

Research Note

Differential Display Analysis of the Early Compatible Interaction Between Soybean and the Soybean Cyst Nematode

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The marked cellular changes during feeding site formation of the soybean cyst nematode (*Heterodera glycines*) indicate major changes in soybean gene expression. We used differential display of mRNA to detect host gene expression changes during the early compatible interaction between soybean and *H. glycines*. Fifteen cDNA clones corresponding to mRNAs with different abundances in *H. glycines*-infected versus uninfected roots were identified. Differential display results indicated that abundances of five mRNAs increased in infected roots, whereas abundances of 10 mRNAs decreased. Transcripts for nine of these 15 cDNAs could be detected on RNA blots, and their hybridization signals confirmed the differential display results for eight of these nine cDNAs. Sequence analyses identified five cDNAs with decreased mRNA levels in infected roots as corresponding to two putative aldolase genes, a transcription-factor TFIIA homologue, the soybean small GTP-binding protein gene *sra1*, and the soybean auxin down-regulated gene ADR12. RNA blot analyses of other auxin down-regulated genes revealed a decrease in their mRNA abundances in *H. glycines*-infected roots as well.

Additional keyword: syncytium.

The soybean cyst nematode (SCN), *Heterodera glycines*, is a sedentary endoparasite that causes severe yield losses in many soybean-producing countries (Wrather et al. 1997). In the U.S., SCN damage is regarded as the largest source of pathogen-related crop damage (Wrather and Sciumbato 1995; Wrather et al. 1995). In the north central U.S. alone, annual monetary losses exceeded hundreds of millions of dollars (Doupnik 1993). SCN management is complicated by economic constraints on farmers to maintain a high proportion of soybean plantings in crop rotations, thereby steadily increasing SCN field inoculum densities. Although available SCN-resistant soybean cultivars decrease nematode reproduction they, nevertheless, experience substantial yield reductions (G.

L. Tylka, *personal communication*) and, more importantly, may become ineffective over time as virulent SCN populations are selected.

During the SCN life cycle, second-stage juveniles (J2) hatch from eggs in the soil and search for and invade soybean roots. Within the roots, they migrate intracellularly through the root cortex, probably relying on enzymatic softening of root tissues (Smant et al. 1998) and the piercing action of their protrusible mouth spears (stylets). J2 become sedentary when an initial feeding cell adjacent to host vascular tissues is selected and parasitized. The nematodes then induce cell morphology changes and symplastic fusion of adjacent root cells, leading to the formation of a syncytium. Sedentary nematodes feed from their syncytia and develop into adults.

The morphological and physiological changes of syncytium formation are thought to be the result of SCN-directed changes of soybean gene expression (reviewed by Williamson and Hussey 1996). This process is not understood. Several studies have shown the transcriptional regulation of gene expression in other cyst nematode pathosystems (Goddijn et al. 1993; Gurr et al. 1991; Hansen et al. 1996; Niebel et al. 1993, 1995, 1996; Strittmatter et al. 1996; Urwin et al. 1997). However, available data do not allow an understanding of cyst nematode-plant interactions. Identification and characterization of soybean genes that are potentially involved in the cyst nematode-plant interaction promise to be of high informative value.

Here we report on our efforts to identify genes that change their expression levels during the early stages of the compatible interaction between SCN and a susceptible soybean cultivar, through the use of differential display of mRNA (Liang and Pardee 1992). The performance of differential display increases dramatically with the quality of the selected starting material. Therefore, we devised two methods for the preparation of soybean tissues suitable for the analysis of gene expression changes (Fig. 1). While the inoculation method with whole soybean seedlings was used for the preparation of tissues for RNA blot experiments, the excised root tip method was chosen for the preparation of differential display starting materials, for the following reasons. The use of very short root pieces confined the invading nematodes to a small amount of tissue, resulting in an enrichment of host cells actually involved in the nematode-plant interaction. Furthermore, the use of cut root pieces for both the infected and the uninfected

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samples may have compensated for systemic plant wound responses due to SCN damage in infected roots. The advantages of both methods were the assurance of sterile starting material, defined developmental stages of root tissue and nematodes, synchronism of the infection process, and a confined infection zone, resulting in a relatively high proportion of host cells involved in interactions with SCN.

We used differential display to compare mRNA abundances in the following two treatments: (i) SCN-infected excised root tips 24 h after inoculation; and (ii) mock-inoculated, uninfected root tips to which an appropriate number of preparasitic nematodes had been added immediately before RNA extraction. Differential display analyses were adapted from the protocol of Liang et al. (1995). Briefly, the mRNA in 400 ng of total cellular RNA was reverse transcribed with SuperscriptII RNaseH⁻ reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) and 1.25 μ M one discriminating anchor primer (5'-T12AC-3', 5'-T12AG-3', 5'-T12CA-3', 5'-T12CC-3', or 5'-

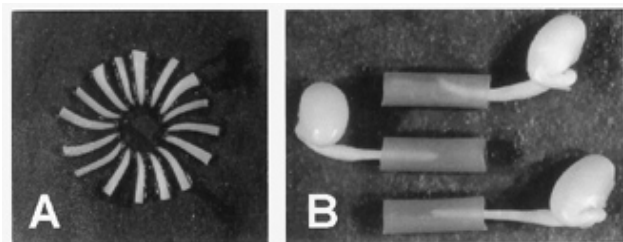


Fig. 1. Two methods for the inoculation of soybean primary roots with soybean cyst nematode second-stage juveniles. **A**, Inoculation of excised root tips. **B**, Inoculation of whole primary roots of 2-day-old soybean seedlings. For preparation of sterile soybean seedlings needed in both methods, seeds of susceptible cv. Corsoy 79 were surface sterilized by agitation for 3 min in 70% ethanol followed by 12 min in 0.525% sodium hypochlorite. Surface-sterilized seeds were allowed to germinate and grow for 2 days at 26°C in darkness on blue blotter paper circles (Anchor Paper, St. Paul, MN) soaked with a sterile aqueous 0.1 mg of penicillin G per ml solution in plastic petri dishes. For the first method (**A**), root tips were cut to approximately 7-mm lengths from sterile 2-day-old seedlings and transferred in groups of 16 onto blue blotter paper circles that had been placed in 60-mm plastic petri dishes and wetted with Gamborg's B5 medium (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) containing 0.1 mg of penicillin G per ml. Inoculation was performed by pipetting 0.1 ml of an agarose-nematode suspension, containing about 500 nematodes, into the center of each root circle. After solidifying, the agarose was covered with another 0.1 ml of agarose without nematodes. In the second method (**B**), primary roots of sterile 2-day-old seedlings were inoculated with nematodes by sliding a piece of sterile rubber tubing (2.5 mm inner diameter, 12 mm length) over the root tip and pipetting 0.1 ml of the agarose suspension, containing approximately 200 nematodes, from the front opening into the tubing. Plates containing root tissues were sealed with Parafilm and incubated at 26°C in darkness. At 24 h post-inoculation, roots prepared by both methods were harvested, frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C until used. Control roots underwent the same treatments except for receiving agarose without nematodes. For visual proof of infection, parasitic nematodes were stained in situ with acid fuchsin following the procedure of Hussey (1990). Throughout this study, the inbred line OP50 (Dong and Opperman 1997) of the soybean cyst nematode (*Heterodera glycines*) was used. Nematodes were propagated in greenhouse cultures with Corsoy 79 as host. Cysts and females were recovered from infected roots and eggs were released by standard nematological techniques. Nematodes were hatched in 3.14 mM ZnSO₄ on modified Baerman pans. Nematodes were surface sterilized for 12 min in 0.01% mercuric chloride and subsequently washed 3 times in sterile 10 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0. After the final wash, the nematodes were pelleted by centrifugation for 1 min at 10,000 \times g and resuspended in 1.5% low-melting point agarose (Life Technologies) at 37°C.

T12CG-3') in 20 μ l of total volume. A 20- μ l differential display polymerase chain reaction (PCR) contained 2 μ l of the reverse transcription reaction, 1.25 μ M respective anchor primer, 0.25 μ M arbitrary 10-mer primer (5'-GGTACTAAGG-3' [R6] or 5'-GATCACGTAC-3' [R8]), 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 2 μ M (each) dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, 10 μ Ci of α^{32} P-dCTP, and 1 unit *Taq* DNA polymerase (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) in 1 \times *Taq* DNA polymerase PCR buffer. Each reaction contained 220 ng of *Taq*Start antibody (Clontech Laboratories, Palo Alto, CA) in order to allow a hot-start PCR. For temperature cycling the following program was used: 1 cycle 2 min at 94°C; 40 cycles (30 s at 94°C, 2 min at 40°C, 30 s at 72°C); 1 cycle 5 min at 72°C; hold at 4°C. PCR products were separated on denaturing sequencing gels (Sambrook et al. 1989) containing 6% vol/vol LongRanger gel solution (FMC BioProducts, Rockland, ME). Gels were dried, and autoradiography was performed. Film images were surveyed for treatment-specific or treatment-preferential signals. All differential display reactions were performed in duplicate. Interesting bands were excised from the gels. Excised gel bands containing cDNAs of interest were transferred into 0.1 ml of distilled water and incubated for 10 min at room temperature followed by 15 min of incubation at 100°C in order to elute the cDNAs. Reamplification of cDNAs was carried out in a 40- μ l PCR (identical program as above) containing 2 μ l of cDNA eluate, 0.5 μ M anchor primer, 0.5 μ M arbitrary primer, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 20 μ M each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, 440 ng of *Taq*Start antibody, and 2 units of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Life Technologies) in 1 \times *Taq* DNA polymerase PCR buffer.

Reamplified cDNAs were ligated into the pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega, Madison, WI) following the manufacturer's protocol and transformed into *Escherichia coli* XLI-Blue MRF' cells (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). For each candidate cDNA, six transformant colonies were cultured and their plasmids isolated. Of each plasmid, 200 ng was slot blotted in duplicate with a Hoefer PR 648 slot blot filtration manifold (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ) according to the manufacturer's guidelines. Duplicate slot blots of the six plasmids of each transformation were probed with the appropriate differential display reaction mix derived from RNA from either uninfected or infected roots (Vögeli-Lange et al.

Table 1. Designation, polymerase chain reaction primers, length, and accession number for all cDNA clones identified through differential display analyses of soybean cyst nematode-infected and uninfected soybean roots

| Clone | Primers | Length | Accession no. |
|-------|-------------------------|--------|---------------|
| D8.3 | T ₁₂ CG / R6 | 163 bp | AF068120 |
| D10.1 | T ₁₂ CG | 580 bp | AF068121 |
| D11.5 | T ₁₂ CG / R8 | 393 bp | AF068122 |
| D12.4 | T ₁₂ CG / R8 | 259 bp | AF068123 |
| D13.4 | T ₁₂ CG / R8 | 215 bp | AF068124 |
| D14.4 | T ₁₂ CG / R8 | 162 bp | AF068125 |
| D17.1 | T ₁₂ AG / R6 | 326 bp | AF068126 |
| D19.4 | T ₁₂ CA / R6 | 318 bp | AF068127 |
| D20.1 | T ₁₂ CC | 265 bp | AF068128 |
| D21.4 | T ₁₂ AC / R8 | 550 bp | AF068129 |
| D22.2 | T ₁₂ AC / R8 | 465 bp | AF068130 |
| D23.6 | T ₁₂ AG / R8 | 230 bp | AF068131 |
| D24.5 | T ₁₂ AG / R8 | 185 bp | AF068132 |
| D25.1 | T ₁₂ CA / R8 | 297 bp | AF068133 |
| D26.6 | T ₁₂ CA / R8 | 168 bp | AF068134 |

1996). Hybridized probes were quantified with a Storm840 PhosphorImager and ImageQuant software (both from Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA). Clones that exhibited the predicted hybridization intensity differences were retained for further analyses. This method allowed the identification of plasmids containing the PCR product corresponding to the

polymorphic band originally detected in the differential display gel.

With 10 primer combinations, 26 differential display bands with intensity differences between the two differential display treatments were identified. Of the 26, 15 were recovered as plasmid clones that showed hybridization intensity differences

Table 2. Basic local alignment search tool (BLAST) search results and mRNA abundance changes for the cDNA clones identified by differential display analyses

| Clone | BLAST search results Sequence similarities, accession nos., and references | Score | P | Transcript change in infected roots (%) ^a | | |
|-------|---|-------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | Slot blot ^b | Total RNA blot ^c | Poly(A) RNA blot ^d |
| D8.3 | No significant similarity | – | – | –39 | ND | NP |
| D10.1 | <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> BAC F5J6 (AC002329) | 220 | 3.9×10^{-16} | +59 | +24 | NP |
| D11.5 | <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> large subunit of transcription factor TFIIA (X98861) | 346 | 1.1×10^{-18} | –40 | NP | –57 |
| D12.4 | No significant similarity | – | – | +106 | ND | NP |
| D13.4 | <i>Glycine max</i> auxin-down regulated gene ADR12 (X69641; Datta et al. 1993) | 636 | 1.0×10^{-72} | –52 | NP | –66 |
| D14.4 | No significant similarity | – | – | –20 | ND | NP |
| D17.1 | No significant similarity | – | – | +37 | +4 | NP |
| D19.4 | No significant similarity | – | – | –60 | –8 | NP |
| D20.1 | No significant similarity | – | – | –38 | ND | NP |
| D21.4 | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Aldolase A (X04264; Joh et al. 1986) | 147 | 4.2×10^{-2} | –46 | –16 | –42 |
| D22.2 | <i>Glycine max</i> small GTP-binding protein <i>sral</i> (U58853; Yamagata et al. 1997) | 2080 | 5.0×10^{-168} | –35 | NP | –27 |
| D23.6 | <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> BAC FIN21 (AC002130) | 162 | 1.7×10^{-3} | +200 | ND | NP |
| D24.5 | No significant similarity | – | – | +180 | ND | NP |
| D25.1 | <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Aldolase A (X04264; Joh et al. 1986) | 147 | 4.2×10^{-2} | –33 | –6 | –56 |
| D26.6 | <i>Homo sapiens</i> HXC-26 (D83260; Toyoda et al. 1996); XAP-5 (AD001530; Mazzarella et al. 1997); 9F (X87199; Bione et al. 1993) | 175 | 5.6×10^{-5} | –55 | 0 | NP |

^a Values were calculated by determining the difference between hybridization signals for infected and uninfected roots and expressing this difference as percent hybridization signal obtained for uninfected roots. Hybridization signals were quantified with a phosphorimager. ND = hybridizations that did not yield detectable signals; NP = experiments that were not performed.

^b Slot blot values were obtained by probing duplicate slot blots of cDNA clones derived from differential display gels with the respective differential display reaction mixes as described in the text.

^c See Figure 3 for images.

^d See Figure 4 for images.

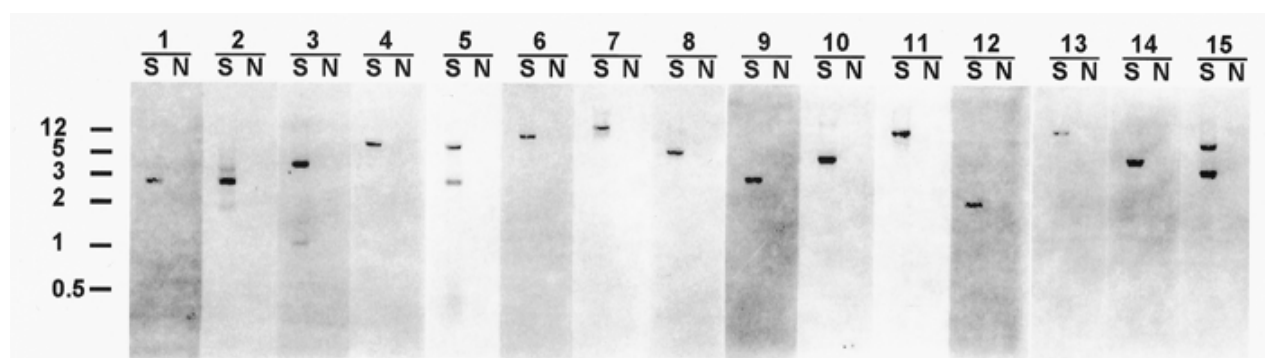


Fig. 2. Blots of *Eco*RI-digested genomic DNA (10 µg per lane) of soybean (S) and soybean cyst nematode (N) hybridized at high stringency with D8.3 (1), D10.1 (2), D11.5 (3), D12.4 (4), D13.4 (5), D14.4 (6), D17.1 (7), D19.4 (8), D20.1 (9), D21.4 (10), D22.2 (11), D23.6 (12), D24.5 (13), D25.1 (14), and D26.6 (15). Size markers (M) are given in kilobase pairs. High-molecular-weight genomic DNA was prepared from frozen tissue ground under liquid nitrogen. Extraction was performed by adding 10 ml of phenol reagent (Tris EDTA [TE]-saturated phenol pH 8.0, 0.1% wt/vol 8-hydroxyquinoline) and 10 ml of extraction buffer (0.1 M LiCl, 0.1 M Tris/Cl pH 9.0, 10 mM EDTA, 1% wt/vol sodium dodecyl sulfate [SDS]). After gentle shaking for 30 min, phases were separated by centrifugation for 5 min at $3,000 \times g$. The aqueous phase was extracted one more time with 10 ml of phenol reagent and, subsequently, two times with 10 ml of chloroform. RNA was removed by LiCl precipitation according to Pelham (1985). The resulting genomic DNA was isopropanol-precipitated, washed in 70% ethanol, and redissolved in TE buffer. Residual RNA contaminations were removed by adding 200 mg of DNase-free RNase A (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) per ml and incubating for 30 min at 37°C. Hybridizations were carried out at 42°C in a hybridization buffer composed of $5 \times$ SSPE (1 \times SSPE is 0.15 M NaCl, 10 mM NaPO₄, and 1 mM EDTA [pH 7.4]), 50% formamide, 0.1% SDS, 5 \times Denhardt's solution, 0.1 mg of herring-sperm DNA per ml, and 3×10^6 cpm/ml of labeled gene probe. Inserts in the pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega, Madison, WI) were labeled via polymerase chain reaction with 0.5 µM (each) vector-specific primers pgem-up (5'-ATGGCGGCCGCGGGAATTCG-3') and pgem-dwn (5'-GCAGGCGGCCGCGAATTCAC-3'). All hybridized blots were washed twice for 20 min in 0.1% SDS/0.1 \times SSC (1 \times SSC is 0.15 M NaCl, and 15 mM sodium citrate, pH 7.0) at 68°C. Bound radiolabeled probes were visualized by standard autoradiography methods.

in the above-described slot blot assay (Tables 1 and 2). When compared with uninfected roots, five cDNAs corresponded to mRNAs with increased abundance in infected roots and 10 cDNAs corresponded to mRNAs with decreased mRNA abundance in infected roots.

High-stringency hybridizations of blots of *Eco*RI-digested genomic DNA from soybean and SCN revealed that all 15 cDNAs originated from soybean (Fig. 2). Nucleotide sequencing revealed that 13 of the 15 recovered differential display clones carried the expected primers at their ends, while the remaining two clones (D10.1 and D20.1) were terminated by the respective anchor primer on both ends (Table 1). The sequences of all clones were subjected to data base comparisons with the BLAST algorithm (Altschul et al. 1990; Table 2). Seven clones (D8.3, D12.4, D14.4, D17.1, D19.4, D20.1, and D24.5) showed no convincing sequence similarities. Weak similarities were observed with an *Arabidopsis thaliana* genomic sequence (D23.6) and a rat aldolase A gene (D21.4 and D25.1). Clone D26.6 showed strong similarity to three human mRNAs: HXC-26 (Toyoda et al. 1996); XAP-5 (Mazzarella et al. 1997); and 9F (Bione et al. 1993). Two other cDNAs showed convincing similarities to a genomic *A. thaliana* sequence (D10.1) and to the large subunit of the *A. thaliana* transcription factor TFIIA (D11.5). Clone D13.4 was identical to the soybean auxin down-regulated gene ADR12 (Datta et al. 1993), and clone D22.2 was identical to the soybean small GTP-binding protein gene *sral* (Yamagata et al. 1997).

Radiolabeled DNA probes of 12 of the identified cDNA clones (D8.3, D10.1, D12.4, D14.4, D17.1, D19.4, D20.1, D21.4, D23.6, D24.5, D25.1, and D26.6) were used to

probe blots prepared from total RNA extracted from SCN-infected and uninfected excised soybean root tips. Six clones (D10.1, D17.1, D19.4, D21.4, D25.1, and D26.6) produced detectable signals on autoradiographs after 15 days of exposure (Fig. 3; Table 2). The obtained hybridization signals for five of the detectable six probes confirmed the mRNA level differences predicted by the differential display analyses although the observed intensity differences were small. However, additional probing of poly(A)-enriched RNA blots with D21.4 and D25.1 (see below) and of total RNA blots of later time points with D10.1 and D17.1 (data not shown) produced much more pronounced differences. One clone (D26.6) did not reveal obvious differences in transcript abundance.

Equal loading of total RNA blots was confirmed by visual assessment of the ribosomal RNA bands in the agarose gel. Additionally, one blot was probed with a soybean rRNA gene fragment (Eckenrode et al. 1984) and a soybean actin 3 gene fragment (Nagao et al. 1981). These hybridizations revealed that in our experiments actin 3 mRNA abundances were unchanged when infected and uninfected roots were compared 24 h after inoculation (Fig. 3). The actin 3 hybridization probe was subsequently used to normalize blots of poly(A)-enriched RNA (see below).

Pooled poly(A)-enriched RNA obtained from two independent inoculations of primary roots and excised root tips (Fig. 1) was blotted and probed with riboprobes derived from D11.5, D13.4, D21.4, D22.2, and D25.1. All probes produced hybridization signals that supported the differential display results (Fig. 4 [D21.4 not shown]; Table 2). Because clone D13.4 was identical to the auxin down-regulated gene

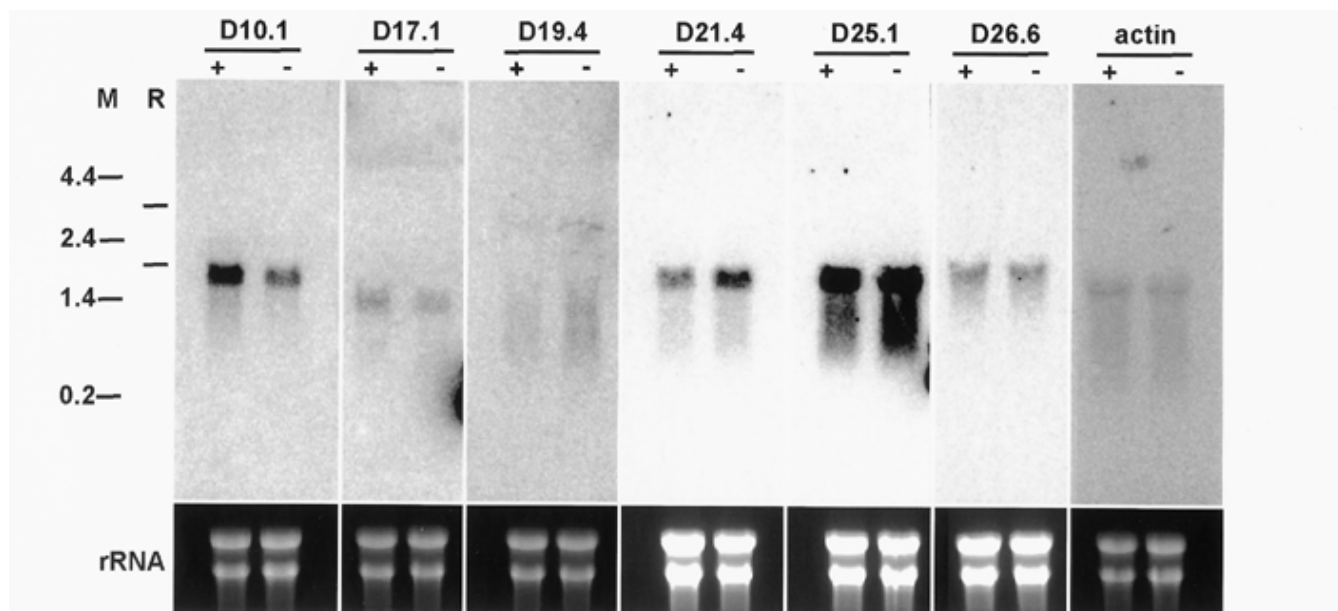


Fig. 3. Blots of total RNA extracted from soybean cyst nematode-infected (+) and uninfected (-) excised soybean root tips 24 h after inoculation. Blots were exposed for 15 days. Size markers are given in kilobases (M) and positions of 28S and 18S rRNA bands are indicated (R). Lower panel (rRNA) shows ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel before blotting. Each lane contained 10 μ g of RNA and apparently different staining intensities are due to varying exposure times during photography of the agarose gels. Isolation of total RNA was performed as described in Pawlowski et al. (1994). Probes for the soybean actin 3 (Nagao et al. 1981) and rRNA (Eckenrode et al. 1984) clones were radiolabeled by random priming (Random Primers DNA Labeling System; Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) of gel-purified cDNA fragments. Other probes were prepared and all blots were hybridized and washed as described in Figure 2. Bound radiolabeled probes were visualized by standard autoradiography methods with a Storm840 PhosphorImager, which allowed exact quantification of hybridized probe with the ImageQuant software (both from Molecular Dynamics, Sunnyvale, CA).

ADR12, partial cDNAs of the auxin down-regulated genes ADR6 and ADR11 (Baulcombe and Key 1980) were used as riboprobes on identical poly(A)-enriched RNA blots. All three auxin down-regulated genes (ADR 6, 11, and 12) showed strong mRNA decreases upon nematode infection of -80, -64, and -66%, respectively. These conspicuous decreases in mRNA abundances suggest increased auxin concentration or sensitivity in SCN-infected roots. Similar conclusions can be drawn from the observed activation of auxin-responsive promoters in potato roots infected by the potato cyst nematode, *Globodera rostochiensis* (Goverse et al. 1998).

Results from RNA blot analyses confirmed the differential display results for eight of the nine mRNAs above the detection limit. We, therefore, conclude that differential display in combination with the described slot blot screening procedure provided a reliable tool to detect mRNA abundance differences. The actual percentage of transcript changes determined by slot blot hybridizations versus RNA blots was, not surprisingly, different. This result was most likely due to disproportionate amplification of cDNAs during the differential display PCR reactions. Furthermore, the actual RNA preparations used for differential display reactions and RNA blots were from different root inoculations, so that different results for the individual assays could be expected. The fact that for several cDNAs the observed expression changes were evident in separate RNA preparations lends veracity to our findings.

A high degree of complexity of the SCN-soybean interac-

tion has to be assumed, since the use of only 10 different primer combinations for the differential display experiments identified 15 soybean genes that appeared to change their transcription during SCN infection. Further analysis of the isolated cDNA fragments has the potential to reveal gene functions and, therefore, to enhance our understanding of the compatible interaction between soybean and SCN.

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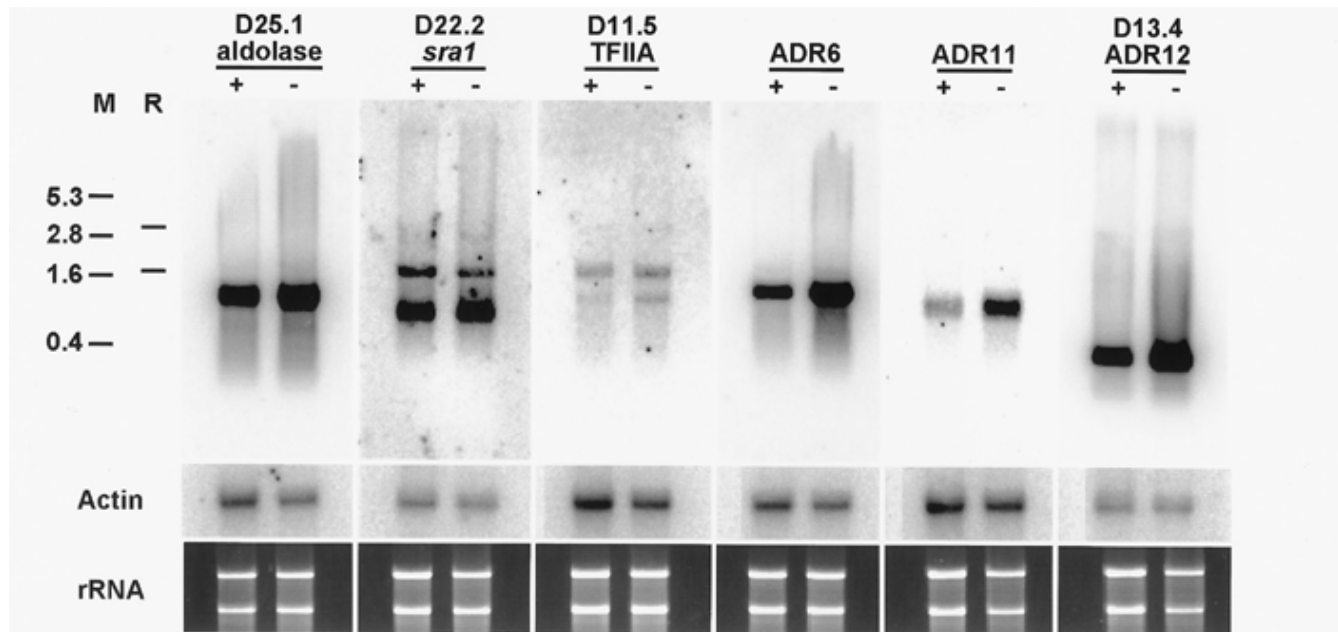


Fig. 4. Blots of poly(A)-enriched RNA (5 µg per lane) derived from soybean cyst nematode-infected (+) and uninfected (-) soybean root tissues 24 h after inoculation. Blots were hybridized with riboprobes. Blots probed with D25.1, ADR6, and D13.4 were exposed for 40 h; blots probed with D22.2, D11.5, and ADR11 were exposed for 300 h. Positions of RNA size standards in kilobases (M) and positions of 28S and 18S rRNAs (R) are indicated. Lower panels show hybridization signals obtained with actin 3 probe (Actin) and ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel before blotting (rRNA). Poly(A) RNA was isolated from total RNA with the MPG mRNA purification kit (CPG, Lincoln Park, NJ) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. To generate riboprobes, transcription vector pBS-T was constructed by removing the GC-rich multicloning cassette of the plasmid pBluescriptII (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) by excision with *KpnI* (Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) and *SacI* (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA). Removed sequence was replaced with an adapter carrying *KpnI* and *SacI* ends and internal cloning sites *EcoRI*, *SmaI*, and *BamHI*. Adapter was generated by annealing oligonucleotides 5'-CGAATCCCGGGATCCGAGCT-3' and 5'-CGGATCCCGGAATTCGGTAC-3'. After cDNAs were cloned into the *BamHI* site, the transcription cassette including T7 and T3 promoters was excised with *BssHIII* (New England Biolabs) and gel-purified with a gel-extraction kit (Qiagen, Chatsworth, CA). The purified cassette then served as template for riboprobe transcription. Blots were hybridized and washed as described in Figure 2; bound radiolabeled probes were detected as described in Figure 3.

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