

Comparative Proteomic Analysis of *Nicotiana Benthamiana* Seedlings Under Chinese Wheat Mosaic Virus Infection

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1 **Comparative proteomic analysis of *Nicotiana benthamiana***
2 **seedlings under *Chinese wheat mosaic virus* infection**

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10 **Abstract**

11 **Background:** *Chinese wheat mosaic virus* (CWMV) is a severe threat to winter wheat,
12 and it is transmitted by *Polymyxa graminis*. However, the mechanisms of interactions
13 between CWMV and plants are poorly understood. In this study, a comparative
14 proteomics analysis based on nanoliquid chromatography (LC)- mass spectrometry
15 (MS)/MS technique was conducted to characterize the proteomic changes of plants in
16 response to CWMV infection.

17 **Results:** A total of 2,751 host proteins were identified, 1,496 of which were quantified.
18 146 up-regulated and 248 down-regulated proteins were identified as differentially
19 expressed proteins (DEPs). KEGG enrichment analysis showed that the DEPs were
20 most strongly associated with Photosynthesis - antenna proteins, MAPK signaling –
21 plant and Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism pathways. Subcellular localization
22 analysis showed that more than half of DEPs were predicted to be localized in the

23 chloroplast, an organelle indispensable for abscisic acid (ABA) synthesis. Our results
24 suggested that CWMV infection interrupts normal chloroplast functions and decreased
25 the contents of ABA in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. Further analysis showed that the ABA
26 pathway was suppressed under CWMV infection and ABA treatment did induce plant
27 hosts defense against CWMV.

28 **Conclusions:** In summary, our results identified several candidate proteins under
29 CWMV infection, and the ABA pathway was deeply involved in the responses to
30 CWMV infection in *N. benthamiana*.

31 **Keywords:** *Chinese wheat mosaic virus*, differentially expressed proteins, ABA,
32 *Nicotiana benthamiana*

33

34 **Background**

35 Plant viral infection causes severe losses in cultivated crops yield and quality during
36 past several decades [1, 2]. Plant host resources and factors are indispensable for viral
37 infection as plant viruses have small genomes and encode relatively few proteins [3, 4].
38 As a matter of fact, more and more research reveal that a variety of host factors
39 participate in multiple steps of virus infection. For instance, *rice dwarf virus* (RDV)
40 infection subverts auxin signaling in rice as the interaction between RDV P2 protein
41 and OsIAA10 disrupts the interaction of OsIAA10 and OsTIR1[5]. *Rice black streak*
42 *dwarf virus* (RBSDV) encoded P5-1 protein physically interacts with OsCSN5A, which
43 interferes with the ubiquitination activity of SCF E3 ligase and suppress jasmonate
44 signaling to benefit viral infection in rice [6].

45 Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the most important food crops for humans
46 worldwide [7, 8]. However, the wheat quality and yield are limited by many
47 unfavorable factors including biotic or abiotic stresses [9]. A number of soil-borne
48 viruses can infect wheat under natural conditions, affecting wheat growth and
49 development [10-12]. *Chinese wheat mosaic virus* (CWMV) is a soil-borne virus first
50 described in China [13]. CWMV is identified as a member of the genus *Furovirus* of
51 the family *Virgaviridae*, and its genome comprises two positive sense single-stranded
52 RNAs (+ssRNA), namely RNA1 and RNA2 [14-17]. CWMV RNA1 consists of 7,147
53 nucleotides (nt) and has three major predicted open reading frames (ORFs), which
54 encodes three proteins necessary for viral replication and movement. CWMV RNA2 is
55 3,564 nt long and encodes four proteins: the major coat protein (CP, 19 kDa), two CP-
56 related proteins (N-CP, 23 kDa and CP-RT, 84 kDa) and a cysteine-rich protein
57 (CRP, 19 kDa), which functions as an RNA silencing suppressor [18-20]. Besides, only
58 a few studies have focused on the relationship between CWMV with its host during the
59 past. Silencing *NbRDR6* reduces CWMV accumulation and siRNAs at higher
60 temperatures [21]. *NbHSP70* interacts with CWMV RNA1 encoded viral replicase and
61 its subcellular localization was changed due to CWMV replicase [22]. CWMV derived
62 vsRNA-20 interferes the contents of H⁺ in viral infected cells, resulting in CWMV
63 accumulation [23]. It is very necessary to find potential host factors participating in the
64 plant interaction with CWMV infection.

65 Quantitative proteomics approaches have been popularly developed in plant-microbe
66 interaction study. For example, through quantitative whole-proteome analysis, Fu et al

67 find the expression of a remorin protein (NbREM1) is suppressed under RSV infection,
68 and further research reveals that RSV encoded NSvc4 protein interacts with NbREM1,
69 and it inhibits NbREM1 S-acylation to facilitate RSV infection [24]. Proteomic analysis
70 is performed to address the effects of RBSDV on maize protein abundance, which
71 reveals that RBSDV infection on maize is regulated by numbers of metabolic pathways
72 [25]. Maize cv. B73 plants infected with maize chlorotic mottle virus (MCMV) has
73 been investigated by comparative proteomic approach to get a detailed whole-proteome
74 information that the expression levels of ribosomal proteins, proteins related to stress
75 responses, oxidation-reduction and redox homeostasis are changed significantly under
76 MCMV infection [26]. *N. benthamiana* is the most widely used experimental model in
77 molecular plant-microbe interactions for it is very susceptible to multiple pathogens
78 and amenable to transient protein expression manners and virus-induced gene silencing.
79 It has been reported that heat shock protein 70 (HSP70) in both rice (the natural host)
80 and *N. benthamiana* (the experimental host) are indispensable for RSV infection [27,
81 28]. γ b encoded by *barely stripe mosaic virus* (BSMV) is a multifunctional protein,
82 and it can inhibit autophagy by interfering the interaction between AUTOPHAGY
83 PROTEIN7 (ATG7) and ATG8 in *N. benthamiana* (the experimental host) [29]. Besides,
84 artificial full-length CWMV cDNA clones have been developed which can successfully
85 infect *N. benthamiana*, which provides a great deal of convenience for our following
86 research [30, 31]. Although a little progress has been made in the elaborate interaction
87 between CWMV and its plant host, there is no study on the response of plant hosts to
88 CWMV infection at the proteomic level until now.

89 In the present study, we performed comparative proteomic analysis of *N. benthamiana*
90 under CWMV infection. A certain number of DEPs were identified. We also found
91 CWMV infection suppressed the ABA signaling pathway while ABA application
92 induced *N. benthamiana* resistance against CWMV. Combined with virus-induced gene
93 silencing (VIGS) technology, we found that silencing *zeaxanthin epoxidase* (*NbABA1*)
94 or *xanthoxin dehydrogenase* (*NbABA2*) could increase CWMV accumulation probably
95 by interfering the ABA pathway. Our study will provide candidate factors for cultivation
96 of resistant wheat varieties and provide new insights to the molecular basis of CWMV
97 pathogenicity.

98 **Results**

99 **Overview of quantitative proteomic analysis**

100 14 days post CWMV inoculation to four-leaf stage plants, quite a few chlorotic lesions
101 appeared on the upper leaves of these inoculated plants (Additional file1: Fig. S1a). In
102 addition, CWMV infection was confirmed by reverse transcription-polymerase chain
103 reaction (RT-PCR) and western blot (Additional file1: Fig. S1b and c). These
104 symptomatic leaves were then collected for quantitative proteomic analysis. This
105 analysis was performed to investigate the proteomic changes of CWMV-infected
106 compared to mock plants, and its workflow is shown as Fig. 1a. Pearson correlation
107 coefficients indicated that biological repeat correlations were good enough (Fig. 1b). A
108 total of 12,845 peptides were detected, and the average mass error was <0.02 Da,
109 indicating a high mass accuracy of MS data (Fig. 1c). Moreover, the lengths of most
110 identified peptides were distributed from 7 to 20 amino acid residues, which was

111 consistent with the rules based on trypsin enzymatic hydrolysis and HCD fragmentation
112 (Fig. 1d), and thus met the quality control standard. Detailed information of identified
113 peptides is listed in Additional file2: Table S1. In total, 2,751 proteins were identified,
114 1,496 of which were quantified. In order to further study the function of identified
115 proteins, these proteins were annotated respectively according to GO terms, subcellular
116 localizations, KEGG pathways and predicted functional domains. Detailed information
117 of identified proteins is listed in Additional file3: Table S2.

118 **Impacts of CWMV infection on the *N. benthamiana* proteome**

119 These proteins of which p -values ≤ 0.05 and mean fold-change ≥ 1.5 or ≤ 0.66 were
120 considered as significantly differently expressed proteins (DEPs). A total of 394 proteins
121 were identified as DEPs from those 1,496 quantified proteins. The detailed information
122 of DEPs is listed in Additional file4: Table S3. According to the results of gene ontology
123 (GO) analysis, 2,751 identified proteins and 394 DEPs were categorized into three
124 major groups: biological process, cellular components and molecular function (Fig. 2a).
125 In the biological process group, 1,290 identified proteins and 221 DEPs were involved
126 in metabolic process, and 972 identified proteins and 168 DEPs were involved in
127 cellular process. In the cellular components group, 493 identified proteins and 82 DEPs
128 were involved in cell, and 281 identified proteins and 50 DEPs were involved in
129 macromolecular complex. Finally, in the molecular function group, 1,253 identified
130 proteins and 200 DEPs were involved in catalytic activity, and 1072 identified proteins
131 and 147 DEPs were involved in binding activity.

132 All identified proteins and DEPs were assorted according to their subcellular

133 localizations. In summary, 15 different subcellular components were identified,
134 containing 1,142 chloroplast-localized proteins, 698 cytoplasm-localized proteins, and
135 366 nucleus-localized proteins (Fig. 2b). As for DEPs, only 10 different subcellular
136 components were found, containing 218 chloroplast-localized DEPs comprising 52 up-
137 regulated and 166 down-regulated DEPs, 82 cytoplasm-localized DEPs comprising 36
138 up-regulated and 46 down-regulated DEPs, and 24 nucleus-localized DEPs comprising
139 13 up-regulated and 11 down-regulated DEPs (Fig. 2c).

140 **Enrichment analysis of DEPs responsive to CWMV infection**

141 In order to further explore the DEPs responsive to CWMV infection, enrichment
142 analysis of 394 DEPs was performed respectively based on GO annotations, KEGG and
143 protein domain. Among these 394 DEPs, 146 proteins were significantly up-regulated
144 and 248 proteins were significantly down-regulated (Additional file 5: Fig. S2). A large
145 number of up-regulated DEPs were mainly associated with metabolic process (74
146 proteins), catalytic activity (70 proteins) and binding (54 proteins) (Fig. 3a). For the
147 down-regulated DEPs, metabolic process (147 proteins), catalytic activity (130 proteins)
148 and cellular process (117 proteins) were mostly involved (Fig. 3b). For GO enrichment-
149 based cluster analysis, DEPs involved in three groups were plotted. For the biological
150 process group, DEPs were enriched in glycerol ether metabolic process, cell redox
151 homeostasis, tetrapyrrole biosynthetic process, organic acid catabolic process and
152 photosynthetic electron transport chain. For the molecular function group, the DEPs
153 were enriched in protein disulfide oxidoreductase activity, cysteine-type endopeptidase
154 activity, disulfide oxidoreductase activity, structural constituent of ribosome, histidinol

155 dehydrogenase activity, glycine dehydrogenase (decarboxylating) activity,
156 peroxiredoxin activity and protochlorophyllide reductase activity. As for the cellular
157 components group, DEPs were enriched in endoplasmic reticulum (Fig. 4). KEGG
158 enrichment analysis showed that DEPs were closely related to Photosynthesis - antenna
159 proteins(nta00196), MAPK signaling pathway – plant (nta04016), Glyoxylate and
160 dicarboxylate metabolism (nta00630), Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism
161 (nta00260), Porphyrin and chlorophyll metabolism (nta00860) and Carbon fixation in
162 photosynthetic organisms (nta00710) (Fig. 5a). Protein enrichment analysis showed
163 that DEPs were mainly enriched in Chlorophyll a/b binding protein domain, Peptidase
164 C1A, propeptide, Cell division protein FtsZ, C-terminal, PsbQ-like domain, Aldolase-
165 type TIM barrel, Thioredoxin domain, 30s ribosomal protein S13, C-terminal,
166 Glutamate synthase, alpha subunit, C-terminal, Ribosomal protein S13-like, H2TH,
167 Hydrophobic seed protein, Ribosomal protein L5, C-terminal, Peroxiredoxin, C-
168 terminal, Ribosomal protein S5 domain 2-type fold, subgroup, Calreticulin/calnexin,
169 P domain, Aquaporin-like, Thioredoxin-like fold, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate
170 dehydrogenase, NAD(P) binding domain, Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase,
171 catalytic domain, Alpha-D-phosphohexomutase, alpha/beta/alpha domain III and
172 Alpha-D-phosphohexomutase, alpha/beta/alpha domain I (Fig. 5b).

173 **Identification of representative DEPs from three mostly enriched** 174 **KEGG pathways**

175 According to our proteomic data analysis, a total of 15 DEPs was involved in
176 Photosynthesis - antenna proteins pathway, nine DEPs were involved in MAPK

177 signaling – plant pathway and 18 DEPs were involved in Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate
178 metabolism pathway. Five representative proteins (P27491, A0A1S3Y974,
179 A0A1S4DJQ0, A0A076L1Y1 and A0A1S4BSH6) from Photosynthesis - antenna
180 proteins pathway, five representative proteins (P17514, A0A1S3XTH4, P24091,
181 A0A1S3ZVW5 and A0A1S4DGP1) from MAPK signaling pathway – plant pathway
182 and five representative proteins (A0A1S3YRT4, A0A1S3ZFE6, A0A1S3Y2X0,
183 A0A1S3YYG2 and A0A1S4BAT9) from Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism
184 pathway were illuminated for these three pathways were showing most significantly
185 enriched (Table 1).

186 **Transcriptional level analysis for selected DEPs**

187 To validate the changes at the protein level determined by proteomic analysis, nine
188 genes encoding up-regulated DEPs and nine genes encoding down-regulated DEPs
189 were selected for quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-
190 PCR). Among these selected genes encoding up-regulated DEPs, no significant change
191 of *NbGCSH* expression was observed, and the expression level of the *NbPIP26b* was
192 significantly decreased while the expression levels of other selected genes were
193 increased under CWMV infection (Fig. 6b). Among these selected genes encoding
194 down-regulated DEPs, the expression levels of seven selected genes were decreased
195 (Fig. 6d) while there was no significant change in the expression of *NbSECR* gene, and
196 the expression level of the *NbftsZ* gene was significantly increased. Although there are
197 numerous studies reporting that gene transcription and protein abundance are not
198 correlated, our results suggest that mRNA quantified of genes encoding most DEPs are

199 consistent with their protein expression levels. All basic information of selected DEPs
200 is listed on Additional file 6: Table S4.

201 **ABA pathway is suppressed in CWMV-infected plants**

202 More than half of representative selected DEPs in Table 1 were predicted to be localized
203 in the chloroplast. Additionally, subcellular localization analysis showed that 35.62%
204 up-regulated DEPs and 66.94% down-regulated DEPs were predicted to be localized in
205 the chloroplast (Additional file 7: Figure S5). These results together suggested that
206 CWMV invading probably altered the chloroplast structure and functions. Additionally,
207 ABA synthesis are closely regulated by chloroplast machinery system [39]. ABA plays
208 crucial roles in plant-virus interactions [40]. Label-free profiling analysis revealed that
209 the expression levels of NbABA1 and the short-chain alcohol dehydrogenase
210 (NbABA2) proteins were both significantly changed in CWMV-infected plants in
211 comparison to that in mock plants (Figure 7a). qRT-PCR results showed that the mRNA
212 expression levels of *NbABA1* and *NbABA2* were also significantly changed in CWMV-
213 infected plants in comparison to that in mock plants (Figure 7b). Furthermore, qRT-
214 PCR results displayed that the mRNA expression levels of ABA-biosynthetic genes
215 (*NbNCED1*, *NbNCED3* and *NbAAO3*), ABA signaling transduction genes including
216 (*NbPYL6* and *NbPYL9*), ABA-responsive genes (*NbRAB18* and *NbAGO4*) were
217 significantly down-regulated in CWMV-infected plants compared with that in mock
218 plants (Figure 7c). Additionally, further study showed that the contents of ABA in
219 CWMV-infected plants were significantly decreased compared with that in mock plants
220 (Figure 7d). These results together implied that ABA pathway was seriously interfered

221 in response to CWMV infection.

222 **Exogenous application of ABA induces plant resistance against** 223 **CWMV infection**

224 Because ABA signaling plays an important role in *N. benthamiana* under CWMV
225 infection, we treated 4-leaf tobacco with ABA (100 μ M) or ABA inhibitor
226 (NDGA)(10mM) and 0.2% EtOH (Mock). At 12 hours post-treatment, the pre-treated
227 plants were inoculated with CWMV. The inoculated plants were grown inside a
228 greenhouse for about four weeks. Results from this study showed that mock plants had
229 typical symptoms of CWMV infection including stunting and chlorotic local lesions
230 whereas ABA-treated tobacco showed CWMV symptoms were alleviated (Figure 8a).
231 As we expected, NDGA-treated plants displayed that CWMV symptoms were
232 promoted. In addition, accumulation levels of CWMV CP RNA as well as the CP
233 protein were the highest in NDGA pre-treated plants and lowest in ABA pre-treated
234 plants (Figure 8b and C). These data together suggested that ABA treatment can induce
235 *N. benthamiana* defense against CWMV.

236 **Discussion**

237 CWMV is transmitted by *P. graminis*, of which resting spores can survive in soils for
238 over 10 years, displaying a durable threat to winter production in China [3, 41]. Besides,
239 *P. graminis* is also the carrying vector transmitting *wheat yellow mosaic virus* (WYMV),
240 together with CWMV, can co-infect wheat in China, resulting in more severe and
241 quantity and quality losses [42, 43]. Thus, it is quite urgent to explore the molecular
242 mechanisms in depth about how CWMV successfully establish an infection and how

243 the plant host respond to CWMV invade. In this study, comparative proteomic analysis
244 was conducted to gain a comprehensive whole-proteome information during CMWV
245 infection of *N. benthamiana*. The outcome of our work provides new insights to the
246 molecular basis of plant defense responsive to CWMV.

247 Pearson correlation coefficient are good (Fig. 1b). The relationship of protein mass and
248 coverage, and the distribution of identified peptides are both as expected (Fig. 1c-d).

249 These results demonstrate that the data analytical reproducibility and quality are
250 credible. A total of 394 DEPs was identified from *N. benthamiana* inoculated with

251 CWMV. Among these DEPs, 146 were up-regulated and 248 were down-regulated (Fig.
252 S2). It has been reported that Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism pathway mainly

253 enhance plants resistance against environmental stress by balancing metabolic
254 disorders and transferring energy [32, 33]. In this study, we also found that Glyoxylate

255 and dicarboxylate metabolism pathway was significantly enriched after CWMV
256 infected. Among these DEPs contains 18 proteins was characterized and their

257 expressions levels were significantly changed, which suggested CWMV infection
258 might destroy the host immune system by interfering Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate

259 metabolism pathway. The MAPK signaling pathway is deeply involved in the plant
260 growth and development, plant response to environmental stress and pathogenic

261 microorganism invasion [34]. Payne et al cloned two acidic endochitinase genes
262 encoding the pathogenesis-related proteins PR-P and PR-Q, and the expression of these

263 two proteins is induced by TMV infection [35]. In our study, the expression level of
264 acidic endochitinase Q from significantly enriched MAPK signaling pathway was up-

265 regulated over 48-fold by CWMV infection (Table 1), which indicated that MAPK
266 signaling pathway played an important role in the response of *N. benthamiana* to
267 CWMV infection. Plant RNA viral infection usually leads to leaf chlorosis, necrosis,
268 plant stunting or other symptoms, and leaf chlorosis is often consistent with decreased
269 photosynthetic activity of the chloroplast [36, 37]. The chlorophyll a/b proteins (CAB)
270 from Photosynthesis - antenna proteins pathway are vital membrane proteins for the
271 capture of light energy by combining with pigment molecules in photosynthesis [38].
272 Agree with this result, we also found a few chlorotic lesions appeared on the leaves of
273 inoculated plants with CWMV (Fig. S1a). Furthermore, our data also showed that
274 Photosynthesis - antenna proteins pathway was significantly enriched. Such as a series
275 of CAB proteins were down-regulated (Table 1) and more than half of DEPs were
276 predicted to located in the chloroplast under CWMV infection (Fig. 2c), which
277 suggested that CWMV invasion probably altered the chloroplast structure and functions.
278 In fact, lots of plant RNA viruses recruit the chloroplast membrane to facilitate their
279 infection, and affect many chloroplast-related genes expression including
280 photosynthesis-related genes [39-41]. Chloroplasts are the source of numerous pro-
281 defense signals, and they are closely related to the initiation of effector-triggered
282 immunity (ETI) [42-44]. More importantly, a series of key steps of ABA biosynthesis
283 pathway occur in the chloroplast. The relationship between fungi or bacteria and ABA
284 has been extensively studied, but the interaction between ABA and plant virus is still
285 not well understood. Early study shows the TMV infection increase the ABA contents
286 in tobacco plants [45]. AGO2 and AGO3 are reported to contribute to ABA-mediated

287 defense against *bamboo mosaic virus* (BaMV) [46]. A study in rice shows that ABA
288 treatment does increase susceptibility to RBSDV infection by suppressing the
289 jasmonate pathway and induction of ROS [47]. Besides, both ABA1 and ABA2 play
290 key roles in ABA synthesis and ABA1 functions in the chloroplast [48-50]. ABA1 and
291 ABA2 of the ABA pathway has been reported deeply involved in the viral accumulation
292 in *A. thaliana* [51]. Amino acid sequence analysis showed that *NbABA1* shared 96%
293 sequence identity with *Nicotiana tabacum* ABA1 (NtABA1) and a 69% sequence
294 identity with *Arabidopsis thaliana* ABA1 (AtABA1) (Additional file 8: Fig. S4).
295 *NbABA2* shared a 92% sequence identity with *N. tabacum* ABA2 (NtABA2) and a 66%
296 sequence identity with *A. thaliana* ABA2 (AtABA2) (Additional file 9: Fig. S5). We
297 silenced *NbABA1* and *NbABA2* respectively using *tobacco rattle virus* (TRV)-based
298 VIGS system. qRT-PCR data ensured that mRNA expression levels of *NbABA1* and
299 *NbABA2* were down-regulated (Fig. 9b). No significant phenotypic changes were
300 observed in *NbABA1*-silenced or *NbABA2*-silenced plants (Fig. 9a). Moreover, qPCR
301 results showed that the expression levels of ABA-responsive genes including *NbRAB18*
302 and *NbAGO4* were down-regulated in *NbABA1*-silenced or *NbABA2* -silenced plants,
303 compared to that in the control plants (Fig. 9c-d). In addition, silencing of *NbABA1* or
304 *NbABA2* significantly decreased the concentrations of ABA in *N. benthamiana* (Fig.
305 9e). These results, together with amino acid sequence analysis (Fig. S4 and S5),
306 confirmed that *NbABA1* and *NbABA2* were indeed involved in the ABA signaling
307 pathway. Silencing *ABA1* significantly increased CWMV accumulation (Fig. 9f) and
308 silencing *ABA2* also significantly enhanced CWMV accumulation (Fig. 9g). These data

309 also suggest that NbABA1 and NbABA2 paly positive regulators in response to
310 CWMV infection. To investigate the detailed relationship between the ABA pathway
311 and CWMV, qRT-PCR was performed and its results showed that the mRNA
312 expression levels of ABA-biosynthetic genes including *NbNCED1*, *NbNCED3*, and
313 *NbAAO3*, ABA-signal-transduction genes including *NbPYL6* and *NbPYL9* and ABA-
314 responsive genes *NbRAB18* and *NbAGO4* were decreased under CWMV infection (Fig.
315 7c). These data, together with the decreasing of ABA contents in the CWMV-infected
316 plants compared to mock plants (Fig. 7d), imply that CWMV infection truly suppress
317 the ABA pathway by interfering the expression of ABA1 and ABA2.

318 In summary, our results identified several pathways seriously involved in the *N.*
319 *benthamiana* responses to CWMV infection and we also explored the relationship
320 between CWMV infection and ABA signaling pathway.

321 **Conclusions**

322 CWMV leads to devastating damage to wheat production and its causing disease of
323 winter wheat is difficult to be controlled [52, 53]. Now breeding of resistant wheat is the
324 most effective and economical countermeasure for prevention and control of CWMV
325 causing disease. However, only a few cultivars are indentified to be resistant against
326 CWMV[54]. In this study, a proteomic manner was employed to explore the proteomic
327 changes of *N. benthamiana* under CWMV infection. A total of 394 DEPs were
328 identified and characterized according to their annotations. Photosynthesis - antenna
329 proteins, MAPK signaling – plant and Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism
330 pathways were most significantly enriched with DEPs. CWMV infection did suppress

331 the ABA pathway in *N. benthamiana*. In summary, our results also laid a good
332 foundation for providing antiviral candidate factors to cultivate resistant varieties.

333

334 **Methods**

335 **Plant material and CWMV inoculation**

336 *N. benthamiana* seeds were kindly provided by Prof. Yule Liu (Tsinghua University,
337 Beijing) and grown inside a greenhouse at 22°C with a 16/8 h (hours) (light/dark)
338 photoperiod until four-leaf stage for CWMV inoculation. CWMV inoculation was
339 performed as previously described with small modifications previously [31]. *A.*
340 *tumefaciens* strain GV3101 carrying CWMV RNA1 and RNA2 genomes was prepared.
341 The agrobacterium cultures were grown overnight, pelleted, re-suspended in an
342 induction buffer (1M MgCl₂, 10mM MES, pH=5.6, and 100mM acetosyringone) and
343 incubated for 3 h at room temperature prior to leaf infiltration. All inoculated plants
344 were grown in a constant temperature incubator at 17°C with a 14/10 h (light/dark)
345 photoperiod. qRT-PCR and western blot were performed to confirm successful systemic
346 infection at 14 days post CWMV inoculation (dpi). Samples were collected for further
347 analysis.

348

349 **RNA extraction and quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction** 350 **(qRT-PCR)**

351 Total RNAs were isolated from prepared samples at 14 days post CWMV inoculation
352 (dpi) using Trizol Reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). First strand cDNA was

353 synthesized using a First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (TOYOBO, Kita-ku, Osaka,
354 Japan). qRT-PCR reaction was performed on an ABI7900HT Sequence Detection
355 System (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) with an AceQ qPCR SYBR Green
356 Master Mix (Vazyme, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China). Each treatment at least contains three
357 biological replicates, which at least owns three technical replicates each. Relative
358 expression levels of ABA related genes and CWMV CP were analyzed using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C(t)}$
359 method as described [55]. Actin gene was referred as an internal reference. These
360 primers used in qRT-PCR are listed in Additional file 10: Table S5.

361

362 **Western blot**

363 Western blot assay was performed as described previously with small modifications [6,
364 31]. Collected samples were individually ground in liquid nitrogen and then
365 homogenized in a protein extraction buffer (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA)
366 supplemented with Protease Inhibitor Cocktail Tablets (Roche, 1 tablet/50mL buffer).
367 After 20 min centrifugation at 16,000 g at 4 °C, the supernatant was collected, boiled
368 for 10 min and proteins were separated in SDS-PAGE gels through electrophoresis
369 prior to transferring to nitrocellulose membranes (NC). The antibody specially
370 detecting CWMV CP was made in our laboratory.

371

372 **Protein extraction**

373 Protein extraction for LC-MS/MS was conducted mainly as described previously with
374 small modifications [56-58]. Samples powders were collected and ground individually

375 in liquid nitrogen. 0.1g sample powders were transferred into extraction buffer (200mM
376 Tris-Cl, pH 7.4, 250mM sucrose, 1mM MgCl₂, 5mM KCl, 2mM PMSF, 10mM β -
377 mercaptoethanol and 1× complete EDTA-free protease inhibitor) and then vortexed
378 severely. The collection was incubated for 30 min at 25 °C. After centrifugation at
379 16,000 g for 20 min at 4°C, resulting supernatant was mixed with equal volume of
380 buffered phenol (pH 8.0). The pellets were then dried using a Speed-Vacuum
381 concentrator and then resuspended using solution buffer made up of 1× phosphate
382 buffered saline (PBS) and 10× sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) (v/v, 3:4) and stored at -
383 80°C. Protein concentration and quantification was conducted by RC DC™ Protein
384 Assay (Bio-Rad).

385

386 **Protein digestion**

387 For trypsin digestion, protein samples were diluted five times by adding 100 mM
388 Triethylammonium bicarbonat (TEAB). Trypsin was added into collection mixtures at a
389 ratio of 1:50 (mass ratio, trypsin: protein) for digestion overnight. Then the digested
390 collection mixtures were vacuum dried for further analysis.

391

392 **LC-MS/MS analysis**

393 The collection mixtures were dissolved in solvent A (0.1% formic acid), directly loaded
394 into a home-made reversed-phase analytical column (15-cm length, 75 μm i.d.). The
395 gradient was made up of an increase from 6% to 23% solvent B (0.1% formic acid in
396 98% acetonitrile) over 25 min, 23% to 35% in 8 min and climbing to 80% in 3 min then

397 holding at 80% for 3 min, all at a constant flow rate of 400 nL/min on an EASY-nLC
398 1000 UPLC system. These peptides were subjected to NSI source followed by tandem
399 mass spectrometry (MS/MS) in Q ExactiveTM Plus (Thermo) coupled online to the
400 UPLC. The electrospray voltage applied was 2.0 kV. The m/z scan range was 350 to
401 1800 for full scan, and intact peptides were detected in the Orbitrap at a resolution of
402 70,000. Peptides were then selected for MS/MS using NCE setting as 28 and the
403 fragments were detected in the Orbitrap at a resolution of 17,500. A data-dependent
404 procedure that alternated between one MS scan followed by 20 MS/MS scans with 15s
405 dynamic exclusion. Automatic gain control (AGC) was set at 5E4. Fixed first mass was
406 set as 100 m/z.

407

408 **Database search**

409 The resulting MS/MS data were processed using Maxquant search engine (v.1.5.2.8).
410 Tandem mass spectra were searched against UniProt *Nicotiana tabacum* database
411 (73,605 sequences total) concatenated with reverse decoy database. Trypsin/P was
412 specified as cleavage enzyme allowing up to 2 missing cleavages. The mass tolerance
413 for precursor ions was set as 20 ppm in First search and 5 ppm in Main search, and the
414 mass tolerance for fragment ions was set as 0.02 Da. Carbamidomethyl on Cys was
415 specified as fixed modification and oxidation on Met was specified as variable
416 modifications. FDR was adjusted to < 1% and minimum score for peptides was set >
417 40.

418

419 **Protein annotation**

420 Gene Ontology (GO) annotation was obtained for the protein sequences from the
421 UniProt-GOA database ([www.http://www.ebi.ac.uk/GOA/](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/GOA/)). Firstly, the identified
422 protein's ID was converted to a UniProt ID and then mapped to GO IDs by protein ID.
423 For identified proteins that were not annotated in the UniProt-GOA database, the
424 InterProScan software (v.5.14-53.0) ([www.http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro)) was used to
425 annotate the protein's GO function. Then, the proteins were classified by Gene
426 Ontology annotation according to three groups: biological process, cellular component,
427 and molecular function.

428 The proteins in eukaryotic cells, according to different membrane structure which they
429 bind, are localized in various cellular organelles. The main subcellular localization of
430 eukaryotic cells includes extracellular, cytoplasm, nucleus, mitochondria, Golgi
431 apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, peroxisomes, vacuole, cytoskeleton, nucleoplasm,
432 nuclear matrix and ribosome. We used Wolfpsort (v.0.2)
433 ([www.http://www.genscript.com/psort/wolf_psort.html](http://www.genscript.com/psort/wolf_psort.html)), a subcellular localization
434 predication software. Wolfpsort is an updated version of PSORT/PSORT II, which is
435 for the prediction of eukaryotic sequences.

436 Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) database was used for pathway
437 annotation. Firstly, using KEGG online service tools KAAS to annotated protein's
438 KEGG database description. Then mapping the annotation result on the KEGG pathway
439 database using KEGG online service tools KEGG mapper.

440 Identified proteins domain functional description were annotated by InterProScan (a

441 sequence analysis application) based on protein sequence alignment method, and the
442 InterPro domain database was used. InterPro (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/interpro/>) is a
443 database that integrates diverse information about protein families, domains and
444 functional sites, and makes it freely available to the public via Web-based interfaces
445 and services. Central to the database are diagnostic models, known as signatures,
446 against which protein sequences can be searched to determine their potential function.
447 InterPro has utility in the large-scale analysis of whole genomes and meta-genomes, as
448 well as in characterizing individual protein sequences.

449

450 **Functional enrichment analysis**

451 Proteins were classified by GO annotation into three categories: biological process,
452 cellular compartment and molecular function. For each category, a two-tailed Fisher's
453 exact test was employed to test the enrichment of the DEPs against all identified
454 proteins. The GO with a corrected p values < 0.05 is considered significant.

455 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) database was used to identify enriched
456 pathways by a two-tailed Fisher's exact test to test the enrichment of the DEPs against
457 all identified proteins. The pathway with a corrected p value < 0.05 was considered
458 significant. These pathways were classified into hierarchical categories according to the
459 KEGG website.

460 For each category proteins, InterPro (a resource that provides functional analysis of
461 protein sequences by classifying them into families and predicting the presence of
462 domains and important sites) database was researched and a two-tailed Fisher's exact

463 test was employed to test the enrichment of the DEPs against all identified proteins.

464 Protein domains with a p value < 0.05 were considered significant.

465

466 **ABA and ABA inhibitor treatments (NDGA)**

467 Abscisic acid (ABA, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) was dissolved with 0.2 %

468 ethanol till 100 μ M. NDGA (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA), targeting 9-*cis*-

469 epoxy-carotenoid dioxygenase was dissolved with 0.2 % ethanol till 10 mM. *N.*

470 *benthamiana* plants were applied with 100 μ M ABA solution or 10 mM NDGA solution

471 and 0.2 % ethanol solution as a control (Mock). All solutions were applied into the

472 adaxial and abaxial sides of leaves until solution drops began to run off leaves. 12 h

473 later, pre-treated *N. benthamiana* leaves were inoculated with CWMV.

474

475 **Analysis of ABA contents**

476 Samples were collected from assayed plants for ABA extraction as described previously

477 [59]. Collected samples were then ground in liquid nitrogen, and then mixed

478 individually (200 mg leaf powder per sample) with $^2\text{H}_5$ -ABA 45 pmol. Two milliliter

479 methanol was added to each sample, mixed, and the mixture was incubated overnight

480 at -20 °C. After 20 min centrifugation at 160,000g at 4 °C, supernatant of each sample

481 was collected and dried under the nitrogen gas. The pellets were individually dissolved

482 in 1 mL 5 % ammonia solution and purified using the Oasis MAX SPE columns as

483 instructed (Waters, Milford, MA, USA). The eluted ABA was dried again under

484 nitrogen gas, dissolved in 200 μ L water/methanol mixture (20:80, v/v), and then

485 analyzed by Ultrahigh Liquid Chromatography-triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometry
486 (UPLC-MS/MS). Three independent biological replicates were analyzed for each.

487

488 **Plasmids construction**

489 Partial length *NbABA1* and *NbABA2* gene sequences were PCR amplified. These PCR
490 products were then digested with *BamHI* and *SmaI* (New England Biolabs, Ipswich,
491 MA, USA) restriction enzymes. These digested PCR products cloned individually into
492 *Tobacco rattle virus* (TRV)-based pTRV2 to generate pTRV2:NbABA1 and
493 pTRV2:NbABA2 vectors. PCR products used for plasmids construction were all
494 generated using KOD DNA polymerase (TOYOBO, Kita-ku, Osaka, Japan).

495

496 **Virus-induced gene silencing (VIGS)**

497 *Tobacco rattle virus* (TRV)-based VIGS system in *N. benthamiana* was described as
498 previously with small modifications [60]. pTRV2:NbABA1 and pTRV2:NbABA2
499 vectors were individually transformed into *A. tumefaciens* strain GV3101 by
500 electroporation. The agrobacterium cultures and *A. tumefaciens* strain GV3101
501 containing TRV RNA1 were grown overnight, pelleted, re-suspended in an induction
502 buffer and incubated for 3 h at room temperature prior to leaf co-infiltration. Infiltrated
503 leaves were collected at 7 days post agro-infiltration (dpi) and examined using qRT-
504 PCR to confirm the silencing of target-genes.

505

506

507 **Figure legends**

508 **Fig. 1** Experimental strategy for quantitative proteome analysis and quality control
509 validation of MS data. **a** Proteins were extracted from three biological replicates for
510 each sample group. All protein samples were digested with trypsin and analyzed by
511 LC/MS. **b** Pearson's correlations. **c** mass delta of all identified peptides. **d** length
512 distribution of all identified peptides.

513 **Fig. 2** Classifications of identified proteins and DEPs. **a** GO analysis of all identified
514 proteins and DEPs. **b** Subcellular locations analysis of all identified proteins. **c**
515 Subcellular locations analysis of all DEPs.

516 **Fig. 3** GO analysis of up-regulated and down-regulated DEPs. **a** GO analysis of up-
517 regulated DEPs. **b** GO analysis of down-regulated DEPs.

518 **Fig. 4** GO enrichment analysis of DEPs. Significantly enriched GO terms of all DEPs.

519 **Fig. 5** Enrichment analysis of DEPs. **a** Significantly enriched KEGG terms of all DEPs.
520 **b** Significantly enriched protein domain terms of all DEPs.

521 **Fig. 6** Validation of *N. benthamiana* selected genes expression. **a** Nine up-regulated
522 DEPs selected. **b** qRT-PCR showing genes encoding nine up-regulated DEPs selected.
523 Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates and each replicate had three
524 technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant determined by the Student's *t*-test.
525 **c** Nine down-regulated DAPs selected. **d** qRT-PCR showing genes encoding nine down-
526 regulated DAPs selected. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates and
527 each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant determined
528 by the Student's *t*-test.

529 **Fig. 7** Effects of CWMV infection on the ABA pathway. **a** Proteins (ABA1 and ABA2)
530 involved in the ABA signaling pathway that significantly changed responsive to
531 CWMV infection. **b** qRT-PCR data showing the expression of *NbABA1* and *NbABA2*
532 under CWMV infection. **c** qRT-PCR data showing the expression of ABA-pathway
533 genes under CWMV infection. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates,
534 and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the
535 Student's *t*-test. **d** detection of endogenous ABA production in mock and CWMV-
536 infected plants. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates, and each replicate
537 had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's *t*-test.

538 **Fig.8** Effects of ABA and its inhibitor application on CWMV infection in *N.*
539 *benthamiana*. **a** Phenotype of *N. benthamiana* treated with 100 μ M ABA or 10 mM
540 NDGA or 0.2% EtOH (mock) followed CWMV inoculation at 21 dpi. **b** qRT-PCR
541 results showing the mRNA expression of CWMV CP in pre-treated plants. Each mean
542 \pm SD was from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical
543 replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's *t*-test. **c** Western blot analyses of
544 CWMV CP protein accumulation in the ABA or NDGA pre-treated CWMV-inoculated
545 plants. CBB-stained loadings are shown at the bottom of the figure.

546 **Fig.9** Effects of silencing *NbABA1* or *NbABA2* on CWMV CP accumulation. **a**
547 Phenotypes of *NbABA1*-silenced and *NbABA2*-silenced plant. Photograph taken at 7
548 dpi. **b** qRT-PCR showing mRNA expression of *NbABA1* and *NbABA2*. Each mean \pm
549 SD is from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical replicates.
550 **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's *t*-test. **c** qRT-PCR showing mRNA expression

551 of *NbRAB18* and *NbAGO4* in *NbABAI*-silenced plants. **d** qRT-PCR showing mRNA
552 expression of *NbRAB18* and *NbAGO4* in *NbABA2*-silenced plants. Each mean \pm SD
553 was from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical replicates.
554 **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's *t*-test. **e** detection of endogenous ABA
555 production in Control and *NbABAI*-silenced or *NbABA2*-silenced plants. Three
556 independent biological replicates were analyzed for each treatment. **, $p < 0.01$
557 determined by the Student's *t*-test. **f** qRT-PCR showing mRNA (**left**) and western blot
558 assay showing protein (**right**) expression of CWMV CP respectively in *NbABAI*-
559 silenced plants. **g** qRT-PCR showing mRNA (**left**) and western blot assay showing
560 protein (**right**) expression of CWMV CP respectively in *NbABA2*-silenced plants. Each
561 mean \pm SD is from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical
562 replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ and was determined by the Student's *t*-test. CBB-stained
563 loadings are shown in the bottom of the figure.

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571 **Tables**

572 **Table 1** Identification of selected DEPs from significantly changed pathways through
573 KEGG enrichment analysis

Protein accession	Protein description	Infected/Mock Ratio	Infected/Mock P value	Subcellular localization
Photosynthesis - antenna proteins				
P27491	Chlorophyll a-b binding protein 7	0.132	0.0000002020	chloroplast
A0A1S3Y974	Chlorophyll a-b binding protein	0.168	0.000098992	chloroplast
A0A1S4DJQ0	Chlorophyll a-b binding protein	0.191	0.0000157343	chloroplast
A0A076L1Y1	Chlorophyll a-b binding protein	0.252	0.00004201	chloroplast
A0A1S4BSH6	Chlorophyll a-b binding protein	0.256	0.00148307	chloroplast
MAPK signaling pathway – plant				
P17514	Acidic endochitinase Q	48.587	0.008995	nucleus
A0A1S3XTH4	Basic form of pathogenesis-related protein 1-like	2.983	0.000075712	chloroplast
P24091	Endochitinase B	2.863	0.000121412	extracellular
A0A1S3ZVW5	Basic endochitinase-like	2.264	0.0138624	chloroplast
A0A1S4DGP1	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase	0.472	0.0094373	chloroplast
Glyoxylate and dicarboxylate metabolism				
A0A1S3YRT4	Glycine cleavage system H protein	4.204	0.0021605	mitochondria
A0A1S3ZFE6	Catalase	1.53	0.0082996	cytoplasm
A0A1S3Y2X0	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase	0.43	0.0047004	mitochondria
A0A1S3YYG2	Glycine cleavage system P protein	0.444	0.00091813	mitochondria
A0A1S4BAT9	Glutamate--glyoxylate aminotransferase 2	0.531	0.000020175	cytoplasm

575 **Supplementary information**

576 **Additional file 1: Figure S1.** Samples inoculated with CWMV. **a** Left: mock (*N.*
577 *benthamiana* inoculated with GV3101), right: *N. benthamiana* plant by 14 dpi. **b** PCR
578 assay for detecting CWMV *CP* and *MP* gene. Lanes 1 to 3 below mock, samples were
579 prepared from *N. benthamiana*. Lanes 1 to 3 below CWMV-infected, samples were
580 prepared from *N. benthamiana* by 14 dpi. PC, positive control. NC, negative control. **c**
581 western blot assay for detecting CWMV CP protein. Lanes 1 to 3 below mock, samples
582 were prepared from *N. benthamiana*. Lanes 1 to 3 below CWMV-infected, samples
583 were prepared from *N. benthamiana* by 14 dpi. Coomassie brilliant blue (CBB)-stained
584 loadings are shown in the bottom of the Figure.

585 **Additional file 2: Table S1.** Detailed information of identified peptides.

586 **Additional file 3: Table S2.** Detailed information of all identified proteins.

587 **Additional file 4: Table S3.** Detailed information of all DEPs.

588 **Additional file 5: Figure S2.** Numbers of up-regulated and down-regulated DEPs in
589 CWMV-infected plants compared to that in mock plants.

590 **Additional file 6: Table S4.** Basic information of selected DEPs for qRT-PCR
591 validation.

592 **Additional file 7: Figure S3.** Subcellular location of up-regulated and down-regulated
593 DEPs. **a** Subcellular location of up-regulated DEPs. **b** Subcellular location of down-
594 regulated DEPs.

595 **Additional file 8: Figure S4.** Multiple sequence alignment result. Amino acid sequence
596 of Polypeptide (NbABA1) was aligned with sequences of *N. tabacum*, and *A. thaliana*

597 ABA1 sequences using DNAMAN software.

598 **Additional file 9: Figure S5.** Multiple sequence alignment result. Amino acid sequence
599 of Polypeptide (NbABA2) was aligned with sequences of *N. tabacum*, and *A. thaliana*
600 ABA2 sequences using DNAMAN software.

601 **Additional file 10: Table S5.** Primers used in this study.

602 **Additional file 11:** Full length image of Figure S1b, Figure S1c, Figure 8c, Figure 9f
603 right and Figure 9g right.

604

605 **Abbreviations**

606 CWMV: *Chinese wheat mosaic virus*; *P. graminis*: *Polymyxa graminis*; MS:mass
607 spectrometry; DEPs: differentially expressed proteins; *N. benthamiana*: *Nicotiana*
608 *benthamiana*; ABA: abscisic acid; ABA1: zeaxanthin epoxidase; ABA2:xanthoxin
609 dehydrogenase.

610

611 **Declarations**

612 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

613 Not applicable.

614

615 **Consent for publication**

616 Not applicable.

617

618 **Competing interests**

619 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

620

621 **Availability of data and materials**

622 All data generated or analyzed in this study are included in this article and its
623 supplementary materials. All raw mass spectrometry (MS) data files has been deposited
624 and can be access on the proteomeXchange with the dataset identifier PXD017593
625 (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/profile/hnndhelong2>).

626

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635

636 **Authors' contributions**

637 HL and YJ conceived the project and designed the experiments; HL, JP, CX, ZTY,
638 ZKL and LP carried out the experiments; HL and YJ analyzed the results and wrote
639 the manuscript; YJ and CJP revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the
640 final manuscript.

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643

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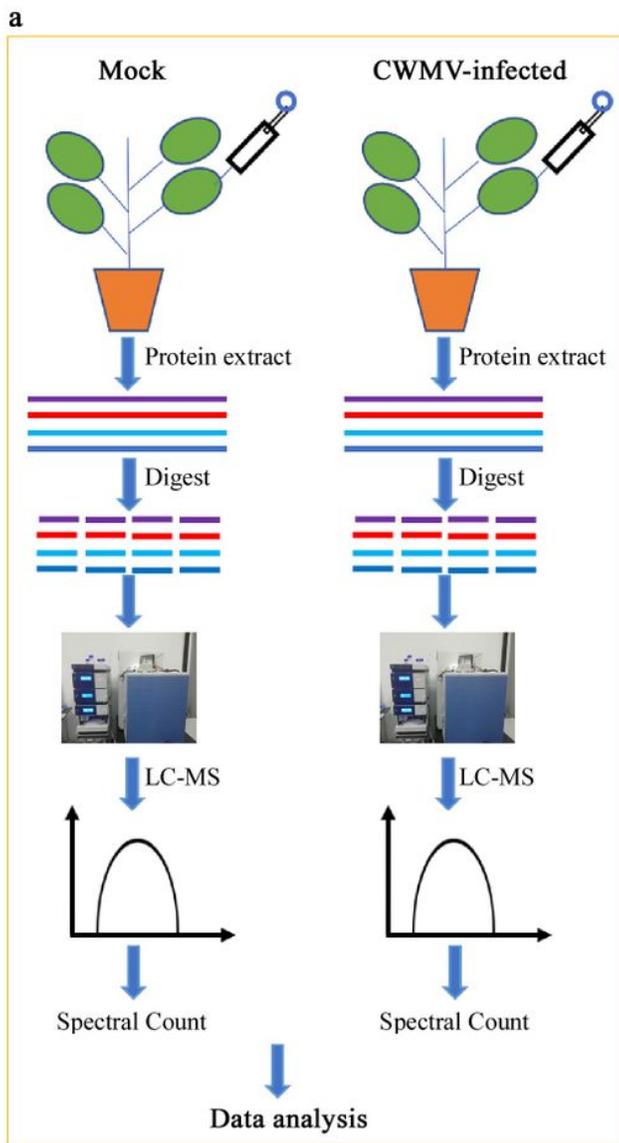
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822

Figures



b

Pearson's correlation of quantitation						
	Mock1	Mock2	Mock3	CWMV-infected1	CWMV-infected2	CWMV-infected3
Mock1	1.00	0.96	0.97	-0.92	-0.93	-0.93
Mock2	0.96	1.00	0.96	-0.96	-0.92	-0.95
Mock3	0.97	0.96	1.00	-0.93	-0.89	-0.89
CWMV-infected1	-0.92	-0.96	-0.93	1.00	0.92	0.95
CWMV-infected2	-0.93	-0.92	-0.89	0.92	1.00	0.91
CWMV-infected3	-0.93	-0.95	-0.89	0.95	0.91	1.00

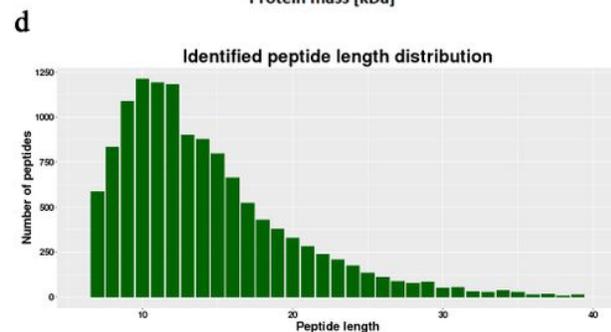
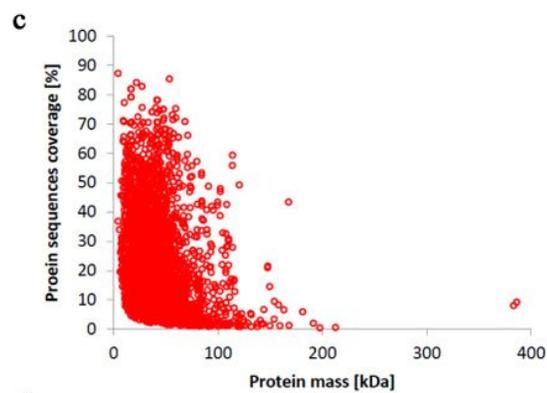


Figure 1

Experimental strategy for quantitative proteome analysis and quality control validation of MS data. a Proteins were extracted from three biological replicates for each sample group. All protein samples were digested with trypsin and analyzed by LC/MS. b Pearson's correlations. c mass delta of all identified peptides. d length 511 distribution of all identified peptides.

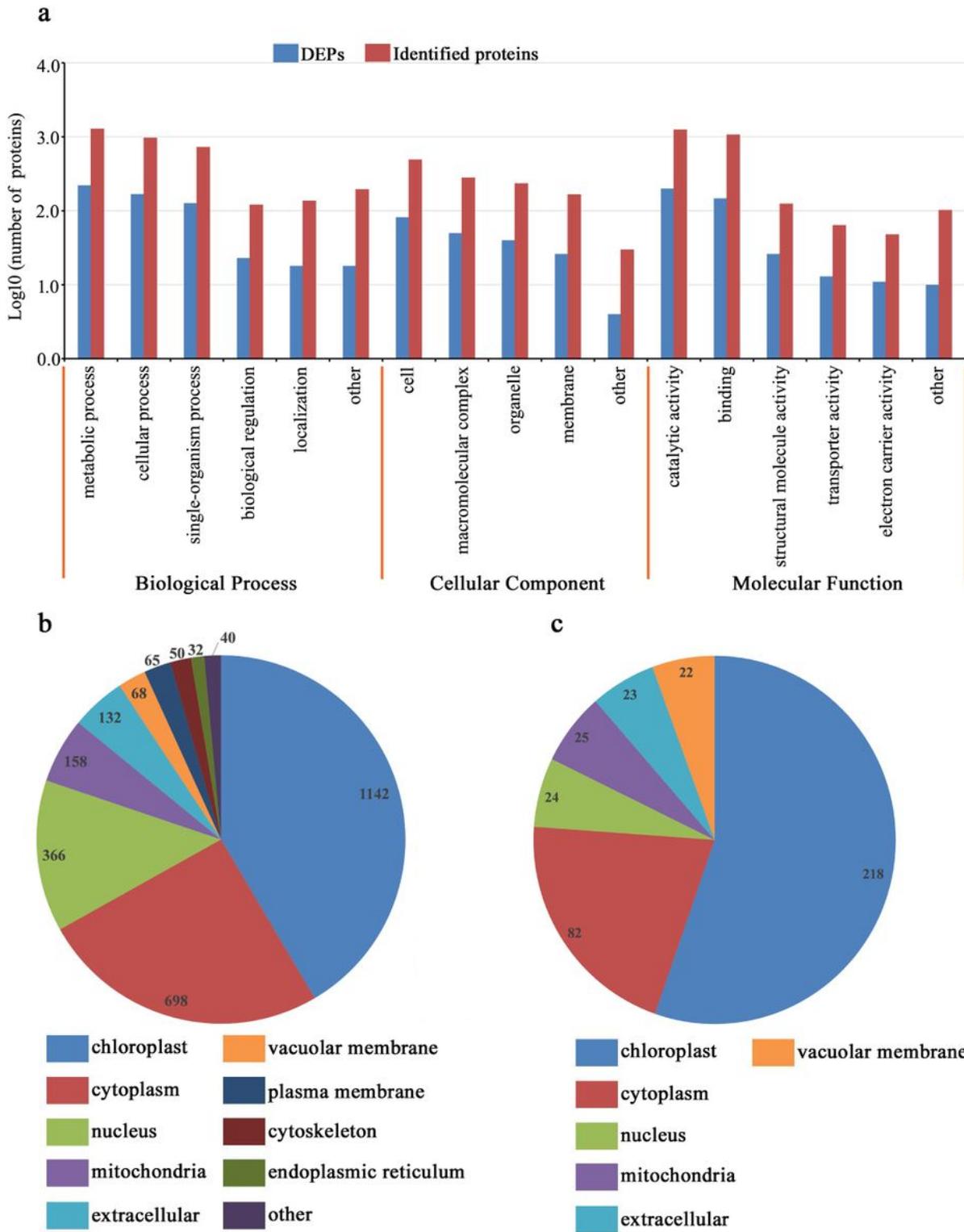


Figure 2

Classifications of identified proteins and DEPs. a GO analysis of all identified proteins and DEPs. b Subcellular locations analysis of all identified proteins. c Subcellular locations analysis of all DEPs.

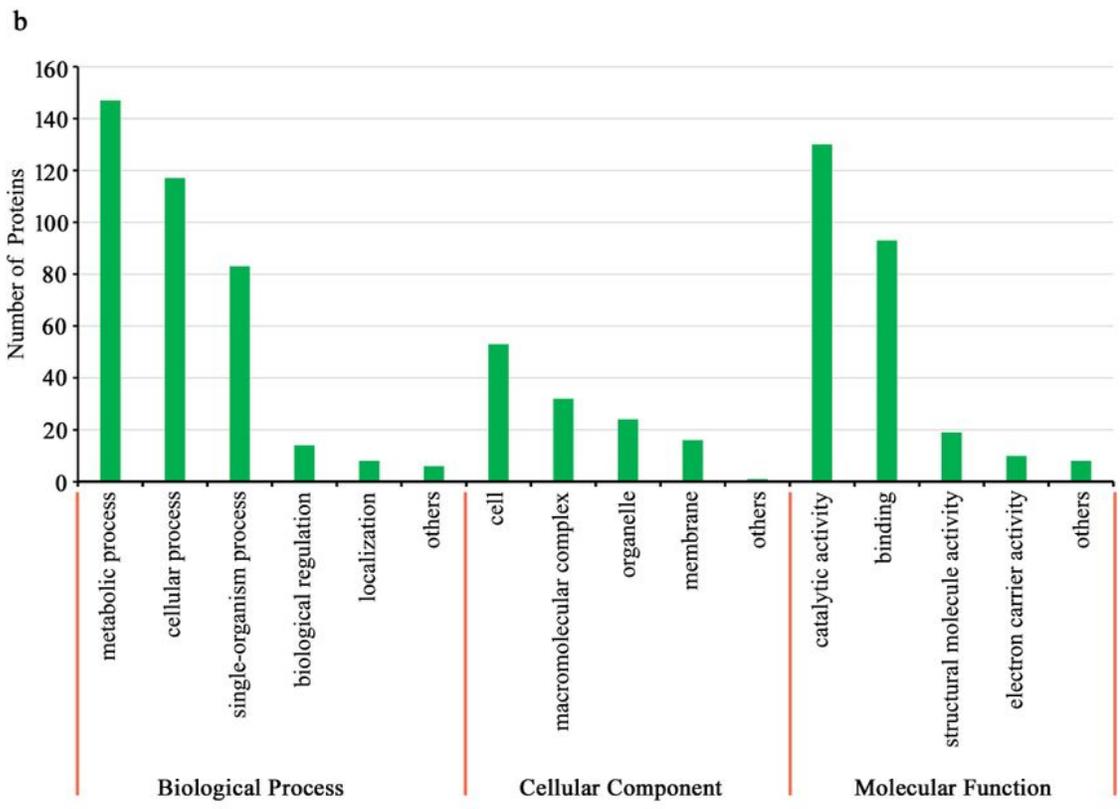
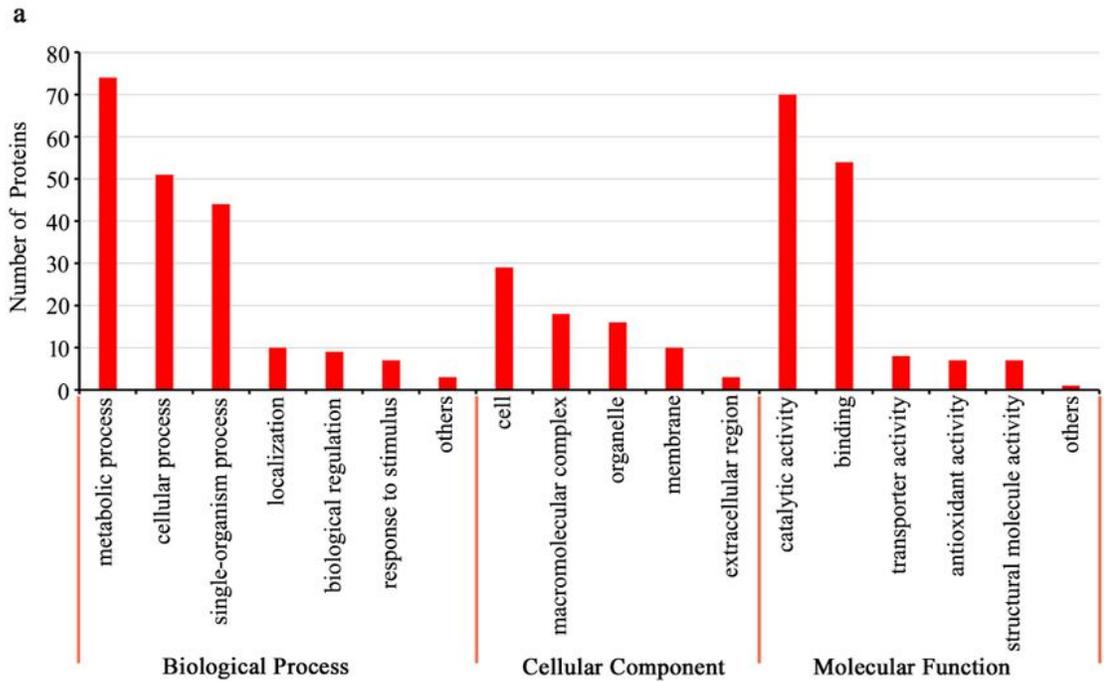


Figure 3

GO analysis of up-regulated and down-regulated DEPs. a GO analysis of up-regulated DEPs. b GO analysis of down-regulated DEPs.

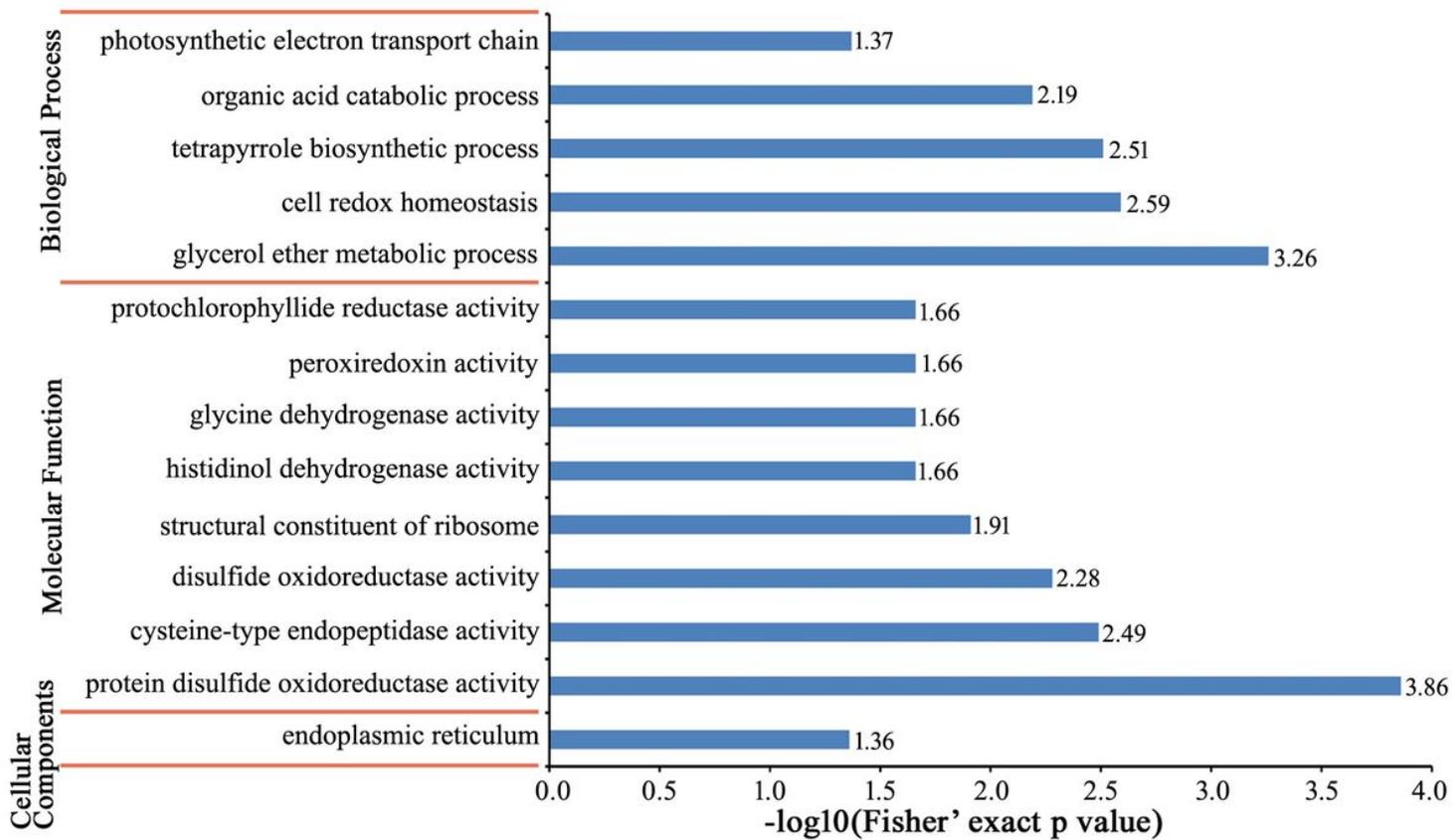


Figure 4

GO enrichment analysis of DEPs. Significantly enriched GO terms of all DEPs.

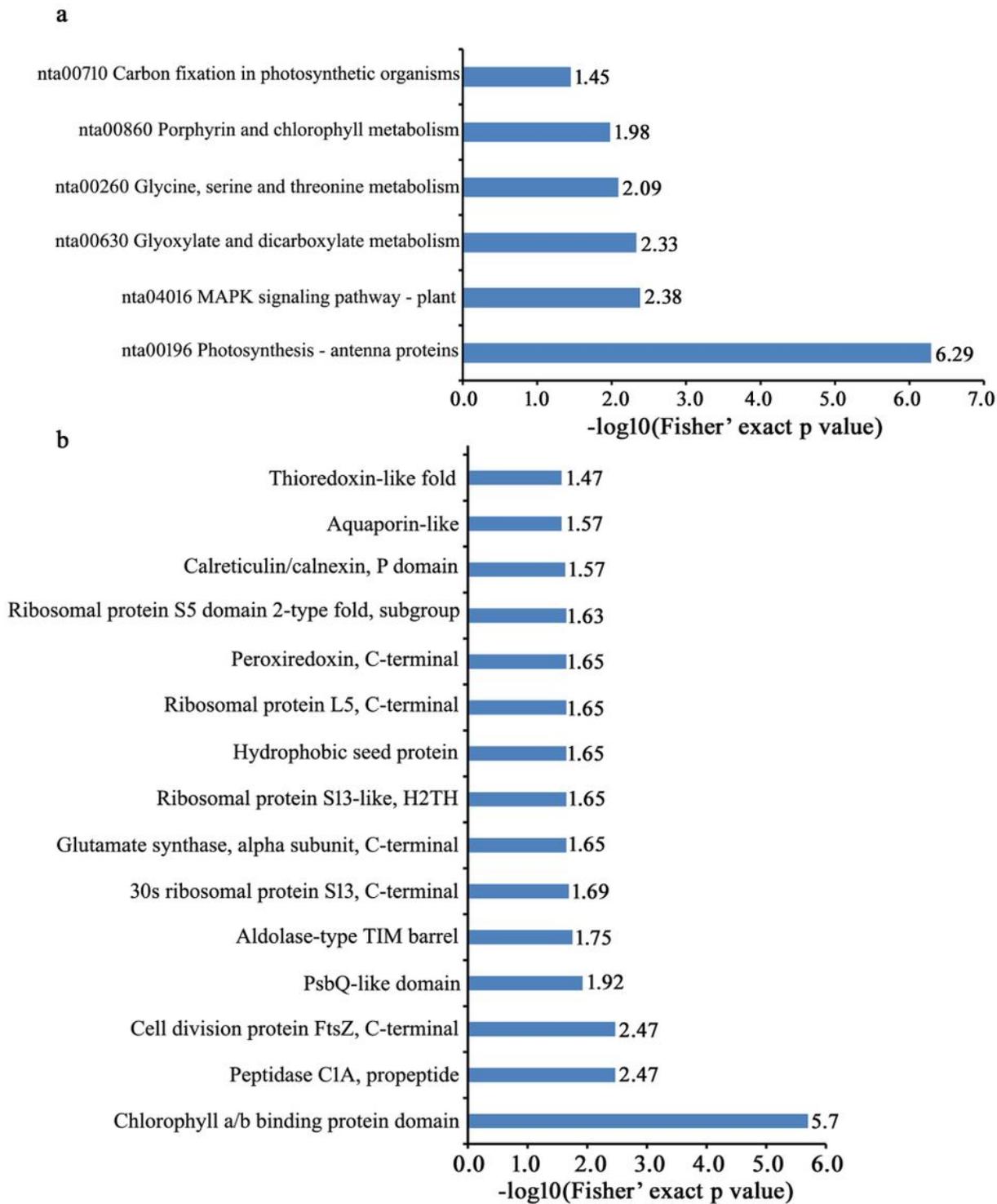


Figure 5

Enrichment analysis of DEPs. a Significantly enriched KEGG terms of all DEPs. b Significantly enriched protein domain terms of all DEPs.

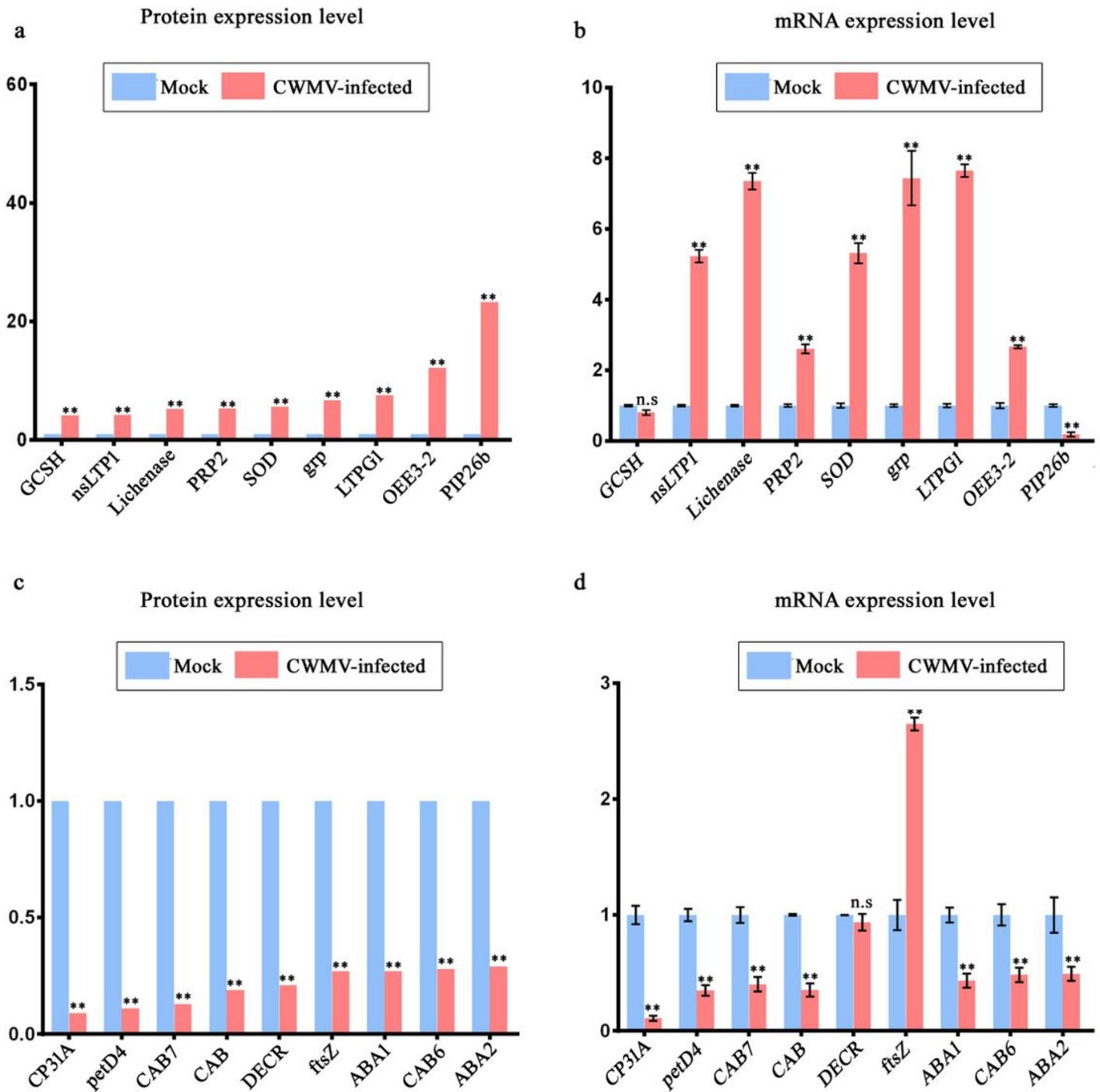


Figure 6

Validation of *N. benthamiana* selected genes expression. a Nine up-regulated DEPs selected. b qRT-PCR showing genes encoding nine up-regulated DEPs selected. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant determined by the Student's t-test. c Nine down-regulated DAPs selected. d qRT-PCR showing genes encoding nine down-regulated DAPs selected. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$; ns, not significant determined by the Student's t-test.

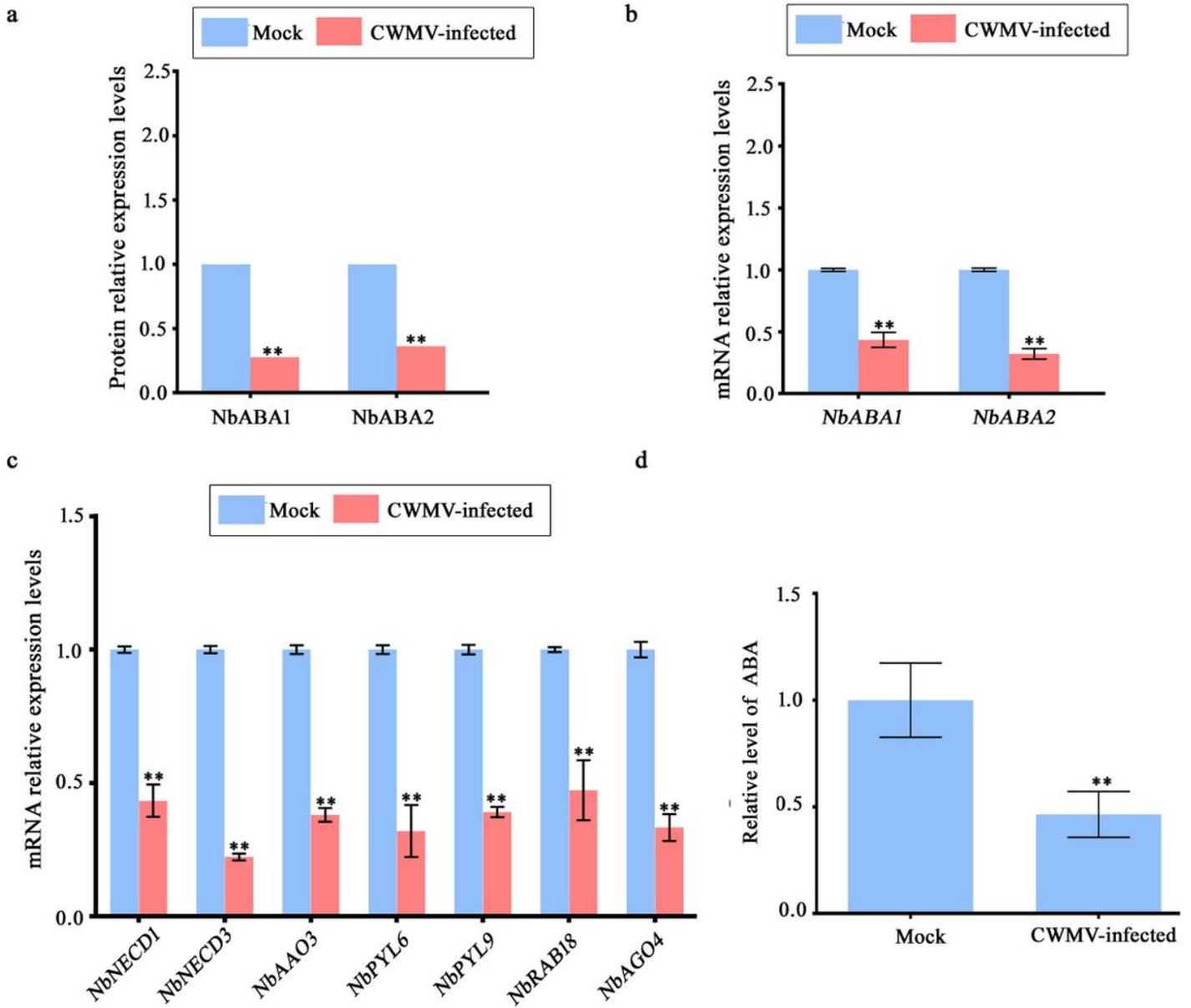


Figure 7

Effects of CWMV infection on the ABA pathway. a Proteins (ABA1 and ABA2) involved in the ABA signaling pathway that significantly changed responsive to CWMV infection. b qRT-PCR data showing the expression of NbABA1 and NbABA2 under CWMV infection. c qRT-PCR data showing the expression of ABA-pathway genes under CWMV infection. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test. d detection of endogenous ABA production in mock and CWMV-infected plants. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test.

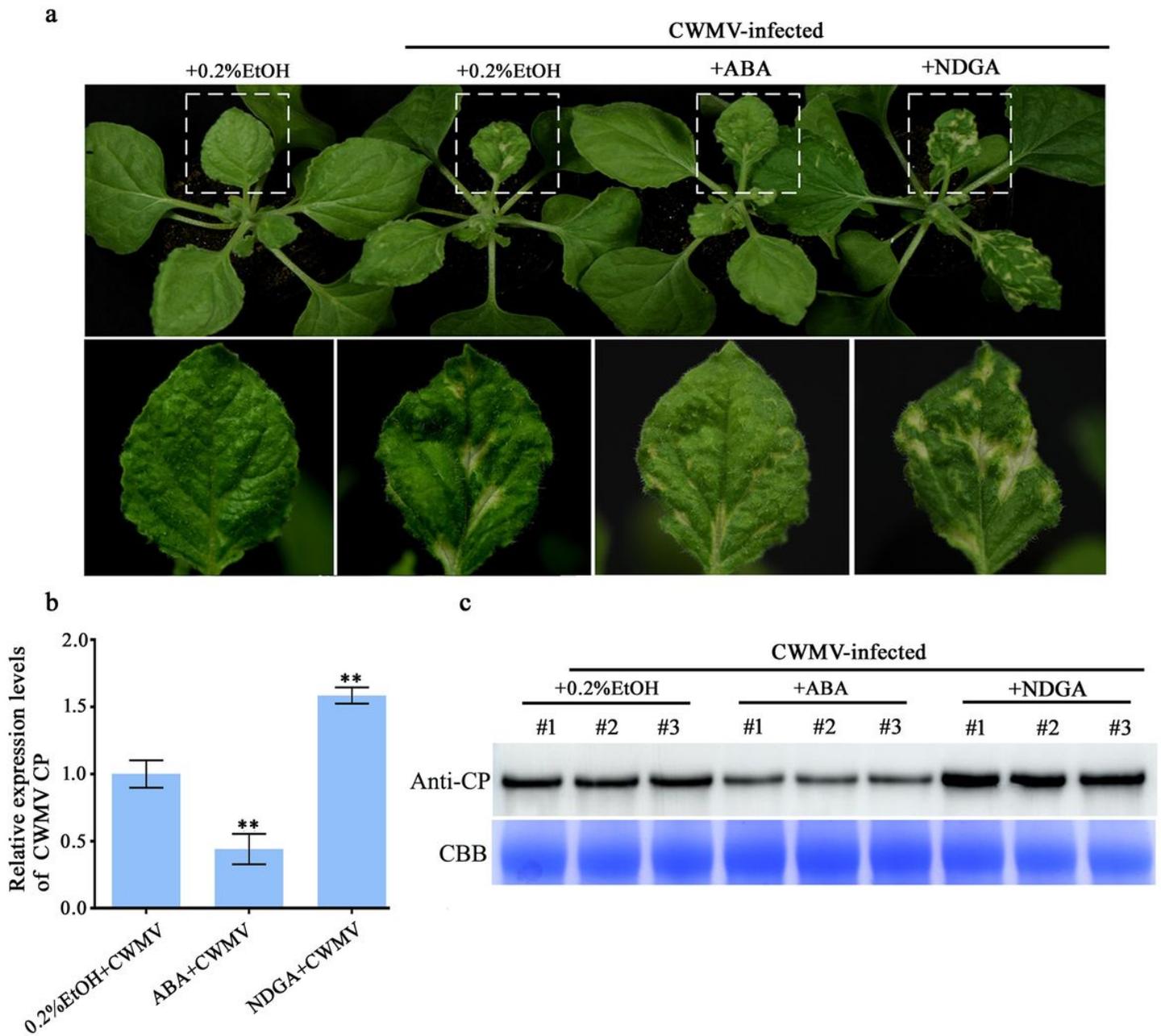


Figure 8

Effects of ABA and its inhibitor application on CWMV infection in *N. benthamiana*. a Phenotype of *N. benthamiana* treated with 100 μ M ABA or 10 mM NDGA or 0.2% EtOH (mock) followed CWMV inoculation at 21 dpi. b qRT-PCR results showing the mRNA expression of CWMV CP in pre-treated plants. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test. c Western blot analyses of CWMV CP protein accumulation in the ABA or NDGA pre-treated CWMV-inoculated plants. CBB-stained loadings are shown at the bottom of the figure.

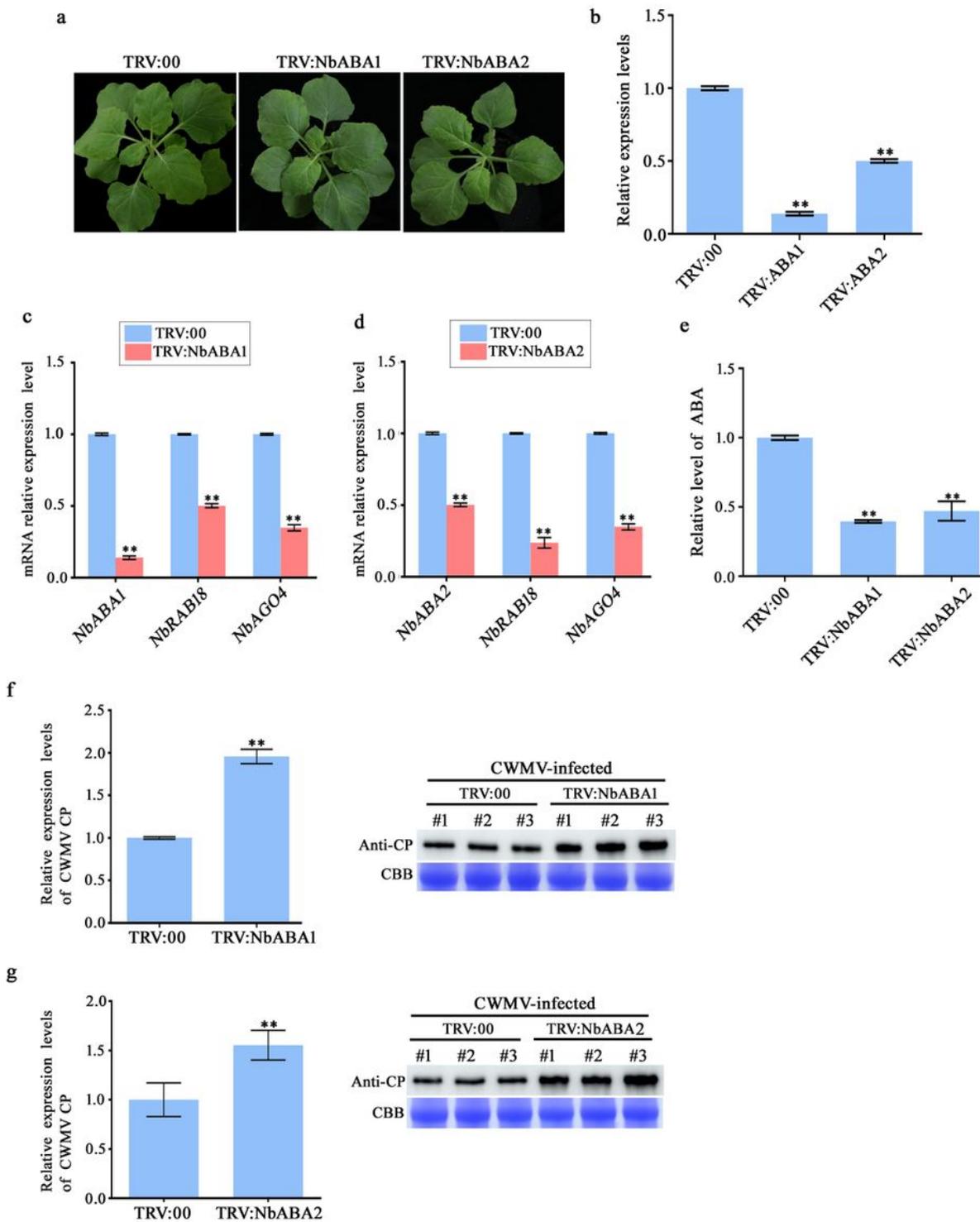


Figure 9

Effects of silencing NbABA1 or NbABA2 on CWMV CP accumulation. a Phenotypes of NbABA1-silenced and NbABA2-silenced plant. Photograph taken at 7 dpi. b qRT-PCR showing mRNA expression of NbABA1 and NbABA2. Each mean \pm SD is from three biological replicates, and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test. c qRT-PCR showing mRNA expression of NbRAB18 and NbAGO4 in NbABA1-silenced plants. d qRT-PCR showing mRNA expression of NbRAB18

and NbAGO4 in NbABA2-silenced plants. Each mean \pm SD was from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test. e detection of endogenous ABA production in Control and NbABA1-silenced or NbABA2-silenced plants. Three independent biological replicates were analyzed for each treatment. **, $p < 0.01$ determined by the Student's t-test. f qRT-PCR showing mRNA (left) and western blot assay showing protein (right) expression of CWMV CP respectively in NbABA1-silenced plants. g qRT-PCR showing mRNA (left) and western blot assay showing protein (right) expression of CWMV CP respectively in NbABA2-silenced plants. Each mean \pm SD is from three biological replicates and each replicate had three technical replicates. **, $p < 0.01$ and was determined by the Student's t-test. CBB-stained loadings are shown in the bottom of the figure.

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