Figure S1. Principal component analysis (PCA) presenting the relationships between selected physiological parameters measured in corn shoots treated with Cd (A) or Pb (B). The green dotted line indicates the concentrations at which hormetic growth stimulation was observed. Abbreviations: A – photosynthetic rate; Chl – chlorophyll content index; E – transpiration rate; Flav – flavonol content index; growth – shoots growth; gs – stomatal conductance; H₂O₂ – hydrogen peroxide concentration; IAA – auxin concentration; RC/CS – percentage of active reaction centers per excited cross section of leaf.
Table S1. Correlation between factors examined in PCA for plants treated with Cd.

|         | growth | Chl   | Fla   | E     | gs    | A     | IAA   | $H_2O_2$ | RC/CS  |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| growth  | 1.000000 | 0.101192 | 0.330125 | 0.094444 | -0.071728 | 0.080840 | 0.560396 | -0.028323 | 0.166741 |
| Chl     | 0.101192 | 1.000000 | -0.147910 | 0.630964 | 0.771425 | 0.734339 | -0.188650 | -0.345621 | 0.475751 |
| Fla     | 0.330125 | -0.147910 | 1.000000 | -0.161816 | -0.555539 | -0.317600 | 0.401176 | 0.286911 | -0.232633 |
| E       | 0.094444 | 0.630964 | -0.161816 | 1.000000 | 0.802046 | 0.881531 | 0.033929 | -0.201500 | 0.519676 |
| gs      | -0.071728 | 0.771425 | -0.555539 | 0.802046 | 1.000000 | 0.862240 | -0.247101 | -0.316661 | 0.504085 |
| A       | 0.080840 | 0.734339 | -0.317600 | 0.862240 | 1.000000 | -0.047210 | -0.319834 | 0.580864 |
| IAA     | 0.560396 | -0.188650 | 0.401176 | -0.047210 | -0.316661 | 1.000000 | 0.454417 |
| $H_2O_2$ | -0.028323 | -0.345621 | 0.286911 | -0.047210 | -0.316661 | 0.454417 | 1.000000 | -0.566378 |
| RC/CS   | 0.166741 | 0.475751 | -0.232633 | 0.519676 | 0.504085 | 0.580864 | -0.011575 | 1.000000 |

Abbreviations: A – photosynthetic rate; Chl – chlorophyll content index; E – transpiration rate; Flav – flavonol content index; growth – shoots growth; gs – stomatal conductance; $H_2O_2$ – hydrogen peroxide concentration; IAA – auxin concentration; RC/CS – percentage of active reaction centers per excited cross section of leaf.

Table S2. Correlation between factors examined in PCA for plants treated with Pb.

|         | growth | Chl   | Fla   | E     | gs    | A     | IAA   | $H_2O_2$ | RC/CS  |
|---------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------|
| growth  | 1.000000 | 0.867361 | 0.096756 | 0.491663 | 0.326132 | 0.525343 | 0.320978 | -0.469741 | 0.072830 |
| Chl     | 0.867361 | 1.000000 | -0.094176 | 0.586928 | 0.486777 | 0.537779 | 0.235512 | -0.541495 | 0.270647 |
| Fla     | 0.096756 | -0.094176 | 1.000000 | -0.284877 | -0.512818 | -0.141167 | 0.327342 | 0.578768 | -0.634261 |
| E       | 0.491663 | 0.586928 | -0.284877 | 1.000000 | 0.841168 | 0.917609 | -0.040351 | -0.730714 | 0.423573 |
| gs      | 0.326132 | 0.486777 | -0.512818 | 0.841168 | 1.000000 | 0.741335 | -0.229662 | -0.811741 | 0.624591 |
| A       | 0.525343 | 0.537779 | -0.141167 | 0.917609 | 0.741335 | 1.000000 | 0.069225 | -0.590857 | 0.241251 |
| IAA     | 0.320978 | 0.235512 | 0.327342 | -0.040351 | -0.229662 | 0.069225 | 1.000000 | 0.300967 | -0.245486 |
| $H_2O_2$ | -0.469741 | -0.541495 | 0.578768 | -0.730714 | -0.811741 | -0.590857 | 0.300967 | 1.000000 | -0.617828 |
| RC/CS   | 0.072830 | 0.270647 | -0.634261 | 0.423573 | 0.624591 | 0.241251 | -0.245486 | -0.617828 | 1.000000 |

Abbreviations: A – photosynthetic rate; Chl – chlorophyll content index; E – transpiration rate; Flav – flavonol content index; growth – shoots growth; gs – stomatal conductance; $H_2O_2$ – hydrogen peroxide concentration; IAA – auxin concentration; RC/CS – percentage of active reaction centers per excited cross section of leaf.