)Cys, transcriptional regulator required for polarized growth and virulence in the rice blast fungus. PLoS Pathog. 13:e1006516.

Giacomini, R. M., Ruas, C. D. F., Moreira, A. F. P., Guidone, G. H. M., Baba, V. Y., Rodrigues, R. and Gonçalves, L. S. A. 2020. Inheritance of anthracnose resistance (Colletotrichum scovillei) in ripe and unripe Capsicum annuum fruits. J. Phytopath. 168:184-192.

Han, J.-H., Chon, J.-K., Ahn, J.-H., Choi, I.-Y., Lee, Y.-H. and Kim, K. S. 2016. Whole genome sequence and genome annotation of Colletotrichum acutatum, causal agent of anthracnose in pepper plants in South Korea. Genom. Data 8:45-46.

Han, J.-H., Shin, J.-H., Lee, Y.-H. and Kim, K. S. 2018. Distinct roles of the YPEL gene family in development and pathogenicity in the ascomycete fungus Magnaporthe oryzae. Sci. Rep. 8:14461.

Kayano, Y., Tanaka, A., Akano, F., Scott, B. and Takemoto, D. 2013. Differential roles of NADPH oxidases and associated regulators in polarized growth, conidiation and hyphal fusion in the symbiotic fungus Epichloë festucae. Fungal Genet. Biol. 56:87-97.

Kim, S., Park, M., Yeom, S.-I., Kim, Y.-M., Lee, J. M., Lee, H.-A., Seo, E., Choi, J., Cheong, K., Kim, K.-T., Jung, K., Lee, G.-W., Oh, S.-K., Bae, C., Kim, S.-B., Lee, H.-Y., Kim, S.-Y., Kim, M.-S., Kang, B.-C., Jo, Y. D., Yang, H.-B., Jeong, H.-J., Kang, W.-H., Kwon, J.-K., Shin, C., Lim, J. Y., Park, J. H., Huh, J. H., Kim, J.-S., Kim, B.-D., Cohen, O., Paran, I., Suh, M. C., Lee, S. B., Kim, Y.-K., Shin, Y., Noh, S.-J., Park, J., Seo, Y. S., Kwon, S.-Y., Kim, H. A., Park, J. M., Kim, H.-J., Choi, S.-B., Bosland, P. W., Reeves, G., Jo, S.-H., Lee, B.-W., Cho, H.-T., Choi, H.-S., Lee, M.-S., Yu, Y., Choi, Y. D., Park, B.-S., van Deynze, A., Ashrafi, H., Hill, T., Kim, W. T., Pai, H.-S., Ahn, H. K., Yeam, I., Giovannoni, J. J., Rose, J. K. C., Sorensen, L., Lee, S.-J., Kim, R. W., Choi, I.-Y., Choi, B.-S., Lim, J.-S., Lee, Y.-H. and Choi, D. 2014. Genome sequence of the hot pepper provides insights into the evolution of pungency in Capsicum species. Nat. Genet. 46:270-278.

Kou, Y., Qi, J. and Tao Z. 2019. Every coin has two sides: reactive oxygen species during Rice–Magnaporthe oryzae interaction. Int. J. Mol. Sci. 20:1191.

Lambeth, J. D. 2004. NOX enzymes and the biology of reactive oxygen. Nat. Rev. Immunol. 4:181-189.

Lara-Ortíz, T., Riveros-Rosas, H. and Aguirre, J. 2003. Reactive oxygen species generated by microbial NADPH oxidase...
NoxA regulate sexual development in *Aspergillus nidulans*. *Mol. Microbiol.* 50:1241-1255.

Lee, N.-H., Fu, T., Shin, J.-H., Song, Y.-W., Jang, D.-C. and Kim, K. S. 2021. The small GTPase CsRAC1 is important for fungal development and pepper anthracnose in *Colletotrichum scovillei*. *Plant Pathol.* 37:607-618.

Liao, C.-Y., Chen, M.-Y., Chen, Y.-K., Kuo, K.-C., Chung, K.-R. and Lee, M.-H. 2012. Formation of highly branched hyphae by *Colletotrichum acutatum* within the fruit cuticles of *Capsicum* spp. *Plant Pathol.* 61:262-270.

Livak, K. J. and Schmittgen, T. D. 2001. Analysis of relative gene expression data using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2−ΔΔCT method. *Methods* 25:402-408.

Oo, M. M. and Oh, S.-K. 2016. Chilli anthracnose (*Colletotrichum* spp.) disease and its management approach. *Korean J. Agric. Sci.* 43:153-162.

Pariona, N., Mtz-Enriquez, A. I., Sánchez-Rangel, D., Carrión, G., Paraguay-Delgado, F. and Rosas-Saito, G. 2019. Green-synthesized copper nanoparticles as a potential antifungal against plant pathogens. *RSC Adv.* 9:18835-18843.

Park, S.-Y., Choi, J., Lim, S.-E., Lee, G.-W., Park, J., Kim, Y., Kong, S., Kim, S. R., Rho, H.-S., Jeon, J., Chi, M.-H., Kim, S., Khang, C. H., Kang, S. and Lee, Y.-H. 2013. Global expression profiling of transcription factor genes provides new insights into pathogenicity and stress responses in the rice blast fungus. *PLoS Pathog.* 9:e1003350.

Rada, B. and Leto, T. L. 2008. Oxidative innate immune defenses by Nox/Duox family NADPH oxidases. *Contrib. Microbiol.* 15:164-187.

Rastogi, R., Geng, X., Li, F. and Ding, Y. 2017. NOX activation by subunit interaction and underlying mechanisms in disease. *Front. Cell. Neurosci.* 10:301.

Ryder, L. S., Dagdas, Y. F., Mentlak, T. A., Kershaw, M. J., Thornton, C. R., Schuster, M., Chen, J., Wang, Z. and Talbot, N. J. 2013. NADPH oxidases regulate septin-mediated cytoskeletal remodeling during plant infection by the rice blast fungus. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 110:3179-3184.

Sahoo, B. M., Banik, B. K., Borah, P. and Jain, A. 2022. Reactive oxygen species (ROS): key components in cancer therapies. *Anticancer Agents Med. Chem.* 22:215-222.

Saxena, A., Raghuvanshi, R., Gupta, V. K. and Singh, H. B. 2016. Chilli anthracnose: the epidemiology and management. *Front. Microbiol.* 7:1527.

Schroechl, V., Scherlach, K., Nützmann, H.-W., Shelest, E., Schmidt-Heck, W., Schuemann, J., Martin, K., Hertweck, C. and Brakhage, A. A. 2009. Intimate bacterial-fungal interaction triggers biosynthesis of archetypal polyketides in *Aspergillus nidulans*. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* 106:14558-14563.

Scott, B. 2015. Conservation of fungal and animal nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase complexes. *Mol. Microbiol.* 95:910-913.

Segmüller, N., Kokkelink, L., Giesbert, S., Odnius, D., van Kan, J. and Tudzynski, P. 2008. NADPH oxidases are involved in differentiation and pathogenicity in *Botrytis cinerea*. *Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact.* 21:808-819.

Shin, J.-H., Fu, T. and Kim, K. S. 2021. Pex7 selectively imports PTS2 target proteins to peroxisomes and is required for anthracnose disease development in *Colletotrichum scovillei*. *Fungal Genet. Biol.* 157:103636.

Shin, J.-H., Han, J.-H., Park, H.-H., Fu, T. and Kim, K. S. 2019. Optimization of polyethylene glycol-mediated transformation of the pepper anthracnose pathogen *Colletotrichum scovillei* to develop an applied genomics approach. *Plant Pathol.* 35:575-584.

Shin, J.-H., Kim, H.-Y., Fu, T., Lee, K.-H. and Kim, K. S. 2022. CsPOM1, a DYRK family kinase, plays diverse roles in fungal development, virulence, and stress tolerance in the anthracnose pathogen *Colletotrichum scovillei*. *Front. Cell. Infect. Microbiol.* 12:869195.

Siegmund, U., Marschall, R. and Tudzynski, P. 2015. BeNoxD, a putative ER protein, is a new component of the NADPH oxidase complex in *Botrytis cinerea*. *Mol. Microbiol.* 95:988-1005.

Srinivasan, M., Vijayalakshmi Kothandaraman, S., Vaikuntavasan, P. and Rethinamany, V. 2014. Development of conventional and real-time PCR protocols for specific and sensitive detection of *Colletotrichum capsici* in chilli (*Capsicum annuum* L.). *Phytoparasitica* 42:437-444.

Sumimoto, H. 2008. Structure, regulation and evolution of Nox-family NADPH oxidases that produce reactive oxygen species. *FEBS J.* 275:3249-3277.

Takekomo, D., Tanaka, A. and Scott, B. 2007. NADPH oxidases in fungi: diverse roles of reactive oxygen species in fungal cellular differentiation. *Fungal Genet. Biol.* 44:1065-1076.

Torres, M. A. and Dangl, J. L. 2005. Functions of the respiratory burst oxidase in biotic interactions, abiotic stress and development. *Curr. Opin. Plant. Biol.* 8:397-403.

Wang, P., Li, B., Pan, Y.-Z., Zhang, Y.-Z., Li, D.-W. and Huang, L. 2020. Calcineurin-responsive transcription factor CgCrzA is required for cell wall integrity and infection-related morphogenesis in *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*. *Plant Pathol.* 36:385-397.

Wharton, P. S. and Schilder, A. C. 2008. Novel infection strategies of *Colletotrichum acutatum* on ripe blueberry fruit. *Plant Pathol.* 57:122-134.

Yang, S. L. and Chung, K.-R. 2012. The NADPH oxidase-mediated production of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) and resistance to oxidative stress in the necrotrophic pathogen *Alternaria alternata* of citrus. *Mol. Plant Pathol.* 13:900-914.

Yu, J.-H., Hamari, Z., Han, K.-H., Sea, J.-A., Reyes-Dominguez, Y. and Scacciazio, C. 2004. Double-joint PCR: a PCR-based molecular tool for gene manipulations in filamentous fungi. *Fungal Genet. Biol.* 41:973-981.

Zhao, Y.-L., Zhou, T.-T. and Guo, H.-S. 2016. Hyphopodium-specific VdNoxB/VdPls1-dependent ROS-Ca²⁺ signaling is required for plant infection by *Verticillium dahliae*. *PLoS Pathog.* 12:e1005793.

Zhu, X., Sayari, M., Islam, M. R. and Daayf, F. 2021. NOXA is required for pepper anthracnose in *Colletotrichum acutatum*. *Mol. Plant Pathol.* 25:402-408.